

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION  
**2018 BNEC & BNAC**



**THIRD PLACE**, best sports photo, Daily division, By Blaine McCartney | Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY  
**LASSOED BY THE LENS**—Anthony Thomas competes in the bareback event during the Cinch Shootout on the first day of the 121st annual Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo on Friday at Frontier Park Arena.

**NNA's 2018  
 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest  
 and Better Newspaper Advertising  
 Contest**

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

**BNEC & BNAC  
 OVERVIEW**

Entries came from 39 states;  
 153 newspapers sent in a total of  
 1,606 entries; and 115

newspapers were selected as  
 winners and received a total of  
 478 awards.

Iowa had the most combined  
 wins, with 59.  
 Awards were presented Sept. 29,  
 2018, in Norfolk, VA

**EDUCATIONAL  
 SUPPORT**

The Newspaper And Education  
 Contest became part of the  
 Better Newspaper Contest.

Entries came from 5 newspapers  
 with 5 awards given.

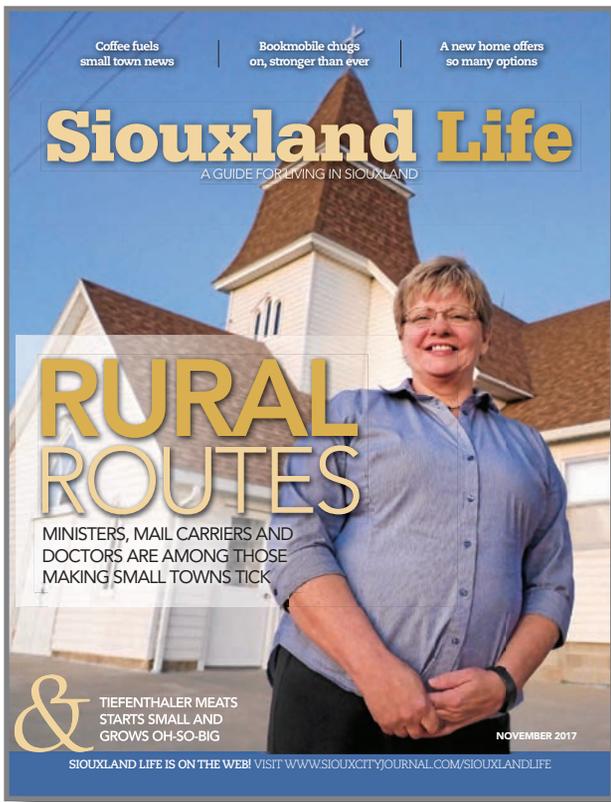
**BNEC FUN FACTS**

1,404 entries were received.

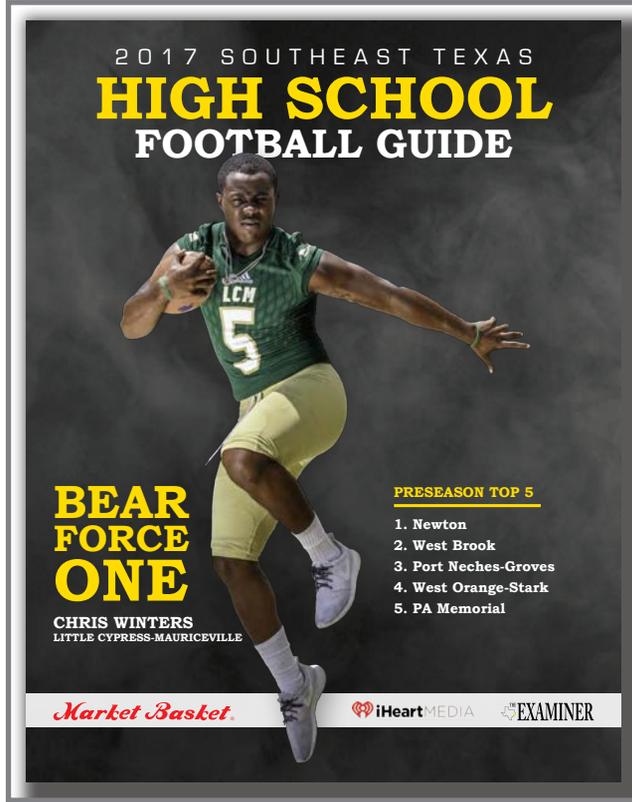
**BNAC FUN FACTS**

202 entries were received.





**FIRST PLACE**, Best Family/Life Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division  
Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA



**FIRST PLACE**, Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more  
The Examiner, Beaumont, TX



**FIRST PLACE**, Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999  
The Taos News, Taos, NM

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Coming to Galena: Stories of Immigration, Hillary Dickerson and Carter Newton. “A fantastic journey through the lives of recent immigrants in the target area, at a time when the good stories of so many good immigrants is so necessary, for their own sense of well-being and a reminder that except for a small percentage, we are all from immigrants in this country. Photos and personal stories were quite touching.”

**2nd Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Hurricane Harvey coverage. “Port Aransas South Jetty Hurricane and disaster coverage is essential and potentially life-saving, and to do it in these circumstances off-site is even harder. Good work telling the stories, giving out survival information, and following up.”

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Four story hotel in Taos: More than a debate about height, Staci Matlock (editor),

Cody Hooks (assistant editor), and reporters John Miller and Jesse Moya. “This ongoing coverage in news, editorials, and letters is exactly why local newspapers are so vital. Taos has always been an almost magical place, and it would be a shame to see it become yet another land of shopping malls and convenience stores. Congrats to the townspeople for standing up and for the newspaper to cover it so closely. And kudos to the council for paying attention. While many might have rather had no hotel at all, they did make a difference.”

**Honorable Mention**—Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC, Horry County Council spending, Charles D. Perry. “Watch-dog journalism at its best, naming names and numbers. With ethics in government barely considered a suggestion, the paper served the county well and made changes happen, although it seems the account needs to be watched into the future.”

**BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN**

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

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Coming home to roost, Jeb Bladine. “In many contests for humorous column, most of them are bland. I enjoyed reading this one.”

**2nd Place**—Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX, Fruitcake Column, H.H. Howze. “Excellent job with an unusual situation. I like fruitcakes, too.”

**3rd Place**—The Villager, Greenwood Village, CO, I’ve looked at cats from both sides now, Peter Jones. “Solid read. Funny.”

**Honorable Mention**—The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO, It’s a ‘corn’spiracy, Tammy Witherspoon. “Good job making a local issue funny.”

**BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN**

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

**1st Place**—The Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, Generation X-It, Rebecca Rose. “Rebecca Rose has a fascinating way of spinning a tale with historical, literary and pop culture references, which add detail and insights far beyond the words on the page. Good job.”

**2nd Place**—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS, The most Reverend Ned Seaton, Ned Seaton. “The Rev did a good job at making me want to never officiate at a wedding.”

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Parting Shot, Bruce Miller. “Funny slice of life for anyone older than 50.”

**Honorable Mention**—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS, Creating your own day takes hard work, Bryan Richardson. “Funny but not quite as strong as the other placers.”

**BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN**

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

**1st Place**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, Kaylee engagement, Rob Dump. “Great introduction—keeps the reader wondering, what’s he talking about? This is a relatable moment for many fathers, and a moment other fathers wish they could have. The build-up of the great long speech is met with a concise, quick ending. Nice work.”

**2nd Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Kids say the cutest things, part 1: Emilyisms, Brian J. Hunhoff. “A fun read—toddlers are great. This gives insight into the developing mind as they try to mimic adult speech patterns, but does so in a fun, ‘does it really matter if it’s wrong? It’s cute’ kind of way that toddlers can get away with. Parents with children—young and old—can relate to this.”

**3rd Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Observer old-timers will go head to head, Brian J. Hunhoff. “As a journalist, this was an entertaining read. It’s fun to look at heads other publications have run, and interesting to see how racy they can get before being edited back.”

**Honorable Mention**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Yankton vital signs, past and present, Brian J. Hunhoff. “An interesting look at the objects most people probably pass by every day without noticing, and a fun history lesson included.”

**BEST SERIOUS COLUMN**

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

**1st Place**—The St Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, Mike Jones. “This was a tough call between first and second place. Jones got the nod with this piece that addressed activists’ issues from a viewpoint not always seen in newspapers. Many in America should read this piece.”

**2nd Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, The Daddy Chronicles, Deborah Salomon. “This was a pleasant read. Recalling the males in her life was interesting, if a little long; breaking up the copy helped the reader continue. Making columns personal and relatable is something readers appreciate.”

**3rd Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Confederate Memorials: No quick, easy answers, Steve Bouser. “This was a fair and even discussion of a topic that every town wrestled with. The writer’s answers were fair and well-thought out.”

**Honorable Mention**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, A Mother’s Day ends in song, Tim Gallagher. “This was the epitome of serious column. It veered closely to being a feature, but it’s certainly sincere and a well-written piece—an honest examination of a tragedy.”

**BEST SERIOUS COLUMN**

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

**1st Place**—The Progress, Bernardsville, NJ, Defending the indefensible, Russ Crespolini. “Go get ‘em, tiger. Loved this!”

**2nd Place**—The Cloverdale Tribune, Cloverdale, CA, Main Street, Ray Holley, Powerful call to action.”

**3rd Place**—Uinta County Herald, Evanston, WY, Would the real John Barrasso please stand up? Sheila McGuire. “I’ve often wondered about this juxtaposition myself but never been able to articulate it. Nicely done.”

**Honorable Mention**—The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO, Thieves benefit when the watchdogs are muzzled, Tammy Witherspoon. “This was great. Loved the murder mystery angle.”

**BEST SERIOUS COLUMN**

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

**1st Place**—The Lancaster News, Lancaster, SC, Thank you, Lancaster, for your kindness and encouragement, Athena Redmond. “Such a beautifully written column, poignant and graceful, about a difficult family situation. The photo, and its caption, ‘This family photo captures our imperfect family perfectly,’ stole our hearts. Kudos to the writer and mother, and to the community at large for its kind heart.”

**2nd Place**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Whether in an ad or a letter, freedom of speech rules, Jackie Torok. “No journalist can read this columnist’s measured, but staunch defense of the newspaper’s right to accept and publish the controversial ad calling for President Trump’s impeachment, without also appreciating the difficult but necessary decision she made. The letters to the editor that were published on the same pages were ample testimony to the challenges newspapers face to publishing any viewpoint that does not echo prevailing public opinion. Bravo to Torok for responding so clearly and for defending the First Amendment rights of all so unconditionally.”

**3rd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Nevertheless, she persisted, Tom Henderson. “Learning more about Nellie Bly was a revelation. What an inspiring reminder to readers and journalists alike of the timeless necessity for both courage and truth-telling.”

**Honorable Mention**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Red-letter day, Elaine Rohse. “Given the overall strength of these contest entries, we were compelled to give honorable mention to this columnist for her beautifully-written tribute to the nearly lost art of writing letters. It made us want to write the columnist a letter ... and then to write another letter to someone we love.”

**NNA’s 2018 Better Newspaper Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspapers And Education Winners**

A supplement to Publishers’ Auxiliary

**WENDY MACDONALD**  
Sales and Sponsorships Manager

**STANLEY SCHWARTZ**  
Communications Director

**SAM FISHER**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Newspaper Association

**LYNNE LANCE**  
Chief Operating Officer  
National Newspaper Association



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**SECOND PLACE**, best breaking news photo, daily division  
By Roger Harnack, Daily Sun Times, Sunnyside, WA

**FIRE BOMBER**—A bomber releases fire retardant low over the ground north of state Highway 24 in an effort to slow a fast-moving wildfire.

## BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX, They can't do as well as we can, Russel Skiles. "Certainly satisfies the specified judging criteria in addition to being well-written. Straight forward, common sense advice. No mud-slinging or name calling here, but obviously inclusive of everyone. It's a clear criticism of an attitude and inaction, but a solution is offered in a clear-cut manner that is not offensive or rude. Good call to action."

**2nd Place**—The Citizen, Bernardsville, NJ, Here's what I think I'll say, Mike Condon. "I think I'll say this definitely meets all judging criteria for this category—timeliness, significance, suitable handling, appearance, originality and is particularly strong on suitable handling and originality. An interesting approach to providing information of value and interest to readers through personal insight. Good work."

**3rd Place**—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO, Racism column, Jes-c French. "A different approach to a timely topic of great national interest and concern. The writer makes her point in a compelling but non-offensive manner. For many, her approach will be thought provoking rather than anger provocation. Interesting read."

**Honorable Mention**—Oakland Independent, Oakland, IL, With passing of former mayor/barber, Roy and Ruth are together again, Janice Hunt. "Nice touch. Interesting, informative salute to a man who did much for his community. Without doubt, timely and significant in the community. Emotional but not overboard. Am confident this was well-read."

## BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Today, I consider myself the luckiest man ...? Sam Hickman. "Sam has an excellent sense of humor and is a sharp writer to boot. His column is equal parts entertaining and endearing."

**2nd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Gehlen coach rallies while battling blindness, Tim Gallagher. "The story Tim shares of a baseball coach persevering through a loss of eyesight is fascinating and movingly told."

**3rd Place**—The St Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, In the Clutch, Ishmael H. Sistrunk. "Ishmael has a good voice that pairs well with his ability to comprehensively introduce readers to a new basketball coach whose backstory is just as compelling as the team's."

**Honorable Mention**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Los Dutch Legacy, Dan D'Addona. "Dan writes well in portraying the lived experiences of a local championship team that has an atypical composition."

## BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Lady Lakers Shine Bright Without a Star, Jason Bushen. "Jay's writ-

ing packs a punch in this column making sense of a local team's recent success. It's among the shortest of all the entries, but many columnists could learn from his example. This is what a good, crisp sports column looks like."

**2nd Place**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, View From The Sidelines, Al Camp. "Kudos to Al for his sense of humor, which managed to make a very cynical judge find some enjoyment in this commentary about one of the most pervasive ad campaigns in recent memory."

**3rd Place**—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ, Honesty with a gentle touch, Brian Wright. "Brian's approach here, with this column about a recognition for a mainstay in the local sports community, is a commendable one, combining a personal point of view with perspective from the honoree and his colleagues, and all without getting long-winded."

**Honorable Mention**—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, State championship started before high school, Thomas Ranson. "Thomas might be writing about one local state basketball title, but the message is one that any championship-winning school team ought to hear, about how the hard work involved in victory includes far more than just the players themselves."

## BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

**1st Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Regina Derek Sawwell. "Exceptional writing, reasoned analysis, and without hometown paranoia. Derek takes on a testy issue—public school athletic programs competing with private schools and their recruitment options—in a narrative that compels reader understanding. No. 1 on issue and presentation!"

**2nd Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, Balancing Act, Emily Harrington. "A column by a professional athlete that climbs the challenging wall between accomplishment and ego. Can self-aggrandizement be acceptable for those competing and conquering? Why not! Written with clarity and passion, Emily Harrington makes her point, and it's not just about her. Her Balancing Act column successfully scaled her 5.14b wall ... for the sake of all others who succeeded in anonymity."

**3rd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, USA chant, Derek Sawwell. "This writer examines a nationalistic chant usually associated with Olympic accomplishments to note its alternate, negative connotation when repeated at high school athletic events. Derek Sawwell writes with empathy for his readers and subjects. Outstanding narrative, in-depth, with reasoned observations and conclusions determining his outcome. Excellent!"

**Honorable Mention**—News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY, Help Wanted, Sonja Karp. "It's not just the subject—saluting volunteer coaches—but the means and method of this column's author, Sonja Karp. It's a Help Wanted offer many might refuse, but she cites rewards that few would live without: helping kids and their athletic pursuits!"

## BEST HEADLINE WRITING

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Staff. "More Power to Them—Great! Clever and sums up the story. Good placement with the photos. Strawberry salvation has a good ring to it and again, sums up the story quickly and concisely. Bin camping and Scent packing are all clever plays on words. Not every headline on the page needs to be wordplay, though."

**2nd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Staff. "Hard-hitting, attention grabbing. No BS. Clear and concise, many utilize quotations from the story. Good work."

**3rd Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Rick Bussler. "Holly want a cracker—good play on a common phrase. 'Large hooch operation,' 'Huskies score ... rout' are words not commonly used in headlines, so they caught my attention. Extra security at murder trial, free water! Those make me want to know more right away. Good work."

**Honorable Mention**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Staff. "The arthritic duck ... Good detail to work into the headline, caught my interest. Nixed and undeterred work because they're uncommon and catch the eye. Checks in the mail good play on the phrase—but quite literal in this sense."

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

**1st Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Staff. "This is a great package. Tight heads, strong writing, editorials that matter, great sports coverage, and a team that knows what a good photo looks like—and then uses it in strong layout. This is what a strong local news package should look like!"

**2nd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Buffalo Bulletin staff. "Again, another great local package that captures the eye and mind with strong heads, sharp writing, great layout and photos. Everyone on the staff should give themselves a pat on the back!"

**3rd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Staff. "Here's another eye-catching pub that seals the deal with an overall extremely satisfactory package of solid writing, layout and photo work."

**Honorable Mention**—Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA, Staff. "There's nothing better than a local pub that is just that—a local pub that focuses on local issues and its citizens. Another pub that should be proud of itself. In terms of looks, content, writing, layout et al, this is a very satisfying read."

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

**1st Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Staff. "Local coverage doesn't get any better than The Ellsworth American. It meets the description of the classic local news outlet, weaving a masterful compilation of hard news and features and solid sports reporting—news all local readers crave—combined with strong writing and headlines and a great use of photos and graphics. It's my honor to award them first place."

**2nd Place**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI, Staff. "The News-Review is yet another classic local outlet that focuses on what matters most for local readers, with strong and well-rounded, in-depth reporting and great blend of news, sports, excellent photos and graphics. Not to mention, again, strong writing, good headline use and editorial content. It's my honor to award them second place."

**3rd Place**—The News-Gazette, Lexington, VA, Staff. "This was a great year with a lot of great entries, so of course it was difficult to judge some over others. What finally broke the tie-breaker in many cases was what I perceived as that local flavor a local pub evokes, both in its coverage of issues and great photography and graphics. Like The Ellsworth American and the News-Review, the News-Gazette exemplifies these values. Well done!"

**Honorable Mention**—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY, Local News, Staff, The Suffolk Times, "Like its predecessors, the Suffolk Times offers a great local read on top local issues, eye-catching photography and graphics. Just a great overall job!"

## BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

**1st Place**—Cut Bank Pioneer Press, Cut Bank, MT, Staff. "While the competition was heavy in this category, The Cut Bank Pioneer Press hit the top spot with a wide array of local news stories that would appeal to readers of all types. The entries stood out as true beacons of the community represented by the publication."

**2nd Place**—Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA, Staff. "Excellent news coverage of diverse topics to showcase the local community."

**3rd Place**—West Point News, West Point, NE, Staff. "Good variety of community news stories. If a publication is considered to be a guide to the community it serves, then the West Point News is top notch."

**Honorable Mention**—The Tioga Tribune, Tioga, ND, Cecile Wehrman. "Publication focuses heavily on ensuring readers know what is happening via meeting minutes. Good way to keep the information flowing."

## BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Eastern New Mexico News, Clovis, NM, Library shooting, Staff. "The photos told the entire shocking, sad story from beginning to end. Great job. I believe you should have used the photo at the bottom of 5A (with the child) on the front page."

**2nd Place**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI, Staff. "Loved the variety of top-quality photos in these issues. I would have liked to see Jennifer West's and Kailyn Hogenmiller's feature photos in color. Nice wildlife shots, too."

**3rd Place**—The Dalton Gazette & The Kidron News, Dalton, OH, Robert McCune. "Great sports photos! A memorable season for the team."

# Bad hair days

BY REBECCA ROSE,

The Sun,  
San Luis Obispo, CA

First place, best humorous column

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

**H**ave you ever had a bad hair day? Well, I've been having one since 1984.

For many of us, hair is so attached to our personal identity, we can't function properly when it goes wrong. I've called in sick to work because my hair was looking like a hot mess. And I didn't even lie about it, and Nancy from H.R. was so empathetic, she offered me comp time so I could get a blow out. Hair is important.

It's normal for teenagers and bored college students to go completely Picasso with their hairdos. When you're 15, it makes perfect sense to shave the word "kewl" into the side of your head, because why not? You're 15, you're supposed to look kind of like a moron. For most women and men, style experimentation with hair is a youthful rite of passage, like acne or liking Christina Aguilera music.

We all go through phases where we grab the dog clippers and try to recreate a look some squinting musician in Rolling Stone is sporting.

I'm sure you remember the screams of your own mother when she found you chopping off clumps of your hair the day you realized that you can cut your hair all by yourself.

But somewhere in your mid-30s you have a come-to-Jesus moment with your inner José Eber and realize that no matter how good that girl in Vogue looks with the boxy pageboy haircut, you're just going to look like a reject from a Ukrainian monastery in that hair. Most sane people find a hairstyle that works and stick to it.

Not me.

For the past 25 years, or as long as I've been able to make my own decisions about what to do with the stuff growing out of my head, I've managed to do everything imaginable to my hair. And to this day, I continue to slowly abuse my head with delusions of coiffure grandeur.

In 1989 my mother collapsed to her knees, hands clasped, begging me to not get a perm. I had just bought my first Ogilvie home perm kit.

"Becky, your hair," she said through her tears.

"It is not perm hair. You will be sorry for this."

This marks the 793,123rd time my mother was right about something. I do not have "perm hair." I have "for the love of all you hold dear, do not try to perm me" hair. For many of you reading this, the words "Ogilvie home perm" conjures up nightmares out of a David Cronenberg film. I get a shudder down my spine just remembering the smell of my hair setting in those rollers. My Ogilvie home perm was like the Hindenburg of hair disasters. I looked like a surprised poodle.

Despite the fact that it's 2017 and human beings have mastered things like space travel and bioengineering, I still somehow manage to think crimped hair is a good idea. For those who need an explanation, crimping is singeing your hair with a crimp iron until it resembles the shape of a

crinkle-cut french fry.

In the course of one day in 1993, I turned my hair red, orange, pink, and black. My hair was so emotionally scarred from the ordeal, it needed therapy. In the '90s, we believed that the best thing you could do to your hair was add chunky stripes of bizarrely mismatched color to it.

I've tried to copy Jennifer Aniston's hairstyle so many times by this point I think she could legally sue me. She's not the only actress whose picture has sent me scrambling to a salon. In 1996, I brought a photo of the actress Isabella Rossellini sporting uber short locks in Vanity Fair to my hair stylist and told that poor woman, "This is what I want to look like."

I don't know why I thought there would ever be anything someone with the mere mortal powers of a hairdresser could do to make me look like one of the most famously beautiful women in history, but there before the grace of Paul Mitchell go I. Rossellini looked like a frozen Botticelli with her exquisite short do.

I looked like someone gave a squirrel's butt a buzz cut and glued it to my head.

Inevitably, every two years or so I decide I need bangs and make the mistake of doing that to my hair. For about 24 hours, I love them.

And the next day, I look in a mirror and scream, "UGH, I DON'T HAVE THE FACE FOR BANGS!" I then spend a year enduring the hell of growing them out and then I see some cute pic of Zoëe Deschanel and I think, "I would look so cute with that hair," and the cycle starts all over. I am doomed to repeat this hellish loop for the rest of my natural life. I bet even as a ghost I'll be sitting around saying, "Hmm, but what if I tried shaggy bangs?"

Speaking of bangs, there is a space in hell reserved for history's absolute worst monsters, like Idi Amin and whoever decided to limit the number of dipping sauces you can get free with Chicken McNuggets. In that horrific space, you spend eternity waiting for your bangs to grow out, in the awkward phase where your bangs are too long to look cute but too short to pull back.

When I turned 40, I gave myself a mohawk. I thought I would look like a chic older version of Kelly Osbourne, a woman throwing off the shackles of middle age and screaming, "I'M LIVING MY BEST LIFE! 40 is the new fabulous!"

I have no idea why I have such grand expectations from my poor hair. My hair is a simple brown sack that wants to be left alone. It wants to retire to a bun on the top of my head and maybe occasionally visit the grandkids in Florida. My hair is a quiet child who likes to read books, and I'm a desperate stage mom who insists on making them try out for America's Got Talent. One day my hair is going to snap and run off with a bartender from Applebee's, just to spite me.

Until that day comes, I'll be here, scissors in hand, trying to talk myself out of bangs.

*Rebecca Rose cannot braid her own hair. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.*

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Public deserves to know more about Chalstrom matter, Michael Gors. "This gives a strong and direct statement of principle in favor of government transparency, but it would have been stronger if it also called for public disclosure of the reasons for Chalstrom's termination, not just his allegations."

**2nd Place**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Sunshine vs. Secrecy, William Miller Sr. "A detailed indictment of the governor. It would have been stronger if it began with a line from near the end—Greitens looks more and more like a business-as-usual politician, rather than the guy who was going to drain the swamp—rather than a factual enumeration of his deeds."

**3rd Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, With freedom of speech comes great responsibility, Sarah Leach. "Overall a good call to exercise citizenship and manners in the age of Twitter, but the ending distracts because the exact wording currently is best known from The Amazing Spider-Man. The same sentiment has been used with nobler-sounding effect by others."

**Honorable Mention**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Brian Martin. "The lead is strong, direct and unambiguous, saying a board's decision reeks of personal agendas, favoritism and behind-the-scenes maneuvering that kept the public from having its say. But it's way too long and bogged down with rehashing events."

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—The Garden City Telegram, Garden City, KS, Just scrap AFP-Koch postcards, Dena Sattler. "Forceful, concise writing—starting from the first sentence—taking a strong position and clearly stating the argument for it."

**2nd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Liz Graves. "Not enough editorials are about local issues, the very things that most directly affect residents. This editorial does well to illustrate the superintendent's response with how the same response would work in a different context. The editorial could start more forcefully."

**3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WV, Legislature should do what's right, Buffalo Bulletin staff. "Clear and concise writing elevates this. The editorial seeks to persuade, not attack."

**Honorable Mention**—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ, Image over substance, Charles Zavalick, A well-reasoned argument on a local topic likely to be in much discussion. The insertion of Trump into the argument was gratuitous, though, and likely alienated some readers unnecessarily. Attack Trump when Trump is the topic."

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—The News-Gazette, Lexington, VA, editorial on removal of local dam, Ed Smith. "This editorial is thorough, persuasive, and very well written, with a fine balance of history, evidence, and human experience."

**2nd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, There's no excuse, Steve Bagwell. "This editorial takes on an important issue, and Marshall's brutal evidence to demand action. Provocative prose to good effect."

**3rd Place**—The Transylvania Times, Brevard, NC, Importance Of Non-Core Classes, John Lanier. "Great lead, and plenty of persuasive, human evidence to tackle a wide-ranging, perhaps underappreciated problem."

**Honorable Mention**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Trojan racehorse, Stephen Fay. "The tone of this editorial perfectly matches the subject, biting, in the service of raising awareness and perhaps ire."

## BEST EDITORIAL

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

**1st Place**—The Madison Eagle, Bernardsville, NJ, A dream can be a vision, Garry Herzog. "Very nicely written editorial that does a good job laying out the issue, presenting a possible solution and encouraging readers to act. Well done!"

**2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, On the cover: What it looks like without local journalism, Kevin Hessel. "Well-written piece that lays out very well what newspapers bring to a community and what it would be like without them."

**3rd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, Cecile Wehrman. "Good overall editorial that points out the city should have insisted on knowing who was buying its piece of land before signing off on the sale. Solid accountability piece!"

**Honorable Mention**—Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC, Let's have an honest discussion about incorporation, Charles D. Perry. "Good job calling out bad information about incorporation. Lacks a bit of cohesiveness and focus, at times, but a solid piece overall."

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

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

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Viewpoints Steve Bagwell, Ossie Bladine. "Wow! This is the kind of opinion section every local newspaper deserves. Depth, variety, quality writing from staff, community contributors and readers. Sharply drawn, reasoned opinions. A real pleasure to read."

**2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Stephen Fay. "Excellent section in a competitive field. Huge volume and variety of viewpoints from a collection of staffers and incredibly literate and persuasive readers. I love the poems paired with the scenic photos. What a refreshing tone-setter. Well done!"

**3rd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Philadelphia Gay News PGN Staff. "Strong entry in a very competitive category. Excellent writing, sharp points of view, powerfully expressed. Great variety and a well-crafted section."

**Honorable Mention**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI, Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten. "These pages have a great sense of place. Intensely local content, clear viewpoints expressed simply and well. Excellent work in a very competitive category."

## BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

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

**1st Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Best Editorial Pages Staff. "Well-designed Opinion pages, with well-written staff editorials. Two pages weekly contain a nice variety of content, including local columnists, publisher's column, open government Q&A, etc. Nicely done!"

**2nd Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Doug Hanneman. "Two pages weekly contain good content, including a local editorial written by the editor and publisher; online reader poll, letters to the editor, columnists, etc. The local editorials weren't as strong as they could have been, but they still asked important questions."

**3rd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Bill Tubbs, Mark Ridolfi, Scott Campbell. "Three pages each week contained a wide variety of local content, including point/counterpoint, letters to the editor, online readers' poll, local columnists, letters from state legislators, etc. The main weakness here was no staff-generated editorial."

## BEST ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CARTOON

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY, Shared Services, Clay Jones, Nice job Clay Jones. "The individual doors and the smile on the face of the Shared Services administrator sums the situation up perfectly."

**2nd Place (TIE)** The Altamont Enterprise & Albany County Post, Altamont, NY, Carol Coogan. "The emotion of abuse, Carol Coogan captures it all here. Well done."

**2nd Place (TIE)** Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, Local Jobs? Got 'Em. Now How Do You Feel About Living in Your Suburb? Mike English. "The squirrel sums it up Any Questions? Excellent artwork to make the point of the need of affordable housing in Truckee."

**3rd Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, SLO County jail deaths, Russell Hodin. "Simple illustration for a troubling issue in the SLO County Jail. Nice job."

**Honorable Mention**—Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA, Bear facts, Brad Skiff. "A little local situation tied around a national issue of Alternative Facts. Excellent artwork."

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Brian J. Hunhoff. "Good examples given showing newspaper's on-going commitment to FOI, including both general and specific examples."

**2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Mike Koshmrl, Melissa Cassutt, Kylie Mohr. "Great examples of newspaper's year-around commitment to open meetings and open records. Would have given a tie to top two entries if I could."

**3rd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Coverage of Nizah Morris case Timothy Cwiek. "Good example of persistence over 15 years. Sometimes staying with a story over several years is needed. Congrats to the reporter and to the newspaper for standing behind him."

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & CIVIC LITERACY**

Daily &amp; Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO, Democracy Day/ student newspapers/veterans' project, Tammy Witherspoon. "WOW. Your newspaper is making itself a big part of the community. Democracy Day is absolutely wonderful and such a treasure. I love how it is set up to not only spark their interest in civics, but also teaches them about newspapers' role! Please keep it up!"

**2nd Place**—The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, STEM and Healthy Kids Pages, Cathy Sewell, You made it very easy for the teacher to handle/get involved with all the materials you provided. Excellent section. It was such a close call between second and first!"

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Daily &amp; Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, KID TALK: Kid Scoop News Siouland and Siouland Public Media Collaborations, Jeanette Hopkins, Nicole Schweitzerberger. "Fantastic! You have taken NIE to an unprecedented level, and one deserving of first place national recognition. I love how you have partnered for student interaction in multiple medias! Most impressive are your numbers, growing a program from 300 students to 7,000 in four years is something else. Congratulations—this honor is deserved!"

**2nd Place**—The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, The St. Louis American's Summer Science Academy, Cathy Sewell. "Congratulations on a wonderful project focusing on STEM education and the newspaper! Loved it! Your paper and this project is a difference maker."

**3rd Place**—Aurora News-Register, Aurora, NE, Heroes & Huskies, Janelle Kesterson, Kurt Johnson, Karla Senff, Jill Bartling. "The quality of programs submitted are very impressive—Heroes and Huskies provides not only your readers, but more importantly your students with life lessons, not taught easily taught a classroom. Congratulations and please receive my ovation!"

**Honorable Mention**—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ, Newspapers In Education Staff There is no doubt your weekly wonder page is something your readers look forward to. "not only in the classroom, but in homes across your distribution from young parents to grandparents ... nice."

**BEST OBITUARY TRIBUTE**

Daily &amp; Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Pageland Progressive-Journal, Pageland, SC, Norman Caldwell, Don Worthington. "The essence in this category is to capture the unique personality of the departed. There were many entries that accomplished this, but this one was outstanding."

**2nd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, 'We're forever grateful', Starla Pointer. "Good quotes were selected to reveal the personality of a person who led a focused, passionate life."

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Dedicated, disciplined, quiet and humble, Dr. Ron Lujan, first Taos Pueblo surgeon, remembered, Staci Matlock. "If you didn't know this special physician during his life, you sure had the essence of his personality communicated in this tribute. Great, special insights."

**Honorable Mention**—The Lancaster News, Lancaster, SC, Clippers go silent after half century on Grace Avenue, Gregory A. Summers. "This is a person we'd all like to know. Great tribute to a service-minded citizen."

**BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO**

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Eastern New Mexico News, Clovis, NM, Library employee Jessica Thron injured in shooting, Tony Bullocks. "Good photography on the scene at a tragic shooting. Nice work."

**2nd Place**—Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA, Fire bomber, Roger Harnack. "Great drama is evident in these well-done photos."

**3rd Place**—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS, Aggieville bookstore destroyed in morning re, David Mayes. "The photo was great and on the scene. I wish it could have been given more real estate."

**Honorable Mention**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Icy winter weather, Tim Hynds. "Nice illustration of the effects of icy weather."

**BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO**

Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999 (combined)

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, "It's like a bomb went off," Rockne Roll. "This photo creates a sense of the extent of the damage and includes the dejected homeowner. A good storytelling image made well after the event."

**2nd Place**—Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX, Fire Photo, Andy Behlen. "This photo captures the drama of firefighters battling flames at the peak moment of a vacation trailer fire."

**3rd Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, World War II Veteran Poses with the 82nd Airborne, Ted Fitzgerald. "Effective portrait of a veteran made by a photographer who wasn't afraid to get close."

**Honorable Mention**—The Tinley Junction, Orland Park, IL, Election night, Bob Klein. "Classic election night jubilation picture. Well composed."

**BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO**

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, A struggle and a jeering crowd, Zach Perkins. "Easily the winner here. Photographer got into a great spot to see both faces and compose beautifully. Kudos as well for getting the officers name!"

**2nd Place**—Blair Pilot-Tribune, Blair, NE, Fire destroys barn, several vehicles, Joe Burns. "Nice silhouette of firefighters battling a blaze. Would be a more dynamic image had it been cropped tighter and more centered."

**3rd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Car Drives into Bass Harbor, Mark Good. "Something you don't see every day! Nice light and well-composed. Even a bit humorous."

**Honorable Mention**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Train collides with Semi, Durant Layce DeLong. "Composed in a way to show the immense destruction that's caused when a train collides with a vehicle."

**BEST FEATURE PHOTO**

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Evelyn Padgett dives into the snow pile, Justin Wan. "This is a nice, emotional moment that helped advance the story."

**2nd Place**—Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA, Crystal ball, Roger Harnack. "Good that the photographer saw this moment and was able to show the reader something new."

**3rd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Feature friendship, Jacob Byk. "Nice weather shot. Stronger caption would have helped the photo (the daughter is licking the snow). Captions on photos like these should tell more of a story. They have high readership and the potential to really engage readers."

**BEST FEATURE PHOTO**

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Here to stay, Jayson Mellom. "Nicely done photo that adds emotion to an emotional story."

**2nd Place**—The Orland Park Prairie, Orland Park, IL, Spidermen, Adam Jamont. "Now what is the young Spiderman thinking? Great photo."

**3rd Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Winterguard Crystal LoGiudice. "Nice action shot."

**BEST FEATURE PHOTO**

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

**1st Place**—Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX, Ooie gooye difficulty, Jason Collins. "The photographer clearly captures the frustration of a gooye dilemma for a young artist. Captures the emotion with great technical clarity."

**2nd Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Picking tomatoes, Stephen Wiblemo. "Candid photo that puts me in the field with a little girl joyfully helping to pick tomatoes."

**3rd Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Having a ball Dan Parker. "Great peak action photo of a bounding dog at play—crystal clear and well composed."

**Honorable Mention**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY, Looking Back at the Year, Ross Corsair. "Good job of seeing an unusual situation and capturing the moment cleanly."

**BEST FEATURE PHOTO**

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

**1st Place**—Malibu Surfside News, Malibu, CA, Duckler Dance, Suzy Demeter. "Vivid colors. I am drawn into the water and the photo and I want to know more—dance in a pool. The reflection is



**FIRST PLACE**, best original editorial cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division, By Clay Jones, The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY

stunning. A visual hit."

**2nd Place**—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, They're cheering for me! Melanie Fritz. "You can't help but smile when you view this photo. It pulls on the heartstrings. Casen looks so excited to see these girls cheering him on. That alone, tells a story. Crisp color and detail. Good job."

**3rd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Love and loss, Rockne Roll. "The photo tells a good story and relates to the article. While it's effective, it might have a stronger impact if it were cropped in tighter. Definite reader appeal and human interest."

**Honorable Mention**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Hawk Eyes, Ken Scott. "Vivid and engaging, creating effectiveness. I ranked this fourth because unless you're familiar with the story, I don't see a lot of human interest. Colors definitely pop!"

**BEST FEATURE PHOTO**

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, About a Girl—swim therapy, Brad Nygaard. "Great photo that engages the viewer and makes you want to read about the girl and autism. Clarity of underwater shot very good. Would have liked to see the photo larger on the front page and placed left to feed into the page."

**2nd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, A butterfly at prom, Don Anderson. "Wonderful photo showing young girl's emotions. Her smile wants you to read her story."

**3rd Place**—Oakland Independent, Oakland, IL, Lava at first sight, Janice Hunt. "Faces of children with excitement, awe and surprise on the front page makes for a great photo. The timing was perfect."

**Honorable Mention**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, Chicken stare down, Tyler Schank. "Good photo of child and chicken. It shows her determination and engagement with her chicken while waiting to be judged."

**BEST PHOTO ESSAY**

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

**1st Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Mud Day, Ted Fitzgerald Fun. "fun, fun. Loved every photo but you should have made the one with the girl swinging her hair larger—it's wonderful."

**2nd Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Fort Bragg Celebration, Ted Fitzgerald. "Wonderful lead photo and excellent photos on second page."

**3rd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Essay—Meeting the Cowboy Challenge, Jacob Byk. "Wonderful lead photo. A good look at cadet training."

**Honorable Mention**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Heat Wave, Ted Fitzgerald. "Love the lead picture—kids and water—how can it not be wonderful."

**BEST PHOTO ESSAY**

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

**1st Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Firefighter Farewell, Scott Campbell. "Very nice gesture of a long-time firefighter. Images show that he was a well-liked figure in the community."

**2nd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, North Scott's in a Wrestling State of Mind, Scott Campbell. "Simple layout, but a lot of emotion carrying the package."

**3rd Place**—The Daily Independent, Ridgecrest, CA, Ride of Silence, Michael Smit. "A nice variety of images had me wanting more. I feel like this could have placed higher with another photo or two and less ads. Half-page of ads took away from the photo package as a whole."

**Honorable Mention**—Lakota Country Times, Martin, SD, All Veterans Pow Wow, Jerry Matthews. "Love the effort of giving the entire page to the Veteran's Pow Wow. Good strong main image at the top, but I would have liked fewer dancing photos and more photos on what the event was about—veterans."

**BEST PHOTO ESSAY**

Daily &amp; Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-12,000

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Build it, burn it Rockne Roll. "Beautiful photography on a different type of subject—Very nice work—especially the lead photo."

**2nd Place**—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY, Scallops, Krysten Massa. "Good solid work—you took the subject from ocean to plate."

**3rd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Calf to Case, Bradley J. Boner, Ryan Dorgan. "A good view of life on the ranch and what the cash crop is all about."

**Honorable Mention**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI, Spring Show, Kurt Krueger. "Beautiful wildlife photography—which isn't that easy to do."

**BEST PHOTO ESSAY**

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

**1st Place**—Dodge County Independent, Kasson, MN, Land Of Dodge, Rick Bussler. "The tight edit and variety of photos allowed the judge to feel the situation without need for cutlines. Great job capturing raw emotion. Technically could have been stronger but good job."

**2nd Place**—The Times, North Little Rock, AR, Days in D.C., Jason and Callie Sterling. "Definitely the strongest art of the entire package, but second place because the edit was too wide. This could have been stronger with better use of editing and selection, but technically very strong."

**3rd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, About a Girl, Brad Nygaard. "Personally my favorite story, but third place because of the technical aspect of photos and the overuse too similar images. There are five or so very strong images, but the poorly executed images weigh down the piece. Could have

**SECOND PLACE (TIE),**

best original editorial cartoon, Daily &amp; Non-daily Division

By Carol Coogan

The Altamont Enterprise &amp; Albany County Post, Altamont, NY

been so much stronger with a tighter edit, but bravo for the story and for sticking with it. This is the only piece in here that I would truly classify as a photo story."

**BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Grove slashes record, Jim Lee. "Great close-up shows the determination on the face of a young woman setting a pole vault record."

**2nd Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Chris Zadorozny. "No cutline needed. Great photo shows who won and who lost."

**3rd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Lassoed, Blaine McCartney. "Excellent shot. Congratulations!"

**Honorable Mention**—Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA, Mutton Bustin, Roger Harnack. "Good fun sports photo."

**BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Pickens Reaches, Bill Battle. "Love the look of intense concentration on his face and his straight-out jump— it's an excellent shot."

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Liberty High School prevails in exciting homecoming game, Tony Kukulich. "This has all the elements of an exciting finish to the Homecoming game."

**3rd Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Collision, Crystal LoGiudice. "This photo had so much action it took me awhile to figure out what was happening—good work."

**Honorable Mention**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Hot Run, Bill Battle. "Good shot of an intense situation that could be deadly."

**BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

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

**1st Place**—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA, Tough stop, Ben Munro. "Nice tight action with clear intensity visible on the athletes' faces, however I'm disappointed that No. 15, whose jersey is so clearly visible, is not identified in the caption. This was a very weak category, so this image takes first place."

**2nd Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, Sideways Basketball, Phillip Harnden. "Interesting to see something where the dunker is sideways. Never seen that before. Could be a sharper photo, though. This was a weak category overall."

**3rd Place**—The Progress, Bernardsville, NJ, Back To Back, Glenn Clark. "Decent action from basketball. Very intense face on the athlete. Could be shot/cropped tighter. This was a very weak category overall."

**Honorable Mention**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, State Champions, Mike Moore. "I feel the layout and design team did better than the photographer at this state championship. I wish the full-page A-1 was a juke shot that came from a point and not from being introduced before the match started. Photos should be more in focus! This was a weak category to judge overall, and this took fourth place because it captured the intensity of the moment, however there is a lot that could have been improved here."

**BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

**1st Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, One-handed catch, Marcus Larson. "The definition of peak action. Great timing with faces and emotion. First place."

**2nd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Bad news Barnes, Rockne Roll. "Nice, tight, sharp action with great light, color, and focus. Stood out immediately from the rest."

**3rd Place**—Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, WA, Second time champion, Roger Harnack. "Great reaction, but could be tighter. We don't need to see all of the coach's legs to know the wrestler is being lifted into the air; I would crop tighter to make the coach's expression more dominant in the frame."

**Honorable Mention**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Breslin Bound, Jason Bushen. "Looks like this was already cropped in on, but I'd still like to see it a tad tighter."

Good reaction, clean background, very story-telling image. Nice."

**BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—The Times, North Little Rock, AR, Collin Moore, Jaison Sterling. "I appreciate that this is a full shot—nothing cut off. This photo is full of detail, especially the player's expression, which pulls readers in. Awesome emotion and appeal. Wow."

**2nd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, Jenkins is region runner up, Don Anderson. "Amazing capture. So many details of this shot are just perfect. It's effective and shows detail. Vibrant colors make this pop."

**3rd Place**—Springtown Epigraph, Springtown, TX, On your mark, get set..., Mark K. Campbell. "I like the symmetry this photograph offers. Definitely captures attention, appeals to readers. It's effective. My first thought, when looking at it, was that the runner should have been in set position, but after staring and deliberating for a half hour, I changed my mind. This has a definite flow and I appreciate that. The colors definitely POP!"

**Honorable Mention**—The Madison Eagle, Bernardsville, NJ, The Reach, Glenn Clark. "High interest photo. The one who almost got away. Prominent colors. If you were shooting from another angle, would we be able to see players' faces? Or maybe the story is the catch—grabbing the jersey. Well done."

**BEST REVIEW**

Daily &amp; Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Baby Driver revs up summer moviegoers, Bruce R. Miller. "Well-crafted movie review that gives potential viewer all he needs to know without giving away any spoilers, yet concise and colorful. A great example of a useful movie review."

**2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, 'Yo ho ho and a bottle of dumb,' Rick Romancito. "Great headline and a concise telling of the story while making the movie's defects clear. It gives the curious reader some idea whether to go see the flick."

**3rd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Vicious Circle, Box's latest, lacks substance, Josh Rhoten. "Book review is clear and coherent, offering reader a summary of the book without spoiling it and giving a clear analysis of its flaws and virtues. Nicely packaged, too."

**Honorable Mention**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, The gin game, Nicole Montesano. "Good critique of play and gives general understanding of plot and surroundings, though a little bit more of plot description would be helpful. It gives the reader what he needs to decide whether to go see it."

**BEST FAMILY LIFE/  
LIVING SECTION/PAGES**

Daily &amp; Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Siouxland Life May 2017, Journal staff. "Great sections full of life. Great photography and design hold the readers attention through the pages."

**2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Staff. "Beautifully designed and full of attention-grabbing features."

**3rd Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Staff. "Interesting features and great photography bring these sections to life."

**Honorable Mention**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Melissa Cassutt. "Eye-grabbing photos and features pull the reader into these sections."

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

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

**1st Place**—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX, Southeast Texas High School Football 2018, Chad Cooper. "Standout section! Excellent layout, photos. Nice schedule spread. Great format for schools, featured player, stats."

**2nd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, BYU Commencement Edition, BYU Daily Universe Staff. "Great packaging and use of graphics and photos to set the timeline."

**3rd Place**—The St Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, Diversity Staff. "Well done—expansive coverage of the topic—good stories/photos."

**Honorable Mention**—Park Cities People, Dallas, TX, Park Cities People Football Preview, Todd Jorgenson, Craig Tuggle. "Good design and layout."

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

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

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Land Water People Time, The Taos News staff. "Weaving stories about the people, places and history of this dynamic geographic area of New Mexico is the accomplished mission of the Taos News! A sensitive mix of stories creates vibrant content for visitors and residents. The creative graphics are exceptional both for advertising and editorial display. An amazing product ... that edged out several others in this category, including those produced by the News."

**2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Mike Koshrml, Colleen Valenstein, Kathryn Holloway. "Comprehensive focus on a single issue that provides exceptional detail on a very provocative community (and national) issue! Retaining and sustaining the environmental quality of Northwest Wyoming is the most critical and effectual influence on the area's economy and lifestyle, the writers determine. Superb soft graphic display of editorial content, with creative and dynamic advertising displays. A superb job!"

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Discover Taos—summer visitor magazine, The Taos News staff. "A terrific book about people, places and events in publication's internal and extended community! Well-crafted story content sheltered and surrounded by a corps of exceptional quality, graphically appealing advertising. As a Visitor's Guide in this highly competitive segment, it deserves recognition."

**Honorable Mention (TIE)** The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Community 2017, Steve Marion, Dale Gentry, Kimary Clelland, Dave Gentry, Gayle Page, Kim Cook, Shane Cook, Ray Seabolt. "There's duality at play with this special section: a special focus on homegrown personal talents, while providing a guide for visitors and newcomers to the community. Original content devoted to community personalities, and summaries of local attractions and events special to those who visit."

**Honorable Mention (TIE)** Washington County Enterprise, Blair, NE, Progress Staff. "Great story-appeal to residents and visitors. Quality writing/reporting brings alive Progress edition that personifies the communities served. Just Plain Good!"

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

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

**1st Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, DWI Section, Rick Bussler. "What a TERRIFIC and innovative section that's packed with focused reporting and narrative on a topic sometimes taken for granted in our communities: Drunk Driving. Here we get the full picture, from victim to perpetrator: names, photos, personal stories both tragic and revealing. An example of Journalistic leadership in and for the newspaper's communities."

**2nd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, Faith in the Farm, Journal Publishing Staff. "Hard times, hard lives are reflected in the pages of this special section devoted to survival, both economic and spiritual. Farmers in drought country share their commitment to the land, and their faith, with their neighbors. And the pastors who serve this community show their devotion to those who toil in truly harsh conditions to provide agricultural commodities for us all. Well-crafted stories carry the theme: Faith in the Farm."

**3rd Place**—The Chronicle, Elgin, OK, Winter Wishes 2017, The Chronicle Staff. "Focuses on beneficiaries rather than fund-



**First PLACE**, best feature photo, Daily Division, By Roger Harnack, Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA

**CRYSTAL BALL**—Balloons appear to fly inverted in a crystal ball held up by a visitor at The Great Prosser Balloon Rally along Wine Country Road early Saturday.

ing sources. A small community learns how its contributions turn kids' wishes to reality."

**Honorable Mention (TIE)** The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Generosity Jan. 25, Staff. "Tiburon, CA, appears to be a community that cares for its residents, emphasized by contributors who care with their pocketbooks—checkbooks, trusts, investments, cash, credit cards, no doubt. A huge section, beautifully crafted, that tends to highlight benefactors."

**Honorable Mention (TIE)** Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC, 2017 football preview, Staff. "A comprehensive

section detailing local football teams and their prospects for upcoming season. Just the size—100-plus pages—shows the daunting task editors and reporters had in creating this masterpiece for those eager to follow their favorite teams."

**Honorable Mention (TIE)** The Saint Francis Herald, Saint Francis, KS, Freedom Section, Staff. "Saluting local veterans and their accomplishments in military service, and the lives that followed, with personality features that give faces and names to those who served. Especially revealing are the advertisements that detail Presidents' military service."

### BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3000-9000

**1st Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Staff. "Easily the winner. Strong copy—stories and columns. Excellent photos and color. Design make pages pop. Lots of information for readers."

**2nd Place**—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA, Ben Munro. "Excellent coverage of local teams. Enjoyed the variety of stories. Pages are inviting and solid."



**SECOND PLACE**, best breaking news photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000 - 9,999  
By Andy Behlen | Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX

**RV FIRE**—A pair of La Grange firefighters shoot a stream of water through a window of the travel trailer that burned on Roitsch Street in La Grange Friday afternoon.

**3rd Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Ryan Kas-tenschmidt and Stephen Wiblemo. "Please learn to combine PDFs into one file :) That said, pages are designed so easy to read. Total package is there, just spread out more. Keep the Scoreboard package. Photo cutout on swim title story was good."

**Honorable Mention**—The News-Gazette, Lexington, VA, Stephanie Mikels Blevins. "Honorable mention place was a toughie, but cleanliness of layouts got you there. Not as much variety of coverage as some others, but photos, design make the overall package a keeper. It's a good section."

### BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

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

**1st Place**—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO, Darci Tomky, Jes-c French, Brenda Brandt, Karen Ortner, Kelley Sullivan. "Outstanding sports coverage. Features, action stories, all sports—great photos, layout. A lot of sports in those pages! Great job!"

**2nd Place**—The Times, North Little Rock, AR, Jeremy Peps. "Love the large photo on main sports page. Clean layout. Would rather see at least one more local story on the cover—maybe put weekly column at bottom."

**3rd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Derek Sawvell. "Good diversity in sports coverage. Nice photos and layout."

### BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

Daily & Non-daily Division circulation more than 10,000

**1st Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Wyo-

Sports Staff. "Really strong and clean layout, and I loved the graphic way the stats were presented. Consistently excellent writing and photos."

**2nd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Jeff Budlong, Jason Cowley, Barry Poe, Jerry Giese. "I had to get really nit-picky to choose the ultimate winner. What ultimately docked you guys a few points was the layout—there were several awkward widow/orphan line breaks that visually didn't work for me. That being said, this is extremely strong work. Great job!"

**3rd Place**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Wash-ington Missourian Sports, Bill Battle. "Easy to read layout and all the writing was strong. Fabulous photos."

### SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

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

**1st Place**—Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA, Times Citizen Staff. "Great use of multiple social media channels to promote local news."

**2nd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Josh Rhoten. "Good coverage of local events offered to SM audience. I like the use of free stories to sample or for important issues."

**3rd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Jen Colletta. "Good use of social media to draw attention to print product."

**Honorable Mention**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, State Volleyball, Rob Dump and Jake Higgins. "Good coverage of local sports on social media."

### BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

**1st Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, Big Eggs and Birds with Attitude, a Part of the Job, Laura Douglass. "Overall an enjoyable read. Great photos. Other entries had interesting subjects but failed to deliver a strong lede like this one. (First place understands Grab the reader on the first sentence.)"

**2nd Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Sucking air, Peter Johnson. "Tough call between this one and first place. Planning and zoning agencies provide some of the most impor-tant stories/sources, but many times newspapers ignore them. This one paid attention. Interesting—and a great public service to your readers. Keep up the good work."

**3rd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, The family farm, Nicole Montesano. "I love this story—and the photos of a hardworking, contented family. Lots of good quotes. To paraphrase the quote on the farmer's T-shirt 'You made dirt look good.'"

**Honorable Mention**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Imports flood juice markets, Alan Campbell. "Another agriculture market at risk. This story is important to farmers and consumers. Nice job at providing context. This could have been a boring story in the hands of a less capable writer. No wasted words here."

### BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

**1st Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Little cows, Big business, Scott Campbell. "Interesting story on a part of the ag scene I never would have considered. Well written with both the

experienced farmer and the non-farmer reader in mind.

**2nd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, Let it Rain, Sydney Glasoe Caraballo. "Writer did a good job of describing the problem, bringing in quotes from many sources. Providing some links to resources for farmers hit by this drought made the story more helpful to local readers."

**3rd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, The next genera-tion cultivates paths to diverse ag careers, Mark Ridolfi. "Writer did a nice job of showing the diversity of young people inter-ested in a career in agriculture, with a dose of realism from some of their mentors."

**Honorable Mention**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Beef insiders bemoan trade deal withdrawal, Jen Sieve-Hicks. "Well-done piece showing how national policy affects the local ag economy."

### BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Eastern New Mexico News, Clovis, NM, Teen shooter kills 2 (with sidebar), Staff. "Superb coverage of a real community tragedy. Tragedies like this undoubtedly take a huge toll on the community, and this coverage outlines what happened in a clear and concise way. The writing is sharp and crisp. Nice job with sharing the emotion of what happened during this ordeal. I felt the emotion of dealing with this tragedy through the words in this piece. Outstanding job!"

**2nd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Suicide Walk Shines Light On Issues, Randy Dockendorf. "I appreciate how the newspaper takes on a tough issue that often

# Conversation leads to an interesting proposal

BY ROB DUMP  
Cedar County News,  
Hartington, NE

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

It's one of those conversations that sticks with you.

Some parents dream about them, some dread them.

While it's nothing like the old "birds and the bees talk," that parents hate and children laugh at, it is just as important.

I knew this day was coming, so like anyone who makes his living by communicating with people, I tried to prepare for it.

I laid out a speech loaded with parental advice.

The speech was touching, yet stern. It had all the right elements of compassion, caring and love, spiced with just a dash of humor.

I even went so far as to practice it in my head a time or two.

The only problem was, I had no idea when I might get the chance to deliver it.

Well, that chance came on New Year's Eve, and I have to tell you, it still caught

me off guard.

Here I was sitting at my favorite spot, sipping a cold brew while watching Alabama dismantle Washington in a national semifinal game, when the conversation suddenly took a left turn, switching abruptly from football to life.

"Well, Rob, I think it's time," the 30-something kid next to me said.

I could tell by the tone in his voice that he wasn't talking about how it was the Huskies' time to either show it could play defense or go home.

"Yeah, I think it's time that I asked for your blessing—asked for your permission to marry your daughter."

Well, there it was.

The moment—my moment.

I always knew that some day, some brash young kid would ask for my baby girl's hand in marriage.

I just didn't think it would happen on Washington's second drive of the 2017 Peach Bowl.

You sports fans know what I'm talking about here—the eight-play drive that ended up with a 16-yard Huskie touchdown run to put the Purple and Gold ahead of Alabama 7-0.



So, there I was, trying to balance the fact that the undefeated Crimson Tide was not invincible, while scrambling to come up with that fantastic speech I'd written long ago.

It was packed into my cranium somewhere, but where?

Thinking back on it, my answer wasn't nearly as eloquent as I'd hoped it would be.

"Well, I wondered if this day would ever come," I said as I turned my attention away from the TV screen to this

baby-faced kid who had just told me he planned to marry my only daughter.

"You know, I had a big speech all planned out for this moment, but you kind of caught me off guard here," I said as I took a bigger than necessary drink from my frosty mug in an attempt to buy myself a little more time.

Besides the congratulatory pat on the back, and commending him on what a great decision he was making, I was able to salvage one line from that original speech.

"You know, you've got my blessing if you promise to remember these three things," I told him.

"You need to respect her Faith, her family and her friends. If you can do that, you guys will be great together.

So there it was. The beautiful little speech that had been fermenting in my brain for years, was finally out in the open—not pretty, but out in the open.

It was short and sweet, but at least I made my point.

If people remember three things in life—Faith, family and friends—everything else will pretty much take care of itself.

times is taboo with most people. Mental health has become a key topic that our communities need to deal with. This suicide walk shows readers that there is hope out there. Great job in personalizing the story with someone affected. Writing is excellent!"

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, BPI claims victory after cutting deal with ABC, Avila Nick Hytrek. "Nice work in covering a major civil case. For starters, the headline captivates readers into the story. The paper did a great job in outlining what happened, who was involved, and blending comments from the various parties. Solid writing throughout the coverage."

**Honorable Mention**—The Daily Independent, Ridgecrest, CA, 1 dead following officer-involved shooting, Jack Barnwell. "Good coverage of a sad ending to a police shooting. The story shows how police officers are quickly faced with the unexpected. Nice job in outlining the details through solid writing."

## BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

**1st Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Exclusive: Brian Sims target of state ethics investigation, Jeremy Rodriguez. "Excellent investigative work and explanation of what you found!"

**2nd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Trump visits Utah, shrinks national monuments, Camille Baker. "Nice summary of the issues and the positions each side has taken."

**3rd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, BYU Air Force ROTC face possible move to UVU, Kaleena McKell. "Good coverage of a newsworthy controversy. If I hadn't already been familiar with the details of BYU's honor code, this might have confused me since it's not spelled out in the story. But that wouldn't be an issue for your regular readers."

**Honorable Mention**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Lesbian couple turned away from PA bridal shop, Jen Colletta. "Good job tying this into the bigger picture, both with this particular store and with LGBT rights in general."

## BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

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

**1st Place**—Riverhead News-Review, Mattituck, NY, NR Breaking news: murder trial, Grant Parpan. "Quality writing done in a timely manner. Clean copy that flows. Stronger headline may help, but the writing is concise. Well done."

**2nd Place**—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA, Tanger suspect killed in shootout, Alex Pace, Timely. Well written. Strong lede. Headline—OK, it's too the point. Well done.

**3rd Place**—North Scott Press. "Eldridge, IA, Driver asks—Are parents going to trust me again? Mark Ridolfi Timeliness? It appears this is printed approximately a week following the accident. I assume (correctly, I hope) that this first appeared online. Definitely an article that is important to the community—and all ages in the community. Well written, easy to read. Like the question in the headline. It's appropriate and expresses a concern that others might have but not express. Well done."

**Honorable Mention**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Cat 4 storm wreaks havoc on Port Aransas Dan Parker. "Thorough writing that is of utmost importance to the community. I hope this went online because it wasn't printed until a week after the storm began, by my calculations. Sentence and paragraph structure is good. Easy to read. I would suggest breaking it into two or three stories, since it is long. Lede does not draw me in initially."

## BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

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

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, 'Stunned by shootings'—String of murders rattles Northern New Mexico John Miller. "This piece is well written with strong human elements."

**2nd Place**—The Lancaster News, Lancaster, SC, Falling tree kills Buford Woman Mandy Catoe. "An account from a witness who heard the tree fall bolsters a strong sense of immediacy in this piece."

**3rd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Centennial Farm Owners Helpless While Fire Destroys Two Barns, Alan Campbell. "This piece stands out because of its strong

supporting details."

**Honorable Mention**—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD, L.Loyd Lee Welch Jr. pleads guilty to 1975 murder of the Lyon sisters, Lindsay Myers. "This is a compelling narrative, particularly because pleas like this are rare."

## BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—The Mountain Enterprise, Frazier Park, CA, SWAT Standoff, Patric Hedlund and Gary Meyer. "This is a very comprehensive article of an event affecting a small town. I looked for timeliness and impact, and both elements were very apparent. I commend you on a well written piece."

**2nd Place**—Dodge County Independent, Kasson, MN, McNeilus Explosion, Rick Bussler. "Classic example of a breaking news story. Well written, good photographs. I felt the top two articles, possible three, were outstanding. You definitely answered the Y and H's and got them up front. Well done."

**3rd Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, Police Chase, Rick Bussler. "Story answered my questions ... but I felt your headline lacked punch. Good article but not as concise as the two top winners."

**Honorable Mention**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Destruction, Loss and Compassion, Matthew Hose, Kevin Hessel, Jeff Dempsey, Elliot Karlant. "You had good material and it read well. In terms of making an immediate impact of hold the presses, it didn't affect me that way."

## BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Daily Division

**1st Place**—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS, Rooted by trees: After years apart, father-daughter team bond in business, Bryan Richardson. "Solid piece of writing that clearly illustrates the father-daughter bond and how it has led to a business partnership. Excellent job providing the right amount of background to create the story's foundation."

**2nd Place**—Daily Journal of Commerce, Portland, OR, An automotive repair shop in the Pearl, Chuck Slothower.

"Fascinating look at a legacy property owner. Article focuses on the inner workings of a business that has been a fixture for decades, providing readers with a nice slice of history."

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, West 7th Street roadwork problematic for some businesses, Mason Dockter. "The organization is top notch in this story as the writer details the impact construction has had on business owners."

**Honorable Mention**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Scotland Kuchen Store, Randy Dockendorf. "Fun story full of culinary goodness."

## BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, 'Rebuilding Main Street,' In Northern New Mexico, one rural town is rediscovering its heart, John Miller. "A solid, well done news feature with a lot of depth and good storytelling, with a beginning, middle and thought-out ending."

**2nd Place**—The News-Gazette, Lexington, VA, The Last Valentine, Kit Huffman. "The amount of narrative description and observational detail elevate this beyond the normal spot feature on a business closing."

**3rd Place**—Park Cities People, Dallas, TX, Box of Lessons in What Not to Do, William Taylor. "A well-written feature."

**Honorable Mention**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Retiring at Riley's, Starla Pointer. "A well done profile story with nice wordplay in the lead."

## BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, Back of the House in Dire Straits, Ally Gravina, Jeremy Jensen. "Good focus, strong lead and interesting angle to an otherwise typical worker shortage story. Angle was not overplayed, but handled just right, to captivate the reader, especially anyone who has been to that restaurant and wondered what the noise was all about."

**2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Allens to retire from Belvedere Land Co, Matthew Hose. "Standard news lead that

# Message to young activists involved in work of social change

BY MIKE JONES

The ST. LOUIS AMERICAN,  
St. Louis, MO

First place, best serious column  
Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

**O**n September 15, 2017, another white policeman was acquitted in the murder of a (very likely) unarmed black man, this time here in St. Louis, Missouri. Now if you're black, you could have a range of reactions, but there are two emotions I will not permit you—shock or surprise. You couldn't have honestly entertained the possibility that this could or would end with a different outcome.

The U.S. Constitution created the governing framework for the American republic, but it's the Declaration of Independence that provided the *raison d'être* (reason to be) for the republic's creation.

The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence begins, "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." While most are familiar with this beginning they are totally ignorant of what Jefferson writes next: "That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed; That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it," Much like Pharaoh, Jefferson condemns the government he founded with his own words. You see this oft-referred to "American Experiment" was not founded upon the principles that Jefferson espoused in the Declaration, but on the pernicious and malevolent idea of white male privilege.

No amount of rhetorical embellishment will change the fundamental character of the founding of the United States.

If you sprinkle sugar on a pile of manure, it's still a pile of manure.

The exploitation and oppression of people of color are fundamental to the American experience. While Jefferson was never the epitome of his words, it doesn't change the importance of what he wrote to the development of human history. He codified the intrinsic value of all human life and further stated that the sole pur-

pose of government is to secure and ensure that value.

He also did something equally as important: He established as a national founding principle that when government undermines or negates these inalienable rights, the People have a moral responsibility to change or abolish that government.

No matter what legal rationalizations are used, the Jason Stockley verdict is one more reminder that the effective purpose of American law is to maintain the order of white male privilege. So everyone in the streets protesting that verdict had a moral duty to be there on behalf of our collective humanity, establishing, once again, that this order governs without our consent and its power is not legitimate.

Speaking of the protests on Friday night, we need to address one more issue, the concerns of white moderates and their African-American collaborators. You know who I'm talking about, the "I support your goals but can't support what you're doing to achieve them" crowd.

The definitive answer to this objection was written over 50 years ago and is as cogent today as it was the day it was written.

"You deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham. But your statement, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations. ... You would want to rest content with the superficial kind of social analysis that deals merely with effects and does not grapple with underlying causes," Martin Luther King Jr. wrote from the Birmingham city jail on April 16, 1963.

"I had hoped that the white moderate would under-



PHOTO BY LAWRENCE BRYANT

Annie Smith, the mother of Anthony Lamar Smith, marched in protest with Brother Anthony Shahid, who kept the Jason Stockley case alive since he killed Smith in 2011, and hundreds of others in St. Louis on Sunday, Sept. 17.

stand that law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and that when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress. ... I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to 'justice.'"

I wrote this commentary so the young activists involved in the serious work of social change are not slowed by the need to provide a public rationale for their work to those of us not physically active in the struggle, and so they will know (if they care) there is substantial historical intellectual and moral justification for their position, and so they know there are some old heads who believe in them and uphold them.

*Mike Jones is a member of the St. Louis American editorial board and the State Board of Education.*

could have been stronger with a personal story from one of the cousins or a point of hardship for the company and town. Still, it was good for a retirement story."

**3rd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Big dream creates Small Frye, Mark Ridolfi. "Strong number of interviews but far too much repetition from them, which made the story longer and more tedious than it needed to be."

## BEST BUSINESS STORY

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Meating the Demand, Bret Hayworth, Ian Richardson, Ty Rushing. "The clear winner in a competitive category, this series expertly breaks down the ramifications of a new, major local employer. Well written with lots of angles."

**2nd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Towns Eye Ride Sharing Options, Randy Dockendorf. "When apparently the ride-share companies themselves wouldn't detail their plans, this story showed how such an expansion would affect residents, visitors and students and existing services. Well done."

**3rd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Area Towns Fight To Save Grocery Stores, Randy Dockendorf. "This story shows how important having a local grocer is to several towns."

**Honorable Mention**—Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA, Sign of the Times, Julia Hart. "Media trends hit home and hit hard. This story will educate many readers on the local impact of a changing business."

## BEST BUSINESS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Affordability gap, Camillia Lanham. "This very well-researched story takes a comprehensive look at the lack of affordable housing in the area ahead of a vote by local elected officials to deal with the problem. The writer not only presents both sides, but gives readers insight into how other counties are dealing with the same issue. Outstanding!"

**2nd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Fall Reinforcements, Eric Carlson. "Interesting local angle on a problem that affects many communities. Well written and easy to read!"

**3rd Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA Taking credit, Peter Johnson. "This story about a complicated legal mess is made clear and fun to read!"

**Honorable Mention**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, VA Loans Fueling Moore's Booming Market Explosion, Laura Douglass. "Well written with lots of interesting quotes and statistical information that isn't eye numbing. Would have like to hear from a soldier/spouse though to see if they agree with what all the experts are saying."

## BEST BUSINESS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY AirBNB Bookings Jump 75 Percent in Philipstown Liz Schevtchuk. "Armstrong Good story—well reported and it shows how public officials rent out their properties to Airbnb, even as the company is proving controversial. Does a good job showing how widespread the Airbnb phenomenon is in the area."

**2nd Place**—Oakland Independent, Oakland, IL, Lucas Grocery Too goes up for sale, Janice Hunt. "A nice package of stories—well reported and it shows the impact on the community of new and departing grocery stores. A good effort at what otherwise could have read like a calendar item."

**3rd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Businesses stand with workers on national Day Without Immigrants, Deirdre McCrohan. "A nice spot-news story on how the national day without immigrants was affecting the area. Good interviews with business owners."

**Honorable Mention**—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA, Amazon coming, but backlash builds Alex Pace. (No comments.)

## BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Specialty schools show magnetic pull, Dolly A. Butz. "Loved the lead on

this article and once you had me—I didn't want to let go—this is a great read with wonderful information. A nice mix of perspectives. It even made this old retired publisher want to go back to school at least to observe."

**2nd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, GED a New Start, Randy Dockendorf. "Wow—this article has a message that has the potential to stick with the reader long after the paper is put down. Different perspectives herald an all-important message about life choices."

**3rd Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Counting the cost, Erin Dietzer. "Very nice tie-in of statistics and perspectives from educators in the field with those of parents. The all-important message of Why Preschool Counts is crystal clear. I liked this article very much."

**Honorable Mention**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, LCS1D board split after boundary revision vote, Kristine Galloway. "Covering school issues can be complicated when all goes as planned. The writer addresses the readers' right to know head on. Keeps the reader straight on who said what and why. I like the presentation of multiple perspectives. Good job."

## BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, The Real People Affected, Mary Kate Murphy. "Excellent story about the numbers

and then the people behind them—as promised. Good details and data. Makes me want to attend these schools to meet these folks.”

**2nd Place**—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA, Undocumented and unprotected, Kasey Bubnash. “Great use of statistics and a personal source story to demonstrate the state of DACA recipients.”

**3rd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, High-schoolers train for lucrative welding careers, David Roza. “Good story on an often overlooked side of public schooling. Great quotes from students and instructor. Nicely written.”

**Honorable Mention**—Warwick Advertiser, Chester, NY, Warwick Advertiser Education coverage, Erika Norton, Joe Picard, Bob Quinn, Linda Smith-Hancharick and Pam Chergotis. “Very good series. Thank you! All interesting educational topics, not the same old back-to-school stories. Some could use more sources, such as the home-schooling story.”

### BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

**1st Place**—The Cloverdale Reveille, Cloverdale, CA, Law enforcement training for worst-case scenario, Heather Bailey. “A good article relates needed information, tells a story and paints a picture—this article did all three. Congratulations and please keep writing.”

**2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Bel Aire School fourth-grader's Make-A-Wish dream is granted, Jeff Dempsey. “This is a great article about an outstanding youth—I caught myself saying ‘way to go Rhett’ by the end! Congratulations.”

**3rd Place**—(TIE) Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Marine tech course draws interest, Dick Broom. “Well-crafted article on a workforce need in the marine tech industry, and the addition of high school programs designed to fill the gap.”

**3rd Place**—(TIE) North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Join the P6 revolution, Mark Ridolfi. “An interesting school restructure concept eloquently described. I especially appreciated providing the views of the school board as a separate piece.”

### BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Herbicides near Rio Grande raise ire of local farmers, Cody Hooks. “Good job investigating these residents’ concerns and digging into exactly what’s in this herbicide.”

**2nd Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Balancing Act, Camillia Lanham. “Really underscores why we need good government, and why we need the press when government fails to do its job. A very thorough look at a long overdue subject.”

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Despite rocky start, South Sioux, Big Ox see bright future, Ian Richardson. “A very thorough assessment to not just report the odors in people’s homes, but to dig into the why and how of the subject.”

**Honorable Mention**—The Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, Down for the county, Spencer Cole. “A good examination of multiple intersecting issues.”

### BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

**1st Place**—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY, Fighting to save cutthroats, Lew Freedman. “There were so many good entries in this category that coming up with 1-2-3 was difficult, and necessarily subjective. This entry had by far the best lede in this category, which is half the battle. Lew Freedman did a fantastic job of painting a picture of the problem in Lake Yellowstone.”

**2nd Place**—Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA, Ancient Fish, Jennie McGhan. “Nice story about a community’s efforts to help re-populate an endangered species. Good presentation.”

**3rd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Ditches hold trove of prairie remnants, Mark Ridolfi. “This story is another example of us (humans) finding it necessary to un-do what we have done—in this case, re-populating native grasses. This story was very well written.”

**Honorable Mention**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Evidence of the Invasions, Randy Dockendorf. “This was a well-done story. The question I felt was unanswered was whether there were environmental factors that have led to the infestation—was there something missing that allowed the zebra mussels to propagate so profusely?”

# Teen shooter kills 2

BY STAFF  
Eastern New Mexico News,  
Clovis, NM

Best breaking news story,  
Daily Division

## Pair of library workers die, four people wounded

CLOVIS—“Run!” he yelled. “Why aren’t you running? I’m shooting at you! Run!”

Lisa Baird said she was maybe 20 feet from the young man shouting the words as he opened fire in the Clovis-Carver Public Library on Monday afternoon, killing two people and leaving four more injured.

Police declined to name the suspect, but said there was only one and he was handcuffed as police led him away from the scene soon after they arrived.

Friends identified the teenager photographed in police custody as Nathaniel Jouett, a sophomore at Clovis High School.

Family and friends said Krissie Carter and Wanda Walters, both library employees, were killed.

Two men and two women were injured. Three of the injured were flown to hospitals out of town, officials said.

The extent of their injuries was not released.

Baird, in a lengthy exchange with The News through Facebook Messenger, said she was talking with a library patron from her seat at the library’s reference desk when she heard a “very loud bang.”

“My initial thought was why would someone throw a cherry bomb or M80 firecracker into the library?”

Then I saw a young man aim his hand, which had a handgun in it, to the ground/carpet about 6 feet in front of him and he fired like four or five shots into the carpet.”

Baird said she dove under a nearby desk “and tried to squish up as small as possible.”

From there, Baird said she could hear the man moving around the library and firing multiple shots.

“Then I heard his pants ‘shooshing’



TONY BULLOCKS | EASTERN NEW MEXICO NEWS

Jessica Thron, an employee at the Clovis-Carver Public Library, is taken to an ambulance by her husband, Clovis Police Sgt. Trevor Thron. Thron was one of four citizens injured in the shooting Monday at the library. Tony Bullocks also won a first place for breaking news photo in the daily division for this photo.

as he approached the end of the reference desk. I heard a sound like a phone or something being put on the reference counter at the end of the desk, about 4 feet from my head.”

Seconds later, Baird said police entered the library and began shouting for the man with the gun to “lay on the ground” repeatedly.

Police Chief Doug Ford said the suspect offered no resistance after police arrived.

Vanessa Aguirre said she was in the library with her son when a man came in and “started to shoot” into the air.

“It all happened so fast,” she said, minutes after it happened. “We took off fast. My purse is still in there.”

Aguirre said she did not see anyone shot, but the shooter was still in the library when she left. She said he fired into the ceiling.

She said she thought he had a handgun.

Kim Tipton, who was in the American Classified building across the street from the library, said she saw multiple police officers arrive at the library a few minutes after 4 p.m.

“Their guns were drawn, AK-whatever they were, they were drawn,” she said.

Police Chief Ford said police entered the library immediately on arrival,

minutes after they were called.

More than a dozen law enforcement and emergency vehicles surrounded the library as paramedics and law officers rushed in to begin treating the wounded.

Clovis Mayor David Lansford called the incident “a tragic and senseless act.”

“This is a big blow to our community,” he said.

“We’re all hurting right now.”

Ford said authorities had no motive for the shootings.

Police were still on the scene late Monday night as television news crews conducted interviews with a backdrop of police cars flashing their lights. Curry County Adult Detention Center Administrator Mark Gallegos said the suspect remained in police custody at 9 p.m. and had not been processed into the jail.

Baird said she remained shaken hours after the shootings, in part because of the suspect’s demeanor.

“When he was answering the cops’ questions, he was calm. His voice held no negativity or shakiness ... no quavering at all,” she said.

She also expressed anger.

“That (expletive) better go away for the rest of his life, or disappear somewhere,” she said.

### BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

**1st Place**—Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH, Addiction: A Rural Reality, Susan Crowell, Chris Kick, Katy Mumaw, Catie Noyes, Aimee Tenzek, Sara Welch, Tammy Reese, David Hartong. “All too familiar story that ravaged urban communities for decades that has crept fatally into rural communities. Smart of Farm and Dairy to take note and bring it to the forefront.”

**2nd Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Back to Puerto Rico; Helping with Harvey Relief, Sarah Heth. “Reminding readers that Puerto Rico is part of our country and family, and desperately still need help, after many months of struggle, can

make a difference.”

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Serving Her Country: Women in the Military, Journal staff. “Very important, close up look on a sometimes forgotten segment of the military. And it’s not as recent as some might think, as this series showed in depth.”

**Honorable Mention**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, Day in the Life of a stay-at-home parent, Ruby Marable, Jeremy Rodriguez. “DITL stories can be useful and entertaining: this one goes beyond by giving the reader a real feeling of the woman’s time reality.”

### BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

**1st Place**—Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA, Lost in Translation, Sara Konrad Baranowski. “This is so well written, that I feel like I know Z.”

**2nd Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Coming to Galena: Stories of Immigration, Hillary Dickerson and Carter Newton. “This is a beautiful concept for a series.”

**3rd Place**—The Journal, Crosby, ND, About a Girl, Sydney Glasoe, Carballo. “This gave an incredible insight into the



**FIRST PLACE**, best breaking news photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999  
By Rockne Roll | Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR

**HOUSE DAMAGED**—Robert Moon inspects the front yard of his home Wednesday. A car traveling south on Hill Road jumped the ditch, went through the fence behind his house and struck the building at more than 100 miles per hour, plowing completely through the structure and coming to rest in the street.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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



**FIRST PLACE**, best feature photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999  
By Jason Collins | Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX

**OOIE GOOEY DIFFICULTY**—Nathan Cooning has a bit of trouble with the yellow clay as he works to form it around a water bottle Wednesday morning. He and other youngsters were creating unique figurines of their own design using this air-drying clay, feathers, beads and pipe cleaners.



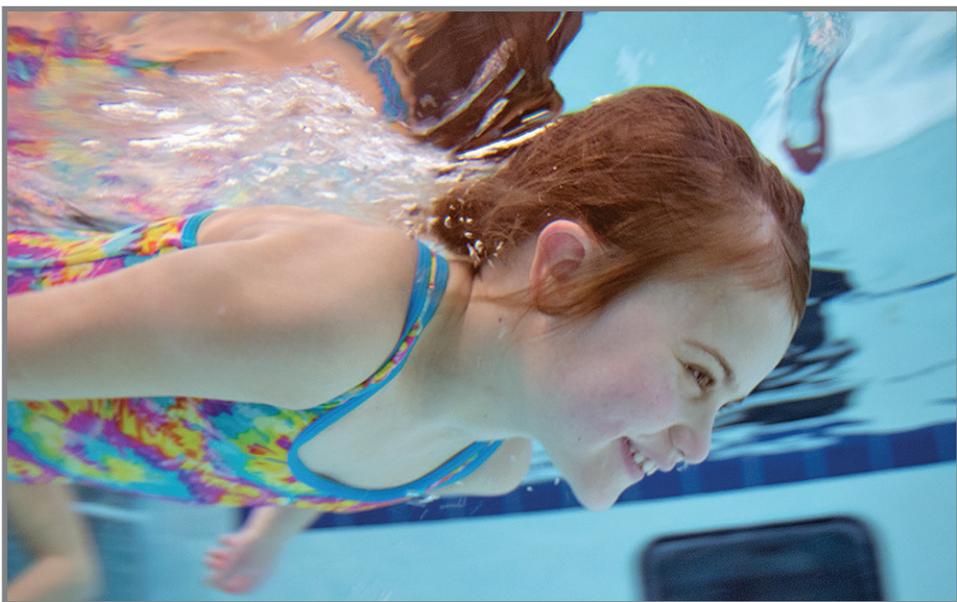
**SECOND PLACE**, best sports photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999  
By Rockne Roll | Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR

**BAD NEWS BARNES**—McMinnville's Brian Barnes is undefeated on the season in the 285-pound weight hclass and has become a pinning machine for the Grizzlies. As seen here, Barnes is using is favorite move, the single-leg take down, which led to a pin against West Albany's Jalaam Stewart in a match from earlier this season.



**FIRST PLACE**, best feature photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999  
By Suzy Demeter | Malibu Surfside News, Malibu, CA

**FLUID CREATIVITY**—Dancers Teresa Toogie Barcelo (left), Haylee Nichele (middle) and Himerrria Wortham, of Heidi Duckler Dance Company, perform at Peter Strauss Ranch June 3. The dancers' Lake Enchanto presentation was one of several programs planned at the ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains this summer.



**FIRST PLACE**, best feature photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000  
By Brad Nygaard | The Journal, Crosby, ND

**ABOUT A GIRL**—A three-part series begins in The Journal this week, exploring the services available for a young Divide County family, Seth and Stephanie Nygaard, and their daughter, Aubrey, above, who is autistic.



**THIRD PLACE**, best sports photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999  
By Glenn Clark | The Progress, Bernardsville, NJ

**SIX-GAME STREAK**—West Essex High School's Brielle Krause is fouled by Abby Garaban of Mount St. Dominic in their game on Thursday, Jan. 11. West Essex won, 42-37.



**FIRST PLACE**, best feature photo, Daily Division,  
By Justin Wan | Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

**SNOW-PRISE**—Evelynn Padgett, 5, dives into the snow pile as her mother, April Padgett, clears snow after an overnight snowstorm in Sioux City Friday.

#### FROM PAGE B11

Nygaard family.

**Honorable Mention**—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ, The Mighty Oak, W. Jacob Perry and Charles Zavalick. "I never knew I could care so much about a tree."

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Methamphetamine addiction gives way to a new life, Dolly A. Butz. "Very well done. Good job of getting the subject to really open up and be honest. Hopefully, this story will help someone else kick an addiction."

**2nd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, On The Run, Randy Dockendorf. "Nicely done. Really captures the essence of the event and what it was like to be involved in it."

**3rd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Cinderella tells all, Ellen Fike. "Nice story. Great comeback tale that should be inspirational to all."

**Honorable Mention**—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ, Rural Pinal police agencies home to second-chance cops, Kevin Reagan. "Nicely done. A unique story that was very well written."

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

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

**1st Place**—The Highland Park Landmark, Orland Park, IL, HR exhibit, Xavier Ward. "Very interesting topic to feature. I got the who, what, when, where and why out of this story, for sure. I loved how you included a spot for 'See the Museum' as an infographic to help the feature. The photos were good, but I think a zoom in on the photo of Fritzschnall would have helped see her better. Overall, great job!"

**2nd Place**—The New Lenox Patriot, Orland Park, IL, Wedding and a funeral, Joe Coughlin. "I am absolutely in awe of

this magnificent family. Your tribute as a feature is perfect. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers for your family and a congratulations to the newlyweds, too. This story broke me ... I wept along with Paul ... when you can make the reader feel raw emotions in this manner, you have done your job as a writer. God bless you all!"

**3rd Place**—The New Lenox Patriot, Orland Park, IL, Homecoming queen, Amanda Stoll. "So sweet! This is a great personality feature. Thanks for telling her story! I wish your photo would have shown her crown though!!! LOL."

**Honorable Mention**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Anne Levy and David Gray. "Wow. Captivating ... makes you want to raise your hand and ask questions, too! Great job!"

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

**1st Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Transient camps pose complex problems for Utah County, Saul Marquez. "A look at homelessness from two sides of the equation—law enforcement and the homeless themselves. Very insightful, well researched and well written."

**2nd Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Imprisoning our own, Ryah Cooley. "Excellent piece on local Japanese interned during WWII. Having a local person who was interned to interview really made the piece."

**3rd Place**—Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH, A new normal, Catie Noyes. "A story of courage and determination. Sure held my interest."

**Honorable Mention**—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC, All Dolled Up, Deborah Salomon. "Well-written piece about a local woman's passion for doll collecting, but with a larger message about inclusion and history. Well told."

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

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

**1st Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY, A Day in Drug Court, Michael Turton. "An important story about the opioid epidemic, told through the unique and powerful lens."

**2nd Place**—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN, DWI—Backstoms, Rick Bussler. "An important story."

**3rd Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY, Off the Wall at Grey Printing, Alison Rooney. "Engaging, familiar, and nicely written. The author's mentioning of the photo special to her at the end is a great touch."

**Honorable Mention**—Echoes-Sentinel, Bernardsville, NJ, Swamp Skater, Alex Parker-Magyar. "An engaging, inspirational and quirky read."

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

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

**1st Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, Saved by Grace, Jen Kocher. "A strong, riveting, well-written article about a woman who persevered through a horrifying experience."

**2nd Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, Bray Morell, Jen Kocher. "A well-written story of resilience that captures the spirit of the sport."

**3rd Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, In Search of a Rock, Jen Kocher. "A truly interesting, well-written story about a dogged investigator fixated on finding a needle in a haystack."

**Honorable Mention**—The Cloverdale Tribune, Cloverdale, CA, Cloverdale man living and dying on his own terms, Ray Holley. "This is a compelling article about a man in an unusual situation."

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

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

**1st Place**—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY, Bob Jester, Joe Werkmeister. "Powerful story of an intriguing man coping well with a situation in which many would give up. A well-written, emotional read. Makes you want to get to know the man. Others obviously think highly of him. Reader is hooked from the opening

sentences. A strong read."

**2nd Place**—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY, Living in the line of fire, Lew Freedman. "Truly a different kind of story. It captures the reader from the opening line to the end. This man lives his faith and his life mission in a different manner. Agree with him or not, it's hard not to be captivated by this story. Unlike any of the other entries."

**3rd Place**—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Fingers and strings, Starla Pointer. "Delightful story of a quite interesting person. Story reads smoothly and is well stocked with information. Writer does fine job of tying the weaver's personality to her work. Reader can't help but want to meet this lady."

**Honorable Mention**—The State Port Pilot, Southport, NC, Eloise's calling, Renee Spencer. "A fun read about an outstanding lady. Refreshing to read about a person who works so hard and is so beloved by others. Writer does well in weaving together so much information about this woman who stands out from the crowd. Good use of quotes to help the reader know the lady."

#### BEST FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

**1st Place**—Cut Bank Pioneer Press, Cut Bank, MT, LeAnne Kavanagh. "WOW! Great use of photos and quotes within the story! I loved how you told her story and how it accompanies a community news story at the same time. This helps prepare the readers for more and to WANT more. Excellent!"

**2nd Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, Three cheers to Tabor triplets as graduation nears, Brian J. Hunhoff. "ABSOLUTELY AWESOME followup after all these years in your newspaper! GREAT JOB! Loved all the old newspaper clippings and this full-circle feature story!"

**3rd Place**—The Dalton Gazette & The Kidron News, Dalton, OH, Hero's Story, Christina McCune. "Great feature story captured for future references to WW2 stories that must be

# They can't do as well as we can

BY RUSSEL SKILES  
Lamesa Press-Reporter,  
Lamesa, TX

First place, best serious column  
Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

Sometimes I get tired of hearing the word “they.”  
As in ...  
“When are they going to get something to replace Walmart?”

“I don't know why they don't fix up our town.”

“They want us to shop at home, but they don't give us any good shopping places.”

“I wish they would take care of that.”

I'm sure we are like many other communities, but we've definitely got far too much “they” and not near enough “we” around here.

It is part of a trend you also can see and hear nationwide as so many people seem to expect our government or others to take care of us rather than getting out there and taking care of ourselves.

And we want to blame everyone else for our own problems.

It's time we quit wondering when they are going to do something to fix things and instead figure out how we can work together and how we can get it done.

We, as in you, me, our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends, the people we attend church with, our classmates, our clubs, our coffee groups, etc.

We, without regard to race, petty jealousies, self-serving agendas, worrying who benefits and who gets credit, and other excuses that often keep us from doing things.

We, as in all of us working together to get things done for our community instead of sitting back and griping about why they aren't doing it.

Many of our complaints about what they are doing, or not doing, seem to be directed at our elected officials: city council members, county commissioners, school trustees, hospital board members, etc.

Yes, they have been elected to represent us in making various decisions and taking certain actions.

But they can't do it all. And when they or others try to do something, they often are met with hostile criticism rather than support.

We think they should do this or that, but they better not raise our taxes in the process.

Those elected officials might be able to help facilitate the opening of a new store or a new business here, but they can't just automatically make it happen.

They ultimately can't make the decisions that go into whether someone or some corporation opens or closes a business here.

We probably have more influence on such decisions than they.

Are we going to shop at the business?

Can we provide the employees what they need? Are we willing to stay home and shop at a local store that might not have as much variety as the big-city shopping center?

We largely determine whether a Walmart, a Taco Bell, or any of our own home-owned businesses can succeed in Lamesa.

We can sit back and blame others for not fixing everything that we don't like about our community, or we can roll up our sleeves, pitch in, work together and get things done ourselves.

We can gripe about empty buildings and unsightly vacant lots, or we can volunteer to help make improvements ourselves or put our support behind others in their efforts to take care of those problems on our behalf.

It is time to quit blaming our problems on what they are doing, or not doing, and instead get out there and become part of the solution to those problems.

We won't always see eye-to-eye and agree on everything, but we can work together toward the same goals.

We are all members of the same community, regardless of race or other differences. We are family, friends and neighbors. They are us, and we are them.

They are limited in what they can accomplish, but we can do amazing things when we get involved personally and when we all work together.

*Russel Skiles is the publisher of the Lamesa Press-Reporter.*

preserved. Excellent photos to accompany. Kept me wanting to learn more.”

**Honorable Mention**—Staples World, Staples, MN, Vernon Drake remembers, Dawn Timbs. “I love, love, love the use of your photos! The lede was nice, too, because you introduced someone the story is about as if that was the time period we were in currently. Great job telling the Drake's story.”

## BEST HEALTH STORY

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

**1st Place**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, No place to go, Chris McGuinness. “Terrific story with photos. Well-reported and well-written. Great job tackling this huge and important topic. Good use of mother of an IST defendant, as well as the defense attorney and others. Good use of data from throughout the state and county. Way to go!”

**2nd Place**—Sparta Independent, Chester, NY, The Opioid Epidemic, Erika Norton, Joe Picard. “Wonderful coverage of the opioid crisis in a paper's wide area. Excellent look at Canada's legal needle facility and the graphic and story showing drug arrests by area comparing the current year and the last. Good story on how a teen could help another teen turning to opioids. I hope a story focusing on an individual's battle came in part two of this coverage (not seen here).”

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, ‘Medication-assisted treatment program fights opioid epidemic,’ John Miller. “Such a well-written story! Good quotes and story-telling. Would like more stats about numbers of people in addiction, etc. I liked the side box, too.”

**Honorable Mention**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Brain games: What cavitation and SmartFoam could mean for football players, Kaitlyn Bancroft. “Very interesting, well-written story about an invention to help measure concussive events in football. Good range of sources and details with statistics. Interesting approach to this topic.”

## BEST HEALTH STORY

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

**1st Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, The diabetic's dilemma, Lana Bradstream. “A story with community-wide importance. Many lives are affected by the rising cost of insulin. Well illustrated, facts are easy to understand, and the story shows the impact on a personal level.”

**2nd Place**—Riverhead News-Review, Mattituck, NY, Teen suicide, Joe Werkmeister and Kelly Zegers. “Well-written story on a difficult topic, but one that is important in every community. Good background, important help facts, and the details about John's life make it very personal.”

**3rd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Staying well, The songs they can't forget, Dick Broom. “Well-written story about how music therapy helps with the treatment of both young and old in a community. It is a story that touches on many people in a community.”

## BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Daily Division

**1st Place**—Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH, Homeless on the Seacoast, Kyle Stucker and Deb Cram. “Fantastic! So many viewpoints are included here, from the tenters to the police to shelter coordinators. The tact of reporting is a big part of this. The reporter does a good job of pulling the people out of their shells and finding out what life is really like. I can tell the reporter spent a lot of time with these people, getting to know them as people and gaining their trust. The series not only presents the problem from multiple sides but also explores solutions. The fact that your organization took the time and effort to put together all the multimedia elements speaks to your desire to help. This is a phenomenal example of newspapers leading the way in working toward change in their communities.”

**2nd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Wyoming Boot Camp, Sarah Zoellick. “Great! Reallllllllllly long. Good job profiling different people and incorporating perspectives of the sergeant, the caseworkers, the inmates, etc. This is a touchy place, I imagine, to do interviews. The pushup and pullup photos are fantastic.”

**3rd Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Entitled to Fairness, Erin Dietzer, Audra Gamble and Sydney Smith. “Love the IX graphic and how it is consistent with each edition. The sidebars and pullout boxes are a great addition, since the stories are soooo long. Nice job including faces of people involved—from those who got it started to criminals to past and present administrations.”

**Honorable Mention**—The Daily Independent, Ridgecrest, CA, Pinney Pool Closure series, Jessica Weston. “Your letter says the reporter provided a balanced view of the story. However, I don't see



any comments from people who are in favor of the pool closing, and minimal information from the city council's perspective. Hard to get if they're not speaking publicly, yes. Nice job getting the comments you included—the swim coach especially. I hope there were additional stories after these, as I'd like to know how this resolved, if it has."

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

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—Photo News, Chester, NY, Water and Kiryas, Joel Doug Feiden and Bob Quinn. "Water quality is a story that's going to become of increasing importance. But it's a difficult story to tell and keep it interesting and readable. This story accomplishes both, with a narrative style that pulls in all sides of the issue."

**2nd Place**—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX, Predatory Lending, Sharon Brooks. "Very thorough exploration of an important issue."

**3rd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Mormon judgment series, Abby Hay and Kjersten Johnson. "If I could award a tie, I would tie this and your BYU Housing series, which was an ambitious project and is more traditional investigative reporting. However, given LDS culture, this is the gutsier of the two. I hope by awarding it that church authorities will read this series and address some of these realities causing pain to their members."

**Honorable Mention**—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Interim Sunset Beach police chief's guns stolen, Laura Lewis. "Good job digging deeper on a routine news story to get at what was behind it."

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

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

**1st Place**—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY, Gone, Steve Wick, Grant Parpan and Krysten Massa. "This is one of those transformative pieces that puts journalists in the role of gumshoe and old time detective. Well written, impeccably sourced and serves as a slice of history some would rather have forgotten."

**2nd Place**—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA, The Floyd Hoard Assassination, Mike Buffington and Alex Pace. "This is what happens when good, modern journalists lean on their institutional knowledge. Excellent work."

**3rd Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Coming to Galena: Stories of Immigration, Hillary Dickerson and Carter Newton. "Timely, sensitively written, locally sourced and ... hopeful."

**Honorable Mention**—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, The Garden, Kathy Cruz. "Rough, rough content. This material was comprehensive and difficult. I can't imagine how facing this ugliness was for the team, but the readers are better for it."

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

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—The Dalton Gazette & The Kidron News, Dalton, OH, Are you SAFER? Christina McCune. "I can think of nothing more important to what we do as local media than a piece like this. Localizing a national issue, showing real impact and the human angle. Well done."

**2nd Place**—The Tioga Tribune, Tioga, ND, Officer accused of theft has relationship with chief, Marcus White. "Taking on cops is always dicey. The bravery shown in this well-written series is evident."

**3rd Place**—Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC, Horry County Council spending, Charles D. Perry. "A story that could have been dull, but was elevated by a strong head, lede and narrative. Making something out of what could be easily been overlooked."

**Honorable Mention**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA, It Rolls Downhill, Meghan Herbst and Jeremy Jensen. "Fascinating work on something that could have been let go by a less ambitious staff. Kudos for sticking with it."

### BEST LOCALIZED NATIONAL STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Coming to Galena: Stories of Immigration, Hillary Dickerson and Carter Newton. "Wow! What an extensive package of stories really drawing the DACA issue close to home. Amazing that you all

committed four months to the package, running the features one at a time and placing them in the same general area of the newspaper each week. Wonderful work and very well done. Something your entire staff should be proud of."

**2nd Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Entitled to Fairness, Erin Dietzer, Audra Gamble and Sydney Smith. "Very close to being first place. Choosing between the two was difficult. Nice three-day package of stories that were very thoroughly researched, investigated and put together. Very nice coverage and well done."

**3rd Place**—The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, CA, Discharged from America, Michael McDonald. "Another nice package with plenty of compelling artwork to compliment things. If people reading this didn't get emotional and a little fired up on how these veterans are being treated, then they need to check themselves. Well done."

**Honorable Mention**—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA, Supporting Dreams, Karen Garcia. "Another nice package that really brings home a national topic and shows the implications it has on the community."

### BEST PERFORMING ARTS STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, The Orville, Bruce R. Miller. "Bruce Miller gives Iowa readers a first-hand look at a new sci-fi series by taking them onto the set—yes, in Los Angeles of The Orville to experience the inner workings of the show. Readers hear from the visual-effects producer, the editor, the prop master, the costume designer, the makeup designer, and the production designer as well as from several of the actors and from the show's creator. Miller packs a galaxy of information inside this smoothly written, clearly organized article and sidebar. For example, Miller doesn't just describe the props but also shares the propmaster's reasons for designing various weapons in ways that reflect the values of particular characters, thereby helping readers understand how each component of a program works with the others to create a world and not just a show."

**2nd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Strings of Success, Scott Campbell. "Good journalism begins with sensing the story behind the story, and Scott Campbell recognized that a high school orchestra earning a Division I rating signified something more. Campbell's first article acknowledges the orchestra's accomplishment and then traces the program's growth over the past 10 years. Campbell's second article details the logistics involved in making physical space for the growing orchestra program, in making space in the curriculum and class schedules of the students, and in working with rather than against the existing band program. A sidebar notes the contributions of the Music Boosters and a county entity. Campbell blends the voices of the orchestra director, several students, the principal, and a former superintendent into a balanced, well-written narrative that gives readers a greater understanding of the processes behind an accomplishment."

**3rd Place**—The Tinley Junction, Orland Park, IL, McCartney, Bill Jones and Laurie Fanelli. "Bill Jones used a creative, three-pronged approach to cover a two-concert series by legendary musician Sir Paul McCartney. Rather than writing a one-voice review of the concert, Jones sought multiple voices. For the first article, Jones and staff photographer Laurie Fanelli, who had each attended a different night, interviewed (aka chatted with) each other via Google Hangout about their respective experiences and impressions and created a transcript of their conversation. Two adjoining sidebars contained the playlists for each evening. Second, Jones used some area concert-goers' reflective comments, pulled from social media, as the basis for a third, longer sidebar, showing how personally connected attendees felt. Finally, Jones's poignant reflection about one of his uncles, a consummate Beatles fan, gives a sense of the longevity and impact of McCartney's career."

**Honorable Mention**—The Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, Lend me a stage, Rebecca Rose. "Rebecca Rose traces the incredible 42-year journey one man has made from being a student at a local theatre conservatory to returning as musical director of the same conservatory to, finally, years later returning once again as resident artist and artistic associate. No less remarkable is the story Rose relates of how the same man and his partner turned a farce into a musical theatre production

# Can't stop thinking about the chickens

BY JEB BLADINE

Yamhill Valley News-Register,  
McMinnville, OR

First place, best humorous column,  
Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-7,999

**M**ost writing guides provide clear advice about clichés: Don't use them; be creative, not trite.

Admittedly, I've strayed from that clearly-marked path. I've described chickens coming home to roost at least four times, most recently related to health insurance and the Public Employees Retirement System.

Each time I felt a mild tinge of writer's guilt. But then I found a website article that eased my conscience with a spirited defense of using an appropriate cliché.

A cliché, the argument goes, can be the best way to describe something as an instantly understood image to the audience, sometimes making a complicated issue more understandable.

This defense of clichés did urge caution in choosing words wisely and knowingly. But in grand cliché style, it concluded with this advice: "Don't be a worry wart ... A little discernment and some careful choices are all the doctor ordered."

And so, unshackled from fear of the cliché police, I now feel more free to note that love is blind, ignorance is bliss and actions speak louder than words;

that the grass is always greener on the other side, and what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. If you don't agree, well, all I can say is, you can't please everyone.

Still, I will try to avoid crying over spilled milk, chomping at the bit or selling like hot cakes. Besides, just like those roosters, the best clichés are all about animals.

Is there really more than one way to skin a cat?

Can it actually rain cats and dogs? How many people do you know whose bark is worse than their bite?

You can hold your horses or change horses in midstream; you can be stubborn as a mule, strong as an ox, proud as a peacock or mad as a wet hen; you can be a sitting duck, a dead duck or just crazy as a loon.

It goes on and on; when it comes to animal clichés, there are many more fish in the sea. If I tried to fully open that can of worms, we could spend all day imagining snakes and snails, goats and sheep, lions and elephants, bugs, bees, bears and bats. We would all be busy as beavers.

But for right now—with Donald Trump headed to the White House and the Oregon Legislature going back into session—I just can't stop thinking about those chickens.

*Jeb Bladine can be reached at [jbladine@newsregister.com](mailto:jbladine@newsregister.com) or 503-687-1223.*



Jeb Bladine is president and publisher of the News-Register



**THIRD PLACE**, best feature photo,  
Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999

By Dan Parker | Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX

**HAVING A BALL**—Penny, a 4-year-old female maltipoo, chases a tennis ball at the dog park at Port Aransas Community Park. She was visiting with her owner, Lindsey Floerke of Taft. This photo was shot on July 15, several weeks before Hurricane Harvey struck, knocking down the dog park's fences. But Penny now has reason to visit again. Last week, the City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department finished putting up new fences, and the dog park now is back in business.

# The inspirational story of Bob Jester

BY JOE WERKMEISTER  
The Suffolk Times,  
Mattituck, NY

First place, best feature story,  
Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999

## More than a year after accident, he fights to walk again

**B**ob Jester grimaces with each movement. His hands clutch two parallel bars at waist height, positioned at the end of a trainer's table at Peconic Landing's rehabilitation center in Greenport.

Seated in front of him, therapist and exercise physiologist Betty Carlson positions a band around his waist and holds with each hand to help Mr. Jester steady himself as he slowly stands away from the edge of the table. It's a recent Tuesday morning, and Mr. Jester has already spent an hour on a bike machine and just completed a lap around the room while standing with his legs secured in two large, cumbersome braces. More exercises on a step machine and weight lifting are still to come—all part of his four-hour workout routine.

With Ms. Carlson's assistance, Mr. Jester stands, sits and repeats the exercise, occasionally wiping sweat from his forehead. A stimulator attached to his legs helps spark the muscles, creating a spasm-like effect.

Suddenly, he shuffles his feet as he stands, lifting his heel ever-so-slightly. Ms. Carlson looks on with astonishment.

"I cannot believe you!" she exclaims. "This is really amazing. It gives me so much optimism."

Mr. Jester smiles through the pain. "This is a great day," adds Kathryn Park, an occupational therapist.

A revered science teacher at Riverhead High School for 39 years and a 52-year member of the Greenport Fire Department, Mr. Jester now spends his retirement fighting to regain the use of his legs. It's not how anyone envisions retirement, and if Mr. Jester had his way, he'd still be in the classroom teaching every day. But this has become his reality ever since he fell from a ladder in August 2016 and was paralyzed from the waist down.

"I've said over and over to my own children, to every kid in my classroom: It's easy to be a good person on good days, but how you handle these dark days will define who you are," Mr. Jester said during an interview at his Greenport home.

Mr. Jester, 70, firmly believes he will walk again one day, defying the doctors who prepared him for a life in a wheelchair after the accident. He's already exceeded expectations, regaining small movement in his legs. His mind races with the possibilities of stem cell research, always thinking like a science teacher, and he hopes to "become an experiment for someone." He thinks back to all the science lessons he taught over the decades, when he would hold up a piece of chalk and compare it to the human spinal

cord. One break leads to paralysis, he would say.

"I would tell the story about how the secret to making [the spine] grow back together is locked in the starfish," he said. "Starfish can grow back missing arms, but more importantly, the arm can grow back a missing starfish."

To those around him, Mr. Jester is the embodiment of determination, a constant source of inspiration.

"He's very vivacious and passionate about anything he does," said his youngest daughter, Amanda Sanders, who followed in her father's footsteps to become a fourth-grade teacher at Phillips Avenue Elementary School.

(Another daughter, Alison Riddell, teaches in the Greenport School District.)

"He does everything he can to help other people."

His wife, Diane, added: "He's a hard worker and he's always been upbeat. He jokes all the time."

That sense of humor has never wavered.

The back of a brace he wears has two pieces of paper taped to it.

On the bottom, it says: "KEEP BACK—500 FEET." The top sheet, posted upside down, says: "If you can read this, please turn me over and pick me up!"

The morning of Aug. 8, 2016, began on a somber note for Mr. Jester as he attended the funeral of a close friend. He came home after the services and sat around for a while. He told his wife he needed to change the oil in his truck, but first, he had a job to do.

He'd been booked to clean the chimney at a Southold home, a side job he had been doing for decades, mostly on weekends and during the summer when school was closed. It was a job he stumbled into with longtime friend Ray McKeighan. He had gotten a call one day years ago from Mr. McKeighan, who was frantically describing a glowing pipe attached to his woodburning stove. Mr. Jester told him he had a chimney fire. He raced from his home on Champlin Place over to Mr. McKeighan's house on Albertson Lane. They chopped a hole in the living room ceiling, revealing insulation that had caught fire in the attic. They extinguished the small fire. But the chimney still needed cleaning.

And just like that, they became chimney sweeps. They bought a Volkswagen van for \$200 and took out an advertisement in The Suffolk Times. Across the North Fork, residents would come to rely on Mr. Jester and Mr. McKeighan, who also taught in Riverhead, to clean their chimneys. Their business ultimately took off after they received a call from Troy Gustavson, former publisher of The Suffolk Times, who needed his chimney cleaned in Orient.

Wearing a black top hat, Mr. Jester climbed the 40-foot chimney with ease as Mr. McKeighan, who died in 2011 at age 76, manned a vacuum on ground level. Mr. Gustavson snapped photos of Mr. Jester atop the chimney, which ran in the Dec. 6, 1979, edition.

Business boomed ever since, he said. "The people I met over the years, it's phenomenal," said Mr. Jester, who dazzled a generation of children by pulling an old, soot-filled Santa hat out



Bob Jester

of chimneys. He always kept one in the van.

When Mr. Jester reflects back on the accident, he admits he made a crucial mistake. He had needed an 18-foot ladder, but only had a 16-foot ladder.

"First time I took a short cut," he said.

He climbed onto the top rung of the ladder. There should have been at least three rungs above the roof, he said. He could feel the ladder go out from underneath him, and he plummeted to the ground. The homeowner came out and asked if he was OK. Instantly, he couldn't feel anything from the waist down. He directed the woman to call 911. About a minute later, the pain struck.

"I couldn't believe the human body could feel that pain," he said.

Mr. Jester was airlifted to Stony Brook University Medical Center, where he spent the night in surgery.

"My world shattered immediately when I first heard about it," said Ms. Sanders.

He had broken 19 bones. Two rods were implanted in his back with 16 bolts going down his vertebrae. He'll never be able to bend. He spent a week at Stony Brook, then three weeks at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in New York City. He cried when three firefighters—Chief Susano Jimenez, Chris Hanold and Ed Sieben—visited him in the city. He remembers asking them how they got in. They said they were family.

"It was the first time I ever thought, they really are," Mr. Jester said.

Chief Jimenez said it was painful to see Mr. Jester in that condition.

"I've known his family for quite some time and I think of Bob as a brother, not just a brother fireman, my real brother," he said. "His mom, I love her to death; she's gone, but she was like my grandmother."

When he made it home, Mr. Jester discovered his fellow firefighters had installed a ramp at his home to accommodate his wheelchair, alleviating one of his initial concerns.

After the accident, Mr. Jester had his wife gather his firefighting equipment into a bag. They brought it to the fire department for the first meeting he could attend so he could resign.

"We didn't let him do that," Chief Jimenez said.

Instead, they offered him a deal: He can have his equipment back when he walks in and takes it. His equipment still hangs in his locker today.

"There's a challenge," Mr. Jester said.

The occasional ring of the fire scanner still sounds in Mr. Jester's home, alerting him to another call. He heads down to the fire department when he can to answer a call, even if he can't actually respond, Chief Jimenez said.

As Mr. Jester sat in his wheelchair in his living room toward the end of an interview last week, his wife rushed in to turn on the television.

A report on Channel 2 news had just started that he needed to see, she said.

It detailed how virtual reality is used to help patients dealing with chronic pain.

"I'll be darned," Mr. Jester said.

He's become an expert in the field after connecting with a company called AppliedVR, which supplied him with a headset he can wear to transport him to anywhere in the world. In late August, the company published a video highlighting Mr. Jester and his use of virtual reality. The company is primarily geared toward alleviating anxiety in young people, he said.

He once became so immersed in a video that he swatted his hand, knocking over his dinner plate. One of his favorites is a video of flying aboard a Wright brothers plane.

"I've always been fascinated with flying," he said.

He's excited to think how virtual reality could help people he meets every day at Peconic Landing. He hopes to see more technology developed specifically for older people.

He was asked to participate in a conference in California in March run by AppliedVR.

He remains committed to teaching in whatever way he can. Last week, he hosted fire safety programs at the firehouse for local children. He plans to lead a training class on chimney fires this week in Hampton Bays.

"He doesn't know the word quit," Chief Jimenez said.

The pain he feels is still constant, attacking in waves every few hours in his back and down his legs; a full night's sleep is impossible.

"It's so violent, you can't believe it," he said.

It's the kind of pain that would make anyone consider giving up. In those worst moments, he thinks back to all the people who have stood by his side and encouraged him.

He can't let down his wife, five children and other family members; he can't let down the therapists who dedicate so much time to his recovery; he can't let down the former students who years later tell stories of how he never gave up on them; he can't let down the Rev. Richard Hoerning at St. Agnes Church, who's become like a family member; he can't let down all the people he's helped introduce to virtual reality; he can't let down his neighbors, who are always willing to lend a hand; and he can't let down his fellow firefighters, who are waiting for him to take back his gear.

"I want to get well enough that I can walk on the ladder again and call those people at the house where I fell and tell them I want to come and finish, because I never leave a job undone," he said.

joew@timesreview.com

## FROM PAGE B16

and how the current conservatory students, years later, are rehearsing that same play. Rose weaves all that information into a well-organized, lyrically written article."

**BEST PUBLIC NOTICE JOURNALISM****Daily & Non-daily Division**

**1st Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD, In a Minutes Notice series, Brian J. Hunhoff. "Way to dig through minutes and make a story! Great work here! This was a big service to your community."

**BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES****Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,000**

**1st Place**—The State Port Pilot, Southport, NC, Wishin' for fishin', Renee Spencer. "Great story that provides a lot of different input from the people hosting the event and the participants themselves. Just a great, heartwarming story that was nicely done and well put together. Congratulations."

**2nd Place**—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY, It put a smile on his face, Amber Peabody. "Very close to being first place in this category. Really brings home the depth of the disease the child is suffering from while also showing the compassion that a group of teenagers (specifically the two players) can exhibit. Nicely done."

**3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, For the love of hockey, Jennifer Burden. "Nice story that brings home what the parents have gone through and the sacrifices they are willing to make for their daughter."

**Honorable Mention**—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ, Former CG Resident a living legend at UA, Brian Wright. "Good, solid feature on a very successful coach. Sometimes, coaches that successful don't open up like this. Nice job of interviewing."

**BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES****Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000**

**1st Place**—Cut Bank Pioneer Press, Cut Bank, MT, Brandon Kavanagh. "Excellent story, thorough. It helps to have such an unusual topic."

**2nd Place**—The Times, North Little Rock, AR, Gunning for a title, Donna Lampkin Stephens. "Excellent coverage of state title. Thorough."

**3rd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Tiburon teens earn third-degree black belts in taekwondo, Ann Mizel. "Stronger reporting could have made this a stronger piece and perhaps a higher placement. Regardless, it's a good story."

**Honorable Mention**—News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY, On the ball, Jenna Piper. "Good story. Some stronger writing would have made it better. Reporter did a good job of pulling the pieces together."

**BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES****Daily & Non-daily Division circulation more than 10,000**

**1st Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Alone at the top, Dan D'Addona. "Dan's narrative of a local star athlete battling an eating disorder was a moving and illuminating piece of reporting, and perhaps provides hope for those who might have similar struggles."

**2nd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Brain games: What cavitation and SmartFoam could mean for football players, Kaitlyn Bancroft. "Kaitlyn serves readers well with this local angle of how concussions affect football players, as well as who is trying to address the crisis."

**3rd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Seeing double, triple on the Heritage High School football field, Kyle Szymanski. "Kyle's feature on a football team's nine twins and triplets is a straightforward but fascinating look into their experiences and how they differ from other sibling and teammate bonds."

**Honorable Mention**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Jordan Lee Faith, Randy Rosetta. "Randy's reporting on the health scare that reshaped a local football player's future was emotionally told with bracing writing."

**BEST SPORTS STORY****Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 9,000 or more**

**1st Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Jacobey Lee, Randy Rosetta. "I couldn't stop reading Randy Rosetta's portrait of Live Oak's lovable gentle giant, Jacobey

Lee, and his unusual, complex family. Randy paces the story beautifully and peels back the layers one by one. I really felt a connection to these three parents and how their combined efforts have affected this young man's life."

**2nd Place**—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD, DeMatha is much more than an athletic powerhouse, Chris McManes. "Chris McManes paints a clear, informative, compelling picture of a legendary school that I had heard of but knew very little about. Fine work."

**3rd Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Farmers, bankers, grocers populate prep coaching ranks, Tim Gallagher. "Tim Gallagher's story of laymen coaches has a great sense of place. He shows readers the culture of Iowa farming and athletics in an engaging, relatable way."

**Honorable Mention**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, At Risk, Chris Zadorozny. "Chris Zadorozny tells a compelling story of girls' athletic careers interrupted by ALC injuries. Excellent medical explanations and terrific graphic."

**BEST SPORTS STORY****Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 9,000**

**1st Place**—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY, Phil Reed and Bob Liepa. "Very well done, especially taking the wife's perspective first. Very candid interview with her. Loved the quote about nice butt. Also digs deep into the personality of the coach by getting insights from numerous people. Very well done."

**2nd Place**—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ, Grittiness at core of Superior, Brian Wright. "Nice feature. Really brings home the guttiness of the coach and the team. Lots of smaller teams like this get overlooked, but nicely done."

**3rd Place**—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Suspects Free on Bond, Randy Dockendorf. "Tough subject to write about, but this one is very thorough and covers all of the angles."

**Honorable Mention**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Questions raised on bio of coach, Jacob Hall. "Very thorough research into everything involved here. I'm not surprised the coach didn't respond to calls from the paper. Looks like you've covered all the bases and brought up some interesting questions."

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

**1st Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI, Bowling through the years, Brian Vernellis. "A Heart-warming story of a man and his game. The well-shot video adds a lot to this story—his voice and tone would have not been able to come across in print alone."

**2nd Place**—Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH, Facebook spurs army of Ohio farmers headed for Kansas, Catie Noyes. "Great coverage of a unique situation."

**3rd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Pregnancy & Prison: The Untold Story of Women Who Give Birth Behind Bars, Jaylen Bohman and McKenna Flores. "Excellent use of video to supplement a touching story."

**Honorable Mention**—The St Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, 'Happy Birthday'—MLK March, Rebecca Rivas. "A nice video of the march, but lacked commentary. Interviews with some of those marching would have added a lot to the video."

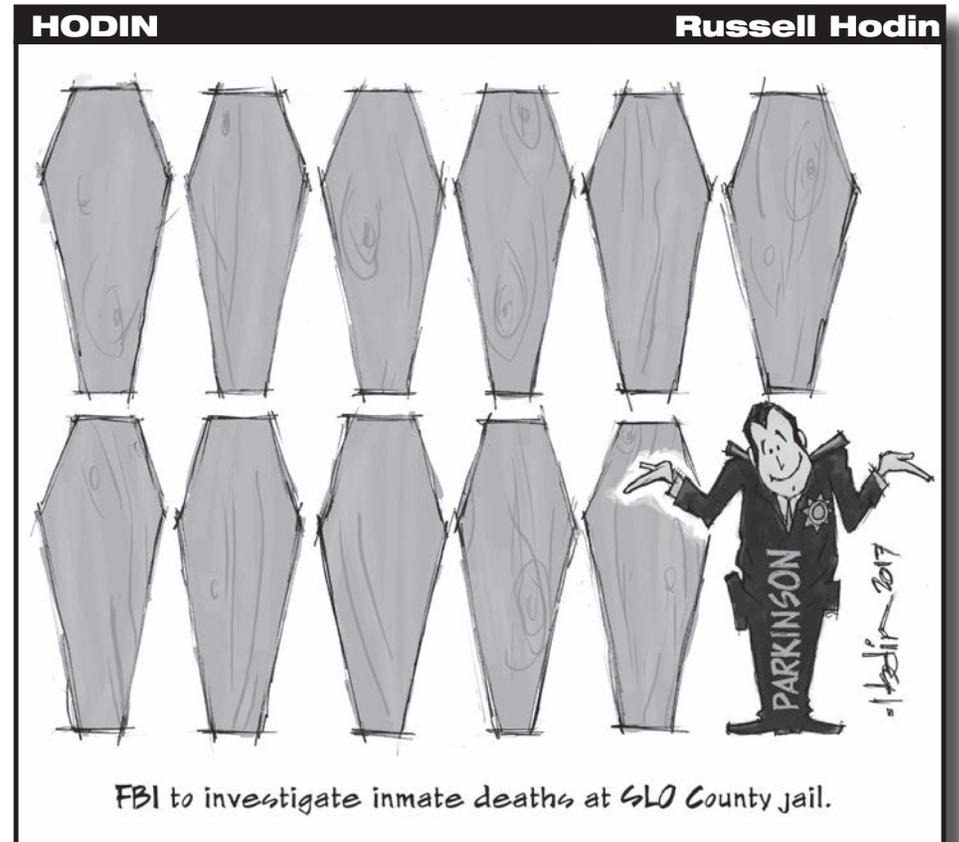
**VIDEO JOURNALISM****Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**

**1st Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY, The World's Oldest Barber, Gregory Gunder. "Wonderful story, and solid composition of the video. Could have used more b-roll over the initial video interview, but your audio was solid. Even your b-roll should include a monopod or tripod although, and try for more dynamic angles. Place camera on ground for sweeping hair, etc. Well done."

**VIDEO JOURNALISM****Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-12,000**

**1st Place**—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY, Gone, Krysten Massa, Grant Parpan, Steve Wick. "Mind blown! This was EXCELLENT—should be on TV! What a story! Absolutely brings multimedia journalism to a new level. Congrats! I watched the other parts!!! Chilling!!!"

**2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, From Maine to Mexico: A Blueberry Bakers Story, Jack Dodson. "Link didn't work, but I did a search on YouTube and found the story.



**THIRD PLACE,**  
best original editorial cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division  
By Russell Hodin  
New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA

Great video."

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Lama Foundation: Being Here and Now for 50 years, Rick Romancito. "Very interesting work. Thanks for sharing this story."

**Honorable Mention**—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ, Your News in 90, Zoe Cooper, Oscar Perez. "Very interesting newscast! Great job with the graphics, too."

**BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE****Daily & Non-daily Division**

**1st Place**—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Missourian Website, Staff. "Very balanced between the tiles and list of stories. I like the divisions. This website was easy to navigate and not as cluttered as 75 percent of the entries."

**2nd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, BYU Daily Universe, Staff. "Good website. Easy to navigate. I think it's a waste of space, though, to have two Donald Trump/CIA photos, etc. This website had a very clean appearance."

**3rd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA, PGN Staff. "Website is not too busy. I like the breakouts for opinion, A & E, columnist, etc. Easy to read."

**Honorable Mention**—The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ, Duke Kirkendoll. "What I like about this website, and that speaks for 60-year-old eyes: I like the larger print and larger photos. Your photos don't look like postage stamps. One of the only websites that offers videos. One of the easiest websites to navigate."

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE****College Division Daily & Non-daily Division**

**1st Place**—The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, CA. "For a community college newspaper, the Sun punches well above its weight with exceptionally strong writing, photography and artwork."

**2nd Place**—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT. "The Daily Universe offers the BYU community a newspaper that is engaging spectacularly in an array of important issues."

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE****Daily Division**

**1st Place**—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA. "Solid newspaper from start to finish makes this the clear winner. Excellent writing and great photography help set this paper away from the rest. Superb local news coverage and sports coverage hits a home run. The layout and design throughout are excellent. This is a very readable and enjoyable paper to look at."

**2nd Place**—Eastern New Mexico News, Clovis, NM. "A close

second. Especially love the Thanksgiving edition with a variety of holiday stories. Nice touch with the 'we give thanks' feature. Easy to read design helps set this paper apart from others. Solid effort in coverage throughout the paper."

**3rd Place**—Holland Sentinel, Holland, MI. "Eye-catching graphics help set this paper apart from many others. I love the 100-year graphic with the Michigan State Police story. Great local news coverage throughout the paper, as well as excellent photography."

**Honorable Mention** Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ. "Nice job with the total package. Love the photography. Lots of news put together in a fun and interesting package to read!"

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE****Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more**

**1st Place**—Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID. "This newspaper sets the benchmark for all others. Perfect!"

**2nd Place**—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA. "A must read for every Philadelphia resident, not just LGBT. Very well done!"

**3rd Place**—Park Cities People, Dallas, TX. "Outstanding monthly pub that does everything right!"

**Honorable Mention**—The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO. "This free weekly newspaper delivers a complete package of news, sports, ads, etc., in a very cleanly designed format."

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE****Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999**

**1st Place**—Riverhead News-Review, Mattituck, NY. "Awesome! Clean design, organized, well written, great photos, overall great product!"

**2nd Place**—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN. "Good design, easy to read and follow. Good work on all elements of the product."

**3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY. "Nice job—lots of good stories, photos. Nice layout."

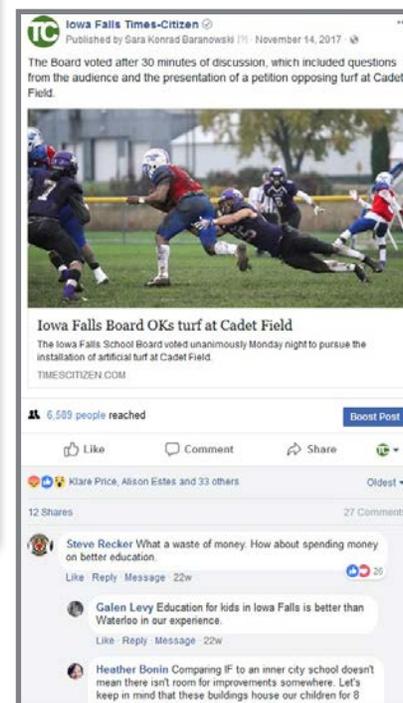
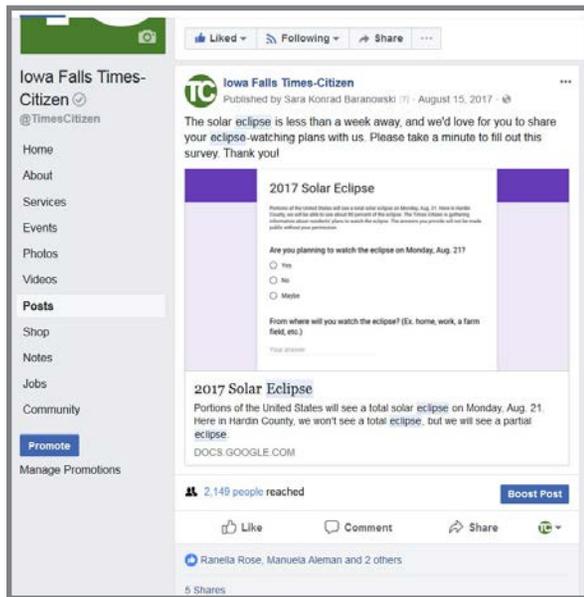
**Honorable Mention**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL. "Lots of good photo packages. Nicely organized."

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

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM. "This is a Wow! The writing is sharp and consistent throughout, which says that copy editors are on the ball. Headlines are inviting; photos are simply outstanding. There was no one category we were asked to judge that did not get either a perfect score or a 9 out of 10. The readers in New Mexico are most fortunate to have this paper to

**BY THE NEWSPAPER'S STAFF**  
**Iowa Falls Times-Citizen,**  
**Iowa Falls, IA**

First place, social media journalism  
 Daily & Non-daily Division



read every week. Keep up the great work!"

**2nd Place**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI. "Outstanding photography and reproduction. Headlines are smart and inviting. Editorial page—as evidenced by letters and local opinion—reflects an active and engaged citizenry, as well as an active newspaper. Strong features. Nothing negative about this newspaper at all. If I had to nitpick, the leads of news stories could use a little imagination at times. But not anything bad at all."

**3rd Place**—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY. "This might have had the best photos and headlines in the entire category. There really was no weakness—just some better papers competing."

**Honorable Mention**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI. "The only thing that kept this paper out of the top three was design. It wasn't that it's bad; the others were just better. LOVE the treatment of obits. We could all learn from the way you handle them."

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

**1st Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA. "Well-written with beautiful layout/design; this newspaper does everything perfectly!"

**2nd Place**—Mid-Hudson Times, Newburgh, NY. "The staff at this weekly newspaper obviously knows what they're doing, putting out a quality product better than many dailies do. Use of color, photos and design is exemplary. Very clean layout. Had to take off points though for an obvious headline typo on the front page of the June entry—New era in aviation. Also, don't understand why the Opinion page is anchored by a feature photo; an editorial cartoon would be a better fit. Otherwise, hats off to reporter Shantal Riley and the editor for stories that are a pleasure to read."

**3rd Place**—Shelter Island Reporter, Shelter Island, NY. "Beautifully designed newspaper that appears to cover its circulation area without ever missing an important story. Great use of color and photos. Love the look of the front pages and the sports coverage."

**Honorable Mention**—Hendersonville Lightning, Hendersonville, NC. "Outstanding small-town newspaper!"



**SECOND PLACE**, best breaking news photo, Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000  
 Joe Burns | Blair Pilot-Tribune, Blair, NE

**BARN BLAZE**—Firefighters battle a barn fire early Sunday morning at 5051 County Road P39 west of Fort Calhoun. A barn and several vehicles were destroyed.



**Congratulations**  
**to all the winners of NNA's**  
**Better Newspaper Contest & Better Newspaper Advertising Contest**  
**from the board and staff of the**  
**National Newspaper Association**

## 2018 Better Newspaper Advertising Contest

### BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—Aurora News-Register, Aurora, NE, Dave's Aurora Christmas Story, Dave Bradley, Karla Senff and Paula Johnson. "This contest is fun and engaging to the reader. This promotion looks like it's easy to coordinate and can be done in any market."

**2nd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, An egg hunt, Carissa Hoekstra. "This contest makes the reader look through the entire newspaper to find the Easter eggs. It is a good way to have people read and be engaged with the product."

**3rd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Snappy's Big Christmas Adventure, Scott Campbell and Jeff Martens. "This product looks like a lot of work and coordination was put into it. Each advertisement that was placed had Snappy involved, which makes the reader want to know where he is next."

### BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

**1st Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Galena EMS: Honoring 40 years of service, Staff. "Good ad idea tapping folks who don't usually advertise. Good content and great layout."

**2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Taos News special sections, The Taos News Staff. "Great ad and design. Why not toot your horn as being judged the best weekly newspaper in New Mexico for the 16th time in 17 years."

**3rd Place**—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY, Shoot then sip, Shannon Severude, Jana Cardew, Cassie Capellen, Stephanie Tarbett. "Eye catching; great idea. I'm sure the ad got lots of attention. Good job."

**Honorable Mention**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Mountain Modern Hotel, Sarah Wilson. "Great way to get the attention of the reader."

### BEST CLASSIFIED SECTION

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

**1st Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Staff. "Great use of space and color. Love all of the special features! There is something for every reader in this section. Just a great looking!"

**2nd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Staff. "Great section! Very appealing to the eye and chock full of information!"

**3rd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Staff. "Nice layout, interesting features and easy to read!"

**Honorable Mention**—The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ, Staff. "Nice, clean layout and good use of space and color."

### BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

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

**1st Place**—Preston Hollow People, Dallas, TX, Real Estate Quarterly, Pat Martin and Craig Tuggle. "This section has a modern feel to it and the content is easy to understand."

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Holiday Greetings from your local businesses, Eric Kinnaird, Sherrie Hamilton, Anne Ray, Teri Fitzhugh. "These ads are nice in size and easy to read. The use of color is not overbearing."

### BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999

**1st Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Galena EMS: Honoring 40 years of service, Staff. "The Galena Gazette's 32-page stand-alone special section honors the Galena Emergency Medical Service on their 40th anniversary and helps readers recall and contextualize the area's history. Articles from the Gazette's archives show the county's transition from funeral-parlor-provided emergency transport to today's highly trained volunteer EMTs and paramedics with equipment to match. Articles written for the section highlight the founders of the service, members of the first EMT class, the longest-serving volunteer, the newest recruits, and a father-son team. Photos support each article visually, and the center section features a photo of each current EMS member. A By-the-Numbers page shows at a glance the impact the EMS group has on the community and the cost of training. Thoughtfully

worded ads of all sizes from area businesses, service groups, political parties, and individuals add more bits of information (from an auto repair center ad—EMS: Doing the same thing as an emergency room, with 1/8 the room, less people, and going 70 mph.). Visually, the ads continue the EMS theme by using EMS logos, EKG heartbeat graphics, photos of the EMS in action, and appropriate typography. One of the most creative ads shows the iconic Piggly Wiggly porker wearing a grocer's apron sporting the EMS logo and gesturing with an open hand to a picture of the newest Galena EMS recruits sitting in the back of an ambulance. The text reads, Our thanks to the Galena EMS. Always ready to lend a hand. A strong theme conveyed through meaningful content, all essentially advertising the EMS, and supported with equally meaningful and creative community ads make this special section a clear winner."

**2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME. "When a long-time auto dealership invested in a major expansion of their service area, The Ellsworth American created a four-page insert to celebrate the reopening. As readers make their ways through Section 1 of the paper, they see first what looks like a page of business news, the first half of a timeline featuring images of Subarus from the first in 1954 to the most recent, plus articles about the expansion and about the history of the family owned dealership. The half-dozen or so ads on this page are themed, subtly, to the celebration; one smaller ad features a bunch of brightly colored balloons; almost transparent grey streamers float behind congratulatory text on a larger black-and-white ad. But as readers turn the page, they are hit with a boldly colored centerfold ad from the dealership inviting readers to a grand-opening celebration. Turn the page once more, and readers finish the articles and timeline; a final half-page ad includes almost transparent, colorful balloons behind a congratulatory message. Classy."

**3rd Place**—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ, A Salute to Memorial Day, Staff. "There's no mistaking the theme of this patriotically themed one-page ad. The Dispatch's 'salute to Memorial Day uses a tan military uniform as the background, and shades of red white and blue appear throughout. Light-blue lettering across the top gives the date, time and location across the top; red lettering gives the order of the service down the right side of the ad; white lettering lists participating organizations down the left side of the ad. Dark blue stars with white lettering contain the names of the emcee and performers. Ads across the bottom feature flags, bunting, military dog tags, military cemeteries, and related imagery and colors."

**Honorable Mention**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Homecoming Series, Alex Bokemper, Kristin Oldenkamp, Krystal Poppema, Dawn Cermak. "Area high school homecomings were celebrated by The N'West Iowa Review in a series of ads that stretched across three weeks. Each ad featured a photo of the homecoming court, an inset of the king and queen, appropriate school colors, and a layout, background, and typography matching in tone the attire of the court. Black-and-white business card-sized ads, or smaller, from businesses sponsoring the homecoming ads were arranged across the bottom third of the area. One can imagine these homecoming pages being viewed by a large number of people and added to scrapbooks, making these ads likely some of the longer-lived ads produced by the paper."

### BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5000

**1st Place**—Cut Bank Pioneer Press, Cut Bank, MT, Distracted Driving Promotion, Brian and LeAnne Kavanagh, Jonna Tafelmeyer and Jenny Wherley. "This piece really caught my attention. Great concept, as well."

**2nd Place**—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO, School Bus Safety, Darci Tomky, Brenda Brandt. "Overall concept of the bus really added to the overall appeal of the piece."

**3rd Place**—The Akron Hometown, Akron, IA, Valentine Specials, Joe Hook, Dodie Hook. "Nice grouping of ads, well balanced."

**Honorable Mention**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Back to School, Staff. "Nice piece."

### BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000-15,999

**1st Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Your Community News Source, Paul Hatton. "Fabulous ad! I love the use of the photos in the ad—I'm stealing this idea for

my own paper!"

**2nd Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Benefits of Advertising, Paul Hatton. "Great series of ads to promote local advertising. I'd love to see these all run in one issue, same position, every right-hand page—how effective!"

**3rd Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Happy Newspaper Christmas, Paul Hatton. "Nice ad with good use of artwork to catch the eye!"

### BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Tradiciones, The Taos News staff. "Great use of community faces to identify/promote the publication. Clean layout."

**2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Staff. "Clean and precise promotion of the behind the scenes."

**3rd Place**—The Grant Tribune-Sentinel, Imperial, NE, National Newspaper Week, Brooke Robertson, Samantha Goff, Bonnie Becker. "Bold and attention getting statement followed with call to action!"

**Honorable Mention**—Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA, Fish wrap, Halie Wilson. "Great use of creative humor! Getting the attention by laughing at oneself is a way to get remembered!"

### BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—The Villager, Greenwood Village, CO, Becky Osterwald. "The use of color helps the public notice sections pop out and e easier to read. The format is more modern, which draws your eyes to the information presented."

**2nd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Staff. "This public notice section is easy to read. The use of color makes the pages look more modern and grabs the attention of the reader."

**3rd Place**—The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ, Staff. "The amount of large public notices in this section is nice to see. The information is carefully placed and it is easy to read."

**Honorable Mention**—Stone County Enterprise, Wiggins, MS, Heather Anderson. "The large type on the public notices makes the information easy to read. The placement of ads makes readers go to these pages and look at the public notices."

### BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

**1st Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Living 50 Plus, Lonnie Tapia, Eric Kinnaird, Sherrie Hamilton, Anne Ray and Teri Fitzhugh. "This section has a lot of large, full-color ads. Readers are drawn to the layout of content and advertising in this section."

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Auto Guide—Cars Trucks Boats Bikes RVs, Lonnie Tapia, Eric Kinnaird, Sherrie Hamilton, Anne Ray and Teri Fitzhugh. "This section is intended for anyone who has an automobile. This broad subject makes finding advertisers for this section easy."

### BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

**1st Place**—The Pagosa Springs SUN, Pagosa Springs, CO, Pagosa Springs Real Estate and Relocation Guide, Shari Pierce and Terri House. "I liked the consistency of the presentation and typography of this section. Other sections used lots of colors and fonts, resulting in some visual chaos, but the design of this section was more thoughtful. Headlines could have been better—too many general, label headlines."

**2nd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Leelanau Color Tour, Staff. "This paper entered several impressive special sections. I thought the content of this one was the strongest of their entries. The design was more consistent and headlines were better, too. I liked the directory of advertisers. Really impressive for a fall color tour section. A better cover and better photos would have gotten this section a first place."

**3rd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI,

## The National Newspaper Association thanks the following individuals for their time and talent in judging the 2018 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest & the Better Newspaper Advertising Contest

Jennifer Chciuk  
Beth Proffitt  
Bill Ostendorf  
Amy Wilson  
Guy Lucas  
LuAnn Schindler  
Garry DeYoung  
Charlotte Wolfe  
Harry Hix  
Jody Michael  
Curt Chandler  
Linda Ireland  
Anne Anderson  
Dennis Schick  
Emily Hemphill  
Jennifer Martin-Romme  
Nancy Perlmutter  
Steven Solomon  
Daniel Richardson  
Blaine McCartney  
Steve Ranson  
Randy Keck  
Cindy Picard  
Charles Mitchell  
Rick Bussler  
Willis Mahannah  
Mark Campbell  
Laurie Ezzell Brown  
Jonathan Make  
Rosealee Hoffman

Brian Martin  
Reed Anfinson  
Zoe Cooper  
Lindsey Bell  
Matt Paxton  
Bill Jacobs  
Ken Ripley  
Cynthia Haynes  
Kate Richardson  
Frank W. Garred  
Kara Fohner  
Patricia Robinson  
Tania French  
Tim Timmons  
Bo Bolton  
Brian Melton  
Don Bowen  
Matt Adelman  
Deborah McCaslin  
Paul Keane  
Keith Wilson  
Brenda Clark  
Russ Crespolini  
Eileen Gilligan  
Walter O'Brien  
Matthew Apgar  
Jacob Byk  
Molly Colgan  
Hoke Perkins  
Whitney Rupp

Leelanau Gift Guide 11-23-17, Staff. "Even though this was just an advertising section, I liked the modular formatting of the ads and the cover was great—good color, illustration and typographic choices that went well together."

**Honorable Mention**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Leelanau Visitor's Guide 2017, Staff. "A very impressive section with a lot of good ideas, like the tickets for each town. Cover could have been stronger and the use of type and headlines weakened inside pages. Too much gimmickry."

### BEST SERIES AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Ad series—Family Eye, Carissa Hoekstra and Layce DeLong. "It can be challenging to design a very eye-catching, black-and-white ad. The photos you used really caught my eye. Nice job! I really liked the Abe Lincoln ad!"

### BEST SERIES AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Keith Donley Real Estate, STAY STRONG Port A! Elizabeth Weaver. "Good campaign—everyone stayed strong. I hope!"

**2nd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Staff. "Cute series! Dogs are the best!"

### BEST SERIES AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Staff. "Bottles and bites is the theme for this series of ads for a local bottle shop, a theme developed visually. One image, filling the upper two-thirds of the ad, features a crusty loaf of just-sliced bread, a small dish of succulent olives, and a few springs of thyme ... which sounds rather ordinary. Ah, but set against a solid black background, sprinkled with rock salt, and with a well-positioned olive fork inviting the reader to partake. Enticing, indeed. Each ad in the series features similarly striking images, wedges of cheese stacked next to a goblet of wine; slices of hard sausage with sprigs of rosemary against a dark teal background; wine pouring into a goblet while a spread of bread, cheese, and grapes awaits, catching the eyes of first-time readers and leading repeat readers to wonder what else is on the menu."

**2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Winter Harbor co-op, Staff. "What will that crazy crustacean be doing next? One week s/he's wearing a Pilgrim hat, sporting tail feathers and beak, balancing a covered serving tray on one claw, and reminding readers not to forget to pick up lobster and crab meat for their feast; the next s/he's carrying multiple multi-colored shopping bags in each claw and reminding Black Friday shoppers to pick up lobster while they're out and about. Week after week, readers are greeted with cheeky humor, a loveable lobster, and a succinct, on-point, seasonally appropriate message, all in a brightly colored, business-card sized ad."

**3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Athlete of the Week, Staff. "Each week, this State Farm agent's ads feature a clearly stated, constant theme (When I say good, you say neighbor.), and she proves her neighborliness by each week devoting the bulk of the ad space to a picture of a different local athlete and several lines of copy explaining the athlete's accomplishments. The red background and the white-silhouetted cheering crowd lifting the image of the athlete reflect the State Farm logo colors and complete the idea that she is a good neighbor to the community."

**Honorable Mention**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL, Fried Green Tomatoes, Mark Van Osdol. "Sharing the banner space is coveted ad space, and the Gazette takes the sharing a step further by having part of each Fried Green Tomatoes ad encroach into the Gazette's own space. One week the carving fork in an ad featuring FGT's Prime Time prime rib sits just behind the a in Galena. Another ad shows the a in the grip of a lobster claw, while another shows wine splashing from behind the a and onto the t of Gazette. These can't-miss ads have character."

### BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Meadowlark Ski Lodge, Stacy Bronson. "Great artwork helps you to feel the ad rather than just seeing it."

**2nd Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Roosevelt's, Elizabeth Weaver. "Creative use of fonts gives the ad a fun feel."

**3rd Place**—News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY, Perkins Tavern, Jessica Yarnes. "The reverse works here. Interesting texture to the background."

**Honorable Mention**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Smile for

the holidays, Stacy Bronson, Would have scored higher if not for the typo-whiting."

### BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

**1st Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY, Youth Mental Health, Lydia Redzich. "Outstanding ad! It conveys the message in a clear and powerful sense."

**2nd Place**—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Village Inn, Deb Campbell. "Nice use of art keeps this clean and uncluttered—less is more."

**3rd Place**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI, Gateway Lodge, Bestsy Boulden, Jo Daniel. "Creative, effective use of art. The ribbon as wine works well."

### BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, LaBarataria Restaurant Wine Bar, Elizabeth Weaver. "Overall, an eye-grabbing ad that is enhanced with good use of color. Obviously, readers want to go there to eat. Good job."

**2nd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Community Bank country connection, Carissa Hoekstra and Layce DeLong. "Of course, using a cute kid is always an attention getter, but putting them in full color makes it that much more appealing. Nice ad."

**3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Oil Xchange, Stacy Bronson. "The use of a pleasant color in a limited way is perfect to grab and hold the eyes of readers. Nice layout overall."

### BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

**1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Gorge Bar & Grill and Prcht Bottleshop + Bites, Staff. "Very eye catching. Nice color ad!"

**2nd Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Pride of the Dutchmen, Alex Bokemper. "Great design. Love how you incorporated the music notes."

**3rd Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Competitive Pricing, Kristin Oldenkamp. "Great presentation and use of color!"

**Honorable Mention**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Over 100 Years, Krystal Poppema. "I love it! Nice presentation of photos!"

### BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

**1st Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Reel pizza, Staff. "Creative use of theme-related border."

**2nd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Port City, Carissa Hoekstra. "Creative use of theme with easy-to-read motivating offer. A lot of info in a clean presentation."

**3rd Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY, Summer Science & Nature Camp, Kate Vikstrom. "Clean layout. Great incorporation of kids' smiles."

**Honorable Mention**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA, Ardon Creek, Carissa Hoekstra and Layce DeLong. "Clean layout."

### BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

**1st Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Gursky Ranch Honey, Sherrie Hamilton. "This ad is short, sweet and to the point."

**2nd Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, 50% OFF, Alex Bokemper. "This ad draws the reader in because it advertises half off their pizzas online. There is a good use of color in this ad."

**3rd Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, AGP Job Openings, Alex Bokemper. "This ads draws the reader in to work for an important industry."

**Honorable Mention**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Allergy, Paul Hatton. "This ad is simple, clean and easy to read."

### BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000-15,999

**1st Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Cleggs, Paul Hatton. "Great use of varying pinks pulled through-out the many pieces!"

**2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Sticky Chicken & Ribs—Now Open, Anne Ray. "Bumped to circulation 8,000-15,999. Stand out and clean!"

**3rd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Staff. "Beautiful purple and purple fades, Maybe a pull of one of the many logo colors as a base would tie it all together."

### BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 8,000

**1st Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Okoboji Jazz Band, Krystal Poppema. "Really liked the mix of colors. Ad really popped."

**2nd Place**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Jazz Band, Kristin Oldenkamp. "Great layout and use of colors."

**3rd Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Bilmore & Son, Elizabeth Weaver. "Really like the overall look of the color."

**Honorable Mention**—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Join an Award Winning Team, Alex Bokemper. "The heartbeat is

what sold me on this ad. It took it from plain to a very nice use of color."

### BEST USE OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN ADS

Daily & Non-daily Division

**1st Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, The Knowles Co., Staff. "First of all, I want to buy this property. The photography makes it SO enticing. Second, the ad is beautifully laid out, with a classy, engaging appearance. Well done!"

**2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Mudd-n-Flood, Staff. "Gorgeous ad, with a fun, humorous approach! It certainly catches the eye!"

**3rd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA, Chianti's Ristorante, Eric Kinnaid, Tony Kukulich. "Great ad, and hey, you can't go wrong with Santa!"

**Honorable Mention**—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Tempo Staff. "Gorgeous photography in this photo!"



**FIRST PLACE**, best sports photo, Non-Daily Division, circulation less than 3,000  
Jaison Sterling | The Times, North Little Rock, AR

**BLOCKED SHOT**—North Little Rock's Collin Moore is seen right before he tumbles into photographer Jaison Sterling during the Cabot game.

The voice of Siouxland. Print, online and mobile.

# Sioux City Journal

Founded in 1864

**Moving Wall**  
Separate display tells of Iowa who sacrificed all.

**Gilchrist Learning Center**  
Project receives \$25K state grant.

**18TH ANNUAL AWESOME BIKER NIGHTS CHARITY MOTORCYCLE RALLY**

**USDA workers take the stand**

**Awesome Biker Nights returns to Historic Fourth**

**Emerald ash borer found in Buena Vista**

**Small fire extinguished in Draper Preserve**

**Flower Power**

**Functional Medicine**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

# IDAHO MOUNTAIN Express

HAILEY RESIDENTS STILL BATTLING FLOODWATERS

KETCHUM LEADERS PLAN PAID PARKING LOT

SUN VALLEY EYES INCREASE IN SPENDING

**ROAD RALLY**  
Annual fundraiser to move south

**KURA holds off on Starbucks building transfer**

Board expresses support for move, but won't decide until August

**Small fire extinguished in Draper Preserve**

2 teens playing with lighter allegedly ignited blaze

**Flower Power**

Wildflowers blanket the valley floor below the snow-capped Boulder Mountains, north of Ketchum. Wildflowers are blooming in abundance throughout the Wood River Valley, aided by moisture from snowmelt and spring rains.

**BEST OF TAOS 2017** | TAOS COUNTY All Stars

# THE TAOS NEWS

TAOS, NEW MEXICO • JUNE 15-21, 2017 • \$1.00 • WWW.TAOSNEWS.COM

**Citizens tackle downtown Taos' future**

**Choosing treatment**  
County mulls plan for jailed youth

**Lifting the veil on domestic violence**

**'Dangerous' Des Montes intersection causes frustration**

**Functional Medicine**  
Let us get to the root of the problem.

**FIRST PLACE**, general excellence,  
Daily Division  
Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

**FIRST PLACE**, general excellence,  
Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more  
Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID

**FIRST PLACE**, general excellence,  
Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999  
The Taos News, Taos, NM

The Livingston Parish News

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS SOURCE

**BETTER NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS**

Visit [nnavweb.org](http://nnavweb.org)  
or call 217-241-1400, ext. 300

**\$49 per year**  
**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
Saving 42%

**\$7 per month**  
**MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION**  
Community news delivered straight to your mailbox

**ONLINE | IN PRINT | SOCIAL MEDIA**

**FIRST PLACE**, best newspaper promotion,  
Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000-15,999  
Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA

**JOIN US AT OUR NEW LOCATION**  
NEXT TO THE HISTORIC TARPON INN  
224 EAST COTTER STREET, PORT ARANSAS, TEXAS

**Brunch with a twist**  
Enjoy Champagne or mimosas with your Sunday brunch with all bubbly 1/2 PRICE

**Sunday 11 AM - 3 PM**

**La Barataria RESTAURANT & WINE BAR**  
RESERVATIONS 361-749-2212 | WALK INS ARE WELCOME

**FIRST PLACE**, best single ad idea, color  
Daily and Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000  
Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX





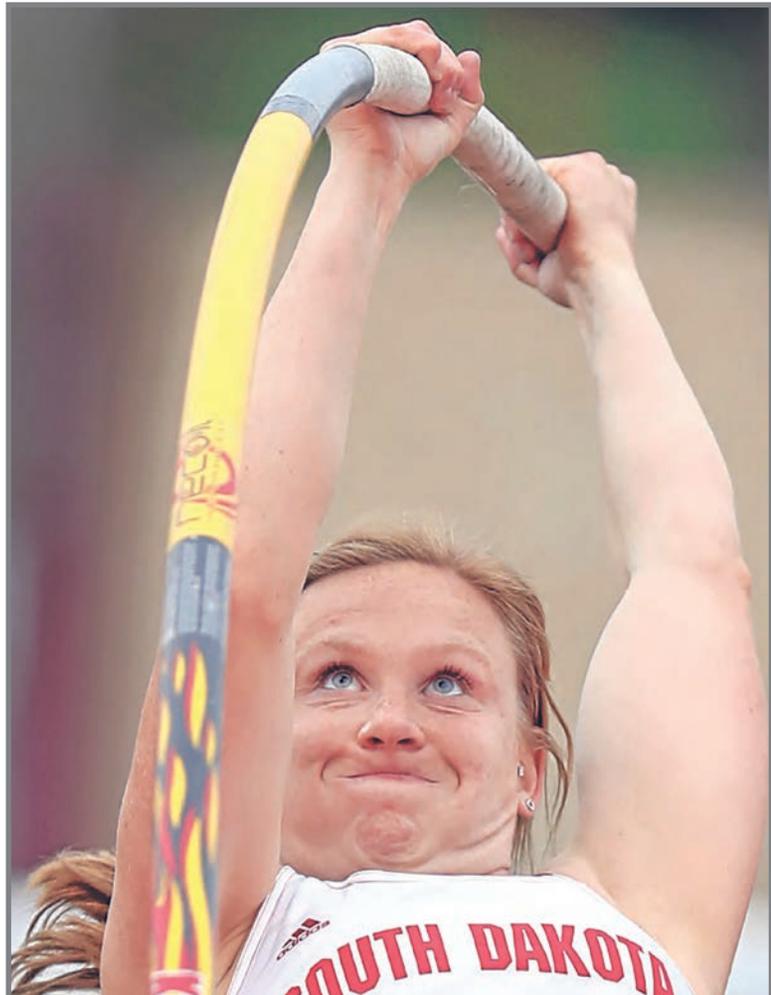
**SECOND PLACE**, best feature photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-9,999  
By Melanie Fritz | The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN

**THEY'RE CHEERING FOR ME!**—Special athlete Casen Arnold of White Pine shows his excitement at the encouragement he's receiving from Jefferson County High athletes Imani Bryant, Ryleigh Fritz and Makaila Woolard during his race at last week's Special Education Field Day. The event—featuring special education students from every county school—was held Tuesday at the JCHS track.



**SECOND PLACE**, best sports photo, Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-4,999  
By Phillip Harnden | Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY

**SIDEWAYS BASKETBALL**—Tyrel Leman flies above the heads of teammates and Herders after his high-speed dunk during the final showdown between Glenrock and the Bearcats last Tuesday.



**FIRST PLACE**, best sports photo, Daily Division  
By Jim Lee | Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

**NO ONE BETTER**—South Dakota's Emily Grove not only smashed her own Sioux City Relays pole vault record, but her effort of 15 feet, 1 inch is the best in the nation this year. Grove competed Friday at Olsen Stadium in Sioux City. Competition continues today.