

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION'S 2024 BNEC & BNAC

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary
PUB  AUX



2024 Better Newspaper Contest winners gather for the awards presentation at the 138th Annual Convention & Trade Show in Omaha, Nebraska. Front row, left to right: Isaac Carver; Matthew Carver; NNA Chair Martha Diaz Aszkenazy, The San Fernando (California) Valley Sun/el Sol Newspaper; Peggy Year, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska; Row 2: Alexis Carver; Lisa Adelman, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget; Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska; Don Dodd, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas; Diane Everson, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter; Row 3: Jaden Embrey, Jennifer Embrey-Adelman and Jillian Baran, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget; John Elchert, Leelanau Enterprise Lake Leelanau, Michigan; Johanna Love, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming; Cecile Wehrman, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota; Rob Dump, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska; Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan; Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent; Eric Pierce, The Downey (California) Patriot; Back row: Matt Adelman, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget; John Galer, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois; Josh Byers, Harlan (Iowa) Tribune; George Fiala, The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York; Forrest Church, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio; Tim Linscott, Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal-News; Tim Pearson and Jay Prauner, Norfolk (Nebraska) Daily News

KATE DECKER, PUB AUX



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999, Cinthia Stimson, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Sophie White, 11, laughs in delight as one of her laying hens attempts to find sure footing on her shoulder Feb. 4 outside of Douglas on the family ranch. Sophie offers a basket of fresh eggs.



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000, Jeremy Buss Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska

With temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s, area kids knew right where to go to cool off — the Hartington swimming pool. Cedar County News photographer Jeremy Buss wasn't afraid to get wet as he got these underwater shots last Wednesday morning at the pool — and he had plenty of kids ready to ham it up for him, too. (left) Briar Backer sits on the bottom of the pool, while (above) Wyatt Pinkelman reaches for the bottom.



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999, Ethan Weston, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin

This is the first year that Buffalo Youth Baseball has been affiliated with the national Little League organization. Nearly 100 kids, ages 4 through 12 participated in Buffalo Youth Baseball this summer.

EDITORIAL

Judge comments are in quotations following the award.

CIVIC - COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Tradiciones by Paul Gutches, Michael Tashji, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “This entry was IMO far and away the best entry in this challenging and competitive class of community service. OUTSTANDING in all respects, from the crisp, flowing writing; to the diverse subjects reported on; to design and layout; amazing photographs and imagery; and clearly a high level of impact and importance to this fascinating and diverse historic community. Really incredible production, one of best I've seen across my judging of 6 different state's news contests. Bravo!!!”

SECOND PLACE: Debate of the Confederate Monument in Morganton by Staff, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “A very, very deeply reported and covered community service issue which this paper's staff handled IMO very well and most importantly, fairly. The issue of old Confederate monuments & statues is a raging debate across the South, and while some coverage I've seen is very biased and opinionated, this news staff was mature, professional and let the people and facts do the talking. Loved the informal and 'formal' polling as well as depth and breadth of coverage. All articles were well-written and nicely composed that kept me in it til the end of each. Thank you!”

THIRD PLACE: Community Service - Vets Memorial by Rob Dump,

Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “I deeply appreciated and was grateful to see the explanation and background of this publication assisting the community with this project. This is a great example of newspaper-community collaboration in a sense of community service by the paper. Great articles, photos and coverage from news to op-ed. Loved that advertisements were part of this, too, and overall impact that the project had on community. Thanks for this uplifting example of how a newspaper can assist a community with a great project to honor military veterans.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Saving Freedom of Speech for the Virginia Military Institute Community by Cadet Russell Crouch '24, Cadet Dylan Palmer '24, Cadet Cody Bartmann '25, Cadet Jackson Creach '25, Cadet Adam Cioffi II '26, and Cadet Alex Dieffenbach '26, The Cadet, Yorktown, Virginia. “The perils and challenges of reporting at a college like VMI are often unknown outside the region the school is located and the military community. However, having friends who went to VMI decades ago, I know of those issues via stories from friends. That element alone makes this series and coverage important and difference making community service journalism. I felt that this was most powerful in sense of making issues public, shining that light and challenging the tough authority of the college. Writing was good enough, but as reality check, these are college students and not

professionals. I applaud y'all. Thank you.”

COLUMN - BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

FIRST PLACE: Show and tell and the demise of Mrs. Allen by Allen VanNoppen, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “A humorous remembrance of sixth grade show and tell. Stands out above most entries. Brings back memories of the time I brought a dead rat for show and tell.”

SECOND PLACE: Queen of the Latrine by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Pretty good column about the trials of replacing a toilet yourself.”

THIRD PLACE: Artificial Intelligence by David Porter, The County Chronicle, Tuscola, Illinois. “A columnist with writer's block turns to artificial intelligence for help, and gets none.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Nickels and Sense - Terminological Inexactitudes and Other Truths by Bryan E. Jones, Versailles (Missouri) Leader-Statesman. “A humorous look at a new euphemism.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Bunnies choose salad cover soup by Bill Coates, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “A delightful story about perseverance -- by the bunnies, although the writer gave it his best shot.”

SECOND PLACE: Strange vibra-

tions in the night by Beth Quinn, The Chronicle, Chester, New York. “Loved following the writer's adventures. Remember -- the solution is usually the simplest possibility!”

THIRD PLACE: Riverton Ranger Real Baby by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Funny! I felt bad for the Real Baby but it got its revenge.”


HONORABLE MENTION: Rough forest road by Bill Coates, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “Another fun story from Bill, although I am not sure I would have his patience.”

NNAF's 2024 Better Newspaper Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspapers And Education WinnersA

supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

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Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000
FIRST PLACE: One Emergency! by John Nagy, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Excellent writing. Right from the start, the writer had me tighter than polygrip on dentures. Head and shoulders above the rest.”
SECOND PLACE: We have a few questions for you to answer by Bruce Miller, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Good job. Regular life can be very interesting when a good writer decides to tell a story.”

COLUMN - BEST
SERIOUS COLUMN

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
FIRST PLACE: Burke woman views Confederate monument as a memorial to devastation by Marty Queen, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “Most who go into journalism do so to tell underrepresented stories, the voices no one is listening to. This writer found someone who represents a little heard voice in the many conversations ongoing around historical monuments being viewed through a modern lens. Kudos to the writer for letting the subject share their opinion.”
SECOND PLACE: Know the candidates, weight the issues, vote! by Angela Kuper Copeland, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “As newspaper people, as journalists, we can't share this point enough: local newspapers help voters make informed decisions so read them! And the writer does an excellent job of pulling in the reader through a well-told personal anecdote.”
THIRD PLACE: First Holiday As A Widow by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “The writer demonstrates a keen eye/ear/nose for a story and then does what all journalists need to remember to do: listen. The column is one to share every holiday season.”
HONORABLE MENTION: This Is Where The Cowboy Rides Away. So Long, Crutcher’s by Don Armes, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “A sweet, well-told and detailed remembrance of a community's vital industry that has been so changed by technology.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
FIRST PLACE: Eldridge Library by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Sensational. Well written, great local historical context, passionate and informed. Way to go!”
SECOND PLACE: A Grace-Filled Journey by Mary (Galer) Herschel-man, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “Powerful first person accounts.”
THIRD PLACE: Out There: The Buried Streams of Beacon by Brian PJ Cronin, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Nice! Hidden gems about water, history and asylum institutions. A terrific local read.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Wide Angle: The Trouble With Toilets by Stowe Boyd, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “At first glance I thought this was in the wrong category -- but indeed it's not. An important topic that gets too little attention. In addition to the research, the national and international comparisons, wish the author interviewed some local people currently.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999
FIRST PLACE: Common Ground column by Paul W. Hansen, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Paul Hansen's column on water issues in Jackson Hole is very well researched and well written. Water, it's one of those things that affects us all. Well done.”
SECOND PLACE: Prioritize teachers, not technology, for improved education outcomes by Griffin Limerick, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “The writer, Griffin Limerick, does a terrific job of using statistics and other research to prove a point. Hire more teachers! Strong opinion backed up by facts.”
THIRD PLACE: Sending aloha, pule to Hawaii by Meakalia Previch-Liu, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Even for those of us who don't live in Hawaii, Meakalia pounds the emotion into a column about the devastating wildfires in Maui. Very well written.”
HONORABLE MENTION: The intermittent grief by Ned Seaton, The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury. “Well-done column on the personal emotions of losing a dad at holiday time.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
FIRST PLACE: Living in Man's World, Mom Found a Place by John Nagy, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “A sentimental remembrance of mom, who raised a family when it was a man's world. Well-written, but could have used a stronger focus. Columns tend to fit into two groups: ‘I have a relationship with my readers and here is something from my life’ and ‘here is something to think about from someone else's life.’ Both are valid and both were represented. With both, ask ‘What makes this a column and not just a feature?’”
SECOND PLACE: Nightmare in the Woods: Stranded Family Saved by Hikers in the Frank Church Wilderness by Andrew Guckes, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Pretty good feature about a family that had trouble returning hme from a hike in the woods. I liked this story best, but is it a ‘column’ or a ‘feature’? Because it lacked anything in the story that suggested ‘column,’ I placed it second.”
THIRD PLACE: Hope for the future by Mark Segal, Philadelphia Gay News. “Good focus theme, but the arguments are too general.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Refugees

leave behind family by Nick Hytrek, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “A fairly good story of a young couple who fled Ukraine to come to the United States. Well told, but would have been stronger with a deeper focus. What makes it a column?”

COLUMN - BEST SPORTS
COLUMN

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
FIRST PLACE: The world needs more Sams by Don Cogger, Uinta County Herald, Evanston, Wyoming. “After reading this, I feel like I know Sam - and I definitely feel the pain of having one less person like this walking the Earth.”
SECOND PLACE: Karpe Dogie by Sonja Karp, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. “This writer is not afraid Tom put it all out there. Opinion pieces like this need to be written once in awhile.”
THIRD PLACE: Dynamic Dozen highlights memorable home football game by Dave Wedeward, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “An interesting piece - even for someone far removed from the people and places in this piece.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999
FIRST PLACE: It’s time to hop on the women’s hoops bandwagon by Zach DeLoach, The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury. “A very prescient column about a timely topic. Written well and at a good length for a column, not too long but not too short. Easy for casual sports followers like me to understand without feeling dumbed-down. This was the ideal column out of all the entries; other columnists take note!”
SECOND PLACE: Reporter's Notebook: Trout Still Live in Clove Creek by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “This was a very strong contender; it was difficult to pick between first and second place. I appreciated that the writer sought outside sources on the topic too; more columnists should do this!”
THIRD PLACE: Mountainside column by Molly Absolon, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Thoughtful writing on an attention-grabbing topic. I appreciated the references to prior research, although the cited article is a secondary source rather than an actual study. This was one of the longest entries, and most columns this length are a slog, but to the writer's credit this one kept my interest throughout.”
HONORABLE MENTION: CyHawk Week by Bill Tubbs Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “A nice blend of the past and present of an important rivalry in the readership area.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, 10,000 or more
FIRST PLACE: Little Brown Jug rivalry resumes by Nick Hytrek, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “As an ex-sports-

writer and history minor, this story is a great read on all levels. I'm a bit surprised this wasn't been picked up by national media. This story would have been great closing feature to the Sunday evening national newscast on ABS, NBC or CBS.”

EDITIONS - BEST
HEADLINE WRITING

Daily & Non-daily Division
FIRST PLACE: Best headline editions by Taos News editorial staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Some clever wordplay, and some plain-language fastballs that in a perfect world enrage readers and cause elected officials to reconsider a few things.”
SECOND PLACE: April 28 and Sept. 15 by staff, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Some well-thought out stuff; one or two that could be seen coming form 100 yards away, but they worked. And kudos for making the vaccination headline about as subtle as a sledge hammer.”
THIRD PLACE: April 12 and Sept 6 by Rob Dump, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Some clever stuff. And a vile pun or two should ALWAYS earn an entry bonus points!”
HONORABLE MENTION: Riverton Ranger headline writing by Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Particularly good in the sports section, but nice overall job.”

EDITIONS - BEST LOCAL
NEWS COVERAGE

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
FIRST PLACE: Best Local News Cover September 20 2023 by Staff, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “Good small-town coverage of local items. Well done!”
SECOND PLACE: April 12 and Sept. 20 by staff, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Super good! I enjoyed seeing and reading.”
THIRD PLACE: News Letter Journal by staff, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. “Enjoyable paper with plenty of white space, good pictures, interesting articles.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Best Local News Coverage by staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Nicely done”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
FIRST PLACE: Best Local News Coverage by staff, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “The mold situation in the school is a fascinating read. Really, how do they close the school because of dangerous mold but open the locker rooms for athletes? Good for you for asking the questions. Too many newspapers think it is their job to be the school system's best friend. It is not. Schools deal with our children and dollars. More newspapers should follow your example. Also enjoyed the story about the battle with the big box

Who knew I'd become queen of the latrine?

FIRST PLACE, Best Humorous Column,
Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

I fought the good fight for six months. On Sunday, I had enough and decided to fix my toilet — by myself, even though I know nothing about toilets.

For the first month or so that it wasn't working properly, I could jiggle the handle just right and it would stop running. After that, if I lifted the lid and pushed the black thingy over, it would stop running. That lasted about a month until I somehow pushed it just far enough it magically fixed the toilet.

Well, for a couple months anyway. It started again. The last three weeks have been a pain in the butt having to reach in and jiggle something or other. By Sunday, I was over it.

It was time to fix my toilet. So, I went to the store and bought a complete tank kit. I found a YouTube video from the kit company and was set. Until the tool they sent wouldn't fit right for the nut on the waterline because it was an older toilet.

No problem — I owned a printing press. I have tools. I dug through a box of wrenches and things I'll never use in my lifetime until I found a crescent wrench.

Eventually, I maneuvered the wrench enough to loosen the nut to unhook the waterline. Onto the next step, which was to remove the tank. Easy peasy. I flipped the tank over, took off the seal and picked up the other tool in the kit. I don't know why I assumed this tool would fit since the other included tool couldn't even twist of a nut. This one was at least an inch in diameter too small, and I didn't have anything like that in my big box of tools I'll never use.

I drove my Jeep back to the store for the second time. Why buy a new tool when I was probably going to have another issue with my vintage toilet? Buying a new toilet seemed like an obvious answer until I walked into the toilet aisle. Do you know how many types of toilets there are? Both sides of the aisle. All different toilets up and down the aisle.

Holy crap. A friend happened to walk by and asked how I was doing. I looked at him and all I could muster was, "So many toilets."

He picked out my new throne and said it had everything I would need, but I should get a better wax

ring and new waterline, too. How long of a line was the other one? Did it have a metal or plastic end?



Pitzer

Like I had any idea. So, I bought three different waterlines, a ratchet wrench and some other things he thought I might need. But not a crescent wrench. I was really proud that I not only had one, but I knew what

it was called.

But I bought everything else because I was not making a third trip to the store. At that point, I probably should have used the restroom at the store, but I was too focused. I had a toilet to replace.

Back at home, I took the base off the floor and saw the old wax ring. That had to go. I was a farm kid and grew up with hogs and dairy cattle. I have seen a lot, so believe me when I say that old wax ring was gross.

I went back to my box of press tools and found a scraper to clean that mess up. I put the new wax ring down and took the tank and the base out of the box. Did you know you have to connect the tank to the base before you hoist the whole thing up and fit it onto the two screws sticking out of the wax ring?

Why not? Let's just make this whole thing even heavier and then try to fit it on top of two screws you can't even see. Makes perfect sense to me.

But I did it. I screwed it on. Balanced everything and hooked up the water, which by the way didn't even need a new line. I'm definitely returning the three lines I didn't use. Then it was time for the magic moment of flushing this new toilet, which worked perfectly. And then I waited. My old one flushed fine — it just wouldn't stop running. That was the real test. Would it stop running?

So I held my breath. And I had to hold it again because toilets run forever. Finally, it stopped running. And it didn't even leak. I screwed the toilet seat on and stood there looking at my beautiful new toilet that not only flushed, but stopped running without me lifting the lid and pushing the black thingy inside.

Alas, I felt like a queen. A queen of the latrine.

store. Overall, excellent local news coverage."

SECOND PLACE: Local news coverage by staff, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. "This newspaper had a great variety of stories - all interesting. The story about the new school program read like a feature - but was packed full of hard news. Loved the technique."

THIRD PLACE: Issues of April 28 and Sept. 15 by staff, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. "This readership knows where the money is being spent, thanks to the Highland. School taxes, hotel taxes, etc, Stories so readable. The short business feature in Q/A format is something that would be effective in all newspapers."

HONORABLE MENTION: Best Local News by Lauren S. Barr, David B. Corbin, Suzette F. Stalker, Katie Moen, Westfield (New Jersey) Leader. "One of the few newspapers in this division that covered planning and zoning issues. Overdevelopment is facing many communities - and this newspaper is on it."

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

FIRST PLACE: Local News Coverage by Mark Dee, Greg Foley, and staff, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. "Here on the East Coast what we hear about Idaho is not that great, at least to our standards. Who would think that Idaho would have such a great local paper! Kudos!!!"

SECOND PLACE: Local news coverage editions by Taos News editorial staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Very close call - the Taos News and the Idaho Mountain Express are both handsome papers with great local coverage. More kudos."

THIRD PLACE: July 2023 Hyattsville Life & Times by Griffin Limerick, Heather Wright, Ashley Perks, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. "Good looking paper with good local coverage."

HONORABLE MENTION: Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Best Local News Coverage by WTE staff, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. "Some good local coverage. Good looking paper."

EDITIONS - BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

FIRST PLACE: Best use of photos: Buffalo Bulletin by Ethan Weston, staff, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. "This paper has pulled off something extremely difficult: in two consecutive editions, they published not even ONE 'execution at dawn' or staged photo. Not one. Photo feature layouts are clean, pleasing to the eye and proof that papers do not need to run photos in color to be effective. Ethan Weston has a good eye."

SECOND PLACE: Best Use of Photos by Antelope County News Staff, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. "Lots of really good, locally-generated

photos creatively and professionally displayed. Solid work."

THIRD PLACE: News Letter Journal by staff, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. "Good photo feature layouts. Good photography through out. In general, good photo selection."

HONORABLE MENTION: Best use of photos by Cinthia Stimson Rj Morgan, Clifford Smith, Jackson Day, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. "Gonna assume I have a low resolution version because none of the images here are clean, which makes it difficult to honestly judge the quality of the photography. That said, the photos appear to be well-composed and refreshingly candid throughout. They are placed on the page with care and skill."

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

FIRST PLACE: Best Use of Photos by The Sun staff, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. "The Southwestern College Sun made strong use of photos and photo based illustrations to present their stories."

SECOND PLACE: Taos News best use of photographs editions by Taos News staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "The Taos News is an attractive newspaper that has style and energy thanks to its outstanding photography."

THIRD PLACE: State Champs by Brian Freiberger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "The Leelanau Enterprise photographers captured all the excitement and energy of winning a high school basketball championship and delivered it dramatically to those who could not be there. Wow!"

HONORABLE MENTION: Best Use Of Photography by Staff, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. "The Journal-News of Hillsboro, Illinois, did a great job recording the lives of the people in their community with many black and white photos that had depth and character. Not an easy task, but one well done."

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

FIRST PLACE: Use of Photographs, WTE, July 28-29, 2023 by WTE staff, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. "Would like to see more local photos, like the ones on the sports pages — those are fantastic! I like the large photos on the front, really draws the eyes in."

SECOND PLACE: Pride in Philly by PGN Staff, Philadelphia Gay News. "The biggest suggestion I have is to write captions for photos. There are two pages full of photos and I have no idea why they are relevant. Photo sizes could vary as well; most appear to be the same size. Don't be afraid to really showcase photos bigger now and then, especially on those larger events and moments. The photo on the front is a great photo, but could have really shined if it was bigger. Otherwise, I think the photos tie in well with the articles they're accompanying."

THIRD PLACE: Crime survivors

pack courthouse by Jennifer Johnson, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Where are captions and photo credits for photos? Many photos throughout are lacking these. In saying that, the photos chosen to run with the articles are great captures, I just wish they had more context other than trying to find information within the article next to it.”

BEST EDITORIAL

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

FIRST PLACE: School board meetings no place for tent revival by Bill Poteat, The Paper, Morganton, North Carolina. “Proof that good editorials don’t have to be wordy. Crisp writing that leaves no doubt on the paper’s stance. Congrats on taking a stance on an issue that too many papers have stayed silent on.”

SECOND PLACE: Student journalists stand against repression of free speech Cadet Russell Crouch ‘24, Cadet Dylan Palmer ’24, Cadet Cody Bartmann ’25, Cadet Jackson Creach ’25, Cadet Adam Cioffi II ’26, and Cadet Alex Dieffenbach ’26, The Cadet, Yorktown, Virginia. “Bravo for standing up for your publication. Solid points made. Probably not easy to opine against the administration but proof the students have a spine. Well worth the read and hope it was shared by papers with wider circulation.”

THIRD PLACE: Half-penny sales tax hike obvious choice for financing new water treatment plant by Editorial Board, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Excellent job explaining a complex issue. A lot of pertinent information shared, and the graphics helped. Best sentence of all the entries: ‘Today is now the tomorrow that was discussed yesterday.’”

HONORABLE MENTION: TCEQ should say no to concrete batch plant by Kent Miller, oyse City Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Solid editorial with good points to back up stance on a controversial issue. Would have liked something like the 2nd paragraph to be the lede to hit the readers up front with the paper’s opinion. Still, well done.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Transparency Editorial by Diane Everson, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “Strong, succinct and gets right to the heart of the matter. Makes its point and backs up the position with well-laid out arguments.”

SECOND PLACE: Humphrey lives the good life by Scott Reese Willey, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. “Creative lead hooks the reader immediately and quickly backs up the statement with facts the newspaper unearthed. And says what the paper will do to follow up. Good work.”

THIRD PLACE: "Castle Rock Hospital District needs to be more accessible" by Hannah Romero, The

Green River (Wyoming) Star. ”Good position, backed up by facts from the entity’s own website.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Voters Deserve Voice by Matt Adelman, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “Lays out its argument in a clear, logical fashion. Strong conclusion leaving no doubt of the newspaper’s position.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Supt.’s secret recordings are Nixon-esque by Tom Boney, Jr., The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “The winner in a category with some great entries that were very close. The writers take an almost unfathomable behavior by a local official and clearly dispute many of the outrageous claims and actions. After reading, you wonder how this person could have been in control of a district and better yet, is he still in control after this? Bumfuzzled???”

SECOND PLACE: City’s strong-arm decision: More questions than answers by Dale Gentry, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “A great call to action editorial. Very tough category and this could have easily been the winner. Does a great job questioning the need for a recent council decision on a land purchase when similar facilities are currently available. Something smells rotten in Denmark.”

THIRD PLACE: Ongoing Corruption Poisons Our College by Alicia Rivero, Liliana Anguiano, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “A very impressive editorial that spells out how a recent incident is just the latest in many years of corruption in a university’s administration. Also could have easily won.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Don’t mess with our library by Bill Tubbs, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “The writer does an excellent job stating the problem and then giving the reader a background on why and how the current library came to be where it is now. In tough times when city budgets are tight, sometimes councils look for an easy fix and we need more editorials like this calling out councilmembers.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Taos News best editorial submissions by John Miller, The Taos (New Mexico) News. ”Language of Northern New Mexico’ editorial was well-structured, well-sourced, informative, and topic was important for local residents.”

SECOND PLACE: Media inquiry policy by Editorial staff, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Sometimes newspapers must call out those in power who want to take their rights away. This one was did that with solid reasons while avoiding hard punches. Well done.”

THIRD PLACE: Book Battle at Lylburn Downing by Ed Smith, The News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia. “Proof that editorials can tackle

important and timely topics without shouting. A well-reasoned piece to help give needed information.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Increase penalties for Passholes by Johanna Love, Cindy Harger, Adam Meyer, Kevin Olson, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “A persuasive and well-sourced editorial that didn’t just point out the issue but offered solutions. Well done.”

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

FIRST PLACE: City deserves better by Don Dodd, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Solid, tightly written editorial that gets right to the point and makes it strongly. Well done!”

SECOND PLACE: Heat and a hangover by Don Dodd, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Bold editorial, but maybe a bit too bold, accusing the subject of being a drunk. I appreciate the accountability called for here, but the tone wasn’t quite right.”

THIRD PLACE: Coming out to LGBTQ peers is just as challenging by Jeremy Rodriguez, Philadelphia Gay News. “Well-worded personal piece that made good points and challenged their fellow LGBTQ+ colleagues to do the right thing. Nicely done.”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Wyoming leaders apparently want young people to leave by Brian Martin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Good sourcing for a well-written thought provoking piece.”

SECOND PLACE: Hold contractor accountable for delay in jail opening by Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “The writer does a great job of explaining the issue and the frustrations. A very easy to read piece.”

THIRD PLACE: The banana republic just an hour south by Ned Seaton The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury. “This was an important issue the newspaper really HAD to cover. The writer did a great job of localizing the issue.”

HONORABLE MENTION: The booze-tax shell game by Ned Seaton, The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury. “The writer does a good job of explaining a very complicated issue.”

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

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

FIRST PLACE: Best Editorial Pages by Staff, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Far and away the best entry in this category, not just because of the amount of content, but also because of the variety and strong visual presentation. Your community should be proud of your efforts! Well done!”

SECOND PLACE: Editorial - Best Editorial Pages by Staff, The N’West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa. “Strong editorial pages with well-written editorials, good guest columns and plentiful letters to the

editor. Nice work!”

THIRD PLACE: Steele County Times Editorial Pages by Staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Good content overall. Too many jumps, and I don’t care for the placement of corrections to news stories on these pages.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Best Editorial Page - June 28 July 5 by Rob Dump, Peggy Year, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Quality opinion pages that could be better by having more variety, including letters to the editor.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Taos News best editorial pages by Taos News staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “These folks know what it means to run a quality local newspaper. Great writing, great typography, local insights, local cartoons and an engaged subscriber base.”

SECOND PLACE: Wyoming Tribune Eagle Opinion Pages, April 14-15, 2023 by Brian Martin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Solid local input. Well thought-out pieces a real winner.”

THIRD PLACE: The Pilot Best Editorial Page by John Nagy, David Woronoff, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Nice design. Solid opinion pieces. Well writte, thought-provoking editorials By looking at the local letters, it’s obvious this is a well read page.”

BEST ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CARTOON

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Local and Proud by Mike English, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Strong point, made simply, but with good visuals. Nice standalone cartoon!”

SECOND PLACE: Here’s Looking at You, Kid by Edmundo Godinez, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Strong visuals, could have been first place, but feels like it depends on the accompanying text.”

THIRD PLACE: Black Hole of Student Debt by Edmundo Godinez, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Another well-drawn cartoon, but a little too simplistic to place higher.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Vet Memorial dedication by Wayne Stroot, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Good artwork, but would have benefited from being in color when up against the other entries in this category.”

FOI - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: They Swipe A Lot by Scott Reese Willey, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. In a tough category with many find entries, this demonstrated a thorough amount of research ane effort and the result was phenomenal writing.



FIRST PLACE, Best Informational Graphic, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
Angelique Boyer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register

Absolutely great work.”
SECOND PLACE: Open records law applies to everyone by Bill Tubbs, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Hypocrisy by government officials sadly is all too prevalent. The writer produced evidence of not just what happened, but how it happened. This publication is blessed with enlightened leadership that encourages excellence and works to protect the public’s right to know. Fine effort.”
THIRD PLACE: Shakeup On Jansen Village Board by Gordon Hopkins, Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal News. “As question after question emerged emerged about improprieties this writer got his teeth into the story like a tiger refusing to let go fueled by the people’s right to know. Solid demonstration he knew the playeers and was determined to stand by his responsibility to readers. Congratulations.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Seeds of Davenport disclosure were planted at North Scott by Bill Tubbs, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Out-standing account of how persistence resulted in uncovering information readers needed about how their tax money is being spent. Well reported and written.”

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
FIRST PLACE: General Excellence by Glenrock Independent Staff, Glenrock Independent, Glenrock, Wyoming. Great mixture of fonts, terrific use of active photos, especially the skydiving story. Used graphics in an eye-catching, compelling, and informative way”
SECOND PLACE: Henderson Independent - General Excellence by Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish, Mary Sherlock, Henderson Independent, Henderson, Minnesota. This paper did a great job using a variety of fonts and other ways to make each individual story stand out. It also had a very good mixture of stories and the photograph quality was very good”
THIRD PLACE: News Letter Journal by Staff, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. Great use of photos, especially on the front page and in the sports section. On 4/27, the top front page headline was very good and compelling.”
HONORABLE MENTION: The Village Reporter - General by Forrest R. Church, Publisher, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. Very colorful front page. Good preview section on front page to steer readers to stories inside. Superb sports section”
Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
FIRST PLACE: Buffalo Bulletin by Staff, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “The compact flag at the top of page one of the Buffalo Bulletin sets the tone for all of its 18 pages — all pertinent information is upfront, plainly stated against an iconic image, and takes the minimum amount of space

to get the job done. Front pages, themselves, are equally eye-catching and straightforward, leading readers to the content inside. Each week the Bulletin packs, but doesn’t cram, concisely written articles, features, commentary, police and court logs, public notices, ads and more into its 18 pages. Crisp, vibrant, tightly-framed action photos pull readers into the articles; short and to-the-point headlines are not above a touch of word-play. Carefully designed ads, large and small, promote local businesses and events. County-wide church and event calendars, school lunch menus, balanced sports coverage and more undergird community connections. The Buffalo Bulletin’s well-managed space, straight-forward reporting, and thoughtful overall voice get the job done ... and done exceptionally well.”
SECOND PLACE: Columbia Gorge News by Staff, Columbia Gorge (Oregon) News. “The 30-page Columbia Gorge News takes on the challenge of covering communities in two states — Oregon and Washington — communities that are united by their proximity to the river that divides them. The News maintains offices in both states, and well-written coverage reflects the common interests of issues affecting the bridges at both ends, development along the banks, and the health of the river itself as well as the more usual coverage of schools, governments, economies, and sports teams on both sides. The attractive front page includes cover stories from each area while, inside, event calendars, church directories, and ads combine information from both sides of the river. Sharp, colorful images throughout make the News a compelling read.”
THIRD PLACE: General Excellence by Staff, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “The Douglas Budget provides balanced coverage of Converse County and provides space in its pages for another community 75 miles away in a different county. Lively photos and graphics inform and add interest, complementing articles about what’s happening (or has happened), when, where, why/how and who was involved. An especially strong sports section includes articles and action shots from a variety of sports as well as insets of conference standings to keep readers apprised of how teams are faring. Large headings on each public notice make it easy to find ones of interest, and the layout is clean and consistent. In addition, the Budget subscribes to two pages full of puzzles — one for youth — encouraging the paper’s longer life in reader’s homes.”
HONORABLE MENTION: North Scott Press by Staff, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “In addition to the usual lead paragraphs of four or five cover stories, the front page of the North Scott Press fills the space above and alongside its flag with photos and teasers of other articles inside. Additionally, the Press helps readers navigate its pages and arti-



Public Notice Resource Center



Congratulations

to the winner of the

Michael Kramer Best Public Notice Journalism Award,
Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

2024 NNA Foundation Better Newspaper Contest

cles by including a listing of contents in the masthead area on page 2 and by using bolded subheadings within articles. Colorful photos, maps, and graphics provide visual information and complement the well-written news and feature articles, commentary, and human-interest stories.”

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

FIRST PLACE: General Excellence by Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “This entry is the real deal for me. The writing is great. Stories are well organized. I can always pick out solid editing as it preserves a writer's style and makes that person's work stronger. I liked the use of photos and graphics. Page layout is great. This was a really tough class and the top two entries were very close. If I could give more first places, I would. Fine work!”

SECOND PLACE: General Excellence by Staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “This paper hits every mark - strong writing and editing, good story organization, great use of photos and graphics, and great layout. I really appreciated the wide variety of topics covered, and the different styles of writing. Good editing preserves a writer's style while making a story stronger. Honestly, if I could give a tie for first place, I would have. Great work and keep it up.”

THIRD PLACE: September 2023 Hyattsville Life & Times by Griffin Limerick, Heather Wright, Ashley Perks, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “This is a nicely done paper. It is the whole package, from news writing to page layout and use of photos and graphics. This is a solidly done small paper, with a good variety of news and features. Good work!”

HONORABLE MENTION: Lake Oswego Review by Staff, Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review. “This entry was the whole package for me, with all around strong quality. But a somewhat cluttered front page was a distraction. Consider a bit of streamlining. Otherwise, good work!”

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

FIRST PLACE: Idaho Mountain Express General Excellence by Pam Morris, Mark Dee, Greg Foley, Tony Barriatua, and staff, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “What a wonderful and engaging news piece. I loved the simplicity of the layout combined with excellent writing as well as great ad placements. There was such a good mix in every edition. Easy to read and left me wanting to read another edition.”

SECOND PLACE: The independent voice of Southeast Texas by Don Dodd and Examiner Staff, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Solid mix of news. Good storytelling. Clean layouts from cover to cover.”

THIRD PLACE: General Excellence by Park Cities People Staff, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “Enjoyable read. Good stories and photos. Nice

mix of stories to be of interest to a wide variety of readers.”

HONORABLE MENTION: The Pilot's General Excellence by Staff, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Great newspaper from cover to cover with solid stories and coverage of what matters to its readers.”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Wyoming Tribune Eagle, General Excellence, Daily Division by WTE staff, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. A solid product from front to back. Editorial pages are well packaged and feature great, varied content. Everything from local, to national opinion pieces. Reader polls, letters, and political cartoons. Classified section is very impressive. The section is topographically pleasing and very easy to read. The Today in History section is a great idea, and as well packaged as it is, it is sure to be popular with readers.”

SECOND PLACE: Sioux City Journal by Staff, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Very well put together product. Great local news. Front page design really stands out. Five questions with..... Is a great piece that allows readers to really get to know their neighbors. Over heard in the news and photo quiz are nice features to engage the readers. The opinion page from these submissions are lacking in local content. Cable TV, and the internet can tell me all about the issues you carry on your opinion page. If I’m reading your paper, I need to be able to learn about your community.”

GENERAL EXCELLENCE, COLLEGE DIVISION

FIRST PLACE: General Excellence by The Sun Staff, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “This is an outstanding entry. I really enjoyed the stories. Writing is strong, as is editing. Layouts are attractive, as are photos and illustrations. The quality of work is consistent throughout - which is not easy to maintain in this day and age. Fine work!”

LEGACY.COM'S BEST OBITUARY TRIBUTE



Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Jean Zamboni by Kay Fate, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Well reported, beautifully written biographical obituary that conjures the presence of an individual who was deeply loved and respected by those around her. Quotes and photos are both incredibly well chosen for their evocative impact.”

SECOND PLACE: Old-time cowboy, mountain man 'Gator' dies at 79 by Mark Huffman, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “A first-class tribute and a great piece

of storytelling. Huffman chooses and arranges details brilliantly in the service of methodically unfolding his portrait -- both those details he observes himself and those he collects from his sources.”

THIRD PLACE: Sister Ann Kesler by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Dockendorf does diligent work in gathering and presenting the perspectives of many people whose memories of Sister Ann add up to an impactful tribute.”

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

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

FIRST PLACE: Comfort amongst chaos by Nathan Arneal, North Bend Eagle, North Bend, Nebraska. The composition is unique, and if a photo is worth a thousand words, this is it. This is the type of photo one would find in a daily newspaper. Great job.”

SECOND PLACE: Deadline accident by Connor Choate, Marietta Monitor, Marietta, Oklahoma. Graphic photo that shows the magnitude of this crash.”

THIRD PLACE: Vehicle fire on I-30 by Laurie White King, Royse City Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “The glow catches my attention, especially with how the darkness of the night makes the photo stand out.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Storm expected to lose punch today by David Claybourn, Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “More of a feature-type of photo which falls short of breaking news.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-5,999

FIRST PLACE: Angels soar over Tiburon by Frank Fennema, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Great job at catching the action.”

SECOND PLACE: Organized Chaos by Carrie Pitzer, Knox County News, Bloomfield, Nebraska. “Great job at catching all of the chaos.”

THIRD PLACE: 14 Hour Standoff by Lauren S. Barr, Westfield Leader, Westfield, New Jersey. “This captured the intensity.”

HONORABLE MENTION: 'She Believed in the Best in Everybody' by Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Great job at capturing the heartache.”

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-14,999

FIRST PLACE: Grim, chaotic, costly by Nathan Burton, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Heartbreaking shot... you can feel the sadness and exhaustion just by looking at the body posture and faces of the men in the photo. Nice work.”

SECOND PLACE: Kid in the rain by Brian Freiburger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “A perfect moment in time! The ‘cur-

tain’ formed by the water droplets is caught perfectly.”

THIRD PLACE: 10 acres burned in national park by Brian Freiburger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Printing this photo in black and white really adds to the overall effect. Nice shot.”

HONORABLE MENTION: State Champs by Brian Freiburger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “The joy on the faces of the coach and the team members is palpable! Love this! (And congratulations to the girls!)”

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

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

FIRST PLACE: Swimming lessons touching the bottom by Jeremy Buss, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Photographer Jeremy Buss got to the bottom of this feature photo assignment and came to the surface with a First Place photo. Creativity and technically-proficient equipment pay off! This judge has been rating photo contests for 30 years and has never seen an underwater capture from the local pool; that rarity makes it First Place in a competitive category. Congratulations!”

SECOND PLACE: Converse County Fair, Slip-Slidin’ Away by Jackson Day, Glenrock (Wyoming) Independent. “Love me some pig wrasslin! Jackson Day's photo is packed with action, expression and a sense of, "Did the photographer really get in the mud with the kids and the pig?" yes, it appears he did. Excellent effort and great photo.”

THIRD PLACE: Road rage by Amy Menerey, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. “In terms of finding a ‘random’ feature photo, this Wyoming version of Road Rage takes the cake. Great capture by Amy Menerey.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Sledding by Darin Epperly, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Go out and find a feature photo for a weather story. Great job by Darin Epperly filling that assignment quite well. Love the angle and action. Anyone who grew up in snow country can relate to this photo.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Egg White Success by Cinthia Stimson, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “A laughing kid and her chicken gains top honors in this division.”

SECOND PLACE: River Crossing by Mark Davis, Powell (Wyoming) Tribune. “Great photo of a horse team crossing a river - I wish it could have been larger, but that wasn't the photographer's fault”

THIRD PLACE: No Way Santa by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “So much motion here - Loved the expressions on the faces. Why bury such a great photo at the bottom of the page?”

HONORABLE MENTION: Child

With Cow by Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Lots of children in this division. The cow and the child seem to be wearing the same expression. I would have liked to see the photo cropped tighter.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999
FIRST PLACE: Boys of summer by Ethan Weston, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “I love this picture because it could have been taken anywhere in the country -- boys being boys! Climbing up on the dugout ledge, watching the goings-on -- it's truly just a slice of American life. Perfect.”
SECOND PLACE: Duane Miller of the Eldridge VFW salutes the American flag during the presentation of the colors by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Beautiful shot with excellent perspective. The framing makes the photo.”
THIRD PLACE: Best friends by Ethan Weston, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Beautiful shot of a tender moment.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Eastern Shoshone Powwow - top right, Pema Bullbear by Carl Cote, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Stunning portrait.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-14,999
FIRST PLACE: Their last chance by Bradly J. Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Deep colors almost look storybook like. LOVE!”
SECOND PLACE: GTB tribal member dancing center at Pow Wow by Meakalia Previch-Liu, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Colors are incredible as is the look on the dancer's face. Well Done!”
THIRD PLACE: Ice Cream Truck Vendor, May 2023 Hyattsville Life & Times by Juliette Fradin, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “Perfect photo of everyday happening, expertly done. Great job!”
HONORABLE MENTION: Down Memory Lane by J. Brian Monihan, Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review. “This is an appealing photo. Not sure why but it stuck in my gut and wouldn't get out of my mind. Good job!”

Daily Division
FIRST PLACE: Memorial Day preparations by Tim Hynds, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “The easy winner in this division. Photo definitely captures the moment.”
SECOND PLACE: Northern Lights Over Wyoming by Matt Stirn, The Wyoming Truth, Laramie, Wyoming. “Nice capture of northern lights. Photo obviously took good planning.”
THIRD PLACE: Easy does it now!

by Alyte Katilius, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Without reading caption it's hard to know what it is, but good timing.”

BEST PHOTO ESSAY
Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000
FIRST PLACE: Bundle Of Joy by Forrest R. Church, Publisher, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Just a huge bundle of joy! Basic photos, yet a terrific ‘bundle’ not just for the parents, but the entire community!!!”
SECOND PLACE: Satisfaction Guaranteed for All by Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “People and critters enjoying the fair. A fine display reflects the community’s response and interactions; even shows rear view of a cow a-milking!”
THIRD PLACE: Vietnam veterans honored by Janice Hunt, Oakland (Illinois) Independent. “This visual display has great text support. Photos provide grand context for this community’s recognition of its Vietnam War veterans!”
HONORABLE MENTION: Clearwater Rodeo by Antelope County News Staff, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Terrific action photo leads this essay! Subordinate photos add good visual reflections/context.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
FIRST PLACE: Pioneer Days action by Carl Cote, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “These photos are extremely sharp and focus on the emotions of the individuals captured.”
SECOND PLACE: Hot air by Carl Cote, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Wonderful shots of larger than life balloons that capture the human aspect of those around them.”
THIRD PLACE: Yellowstone Winter by Carla Wensky, Powell (Wyoming) Tribune. “Stunning outdoor photography of beautiful places. Makes one long to see it in person.”
HONORABLE MENTION: The Nutcracker by Carla Wensky, Powell (Wyoming) Tribune. “Beautiful capture of a well-loved play.”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999
FIRST PLACE: Jackson family navigates rare cancer diagnosis by Morgan Timms, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “This photo story easily jumps to the top. Dynamite photos captivate readers into a life threatening situation for a sweet little girl. The front page photo alone is dominant enough to tell this story, but then there are

many other great photos that result in a spectacular photo story! Excellent job by Morgan Timms.”
SECOND PLACE: Resilient Broncs by Kathryn Ziesig, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “This photo display outlines one good photo after another. Judging from all the photos, you would have never guessed this team went winless except maybe the photo of the coach in the locker room, which in itself captures the frustration of the season. Great photos show lots of emotion and action. Nicely done.”
THIRD PLACE: Our Chance to Compete by Alyte Katilius, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Love the photo on the front page of the girl cheering. This is followed by a series of excellent photos capturing the entire story. Great cropping and nice sized photos carry this package as a strong winner.”
HONORABLE MENTION: ‘This one feels different’ by Nathan Burton, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Nice framing on the photo of the officer using drip torch in the forest. Also love how the plumes of smoke blend into the blue sky and clouds. Great work!”

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
FIRST PLACE: Scott Stapp of Creed by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Excellent live concert photography worked into a creative page design.”
SECOND PLACE: UBR Rodeo by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Very good action photos of professional bull riding blended into a good page layout brings the sport to life.”
THIRD PLACE: Drag performers are under attack under the country by Kelly Burkhardt, Philadelphia Gay News. “Well posed group photos of Drag performers show their design skill and creative talent.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Downey Memes tries to capitalize on popularity with apparel line by Eric Pierce, The Downey (California) Patriot. “Downey, CA, has developed a popular local clothing line with humorous messages. The photos are professional and captivating.”

BEST SPORTS PHOTO
Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
FIRST PLACE: Mud game by Darin Epperly, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Two warriors, neither budging. Essence of the game.”
SECOND PLACE: Just along for the ride (bull riding photo) by Don Cogger, Uinta County Herald, Evanston, Wyoming. “That's a lot of bull and you have to admire the rider. I spent more time looking at this photo, just trying to figure out how the rider escaped. Great job.”
THIRD PLACE: Swimming Form by Jacob Kessler, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Perfectly captured dive.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Down but not out by Don Cogger, The Kemmerer (Wyoming) Gazette. “You can feel the pain on the face of the little catcher. I hope they got the out.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000 - 2,999
FIRST PLACE: San Diego’s Svajda clinches second straight crown at Tiburon Challenger by Frank Fennema, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “This was by far the best photo in this category and division. Great action shot.”
SECOND PLACE: Three-peat by Elliot Karlan, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “That is a quite good championship celebration photo.”
THIRD PLACE: Cyclones scratch and claw for 3rd consecutive victory by Alex Martin, Harlan (Iowa) News-Advertiser. “I would have cropped this differently so the ball handler's torso is centered in the photo. Otherwise good.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Boys Wrestling by Elizabeth Johnson, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “I would have cropped this not quite so tightly, but otherwise a good close-up shot.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999
FIRST PLACE: Kings of the Upset by Scott Ramsey, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “Really stellar image here of a winning celebration with players and coach; excellent focus and technical ability showcased with this and popping with great color and the framing was elite. Thank you.”
SECOND PLACE: Game-winning celebration by Dennis Barker, Jr., The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “This was a very nice close-up/zoomed in capture of a joyous moment, which was well done on many levels - framing. Lost out on 1st due to the winner having better definition and focus. Thank you.”
THIRD PLACE: HRV Topples TD by Noah Noteboom, Columbia Gorge (Oregon) News. “I enjoyed this photograph for several reasons - the framing was really nice, centering on the catch while also getting some (expected) less focused crowd reactions in background. Nice work; if had more definition and focus and zoom, could be top two. Third IMO. Thank you.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Headed for Home by Ross Corsair, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Appreciate your entry; for me as judge, the image was a basic baseball sports photo. I did like the dual action of player rounding base with fielder attempting to get ball in background. Thank you.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999
FIRST PLACE: Plenty of horsin' around by Liam DeBonis, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “What a shot! I don't know how you got that angle but it makes an already amazing scene top notch.”
SECOND PLACE: White Sox Taos

Thank you to the individuals who donated their time and talent in judging the 2024 BNC

Little League Majors by Nathan Burton, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “I can't imagine a more perfect still from this scene. Perfect timing, great shot.”

THIRD PLACE: Girls fight too by Carl Cote, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Her coach may not appreciate the look but it sure makes for a great photo. Great action.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Eagles upset Red Devils by Brian Freiburger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Great job capturing an emotional moment and the joy on the girls' faces.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Crashing Down by Arron Hustead, Washington Missourian. “The wrestler's hand on the mat makes this photo out of the ordinary. Nice shot!”

SECOND PLACE: Eyes on the Ball by Bill Battle, Washington Missourian. “Love the hair standing up and the ball resting on his arm. Makes me wonder if the photographer was lying on the ground!”

THIRD PLACE: Celebrating after a touchdown by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “What makes this photo stand out even more is his teammates' reaction.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Air Bal-lou by Bill Battle, Washington Mis-sourian. “Great capture of athlete's concentration on the ball!”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Right on the money by Alyte Katilius, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Looks like this photo is right out of Yellow-stone! Great job at getting the exact moment. Great composition and tightness. Dirt flying.”

SECOND PLACE: Dakota Valley loose ball by Tim Hynds, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This is a nice bas-ketball shot, capturing two players diving for the ball at the same time. We see it every game, but it's tough to capture. Nice tightness on the photo. Well done.”

REVIEW - BEST REVIEW

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: 'Mugre' A Gratu-itous, Machismo, Sexist, Mess Of A Play by Anahy J. Gutierrez, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Well done passion-ate review of a play. The author did not like the play and did a good job explaining why as he sprinkled in just enough plot.”

SECOND PLACE: One of the year's best by Bruce Miller, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. "A nicely done review where the author walks us through the plot with opinion."

THIRD PLACE: ‘Odyssey’ shows he-ro’s journey through female lens’ by Michele Caprario, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “A little hard to forage through at parts, but, overall, a good review filled with opinion.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Man

Pens Tribute to Bronco by Kersten Rettig, Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas. “A fair book review. The author backs into the review with too much background before getting to opinion.”

BEST FAMILY LIFE LIVING SECTION PAGES

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Leelanau on a Dime by staff, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Great package cover to cover. This is a nice feature package that has things that any family or person could do without breaking the bank.”

SECOND PLACE: Siouxland Life by Staff, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This piece made me wish it was more than twice a year. It was filled with great info for folks in that area. The photos were great. Placements were spot on. Easy to read.”

THIRD PLACE: ArkBeat by Kevin Hessel & Staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Solid stories and engag-ing content for readers. Good use of photos and placements.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Embrac-ing The Unexpected by Amy Wendt, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Nice selection of stories with a family feel to the entire paper. Solid writing. Consistent layout.”

BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

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

FIRST PLACE: 150 Years of Fayette History by Forrest R. Church, Jacob Kessler, The Village Reporter, Mont-pelier, Ohio. “This was not just a piece of journalism. It's also a piece of history in how it not only chronicles the history, but also how that history is seen. Great mix of old and new pho-tos. The point of view of the children is a great inclusion.”

SECOND PLACE: The Dynasty Continues by Nathan Arneal, North Bend (Nebraska) Eagle. “Terrific use of extended metaphor of card-play-ing through much of the piece. Very good how they used playing cards to represent the players. Also great how they integrated player photos into advertising.”

THIRD PLACE: End Zone football preview by David Claybourn, Ashley Garey and Laurie White King, Her-ald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Very professional in appearance. Great format that includes action photos, stats and information at a glance, and well-written features”

HONORABLE MENTION: Neligh's 150th Celebration by Antelope Coun-ty News Staff, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Lots of work went into this piece, especially the in-depth feature. Great mix of old and new photographs”

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

FIRST PLACE: Discover Taos

Summer Magazine by Paul Gutches, Michael Tashji, The Taos (New Mex-ico) News. “Having already judged a few 'Taos' publications, I was expect-ing a lot from this going into it and it did not disappoint. This magazine is chock full of great content from sto-ries, photos, ads, maps, the list goes on. I hope everyone picks this up. They're doing themselves a disservice if they don't!”

SECOND PLACE: Taos Aglow by Paul Gutches, Michael Tashji, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Why wouldn't there be a holiday issue? Haha I love the name of it, Aglow. Another tremendous job. Congratula-tions.”

THIRD PLACE: Century of Sewage by Iyarie Murguia, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Taos was looking to sweep the cate-gory, then the Sun came in with some really important content presented in a very nice visual way to force me to recognize them as well in what was a loaded and extremely diverse categor-y.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Mexico's Women Fight Femicide by Ailyn Dumas, Nicolette Monique Luna, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “This is very well done.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Community Con-nections 2023 by Brian Martin and Rachel Girt, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “A must-read, go-to resource for all readers. A lot of good information packed into 40 pages. Clean layout, easy to read. Like it!”

SECOND PLACE: Siouxland Food-ball '23 by Ryan Timmerman, Dave Dreeszen, Jared McNett, Robyn Levine, Tim Hynds, Jesse Brothers, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Huge undertaking by staff – 70 pages! Crisp page design. Nice mix of local and statewide teams. Just enough info on each with great photos and info box-es. It’s a reader keeper for sure.”

THIRD PLACE: 20 Under Forty 2023 by Rachel Snyder, Park Cities Peo-ple, Dallas, Texas. “It’s been done by other publications, but I haven’t seen one this good. A+ design. Enough information on each of the 20 without overkill. If done annually, I imagine it makes young people strive to be included.”

HONORABLE MENTION: STEAM 2023 by staff, Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas. “Interesting, informa-tive stories about education packaged nicely. Bonus for including youth in the section. Well done.”

BEST SPORTS SECTION/ PAGE

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

FIRST PLACE: Steele County Times Best Sports Section by Staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “This is a strong sports section that features great photos,

columns, statistics, and writing that pulls it all together. Really liked the ‘clean’ look and consistent designs, and the commitment to covering local teams so well. Terrific job!”

SECOND PLACE: NLJ Sports by Sonja Karp, Amy Menerey, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. “The consistent and clean look of the sports front really sets a good tone for this section to its inside pages. I really liked the inclusion of columns (well written) and schedules turning that left column in a mini rail. Nice job. Consider a few more breakout boxes to turn good into excellent.”

THIRD PLACE: Challenging Our-selves by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Ne-braska) Register. “These are really dynamic single sports pages. Nice photography. Very good page design. Not afraid to use vertical photos as the dominant images.”

HONORABLE MENTION: April 5, Sept. 13 by Jody Michael, The Jour-nal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Good job slamming everything into a single page like this. Not easily done. And local sports briefs, which gets the rest of the news in. Enjoyed the new coach softball story.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Best Sports Section by Emily Ingco, Juan H. Estrada, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vis-ta, California. “Very appealing page with the inset story.”

SECOND PLACE: The N'West Iowa REVIEW by Staff, The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa. Well placed photos and stories.”

THIRD PLACE: Taos News best sports section/page by Taos News staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Great photo placement.”

HONORABLE MENTION: North Scott Press by Ross Shinberg, El-dridge (Iow) North Scott Press. “Nice page with the three photos on top.”

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

FIRST PLACE: The Pilot Best Sports Section by Jonathan Bym, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. “Almost entirely local coverage with an interesting emphasis on horses. Great photos and well-organized layout”

SECOND PLACE: Sioux City Jour-nal by Ryan Timmerman, Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Great photography and easy to fol-low layout. Masthead looked spare.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Overpass Killing by Kay Fate, Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Very thorough job of explaining the timeline and events. This article made me mad that the system failed that woman and her grieving family.”

SECOND PLACE: Not again: Semi blows past intersection by Carrie

Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “This is almost comical.”
THIRD PLACE: School bus stops and sex offenders: Should they be at the same address? by Hayden Godfrey, Bryon Glathar, Uinta County Herald, Evanston, Wyoming. “This is heart-breaking.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Helicopter Crashes Into Field by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Great job.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999
FIRST PLACE: Stronger than a Tornado by Cinthia Stimson, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “A harrowing story about a man surviving ground zero of a twister. Intense and compelling.”
SECOND PLACE: Train from Poughkeepsie to Croton in Eight Hours by Leonard Sparks, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Great story about passengers being stuck for hours on a stalled train during a rainstorm. Good descriptions and even a bit of humor. Good read.”
THIRD PLACE: Denise Benson Theft by Mark Ridolfi, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “The last-minute release of an audit makes this breaking news. Good story.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Rushing wind “and a big fireball” by Bradley A. Martin, William Hayes, Hickman County Times, Centerville, Tennessee. “There was confusion with this entry. There were two stories about the explosion, but tone entered appears to be the one of an eyewitness account. The main story, or the combination of the two, might have made a more compelling entry, even though it is being reported at least 10 days after the event.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999
FIRST PLACE: Red River shooting by Geoffrey Plant, John Miller and Nathan Burton, The Taos (Mew Mexico) News. “This was such a difficult category to judge, everything was extremely well written. The use of the editorial in addition to the fantastic news coverage is what set you apart. Great job.”
SECOND PLACE: Cargo train derailment causes road closure, environmental concerns by Heather Wright and Sophie Gorman Oriani, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “Great article! Covering a train derailment is always a hard task, information can be difficult to come by. Great job keeping your readers informed.”
THIRD PLACE: Mayor dragged from moving truck in attempt to stop errant driver by Molly Colgan & Victoria Hoffman, Warwick Advertiser, Chester, New York. “Great story! The subject matter lends itself to an entertaining story, and you did a fantastic job with it.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Northport icon leaves behind legacy of

service by Meakalia Preovich-Liu, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “A beautiful memorial piece on someone who was obviously well loved in the community.”
Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more
FIRST PLACE: Structural rot found at Sun Valley condos, residents advised to vacate by Gabe Barnard, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “In-depth coverage that covered all bases: engineers, condo association and residents. Well written and issue explained in detail.”
SECOND PLACE: Brunton Dairy loses barn and milk bottling plant in fire by Rachel Wagoner, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Excellent coverage of a fire that went beyond just reporting on the fire. The fire affected a family and so many others, and this story covered all bases. Great ending: ‘You have to laugh or you’ll cry.’”
THIRD PLACE: Fairness Act passes PA House by Jason Villemmez, Philadelphia Gay News. “Good story and good writing on an issue many states are facing. Plenty of background and detail. Well done.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Deadly drunk driver sentenced by Jennifer Johnson, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Tough stories to write, but reporter handled them well. This entry had just a bit more detail than the other.”

Daily Division
FIRST PLACE: Crofton Law Enforcement Controversy by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan “Yet another series of well-written pieces on this case. Has left this reader to wonder why the officers were terminated.... developing that curiosity is a sign of craftsmanship in writing.”
SECOND PLACE: Hillcrest Country Club Lawsuits by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Thorough coverage of interesting case. Definitely draws in the reader and leaves one wondering how these suits will conclude.”
THIRD PLACE: Hartington Murder Case by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “In depth coverage of all aspects of this murder case. Very thorough reporting.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Tabor Man Gets 21 Months For Church Wire Fraud by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Thorough coverage of news that likely affected whole communities. Well done.”

STORY-SERIES -
BEST BUSINESS
FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000
FIRST PLACE: A matter of life and death by Mark Brown, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “Of several well-written entries, this one had the best quote selection. They

drew in the reader and revealed the personalities of the people who were quoted. Well done.”
SECOND PLACE: Tuftee's Garden by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge North Scott Press, Eldridge, Iowa. “The writer captured the adventurous spirits of the business owners. Very readable.”
THIRD PLACE: A legacy takes root by Janice Hunt, Oakland Independent, Oakland, Illinois. “The reader is provided clear proof of the admiral personalities of this business team. Good selection of quotes.”
HONORABLE MENTION: On the road by Seth Taylor, Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, Wyoming. “Well done. The reader is treated to details of how this service enhances life in the community.”

Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more
FIRST PLACE: Pennsylvania ciders reinvent hard cider industry by Liz Partsch, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Compelling writing and a fun angle from which to profile two local businesses for their sustainable approaches to their craft. This piece is not only likely to increase reader awareness but also to invigorate a customer base.”
SECOND PLACE: The booksellers that built a community by Jason Villemmez, Philadelphia Gay News. “This profile excavates a rich history -- both of the bookstore itself and of the many waves of LGBTQ+ history it has marked over the generations of its existence. The profile is a tribute the meaning of these historic business landmarks and to the exceptional work of the advocates and owners who keep these kinds of businesses open.”
THIRD PLACE: All you need is 'LUV': New air filtration system brings technology to Ketchum before anywhere else by Andrew Guckes, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “The community, local businesses and consumers all benefit from the in-depth reporting in this profile that lucidly explains and enthusiastically explores a structural innovation and business collaboration that responds to COVID-19 demands. Super interesting work!”
HONORABLE MENTION: Local chefs discuss industry-wide substance use by Liam Easley, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Though not exactly a business profile, this powerful feature explores an important issue for the business sector with nuance, creativity and human interest. It's a story worth telling, full of evocative personal narratives and images to match.”

Daily Division
FIRST PLACE: Fryn' Pan 'Family' Celebrating 50 Years Of Service by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “The reporter was very diligent with this story, documenting the history of the restaurant as well as weaving in tales/testimonials from customers

(loved that!) as well as lots of info and quotes from longtime employees. I especially enjoyed the lead-in few lead graphs and how the reporter set the story up - very astute approach in my judge opinion. First place IMO and hope I get there to eat someday. Cheers.”
SECOND PLACE: The Bing at 100 by Mason Dockter, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This story was nice in several respects, notably that it made me want to gobble one of these tasty-sounding treats! Reporters covered many bases well and the writing was sharp. History was well chronicled after an introduction explaining the main aspect of story: candy hitting century mark. I'd like to have seen/read some comments from folks in community who eat the candy. If had gone out and done a 'person on street' comment seeking quest for Bing eaters, you'd have won first. Thanks!!!”
THIRD PLACE: Woman-owned tech company strikes major opportunity by Ivy Secrest, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “This was a nice topic to focus on, but the writing was a bit formulaic and stodgy and got me bogged down as I continued. That said, good additional sourcing was present and reporter explained the issue well. I've got 3rd place IMO as judge. Thank you & good luck in your future career.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST
BUSINESS STORY

Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000
FIRST PLACE: MICHELIN CLOSING: Workers at Ardmore tire plant to receive separation benefits by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “well researched and well written story on a subject that I'm sure was the hot gossip in the community. Very well done.”
SECOND PLACE: The Royal Scam by George Fiala, Brian Abate, The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York. “Great story and great subject matter. Would have liked to hear from an employee or two about their thoughts on the extended two week furlough. Love how the story is broken up with subheads, makes for a visually appealing read. Great job.”
THIRD PLACE: Fish Farm by Jacob Kessler, Forrest R. Church, Publisher, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Great story, there is a mention of a first part to this that I would have liked to read too, maybe it could have filled in the gaps in information like potential employment numbers. Overall, great job.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Best Business story - minimum wage - Feb 8 by Trisha Benton, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Fantastic story. Only thing that would have improved it would be to have had the perspective of a minimum wage worker voiced as well.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Marin Home Care named peninsula business of the year by Emily Lavin, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Thank you, Emily Lavin, for opening this story on how the home care business came to be, and saving the "business of the year" angle until the 4th paragraph. Excellent background & context, quotes and personality included.”

SECOND PLACE: Tiburon Laundroman will close its doors after three decades by Emily Lavin, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “This story by Emily Lavin reflects the challenge of being a small business owner. Good job.”

THIRD PLACE: "Panel discusses new industrial projects" by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. “Affordable housing and workforce availability are big issues nationwide, and this story brings those issues home to Green River, Wyoming.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Pay It Forward by Sara Dowling, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, Nevada. “A true ‘feel good’ story that puts lots of names and faces in the newspaper, supporting a local business and many valuable non-profits and other programs that benefited.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Commissioners, Mebane city council looking at Transload facility by Tomas Murawski, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Very well written, non-biased and informative.”

SECOND PLACE: Can Everyone Shop Main Street? by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Thought provoking, and brings to light issues of disabled folks that needs immediate addressing.”

THIRD PLACE: Should county go to war with Big Box retailers after revaluation? by Tomas Murawski, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Excellent story about questionable actions by elected leaders.”

HONORABLE MENTION: All in a day's work by Peder Schaefer, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Great story. It has an interesting spin on labor day.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Questa loses its only supermarket by Liam Easley and John Miller, The Taos News, Taos, New Mexico. “A well assembled look at how the closing of a small, remote mountain community lost its grocery store and the impact it will have on the locals who depend on it.”

SECOND PLACE: Cold temps bring ice wine harvest by Meakalia Previc-Liu, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Interesting and informative story on a unique wine making process.”

THIRD PLACE: Business owners outraged at \$25 minimum wage

proposal by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “The reporter interviewed all the right people for this one. Nice informative story on a national-level business topic.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Business high employees low by Brian Freiburger, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “This was an informative look at issues facing every business today, but not well covered in local news outlets. Nice job.”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Labor Pains by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Really loved this story, and the reporter did an excellent job on all levels: good quotes and sourcing; explaining the program and importance; and very flowing story which was broken up properly and astutely with good subhead breaks. Very well done. Thank you.”

SECOND PLACE: Wyoming's Courtship of the Digital Asset Industry by CJ Baker, The Wyoming Truth, Laramie, Wyoming. “This was a very large entry, with many lengthy stories that were super complex. The writing was plodding and hard to wade through because of the highly specific technical nature of the subject. The reporter failed to describe key elements of this issue for readers, namely what in the heck cryptocurrency even is, how the system works, and etc... While tech nerds and rich people may be familiar with this, most folks - while aware of cryptocurrency - have no comprehension of what it even is. Nowhere in all these articles was there an explainer of what cryptocurrency is in any manner or level. Without that explanation, the rest of this super intense and specific reporting means little to average reader. As judge, I waded through this all, but if was an average reader, I'd have closed my browser window. I also felt like there was way, way too much reliance on hyperlinked other stories and documents. That element of web journalism is used too much to detriment of the story itself.”

THIRD PLACE: Arnolds Park mobile homeowners have 90 days to leave by Jared McNett, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Your entry was missing the third page (second jump), hence was not able to read the full article. That said, this was less of a business story and more of a profile of the people being forced to move out. There was very little "business" info in this compared to the excessive details of residents having to leave. This also has a tone of judgement or "feel sorry," to it. The reality of life is stuff like this can happen, and it is both legal and part of life. I give reporter credit for getting as much balance as possible from the parent company kicking out the residents. Thank you.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Small towns struggle

to plan by Kate Cough, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “I liked this but frankly, it receives first place because it is the only entry in the category. The writing was generally solid. Story organization could have been stronger. Please watch run-on sentences. Those were confusing. I had to read them a few times to understand what you were trying to say. The material is quite good but it could be used to better effect.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Confusion in the Classroom by Jeff Simms, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Confusion in the classroom. Well-written and includes lots of sources and a variety of viewpoints on a very important issue in many communities across the nation if not the world. Good job of allowing these parents to speak out about a teacher who is willing to spread misinformation to her students. These sorts of stories remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.”

SECOND PLACE: "Substitute Shortage" by Aleisa Schat, The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa. “Solid reporting. I liked the narrative lede. You put a face on the story and it helps the reader to grasp the issue immediately. Good use of national stats as well. Good job of getting variety of viewpoints in the story and good use of quotes. Substitute shortage is impacting school districts nationwide and many newspapers are publishing stories on the subject. Well done. Keep up the good work.”

THIRD PLACE: Humanitarian Founded Schools In Tijuana Dumps by Camila A. Gonzalez, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Really great job of telling people about this wonderful human being and what he went through to educate poor children in a real-life dump. Incredible! If anyone deserved to be recognized in the newspaper, it was David Lynch, and you did an excellent job of that! Commendable! I could smell the stench and felt the flies buzzing around me as I read your account. Well done! Keep up the great work!”

HONORABLE MENTION: Remedial Math, Eng Classes Are Gone For Good by Ewan Toledo, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Good job of getting both sides of the story. Lots of sources offering a variety of viewpoints. I would have liked to have seen more comments from students. Still, solid reporting on a very important topic certain to impact lots of students and families.”

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

FIRST PLACE: The Bully System by Molly Colgan, Township Journal,

Chester, New York. ““First Place: Molly Colgan’s article “The Bully Study”

SECOND PLACE: Students help each other try to end vaping addictions by Jeannette Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. ““Second Place: Jeannette Boner’s article, “Students help each other ... vaping addiction”

THIRD PLACE: Turning up the heat by Liam Easley, The Taos News, Taos, New Mexico. ““Third Place: Liam Easley’s “Turning Up the Heat”

HONORABLE MENTION: Clear backpacks, metal detectors come to PGCPs: Do they work? by Heather Marlene Zadig, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. ““Clear backpacks ... do they work?” challenges a school board’s decision to install metal detectors at local middle and high schools and to require that high school students use clear backpacks. Zadig examined local incident and budget data to suggest the money on metal detectors would be better spent on mental health resources. To demonstrate the questionable effectiveness of clear backpacks’ reducing the number of weapons on campus, Zadig hid, in a clear backpack and among ordinary school supplies, thirteen weapons ranging from knives of various types and sizes to boxcutters, a hacksaw, and several small plastic guns.”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Charter Schools in Wyoming by David Dudley, The Wyoming Truth, Laramie, Wyoming. “This was a well-researched project and the story thoroughly covered the issue of charter schools in Wyoming, breaking down the legislation and offering glimpses into what three of the states' charter schools are bringing to the table.”

SECOND PLACE: Librarians 'vigilant' in book selections by Caitlin Yamada, Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, Iowa. “This was a well-rounded story on a hot topic from a more unique perspective. Well-done.”

THIRD PLACE: LCSD1 board approves library book policy by Samir Knox, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Thorough reporting and a well organized story.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Avon Struggles With Teacher Resignation by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “This writer covered a controversial topic with grace and with zero bias. The story would have scored higher for me had more effort gone into getting more input from parents on both sides of the issue, instead of just the parents at the meetingone set of parents at the meeting.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Dire Warmings by Brian PJ Cronin, Michael Turton, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring,



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

Pacific junior Caden Browning controls Union's Logan Garrett in a fireman's carry to set up for a pin in the 126-pound matchup of Tuesday's dual meet at Pacific. The Indians won, 49-18.

New York. "A well sourced collection of stories with details from the farmers (and a sap gatherer) who are directly affected by climate change. Good use of quotes to tell the story. Supporting photography is a big plus. Well done, team."

SECOND PLACE: Mills County landfill gas being processed into renewable energy by Joe Foreman, Opinion-Tribune, Glenwood, Iowa. "This is one very enterprising approach to getting an open house notice in the paper. The writer does a good job explaining the process and its environmental benefits with straightforward, to-the-point writing."

THIRD PLACE: Timber sale in Circle Park promotes forest diversity by Alex Hargrave, Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, Wyoming. "Educational, explanatory piece covers the story from all angles. Good use of quotes keep it readable and relatable."

HONORABLE MENTION: Mussels On The Move by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. "Well written story sounds the alarm on invasive mollusks and their potential harm, and importantly tells what people can do to prevent further spread."

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

FIRST PLACE: Spa in the spathe 2-2023 CPHN by Rick Borchelt, College Park Here & Now, College Park, Maryland. "Very interesting story on a plant lesser known than some of its cousins. Found ourselves continuing to want to read more."

SECOND PLACE: Is that recyclable? by Becca Tucker and Kayla Hartigan, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. "Good story on the ever changing rules of recycling. Especially liked the graphics and item by item walk through the grocery story."

THIRD PLACE: Whitefish catch doubles by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Everything you wanted to know about whitefish, and then some."

HONORABLE MENTION: 50 years of an energy crisis by Tux Turkel, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. "Good story looking back at the 70's energy crisis"

STORY-SERIES - BEST PROFILE FEATURE STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Gaddie Out: Prominent Political Scientist Leaves OU after 25 years by M. Scott Carter, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. "Brilliant profile that captured the essence of its subject, compelling the reader to want to know everything possible about this man. In the hands of this talented writer, the profile was told with a depth of feeling not always evident from others. Outstanding."

SECOND PLACE: Letting the Spirit take control by Walter Sprague, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. "Beautifully written account that told the reader very clearly why the subject was worthy of such an excellent profile. Profiles so often seem to keep the writer a distance from the subject. Not the case here. Great piece."

THIRD PLACE: A legacy takes root by Janice Hunt, Oakland Independent, Oakland, Illinois. "Fascinating profile of a person whose life seemed doomed, how the subject facing devastation, finding strength in beauty and ultimate turnaround to a future that was grown from what was originally a coping mechanism."

HONORABLE MENTION: Sun Li-Jen '27: A cadet until the end by Adam Cioffi II '26, The Cadet, Yorktown, Virginia. "The writer intro-

duced a person whose life had to have been filled with internal conflicts but someone who made choices with great courage. Fine work."

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

FIRST PLACE: "The power of connection" by Hannah Romero, The Green River Star, Green River, Wyoming. "Excellent writing. I get a solid look at Dan Parson and the impact he's had on students and the speech and debate community. Well done."

SECOND PLACE: Tiburon resident cements her legacy as a pioneer among women in medicine by Deirdre McCrohan, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "Well written. Excellent insight into what it took for women to break the barrier in the medical field. Great job."

THIRD PLACE: Strawberry tennis legend turns 100 by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "A well-written profile of a tennis legend. Lots of good data and first-account information. A solid read!"

HONORABLE MENTION: Smoke on the Water by Ashley B Futrell Jr., Washington (North Carolina) Daily News. "Such a heart-warming story! Well written. Kudos!"

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

FIRST PLACE: Chairman of the boards by Steve Marion, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. "The headline reeled me in right away; however, not what I was expecting to read. Excellent job sharing this man's passion for constructing things. The photos help tell this story. The writer did an outstanding job in capturing this man's personality. The drop quote says it all, 'I've just always loved making things, and I can't really stop.' He's definitely an outstanding candidate for CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS!"

SECOND PLACE: A Young Man and Fire by Mark Ridolfi, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. "Great job in sharing a young man's passion for firefighting. This is well written with solid quotes interspersed throughout the story. I'm glad to see volunteers are recognized for such an important role in our communities."

THIRD PLACE: Burlington grandsons now Navy pilots, one a 'top gun' by Charity L. Cohen, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. "Nice hook in the lead paragraph with recalling how the pilot got hooked on flying. This should provide an inspiration for others to serve their country. Solid writing!"

HONORABLE MENTION: Tom's Curtain Call by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. "It always amazes me when someone achieves a half century mark with a career. The writer does a great job in capturing this man's dedication 'behind the curtain.'"

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

FIRST PLACE: Top climbing ranger retires after 30 years of high

drama by Billy Arnold, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming.

"Excellent feature. Great writing, but strongly supported with the images and timeline. It's obvious Billy Arnold took time to do the work to make this an outstanding piece. Congratulations on a well-deserved 1st place!"

SECOND PLACE: 12 lessons from a year of asking Pinal's People a simple question by Rofida Khairalla, Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, Arizona. "A fairly easy story, but probably one often overlooked. Strong lede, and a great concept to highlight locals in a podcast and then wrap it up with a story. Nice work! I plan to go look up this podcast and am sure it will be worth my time. Congrats on 2nd place. This really emphasizes the importance of community journalism."

THIRD PLACE: Precision regulator by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Loved this story! So few clockmakers left and it reminded me of a story I did over 20 years ago. This is well-written and provides so much education. Hopefully some teachers are using it in classroom lessons! Nice photography! Congrats on 3rd!"

HONORABLE MENTION: History Touches Down by Braden Hamelin, College Park (Maryland) Here & Now, College Park. "Headline and photo peaked my interest. Putting his age by his name at the onset would have been a good touch. A well-written piece overall and this young man will serve as a role model for many children. This is the kind of stories more people should write. Our youth are a valuable resource for features! Congrats on 4th place!"

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

FIRST PLACE: Emily Mullen ushers family dairy farm into future by bottling milk by Rachel Wagoner, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. "This story hit me hard. It is a fleeting way of life and hard just as the writer described. The details -- all perfectly placed. The photos -- absolutely essential to the story being told. The message -- do hard things is one for the ages. Well written. Beautifully done. Bravo."

SECOND PLACE: Inner city girl rises to global leader by Jennifer Johnson, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. "Good story. Nice quotes. Well written and presented. Solid writing from start to finish."

THIRD PLACE: Hope in the darkness by Barbara Davis, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. "Hard hitting story that offers hope to those who are seeking it. Well written. Good quotes."

HONORABLE MENTION: San Fernando Native Celebrates 100th Birthday by Maria Luisa Torres, San Fernando (California) Valley Sun. "Solid story with plenty of supporting details and insightful photos from the story's subject."

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Signing Off by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dako-



Sisters Emily and Alexa Brodd embrace in the peacefulness following the violent storm that destroyed their house and farm. The tornado left a path of overturned pivots and broken power poles as it cut through Dodge County Friday.

FIRST PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000, Nathan Arneal, North Bend (Nebraska) Eagle



FIRST PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-14,999, Nathan Burton, The Taos (New Mexico) News

Taos County Sheriff Steve Miera, left, and deputy Joseph Apodaca take a rest on Wednesday (March 15) during an operation to recover the body of man who jumped to his death from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge on Tuesday.



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Daily Division, Tim Hynds, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal



FIRST PLACE, Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-5,999, Frank Fennema, The Ark, Tiburon, California

The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels performed their flying magic over downtown Tiburon on Oct. 8, with hundreds gathering in the Shoreline Park area to watch the third and final day of air shows during San Francisco Fleet Week Oct. 2-10.

Left: Jack Holmes of Ida Grove, a Vietnam War veteran, salutes after placing a flag at the grave of a veteran Thursday at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sioux City. Groups of volunteers placed over 4,000 flags at the cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day, when American Legion Post 697 will hold a ceremony at 10 a.m. on Monday.


CFD4 | WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023

WYOMING TRIBUNE EAGLE

FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Daily Division,
Alyte Katilius, Wyoming Tribune Eagle
Cheyenne, Wyoming



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FROM THE PIONEERS TO THE PRESENT

**LASSOED
BY THE LENS**

Judd Grover from Cresco, Iowa, competes in Monday's tie-down roping qualifying round for the 127th anniversary Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo at Frontier Park Arena. Qualifying events continue through Thursday, with the first of nine main PRCA rodeo performances Saturday afternoon.

ALYTE KATILIUS/WYOMING TRIBUNE EAGLE

Douglas Budget, Douglas, Wyoming Wednesday, May 24,

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

SECTION

KINGS

OF THE

UPSET



FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999, Scott Ramsey, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget

Douglas High School senior forward Jackson Hughes (No. 7) jumps in celebration while caught by DHS head coach Clay Ewing and surrounded by Chris Deluna (No. 31) and teammates after scoring the biggest upset in school history, a 2-1 win over No. 1 seed Powell. The Bearcats went on to play for their first state championship in school history.



FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000, Darin Epperly, Cedar County News, Hartington Nebraska

Cedar Catholic's Brady Hochstein drags a Ponca defender through the mud during late football action in Friday night's rain-filled rivalry game against the Indians. The Trojans flexed their defensive muscles to earn the 26-0 decision. Cedar Catholic clos-es out the 2023 regular season Friday night at Russ Hochstein Field when it hosts undefeated and top-ranked Norfolk Catholic.



FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999, Liam DeBonis, The Taos (New Mexico) News

Brazos Winters rides bareback on a bucking horse during the 54th Rodeo de Taos on Saturday (Aug. 12).

FIRST PLACE, Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-2,999, Frank Fennema, The Ark, Tiburon, California

Defending Tiburon Challenger singles champion Zach Svajda of San Diego defeated Australian Adam Walton in two sets on Oct. 8 at the Tiburon Peninsula Club to claim the title for the second consecutive year.

WAS THAT FARE LEGAL?

Several citations have been issued to taxi drivers this year for failing to display their rates, which are determined by the Town of Jackson. Town rules divided Teton County into five zones and fares within and between zones have strict fare limits. Here are seven typical trips within Jackson Hole and their maximum fares.

Trip 1:
Town of Jackson to Airport
Fare cannot exceed \$70

Jackson is in Zone 1 and the airport is in Zone 2. Trips between Zone 1 and Zone 2 cannot exceed \$70.

Trip 2:
Teton Village to Airport
Fare cannot exceed \$95

Teton Village is in Zone 2 and the airport is in Zone 2. Trips between Zone 1 and Zone 2 cannot exceed \$95.

Trip 3:
Jackson to Teton Village
Fare cannot exceed \$57

Jackson is in Zone 1 and Teton Village is in Zone 5. Trips between Zone 1 and Zone 2 cannot exceed \$57.

Trip 4:
Jackson to Colter Bay
Fare cannot exceed \$138

Jackson is in Zone 1 and Colter Bay is in Zone 6. Trips between Zone 1 and Zone 6 cannot exceed \$138.

Trip 5:
Airport to Rafter J
Fare cannot exceed \$75

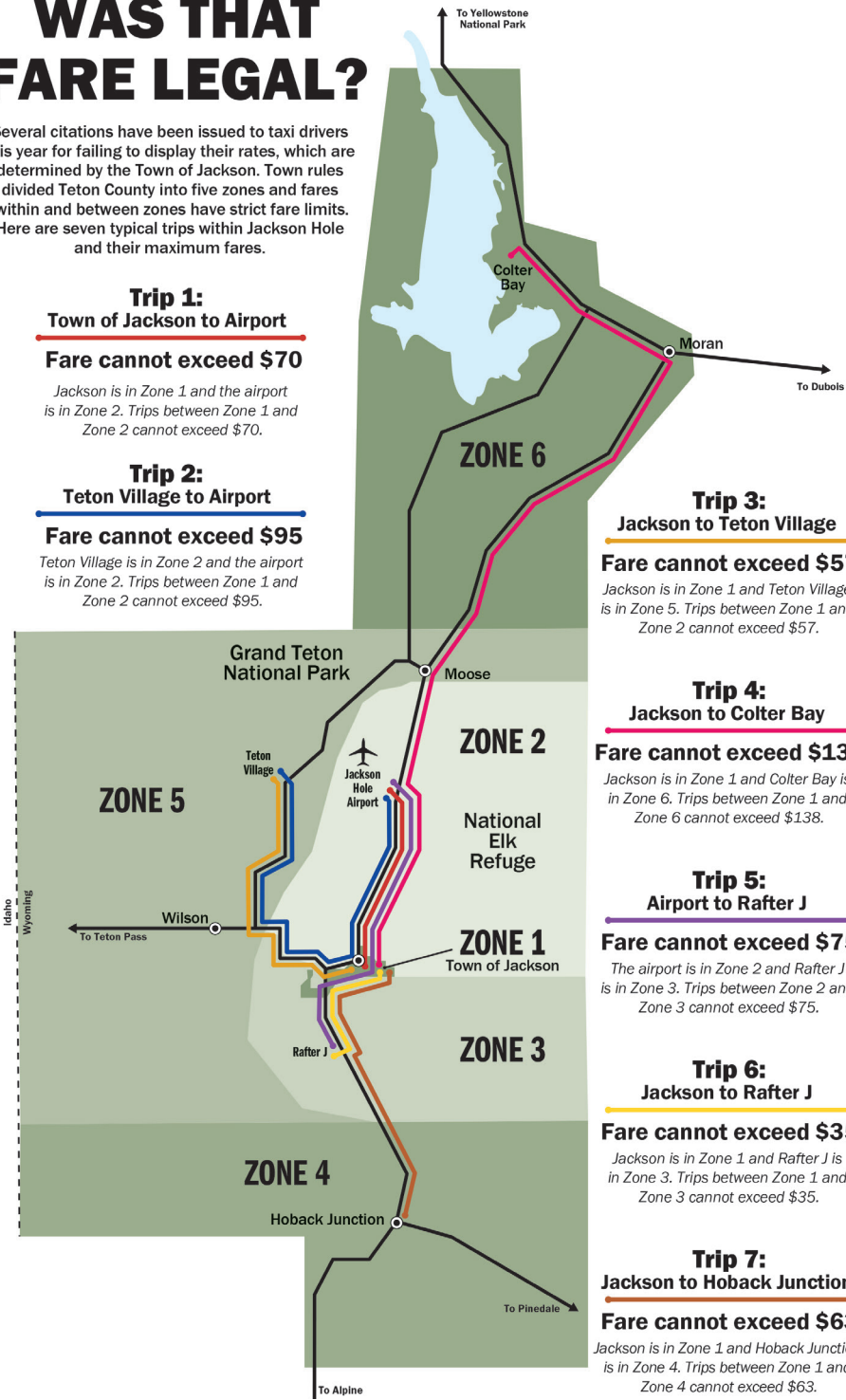
The airport is in Zone 2 and Rafter J is in Zone 3. Trips between Zone 2 and Zone 3 cannot exceed \$75.

Trip 6:
Jackson to Rafter J
Fare cannot exceed \$35

Jackson is in Zone 1 and Rafter J is in Zone 3. Trips between Zone 1 and Zone 3 cannot exceed \$35.

Trip 7:
Jackson to Hoback Junction
Fare cannot exceed \$63

Jackson is in Zone 1 and Hoback Junction is in Zone 4. Trips between Zone 1 and Zone 4 cannot exceed \$63.



FIRST PLACE, Best Informational Graphic, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999, Andy Edwards, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

ta) Daily Press & Dakotan. “A piece truly explaining a career and sharing the legacy of one obviously loved and respected for the job he did.” **SECOND PLACE:** Honoring A Submariner by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “A fitting tribute of a true American hero despite his own saying that he is not. A piece of writing that will provide a historical piece for years to come.” **THIRD PLACE:** A rainy day in October by Will Carpenter, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Heartwrenching and heartwarming at the same time. The writer captures the bond between mother and son when telling this powerful story.” **HONORABLE MENTION:** Harriet Hageman's First 100 Days on Capitol Hill by Jacob Gardenswartz, The Wyoming Truth, Laramie, Wyoming. “Excellent coverage through questions while making the story and the subject of said story more like a sharing of family information.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

FIRST PLACE: Stem Cell Transplant Series by Kent Miller, Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Exceptional writing/reporting! The story makes readers personal witnesses to the value of stem cell donor’s value, and the recipient’s life-saved appreciation. While part two of this limited series recounts much of the part-one story, it serves to emphasize the value and need for life-saving stem cell donors. Mission accomplished!” **SECOND PLACE:** The hidden Watergate story by M. Scott Carter, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Terrific depth, terrific writing, an excellent story. Writer drew conclusions and offered personal commentary mixed with historic sourcing and sometimes factual elements



FIRST PLACE, Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-14,999, Brady J. Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming

Jess Laughter prepares to decapitate a winter-killed bull elk she found on the banks of Upper Flat Creek on Monday after the Bridger-Teton National Forest’s winter wildlife closures were lifted. Laughter and her husband, of Idaho Falls, have been regular participants in the Jackson-area antler hunt opener for six years. Next year, a new state law will bar nonresidents from participating in shed hunting in the Wyoming for the first week after the season starts.

without attribution.” **THIRD PLACE:** “Homelessness & Housing” by Aleisa Schat, The N’West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa. “This series on homelessness, rather than examining those wandering town streets and parks seeking shelter, focused on housing needs for domestic victims, for youth without family, for those forced out of homes and apartments in financial distress. Huge detail, sourcing, and text volume delivers the stories to readers with interest and patience. Good writing/reporting! Lengthy stories could have been broken into a primary feature with graphically appealing sidebars.” **HONORABLE MENTION:** Divide County School District new teachers by Brad Nygaard, Jordan Rusche, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “A remarkable series of personality features introducing new teachers to the community, and in one story a sidebar on the teacher’s “escape” from a major family legal crisis. Mostly good writing and sourcing beyond the featured personality.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Homes for the homeless by Barbara Davis, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “A solid series on the homeless situation in the community. Well done.” **SECOND PLACE:** People of the Peninsula by Brian Freiburger, Meakalia Preovich-Liu and Zachary Marano, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “This is a a good ‘get to know those in your community’ feature series.” **THIRD PLACE:** Cruising by Samantha Raquel Norris, San Fernando (California) Valley Sun. “Interesting feature, but how is this a series? (Answer: The other parts of the series apparently were outside the eligibility period.) This is a good story but since this is a series competition ...”

STORY-SERIES - BEST HEALTH STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Asthma Series by Brian Abate, The Red Hook Star-Review, Brooklyn, New York. “Fantastic! This is such a well researched article on a topic that seems to have been that talk of the community at the time. Not only offering information on the different causes of asthma in the community but also offering solutions to help those who have it. Incredible job!” **SECOND PLACE:** ‘Amazing technology’ Hospital celebrates new da Vinci robot by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. “Fantastic story! I can feel Croft’s excitement through the reporters words. Only thing that would have made this story better would be to have some quotes from a scrub tech trained to be in the room with the robot. Great job!” **THIRD PLACE:** She’s Got Spirit by Kent Miller, Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Amazing story on a young girl who has gone through such a traumatic experience. Only thing that would have made it better would be some quotes from coaches or teammates. And maybe a little bit of information on why the blood clot formed or how others could keep it from happening if it is preventable. Overall, amazing, well-written story. Great job!” **HONORABLE MENTION:** Still Fighting After 3 Cancer Bouts by Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Such a wonderful story. Great conveyance of emotions. Timeline seems to jump around a little, but overall great job.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Challenges for dental patients by Dolly Butz, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “From data to anecdotes to exceptional visual narratives, this story makes systemic issues personal and digestible. Readers are carried carefully and thoughtfully through multiple perspectives and levels of the issue; by the end of the story, everyone is better informed and more compassionate about an important social and systemic concern. An exceptional package from top to bottom.”

SECOND PLACE: Plumber deploys overdose prevention training by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Such an important story well-told: This personal example helps shed light on a public-private collaboration that is spreading information and saving lives in the community. This coverage further contributes to that effort -- efficiently, effectively and expertly.”

THIRD PLACE: A Mother’s Long Struggle to Help Her Homeless Son by Cesar Arredondo, Diana Martinez, San Fernando (California) Valley Sun. “A powerful news feature, this story gives a name and a face to experiences that so often go unacknowledged and unrecognized. Bridging the personal story with substantial research into a timely development in the courts, this story spreads awareness and raises compassion.”

HONORABLE MENTION: A Death of Choice by Caitlin Andrews, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “What an unbelievably moving story. Readers will come out of this experience better informed and more compassionate about the long, difficult journey (and rarity) of medically assisted death.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

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

FIRST PLACE: Toxic Workplace by Gordon Hopkins, Fairbury (Nebraska) Journal News. “Awesome series about a dangerous scam artist, sounds like the mayor is a creep as well. Exactly the kind of non-emotional investigative reporting that we are made for.”

SECOND PLACE: New captain to become Tiburon’s first female police chief by Katherine Martine, Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “There is so much in this story that it could have been made more powerful with some graphics and photos to break up the heavy, dense reading.”

THIRD PLACE: Paradise Cay puts in private license-plate cams by Francisco Martinez, Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Well researched but written kind of matter of fact, needs more oomph.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Chick-asha Water Plant from Idea to Ballot by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Lots of work

done here.”

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

FIRST PLACE: THEY SWIPE A LOT by Scott Reese Willey, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. “The Fort Bend Herald created a textbook example of good investigative reporting in a small town. The articles dug into public record, laid out the facts and followed the scrambling that ensued. Well researched, well written and well organized.”

SECOND PLACE: 5-bed home, 9 occupants, 8 lawsuits by Kate Ready, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Delicious deep dive into a spate of civil cases arising out of a housing shortage. Good documentary research, good interviews, good read.”

THIRD PLACE: Toxic mold contamination in Alamance-Burlington schools, fall 2023 by Kristy Bailey, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “A double-barreled travesty uncovered -- ignoring warnings about mold that endangered students and staff, and spending the money that should have gone for repairs on salary increases. Good, good work.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Teaching Across the Spectrum by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “More in-depth than investigative, the report does a great job of balancing the conundrum small school districts face in providing for the needs of the growing autistic population while still delivering for all students. I came away enlightened and disturbed.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Maine's Part-Time Court by Samantha Hogan, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “An institutional story made personal: exceptional sourcing from responsible officials to those affected by the the series’ focus! Maine’s probate courts are independent and absent oversight by any agency dealing with human guardianship and estate management. The affect on human life quality is staggering—less than positive. And the Journalist team for this news organization provides readers with the comprehensive detail!”

SECOND PLACE: Maine's Long-Term Challenges by Rose Lundy, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Compelling reading though lengthy. Excellent writing and sourcing. In-state regulators, senior-care facility staff and administrators, patient advocates and relatives are gathered for comments, care details, and statistical analysis by these reporters. The details and reporters’ source-based analysis make this collection essential for reader’ engagement!”

THIRD PLACE: Drag Story Hour by Semantha Raquel Norris, Gabriel Arizon, San Fernando (California) Valley Sun. “Excellent, multi-sourced series compellingly written about a public library event that drew protesters that forced closure. The va-

riety is sources—protesters, library official, local law enforcers, public community agencies, legal authorities, event supporters and especially the “drag queen” at the center of the conflict. A grand example of Journalism practiced at the highest level for readers’ engaged consumption.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Failure by design: leaking oil and gas wells slip through the cracks by Rachel Wagoner, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Great narrative, excellent sourcing and writing that should engage readers . . . at least those with patience and interest. This is a long version of what could have been an extended series. However, it’s all here at once. This judge read every word. Hope others did, too, because it’s just an excellent story reported in detail with huge sourcing inventory!”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Protect the Pillar by Daily News staff, Norfolk (Nebraska) Daily News. “Great series on why what we do is so important!”

SECOND PLACE: Michael Meredith shooting by Nick Hytrek, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Great in-depth piece.”

THIRD PLACE: The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: Do Wyoming LGBTQ+ youth have it? by Jasmine Hall and Ivy Secrest, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Great informative piece.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

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

FIRST PLACE: Voice of the Valley by Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “The first article was very touching and well written. I feel like the second rehashed the first article a little too much, but overall a good series.”

SECOND PLACE: Robb Fights Back from Rare Infection by Johnnie Phillips, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Intriguing medical mystery. Well written and inspirational for anyone who has had to fight back into a sport they love after an illness.”

THIRD PLACE: Strawberry tennis legend turns 100 by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Well written and informative. I like how it not only told about the life of Mr. Seixas, but also incorporated how the sport has changed since he played.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Late Coach Leaves Lasting Memories by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “A sweet story that flowed well and definitely touched readers' emotions.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Their last chance by Billy Arnold, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “What a monumental effort this must

have been to report and photograph, but it paid huge dividends. Tremendous work.”

SECOND PLACE: 'Everesting' King by Sophia Boyd-Fliegel, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming.

“These extreme thrill-seeking "Everesters" are fascinating subjects, and the writer was wise to speak with so many of them for this piece.”

THIRD PLACE: GOT THEIR GOAT: Meet Gap Goat, the alleged key to K-State's defensive success by Zach DeLoach, The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury. “This is the lightest subject matter out of the four entries that placed, but so what? It's a fun read, it was worth reporting and it was reported well.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Tough But Fun-Loving Women Bring Roller Derby Back Around by Camila A. Gonzalez, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “This student reporter has a very bright future in the industry if this feature is any indication.”

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

FIRST PLACE: New chapter: Lain returns to dugout in Fort Collins by Jeremiah Johnke, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Well written an carries important supporting details and statistics. A nice introduction to a new coach.”

SECOND PLACE: The ballad of Danny B and ‘Dem Boys by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Danny B still seems like a young boy enthusiastic about his team - I especially enjoyed the part about his birthday face-time.”

THIRD PLACE: Defensive Line-man Tackles Multiple Roles by Todd Jorgenson, Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas. “Stories like this are important for students trying to get their name in front of college coaches and admissions departments.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Interest in youth trap shooting growing rapidly by Rachel Wagoner, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “An interesting story on a sport many do not know about.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST SPORTS STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Edgerton’s Kayt Timbrook Reaches 1,000 Career Digs Nate Calvin, Sports Director, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Well written, plenty of details, background info, multiple quotes. Loved the layout and photos of this entry much more than the other volleyball feature, though it was a good story too. Congratulations 1st place!”

SECOND PLACE: A heartbreaking loss by Joani Hartin, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “Excellent story, way to take the defeat and make it positive. It's always a challenge in a small sports driven community, especially at state playoffs. (Especially in Oklahoma!) The coach states the

issues matter-of-factly and still keeps an upbeat tempo. Congratulations on 2nd place!”

THIRD PLACE: The Accidental Fighter by Joel Stevens, Opinion-Tribune, Glenwood, Iowa. “Refreshing to see something besides a traditional sports feature, along with well chosen photos and layout. The subject seems thoughtful and offers candid reasons, with a great line about playing the long game in his quest to move up the ranks. Makes for great reading for younger sports people. Well written, but extra source quotes would have made it even stronger. Congratulations 3rd place!”

HONORABLE MENTION: Junior Gold hopes to defend state title this week by Brad Nygaard, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Great story, but I wish I knew the outcome of their state playoff! Multiple quotes - coach and players, important. Sometimes it's hard to get quotes from the high school athletes, but with it being a state game, having those are important. Adding in descriptive details, like nods and shrugs were also nice touches. Congrats on 4th place!”

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

FIRST PLACE: From Paralyzed To State Champion by Jenny Higgins, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “Nice deep story with multiple interviews. Well arranged and organized.”

SECOND PLACE: Tiburon man takes tennis crown at world masters tournament by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Good coverage of a local athlete on the world stage.”

THIRD PLACE: San Diego’s Svajda clinches second straight crown at Tiburon Challenger by Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Good topic, through coverage of the athlete's success.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Pins (300) fall for prep bowler Shawn Simdars by Sam Martino, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “Good story and interview. Would have liked to hear from the coach or some of his opponents.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Rules required coach's ejection by Bob Sutton, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “An interesting baseball story where the reporter focused on an unusual series of events that became pivotal in the result of the game. A note to sports competition entrants: Focus on key/defining moments that help the reader understand sport more than simply report what happened. ‘Big game’ and ‘feel-good’ features are big stories for the community, but will be much stronger with tighter focus.”

SECOND PLACE: Embrace Disability by Noah Noteboom, Columbia (Oregon) Gorge News. “A feel-good feature about a young equestrian who has overcome adversity to become

a top competitor in her sport. An interesting read, but would be better if it focused more on a moment than her entire life in the sport.”

THIRD PLACE: HRV GRADS SET NEW HEIGHTS by Noah Noteboom, Columbia (Oregon) Gorge News. “A local high school female wrestler succeeds in a new competitive sport. A good feel-good story.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Unified on the Court by Joey Asher, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “A feel-good story about a basketball team for students with physical or illectural disabilities. Decent.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Miles High by Kyle Leverone, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Very well done feature on a very interesting subject.”

SECOND PLACE: Parents dished assist for basketball coach's ouster by Mark Baker, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Fascinating story on multiple levels. It toes the line of an editorial/opinion piece but dives into why a coach was not asked back after a banner season with the boys basketball program. The usage of sent emails/texts between parents and administrators was a huge get by the journalist, taking advantage of a Wyoming state late that allows him to do so.”

THIRD PLACE: DeMatha runner wins WCAC cross country championship by Chris McManes, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “The writing wasn't all there but it was a good story.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Muse looks forward to 'the next level' by Jeff Weisinger, Staff Writer, Brentwood (California) Press.

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

FIRST PLACE: Look at me: I'm lucky. How Mike Vowels faced his past trauma, and rediscovered his love for skiing by Andrew Guckes, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Clear winner in this division. Excellent writing and story; not just sports story but 'comeback' story. Well done.”

SECOND PLACE: Parish Lineman Cultural Roots by Todd Jorgenson, Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas. “Good subject and story, but a deeper look into the player's culture would have enhanced it.”

THIRD PLACE: A vision for Lamar Athletics by Chad Cooper, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Interesting story with good information. Easy to read even though it contained a lot of information.”

Daily

FIRST PLACE: Santee Basketball Goes To State by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, South Dakota. “A fascinating story and a compelling read. Sports, history, a little bit of everything.”

SECOND PLACE: LAST STOP: K-State ends year with Elite 8 loss to FAU by Zach DeLoach, The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury. “A fan who had to miss the game just had to read this coverage. Goes beyond a typical game story. Terrific, entertaining storytelling.”

THIRD PLACE: Diversity helps South soccer by Matt Atencio, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Some of the best sports stories are less about sports than about the people who play them. This article is an excellent example.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Triumph and disappointment by Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “I can't remember the Supreme Court justice who said he always read the sports section of the paper first, because it is the only place where he read about people's triumphs rather than their failures or shortcomings. But he would have love this story”

MICHAEL KRAMER BEST PUBLIC NOTICE JOURNALISM AWARD



Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Incomplete Budget by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Excellent efforts to hold local government responsible and communicate what their responsibilities are to the public.”

SECOND PLACE: Kramer Award by Alyssa Meier, Washburn Leader-News, Washburn, North Dakota. “The newspaper has done a very good job of informing the public how the school did not fulfill its statutory requirement regarding notice of an election.”

WEBSITE - BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: siouxcityjournal.com by Staff, Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, Iowa. “Beefy, full-featured website with all the bells and whistles.”

SECOND PLACE: www.mntexpress.com by Pam Morris, Greg Foley, Gabe Barnard, Tony Barriatua, and staff, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Well-put together site. Broad, well-rounded coverage, pleasant to look at and easy to navigate.”

THIRD PLACE: Philadelphia Gay News by PGN Staff, Philadelphia Gay News. “Easy to navigate, appeared to have excellent coverage of LGBTQ+ issues, as well as traditional lifestyle reporting (movies, culture, etc).
HONORABLE MENTION: Highlandscurrent.org by Staff, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Nice and clean. Easy to navigate. Lots of important community information along with in depth reporting on important local issues (childcare,

etc).”
HONORABLE MENTION: Highlandscurrent.org by staff, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Nice and clean. Easy to navigate. Lots of important community information along with in depth reporting on important local issues (childcare, etc).”

SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: ETV News by Jamie Swank, ETV News, Orangeville, Utah. “A concise pdf detailing each entry across various platforms, and the ability to click and view each were key for this category. ETV News understood the assignment! Backing up their entry with the why, and stats, etc. Great use of social media and great overall entry. First Place all the way!”

SECOND PLACE: Live Weekly Newscast on Social Media by Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater, Selma (Alabama) Sun. “Great segment! These two have a good on-camera presence and they get right to the matter of news. They also do a good job of using most available social media platforms. Congratulations on 2nd place!”

THIRD PLACE: Love County Coaches Show by Connor Choate & Bryson Culwell, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “I really like the idea of this coaches show, and I'm familiar with Oklahoma and h.s. football is king in these parts. Good effort, hope they expand upon their idea. 3rd place”

HONORABLE MENTION: Hosting an Event? by Staff, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. “You can tell that they have engaged the readers who are sharing their events. While many may wonder why you would go to this trouble, you are offering a service of bringing it all together so your readers don't have to spend their valuable time hunting for upcoming events. Good work, 4th place!”

VIDEO JOURNALISM

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Our Chance to Compete by Alyte Katilius, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Well done. They journalist allowed the athletes to tell their story and they told it well.”

SECOND PLACE: Portrait of a newspaper cartoonist by Nathan Burton, Geoffrey Plant and John Miller, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Inspirational.”

THIRD PLACE: Seniors learn self defense - using their canes by Jeff Weisinger, Reporter and Andrew Rulloda, Visual Media & Writer, Brentwood (California) Press. “Well told! No matter how old you are, you will get something out of this story.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Walker Jenkins picked No. 5 in MLB draft by Michael Paul, The State Port Pilot, Southport, North Carolina. “You really captured the athletes charisma.”

NIE - EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & CIVIC LITERACY

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Genocide in the 20th and 21st Centuries by Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector, Tampa (Florida) Bay Times. “This was an outstanding entry in the NIE category. In many years of judging contests, this entry is the strongest I have seen. It covers all of the bases. I am that rare if not oddball journalist who has also done curriculum work and it is not always an easy writing and researching shift. But this is great. I really appreciated the curriculum guide, the 20-page supplement and the student contest. Everything was well done. I especially like the ties to history and the use of cartoons, which can be very effective when working with students. This is outstanding work. Great job!”

SECOND PLACE: Democracy Day by Tammy Witherspoon, The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser. “I very much like this topic and how it is presented. I like the use of student writers and the work they did. Layouts are nicely done. This Democracy Day looks like a lot of fun for everyone involved. It is very important as this is an area that has had curriculum cutbacks in many states. Good work!”

THIRD PLACE: Veterans Project by Tammy Witherspoon, The Eldon (Missouri) Advertiser. “This was a solidly done educational section. I liked the stories the students contributed, and really like the idea of students doing interviews. I also liked the sections where students commented on what veterans Day means to them. Layouts were nicely done. But this is really, really dense in terms of copy and more photos could break it up to better effect. Student writers: watch sentence structure and run-on sentences.”

NIE - PARTNERSHIPS

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: History of Chocolate by Sue Bedry, Stacy Rector, Tampa Bay Times, Tampa, Florida. “Fun way to get students involved!”

SECOND PLACE: NIE Campaign Partnership with the NM News Fund by staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Great example of working together to help accomplish a goal!”

THIRD PLACE: Be Vape/Smoke Free by Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector, Tampa Bay Times, Tampa, Florida. “Imagery and messaging is targeted to the intended audience.”

BEST INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC

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

FIRST PLACE: Two Of A Kind by Angelique Boyer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Stunning!”

SECOND PLACE: Best info graphic - thermometer by staff, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Excellent graphic.”

THIRD PLACE: Cotton in Love County through the years by Anabel Ulloa, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “Fun graphic.”

HONORABLE MENTION: ODOT Plan by Anabel Ulloa, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “Nice and informative.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Belvedere Challenge fun run tackles city’s walking lanes by Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Clear graphic outlining the course and its highlights.”

SECOND PLACE: Tiburon sees lowest levels of crime in four decades by Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “The graph is a great visualization, allowing the reader to get a quick glimpse of crime statistics.”

THIRD PLACE: Cougar tracked deep into Tiburon by Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “A good overlay of GPS data that tracked a cougar through town, giving the reader a detailed view of where this big cat was. Yikes!”

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

FIRST PLACE: Johnson County ag by the numbers by Stacy Bronson, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “This infographic is a clear winner. The outstanding use of relevant art makes it clear and easy to understand. Well done!”

SECOND PLACE: First time home buying by the numbers by Stacy Bronson, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Nice graphic in a honeycomb pattern that clearly demonstrates the information needed to accompany the article.”

THIRD PLACE: Accidental Drug Medication Deaths by Razylin M. Avendano, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Nice graph to show a very sobering statistic.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Redskins, Pirates Put On a Show by Kyle Herschelman, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “Not a true infographic, but nice looking and informative just the same.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Taxi fares by Andy Edwards, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Great use of map to show clearly what rates should be. I'm sure readers found it much more useful than a simple list of example fares.”

SECOND PLACE: Town of Taos Council Election Results by Paul Gutchess, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “I love this presentation, the faces show the real people behind the votes. I could see page of results presented this way.”

THIRD PLACE: Bigots' vs. 'Groomers' by Christina Scotti, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “This is a great, graphical way to get reader into the story.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Impact

of Avian Flu on price of eggs by Paul Gutchess, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Simple but effective.”

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

FIRST PLACE: The Bully System by Christina Scotti, Township Journal, Chester, New York. “Incredibly impactful graphic with the quotes of parents. That complimented the story so well it made me want to read the whole thing. Very good job.

SECOND PLACE: Halloween happenings by Brittany Chaney, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Great use of fun fonts that are still easy to read to display local events. Plenty of fun little additions like candy corn and characters without it being overwhelming. Good job.”

THIRD PLACE: Safety tips for Ohio’s fall wildfire season by David Hartong, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Very informative graphic. The middle section with the outline graphics feels unbalanced, but other than that well done!”

BEST ONLINE ALBUM OR SLIDE SHOW

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: The Thrill & Agony by Connor Choate, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “Excellent!”

SECOND PLACE: Questa celebrates Homecoming with football victory by Liam DeBonis, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Storytelling at its best.”

THIRD PLACE: Kindergarten Queen by Mark Ridolfi, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “I'm sure the community loved this. Well done.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Best photos of 2023 by Connor Choate & Anabel Ulloa, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “Powerful images that gives the viewer a glimpse of the community.”

ROOKIE REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Francisco Martinez, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “This was a five-story entry by a new reporter covering mostly city government, but also some general local stories. The government stories, especially, were well written, compelling, and easy to read.”

SECOND PLACE: Kyle Leverone, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “This entry was series of recreational and competitive sports stories from the community and surrounding area. Clear writing, but after a while there seemed to be a sameness to the feature style used in the array of topics. But then there was a good news story about conflict between a city-run ice rink and the community of users to balance it out.”

THIRD PLACE: Marit Gookin, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “The is entry featured a series of news and feature stories that were interesting.

The new stories tended to get bogged down in statistics and could have used a human element designed to draw the reader in before the numbers get in the way.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Isaiah Atkins, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. “This entry includes movie-themed columns and general assignment features/stories. Good variety, but not as strong as others in the competition.”

BEST READER-GENERATED CAMPAIGN

Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: News Travels by Janice Hunt, Oakland (Illinois) Independent. “While not a new or unique idea, just getting readers to submit images and details is challenging in today's fast-paced "post it to FB" world. Multiple months exhibit the long-range dedication by both the newspaper and the readers. Traveled vicariously through the images and cutlines. Noteworthy: the break-up in cutline for Nov. 30 in that small space, excellent, easier to read. Congrats on 1st place!”

SECOND PLACE: Uniquely First by Marianne Porter, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Porter shared her many firsts, probably inspiring readers to collect their own memories of firsts. While the entire idea is of photos, the accompanying story made the vintage 80s photos even more interesting. I hope more of your readers are submitting photos and maybe not full stories, but interesting cutlines. Congrats on 2nd place!”

THIRD PLACE: Holiday Cheer by J. Brian Monihan, Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review. “Clever way to fill the pages in a busy time of the year! Having faith in your readers to submit the images is great. Loved the 'greeting card' format and the fact you were not seeking advertisement to get these published. 3rd place win!”

HONORABLE MENTION: The Vacationer by Gerri Peterson, Hooker County Tribune, Mullen, Nebraska. “Absolutely loved the take on reader submitted travel photos to fill your January pages. What you don't gain in advertising, you gain in readership and rack sales. Nice work! I'm guessing they printed in black and white, but you should generate a color digital version for online purposes. Congratulations on 4th place!”

BEST USE OF A DOUBLE-TRUCK

Non-Daily Division, circ. less than 4,000

FIRST PLACE: State champions by RJ Morgan, Matt Adelman, Douglas (Wyoming) Budget. “Graphic over the years at the bottom of the page is a good representation of imagery for this double truck.”

SECOND PLACE: State track champions by Mark Davis, Powell (Wyoming) Tribune. “Color, layout & photos make this an inviting double truck.”

THIRD PLACE: Spring cookbooks by Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Book covers and font make this page a must-read!”
HONORABLE MENTION: Undeclared Season by staff, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Nice use of photos.”

Non-Daily Division, circ. over 6,000
FIRST PLACE: Top climbing ranger retires after 30 years of high drama by Andy Edwards, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Love the use of the mountain range with explanations.”
SECOND PLACE: Convo with Collective Soul by Chad Cooper, Brittany Chaney, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Very nice background and use of space.”
THIRD PLACE: Rodeo by Brittany Chaney, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Nice photo placement.”

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BREAKING NEWS

Daily & Non-daily Division
FIRST PLACE: Shootout in Red River by Geoffrey Plant, John Miller, Heather Owen, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Fantastic use of social media to cover this breaking news. First post was timely, and informative. Updates on the event were also timely, well done.”
SECOND PLACE: Active Shooter by staff, Columbia (Oregon) Gorge News. “Great story and great post. Good job on including timely updates.”
THIRD PLACE: Local Pastor's Charges Dropped by Forrest R. Church, Publisher, Jacob Kessler, Writer, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Nice and short memo that is a perfect summary of the article to go along with the link, I bet absolutely it drove traffic to the website. And what a cool way of being the ones to break the news not only to readers and social media, but to the pastor himself.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Suspect Found Dead by Forrest R. Church, Publisher, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Good post with short headline, only critique is that I would have made it different from the title of the link, give readers just a touch more information, a neighborhood where he was found, how long since his escape, etc. Very nice post.”

BEST REPORTING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000
FIRST PLACE: Boynton Town Audit by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Wow, what a great report! It's hard to dispute court records, bank records, cashed checks that have been endorsed, payroll records and receipts — or lack thereof. Solid reporting supported by a well-sourced paper trail that gives readers all the information they need

to know. This is government-watchdog reporting at its finest! Stories like these remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. This is a fine example of enterprise reporting. In fact, this is the only enterprise story submitted in the contest. All others were simply reporters covering a beat — city council meetings, courts, and other breaking news events that must be covered. But the Ledger expended the time and resources to file open records requests, seek out comments from those involved. Great job. Head-and-shoulders above all the other stories submitted.”
SECOND PLACE: All 4 officials indicted over asphalt plant plead to reduced charges and sentenced by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Good beat reporting. I'm certain the story provided your readers with lots of insight into these defendants and their actions. Most likely, people speculated about what happened and why and the outcome. Typically, in cases like these, the defendants simply lie about their involvement or non-involvement. Then, a local newspaper, like the Ledger, lays out the facts. Good job.”
THIRD PLACE: Cotton County Officials engulfed in scandal by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Good beat reporting. Keep up the good work! I'm certain your readers learned a lot about this county official by reading this story. Can anyone so willing to kill helpless animals be trusted in positions of power or using their position to intimidate investigators? The readers can decide that for themselves by reading this story. Well done.”
THIRD PLACE: Future of PJ Fire Department in limbo following resignations by Joe Foreman, Opinion-Tribune, Glenwood, Iowa. “Good reporting! I'm certain your readers had heard something about the fire station shutting down and your story told them all they needed to know. Hopefully, this story will move townspeople to demand the city provide more funding for the fire department.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Local Govt reporting - Nuisance house by Rob Dump, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Good beat reporting on an issue that affects many in the community. Solid city hall beat coverage. Keep it up!”

Non-daily Division circ. 2,000-3,999
FIRST PLACE: THEY SWIPE A LOT by Scott Reese Willey, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. “The clear winner in this category. Great example of watchdog journalism and thorough reporting about a mayor and city clerk's spending of city funds, and detailing where the money went.”
SECOND PLACE: Cities, residents balk at new California housing laws by Kevin Hessel, Francisco Martinez, Deirdre McCrohan, Katherine Martine, Hemananthani Sivanandam,

The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Comprehensive coverage of important housing regs affecting the communities you cover. Solid writing that made the state's opinions vs. local cities' desires easy to understand. Well done.”
THIRD PLACE: EMS as an essential service series by Renée Brich, Elizabeth A. Elliott, Harlan (Iowa) News-Advertiser. “This was an interesting and important issue affecting too many communities, and you covered it well. Liked that it started with a specific example - Who will answer the call? -- but expanded to provide much needed information for the public.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Concerns over the BLM's RMP by Hannah Romero, The Green River (Wyoming) Star. “An important but not easy issue to write about. You handled it well. Each story presented a clear narrative that guides the reader through a complex local government issue.”

Non-daily Division circ. 4,000-5,999
FIRST PLACE: Beacon: Then, Now and How by Jeff Simms, Brian PJ Cronin, Leonard Sparks, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Outstanding, in-depth, comprehensive look at the successes and the unintended consequences of a decades-long redevelopment effort by a small community. Great writing, great story selection. I felt I had a better understanding of this community after reading.”
SECOND PLACE: Remote voting: when is it allowed? by Tomas Murawski, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. “Excellent in-depth look at how local governments can interpret unclear state laws on public officials ability to vote remotely in meetings. Great job in providing comparisons with other localities on how they dealt with the issue.”
THIRD PLACE: City's use of eminent domain for recreation land by Mark Brown, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “Good series fully reporting on controversial city action on eminent domain.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Small towns struggle to secure federal funds by Seth Taylor, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Good piece on the difficulties small communities face. Well written and sourced.”

Non-daily Division circ. 6,000-9,999
FIRST PLACE: 'It was 100% vengeful,' 'Bigots' vs. 'Groomers' by Becca Tucker, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “First, I want to say this category had 10 entries, and each one of them could've been first place. In all my years of judging, I am impressed with the qualify of reporting from each reporter. The article on book bans, the arguments for and against and the explanation of the board overriding each recommendation was thorough reporting. Furthermore, the entire package including

the puled quotes in boxes under the headline captured my interest from the beginning. I would recommend any newspaper that faces this situation in their community to read this article.”
SECOND PLACE: Fire Chief Jellie by Sophia Boyd-Fliegel, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “The reporter used good narration, meaningful quotes and laid out the situation of how a community and a former fire chief are showing their displeasure with the current chief. I didn't have to look for an answer to a question. It was there regarding the concerns. Great job of reporting, and I wish I could've also selected this as first place.”
THIRD PLACE: Many ‘Could’s’ and ‘Should’s’ Loom Over Multi-Agency Land Swap by Alex Hoeft, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Another solid reporting entry. Each concern is followed up by the reporter who lays out the roadwork to tell a good story. After I finished reading the article, I felt like I was a resident of your community. Your second article was also a gem. By the way, the illustrations are some of the best I've seen in years.”
HONORABLE MENTION: “Who owns Taos Plaza? by Geoffrey Plant, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Another great article in this category. You have taken a subject and laid it out very well. Not only have you written an excellent government article, but you also have shown some very thorough investigation into the ownership of the plaza.”

Non-daily Division circ. over 10,000
FIRST PLACE: Community In Crisis by Jennifer Johnson, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “A well written report on the threat to public safety posed by a staffing shortage of First Responders in the city of Beaumont, TX. The story quotes a range of residents, elected officials and first responders. They are supported with statistics from several sources. Very informed reporting.”
SECOND PLACE: Development of Ketchum's interim and permanent building ordinance by Andrew Guckes, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “This report on a local housing crisis in Ketchum, ID is a microcosm of this situation in towns and cities across the country. By examining the suggested solutions this article takes a creative approach.”
THIRD PLACE: Lewiston struggles to answer housing demands by Emily Bader, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Stories about homelessness and housing shortages are everywhere. They are significant but not repetitive. Thanks to insightful, informed reporting.”
HONORABLE MENTION: Kountze city administrator terminated by Dannie Oliveaux, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Unbiased overage of the ouster of a city administrator shows how petty politics can disrupt a community. Fair, good reporting.”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Burns community members ashamed of their town council by Noah Zahn, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Keeping an eye on government is our most important obligation, and this is terrific coverage of an issue that stinks to high heaven. I'd love to read about any follow-up. This seems tailor-made for the state Attorney General's office.”

SECOND PLACE: Deadline missed by Caitlin Yamada, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “How does government today miss something that will cost its taxpayers added millions? This story lays the answer out clearly and concisely. Somebody somewhere is making a buck off of government nonfeasance.”

STORY/SERIES - BEST COVERAGE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Daily/Non-daily circ. under 5,000

FIRST PLACE: ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION by Scott Reese Willey, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. “A good story deserves a good storyteller. The two met here to make for a great read.”

SECOND PLACE: Romania: Eye on the Ukraine by Steve Ranson, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, Nevada. “The writer took advantage of a great opportunity and gave readers a deep-dive look into local National Guardsmen's service in Romania. The series provided important insights into the NATO Alliance at a time when it is under threat. Well done.”

THIRD PLACE: Veterans Tribute by Forrest Church, Jacob Kessler, Anna Wozniak, Amy Wendt, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “A great group effort that explored many facets of veterans' and current military members' service produced a section with substance. Wish we saw more of the same from other newspapers.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Back home at last by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “A thought-provoking account of diligence and persistence that resulted in the return of a fallen soldiers remains after decades was well handled by the writer.”

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 5,000

FIRST PLACE: Coming Home by Juliana Demarest, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Well written story with a good local angle. Telling the airman's story from childhood made this especially compelling.”

SECOND PLACE: Leelanau vets and Camp Jejune by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “Actionable information provided by this story increased the value. Well written and good use of local voices.”

THIRD PLACE: The ship has sailed by Nick Hytrek, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Well done piece. Good

explanation of why a relatively new ship is being decommissioned. Captured the disappointment of the local community.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Yankton Priest Reflects On His Military Deployment To The Middle East by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Not your usual military topic. Well written.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Dire Warmings by Brian PJ Cronin, Michael Turton, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Dire Warnings: Mild winter was a sign of trouble for Hudson Valley agriculture. The reporter tied in different aspects of the crops affected by the changing weather patterns. Based on the quality of writing, the reporter detailed illustrations to get his points across to the readers.”

SECOND PLACE: Protecting the planet from the ground up by Sydney Glasoe Caraballo, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “This is a very in-depth look at climate and climate change and its effects on agriculture. The reporter detailed her subject and gave ample examples. The graphs further brought attention. One thing I would do is be more consistent in your attributions to the various sources who responded in hour article.”

THIRD PLACE: A legacy takes root by Janice Hunt, Oakland (Illinois) Independent. “Loved this article which focused on a different aspect of agriculture. The reporter hooked me from the first few paragrpahs on the lavender farmer and then tied it in with his military service in Iraq.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Tina Hinchley Dairy Story by Tristan McGough, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “An interesting article on the state of dairy and agriculture. Informative but the quality of writing didn't merit a two or three.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Underpaid tarts by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise Lake Leelanau, Michigan, “Interesting well written piece about the background of the cherry (and other berry) business, the current state of the industry and the difficult current crop haul. Good national and local perspective knitted together.”

SECOND PLACE: Grazing goats tackle invasive plant species by Griffin Limerick, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “The power of goats -- not to clear lawns -- but to clear areas with invasive plants.”

THIRD PLACE: Bee hives in Pittsburgh produce lanternfly honey by Liz Partsch, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Sweet! Nice story with multiple angles.”

HONORABLE MENTION: It's a balancing act by Geoffrey Plant, The

Taos (New Mexico) News. “A big problem that's a balancing act.”

BEST LOCALIZED NATIONAL STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Tiburon sees lowest levels of crime in four decades by Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Thorough research and the info graphics really helped tell the story.”

FIRST PLACE: Local banks healthy by Jen Sieve-Hicks, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “This was a nicely done story. the reporter did a good job localizing the situation. Good work!”

SECOND PLACE: Battling Blindness by Brett McMahon, The Sidell (Illinois) Reporter. “While this is a solidly done personal story, it would have stronger had we seen some kind of comment from a medical expert or someone who dals with assistive technology or someone with a disability service organization.”

SECOND PLACE: Local travel impacted by airline trouble by Elizabeth A. Elliott, Harlan (Iowa) Tribune. “Very thorough.”

THIRD PLACE: Tiburon council is targeted by antisemitic ‘Zoom-bombing’ by Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Well told.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Local man wins national tournament by Ryan Baker, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “Wonderful storytelling.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Egg shortage ruffles feathers by Liam Easley, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “A fantastic package with great photography, an infographic, and a well written and researched story that definitely shed light on the impact the national egg shortage had on local farmers.”

SECOND PLACE: Snapping Out of It by Molly Colgan, Warwick Advertiser, Chester, New York. “Writer took on the challenge of delving into an individual's struggle with how changes to a national program would affect her family. Well researched and well written.”

THIRD PLACE: Bigots' vs. 'Groomers' by Becca Tucker, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “An impactful story that did what it could to clarify both sides of a very controversial issue at a local level.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Government shutdown could hit parks, tourism by Billy Arnold, Jasmine Hall, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “With federal employment a big part of the local economy, the paper took a look, from all sides, at how an impending government shutdown would impact the area. Nicely done.”

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

FIRST PLACE: I Really Want To Believe In Peace by Rachel Snyder,

Maria Lawson, Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas. “This was a nicely done, concisely done story on an important national issue. the lead drew me in right away. The writing was strong and consistent, and i appreciate the great organization. outstanding work!”

SECOND PLACE: How would a government shutdown affect the Wood River Valley? by Gabe Barnard, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “The lead was a mouthful with run-on sentences. It detracts from your otherwise strong writing. The story otherwise was well done. i liked the organization and the use of several sources. You did a great job outlining what could and would not be affected. Good work!”

THIRD PLACE: Fatalities multiply as fentanyl fills in for designer pills by Jennifer Johnson, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “This story has a lot of great information but the lead is an utter mouthful. Run-on sentences really create a lot of confusion for readers. It's hard to get into a story after having to wade through that. Otherwise, this was s solidly done, well-organized story.”

HONORABLE MENTION: For soup kitchen regulars, homeless census is more than a head count by Becca Tucker, Township Journal, Chester, New York. “This is a solidly done story but run-on sentences really detract from your work. Good writing is being cluttered with long sentences. The story organization could be stronger. I'd also like to see more national data on homelessness and more about why the counts of unsheltered persons are so important on terms of government funding.”

Daily

FIRST PLACE: 25 Years Later, Wyoming Still Grapples With Legacy of Matthew Shepard's Murder by Jacob Gardenswartz, The Wyoming Truth, Laramie, Wyoming. “This is a very well done story. It captures the past and present very well. It is well written and well organized. It flowed nicely and while it covers a difficult topic, it is a great read. Outstanding work!”

SECOND PLACE: The Scientist and the Spy by Jared McNett, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “This is a richly detailed story. The writer had great information to draw on. My guess is that a lot of folks in the coverage area aren't aware of this unique tie to area and world history. I'd like to have seen the writing tightened up a bit. I also would have organized material a bit differently. That being said, I enjoyed reading this. Great work!”

THIRD PLACE: Daily Local Jewish Man Reflects On New Conflict, Old Issues by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “This was nicely done but more sources would have made it a much stronger story. Writing was crisp and clear and the material was well organized. But more sources would have meant a higher placement.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST
NON-PROFILE FEATURE
STORY

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

FIRST PLACE: Local family evicts unwanted guest by Joani Hartin, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “Admittedly, I didn't expect much from this story, in terms of it being strong enough to place. I'm happy to say that I was quite wrong! This was a splendid piece that is certainly award-winning. Kudos for taking a subject that has (unfortunately) happened to many and turning it into an enjoyable read!”

SECOND PLACE: Museum of Failure by Erin DeGregorio, The Red Hook Star-Revue, Brooklyn, New York. “This was quite nicely done — kudos.”

THIRD PLACE: 41 Years Sober by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Great job telling a story that is quite important to be told, including all the honesty he put forward.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Lost and found by Joani Hartin, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “Lovely story that you made quite interesting to read.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Haunted Lincoln-Tallman House by Tristan McGough, The Edgerton (Wisconsin) Reporter. “Love the supernatural elements described in this piece. The article is thorough and easy to read. Good lede.”

SECOND PLACE: Remembering A Christmas Miracle by Carrie Pitzer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. “A bit wordy but a powerful story.”

THIRD PLACE: Mayflower murder by Sarah Squires, Lander (Wyoming) Journal. “Great lede. Draws in the reader. A good overview of what's offered at the Night at the Museum event.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Belvedere residents launches new space for Marin's teens by Emily Lavin, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Strong article about how one person can make a difference. The story of how the new space came to fruition shows what a community can accomplish. Good job.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Born to Be Wild by Alison Rooney, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Excellent story. Certainly unique among the entries and very interesting.”

SECOND PLACE: Do the fandango by Peder Schaefer, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Super interesting, education, personal. This is what I want to see in a feature. Great job!”

THIRD PLACE: A pre-war musical tour by Bradley A.Martin, Hickman County Times, Centerville, Tennessee. “Aside from some of the

unexplained jargon, I really enjoyed reading this story.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Messengers of Heaven by Nicolette Monique Luna, The Southwestern College Sun Chula Vista, California. “It's my belief that the heavier the topic, the harder the feature. The author did a good job at blurring the line between heavy and feature.”

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

FIRST PLACE: 'It was 100% vengeful' by Becca Tucker, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. “This is an inspired concept for a local feature story. The publication sought out parents who had been contacted by local Child Protective Services and their experiences with the system. The entry was missing the tail end of the feature, but is compelling, nonetheless.”

SECOND PLACE: Passing it down by Jasmine Hall, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “This is a compelling first-person feature about a woman trying to reconstitute a family Thanksgiving after losing it as a child in her estranged family.”

THIRD PLACE: Jesus in song by Alan Campbell, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “One in a series of themed features, this story looks at the loss of the Jesus message in Christmas music. This is an interesting concept, but I felt it could have been much stronger. It is a global issue not fully developed locally.”

HONORABLE MENTION: The game of bridge connects neighbors in Mount Rainier by Jessica Arends, Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “This is an interesting feature about local citizens getting together to play bridge. It is informative and somewhat interesting, but a little vanilla. It's a non-profile competition, but the author could have gotten deeper into what the activity means to regular participants.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Organ Donor from Pacoima Saved and Touched the Lives of Many by Maria Luisa Torres and Diana Martinez, San Fernando (California) Valley Sun. “So well written. A story that will help someone else in the future.”

SECOND PLACE: Transforming the system by Barbara Davis, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Well writing. Very informative.”

THIRD PLACE: At Warm Springs, resort rises to the 'challenge' by Gabe Barnard, Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, Idaho. “Great writing. Fun story.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Bicycles and Bibles by Jennifer Johnson, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Very nice ‘feel good’ story.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Ham radio operators air a grievance: Leave our hobby

alone by Joyce Kryszak, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Well written. Helpful info for those not in the ham radio ‘world’”

SECOND PLACE: Downey Greek Festival Brings Back the Sun by Lorine Parks, The Downey (California) Patriot. “This story took me straight to our annual Greek Festival!”

THIRD PLACE: Trains at North-Park May Be Cool by Josh Hickman, Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas. “Fun story, nicely written.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Dia de los Muertos festival leaves a lasting impression by Lorine Parks, The Downey (California) Patriot. “Great piece with a lot of information.”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Advocates Of Sage Brothers' Recognition Turn To Congress For Help by Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Detailed story of what can only be described as a travesty. Motivational to get readers on board to help facilitate the change to allow the names on the Wall.”

SECOND PLACE: Heartbreaking mystery by Dolly Butz, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Very compelling story that could easily draw one into the speculation game on what happened to this man. Well written documentation.”

THIRD PLACE: A Historic Perspective bby Randy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “Interesting piece as are most pieces with any connection to the Kennedy lore. Even one playing a relatively small part in that fateful day continues to make headlines.”

STORY-SERIES - BEST
PERFORMING ARTS
STORY

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

FIRST PLACE: Belle Plaine One Act Play by Rachel Miller, Henderson (Minnesota) Independent. “Each piece in this package was carefully crafted and the initiative to follow it from start to finish really is impressive. Add to the fact that you had supporting elements including full page color advertising elevated it. Great stage photography, layout and the repeated cast boxes were all four stars. These days you have to keep repeating things for your readers to retain it and you did exactly that with those cast breakouts. Congratulation on 1st place!”

SECOND PLACE: Life Worthy Of Life by Carrie Pitzer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. “Loved the storytelling of this event. The writer put me as close to it as I could have been without being there. I understand deadlines and mistakes can happen, first graph with ‘later’ on the bedside. Other than that, I found it to be a worthy piece. Good job on sourcing quotes from multiple players, including the students. If it were not for the slight mistakes this would have been 1st place! Congrats on 2nd! Life worthy of Life is worth reading!”

THIRD PLACE: Tom's curtain call by Erin M. Gentz, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. “Tom Goodall - glad you submitted this piece. As I read Our Town, which I really liked, I wondered who is Tom Goodall. This story was a much more enjoyable read. Rarely do I see stories on the set designers. They are as critical to the theatrical production as the players on stage. Congrats on 3rd place!”

HONORABLE MENTION: Bryan High School Theater Presents "Clue On Stage" by Jacob Kessler, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “Clever way to tell the story! The layout, great photos and cutlines and a short brief article. You wrote to your audience and many of these younger people don't want to read a long story, but they do want to be featured. Big congratulations on 4th place. There were some amazing entries in this category, so give yourself a pat on the back!”

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

FIRST PLACE: Film About 19th Century Irish Priest Being Shot In The Tabor Area by andy Dockendorf, Yankton (South Dakota) Daily Press & Dakotan. “This was a clear winner for its strong writing and great organization. The story flowed well. The writer used quotes well and mixed those with the history to tell a compelling story. Reading this made me want to see the film. A strong arts story should draw in a prospective audience. Great work!”

SECOND PLACE: Flower Moons and Water Lilies: Patricia Michaels goes to Cannes by Lynne Robinson, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “I read this and initially had the impression that the writer went to Cannes. it was not clear. It would have been a much stronger story had the lead not been buried. Otherwise, I really enjoyed reading this and learning about the artist, her heritage and her work.”

THIRD PLACE: 'Deportee' Still Haunts America by Nicolette Monique Luna, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “This is a well done feature, and is rich in details. i really don't need the word "pissed" repeatedly thrown in my face. Otherwise, this would have placed higher.”

HONORABLE MENTION: TRASH-ion FASHion show by Meakalia Previch-Liu, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. “This is nicely done but I'd like to see more than one source in a story. Why not email a past winner or a current competitor for a quick quote or two? And what happens to the fashion after the show? Does it just become more trash?”

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

FIRST PLACE: Iowa's close-up by Bruce Miller, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “A quick telling of the story behind the story was interesting and compelling. Well done.”

SECOND PLACE: GR818ERS by Samantha Raquel Norris, San Fernando

(California) Valley Sun. “This is an upbeat telling of an upbeat story. The writer displays the energy of the subject matter.”

THIRD PLACE: Cheyenne's brimming with local music by Will Carpenter, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming. “Extremely well-done sharing of the perspectives of local musicians, which is not something most patrons ever think about.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Reluctant Tx Champs Dallas Arts by William Taylor, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. “A story about persistence well-told.”

STORY-SERIES - COMMUNICATION IN CRISIS

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Tornado Recovery by Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater, Brad Fisher, Selma (Alabama) Sun. “Great follow up to this breaking story, multifaceted coverage looking at governmental response, local businesses and individuals. Well done.”

SECOND PLACE: Housing Crisis by Julie Brown, Alex Hoeft, Melissa Siig, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Well written, many sources and quotes to back up the stories. The best thing these stories do is to explain in layman's terms why these problems exist.”

THIRD PLACE: Lewiston mass shootings by staff, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Good job of following this evolving story. Well-written. It must have been tough writing about this happening in your community.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Flooding by Steve Ranson, Sara Dowling, Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, Nevada. “Interesting coverage of this event as it occurred.”

STORY-SERIES - PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY

Non-Daily Circ under 2,500

FIRST PLACE: Pages of History, Archives pg, Museum, Trin Luth by staff, Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska. “Celebrating history is an ongoing strength and commitment of the Cedar County News. Way to go.”

SECOND PLACE: 150 Years Of Fayette, Ohio History by Forrest R. Church, Jacob Kessler, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “A massive project that paid off handsomely for readers. Great deep dive into a community's story.”

THIRD PLACE: Cabin Has Deteriorated Past The Point Of Restoration by Forrest R. Church, Publisher; Rebecca Miller, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. “185-Year-Old Historic a sad current situation is put into perspective with good historical narrative. Nicely reported.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Rural Churches in Love County by Joani Hartin & Connor Choate, Marietta (Okalahoma) Monitor. “A sweet con-

cept that's nicely written.”

Daily/Non-daily circ. 2,500-4,999

FIRST PLACE: by Steve Marion, Mark Brown, The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee. “Every community has its own unique history but not all of them have storytellers to keep that history alive. A terrific series... keep it going.”

SECOND PLACE: Historian finds manuscript by Alex Hargrave, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “A great story about how a historian's diligence turned a lucky discovery into an important piece of history.”

THIRD PLACE: History Scrapbook by Dave Gotz, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “A great series spanning centuries. Enjoyed reading even the ‘recent’ histories. It would benefit from a consistent presentation or distinct standing head.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Major fossil discovery at Dinosaur Park by Sophie Gorman Oriani, Laurel Independent, Hyattsville, Maryland. “Who knew there were dinosaurs in Maryland? We do now!”

Daily/Non-daily circ. 5,000 - 8,999

FIRST PLACE: 'White Robe' celebrates Roberts by Sarah Squires, Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger. “Great mix of different elements.”

SECOND PLACE: Seeking Congressional Stamp of Approval by Juan H. Estrada, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Enjoyable story about an important effort.”

THIRD PLACE: R Lazy S Ranch celebrates 75th anniversary by Jasmine Hall, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. “Nice piece.”

HONORABLE MENTION: The Birth of Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue by David Fenimore, Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California. “Nice piece showcasing an important service.”

Daily/Non-dailiy circ. over 9,000

FIRST PLACE: The booksellers that built a community by Jason Villemez, Philadelphia Gay News. “Great piece on an iconic insitution in the community. The dedication required of the founders and later owners just to remain in business in the face of discrimination on top of the normal pressures of business is inspiring, and that come through in the writing.”

SECOND PLACE: Saving the halls and granges that house so much of our heritage by Joyce Kryszak, The Maine Monitor, Hallowell, Maine. “Well done piece on saving local historic buildings. This story illustrates the difficulty of preservation and does it well.”

THIRD PLACE: Fields of cotton, dreams & perseverance by Jennifer Johnson, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Good story on an inspirational person. It held my interest to the end.”

HONORABLE MENTION: 'Wild-kittens': 50 years after Title IX, a look

back at women’s sports at K-State by Megan Moser, The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury. “Interesting historical look back at women's athletics. Would like to have had more from more current times.”

NEWS AND OPINION ON PUBLIC CORRUPTION

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Fraud and Corruption discovered in Tryon by Mike W. Ray, Southwest Ledger, Lawton, Oklahoma. “Good professional tone. Covers the matter at hand thoroughly, but there was a lot of repetition between articles.”

SECOND PLACE: THEY SWIPE A LO by Scott Reese Willey, Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, Rosenberg, Texas. “A good job pursuing all the details of the story.”

BEST FRONT PAGE DESIGN

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

FIRST PLACE: Amy Menerey, News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming. “The photos are well-sized, and there's plenty of white space to separate the stories, but not so much that it's overbearing. The different font for the bottom left story was a nice choice. Well done.”

SECOND PLACE: Warren Morrison, Royse City Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Clean design, eye-catching photo with a bold headline. The only design aspect I would suggest changing is the headshot—make the story two columns and place his headshot in the second column, instead of crunching words together. Makes it difficult to read.Overall, a crisp design.”

THIRD PLACE: Cecile Wehrman, The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota. “Overall, a nice, clean design. Use of photos does well to tie into stories. I like the cutout preview at the top.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Connor Choate, Marietta (Oklahoma) Monitor. “The white space on this page is nice. I wish the photos were bigger, or at least one of them was to help balance out the writing.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Attention getting above the fold. People will buy this paper.”

SECOND PLACE: Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Amazing photo and eye catching fonts.”

THIRD PLACE: Kevin Hessel The Ark, Tiburon, California. “Multiple entry points with strong fonts selection.”

HONORABLE MENTION: staff, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. “Eye catching cover with multiple entry points.”

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

FIRST PLACE: Stacy Bronson, Buf-

falo (Wyoming) Bulletin. “Use of fonts and photos makes this easy to read.”

SECOND PLACE: Morgan Jacobson, Emily Ingco, Julio Rodriguez, Juan H. Estrada, Yanelli Z. Robles, The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, California. “Imagery and colors makes this front page appealing.”

THIRD PLACE: Pierce Strudler, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. “Use of color and photos makes this front page appealing.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Kent Miller, Rockwall County Herald-Banner, Greenville, Texas. “Fonts are easy to read.”

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

FIRST PLACE: staff, The Taos (New Mexico) News. “Excellent page design that's clean, clear and crisp. This is easy to follow. I appreciate the guide lines separating the different layout packages. Nic visual element with the teaser cut-out at the top. Photos are solid. Great all around design package!”

SECOND PLACE: staff, Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review. “Love the large photo concept with the design. It immediately pulls in the reader. I appreciate how attention is drawn to graduation with a single story on the page. Great photos help complement to make this a top-notch design.”

THIRD PLACE: Ashley Perks, Valerie Morris, College Park (Maryland)Here & Now. “Nice clean layout makes this paper eye appealing and draws readers into wanting to read it. The large photo grabs readers in.”

HONORABLE MENTION: Ashley Perks Hyattsville (Maryland) Life & Times. “Good design helps draw in readers. This paper meets all the elements of having a solid layout and design. Great work!”

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

FIRST PLACE: August 10 Farm and Dairy front by David Hartong, Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. “Beautiful front page with a large photo to draw the eye. The use of the benday column down the right side also helps keep the page clear and easy to follow.”

SECOND PLACE: Big money Beaumont by Dannie Oliveaux, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. “Very interesting first page with eye catching art and good use of the right side of the page to encourage people to look inside the issue.”

Daily Division

FIRST PLACE: The scientist and the spy by Deborah Hile, Sioux City (Iowa) Journal. “Great page design, and use of photos.”

SECOND PLACE: Front Page Design by staff, The Wyoming Truth, Laramie, Wyoming. “Nice home page.”

The 2025 Better Newspaper contest is open! To download a copy of the BNEC and BNAC rules and to enter, go here: <https://bit.ly/NNAF-BNC>

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FIRST PLACE, Best Restaurant Ad, Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., 5,000 - 9,999
Kira Spaans, The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa

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FIRST PLACE, Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White, Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5,000
Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News

BEST CLASSIFIED SECTION

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Classified Section by Jason Plowman, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. Great section. Clear, concise, well organized"

SECOND PLACE: Taos News Classified Sections by Mary Chavez, Sean Linton, Jasmine Struck, The Taos (New Mexico) News. A close second. Well designed and organized"

THIRD PLACE: The Gazebo Gazette Classified Pages by Hunter Dawkins, Gazebo Gazette, Pass Christian, Mississippi. "A step below the top two finishers"

HONORABLE MENTION: Ark Classifieds by Leigh Pagan, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "Good effort"

BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

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

FIRST PLACE: Home - Spring 2023 by Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin, Staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "The ARK is in a class all it's own.

Beautiful photography, inviting layouts. The cookbook double page spread was a fun idea."

SECOND PLACE: Home - Fall 2023 by Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin, Staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "The ARK is well done all-around, layouts choice of images and the ads a beautiful too!"

THIRD PLACE: Alamance County High School Football Preview Special Section by John Adams, Bob Sutton, & Staff, The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina. "Good looking Football preview section, with most of the ads getting into the spirit of the theme."

HONORABLE MENTION: Honoring Years in Business by Forrest R. Church, The Village Reporter, Montpelier, Ohio. "Great idea for a clean layout and great participation from the community."

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

FIRST PLACE: Greatest of the Grande 2023 Winners Section by Staff, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. Looks like you spent alot of time on this section, good job."

SECOND PLACE: Business Focus - New and Changing Businesses in

Jackson Hole by Jackson Hole Creative Services Team, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. "I liked how you had personal stories with some of the businesses and not just all advertisements."

THIRD PLACE: Taos Map by Isabel Pena, Jason Rodriguez, The Taos News, Taos, New Mexico. Cute idea."

HONORABLE MENTION: Enchanted Circle Map by Cris Brisbin, The Taos News, Taos, New Mexico. Very fun, eye catching."

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

FIRST PLACE: PCP Football Preview by Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. "Fantastic section. The layout is visually stunning and the ads look great."

SECOND PLACE: STEAM-PCP by Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. "Great layout. Very nice design."

THIRD PLACE: 20 Under 40 April PCP by Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. "Nice use of space. Great content featuring leaders in the community."

HONORABLE MENTION: PHP Football Preview by Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas.

BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Daily Washington Law Reporter by Donald J. Nichols, The Daily Washington Law Reporter, Baltimore, Maryland. "I love this layout- best legal layout ever."

SECOND PLACE: Taos News Public Notice Section by Mary Chavez, Sean Linton, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "This layout is very neat and attractive."

THIRD PLACE: Public notices by Leigh Pagan, Kevin Hessel, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "Clean layout."

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Holiday Guide by Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin, Staff, The Ark, Tiburon, California. "Great local content and photography. Congratulations"

SECOND PLACE: Small Business Showcase by Staff, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. "Great layout and a wonderful way to allow the advertis-

gry!"

HONORABLE MENTION: Sports Lure by Stacy Bronson, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. "Love this ad. Beautiful images make it eye-catching."

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

FIRST PLACE: Oct PCP Lennox Miller by Melanie Thornton, Quita Johnson, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. "Love the picture and placements. I love the use of different fonts. I almost called the company because of this ad! Well done!"

SECOND PLACE: Pittsburg Chamber 9-1-2023 by Eric Kinnaird, Anne Ray, Heather Mariano, Brentwood (California) Press. "Great use of color and fonts. Great picture. Graphics were amazing. Well done."

THIRD PLACE: La Tierra Mineral Gallery by S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "The photo is phenomenal. Great ad. Well done. Maybe enlarge the name of the business a little more."

HONORABLE MENTION: Fred Miller's Unique Gifts by Brittany Chaney, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. "Very unique ad. Fun. Love the 'DAD' in a different font."

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

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

FIRST PLACE: Beef. It Made Us Famous. by Angelique Boyer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska. "Great graphic catches the attention of the reader. Good use of color and an interesting font."

SECOND PLACE: Get It Done Now by Pierce Strudler, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, New York. Very effective. Straight and to the point."

THIRD PLACE: Legacy Diamonds by Stacy Bronson, Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, Wyoming. Good ad. The dark background enhances the appeal"

HONORABLE MENTION: Black

and White Ball by Alisha Carver, Douglas Budget, Douglas, Wyoming. Nice and clean ad. Effective use of white space."

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

FIRST PLACE: Taos Inn by Jason Rodriguez, S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Very catchy!"

SECOND PLACE: Mech's by Kayla Hartigan, Photo News, Chester, New York. "Love this!"

THIRD PLACE: Knot Just A Bar Polish Christmas Dinner by Mike Anderson, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Stands out!"

HONORABLE MENTION: Fred Miller's Unique Gifts by Brittany Chaney, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. "Nice Ad."

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Kids Fishing Day by Mike Anderson, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Great ad copy. Congratulations"

SECOND PLACE: Does your Dog or Cat Need a Job? by Heather Haseltine, Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming. "Great layout, design and color choice."

THIRD PLACE: Falcon Roofing by Jason Plowman, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Makes me what to hire Falcon Roofing."

HONORABLE MENTION: LLCA Bridgework by Jason Plowman, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. "Great use of color and layout was fantastic."

BEST HOLIDAY AD

Daily/Non-daily Division circ more than 5,000

FIRST PLACE: Give the gift of the outdoors by Jason Rodriguez, The Taos News, Taos, New Mexico. This is a nice, clean, easy ad with good

ideas for gift giving from one advertiser. It makes me long for fun snow play!"

SECOND PLACE: 2023 Holiday Services by Staff, Lake Oswego Review, Lake Oswego, Oregon. Merry Christmas!!! Lovely color, messages, and information for readers from multiple advertisers! Clean, easy to read!"

THIRD PLACE: REVIEW-Best Holiday Ad2 by Elizabeth Myers, The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa. Festive!"

THIRD PLACE: Happy Thanksgiving by Brittany Chaney, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. Nice looking ad with a strong graphic."

HONORABLE MENTION: Holiday ads by Jason Plowman, Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan. Longing for an upnorth Michigan Christmas!!! Nice mix of ads with Letters to Santa!"

Daily/Non-daily Division less than 5,000

FIRST PLACE: Merry Crispness by Jennifer Lewis, Fairbury Journal News, Fairbury, Nebraska. Very clever and certainly eye-catching. Fun ad, with a great play on words!"

SECOND PLACE: Father's Day by Angelique Boyer, Stanton (Nebraska) Register. "Beautiful page full of heartfelt sentiments. Great idea to make a collage of ads - it could bring in businesses that don't generally advertise."

THIRD PLACE: Pumpkin festival by Stacy Bronson, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. "This ad is really beautiful, and 'fall-ish.' Love the pumpkins!"

BEST USE OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN ADS

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Tosetti's Good News Page by Mike Plunkett, The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Illinois. "The judges liked how many local photos you were able to get for this ad."

SECOND PLACE: High School Football by Brittany Chaney, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas. "Great dominant photo."

THIRD PLACE: Once a Pacer, Always a Pacer by Staff, Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review. "Good example of when to use one big photo instead of multiple smaller ones."

HONORABLE MENTION: Casa Grande Union High School District by Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell, Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch. "The graduation photo works well for this ad."

BEST ADVERTORIAL OR SPONSORED EDITORIAL

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Senior Helpers Advertorial by Anne Ray, Heather Mariano, Eric Kinnaird - Graphic Designers, Brentwood (California) Press "Nice local piece, community ties, good job."

SECOND PLACE: Success Stories by Jason Rodriguez, Paul Gutches, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Real-

ly like your business pages with the design."

THIRD PLACE: Bill Warner Tribute by J. Brian Monihan, Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review. "Community oriented like that alot."

HONORABLE MENTION: Jim Mueller-People to Know by Melanie Thornton, Tana Hunter, Maddie Spera, Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas. "Very professional."

BEST RESTAURANT AD

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

FIRST PLACE: Capriotti's by Isabelle Kern, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press. "Good blend of different elements: company logo, gift card, photos of the food, lots of the color red."

SECOND PLACE: Bozeman Trail Steakhouse by Stacy Bronson, Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin. "A mouth-watering choice of photo!"

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

FIRST PLACE: REVIEW-Best Restaurant Ad2 by Kira Spaans, The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa. "Use of color and imagery makes this one the top winner!"

SECOND PLACE: Industry by Christina Scotti and Kayla Hartigan, Sparta Independent, Chester, New York. "Use of photos in these ads make them enticing."

THIRD PLACE: Taos Inn by Jason Rodriguez, S'zanne Reynolds, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Use of food and drink are great. Colors and fonts used make the advertisements more modern."

HONORABLE MENTION: Gorge Bar and Grill and Parcht by S'zanne Reynolds, Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "Use of food and drink are great. Colors and fonts used make the advertisements more modern."

BEST REAL ESTATE AD

Daily & Non-daily Division

FIRST PLACE: Let us show you the beauty of Taos by Jason Rodriguez, The Taos (New Mexico) News. "The photographs are spectacular! A better approach than selling a house. These ads sold the area and the team to trust. Well done."

SECOND PLACE: Terry Sprague - Luxes - Forbes by Kelli Lair and Bren Swogger, Lake Oswego (Oregon) Review. "A strong ad. Highlighted by great photography."

THIRD PLACE: Osborn Realty, Commercial Building for Sale by Marissa Wingert, Harlan (Iowa) News-Advertiser. "The interior photos really helped convey the message much more effectively than just an exterior photo would have."

HONORABLE MENTION: Riverside on the Delaware by Christina Scotti, The Chronicle, Chester, New York. "A nice ad series."

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FIRST PLACE, Best Restaurant Ad, Daily/Non-daily Division, circ., less than 5,000
Isabelle Kern, Eldridge (Iowa) North Scott Press

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FIRST PLACE, Best Single Ad Idea, Color, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000
Angelique Boyer, Antelope County News, Neligh, Nebraska

