

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2017 BNEC, BNAC & NAE



FIRST PLACE, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation 10,000 or more
By Adam Jamont | The Orland Park Prairie, Orland Park, IL

KID ROCK—Looking at this photograph, I feel like I know how that young drummer feels. The captured motion, focus, angle and colors gave me the impression of a complete package.

**NNA's 2017
Better Newspaper Editorial Contest,
Better Newspaper Advertising
Contest & Newspapers And
Education Winners**

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

**BNEC & BNAC
OVERVIEW**

Entries came from 37 states;
160 newspapers sent in a total
of 1,654 entries; and 117 news-

papers were selected as win-
ners and received a total of 475
awards.

Awards were presented Oct. 6,
2017, in Tulsa, OK

NAE FUN FACTS

Entries came from 5 news-
papers; 5 newspapers were
selected as winners and received
a total of 7 awards. Kidsville
News!, a literacy and educational

newspaper, based in Fayetteville,
NC, sponsored the contest.

BNEC FUN FACTS

1,433 entries were received.

BNAC FUN FACTS

221 entries were received.



FIRST PLACE, Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999 The Transylvania Times, Brevard, NC

Grown up
After a lot of pollicking, the first crops from Vertical Harvest are on the shelves at stores around Jackson, 3B
Obituary: 13B

Far Afield
Sharp-shinned hawk makes a meal out of a collared dove, 2B.

Chase Lockhart wrangles a newborn calf that was unable to feed from its mother at Lockhart Ranch. After the cow was milked the calf was able to feed normally.

Babes in the valley
Farms and ranches are busy and happy with newborn animals.
By Erica Dahlby

A newborn kid feeds last week at Winstor Winds Farm in Victor, Idaho. Newborns are kept sequestered with their mothers for about a week to make sure they take to one another.

FIRST PLACE, Best Family Life/Living Section/PaDaily & Non-daily Division Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999 Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY

YOUR GUIDE TO HIGH DESERT LIVING

Welcome TO THE ANTELOPE VALLEY

General Excellence
National Newspaper Association

RECREATION • COMMUNITY • CITY SERVICES • LOCAL BUSINESS • ENTERTAINMENT

Valley Press
Sunday, October 30, 2016

VIEW THIS ISSUE ONLINE FOR FREE!
Visit www.press.com
Click on "Featured Sections"
Click on the "Welcome" tab

FIRST PLACE, Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st Place—Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC
Horry County police corruption coverage, Tom O'Dare and Charles D. Perry

This defines what policing by community newspapers means. A lot of hard work, dedication and extra time made these stories happen and as a result, your community is stronger and resulted in more faith in both the system can work and why newspapers are important.

2nd Place—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA
Moonshine Ink Collaborations and Commitment

This entry represents an Incredible amount of research and hard work. The issue becomes alive because it focuses on real people, real families and real needs and how a housing shortage affects the entire community and not just those without a place to call home. Best of all this series brought new housing to the area.

3rd Place—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN
Rick Bussler

It's disheartening that we still have to focus on this issue but since we do, the approach you used is impressive because it shows that even decades later. A drunk driver's actions still affect the world. It also highlights the effect drunk driving has from the family to law enforcement plus the costs emotionally and economically on the community. One thing that would have added to the series would be stories from a convicted drunk driver who caused one of the fatal accidents and then a counselor for the convicted driver or the victim's family.

Honorable Mention—West Milford Messenger, Chester, NY

West Milford Messenger Tackles Opioid Epidemic, Linda Smith-Hancharick

This is definitely a topic which needed to be addressed but I want more information. How many related drug arrests have occurred? How much has this cost the community? Is it affecting education? How does it affect families? Drug addiction affects more than the user and while it is important to have a name with the problem the problem goes much further. The stories are very well written however and touch the heart which can inspire people to help solve the issue.

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

- 1st Place**—The Azle News, Azle, TX
Stink to think... Mark K. Campbell
Not only hysterical, but educational too. Who could ask for more? I laughed out loud. It was "a gas!"
- 2nd Place**—The Barberton Herald, Barberton, OH
My 1940s Western Auto baseball glove, Ho Hoffman
An enjoyable and charming read.
- 3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
Little boys' bedtime tactics, Jennifer Burden
A fun writing style.
- Honorable Mention**—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
He's off - and running, Ken Fuson
Snarky good fun!

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

- 1st Place**—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA
Out of my dog league, Rebecca Rose
Very funny, with just the right tone of envy and ridicule. Excellent.
- 2nd Place**—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA
Coughgazi, Rebecca Rose

Funny and relatable. Everyone has a "couch" issue to deal with. Sometimes it's even a couch.

3rd Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
William P. Warford

Funny, creative and satirical at the same time. Good job.

Honorable Mention—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
Parting Shot, Bruce Miller

Gently humorous, sweet and nostalgic. Must have struck a chord with all pet owners.

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

- 1st Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD
How to Brush a Hostile Cat, Olivia Hunhoff
This column teaches a lesson to more experienced writers: Brevity aids comedy. Her lines are punchy and to the point. It's from her experience, but it's observational, not self-referential.
- 2nd Place**—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD
Worst Kool-Aid ever (and other stories), Brian J. Hunhoff
Not all of the anecdotes in the column work, but many do, and all are short enough that the reader is going to give them a chance. Overall, a homey read that would brighten a reader's day.
- 3rd Place**—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA
Advocate News humorous column Wilton clowns, Derek Sawwell
A humorous situation that will linger with the reader, but too much "I" interposed between the reader and the situation.
- Honorable Mention**—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE
Rob Dump
A cute take, with a nice personal tone.

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

- 1st Place**—Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH
Memories of Gram, Kymberly Seabolt
These sorts of columns are usually a dime a dozen, but the writer really brings her grandmother to life. Especially effective are the details of the house. This is very good writing.
- 2nd Place**—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Opinion national park column, Josh Rhoten
This piece was timely, well-written and researched. Readers certainly learned some things they didn't know, not only about national parks but international sites as well. Nice job.
- 3rd Place**—The Northbrook Tower, Northbrook, IL

Symphony, Sarah Haider

There is some vivid writing here, especially when weaving music and the weather. This is a very solid column and encouraging, too. Super job.

Honorable Mention—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA

A 40-year PGN journey, Mark Segal
Fighting the fight is not easy when so many have opposing views. Clearly, the folks at PGN have stuck to their guns through the decades and this column informs readers on just how perilous that journey sometimes was (is). Nice, informative column.

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

- 1st Place**—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA
I'm growing marijuana, Mike Buffington
Impressively well-written. Lead was great, ending was strong, and I really enjoyed how the writer went into a broad breakdown and then transitioned into the personal angle. Perfect mix of fact and emotion.
- 2nd Place**—The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO
Stand in the footprints, Tammy Witherspoon
There were a lot of complex matters, broken down very simply in this column. It brought a reasonable point of view to something that could have easily been sheer emotion. Bravo, very well done.
- 3rd Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA
How do we make sense of a tragedy like this?
Scott Campbell, Compelling. Writing style and structure were excellent, and the conveyance of emotion was just the right amount.
- Honorable Mention**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
We the People, Racey Burden
Very well written, and brave. Excellent threading of the needle on a subject that is certainly emotional for your readers.

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

- 1st Place**—Northside Sun, Jackson, MS
Dilapidated roads column, Wyatt Emmerich
Pretty much everything a really good serious column should be: researched, angry and informative, but with some suggestions for fixing the problem.
- 2nd Place**—Northside Sun, Jackson, MS
Time Running Out as Infrastructure Begins to Crumble
Wyatt Emmerich
Nearly as powerful as his first-place column, and a bit less

NNA's 2017 Better Newspaper Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspapers And Education Winners

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

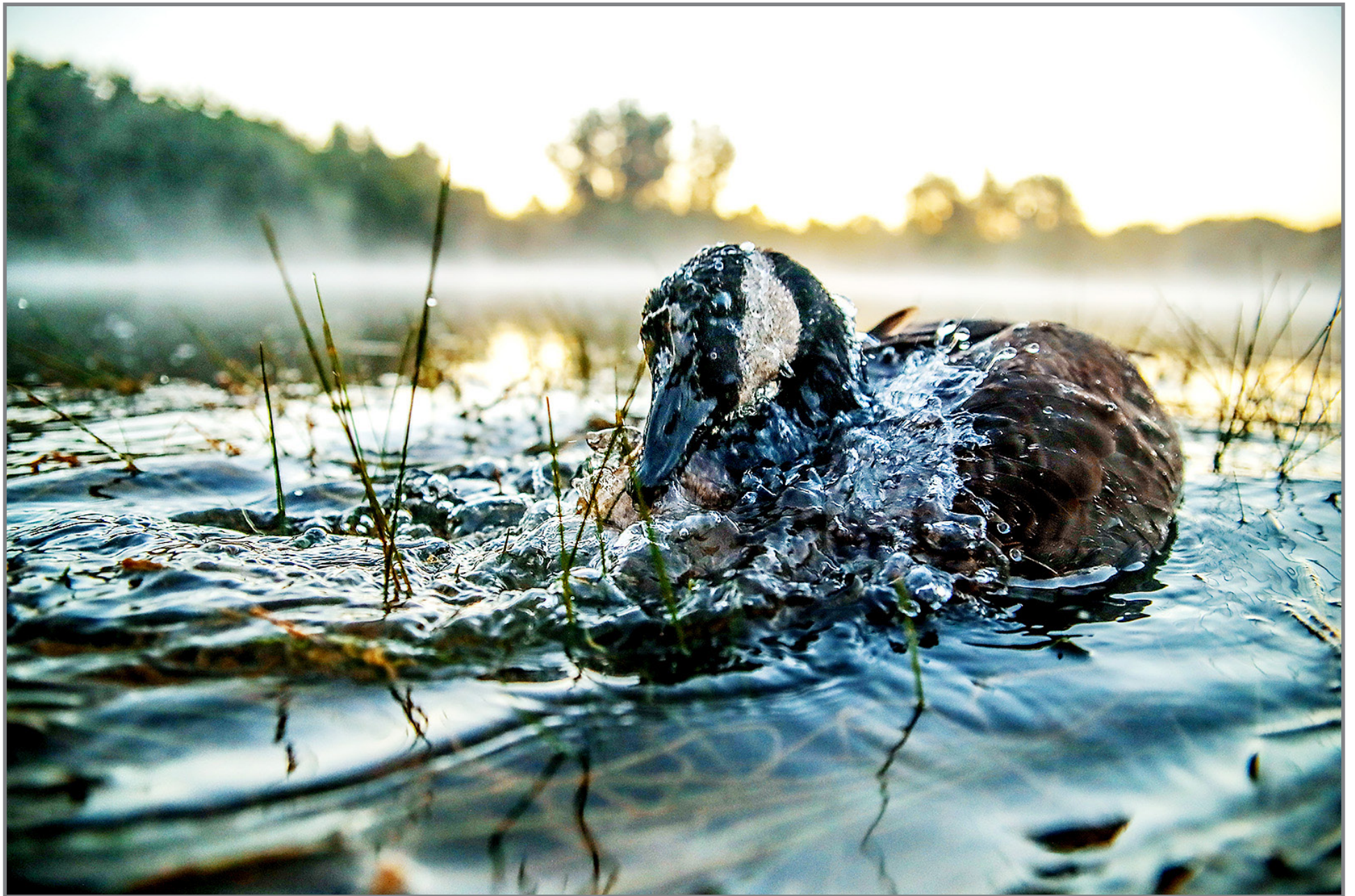
WENDY MACDONALD
Sales and Sponsorships Manager

STANLEY SCHWARTZ
Communications Director

LYNNE LANCE
Chief Operating Officer
Director, Membership and Member Services
National Newspaper Association

Compilation © 2017, National Newspaper Association, all rights reserved. Stories and photos © 2016-2017 by original copyright holders, reprinted with permission. Contact original copyright holders for reprint permission.

Published by the National Newspaper Association
900 Community Drive, Springfield, IL 62703
217-241-1400



FIRST PLACE, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation 3,000-5,999

By Josh Harrell, The N' West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA

GOOSE BATH—A Canada goose tosses water on its back Wednesday morning at the Bruce Schomaker Recreational Area north of Boyden.

angry, but every bit as pointed, and with good reason.

3rd Place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI
Old tractor helps tell the story of Jim Flohe, Alan Campbell
A sweet tribute to a community stalwart of the type we don't see much anymore.

Honorable Mention—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI
Acing one of life's most difficult tests, Alan Campbell
A personal story that growing numbers of readers can relate to, from the parent's or the child's perspective.

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

1st Place—Dodge County Independent, Kasson, MN

Teach your children well, Mark DeLap

A beautiful and well-written tribute.

2nd Place—Morgan County Press, Stover, MO

Notes of Interest, Litton's Life Affirmed, Robin R.D. Fish Jr.

A meaningful, well-done reflection, tastefully handled.

3rd Place—The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, KS

Along the Sappa, Steve Haynes

Balanced and thought-provoking.

Honorable Mention—Clay County News, Sutton, NE

Tory Duncan

Made me teary! Nice job.

BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

1st Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

Baseball collision, Tim Gallagher

Written in the present tense, the author is both eyewitness and correspondent. The immediacy of his writing, written in short,

almost breathless sentences, is what stands out. A punchy

writing style and good quotes make this column a clear first-

place winner.

2nd Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

Tim Haddock

Amusing approach, clever hook for a story that's had lots of ink thrown its way. Made us chuckle, and for that alone, it would have earned second-place.

3rd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

Sportsmanship, Jeff Budlong

Nice acknowledgement of an athlete who, with one simple gesture, demonstrated the true character that we long for in our sports heroes. Well done.

Honorable Mention—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

Tim Haddock

Almost clever headline (guess "whom" would have been too fancy?) and a nice turn of phrase or two were enough to earn

this column third-place among a fairly lackluster group of

entries. Stronger lede would have helped.

BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

1st Place—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Saved by a \$35 facemask, Korey Mallien

Korey's argument for the wider use of facemasks in softball

is a strong one, benefiting greatly from the account of a recent

instance when it may have saved his own daughter's life.

2nd Place—The Taos News, Taos, NM

'State of the Courts: Are Taos-area courts being used and

efficiently maintained?' Nov. 10-16, 2016, Arcenio J. Trujillo

Arcenio's writing stands out for its elegance, and he makes

great use of this column to start a conversation about the

area's dilapidated basketball courts ahead of his publication's

upcoming series on the issue.

3rd Place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK

Team Johnny, Adrian O'Hanlon III

Aside from sharing a great story about a longtime scoreboard

operator fighting through a cancer diagnosis, Adrian's column is

additionally impressive for its concision. Few things are harder

to write than a strong column that's 500 words or less like

this one.

Honorable Mention—The Ada News, Ada, OK

Noodling on the Weekends, Jeff Cali

Jeff's absorbing, locally focused columns, including this

charming piece introducing readers to an impressive area

"noodler," are something to cherish.

BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

1st Place—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA

Coach DeLong, Derek Sawvell

A great column that really encapsulates the coach's life and

how people felt about him. It really pulls on the heartstrings

while passing on all the relevant info.

2nd Place—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA

Advocate News sports column Janey Botkins, Derek Sawvell

This is a great story and tells this girl's story well. It feels

more like a player feature than a column though. I also feel like

it could have been edited down to a less wordy length.

3rd Place—Clay County News, Sutton, NE

Tory Duncan

It's a nice piece and a good recap of the team with a preview

of what's to come. I would rate it higher, but there were some

errors in the middle, including a run-on paragraph that could

have used different punctuation.

Honorable Mention—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton,

SD

Adding Letich to HOF was great for following reasons, 1-8

Brian J. Hunhoff

It's well written and a cool recollection of the former player's

accomplishments. It comes off a little condescending in places,

though, like the writer is venting about how long it took for him

to be inducted into the hall of fame.

BEST HEADLINE WRITING

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st Place—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA

Best Headline Writing, Staff

Solid headlines, with some cleverness. Good job drawing the

reader in and avoiding dry, narrative headlines.

2nd Place—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY

Headline writing, Bulletin staff

Good headlines throughout. "Common thread" was especially

nice.

3rd Place—Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX

Ace in the Hole and Pokemadness, Jason Collins, Laura

Campbell, Chip Latcham

Good stuff on 1A, inside headlines taper off somewhat.

Honorable Mention—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI

Leelanau Enterprise Best Headlines, Alan Campbell, Amy

Hubbell, Patti Brandt Burgess, Eric Carlson, Jay Bushen

Pretty good across the board. Just needs a bit more spark, or

playfulness in places.

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

1st Place—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY

Best local news coverage, Bulletin staff

Outstanding newspaper. News of every ilk found in this paper.

Readers have no excuse to not know what is happening in this

county. If someone were starting a newspaper and asked about

what the news coverage should look like, I would recommend

they check out this newspaper. Solid news reporting along

with interesting feature stories. Government, sports, business,

arts and entertainment, education, social events and groups,

religion—that and more included in coverage. Also, as well-

written as any of the entries.

2nd Place—The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ

The Fountain Hills Times

A comfortable read. Something for everyone coverage. As a

reader, I appreciate the way the news is packaged. Readers

can find the type of news they want and it's all together. Most

stories are concise, but informative, and the story count is high.

Stink to think: Loving your body emissions

BY MARK K. CAMPBELL,
The Azle News,
Azle, TX

First place, best humorous column
daily & non-daily division, circulation 3,000-7,999

It's been a long time since I've had to start a column with a disclaimer but ... some people might find the following disgusting and stupid. Oh, and it also has f-words in it.

A recent British study (is there any other kind?) has shown that passing gas can be tremendously beneficial to your health – and to that of those around you. I don't know how these studies get done or funded or what poor souls have to undergo the discernment and compilation of evidence, but I'm glad they did.

According to “Dr. Nandi” on Facebook—I think he's real because his profile picture shows him wearing a white medical jacket—pooting not only helps you live longer but might actually prevent dementia.

Gaseous body emissions also aid in the diminishment of cancer, heart attack, and stroke chances, apparently.

So if you truly love your family, you'll let 'er rip whenever possible.

The magic bean for farts (there's a warned-about f-word that used to be verboten in civil society) is that the odor contains hydrogen sulfate.

Then comes this magical sentence from the good doctor: “Researchers believe inhaling it actually causes your brain to grow stronger and protects your brain from dementia.”

Inhaling “wind” makes you smarter!

Lots of people owe me decades' worth of

‘GASEOUS BODY EMISSIONS also aid in the diminishment of cancer, heart attack, and stroke chances, apparently.

apologies—I've been increasing folks' brain power since the '60s.

It's my understanding that every actor from the campfire scene in Blazing Saddles went on to become titans in academia.

Sometimes you find out things about your spouse after you're married, and the Bride discovered quickly that I

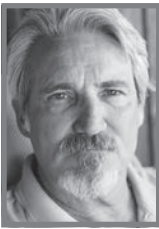
could be a tad gassy at times. It's a great relief—in many ways—that after you marry you no longer have to exert control over so many body issues.

We were so poor when we first wed that passing gas was our main entertainment.

(Well, I found it far more entertaining than she did.)

Throughout my lifetime, I've witnessed some historic funk—on both ends of the spectrum.

I once worked at a fire hall with a group of guys that bravely took on the challenge of keeping one another from getting dementia by literally eating the worst stuff they could imagine the night before they came on shift duty.



Campbell

I saw a guy once make a roomful of firefighters flee from a room, one exclaiming over his shoulder, “If you're sick, go to the hospital!”

We should all live forever!

There's another benefit from trouser trumpeting: It joins music as a world unifier.

Backside ballistics are truly universal. Everyone of every race, color, creed, gender, transgender, whatever emits their own personal hydrogen bombs. Hillary, Trump, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Caitlyn Jenner, Walmart cashiers, Queen Elizabeth, Glenn Beck, Roungned Odor – they all stink!

The comment section of Dr. Nandi's post about thunders down under is hilarious. Posters from Africa and India and all over tell tales of noxious emissions that literally got them removed from conference rooms and vehicles. The stories are eye-wateringly funny.

Married women from every place on the planet proclaim that they will now live forever thanks to their husbands.

So clearly there are health benefits from cutting the cheese—the average person toots 14 times daily—and Dr.

Nambi joins sophisticated folks like Ben Franklin who said “fart proudly” and Louis C.K. who quipped “you

don't have to be smart to laugh at farts, but you'd be stupid not to” in the never-ending quest to make heinie hiccups more socially acceptable.

I once heard a truism at a funeral where a son was eulogizing his father saying his dad insisted: “There's never a time when a fart isn't funny.”

And now they are good for you, too!

So, if you're near me one day and a silent but deadly event should occur making me giggle just a little—you're welcome.

Good variety of news—schools, arts, business, clubs, government, features, etc. No doubt, your readers feel informed.

3rd Place—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ
Charles Zavalick

Wide variety of news. Range and breath of coverage offered to your readers is excellent. Doesn't shy away from hard news, but does offer a nice selection of feature stories—some particularly interesting like the one about the farm boy. Sports, business, education, social activities, arts and entertainment—all are represented. A solid editorial product.

Honorable Mention—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Staff

Good variety of news and special sections each issue. Tackles the tough news, such as the superintendent search story, and keeps readers informed on government and law enforcement. But, the news balance includes some quite interesting features and wide range of sports, arts, social, and other news. The Extra with each issue certainly attracts readers, and the other special section is done well. Good newspaper.

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

1st Place—The Pharos-Tribune, Logansport, IN
Jacob Graf death, Kim Dunlap

Again, hard-hitting stories (gun accident, hostage) that draw attention and emotion.

2nd Place—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY
The Suffolk Times Staff

Becker stories bring new life to old story. A variety of topics—something to interest almost any reader.

3rd Place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT
Daily Universe Staff

An exceptional amount of coverage for a college paper. Stories reach beyond the campus to other events around the area, and photos are creative.

Honorable Mention—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN
Steve Marion, Dale Gentry, Gayle Page, Kimary Clelland
Great lead photos. Stories of local interest. Reporters give voice to those in the communities.

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

1st Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA
Ark Staff

Sharp writing and clean layouts are hallmarks of this very polished publication. The Ark draws readers in with excellent front pages, a good mix of stories and strong photography.

2nd Place—Dodge County Independent, Kasson, MN
Dodge County Independent

Good, newsy coverage and deft use of photography. Strong police blotter.

3rd Place—The Journal, Crosby, ND
The Journal, Crosby, ND, Cecile Wehrman, publisher

Solid coverage of news, sports and business. Good columns add to the mix. Agriculture supplement was well done, with an attention-grabbing Temple Grandin story.

Honorable Mention—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA
Derek Sawwell, staff

The March 3 Makeover Issue guided readers through effective changes, with special sections and social media logos. Good use of photography.

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st Place—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Bradly J. Boner, Ryan Dorgan, Kathryn Holloway, Nick Stonecipher, Ben Shafer

An easy choice. This publication took my breath away from first page to last, with its stunning photos, graphics and design, so beautifully, crisply, cleanly presented on every page. Hard to imagine what a thrill it must be picking up this newspaper each week.

2nd Place—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY
The Suffolk Times Staff

Nice photos, well displayed throughout publication. Appealing use of feature photos on front page, in addition to clean layout and effective use of white space, were determining factors in choice of this entry for **2nd Place**.

3rd Place—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX
2-18-16 and 2-25-16

Color, content and composition of photos all embody the spirit of this community. Very inviting. Dan Parkers “whoopers” and Mardi Gras spread were especially appealing. Wish quality of photos were more consistent throughout.

Honorable Mention—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT
Daily Universe Staff

Quality and use of photos is very good, though composition is sometimes unimaginative. Find new perspectives. Surprise us more. Liked the mix of photos and graphics in review of year. Very attractive publication.

BEST EDITORIAL

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

1st Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Editorial state leaders budget crisis, Brian Martin

Almost a little longish yet there are no wasted words. In a state that apparently has no balanced budget requirement, this needed to be said. Clear message that delivers. Excellent job.

2nd Place—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX
It takes a village, Examiner staff

A topic that some folks might not think deserves this much attention, which is exactly why this well-written piece was necessary. Some plain speaking that speaks volumes. Hope the point is taken.

3rd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
Opinion: Neither Clinton nor Trump earns endorsement, Michael Gors

There were a lot of editorials with the same message this year and this is one of the best. Like many of them, it sort of left the reader wondering how Clinton's (many) flaws made her equally as unappealing as the Trump the editorial spoke about, but - again - it was a common message. Nice job.

Honorable Mention—Northside Sun, Jackson, MS
Ben Allen editorial, Anthony Warren

Well done piece on something that no doubt happens in some form in a lot of places other than Jackson, Miss. Nice style, good questions, well put.

BEST EDITORIAL

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

1st Place—The Altamont Enterprise & Albany County Post, Altamont, NY

“Preventing harassment can be a matter of life or death” editorial The Altamont Enterprise & Albany County Post

Very well written editorial addressing a critical issue in our schools. Personalizing the editorial with the young girl's comments gives it a powerful impact. Well researched for facts.

2nd Place—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ
Editorial on Gov. Christie's push to eliminate legal advertising in print, Elizabeth K. Parker

Well written editorial on an issue important to newspapers and the public. It challenges Christie's attempt to punish newspapers and clearly states the adverse impact it would have. Its timing was perfect as the NJ Legislature debated the bill.

3rd Place—Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX
Doing its best to destroy the commercial real estate market, Chip Latcham, Jeff Latcham

Provides readers with important background and detail on why business real estate taxes are unfairly going up. Important issue for community.

Honorable Mention—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA
Impressions, Bill Tubbs

Good editorial on a sensitive topic. Well written with solid presentation of reasoning to support its point of view.

BEST EDITORIAL

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

1st Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Jail suicide, Steve Bagwell

Terrible situation, excellent editorial. No punches pulled yet no piling on. Such an obvious miscarriage of - well, everything - one would think writing about it would be easy but that is not the case. Superior work.

2nd Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Debate on landfill fate, Steve Bagwell

Very well-done job on a very serious issue. Any reader should get a clear view of the problem and the newspaper's position, and that makes for a very effective editorial. Nice job.

3rd Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Throwing civility under the bus, Ossie Bladine

Ouch. Almost too biting but clearly a huge problem that needed to be exposed, and this editorial puts it as plainly as it could have been put. It's hard to make people do the right thing, but this shined a lot of light on some dark matter.

Honorable Mention—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI
Northport should hire outside family, Alan Campbell

Almost unbelievable this would happen anywhere, but a good job of pointing a finger at those involved and making a point about doing the right thing even at this late date. Took some nerve. Well put.

BEST EDITORIAL

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

1st Place—The Yankton County Observer, Yankton, SD
State must fix bloody Highway 46, Brian J. Hunhoff

Very thorough, engaging editorial that does a good job of explaining why the road is so dangerous. Though often editorials spend some time explaining why readers should agree with the newspaper, this one lets the facts speak for themselves. (The poem at the end was a bit cheesy and unnecessary, though.)

2nd Place—Springtown Epigraph, Springtown, TX
Standing up for Springtown, Mark K. Campbell

Though it isn't really a call to action by readers, this editorial is well-written and lets readers know why they should be proud of

3rd Place—The Observer, Dundee, NY
Under the lights, Brandon Lawson
Great shot with perfect lighting to make the field glow in the nighttime.
Honorable Mention—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN
Olson chills out opponent, Barbie Porter
The look on this kid's face is priceless- great capturing of a fantastic moment!

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more
1st Place—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC
The Pilot, Blessing of the Hounds Photo Essay, Ted Fitzgerald
I had to go back and forth several times between this collection and the second-place winner. What a fun event! A good variety of colorful photos push this collection to the top! Well done!
2nd Place—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC
The Pilot, Dogs Rescued From Blaze Photo Essay, Glenn Sides
I had to go back and forth several times between this and the first-place winner. The images of the dog being saved and given oxygen is heart-breaking! Had the top two photos not been similar, I would have placed this first.
3rd Place—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA
Burnt out, Jayson Mellom, Bob Rucker, Cindy Rucker, Peter Johnson
The top three submissions easily rose to the top in this category. There's a great collection of images here. A simple, but powerful front page and a good blend of detailed photos.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

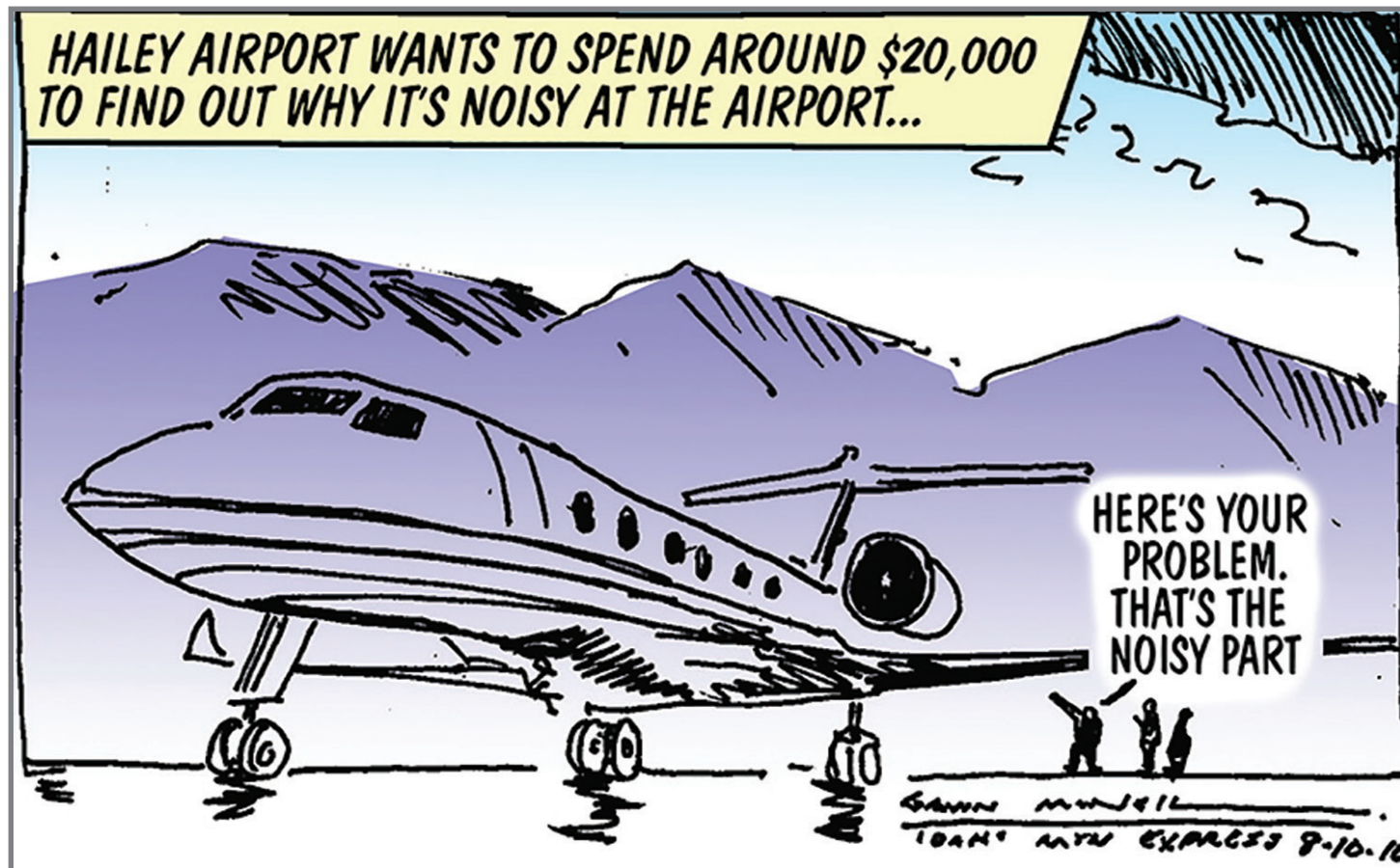
Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-5,999
1st Place—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
Ally Doorenbos - Thirteen years of education, Josh Harrell
A comprehensive, year-long look at the life of a student. Balanced between candid and anticipated shots. You capture Ally's routine and share it with readers. Definite storytelling elements to this piece. Photos are crisp. Perfect.
2nd Place—Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO
"A Civil Civil War", Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
That dominate photo pops! WOW! Same with the cannon shot. When I look at layout, I look for photos that capture emotion and tell a story. Some photos could be cropped in tighter so readers see the full story. Brilliant color. What a fun event to cover.
3rd Place—The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL
Hinsdale Central salutes vets, Jim Slonoff
Good use of dominate photo. This photo essay is effective in black and white. Each photo has backstory. The students holding the flag and the two veterans sharing a laugh - excellent captures.
Honorable Mention—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV
Thank you - Recognizing heroes who serve their country, Laci Thompson
Great color layout of photos that tell a story; however, be careful that there aren't too many that are stationary... (like photos of graves). Those do not tell as strong a story. Vary sizes. Overall, decent job of saying thank you and recognizing those who serve.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000-12,000
1st Place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN
Seniors shine in 'Addams Family', Dale Gentry
Six photos shine in this essay capturing the energy and color of the play. Action shots, close-ups and group shots make me want to attend this play. The photo essay was a delightful way to cover the play.
2nd Place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
We remember 2016, Staff
A terrific idea for recalling coverage of the past year. I like the mix of old photos and photos of the editors and journalists. I wish the photos were run bigger; why not over 4 pages? Some of the photos are terrific, others just OK.
3rd Place—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Remembering Rhoda, Katharine Egli
A good choice for covering this memorial for a Taos ski valley founder. The photo essay is interesting and the photos show the area in which it took place.
Honorable Mention—Hood County News, Granbury, TX
Dream come true, Mary Vinson
Nice variety of shots. Need another Action shot! Would a photo essay of a boys' game include more action shots? I believe so. The one action shot included cuts off the ball. This photo essay focuses more on emotion than the championship game, although the big photo of the fans shows an angle often missed.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000
1st Place—The Journal, Crosby, ND
Butterfly child, Brad Nygaard, Cecile Wehrman
Powerful subject with photos that are heart-wrenching. They



FIRST PLACE,
best original editorial cartoon, daily & non-daily division
By Gavin McNeil
Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID

vividly depict the life Elizabeth and her family live—they compel you to read the story to find out more about her life.
2nd Place—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE
Best Photo Essay - swim meet, Tyler Schank
Creative photo taking and very nice layout.
3rd Place—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN
State Gold, Stacy Moe, Cally Nundahl
Good photo essay illustrating the competition, costumes and team. Could have used a little more white space to separate photos.

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Daily Division
1st Place—Clinton Herald, Clinton, IA
Dodging the tag, Jon Gremmels
This category had some outstanding work, and was difficult to judge because each entry brought something different to the table. I am going with this photo for **1st Place** because of a combination of getting a great action shot along with the human emotion element.
2nd Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Struxness, Blaine McCartney
This is a fabulous photo, and was a very close call for **1st Place**.
3rd Place—Daily Sun News, Sunnyside, WA
Nitro crash, Roger Harnack
Wow - what a visually intriguing shot! Good job.
Honorable Mention—Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO
Walk-off follows mouth-off, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
Great emotional shot - this photo tells the story with no other explanation required.

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more
1st Place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO
Punches Away, Bill Battle
Amazing shot to show the goalie's reach.
2nd Place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO
The Champion, Bill Battle
It's not always the action that steals the show as in this case with an emotional victory.
3rd Place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO
Nose for the Ball, Bill Battle
Great timing to capture the ball hitting the player.
Honorable Mention—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA
Different directions, Crystal LoGiudice
Nice capture and alignment with the girls going different ways for the ball.

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

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

1st Place—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV
Fallon wins at Fernley 3A season opener, Thomas Ranson
Nice job of catching the peak of the action on the play.
2nd Place—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
Good ride, cowboy!, Ben Ramsey
Critical focusing and timing were key in making this an award winner.
3rd Place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN
Play at the plate, Stephen Wiblemo
Shows good action and the fact you can see the ball in the catcher's unit.
Honorable Mention—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA
Laying out for it, Ben Munro
Nice shot of the player laying out with critical focusing to highlight the ball.

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999
1st Place—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
Dutch tag host Mustangs, Josh Harrell
Detail, Sharpness, action—all the elements for a prize-winning photo.
2nd Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Diving for the pylon, Rockne Roll
Nice to see a really good photo getting the play it needs in terms of size. Great capture of the action in what appeared to be less than ideal conditions.
3rd Place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN
Safe at home, Melanie Fritz
Melanie- great job of timing the action and capturing the great detail in the shot, like the flying dirt.
Honorable Mention—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
League bouts emotional, Josh Harrell
Focusing on the team members versus the wrestler made the picture and told the story. Your use of depth of field was critical to the success of this photo.

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000
1st Place—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE
Wynot State title, Jeremy Buss
This photo says it all. It tells a story that is newsworthy. The backboard sets an interesting frame and the crowd and photographers on the floor are blurred background noise. Color is balanced and the beams from the lights puts the moment in the spotlight, so to speak. Excellent photograph!
2nd Place—Morgan County Press, Stover, MO
Alex Haag Soccer Photo, Chris Johnson
What a photo! It tells a story that encompasses the action. Balanced color and composition. Would like to see a bit more rule of thirds in the action, which is mostly centered. Even a

square shot can implement the thirds rule effectively. Great capture!
3rd Place—Wilton-Durant Advocate News, Wilton, IA
Advocate News best sports photo Kublik play at plate, Derek Sawwell
Great color and balance. The storytelling element of the photo is not as strong as some others in this category, but readers should be able to surmise the outcome. What gets my attention is the cloud of dust swirling from the slide. One downfall: the cut-off person in the background. It's awkward.
Honorable Mention—Oakland Independent, Oakland, IL
Soaring past all expectations, Janice Hunt
Overall, a good shot, EXCEPT for the position of the person in background at end of the approach. It makes it awkward. Black and white is effective. I don't feel it would have as much impact in color. The shadow capture - superb.

BEST REVIEW

Daily & Non-daily Division
1st Place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK
The Reel Dish, David Dishman
David Dishman best accomplishes what a good review—of any work—is supposed to do: he describes the work well enough to tell the readers what happened and then with a critical eye gives the readers intelligent reasons why they should or should not see, read, listen, or hear the reviewed work. Good job!
2nd Place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK
Springsteen's 'Born to Run' a compelling piece of literature—Nov. 4, 2016, James Beaty
James Beaty's review of Springsteen's book is well written, not only describing the book and giving background but also giving readers good reasons they should want to read the book—the ultimate goal of a review.
3rd Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Shocking. Insulting. Hilarious, Starla Pointer
Starla Pointer's review of a local play production of "The Producers" is entertaining, descriptive, and gives readers great guidance on whether they should see it. It also reveals the reviewer's sensitivity to the local theatrical community.
Honorable Mention—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
Jake Owen, Bruce Miller
Bruce Miller's review of a concert performance by Jake Owen concisely and deftly gives readers a good idea of what happened with an informed appraisal of its quality, the purpose of a review. It was entertaining and informative.

BEST FAMILY LIFE/ LIVING SECTION/PAGES

Daily & Non-daily Division
1st Place—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Valley sections, Johanna Love
Captivating photography makes these sections pop. What a



First PLACE, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000

By Rick Bussler, Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN

STEELE COUNTY FAIR—First Hannah Mundt, 14, from the Pratt Commandoes 4-H club takes a well deserved break using her Brown Swiss cow, Hawaii, as her dream catcher.

great way to take advantage of the beautiful area!

2nd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
Siouxland Life May 2016, Journal staff
Great coverage of local culture. After reading this, I'm planning a trip to the Tulip Festival!

3rd Place—The Lancaster News, Lancaster, SC
Living Pages, Athena Redmond
Very unique idea! Members of that class will hold onto the section for the rest of their lives.

Honorable Mention—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI
Divisions 6-23 and 7-21, Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt Burgess, Eric Carlson, Jay Bushen
Great spotlight on local culture

BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more
1st Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

Welcome, Valley Press Staff
All-inclusive publication—well organized, designed and written. A great tool for anyone coming into the area. Well done.

2nd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
Siouxland Football Preview, Journal staff
Excellent sports preview - nice layout/design

3rd Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
Future Leaders 2016, Valley Press Staff
Great idea - well packaged to highlight these young people.

Honorable Mention—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA
PGN's Commemorative 40th Anniversary Edition, PGN Staff
Well documented coverage.

BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 3,000-9,999
1st Place—The Transylvania Times, Brevard, NC
Bike2016, Sean Trapp, Leigh Trapp, Park Baker

In a category filled with visitor guides, this one jumped out. Nearly 80 pages to specific audience. Pages popped with color and pertinent information about the area and biking. Not a biker, but after paging thru this I want to visit and pedal.

2nd Place—Blair Pilot-Tribune, Blair, NE
2016 Progress, staff
Excellent from page 1 to back cover. Roughly 80 pages of creative copy, photos and ads done in an easy to read style. Stores were short yet informative. Most story content of any entry, something all entries should take note of.

3rd Place—Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX
2016 Fayette County Visitors Guide, Jeff Wick, Regina Keilers, John Castaneda, Becky Weise

Today, this is 3rd place in a tough class because of variety—guides, progress editions, sports editions, etc. The top 3 for sure could all be No.1 in someone's book. Very informative and attractive. The layout was nice, but not as theme-oriented as the top two.

Honorable Mention—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Welcome to Wise, Wise County Messenger
Another nicely packaged guide. A lot of material in a unique design. Good information-ad mix. One thing — this was online section and it took forever to load, regardless of browser on high speed connection — not good if you are an average reader... but didn't count against you — nicely done

BEST SPECIAL NEWS, SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000
1st Place—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO
Emerald Awards, Darci Tomky, Brenda Brandt, Karen Orner
A simple but compelling section honoring educators and school staffers with thoughtful community-oriented awards. Each recipient is treated equally, with a q&a-format sidebar that adds levels of interest to the reading experience. Lots of pictures, and additional comments from the people who



FIRST PLACE, best breaking news photo, non-daily division, circulation 10,000 or more
By Gregg Jones | Washington Missourian, Washington, MO

ENGULFED IN FLAMES—Fire crews from Boles, St. Clair and Union fire districts fought this blaze on Interstate 44 near the Union exit Thursday at 1:48 p.m. following a crash that involved three tractor-trailers. According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol preliminary report, this 2007 Kenworth driven by Cris E. Squibb, 51, Springfield, Mo., slowed to make a stop and traveled into the left lane of traffic when his trailer struck a 2012 Volvo driven by Johnny M. Nunnery, 55, St. Charles. The impact pushed the front of the Nunnery tractor-trailer into the rear of a 2007 Freightliner driven by Benny W. Leach, 62, Van Buren, Ark. The Nunnery vehicle, hauling car batteries, and Squibb vehicle, that contained hundreds of gallons of paint, both caught fire. Nunnery had minor injuries, the patrol said. All three drivers were wearing seat belts.

nominated the winners are included. Themed advertising from the award sponsors complete the package. Very well done.

2nd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA
Home - Sept. 28, Ark Staff

With beautiful full-color images throughout, this home decor special section is a pleasure to page through. Original stories that profile local design sources are well written, and the short guide to items that can be found shopping locally is a nice boost for the business community. Good work.

3rd Place—Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC
Coastal Carolina University wins national championship, Staff
From the front-page takeover to the five-page section inside, this celebration of a national championship, brought home to small-town SC by the local college baseball team, is nicely played. Good pictures and follow-up reports on several players, along with coverage of the victory parade, make it a keepsake.

Honorable Mention—Clay County News, Sutton, NE
Section - Best Special Feature Section, Clay County News Staff
While the clipart chosen is clichéd, and typography and writing somewhat clunky, the presentation of large photos is quite well done. The subject is what makes this section worthy of an award: There's so much more than just sport when it comes to extracurricular activities in local schools, and highlighting these interests for the community is a worthy endeavor.

BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

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

1st Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
Journal staff

Excellent photography and use of graphics. Consistently strong leads from the writers, every story got me immediately interested.

2nd Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
Valley Press Sports Staff

Writing was tight and leads were compelling. Layout was easy to read - you have a lot of information crammed into a tight space but it was extremely easy to understand what was what. Nicely done.

3rd Place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO
Washington Missourian Sports, Bill Battle, Michael Alvey
Extremely comprehensive coverage, I enjoyed reading about some of the "lesser" sports.

Photography was great.

Layout got a little cluttered, sometimes I had trouble telling what was what and my eye got lost.

Honorable Mention—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT
Daily Universe Staff
Fabulous layout, very nice to read.

Writing was great, but as an editor I'd suggest snappier, catchier leads. We know the team started practice, but why should we care? Get me more involved.

BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

Daily & Non-daily Division circulation 3000-9000

1st Place—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Door County Advocate sports pages, Korey Mallien
Very clean layout with fine coverage of multiple sports. This layout was most pleasing of all entrants and that made the difference. Text heavy at times but this is very good work.

2nd Place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Richard Greene, Joe Duty, Wise County Messenger Staff
Exceptional coverage of multiple sports with superior photography. This is a very good sports page.

3rd Place—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA
Staff

Really nice photos here. Stories are incredibly long and could be broken up with pull quotes or graphics, but it's impressive that sports are so well covered.

Honorable Mention—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
Staff

Comprehensive coverage, certainly. Photography was above average and the stories detailed. Solid work here and readers must appreciate the effort.

SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

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

1st Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
WTE Social media, Josh Rhoten

Great mix of social media to engage readers in the most effective way, based on the content covered.

2nd Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Frisco Edition, Pflugerville, TX

Frisco social media, Lindsey Juarez, Nicole Luna
Great job engaging readers in a minimalist format - less is more.

3rd Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Lake Travis Westlake Edition, Pflugerville, TX

Lake Travis social engagement, Lake Travis staff
Great use of available tools to more effectively tell a story.

Honorable Mention—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Gay News, PGN Staff

Great coverage of events impacting the local readership and their values.

SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

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

1st Place—Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA
Iowa Falls Times Citizen Social Media, Times-Citizen Staff
Great mix of photos, videos, and stories.

2nd Place—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA
Moonshine Team
Great use of videos.

BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

1st Place—The Taos News, Taos, NM
'Learn from Taos hopheads: Grow hops, brew beer (and taste a few, too)
John Miller

Without question, the most entertaining and informative entry in this category. Great writing.

2nd Place—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD
Bon Homme County: Wrestling With The Future?, Randy Dockendorf

This was a good story - it could have been a great story. One of the audience quotes buried in the middle and end would have made a strong lede. Don't make me work so hard to become interested.

3rd Place—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA
Into the ground, David Minsky

Outstanding entry about big business vs. small farmers and who has say over a precious commodity - water. Your audience appreciates your efforts and I hope you continue the great coverage on a life-or-death issue.

Honorable Mention—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY

Chef chooses cheese, Erika Dahlby
Enjoyable read.

BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

1st Place—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
What the hay?, Tom Lawrence

Well written story that addresses important environmental issue and potential violation of the law. It educates farmers and the public as it covers a sensitive topic. Writer had to do some research to provide readers with accurate perspective.

2nd Place—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA
Jersey Jewel, Scott Campbell
Interesting story that is well written. The writer gives the reader good background information and explanation of what makes the calf such a jewel.

3rd Place—The Journal, Crosby, ND

When the Cows Come Home, Sydney Glasoe Caraballo
Good story about the hardships of raising cattle on the prairie when wind blows the snow into impassable drifts. But it is also entertaining and informative.

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Daily Division

1st Place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK
Bank president slain in robbery, James Beaty, Glenn Puit, Parker Perry

Outstanding coverage of a very sad story. Excellent photos of the robbery scene and aftermath. The writing was clear, crisp and descriptive. Good job tying in reaction from various people to the tragic outcome. Also appreciated that you did not leave readers hanging by providing a great follow-up story. My only concern was the placement of the original story on the front page. I think it could have been designed better and given more prominent treatment. Overall, excellent work!

2nd Place—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD
Cleaning Up, Randy Dockendorf

The writer hooked me right away by taking me to the scene and detailing the devastation. Excellent job. I liked how the story was personalized rather than straight facts from the officials. Great photos also helped tell this heart wrenching story.

3rd Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Breaking retirement shooting, Sarah Zoellick

This package had all the elements of outstanding coverage of a major story: great action photos, pull quotes, large headlines and good story telling ability. I appreciate the personalized angle versus officials at the beginning. The consoling photo was dynamite.

Honorable Mention—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Breaking plane crash, Kristine Galloway

This certainly didn't have as tragic of outcome as many of the other stories in this category did. But this entry deserves placement for its great story telling abilities and the personal hook with the crash survivor. Great work!

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

1st Place—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA
Truth or lives, David Minsky

My favorite kinds of news stories are those that make a compelling case for more than one position—and this is just that kind of story. In terms of protecting the public, this was good police work; yet the idea of law enforcement fabricating press releases would be an obviously troubling trend, with the

Worst Kool-Aid ever (and other stories)

BY BRIAN J. HUNHOFF
The Yankton County Observer,
Yankton, SD

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

It's Almost Over: In four days, we will know the result of the nastiest presidential campaign in my lifetime. I doubt many people will miss the endless lies and name-calling and fear-mongering.

We need a break from the negative political noise, so I searched my memory bank for anecdotes that always make me smile. Consider this column my attempt to offset the bad joke this election has become.

Add Sugar? This summer, I came home from a late night bike ride and saw a brim-full clear glass of grape Kool-Aid on the kitchen counter. I shook my head because youngest daughter, Olivia, has a habit of leaving drinks sitting around ready to be spilled.

I was thirsty from my bike ride so—before pouring her purple drink in the sink—I took a big gulp. Yuck! It was TERRIBLE!

I'd swallowed some, but spit out the rest and went to Olivia's room to ask what she put in my Kool-Aid! "That wasn't Kool-Aid, Dad," she said. "That was my paint water. I was doing watercolors."

Olivia thought this was hilarious, so she is trying to recreate the moment. She has been putting food coloring in glasses of ice water and leaving them out before going to bed. Sometimes she adds a note with a smiley face that says, "For Daddy."

One More Time! During this year's South Dakota Senior Games in Aberdeen, everyone was inspired by a 96-year-old gentleman in the 400-meter dash. He really gave it his all. His daughter was at the finish line recording the whole race and cheering him from the start.

In fact, everyone cheered the seasoned sprinter to his finish and we continued to applaud while he stood there smiling and catching his breath. Then the guy with the starter's pistol walked over and jokingly said there was a computer malfunction, and he had to do it all over again. The 96-year-old stepped back and looked shocked for a moment, then laughed.

Those in attendance have a new hero. It was impressive to see someone in their 90s taking jokes after running 400 meters. I suspect that man is having a pretty good life.

Honest Mistake: Congratulations to Jim Anderson, who is celebrating his 25th year as advertising manager of the Observer. I've always said that hiring Jim in 1991 was the best thing I ever did for this newspaper. Jim has many amusing stories from his career in ad sales. Here is one of my favorites:

Some years back, Jim drove over to Tyndall to sell an ad at Frank's Trading Post. He walked in the front door and asked if Frank was around. "He's out

back," the clerk said.

Jim walked around back and saw a man changing a tire. "Hi, Frank," he said. "I'm Jim Anderson." He then made his sales pitch, remembering the old Dale Carnegie advice about a man's name being the sweetest music to his ears.

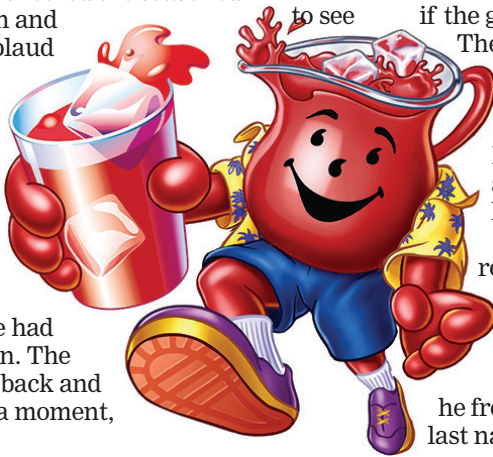
Jim was saying "Frank" this and "Frank" that and finally stopped talking to see if the guy would buy an ad.

The man hesitated, but agreed. Jim took out his notebook and said, "By the way, Frank, sorry I have to ask, but what is your last name?"

"Frank," the man replied.

Jim was surprised. "Your name is Frank Frank!?"

"No, it's Fred Frank," he frowned. "Frank is my last name!"



Farm Boys: As the youngest of eight sons, I enjoy reading our mom's journals about life on the Hunhoff farm before I was born. Here is an entry from 1958: "Today is Sunday and the boys are making popcorn. But they aren't being very good about it. It seems to sound as if someone got real mad at someone else and spit in the bowl of popcorn!"

"I'm usually sorry each time I give them permission to make popcorn," she wrote.

Don't Forget to Flush: Father Ron Mrozinski once told me his most embarrassing moment was, "Forgetting to turn off my lapel microphone while

using the bathroom before a Sunday service."

Don't Forget to Blush: Kathy Lindquist was working with a farmer on a loan application for soybeans stored in a grain bin. "I asked the farmer for his measurements, meaning measurements of the grain in the bin," she said. "His reply was, 'If you tell me yours, I'll tell you mine!'"

"Never phrased the question like that again," she said.

Thumbs Down! Our daughter, Emily, was age two or three when we took her to a movie called, "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." She was not impressed. Twenty minutes in, Em stood up and said, "Take me home. I don't believe it!"

Role Modeling: Several years ago, Observer Ad Manager Jim Anderson and a friend dressed up as Batman and Robin and went to a Halloween party at the Yankton Inn. They were standing poolside and enjoying a cold beverage when a couple of kids walked by.

One boy said to the other, "When I get older, I'm gonna drink Old Mil just like Batman!"

And Finally, a farmer from Bon Homme County took a vacation. As he was getting off the plane in Honolulu, a native girl in a grass skirt placed a lei of flowers over his shoulders.

"Aloha from Hawaii," she said.

"Hovorka from Tabor," he replied.

potential to gnaw away at a community's trust in their police. I found myself unable to decide which side I agree with—great job!

2nd Place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT
Protestors deliver sexual assault petition to BYU urging policy changes, Kristen Kerr, Jordan Murray

This story deserves to be widely read! That BYU would effectively punish rape victims is appalling. Reporter does a very thorough job of talking to all the relevant parties and letting the facts speak for themselves.

3rd Place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA
Best Breaking News - Stunning, sudden floods, John Dupont Good, old-fashioned on-the-ground reporting, coupled with heart-wrenching photographs. Story really drives home the scope of what happened!

Honorable Mention—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA
Philly, nation respond to Orlando massacre, Jen Colletta, Paige Cooperstein

A touching tribute to the Orlando victims, and a nice example of local reporting about an event of national significance.

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

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

1st Place—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY
That Was My Dad, Nick Balatsos, Jen Kocher, Cody Tucker Kicker and headline grab attention. Excellent lead that draws reader in. Timely. Good flow in structure. Sad situation, but the reporter captures the essence of the moment. Excellent writing.

2nd Place—Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX
Republicans Can the Willow Springs Ballot Box, Andy Behlen Hate to admit it, but I had to read the headline out loud before it clicked with me. :) Now it makes me smile. Interesting

situation. Thorough and well-written piece. Timely.

3rd Place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN
Seven of 16 accused priests served in McLeod County, Jeremy Jones

The straight news lede works, but it does not grab attention right away. Headline is good. Important story for community and region. Timely coverage. Thorough investigation and writing.

Honorable Mention—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
Kids' project makes waves, Jen Sieve-Hicks
Straightforward lede. Headline could be beefed up; for me, it does not capture the importance of the story. Well-written coverage, with multiple sources included. Timely — extremely timely and relevant. Sentence and paragraph structure is good.

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

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

1st Place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI
Fire razes home during cherry harvest, Patti Brandt Burgess Great details from the victims that added interest.

2nd Place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN
Couple pulled from burning home, Steve Marion
Good lead and I like how the names of the firefighters who responded are included. That's local reporting at its best.

3rd Place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Victim of fatal Ellsworth fire a WWII veteran, Steve Fuller Reports facts and then goes deeper to give rich picture of fire victim's life.

Honorable Mention—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI
Doors locked in Empire, Patti Brandt Burgess
Good reporting.

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st Place—Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC
Hurricane Matthew/flood coverage
Staff

Assuming this is the first issue after the disaster, and considering the challenges of publication as a result of the hurricane, this is spot on coverage and worthy of recognition.

2nd Place—Eden Valley-Watkins Voice, Eden Valley, MN
Alayna Ertl, Laurie Schultz and Michael Jacobson
Assuming this is the first publication after the incident, this is a very good story and the sidebar brings the little girl to life. I would have liked a bit more explanation on the suspect's connection to the family and trial date information.

3rd Place—Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, MN
Best Breaking News, Rick Bussler and Kyrie Bussler
I'm assuming this is the first issue after the hearing otherwise it's not really "deadline" breaking news. However, understanding the nature of non-daily newspapers this is well rounded coverage of the case with related sidebars. Nice job.

Honorable Mention—Eden Valley-Watkins Voice, Eden Valley, MN

Student's Organ Donation Saves Lives, Laurie Schultz
Well written, moving quotes from family and friends. Wish I knew what organs were donated and how to become an organ donor because that was important to the deceased. I'm assuming this is the first paper after the tragedy because it's not "on deadline" otherwise.

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Daily Division

1st Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
CF moves toward completion of \$2B expansion at Port Neal,

Dave Dreeszen

Good story with lots of concrete details (no pun intended) that add up to a strong descriptive picture of the expansion and how it will work. The by-the-numbers box adds to the overall package as do the photos with informative cutlines. Well done!

2nd Place—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS

The kind of place where everybody knows your name, Chris Haxel

Good story that makes the "neighbors" label come true. Good anecdotal lede and conclusion. More info about the bar, menu, size, etc., would be good to know.

3rd Place—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD
Tatanka Golf Course Tees Off For Its Grand Opening, Randy Dockendorf

Nice story about a new, interesting golf course. The writing seems a bit jumpy (with two typos). I would like to know one of the Native American stories to be told at each hole. Good use of sources.

Honorable Mention—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD

A Pet Project, Randy Dockendorf

Good story focusing on all aspects of the plant dedication.

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Flour, yeast and magic, Starla Pointer

Vivid, descriptive opening to a well-structured profile that goes a long way to making you feel you know the subject.

2nd Place—The Taos News, Taos, NM

"Behind the bar at 'The Alley'" John Miller

The story has a great, vivid, descriptive opening that sets the

I'm growing marijuana

BY MIKE BUFFINGTON
The Jackson Herald,
Jefferson, GA

First place, best serious column
daily & non-daily division, circulation 3,000 - 5,999

I'M GOING to grow a marijuana plant.

That's probably not legal in Georgia. Our state is rather uptight about pot plants, as if there were something inherently evil about them.

If there is an evil plant, it's kudzu, not marijuana. I think we should outlaw kudzu and arrest anyone who has it growing on his property.

My pot plant is really something of a civic protest against absurd state policies that prevent children who suffer from seizure disorders from getting help.

There is a chemical found in marijuana plants that appears to help those who suffer from seizures. This cannabis oil isn't the mind-altering THC that gives pot users a high. It's another chemical called CBD.

To its credit, the Georgia Legislature passed a bill last year that allows Georgia residents to have 20 oz. of CBD for medical use.

But there's a problem. There is no way to grow, process and extract the CBD in Georgia. You can't get that medicine here because state law won't allow anyone to grow or process pot plants for medical research.

Those who suffer from seizures have to go to another state to get CBD. That requires Georgia residents to become residents of another state to qualify.

It's a mind-altering legal tangle that snares families in a Catch-22.

Since last year, the state has continued to study medical marijuana. But a commission studying the issue voted not to pursue allowing the pot plants to be grown here for medical study. State law enforcement officials oppose the idea of medical research on marijuana because they believe growing the plant can't be controlled. Gov. Nathan Deal agrees and is also opposed to growing the evil plant for medical research.

That would be funny if nobody was currently cultivating marijuana in the state. Obviously that's not the case — Georgia has one of the highest arrest rates for marijuana in the nation. All that weed is coming from somewhere.

Back in the 1970s when I was in high school, a fellow classmate approached me and several others about pooling some money for him to grow pot plants on his family's extensive farm property in Jackson County. He had all the details worked out with irrigation, etc. The idea was to split the profits following the harvest.

I was broke and didn't have a dollar for gas, much

less an illegal pot scheme. I don't think my reluctance deterred him. Which is to say, marijuana has been grown in Georgia for decades.

Some of the comments opposing state medical research of marijuana are absurd.



"Cultivation of marijuana is against federal law and as a law enforcement officer I'm not going to support anything that is contrary to federal law, not contrary, just violates federal law," Georgia Bureau of Investigation director Vernon Keenan said. Keenan was on the study committee and voted "no" in allowing medical research.

But how does one square that view with state leaders who have repeatedly threatened to go against federal law in other matters? Gov. Deal had threatened to violate federal law in not accepting Syrian refugees and backed down only after his own attorney general said he couldn't do that.

Even last year's approval by the state allowing possession of CBD technically violates federal law. Bringing in CBD oil across the state line is a federal violation, yet the Georgia Legislature approved a state law that would do just that.

I've written about this issue before. It's personal with me.

I have a son who for 15 years has suffered from potentially deadly seizures that can't be controlled with conventional medicines.

They weren't controlled from two devastating brain surgeries.

They aren't controlled with a medical implant.

He has ended up in the hospital too many times to

count.

Compared to many others, my son's been lucky. He's had the care of the best epilepsy doctors in the nation. He's consulted with experts in Boston, Montreal, Detroit, Atlanta and New York. We've corresponded with doctors from other countries. He's tried every one of the drugs currently available for his kind of seizures. He's been considered for every known available treatment approved in this country.

Still the seizures persist. Sometimes, seizures have put him in an ICU with a tube down his throat and his veins pumped full of powerful drugs in an effort to stop a seizure that threatened to kill him.

I wonder if GBI Director Keenan or Gov. Deal have sat in an ICU by their child's bedside wondering if he would live or die because a seizure was storming his brain?

I don't know if some substance from the marijuana plant will help my son. We have been down so many dead-end trails that we long ago stopped expecting a miracle. This, too, may prove to be a false promise.

But even if there is only a slight chance that some chemical from the pot plant can help his suffering, and the suffering of thousands of others, then our society owes it to them to study the possibilities.

How can anyone, especially our state's top leaders, slam the door on medical research?

And let's be honest about the politics of this: If a substance in the marijuana plant was thought to be a cure for breast cancer, every legislator in Georgia would put on one of those damn pink ribbons and trip all over himself to vote to allow research to happen.

Epilepsy sufferers don't have pink ribbons, or the political clout, or the millions of dollars for lobbying, or the votes of Georgia's women who are concerned about breast cancer.

Epilepsy sufferers are mostly children who don't vote, children who exist in the shadows of medical research, children who cry for help in silence as the state's political leaders wring their hands over a fear that allowing medical research of CBD might somehow make them look like they approve of the marijuana.

And so, as a simple act of civil disobedience, I will put the seed of an evil marijuana plant into a pot of dirt. This spring, I will water it and watch it grow on my sunny front porch.

That one plant may not help my son today, but it will keep alive my hope that someday Georgia's leaders will take off their blinders and allow medical research on a simple green plant that might help him, and others, in the future.

Mike Buffington is co-publisher of Mainstreet Newspapers, Inc. He can be reached at mike@mainstreet-news.com.

scene well. It's the best first paragraph in the category. It does not round out the bar and particularly the owner as well.

3rd Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Rock around the shop, Tom Henderson

Good detail in a good snapshot of a business and business owner, and it's well organized, but it's not deep.

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st Place—Oakland Independent, Oakland, IL
Carr retiring from barber shop at 83, Janice Hunt

This story about a retiring barber touches on his business and personal history, as well as on the future of the local shop. It's a clear and compelling narrative. The quotations included from the subject are excellent. The photo, which was taken by the author, is a perfectly composed portrait. Well done.

2nd Place—The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL
Grocery bustling as holiday approaches, Pamela Lannom

This slice-of-business-life piece offers a look behind the scenes during one of this grocery store's busiest seasons. The entire package is well composed, with a group of photos that help tell the story. Good work.

3rd Place—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
Brewing a new name, Jennifer Burden

This cautionary tale of a trademark challenge spotlights a risk that some small-business entrepreneurs fail to consider. It answers why a local business will have to change its name and start over on the branding in which it had already invested.

Interesting research.

Honorable Mention—The Ark, Tiburon, CA

Peninsula woman turns sweet tooth into success, Diane Smith
This profile of a candy store owner is quite interesting: A young woman taking over an established business and making it her own. The narrative jumps around a bit, but the ambition and work ethic that has allowed this woman to succeed comes through, making her an inspiration for others.

BEST BUSINESS STORY

Daily Division

1st Place—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS

Local brewery's growth pushing state's legal limit, Greg Doering

Well-written on a local relevant business and economic development issue.

2nd Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
Supermarket Wars, Jim Skeen

A very consumer friendly story with interesting statistics and good interviews.

3rd Place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK
Brewing expansion in McAlester, David Dishman

Nicely done, relevant to many in the community.

Honorable Mention—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK
Study looks at spectrum of McAlester defense industry, James Beaty

Nice coverage of this local economic development issue.

BEST BUSINESS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st Place—The Chronicle, Chester, NY

Legoland is Coming to Goshen, Erika Norton

Water is a problem, and how will a new LEGOLAND affect it? Story does a good job of laying out the problem. The best part is a concise timeline showing readers how they can join the debate. Overall, a useful set of pieces

2nd Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Cy-Fair Edition, Pflugerville, TX

Oil decline leads to business start-ups, Danica Smithwick

A very strong entry, discussing how decline in the oil business is propelling people into their own businesses. Good resources showing steps in becoming a start-up. This is a story people will clip and save, and send to friends. Nice work.

3rd Place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI

Home sales smash records, Alan Campbell

A nice overview of rising housing prices in a state affected deeply by the recession. Writer reviews the recent history, how second home buyers are dealing with sticker shock and discusses shortage of inventory. This story explains a critical Leelanau commercial driver and will be well read by community leaders. A useful review.

2nd Place—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA

Eldridge stakes claim for QC Industrial Park, Mark Ridolfi
Nicely written and reported, with good interviews and sharp design.

Honorable Mention—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY
At the Heart of Beacon, Jeff Simms

This article has a wide range of interviews with business owners in various situations — good and bad.

BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Daily Division

1st Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

Some IA registered sex offenders exempt from residency restrictions, Alex Boisjolie

A thoughtful, well-reported story by Alex Boisjolie of the Sioux City Journal about a legally and emotionally complicated situation regarding sex offenders living near schools. Boisjolie explores the intricacies in the case of one community, with accounts from parents, school authorities and legal experts. Good headline and display type draws readers into the piece.

2nd Place—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD
School Safety And Sentinels, Randy Dockendorf

Strong work by the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan about the Avon school board's dilemma over whether to allow school employees to be armed according to a SD law passed after the Sandy Hook shootings. Randy Dockendorf's thorough reporting raises the complex issues involved, from concerns about school safety to the ability of law enforcement to intervene quickly in rural communities.

3rd Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Literacy program, Kristine Galloway

Kristine Galloway provides detailed reporting on the possible

defunding of the WY Family Literacy program, which helps adults with high-school equivalency degrees or English-language training. Good explanation of policy told through compelling human-interest stories.

Honorable Mention—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS

Go baby go: MHS students use robotics to help local boy get on the move, Dylan Lysen

Good storytelling in this account of students from the local high school robotics team who adapted a toy car to help a developmentally disabled child. Photos add to the reader interest.

BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st Place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI

The Art of Teaching, Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt Burgess, Jay Bushen

A deep look at the local school system, telling readers how teacher ratings work, what inspires educators, the challenges in the system and some how-to tips, like requesting a specific teacher rating. Thoroughly researched and well presented in an effort that required significant resources. Well done!

2nd Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Spring Klein Edition, Pflugerville, TX

Graduates seek lower postsecondary tuition costs, Vanessa Holt

Useful “news you can use” piece to help readers evaluate post secondary education options. Graphics do a great job of giving the reader a way into the story and the writer offers good insight into educational choices

3rd Place—Beaumont Business Journal, Beaumont, TX

Training for the future, Kevin King

Useful and attractive piece on an industry in need of skilled workers and offering essentially free training to get them. Writer gave the reader enough detail to look for more. Good piece

BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA

New vaccine law already showing signs of success, Kevin Hessel & Carly Nairn

Thorough reporting and compelling writing about vaccination rates in Reed Union School District in the wake of a new CA law. Excellent use of statistics as well as personal reporting about a family who advocated for the law on behalf of their young son recovering from leukemia.

2nd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA

Emotional students, parents make plea, Matthew Hose

Strong story on a topical subject, touching on cuts to a mental health and wellness center at Redwood High School. Good reporting on student and family reaction; story chronicles high rates of students' self-reported drug and alcohol use, thoughts of suicide.

3rd Place—The Journal, Crosby, ND

Home grown teacher, Cecile Wehrman

Compelling profile of a young woman with a drive to become a teacher through distance learning. Lively storytelling.

Honorable Mention—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY

Is Cursive a Dying Art? Kimberly Hiss

Smart presentation of a subject parents wonder about, with a headline that raises the provocative question.

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

1st Place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT

Bears Ears National Monument proposal creates tensions in Utah, Theresa Davis

This feature was very well-done and researched. The reporter did an outstanding job of looking at issues that might not be considered in a national monument designation.

2nd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

Big Ox and South Sioux odor issues, Ian Richardson

This was a well-done series looking at environmental impact of a chemical smells from a renewable energy plant.

I love the quote “I’m confident the improved odor will be coming their way.”

3rd Place—Community Impact Newspaper - San Marcos Buda

Kyle Editon, Pflugerville, TX

San Marcos moves forward with Cape’s Dam removal, Brett Thorne

Impact of removing dam in San Marcos

Honorable Mention—The Mercury, Manhattan, KS

Blooming algae: Milford Lake’s blue-green nuisance persists for another year, Lea Skene

Well-written, thorough look at the problem of algae blooms in a local lake.

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

1st Place—Sparta Independent, Chester, NY

Sparta Mountain Debate, Erika Norton

I found this coverage fascinating, as two organizations

BY KYMBERLY SEABOLT

**Farm and Dairy,
Salem, OH**

First place, serious column

daily & non-daily division, circulation 12,000 or more

In my mind, there is always hard-packed dirt under my feet, and a not unpleasant scent of warm hay, sweet grain, and a hint of horses.

There is a wall-hung phone. Heavy and black. It rings shrill due to an outside ringer and can probably be heard for a country mile.

We are taught from a very young age to always say “Hello, Studers.” She runs a boarding stable and we should project an air of professionalism even if the phone is being answered by a barefoot 8-year-old who just moments earlier had been swinging on a gate.

She has a blue and white Ford tractor and a red manure spreader and hay wagons that double as a stage for impromptu backyard shows put on by grandchildren.

She isn’t one for travel. She will pilot her enormous boat of an Impala in a 10-mile radius. To the grocery, library, feed store, drive-through (for Doritos and Coke).

All are welcome. Still, for someone who doesn’t go gadding about, when I am small, I think that everyone in the whole world must know my Gram.

At least half the world stops by her kitchen regularly. They sit in her kitchen around a huge, old table. She makes coffee in a glass percolator. The old vet who visits calls it “Cowboy Coffee” and swears it could keep him awake for a week.

She takes care of almost three dozen horses morning, noon, and night.

Around the table. A child of the Depression and teen during World War II, she could turn anything into a feast. Her work with leftovers was legend. On Sundays, she made roasts and room at the table.

She made a special birthday meal including the dessert of our choosing for every child and grandchild, as well as friends who became like family along the way. Mine was banana split cake.

She had a crockery cookie jar and kept a bowl of magazines on a sideboard next to the kitchen table. To an avid reader this was just about perfect. She never refrigerated salad dressing and I’m not sure why we never died. She liked fried egg sandwiches for lunch, always had Ritz crackers, and is the only person in my life who served me Tang. Also, something called “Russian Tea,” which

generally considered to be promoting environmental causes butted heads over what was best in the NJ Highlands. Good job.

2nd Place—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY

Pushing North for Survival, Jeff Simms

This story shows how wildlife is responding to the effects of climate change - I appreciate the work as politicians continue to debate whether it is even real!

3rd Place—The Ada News, Ada, OK

City of Ada diesel spill, Eric Swanson

Good use of open records requests to let the public know of a very real concern regarding their public water supply.

Honorable Mention—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL

What are you drinking? Dan Burke

Memories of Gram



was unsweetened ice tea mixed with Tang — served warm.

I want some right now in the worst possible way.

At home. Her home was massive and very old and had the steepest stairs I have ever seen. I don’t think a grandchild or great-grandchild of hers doesn’t have memories of learning early to climb those stairs, or sitting at the top waiting for someone to “spot” them coming down.

Her home was also an icon so much so that over the years she received countless paintings, ornaments, and decorations all depicting it. Her home was literally filled with paintings of her home. When I grew to have a home of my own, I had to have a painting of it too. I assumed everyone did.

She had collected antiques since before that was cool. Her home was full of them. I have a dim recollection of a guest exclaiming in wonder when a Civil War era upholstered chair was pulled up to the table and a small grandchild set down upon it. We grew up respecting old things, but also knowing that people are to be cherished and things to be used.

She was not always a grandma, of course. The beloved child of doting parents, she was a kindergarten student in an impeccably starched dress with a fluffy collar. It was kind of like if Zsa Zsa attended grade school in the 1930s. She was a teenager astride a horse, in a plaid shirt and “dungarees,” hair blowing in the wind. She is young, and beautiful. Like Ava Gardner.

She is a young mother usually holding a small child in one arm and a horse’s lead in another.

Nice tie-in to a national story to reassure readers of their local water supply

BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

1st Place—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY

Fairbanks, Melissa Cassutt

Absolutely stunning work. This entry made my heart swell.

Writing and organizing a series like this one is no simple task, and it was done with skill and beauty. Thank you. This was a joy to read.

2nd Place—The Lancaster News, Lancaster, SC

The Challenge of a Lifetime, Christopher Sardelli

What a compelling read! This series kept my attention and

Some things only make sense to a grandchild. I will never smell the faint scent of cigarettes without thinking fondly of my Gram. Kool Menthols, an ashtray, a cup of strong black coffee and a day planner.

She kept lists every day, as far as I know. Her life hardworking, orderly and precise. I always said that my grandmother, into her 80s, did more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day.

And on a quiet Sunday morning before sunrise, my grandmother’s spirit slipped away from us and passed on. She was 86 years old.

I am 47 years old and she has been my Gram my whole life. I have no idea what we are supposed to do now.

I feel like there is a hole in the world. It is swirling with these memories and moments and a thousand — a million — little things that hit me throughout the day. I am good and then I am not.

My Gram’s time on this earth would span 31,652 days. 1929-2016. It was so much more than numbers. My Gram lived the hell out of that dash.

I am 47 years old and I refuse to believe it. She cannot be gone. It is impossible. If she isn’t in the kitchen, then she is surely in the barn. I think part of me will believe this forever.

This is the first column I have ever written that I’m not wondering if my Gram will enjoy it. Then again, I hope she will.

Kymerly Foster Seabolt will carry Ruth May Lewis Studer in her heart forever. She welcomes comments and prayer at LifeOutLoud@Comcast.net; P.O. Box 38, Salem, OH 44460, or www.KymerlyFosterSeabolt.com.

was so in-depth. Fantastic writing and organizing. Great work!

3rd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

Korean War series, Journal staff

This is the kind of journalism that people—families, neighbors, community members, friends—never forget. The series was the best set of veteran stories I’ve read, and the first piece was especially compelling. Fantastic work.

Honorable Mention—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT

The Plague of Pornography—a four-part series, Sarah Averett, Mariana Chrisney

I found this to be a very compelling read, and finding people to interview on this topic was a feat in itself. Well written



SECOND PLACE, best sports photo, daily division, By Blaine McCartney | Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY

STRUXNESS—J.D. Struxness of Appleton, Minn., brings down his steer in the steer wrestling event during the ninth and final performance of the 120th annual Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo on Sunday afternoon at Frontier Park Arena.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.nnaweb.org/contests-awards
or call 217-241-1400, ext. 300

FIRST PLACE, best sports photo, daily division, By Jon Gremmels | Clinton Herald, Clinton, IA

DODGING THE TAG—Devin Hurdle (left) of Central DeWitt tries unsuccessfully to avoid the tag of Davenport Assumption third baseman Daniel Powers (6) as he is caught in a rundown between second and third on a thirdinning fielder's choice. Hurdle, a courtesy runner for catcher McGwire Eden, scored the game's only run in the first inning as the Sabers beat the Knights 1-0 in the district championship Monday night in DeWitt.



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

BALANCING ACT—Isabella Deptula has a laugh as juggler Michael Rayner balances a real cheeseburger on a spinning umbrella during a Malibu Library show.



THIRD PLACE, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation 6,000 - 9,999
 By Katharine Egli | The Taos News, Taos, NM

DITCH DUET—Talpa resident Mike Musialowski howls with his dog, Balto, during the Saturday (April 9) cleaning of the Acequia del Finado Francisco Martinez del Llano Quemado.



SECOND PLACE, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation 6,000 - 9,999
 By Marcus Larson | Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR

BEAN BAG TOSS—Trenton Sitton tries his hand at a bean bag toss game to earn prize tickets as part of Carlton Days' kids games on Saturday.



FIRST PLACE, best breaking news photo, daily division,
By J. Kyle Keener | The Pharos-Tribune, Logansport, IN

LUMBER FIRE—Logansport Fire Chief Bernie Mittica checks the perimeter of the pre-dawn blaze at Closson Lumber to plan how to deploy firefighters.

FROM PAGE B11

and organized. I missed a voice that may have countered the negatives surrounding pornography, but I understand why that might have been excluded. Great job.

BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

1st Place—The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL
Three-part series on suicide, Pamela Lannom
Very good and moving series of stories. This performs a public service through education and providing resources. Moving interviews.

2nd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA
Deer in Belvedere, Matthew Hose
This series really dissects the pros and cons of a deer neutering program. It performs a community service. The interviews with experts were particularly helpful.

3rd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA
Saving Route 8, Matthew Hose
This series shows why it's so important for reporters to go out and see what they're actually covering. Good job.

Honorable Mention—The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ

Community seeks to be 'family friendly', Bob Burns, Ryan Winslett, Barb Charzuk
This series examines an important local issue from a variety of angles.

BEST FEATURE STORY

Daily Division

1st Place—The Pharos-Tribune, Logansport, IN
Front seat to history, Kim Duntlap
Great writing. This was a compelling story that went beyond Pearl Harbor and traced the veteran's interesting life.

2nd Place—Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO
The Kor of Forgiveness, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
What an interesting, and difficult, feature. Well written, amazing story.

3rd Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
Life Stories: Marty Wall, Jule Drake
This was a fun feature that kept me engaged. Great work.

Honorable Mention—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK
Hartshorne woman recalls White House Silver Star ceremony, James Beaty

This was a well written, well organized piece that made me feel like I was in the Oval Office. Good work.

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st Place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA
You Go and Help, Randy Rosetta
Absolutely made my eyes fill with tears and kept me in suspense. Featuring these two young football players who committed selfless acts of service to others during a time of need is a lesson to be learned and worthy of being shared with others. Although a couple of minor grammatical errors were seen, the story took hold of the reader's attention more! You're lede helped make this feature 'award-winning', too. Keep up the great journalism.

2nd Place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA
Cajun Navy, Tommy Comeaux
Perfect feature on an group of individuals who got so much flak a couple of times. I think you did this story justice for the space you were allotted and it covered good examples of the work they did. Congrats and keep up the great work!

3rd Place—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA
Day in the Life Of: Liberty Britton, development manager for Morris Animal Refuge, Jeremy Rodriguez
What an incredible person! Thank you for sharing her story. The flow kept me interested in learning what she does. The lede was perfect for this story. Great job once again!

Honorable Mention—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA
Project TEACH celebrates 20th anniversary by honoring past graduates, Jeremy Rodriguez

Interesting article featuring an organization and a graduate who knows how to lead by example. This was an easy read and a photo would have helped this article even more, but I was able to imagine this woman and her sitting with doctors educating them. The only thing I was unsure of was what FIGHT was? Never was defined. Great job! Thanks for writing on this LGBT hot topic.

BEST FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

1st Place—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC
The Pilot, Daddy's Girls, Deborah Salomon
Excellent portrait of a military single parent. It's obvious why this father was chosen to be the subject of this piece. Well written with quotes and anecdotes. The writer showed sensitivity toward the family while giving a very compelling

picture of this outstanding father.

2nd Place—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA
Metamorphosis, Glen Starkey
A fascinating, and moving story of personal fortitude and courage. Excellently written and the photos add much to the story.

3rd Place—The Sun, Santa Maria, CA
Coalition meets crisis, Joe Payne
Good in-depth story on a serious community problem. Story conveys the difficulty of dealing with gang violence.

Honorable Mention—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO
Love Is What Makes a Family, Karen Cernich
Great blending of the personal story of this family and an explanation of the adoption process.

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st Place—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY
Saving Ethel Rosenberg, Brian PJ Cronin
Fascinating read. Well done. Inclusion of Ethel Rosenberg's final letter to children a wonderful touch.

2nd Place—The Azle News, Azle, TX
Surviving the Battle of the Coral Sea, Mark K. Campbell
Gripping first-hand account of one of the key battles of WWII. Well done.

3rd Place—Blair Pilot-Tribune, Blair, NE
Witness to History, Leeanna Ellis
Terrific story on a man who witnessed history. Well-written, well-presented and fascinating.

Honorable Mention—Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA
The Fine Print, Sara Konrad Baranowski
The very definition of a well-done story. Thorough, well-written and well-presented.

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st Place—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY
Transitioning: Life in Limbo, Jennifer Kocher
Of a plethora of good entries, this stood out for writing, best photo and graphics package, and focus on an issue of major interest in the nation. Gripping package.

2nd Place—The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL
Fathers breaking the silence on suicide, Pamela Lannom
Initiative shown here by newspaper convening an advisory group on teen suicides in the wake of several deaths. Series a well written narrative on important topic.

3rd Place—Waushara Argus, Wautoma, WI
Jenny Addis, Mary Kunasch

An inspiring story of young woman who made the best of crippling injury in her teens due to drunk driver. Good photography and selection of other shots from her activities. Well done.

Honorable Mention—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL
Raising awareness, Hillary Dickerson

Sharing the story of a drug-addicted couple who are now trying to save others, and one's nephew's lost life. Plus, tributes to others who lost their life similarly. Good story telling and attractive presentation, layout.

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st Place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Ellsworth Suite, Jackie Weaver
Wow! Something really different. I was immediately pulled into this story, which is well written, well-constructed, and has high reader appeal. It also is strong on human interest, though not the highly emotional kind often associated with feature stories.

This was an idea allowed to incubate and then developed into a delightful read and graphic presentation. Originality not often seen. No, I didn't tear up as with some stories, but I did chuckle and even laugh. It has that, "Hey, you need to read this," quality.

2nd Place—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Hero, Samantha Hernandez
Quality of writing: check, it's above average. Construction of story: check, it reads smoothly and has ample information and quotes. Human interest: check, a touching story. Appeal to reader: check, no reader with empathy can turn away from this story. It compels you to read it.

3rd Place—The Lancaster News, Lancaster, SC
The wide-eyed joy of a teen princess, Mandy Catoe
A touching story seemingly focused on a medically-challenged youngster but really about a woman with a giant-sized heart for others. Certainly strong on human interest, and it grabs the reader's attention. Well-written and structured for easy reading. Gives reader lots of information. Reader can't help but think, "I want to meet this woman."

Honorable Mention—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN
Dr. Leonard among a rare breed, Steve Marion
Nice, comfortable story presenting human side of a controversial issue in today's society—corporate medicine and its effect on medical care. Quality writing with solid use of quotes to help carry the story. Definite human interest and

Out of my dog league

Rebecca badly wants to fit in with the tiny-dog crowd

BY REBECCA ROSE
The Sun,
Santa Maria, CA

First place, best humorous column
daily & non-daily division, circulation 8,000 or more

One of the best things about living in California is the state's laissez-faire policies on women and our small dogs.

Stop into just about any boutique or vintage shop along the Central Coast and you'll be sure to spot us, pushing our carts through the aisles while our little dogs perched on the cart looking out like Leonardo DiCaprio on the bow of the Titanic. Led by our patron saint Paris Hilton, we make no apologies for inserting our precious pets into every social occasion.

We offer only side-eyes and dismissive frowns to those who dare question our furry friends' place of honor at dinner, the mall, or your baby's baptism.

I never once questioned my place among them. When we moved from Texas back to California, I was eager to rejoin this elite group of California Dog Ladies, alongside my precious BB, my beloved daughter dog-child who yes, I definitely birthed, and no, that's not creepy like something out of *The Antichrist*—why would you ever say that? I was excited to unite with these ladies in search of the perfect doggy purse, to sit in cafes whilst eating dainty sandwiches and talking about how cute our fur babies looked in their little mini-tiaras.

Until the day I realized I wasn't nearly prepared to play in this league.

My wake-up call came during a recent trip to a local pet boutique. This wasn't a big-box chain or where you go looking for some boring old leash or plain collar. They had carpeting on the floor (I'm sure that's a fun carpet-cleaning bill). They served wine. They had dressing rooms for the dogs equipped with actual mirrors sized just for them. And of course, they had racks and racks of dog dresses with designer labels. Welcome to the Super Bowl of dog shopping.

I never thought I would be a 42-year-old woman who dotes on a tiny dog and dresses it in frilly clothes. (I also thought I would be 5 inches taller and married to David Duchovny, but life comes at you fast.) Nevertheless, there I was fussing over mini-dog sailor hats in a boutique where the cheapest object probably costs more than what I pay in rent.

Products ranged from the absurd (dog berets) to the really absurd (hand-crocheted eco-friendly dog berets). The care products alone would make a high-end Beverly Hills salon look like a Supercuts. There were \$80 shampoos and conditioners for your dog's hairstyle and "scent sensitivities," ear massage lotions, and dainty bottles of pet nail polish in colors with names like "Imelda Marcos Green" and "Namaste Blue." But seriously, who doesn't need a \$45 dog salve made from the honey of virgin bees flown in from Ecuador?

One lady in the corner was complaining that someone named "Rain," her dog's manicurist and chakra adviser, was out of town on a bioawareness and juice fast retreat, and wasn't that such a tragedy for poor Clementine? I don't even have a dentist but why should that matter when the

security of my dog's chakra is at stake?

Dog spiritual readings are a little out of my comfort zone so I tried to join in other conversations about dog toys. I asked the shop owner if she had any good suggestions, like a chew toy or a cute stuffed animal.

"I prefer Jacobi to play with dog toys that are made out of 100 percent organic materials, hand sewn by a team of artisanal craftsmen who operate a store out of a yurt in upstate New York," another woman shopping shared with me. "Their philosophy is that each dog toy should symbolize a transition in their aura."

Right now, BB's favorite toy to play with is an old gym sock of Chris' she found in the backseat of the car. I wondered if I should ask her what disgusting, smelly old clothing represents about BB's aura, but then I thought better of it.



"My favorite toy they sell is called 'Clytemnestra: The Afterbirth,'" she continued.

"It is made of crepe de chine and comes in a beautiful Majorelle Blue which

expresses my dog's innate charisma, his desire to be creative, and his need to be a problem solver."

"Sure, that's definitely BB; she's totally a 'problem-solver,'" I said desperately hoping she wouldn't notice my dog trying to eat her own leash.

These dog people have also evolved from carrying their dogs in cute designer purses (sooo 2002) to actual dog strollers. This is literally a baby stroller with a zip-up compartment you can push your dog around in. I can't think of a better way to scream to the world "I have given up all hope of living a normal life."

But the pet jewelry was the real clincher. The moment you hold a \$400 diamond-studded dog collar in your hand is a surreal, sobering one. It's like watching Dwight D. Eisenhower ride into your living room on a unicorn to ask if you know where a Taco Bell is. That's when I knew: These people are on

another level. Here I was looking for cutesy bandanas for BB while they were fretting over appointments with their dog's therapists.

Look, I'm positively gaga over my dog—I take her everywhere with me, I spoil her rotten with toys and treats, and I consider her an adorable addition to our family. But I'm not "\$400 diamond collar" gaga over her.

Suddenly I felt the need to get out of there as fast as humanly possible, before I ended up penniless and living in a tent made of designer dog clothes. I was out of my depth and I couldn't deny it anymore. Trying to roll with these women was like following up Rachmaninov at a piano recital with your best version of "Chopsticks."

Back at home, I watched BB play with the gym sock while wearing a \$4 shirt with "I AM A Q-T-PIE" written in pink glitter on the back. That's my dog lady level: an old sock that probably can't help define your aura and pink glitter. I think I'm good with that.

Rebecca Rose is freelance writer and satirist who has written for Cosmopolitan, Jezebel, Harper's Bazaar, Esquire, Marie Claire, Elle, Seventeen, Redbook, and many others. Her origins are largely unknown. Some people suspect she was raised by a pack of wolves, except it is highly unlikely that wolves would put up with so much drinking and swearing.

reader appeal. I can imagine a variety of reactions from readers. Well-chosen quotes skillfully woven into the narrative.

BEST FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

1st Place—Dodge County Independent, Kasson, MN
Best Feature Story, Rick Bussler

Any story about donuts has my vote! This was fun and almost engaging through the words of the journalist. The direct quotations made this story! I especially loved: "There's no calories in them on Fridays," Edward joked. That is classic! Great job. The photos added to the story, so much that it made me hungry for some of the mini-donuts.

2nd Place—Timber Lake Topic, Timber Lake, SD
Former Nazi POW turns 90, Robert Slocum

Absolutely captivating feature on this fantastic 95-year-old decorated Nazi POW. One comment, the last section of this feature should have started with the paragraph about his wife and family: The lynchpin of George's post-military life was his wife. George met his bride Josephine during the Timber Lake summer celebration in 19##. She was with her friends outside the community building (now Country Market grocery store) when he walked over after the rodeo and was introduced to her. The rest, including 68 years of marriage, is history...their history. Except, of course, the matter of who pursued who. That's still up for debate. "She saw me and said 'oh, I've got to get that guy,'" George claims. Josephine responded with scoff while throwing her hands up. After marriage in Fresno, Cal. the couple moved back to Isabel in 1948 where they went on to rear two sons: William L. (Bill) and the late George W. Jr. (Tuffy).

Otherwise, perfect profile photo to go with this feature! Congrats on a job well done!

3rd Place—Morgan County Press, Stover, MO
Stevens Santa Retires, Sharon Tausch

This story was a fun holiday-appropriate feature, but the flow just did not keep me interested. The last one-third of the story should have been placed towards the start of the story. I took that part and condensed it. This portion could go at the start of the story. Stevens says his role of playing Santa during the past 20 years has brought him much joy, but that the job of keeping Santa's true identity and preserving the revered red suit is sometimes challenging. He has enjoyed a variety of magical moments in his red suit, but now, he is ready to pass his Santa's hat to someone a little younger. I think this part: As for the beard, he says the mass of white whiskers will have to stay where it is - on the lower part of his face. Stevens always took his role of playing Santa seriously, and began growing his beard in late summer before the arrival of Labor Day so that it would be "nice and fluffy" by Christmas. He has always been careful, however, to shave it off the day after the parade to keep the children from recognizing him out in public. "One of the most fun things about playing Santa with a real beard is when a child reaches up with his little hand, tries to pull it down, and finds it doesn't come off," explained Stevens. "[It] hurts a little bit, but, it is fun to watch the facial expressions of the kids." Great effort otherwise...just need to be careful on how long and keeping the reader's attention. The photo helped but i would have liked to have seen an extra photo to help make the story more animated with action as Santa talking to children.

Honorable Mention—Clay County News, Sutton, NE
Ashley D. Swanson

Woah! This story schooled me in what these first-responders really go through in this type of situation. Great use of details with a clean read. I would have liked to have seen more direct quotations or feelings of 'natural sound' in this story. The writer took a tangible example and made it a semi-feature on how these leaders train. To me, this was more of a general news story that explained steps of the training and what the people went through during the experience...explanatory news. Otherwise, great story.

BEST HEALTH STORY

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

1st Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Cy-Fair Edition,
Pflugerville, TX

Health care providers address physician shortage, Shawn Arraji
A prime example of timely, in-depth reporting on a topic of key concern to the public. Certainly, physician shortage and the whys and wherefores of it are health issues deserving of greater community awareness. The multiple sources quoted and the data presented both in the text and the accompanying graphics indicate solid research for the story. The graphics definitely aid the overall presentation and readability of the story. Well done.

2nd Place—The Northbrook Tower, Northbrook, IL
Brightside Clinic, Matt Yan

Pardon the pun, but I'm high on this story, which vividly shows the danger and death associated with opioids addictions. The story is fact-filled, timely, and clearly important to community awareness. Through one man's story, the reader is connected to the problems of addiction and what is being done in the community to aid the addicted. Story held my attention.

3rd Place—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA
The invisibles, Chis McGuinness

The invisibles: senior citizens, especially singles, with low and inadequate incomes face social and health issues invisible to many. This is a timely issue of importance and in need of greater public awareness as a health issue. As the story shows, many of these seniors lack access to health care and their situations often lead to health issues in need of attention. Story is well told through the eyes and experiences of several senior citizens. A story with emotional impact.

Honorable Mention—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY
ST Health Story, Grant Parpan, Chris Lisinski, Joseph Pinciario, Rachel Young, Nicole Smith

Opioids deaths have become a major public health issue and concern. Based on the efforts of a man whose brother died of an overdose, this combination of stories provides both a personal look at the problem and a fact-filled overview of the extent of the problem and efforts being made to deal with it. In addition to being well-researched and sourced, the stories are written well.

BEST HEALTH STORY

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

1st Place—The Altamont Enterprise & Albany County Post, Altamont, NY

Little-known tick disease on the rise, Melissa Hale-Spencer
Well written and researched story about a growing health threat to the community. By raising awareness the newspaper is helping prevent future heartache as it informs readers on what to look for.

2nd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA

New vaccine law already showing signs of success, Kevin Hessel & Carly Nairn

Mandatory vaccinations for school-age children is a controversial topic. The Ark gave its readers a well-written story supported by good research on the importance of having kids in school vaccinated and how the state's new law is working.

3rd Place—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN

Locals diagnosed with Lyme disease, still fighting aftereffects, Barbie Porter

Good story written at a time when threat to community health is high from tick diseases.

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Daily Division

1st Place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK
Misuse of Municipal Credit Cards, David Dishman, James Beaty, Glenn Puit, Dawnnyl Hill and Kevin Harvison

Hands down, this was the best piece of investigative journalism among all entries. The story just got bigger and bigger and bigger, in part because of the role the newspaper played in ensuring the issue was not buried or hidden. In story after story, a complex issue was well organized, and each brought the fresh information to the foreground. Fantastic work.

2nd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

The VA Maze, Dolly Butz

This story does a great job of bringing the statistics to light using real-life stories. Great work.

3rd Place—Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO

County traffic deaths pile up, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

This is the kind of reporting that holds government accountable and potentially saves lives. Well done.

Honorable Mention—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Investigative felony cases, Sarah Zoellick

Nice work picking up the trend and then making sense of a complex system for readers. Nice reporting!

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st Place—New Times, San Luis Obispo, CA

Locked up, Camillia Lanham

More than 200 marijuana grows popped up in area over the course of a few months, escalating an argument about whether growers should be allowed access to hundreds of gallons of free water, mixed with allegations that elected officials didn't actually live locally contribute to one outstanding, compelling account. Terrific multi-sourced story, beautifully written with "pot" loads of details. Magnificent design too.

2nd Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Sugar Land MO
City Edition, Pflugerville, TX

Annexation plans progress for Greatwood, new territory, Amelia Brust

Fabulous, exciting and informative "alternative story forms" tell this important but otherwise snooze of a story: whether towns should annex. Congrats: Often telling the story graphically is harder than straight text.

3rd Place—Northside Sun, Jackson, MS

Eastover Water Main and IMS Woes, Anthony Warren and Wyatt Emmerich

Textbook case of following up on a reader query and uncovering a construction firm performing sub-par work,

winning contracts despite being in 3rd place and billing for inappropriate expenses. Great bird dogging

Honorable Mention—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM

A Decade later, Julia M. Dendinger

Well told series, giving history, context and problems of bringing a hospital to the area. Non-bureaucratic explanation of how we got to where we are today. Terrific enterprise piece.

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

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

1st Place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN

Life's elixir: Safe drinking water, Ruby Redekopp

Bravo! Water — and water rights — are so important. This covers a lot of angles in a thorough fashion. Sidebars and graphics add another layer of reporting and drive home key information. Impressive!

2nd Place—Blair Pilot-Tribune, Blair, NE

Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station shutdown, staff

Excellent localized coverage. Strong writing the brings this story and its aftermath to area communities to light. Interesting historic perspective, coupled with current concerns. Each article is well written and graphics make this a complete, thorough package. Excellent, excellent coverage.

3rd Place—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY

Joe Werkmeister, Grant Parpan

Excellent in-depth investigation, 35 years after the fact.

Thorough coverage. The front page graphic hooks me and compels me to dive in to the story. Good lede. Well done!

Honorable Mention—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR

The road to recovery, Tom Henderson

Well-written piece that outlines problems associated with addiction recovery. There's a sense of intimacy, as readers learn about Carrie's struggles. Heartbreaking, touching and full of details.

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st Place—Carolina Forest Chronicle, Conway, SC

Horry County police corruption coverage, Charles D. Perry, Tom O'Dare

Absolutely amazing job shining a light on a dirty police department. Each installment in the series peels away another layer, with a nice use of records and quotes to present everything in a straightforward, non-sensationalized way.

2nd Place—Stillwater Gazette, Stillwater, MN

Independent Report Blames Lake Elmo Council for 'Dysfunction' at City Hall, Alicia Lebens, Jonathan Young

Nice investigative work! First in getting a hold of and publicizing the report, and then in fending off the suppression attempts by those in government office.

3rd Place—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA

1,2,3,4,5,6, Mayumi Elegado, Ally Gravina, Dave Zook, Meghan Herbst, Abby Stevens, Jeremy Jensen, Sage Sauerbrey, Kara Fox

A very thorough examination of the housing issues in Truckee, from the past through examining solutions for the future. Nice use of graphics to illustrate the problem and to make all that information readable and aesthetically pleasing.

BEST LOCALIZED NATIONAL STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st Place—Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA

Philly, nation respond to Orlando massacre, Jen Colletta, Paige Cooperstein

Outstanding package of coverage, with local angles, only a few days after the mass shooting at the Pulse Club in Orlando, Florida. Thoughtful, informative, compelling.

2nd Place—The Transylvania Times, Brevard, NC

Friend Recalls Harper Lee, John Lanier

This is a beautifully written story featuring anecdotes about acclaimed author Harper Lee as revealed by her friend, a local resident.

3rd Place—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

National Park Centennial and Acadia Centennial, Staff

Lovingly written and beautifully formatted package of stories about the 100th anniversary of the local Acadia National Park in the context of the concurrent 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A real keepsake!

Honorable Mention—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD

'In The Line Of Duty', Randy Dockendorf

Sometimes, even interviewing only one person, can open up a revealing look at a sobering situation, as was done by this reporter. Bravo!

Visiting a national park? Follow one simple rule

BY JOSH RHOTEN

**Wyoming Tribune Eagle,
Cheyenne, WY**

Second place, best serious column,
non-daily division, circulation 12,000 or more

If you are going to a national park this year, I can simplify all the rules and regulations you will encounter down to one basic guideline.

Get your pencils ready, I will wait.

Ready? OK, here it is:

Don't be stupid.

Now I know that sounds really easy, but you would be shocked at the shenanigans people are pulling in the national parks system.

And it is likely only going to get worse as the summer goes on, especially as a record number of visitors come in to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th anniversary.

It is only the end of May, but there are already reports out of Yellowstone National Park of a couple millennial bros walking off path into Grand Prismatic Spring for a better shot in their video.

We know this not only because people took pictures, but because their video showed them looking at the signs warning them not to do what they just did.

The sad thing is, trampling delicate ecosystems and risking burns for selfies wasn't even the stupidest thing to happen in the park this month. Before that, there were reports of a man packing a baby bison into the back of his car because he feared an animal that had evolved over millions of years to deal with the climate it was born into was too cold.

It would be easy to file this under visitors being "overzealous," as the hot springs bros called it in their Facebook apology, but that is just silly. As further examination of that case shows, there is no real remorse for their actions. Their apology post on Facebook originally offered a \$5,000 donation based on a hashtag on Twitter. As one user pointed out:

"What kind of narcissist makes restitution dependent on a hashtag?"

So if we can't expect people not to be stupid, what should we do?

First, understand the national park system belongs to all of us and is one of the coolest things this country has ever done. Everyone has a right to visit and experience it how they want. Next, realize these parks are a resource that either must be monitored and controlled or left to run themselves.

The parks are indeed already monitored and controlled by the Park Service. They built roads and infrastructure to allow the largest amount of people possible to visit and do a fantastic job of offering

information, maintenance and protecting the parks from the visitors and vice versa.

Would it then be a stretch to ask that the Park Service limit the number of people entering the park? Especially since the superintendent of Grand Teton National Park was quoted on www.wyofile.com as saying the park would host 5 million visitors in 2016 and that would be "impacting the visitor experience."

Modern museums like the Denver Museum of Art offer tickets to their most exclusive exhibits based on access times. You can't go into the display until your timeslot is available, thus ensuring there isn't a crush of people and everyone has a good experience.

Why isn't that possible at the gates of Yellowstone? The Park Service is already following this in places like Mesa Verde National Park, where

up-close access to the cliff dwellings is only available on a ranger-guided tour.

The other option would be to close the parks off completely before irreparable harm is done. As the New York Times reported, Thailand is closing a popular island to tourists "to solve the environmental and natural resources impact which is caused by tourism."

Apparently, a beach on the island deemed useable for about 70 people was being overrun by hundreds daily, with restaurants popping up to feed them.

This plan, of course, follows closely with the ideas of author Edward Abbey, who advocated that the parks should not be developed at all. The former seasonal ranger in Arches National Park argued that they should remain wild and free.

The New York Times story quotes Thon Thamrongnawasawat, deputy dean of fisheries at Kasetsart University in Bangkok and a leading advocate of marine conservation. In conclusion, he says that, "I am not proposing to close all islands. But we have to start thinking about the plan to tackle the increasing number of tourists."

I tend to lean toward the latter model until I remember all the joy that I had experiencing the parks as a youth and even now. How could I deprive someone else of the chances I have had?

So, when you go, keep my simple rule in mind. The Park Service is encouraging visitors to use the hashtag #FindYourPark. I am encouraging visitors to also use the tags #DontRuinThisForAllofUsNP and #DontBeStupidNP.

Josh Rhoten is the online and features editor at the Wyoming Tribune Eagle in Cheyenne. He can be reached at jrhoten@wyomingnews.com or by phone at 307-633-3119. Follow him on Twitter at @TheRhoten.

Bank president slain in robbery; employee, hostage shot

BY JAMES BEATY, GLENN PUIT & PARKER PERRY

McAlester News-Capital,
McAlester, OK

First place, best breaking news story,
daily division

A man who authorities say shot two people and took a hostage during a deadly bank robbery in Eufaula has been identified by authorities as an individual with an extensive criminal record.

Cedric Norris, 39, of Texas, was identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the gunman who held up the Bank of Eufaula Thursday morning. Bank President Randy Peterson was killed. Another bank employee was shot and wounded. Norris, authorities said, also took a hostage who was a customer at the bank. He led authorities on a pursuit that ended with Norris being shot to death during an exchange of gunfire with an Oklahoma State Trooper. The hostage was also wounded during the shooting.

Both the bank employee and the hostage underwent surgery, the FBI said.

According to Oklahoma On Demand Records, Norris was convicted of weapon use in commission of a felony, two counts, larceny of merchandise from retailer and obtaining money by false pretenses from incidents dating to 1993 and 1998 in Creek and Oklahoma counties. He also has a record from 2005 for robbery by force or fear after felony conviction in Creek County. He served prison time for incidents.

Authorities are still investigating the deadly bank robbery and are still trying to sort out a complex set of facts involving the fatal shooting of a bank president, the taking of a hostage at gunpoint and a law enforcement pursuit ending with a state trooper shooting and killing a suspect.

The robbery unfolded at 9:30 a.m. at the Bank of Eufaula, 102 N. Main St. Authorities have released limited information on exactly what happened inside the bank, saying only a robbery unfolded and shots were fired. Two people were struck by gunfire — one killed and one injured. Bank President Randy Peterson was slain. A bank employee was shot and wounded.

In the moments after the shooting, a female customer at the bank was taken hostage at gunpoint by a sole gunman and fled the scene. A state trooper later tracked down the suspect in a vehicle and killed the suspect during an exchange of gunfire near Onapa. The hostage, who has not been identified, was in the vehicle and was wounded in the shooting, Federal Bureau of Investigation spokesman Terry Weber confirmed.

The hostage was transported to a hospital in Muskogee. No further information was released on the identify of the hostage. Webber said both the



KEVIN HARVISON | MCALESTER (OK) NEWS-TIMES

People are seen leaving the Bank of Eufaula following a fatal shooting.

bank employee and hostage survived surgery.

Several bystanders at the scene identified the deceased as Peterson. Although authorities did not officially release Peterson's identity, Oklahoma State Rep. Dan Kirby issued a press release on his Facebook page Thursday afternoon stating his friend, Randy Peterson, was killed in the bank robbery. Kirby represents House District 75 in Tulsa but was raised in Eufaula.

"This is a senseless tragedy that hits way too close to home," Kirby said in the statement. "Randy was a good man and a good friend, and my heart aches for his family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with that community and with the loved ones of both Randy and the other employee who was harmed, and I will look forward to these criminals being brought to justice."

An outpouring of support and condolences for Peterson's family was also circulating on social media Thursday afternoon. Peterson was identified on a Eufaula Public Schools website as a member of the local school

board.

"He was a lifelong resident in Eufaula," Kirby later said in a phone interview. "A great guy. He was a couple of years older than me and he was a staple of Eufaula. Everyone knew Randy...He was president of the bank there and he's been working there for so many years. A pillar of the community. He was involved in

everything."

Weber, an FBI spokesman based at the agency's Oklahoma City office, told the News-Capital there was limited information available on the events inside the bank and that authorities were still investigating.

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Capt. Paul Timmons told the News-Capital an all-points bulletin was put out by Eufaula-area law enforcement to be on the lookout for a vehicle believed to be used in the robbery. A state trooper soon noticed a vehicle matching the description traveling on U.S. Highway 69. A short pursuit followed.

"The vehicle exited Highway 69 westbound on Onapa Road," Timmons said. "Our trooper performed a tactical vehicle intervention and was successful in getting the vehicle to stop." Timmons said there was an exchange of gunfire between the trooper and a male suspect at the traffic stop near Onapa. The suspect was fatally wounded. The hostage was a passenger in the vehicle and was also wounded by gunfire. At the time of the interview with Timmons it was still unclear to the state troopers that the second person was, in fact, a hostage. The FBI confirmed this fact shortly after 3 p.m.

Timmons said authorities still do not know the identity of the deceased robbery suspect. Residents of Eufaula, a lakeside town in McIntosh County, expressed shock at the tragedy.

"I've done all my banking there all my life.... I've known Randy all my life," said Eufaula resident Andrew Dowling. "Like I said a really, really good guy, good pillar of the community. Everybody knew him. It's going to be a horrible loss. Stuff like



KEVIN HARVISON | MCALESTER (OK) NEWS-TIMES

GLENDIA NEAL and her husband, Vest, walk outside the Bank of Eufaula Thursday following a fatal shooting of the bank's president.

this doesn't happen in Eufaula." Dowling works at a business in Eufaula, right across the street from the bank. "We didn't hear the gunshots, we just saw police and ambulance start showing up," Dowling said. "The bank is all brick and well insulated so the shots inside you wouldn't have heard."

Another bank customer, Tom Furney, said he did all his banking at Bank of Eufaula. He said Peterson was a man of outstanding character and a kind-hearted soul.

"He was outstanding," Furney said. "He would help you anyway he could. It's hard to believe it. I heard this bank here got robbed and we came flying through Checotah just to find out." Furney said he did business at the bank because he respected Peterson. "I had to get a loan one time and he was the only one who really helped me," Furney said. "And I told him, 'This is my bank.'"

Eufaula City Manager Greg Buckley said, "It's been a rough day, but we're managing."

"The agencies responded very well," he said, adding that he wanted to credit the Eufaula Police Department and other agencies who responded, including the McIntosh County Sheriff's Department, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the FBI.

"We're providing support as requested or needed," Buckley said.

'AUTHORITIES ARE STILL INVESTIGATING the deadly bank robbery and are still trying to sort out a complex set of facts involving the fatal shooting of a bank president ...'

FROM PAGE B16

BEST PERFORMING ARTS STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st Place—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Still about the fun of 'Dark Songs', Christopher Clough
This was a very interesting piece—well written—and such a great idea. A different sort of story that was unique and looked at the event in multiple ways. Very nice story in a competitive category.

2nd Place—The Mokena Messenger, Orland Park, IL
Curtain Call, Tim Carroll
Many entries were of community theater productions and this one was the best of that lot. Detailed and entertaining, it's a good behind-the-scenes look at what was a unique play.

3rd Place—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR
Into character, Starla Pointer
Interesting read. Each town has someone like this and this is a very good take on a local actor. Nice job.

Honorable Mention—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
En pointe, Kristen Tribe

This story covered all facets of a ballerina's life — from being a transplant to TX to altering her life following an accident to bringing culture to a small town. Good read. Kudos to the layout, too.

BEST PUBLIC NOTICE JOURNALISM

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st Place—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI
DOT gives OK to two lanes for Pine Street bypass in city, Gary Ridderbusch

Good job highlighting a public notice's failure to convey updated information on a highway project. The story would have been stronger if readers had been told how to find the public notice. e.g. on the newspaper's website or by asking for a back copy at the newspaper. Did the newspaper do a story when the notice ran? This story does not say.

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

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

1st Place—Malibu Surfside News, Malibu, CA
Female baseball, Joe Coughlin
Everything I want in a feature. Concise, informative, emotional and well-written. Great stuff.

2nd Place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN
They made the town proud, Steve Marion
Fantastic story of triumph and perseverance. Fun quotes. It's deserving of a more captivating headline.

3rd Place—The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL
Game day a scramble for Central's AD, Pamela Lannom
Gameday from a different perspective. Loved the flow from start to finish. Great narrative.

Honorable Mention—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Invisible, incapacitating concussions are sidelining high school athletes, Taylor Vortherms

Fantastic, close-to-home read on the effects of concussions as well as how schools, sports and the medical community are changing their approach to dealing with the unseen injury. Very insightful, despite being a hot topic.

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

Daily & Non-daily Division circulation less than 3000

1st Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA
Tiburon man, 65, overcomes heart, lung problems, Matthew Hose
Great account of this great man overcoming health problems. Captured well by the writer.

2nd Place—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA
Risking Reward, Dave Zook
Great account on the awareness on the downside of Tahoe sports.

3rd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA
A wake of broken records behind him ..., Matthew Hose
Great detail and storytelling behind De Somma's record-breaking run.

Honorable Mention—Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA
Todd Carpenter finishes first in under 50 in Race Across the West
Marshall Smith, Good to capture this man's victory.

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

Daily & Non-daily Division circulation more than 10000

1st Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Man of his word - Post 6, Jeremiah Johnke
Jeremiah found and reported a unique story with a fascinating hook about principles and keeping a promise. The player featured was very much deserving of a profile like this, and Jeremiah's is (forgive the pun) a home run.

2nd Place—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA

Antioch High School runners team up with shelter dogs' Kyle Szymanski

Kyle puts the spotlight on a very cool partnership between a high school cross-country team and an animal shelter in a feature that is short but thorough and plenty descriptive.

3rd Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
AV adds a twist, Alex Vejar

Alex takes initiative in this report on a new yoga routine for the local high school football team. It's brimming with detail and has some wonderful quotes from players who admit their evolution from skepticism to full appreciation.

Honorable Mention—The Highland Park Landmark, Orland Park, IL

Feel the rhythm, Courtney Jacquin
Courtney rose to the occasion in reporting and writing this profile of six local Olympians and gets bonus points for the helpful explanations of their sport of choice, rhythmic gymnastics, for readers who are likely unfamiliar.

BEST SPORTS STORY

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

1st Place—The Wilmette Beacon, Orland Park, IL
Road to Rio, Michael Wojtychiw
This is a cool story. You so rarely hear the story of an up and coming athlete as they're rising.

2nd Place—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, Maryland
DeMatha rallies late to stun St. John's, wins fourth straight WCAC championship, Chris McManes

This is a well-written recap and instills the reader with the excitement of the game while explaining what happened. I also really like the links to other media about the game.

3rd Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
Nimmo show, Sisco Molina
A cool, fun story that really captures the community's interest and excitement in following their former home-town player. My only criticism is that the layout makes it hard to tell which story the giant headline goes with.

Honorable Mention—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
Desert Christian reaches summit, Alex Vejar
I loved the lede to this story; it really drew you in and made me want to keep reading. I liked how they constantly went back and forth between the athlete's reactions and the results.

BEST SPORTS STORY

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

1st Place—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY
Sounds of splashes, Lew Freedman
Great lead and very well reported throughout. Reporter took time to call a college swim coach from hundreds of miles away for added perspective.

2nd Place—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
Practice partners, Scott Byers
Very thorough reporting. Clean, clear writing.

3rd Place—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ
Mad About Maddaluna, Kelly Fenton
Made me Google the guy's name to see how the season turned out for him. That's a sign that the story made you care.

Honorable Mention—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
Adventure? Why not? Ben Ramsey
Fun look at an extreme sport. Story helps people who will never do such a grueling race know what it's like.

VIDEO JOURNALISM

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

1st Place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT
Honorably Released: When The Best Two Years Don't Turn Out As Expected, Jessica Bowles, Lindsay Bushman
Very thorough coverage of a sensitive topic to the publication's audience.

2nd Place—Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH
Not your grandfather's farmers market, Catie Noyes
Great feature on an emerging trend.

3rd Place—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Cops and cop dogs train and test in Jackson, Ryan Dorgan
Nice Documentary-style feature of law enforcement dog training seminar.

Honorable Mention—Community Impact Newspaper - Conroe Montgomery Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Action sports, Randy Robinson
Good video on a local attraction. Great to promote tourism!

VIDEO JOURNALISM

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

1st Place—Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, Iowa Falls, IA
Wild Things, Sara Konrad Baranowski
The Times-Citizen's tightly focused video packs all the elements of good journalism into just over 90 seconds. The well-written voice-over narrative provides the who, what, when, where, and why of 29 4th and 5th grade children taken out of their climate-controlled habitat for a week to experience what the crisp video and audio captures: the sounds of birds chirping, the you-are-there sense of hiking through tall grass



SECOND PLACE,
best original editorial cartoon, daily & non-daily division
By R.L. Crabb
The Union, Grass Valley, CA

and wading with nets in ponds, and the interaction between the children and one of the interpreters. On-camera quotes from a couple of the campers, identified with captions, add their perspectives, making this a nicely balanced piece that can stand on its own apart from other parts (print and still images) of a typical web package.

2nd Place—Fayette County Record, La Grange, TX
Video recap of La Grange/Caldwell football game, Grace-Anne Matocha

The Fayette County Record's high-energy recap of a hometown high school football team's 41-0 trouncing of a rival school captures most of the sights and some of the sounds of the game in just over two and a half minutes. Footage of the game—almost none of which is at the expense of the other team—is interspersed with post-game interviews with key players and the coach. Shots of the cheerleaders, band, and fans—and a well-placed not-quite ad from a hometown business backer wishing the team well—remind the viewer that football is a community event. Excellent sound and video editing and good use of graphics make this a stand-out example of video journalism.

3rd Place—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY
Cold Spring Veterans Visit Washington, Gregory Gunder
The Highlands Current followed a group of local veterans to Washington, D.C., on their visit to several of the nation's war memorials. The strategic use of various bugle calls frames the video as a whole, as well as the individual segments, and the smooth editing of the individual veterans' reminiscences captures, without exploiting, their often deeply emotional reactions.

VIDEO JOURNALISM

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

1st Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Georgetown Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Aviation, Randy Robinson
PERFECT! Headline, story, photos, video editing, and quality was PHENOMENAL! Keep doing what you're doing! Excellent!

2nd Place—Community Impact Newspaper - Georgetown Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Hotel opening, Randy Robinson

I love how when you go to your website the photos complements the video and the video complements the story! Excellent addition to a newspaper that impacts its community. This made me want to come and visit Georgetown, TX!

3rd Place—Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ
Your News in 90, Carrie Vargas, Kelly Fisher
Super cute! Loved the Goat Yoga!!! LOL Could have used some more subtitles or headline scripts to go with the video or maybe a SOT (in the broadcast journalism world that is sound on tape; in the print media world that is a direct quote). Keep up the great work!!

Honorable Mention—The Taos News, Taos, NM
'Water is life: Taos Pueblo supports Standing Rock', Rick Romancito
Video did not exist on the webpage when I went to view. Only the intro exists on the webpage.

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Daily & Non-daily Division

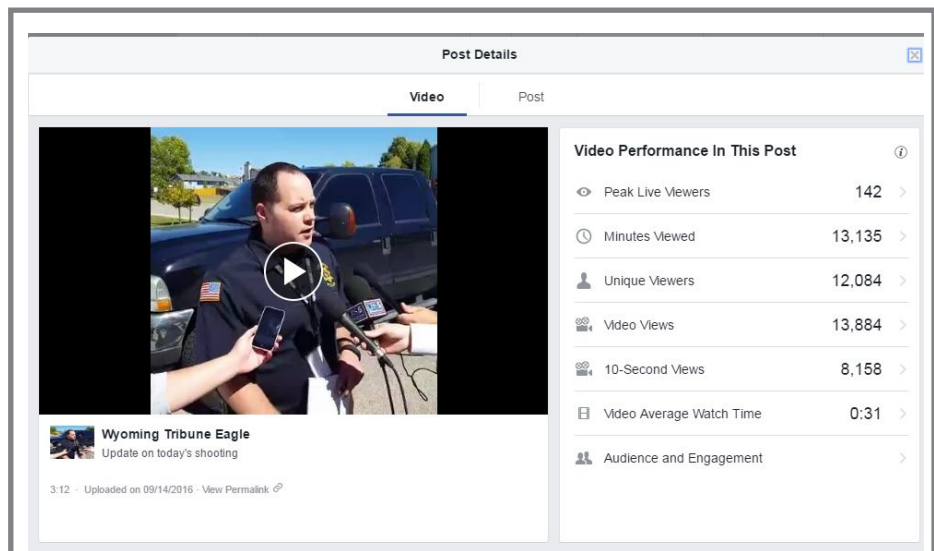
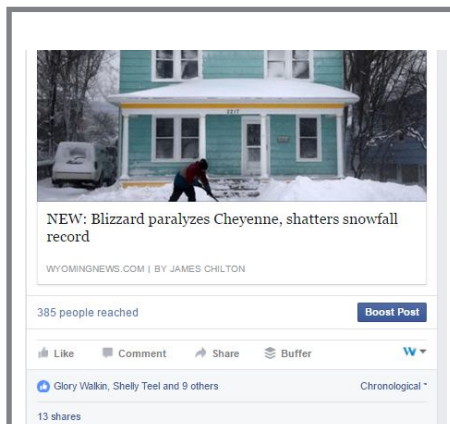
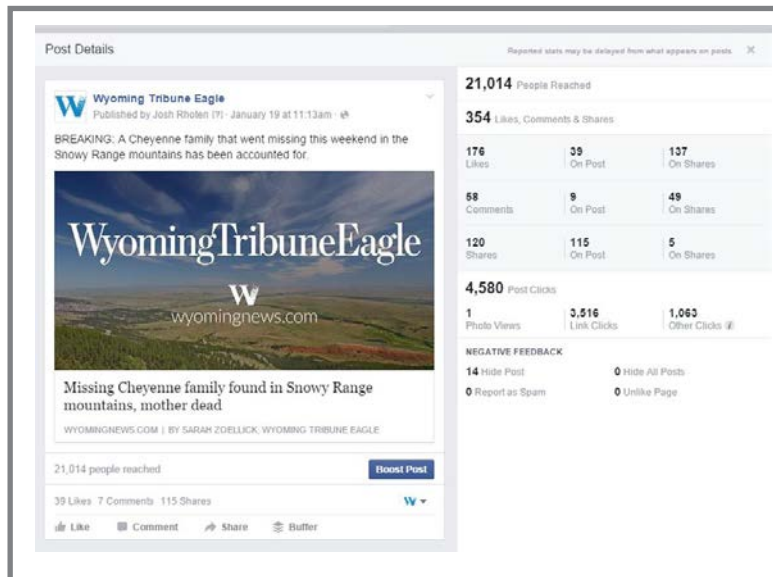
1st Place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT
Daily Universe Website - Best Newspaper Website, Daily Universe Staff

BY JOSH RHOTEN
Wyoming Tribune Eagle,
Cheyenne, WY

First place, Social Media Journalism
 daily & non-daily division, circulation 12,000 or more

NEW CATEGORY

Social Media Journalism



This was easily the "best in show." Great use of color and motion to draw the reader in, easy to layout, terrific mix of local and national content — this website has it all. Well done to all involved!

2nd Place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
 Best Website, Cyndi Wood

This website is a perfect example that a community-based newspaper doesn't have to have an amateurish website. Are you a small paper looking to establish a digital presence? You could do worse than to use this website as a guide.

3rd Place—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY
 HighlandsCurrent.com, Staff

This website has a "friendly" feel to it which welcomes the reader in. Lots of content on the homepage. Might consider dividing lines to break up what we "old-timers" might call "bumping heads."

Honorable Mention—Hood County News, Granbury, TX
 Staff

I like this website because, unlike so many others, it has great content right there, in your face, the moment it loads. No scrolling required to get to the news. Good content, as well. Clean, simple to use design.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Daily Division

1st Place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
 Valley Press Staff

Good writing, very direct. Nice use of pix/graphic on front page. Why the old-fashioned masthead? Beautiful features section; well done stories, photos and ads.

2nd Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA
 Journal staff

points Great focus on local with elections, crime and sports. Good features as well. Excellent sports photos.

3rd Place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY
 Wyoming Tribune Eagle Staff
 Good writing, nice layout.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st Place—The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC
 David Woronoff, John Nagy

This semiweekly amazes me with its breadth, depth, and quality of every aspect of newspapering. Well written with great photos. From basics like police blotters and honor rolls to even local book columnist and local best seller lists, they do so many things well. Homes are big and so is the coverage. Golf likewise in Southern Pines, but horses and dogs get their due. Classifieds remarkably strong, legal notices well displayed, comprehensive staff directory with two contact methods, annual report on cities in Moore County. A traditional newspaper professionally executed in every detail. I could go on and on, but clear winner in a photo.

2nd Place—Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID
 Editor Greg Foley

Intensely local, modern look, with photography even stronger than writing. Comprehensive sports coverage, arts & events, Local Life section with lots of photos, even TV listings (a lost art these days). Strong classifieds, legal notices. Covers Sun Valley market with major news and local opinion. Clear second.

3rd Place—Washington Missourian
 Staff

Only one corn cob pipe capital of the world! Business coverage stands out, but People section, sports section, separate classified section. Don't prefer "up" style heads. But from zoned local sections to surprisingly strong real estate and classifieds, especially help wanted, this paper is another traditional paper well done. State and regional news thrown in too.

Honorable Mention—The Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA
 Sun staff

This high-quality free weekly may be the wave of the future. Each issue has cover story of local issue, like homelessness or farm labor housing. Expert photography, modern layout, with local editorials and opinion. Even local humor columnist and

movie reviews. From arts to eats and stuff to do, this tabloid serves its coastal CA market well.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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

1st Place—Riverhead News-Review, Mattituck, NY
 Riverhead News-Review Staff

Excellent layout/design, writing. Very clean, easy to navigate. Great product.

2nd Place—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV

Lahontan Valley News staff

Neat format, great section designs, photos. Clean, sharp design

3rd Place—Blair Pilot-Tribune, Blair, NE
 Staff

Easy to read, well designed. Nice job on section categories.

Honorable Mention—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN
 Staff

Good overall job with writing, design, photography.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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

1st Place—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
 Staff

Amazing amount of content per issue. Like the approach on the front page of having one featured photo. Public notice presentation was best in class.

2nd Place—The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, NY
 The Suffolk Times Staff

Great design. Best looking paper in category. Very tough choice between first and **2nd Place**.

3rd Place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
 Staff

Rated the best editorial page out of the papers in the General Excellence category. Great public discourse. Well done.

Honorable Mention—Yamhill Valley News-Register, McMinnville, OR

Staff

Solid throughout. Best sports section among the entrants.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st Place—Petersburg Pilot, Petersburg, AK
 Ron Loesch, Ola Richards, Jessica Owens, Jess Field, Dan Rudy, Anne Loesch

An all-around good read, with something for everyone. I could tell that if I were to put all of the back issues of the Pilot together in chronological order, I'd have an excellent history of Petersburg. The layout is pleasing and complements the content without overwhelming it.

2nd Place—The Tioga Tribune, Crosby, ND
 Cecile Wehrman, publisher

Excellent use of images in the layout, but not so slick that the appearance ever overwhelms the solid content. Unafraid to tackle issues that appear to be controversial in the community.

3rd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA
 Ark Staff

Layout is aesthetically beautiful, with a number of incisive articles.

Honorable Mention—The Imperial Republican, Imperial, NE
 Staff

A well-rounded, meat-and-potatoes community newspaper.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE, COLLEGE DIVISION

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st Place—The Universe, Provo, UT
 Daily Universe Staff

For a college paper, the Daily Universe is impressively designed, very well-written and overflowing with engaging and relevant material for its readers.

2017 Better Newspaper Advertising Contest

BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

- 1st Place**—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA
Snappy Mistletoe's Big Christmas Adventure
- 2nd Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL
Fried Green Tomatoes
- 3rd Place**—Clinton Herald, Clinton, IA
Boat Giveaway
- Honorable Mention**—Clinton Herald, Clinton, IA
Elf on the Shelf

BEST CLASSIFIED SECTION

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

- 1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Taos News, classifieds section
- 2nd Place**—Amherst Bee, Williamsville, NY
Bee Newspapers Classified Advertising, Holly Schiferle, Manager
- 3rd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Ellsworth, ME
- Honorable Mention**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

BEST CLASSIFIED

Best Multiple Advertiser Section

- Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 5,000-9,999
- 1st Place**—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
White Wolf Web Grand Opening
- 2nd Place**—Waushara Argus, Wautoma, WI
Kids Design 2016
- 3rd Place**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL
A Salute to our Veterans
- Honorable Mention**—Waushara Argus, Wautoma, WI
Emergency Section 2016

BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5000

- 1st Place**—Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY
Bearcat Illustrated
- 2nd Place**—The Ark, Tiburon, CA

Home - Sept. 28

3rd Place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA

Back to School

Honorable Mention

The Ark, Tiburon, CA

Generosity - Feb 3

BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

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

- 1st Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA
Benefits of Advertising
- 2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Headwaters special section
- 3rd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Subscribe Promo
- Honorable Mention**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Election Night Updates

BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

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

- 1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Discover Taos
- 2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Summer Music Issue
- 3rd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Subscribe to the Wise County Messenger

BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

- 1st Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Wise County Messenger Sex Offenders

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Daily Division

- 1st Place**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
New Vehicle Preview
- Honorable Mention**—Clinton Herald, Clinton, IA
River Cities Choices

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

- 2nd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA
Real Estate Guide
- 3rd Place**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA
Wedding Planner Winter 2016

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

- 1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Discover Taos: 2016 Summer/Fall Visitor & Newcomer Guide
- 2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Land Water People Time: Northern NM's cultural guide 2016-2017
- 3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Taos Aglow: Northern NM's holiday traditions 2016
- Honorable Mention**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
Vista; Mount Desert Islander, Ellsworth, ME
Acadia National Park Anniversary

BEST SERIES AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

- 1st Place**—The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, KS
Fredrickson Insurance
- 2nd Place**—The Saint Francis Herald, Saint Francis, KS
Cheyenne County Hospital
- 3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Randall Lumber & Hardware
- Honorable Mention**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Metric Motors

BEST SERIES AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

- 1st Place**—Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA
Moonshine Ink
- 2nd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Sunshine Square
- 3rd Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX
Stingrays
- Honorable Mention**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Parker Properties

BEST SERIES AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

- 1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
State Farm
- 2nd Place**—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME
Stanley Subaru
- 3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
ACEQ
- Honorable Mention**—Brentwood Press, Brentwood, CA
Warren Properties — Linda Phillips Silvera

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

- 1st Place**—Morgan County Press, Versailles, MO
Oof! Making an Impact
- 2nd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Ellsworth, ME
Acadia Veterinary Hospital
- 3rd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Integrity — Hawkins Funeral Home
- Honorable Mention**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Say Cheese - Decatur Children's Dentistry

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, BLACK & WHITE

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

- 1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Discover Taos: Where to eat, drink, soak, sled, club, après, float, shop and shred in Taos.
- 2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Best of Taos: Jimmy Stadler #1 singer/songwriter
- 3rd Place**—Hood County News, Granbury, TX
Mike Brown Hyuandai
- Honorable Mention**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Penny Lane Cooperative

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

- 1st Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY
Our Town Thank You
- 2nd Place**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY
Come to the Pink Elephant Tag Sale

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

- 1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Common Fire
- 2nd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Taos Tack and Pet Supply
- 3rd Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Randall Lumber & Hardware

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA, COLOR

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

- Honorable Mention**—The Galena Gazette, Galena, IL
Fried Green Tomatoes

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

- 1st Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX
Floral Reef -Get out of the dog house
- 2nd Place**—Mount Desert Islander, Ellsworth, ME
House Wine
- 3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
Mr. Todd's
- Honorable Mention**—The Highlands Current, Cold Spring, NY
Fine Plus Rare Wine

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

Non-daily Division, circulation more than 5,000

- 1st Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Congratulations to the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation
- 2nd Place**—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY
Final Play
- 3rd Place**—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
2016 Free Concert

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

Daily Division, circulation more than 10,000

- Honorable Mention**—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA
Flea Market

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 16,000 or more

- 1st Place**—Community Impact Newspaper - Central Austin Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Peek Performers
- 2nd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper - The Woodlands Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Keller Williams
- 3rd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper - Cy-Fair Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Snapper Jacks
- Honorable Mention**—Community Impact Newspaper - Spring Klein Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Captain Aaron Seafood

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 8,000-15,999

- 1st Place**—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA
Jakes on the Avenue
- 2nd Place**—Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY
Zac Bronw Band
- 3rd Place**—Community Impact Newspaper - Frisco Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Tint
- Honorable Mention**—Community Impact Newspaper - Leander Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX
Lace

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 8,000

- 1st Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
D. Michael Thomas
- 2nd Place**—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI
Northern Lakes Landscaping
- 3rd Place**—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY
HF Bar
- Honorable Mention**—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY
Active Summer

BEST USE OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN ADS

Daily & Non-daily Division

- 1st Place**—The Taos News, Taos, NM
Chocolate + Cashmere
- 2nd Place**—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX
Decatur Dental
- 3rd Place**—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX
Keller Williams - Life is Short... Buy the Beach House!
- Honorable Mention**—The N'West IA REVIEW, Sheldon, IA
Western Christian

The National Newspaper Association thanks the following individuals for their time and talent in judging the 2017 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspaper And Education Contest

Anne Anderson
Reed Anfinson
Peyton Auffer
Lindsey Bell
Bo Bolton
Rick Bussler
Mark Campbell
Jenny Chciuk
Garry DeYoung
Sarah Elmquist Squires
Laurie Ezzell Brown
Eric Falquero
Tania French
Alexis Gelber
Eileen Gilligan
Terry Hawkins
Max Heath
Emily Hemphill
Harry Hix
Rosealee Hoffman
Linda Ireland
Randy Keck
Delinda Korrey
Warren Kulo
Aly Lawson
Guy Lucas
Willis Mahannah
Jonathan Make
Brian Martin

Jennifer Martin-Romme
Blaine McCartney
Ellen Meany
Jody Michael
Charles Mitchell
Bob Mudge
Bill Ostendorf
Russell Pankonin
Matt Paxton
Nancy Perlmutter
Cindy Picard
Beth Proffitt
Steve Ranson
Thomas Ranson
Daniel Richardson
Ken Ripley
Adam Robertson
Tonda Rush
Christine Sablynski
Dennis Schick
LuAnn Schindler
Charlie Smith
Steve Solomon
Jeanne Straus
Pat Taylor
Ray Weeks
Amy Wilson
Keith Wilson
Charlotte Wolfe

Newspaper And Education Contest

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & CIVIC LITERACY Division A, Daily and Non-daily Division

1st Place—The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO
Democracy Day and student newspapers, Tammy Witherspoon

This idea is wonderful and so inclusive of the schools, students and community leaders, elected officials. The participation by students in writing for their "school newspapers" is excellent and impresses upon them the importance of the print product. Great work!!!!

2nd Place—The St. Louis American, St. Louis, MO
St. Louis American NIE Program Educational Support, Kathy Sewell

A well-thought out program and interaction with teachers, offering guidance to them in having a successful NIE experience. All the information is good, but especially like the teachers' Intro Packet. Good job!

3rd Place—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, MO
News Literacy, Helen Headrick, Alicia Mems, Lauren Anderson Koelker

Hot topic on "fake news." Good approach to informing readers on how to identify what's real and what's not.

PARTNERSHIPS

Division A, Daily and Non-daily Division

1st Place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

KID TALK: NIE Siouxland and KWIT Student Production, Jeanette Hopkins, Nicole Schweitzberger

Great combination of a successful Kid Scoop program and the school. Well thought out goals helped make this successful. Integrating the work of the students within the Kid Scoop product gives it local flavor and encourages them to be print readers. The project, in effect, makes them reporters and encourages self-esteem, as well. Great job!

2nd Place—Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL

Reading with the Rays: Read Your Way to the Ballpark with Evan Longoria, Jodi Pushkin, Lisa Schillinger

Great idea to partner with the ball team and others to encourage kids to read and visit their libraries. Good work

3rd Place—Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL

Be Food Safe, Karen Tower, Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

Another great education tool for everyone. Good effort from the education system, Publix and host of newspapers to reach such a large number of students.

Honorable Mention—Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL

Pasco Recycling 2017: Make every day Earth Day, Sue Bedry, Jodi Pushkin, Patty Langgle

Nice job. Useful tool for schools and community.



A special Eldon Upper Elementary Democracy Day supplement written by fifth grade Advertiser cub reporters

There is a lot happening in Eldon Staying fit when young helps as you get older

By Dearah Mergelkamp
Have you heard of the brand new walking trail, and the brand new building, and the BMX bike park? If you haven't get ready to find out!
The new trail being built is about 200 miles, a long way. Eldon is at the very center of the trail, how cool is that?
There is going to be a brand new building going to be built in about a year. Since we have the walking trail and the new building, it is going to bring people to Eldon.
Eldon might become a brand new tourist attraction. Hope you're interested so far.
Did you know that high schoolers build the homes in front of the south school?
The high schoolers are going to take a break on the home, and are going to build the new building near Rock Island Park.
There is also a BMX bike park being built. April 22 is a very special day. The end of the day the BMX bike park is opening! If you like BMX bikes make sure you check out the BMX Park on April 22.
The BMX Park is a safe place, so you don't have to watch out for cars.
I hope you learned something in this passage. Make sure you stay safe, and have fun!



Opie talks about a variety of things happening in Eldon-Meghan Opie talks to students about the Rock Island Trail and the BMX bike park during the 12th annual Democracy Day, Friday, March 10.

Another possible one might be from Madison to one of the schools. This one is because many people are always walking to school. They just want to come use the trail even more often. They also hope that this will bring tourists to the area.
Many children come and play on this bike trail. They hope that by making this better, more children will want to come use the trail even more often. They also hope that this will bring tourists to the area.
Eldon hopes that by adding the walking trail, train station, crosswalks, and making the bike track better they will be able to offer more jobs.
This will help the economic growth in our town.
In addition, they hope that more people will want to come and visit. Overall, they just want to make Eldon a more enjoyable and better place to live and a fun place to visit.
The Rock Island Trail Committee
By Kathryn Marie Lester
As many people for transportation. Back then a lot of people were not wealthy and couldn't afford cars. There were also many people that could not be transported in or out of Eldon. So the people of Eldon decided to build a railroad running through Eldon.
As time advanced the price of cars decreased or dropped. As a result of this many people started buying cars instead of using the train. Another outcome was that semi-trucks were also invented and were used to transport goods instead of the train.
Eventually the train, along with the depot, went bankrupt. During this time unneeded tracks were entangled these tracks. The Rock Island Trail Committee wanted to put these tracks to good use.
Finally in 2004 they came up with an idea. They were going to change these tracks into an activity trail. They are also going to turn the depot into a train museum with a beautiful garden. The only problem was that they didn't have the funds to support this build.
For the next three years, they threw fundraisers and celebrations to support this cause. They finally had enough funds to put this plan into action. They are currently still working on the construction for these trails. They expect it to be done by 2017 or 2018.
Magdas Opie, to present this information to the youth in our school on Democracy Day. One thing she said to us was, "We need to be brainstorms to come up with an idea to benefit both our town and our community living inside of it." She has made many kids excited for the outcome of the new trail. We hope that everyone in Eldon will enjoy it too.
Have you ever heard of the Rock Island Trail? The trail is going to be more than 200 miles long when completed and 0.3 miles of the trail will run right through Eldon.
Eldon sits right in the middle of the trail. Areas currently owned by the Missouri State Parks. Right now companies are pulling up the old railroad tracks along the trail. For seven miles are completed on the trail from Windsor to Pleasant Hill.
Eventually, the trail will connect with the Katy Trail and will be the longest hiking trail in the world.
The Rock Island Trail will bring tourists to Eldon. There was a gentleman who granted \$200,000 to build a building in Eldon to replace the old train depot.
This building will give bike riders a place to rest and socialize when passing through Eldon.
When Representative Wood was asked about the teachers he responded by saying, "We need teachers to be able to teach you the things that will help you and we need to stay out of their way."
I think Mr. Wood really cares about how the community is doing and how the citizens of Missouri are getting what they deserve.
It was an honor to get to help help you and we need to stay out of their way."
Democracy Day and hopefully he will be back next year.

Miller County Recorder
Debbie Wiles
573-369-1935

Eldon Lions Club
1201 E. North St. Eldon, MO 65226
573-392-4465

Bank of Iberia
Iberia, Louisiana
Visit Our Website at www.bankofiberia.com
First Internet and Mobile Banking
877-761-2124 FDIC

Eldon Drug
Mon-Fri 8:30-6:00
Sat 9:00-2:00
101 S. Maple, Eldon, MO
573-392-4588

Eldon Furniture
We are proud to sponsor Newspapers in Education!
2 S. Maple
Eldon, MO 65226
573-392-4721

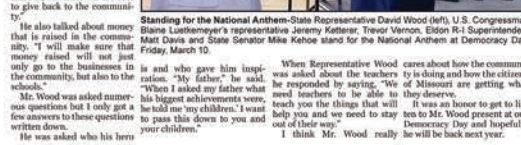
Walmart
Save money. Live better.
1802 S. Business Hwy. 54, Eldon
(573) 392-3114

KFC
TACO BELL
Bus. Hwy. 54 South Eldon, MO • 573-392-3555

Bruce Service Center
BULK OIL CHANGE SPECIAL
\$24.95
573-392-4616

State representative speaks to students

By Aya Smith
Democracy Day is a day that our school gathers together along with other schools and citizens from all different kinds of places. I am going to be writing about David Wood.
David Wood is our state representative and he came to our Democracy Day to talk to us. He was talking about school vouchers and said, "I do not like money going to private schools and being taken away from public schools."
A student from the upper elementary asked him a question about childhood education and how it is important to the community.
He responded with, "The childhood education there is, the more we are able to give back to the community."
He also talked about money that is raised in the community. "I will make sure that money raised will not just go to the businesses in the community, but also to the schools."
Mr. Wood was asked numerous questions but I only got a few answers to these questions written down.
He was asked who his heroes were and he said, "My father," he said. "When I asked my father what he thought about education, he told me 'my children, I want to pass this down to you and your children.'"
When Representative Wood was asked about how the community is doing and how the citizens of Missouri are getting what they deserve, he said, "It was an honor to get to help help you and we need to stay out of their way."
I think Mr. Wood really cares about how the community is doing and how the citizens of Missouri are getting what they deserve.
It was an honor to get to help help you and we need to stay out of their way."
Democracy Day and hopefully he will be back next year.



Standing for the National Anthem- State Representative David Wood (left), U.S. Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer's representative Jeremy Kemmer, Trevor Vernon, Eldon R-I Superintendent Matt Davis and State Senator Mike Kehoe stand for the National Anthem at Democracy Day, Friday, March 10.

NEWS LITERACY

Journalists strive for truth and accuracy, fairness and balance, accountability, independence and to serve humanity.

Pew Research Center indicates most American adults feel they are confident in their ability to identify fake news. Research shows **81% of American adults** feel that they are at least somewhat confident in their ability to identify fake news.

But for all of this confidence, **23% say they have shared fake news**, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

Take the time to educate yourself so you can recognize real versus fake news. To fully evaluate a story's validity, one must follow five steps to analyze the story.

- ### STEP ONE
- Identify who wrote this article, where it was first published and the targeted audience. For example, review "For some families, pain at finding vandalized headstones at University City cemetery," on STLToday.com on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.
- ### 1. WHO WROTE THIS ARTICLE?
- Ashley Lisenby is a digital and breaking news reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. A regular reader should readily recognize her name. A new reader would be able to do an internet search and find links to many of her stories.
- ### 2. WHERE WAS THE ARTICLE FIRST PUBLISHED?
- This is a follow up to a story that has been covered by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for several days. The story was first published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. This timeline indicates that the information is up-to-date.
- ### 3. WHO IS THE TARGETED AUDIENCE?
- This story is for the general St. Louis and national audiences. It is written in easily understood language.

Visit STLToday.com/Truth to access this article.
* PEW RESEARCH CENTER DEC. 2016

THIRD PLACE, Educational Support & Civic Literacy Division A, Daily and Non-daily Division, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, MO

FIRST PLACE, Educational Support & Civic Literacy Division A, Daily and Non-daily Division, The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO

ST. LOUIS AMERICAN - JUNE 14 JULY 2, 2018

Healthy Families

Nutrition
Getting to an ideal body weight is important. Before you go, remember these healthy tips and tricks to keep you healthy and happy. Start with a healthy diet. Eat fruits and vegetables. Get plenty of water. Exercise regularly. Get enough sleep. Don't smoke or drink too much alcohol.

Exercise
Before taking your car out of the garage, get it checked. Get a tune-up. Get a new oil change. Get a new battery. Get a new air filter. Get a new spark plug. Get a new brake pad. Get a new brake disc. Get a new brake line. Get a new brake hose. Get a new brake caliper. Get a new brake master cylinder. Get a new brake booster. Get a new brake master cylinder. Get a new brake booster.

And...
If you have any questions, please call the office at 314-288-2883 or email info@stlouisan.com.

Healthy Activities
There are many fun ways to stay healthy. Try these ideas:
- Walk or bike to work.
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Play sports with friends or family.
- Gardening.
- Reading.
- Watching TV.
- Listening to music.
- Taking a hot bath.
- Getting a massage.
- Taking a long walk.
- Getting a haircut.
- Getting a manicure.
- Getting a pedicure.
- Getting a dental check-up.
- Getting a vision check-up.
- Getting a physical check-up.
- Getting a flu shot.
- Getting a tetanus shot.
- Getting a meningitis shot.
- Getting a pneumonia shot.
- Getting a hepatitis shot.
- Getting a rabies shot.
- Getting a tetanus shot.
- Getting a meningitis shot.
- Getting a pneumonia shot.
- Getting a hepatitis shot.
- Getting a rabies shot.

Tampa Bay Times NIE
Newspaper in Education
tampabay.com/nie

READ YOUR WAY TO THE BALLPARK

WITH EVAN LONGORIA

Reading with the RAYS

presented by Suncoast Credit Union

CEDRIC and Friends!
Featuring the legendary Grammy Award winner **ARETHA FRANKLIN**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

100% voluntary, 100% confidential
No cost to participants
Receive feedback from the clinical assessment
Monetary compensation/reimbursement for some procedures

Please call the Memory and Aging Program at Washington University School of Medicine at 314-288-2883 or email info@wustl.edu

SECOND PLACE, Partnerships Division A, Daily and Non-daily Division Tampa Bay Times, St. Petersburg, FL

THE PILOT
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Southern Pines, N.C. Price \$5.00

Veterans Sowing Seeds of Recovery
Pair Launch 'Therapeutic Gardening' Plan
I really found some safety in it. I found myself dropping in the simple act of gardening. Stone Hasket

MUTTS ON PARADE
The city will host a parade of dogs and their owners on Saturday. The parade will start at 10 a.m. and will end at 2 p.m. The parade will be held on the main street of the city.

Booster Policy Approved
Single-Club Rule Concerns Pincrest
The Moore County Board of Education approved a new policy governing parent and community organizations and booster clubs Monday.

Defoliation Leads to Unsightly Patches
DOT Continues Clearing Program Along County Roads
The North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) is continuing its clearing program along county roads to remove dead and dying trees.

Windstorm takes the life of horse
A severe windstorm hit the area on Saturday, causing significant damage to property and infrastructure. A horse was reported to have been killed in the storm.

Public Speaking
Mother Treasures Bible
A woman shared her experiences and insights from her time as a public speaker and her love for the Bible.

Sandhills Scene
Friends With Benefits
A group of friends gathered for a special event in the sandhills, enjoying the scenic views and each other's company.

Weather Forecast
Today: Partly Cloudy, High 82, Low 62
Thursday: Partly Cloudy, High 82, Low 62
Friday: Partly Cloudy, High 82, Low 62

Smartphones soak up more of our time
National parks: Temples of nature for U.S.
Lancaster teen motoring for championship

Valley Press
Antelope Valley Press
More Antelope Valley People Read the Valley Press Than Any Other Newspaper

How green will our Valley be?
Parris: Lancaster could make millions
Cal City considers pot cultivation plans

Two caught selling illegal fireworks
Deputies to beef up their patrols on holiday

Clinton wanted her emails private
\$1.2 billion homeless measure opens on ballot

Windstorm takes the life of horse
Drug use up in prisons with new programs

Table with 4 columns: Section, Page, and other details.

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, daily division
Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation 10,000 or more
The Pilot, Southern Pines, NC

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation 6,000 - 9,999
Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY

BETTER NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS
Visit www.nnaweb.org or call 217-241-1400, ext. 300
We believe in newspapers

DECATUR DENTAL
Family Dentistry
Implants • Tooth Whitening
Oral Surgery
John Winder, D.D.S.
Paige Winder, D.D.S. • Roy Kindrick, D.D.S.
501 S. Washburn • Decatur
940-627-2514
FIRST PLACE, best single ad idea, color, daily & non-daily division, circulation more than 5,000
The Taos News, Taos, NM
FIRST PLACE, best use of local photography in ads
daily and non-daily division
Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX

RIVERHEAD NEWS-REVIEW

RiverheadNewsReview.com NEWS | SPORTS | COMMENTARY Thursday, November 24, 2016 \$156

Hospitals compete for cardiac cath lab

Local plan is held up by Southampton's application

By KILLY ZEIGAS STAFF WRITER

Despite a recommendation to approve Peconic Bay Medical Center's application for a cardiac catheterization lab in favor of one proposed for Southampton Hospital, a committee of state Public Health and Health Planning Council members has approved both proposals.

Two steps remain before any final determination is made, however, as the competing applications must now be considered before the full council, and the ultimate decision lies with New York State health commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker.

Seeing the need for only one new facility, health departments staff, as well as an ad hoc committee of cardiac surgeons and cardiologists, had previously recommended approval of Southampton's application.

Here analysis of both proposals. PIMC's Riverhead location was the key factor in the endorsement of its plan, according to testimony from Charles Abbe, deputy director of the health department Center for Health Care Facility Planning, Licensing and Finance. Other factors included PIMC's plans to construct a cardiac catheterization lab, a new 17,000-square-foot critical care tower.

PIMC president and CEO Andrew Mitchell also pointed to the hospital location while speaking before the committee in October 2016.

WHAT'S INSIDE
She dazzles the crowd with her twirling skills Page 2
Community mourns former town councilman Page 3
Bracing for a possible end to 'Obamacare' Page 7
Hit-and-run victim dies two weeks after crash Page 9

Petersburg Pilot

Petersburg, Alaska

November 10, 2016 Vol. XLIX, No. 45 Named Best Weekly Newspaper 2013 & 2015 www.petersburgpilot.com 16 Pages One Dollar

Reality show seeking Norwegian-Americans

By JESS FIELD PILOT WRITER

A Chicago-based casting company is looking for Norwegian-Americans interested in learning more about their ancestry. Norway's popular reality TV show *Alt for Norge* or *The Great Norway Adventure*, is now accepting applications.

"It's not a typical reality show that we'd think of, it's not mean spirited," says Joan O'Connor of O'Connor Casting Company. "It features people who really want to get in touch with their Norwegian ancestry."

If chosen they'd be part of a 12-person cast and be flown to Norway for filming. Applicants must be over 18 years old and be Norwegian-American. It is also a requirement that applicants have not previously traveled to Norway.

Contestants compete in a variety of challenges and complete adventurous tasks, but they also have challenges dealing with culture or language. Contestants might be kayaking one day, and learning native language from a Norwegian elder the next day, according to the press release. The show focuses on building camaraderie of the cast, rather than creating or documenting drama between cast members, O'Connor says.

Shooting could take as little as two weeks or as long as 12, depending on how far a contestant makes it. And cast members are asked to leave at the end of a show, there isn't a voting process to eliminate cast members, O'Connor says. One of the show's main focuses is researching the deep history of contestants and letting audience members experience the event as they learn about their roots.

"It's really moving," O'Connor says. "A couple years ago, I believe a winner turned 60 while he was in Norway."

Contestants have to be able to undertake athletic challenges, but the show is accepting any and all U.S. citizens who are interested in finding the application at www.OConnorCasting.com/norway-application. All you need is a recent photo, details about family history and a short video. The winner of the show receives a \$50,000 prize. The deadline to apply is Dec. 1.

Assembly asks for two docks and more maintenance money

By JESS FIELD PILOT WRITER

The Petersburg Borough Assembly held a public hearing regarding the issue of taking over three docks from state control on Monday. The assembly voted to draft a response to the state and asked for \$1.2 million for the maintenance, raising the state's original offer by \$500,000.

Papke's area resident John Margas sent in a letter to be read by borough clerk Debbie Thompson. Margas stated the importance of understanding what the borough is getting in the deal and knowing the parking lot and ramps were not being offered. He also offered a caution approach when thinking about how long it could potentially take to acquire tidelands under the Papke's Landing dock.

"The Petersburg Borough recently completed conveyance of tidelands property from Alaska DNCR at Snow Bay," he wrote. "That process took over 20 years because of bureaucratic requirements."

Margas noted the importance of the dock at Papke's, as a functional port facility, but he also called the challenge of acquiring the entire facility and dealing with Alaska Mental Health and DNCR "almost insurmountable."

Multiple residents, including David Keninger, talked about the economic impact of Papke's and a willingness to pay fees to use the facility if it were under borough control. Keninger asked of a willingness to set up an association to help with the transition of ownership, and he said the assembly should be a "critical part" of the borough's infrastructure and how local "we want."

"Whether we live out here or we live in town," she said. "And I think it's critical that the borough take on solving the problem of how to make here and fish throughout the winter," he said. "Although it's a small portion of our fishing community, it's something you should consider."

Koeneman also mentioned his 22 years of experience as an EMT and the importance of Papke's in getting people with emergency medical needs the treatment they require faster because of it.

Local resident Kathryn Schneider also attended the meeting. Schneider's lived here for 25 years, and she said Papke's Landing is a "critical part" of the borough's infrastructure and how local "we want."

"Whether we live out here or we live in town," she said. "And I think it's critical that the borough take on solving the problem of how to make here and fish throughout the winter," he said. "Although it's a small portion of our fishing community, it's something you should consider."

Koeneman also mentioned his 22 years of experience as an EMT and the importance of Papke's in getting people with emergency medical needs the treatment they require faster because of it.

Local resident Kathryn Schneider also attended the meeting. Schneider's lived here for 25 years, and she said Papke's Landing is a "critical part" of the borough's infrastructure and how local "we want."

"Whether we live out here or we live in town," she said. "And I think it's critical that the borough take on solving the problem of how to make here and fish throughout the winter," he said. "Although it's a small portion of our fishing community, it's something you should consider."

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

November 1-7, 2016

Election Edition

Road to 270

The latest AP analysis of the 2016 electoral landscape

Updated Oct. 28

HILLARY CLINTON 278
STRONG DEM: 213

DONALD TRUMP 173
LEAN GOP: 106

TOSSUP: 87
LEAN DEM: 65

Sexual assault policy updates send ripples through community

BY ASHLEY LEE, LAURA SPILLSBURY & WHITNEY HALEES

Key players and other stakeholders reacted to BYU's updated policies on sexual assault reporting. The overall reactions were positive, especially as BYU-Idaho and BYU-Hawaii, and for individuals who were at the center of the issue.

The policy change created ripples in Provo, as well as in Sturgis, Idaho, and Salt Lake City. The policies on sexual assault reporting were updated in Provo, as well as in Sturgis, Idaho, and Salt Lake City. The policies on sexual assault reporting were updated in Provo, as well as in Sturgis, Idaho, and Salt Lake City.

Hillary Clinton favored in international poll

By HELEY HILTON

Confidence around the world is relatively high for Hillary Clinton and relatively low for Donald Trump according to a survey of 18 European Union countries conducted by Pew Research Center. The survey shows that Clinton is favored by 65 percent of respondents, while Trump is favored by 29 percent.

Clinton received her lowest support from Greece, where 19 percent of people surveyed favor her. In the United States, Clinton received 65 percent support, while Trump received 29 percent.

Chelsea Clinton learned campaign priorities from mom

By ABBY HAY

Chelsea Clinton won't let her mother's loss for her father Bill Clinton run for the presidency distract her from her own life. She learned campaign priorities from her mother, Hillary Clinton.

Chelsea Clinton won't let her mother's loss for her father Bill Clinton run for the presidency distract her from her own life. She learned campaign priorities from her mother, Hillary Clinton.

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation 3,000 - 5,999
Riverhead News-Review, Mattituck, NY

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000
Petersburg Pilot, Petersburg, AK

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, college division, daily & non-daily
The Universe, Provo, UT

www.jakesontheavenue.com

Jake's ON THE AVENUE

Floral Designs and Gifts

105 N. Range Ave., Suite C, Denham Springs, LA
(Located in Denham Springs Village Square, Corner N. Range & Railroad Avenue)
667-6670

to the one you love

MON - FRI 9am - 5pm SATURDAY 9am - 5pm

FIRST PLACE, best use of ad color, daily & non-division, circulation 8,000 - 15,999
Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA

Snappy Mistletoe's BIG Christmas Adventure

Where did Snappy go?

Match the photo to the business for a chance to win \$100!

Send or drop off your entry to The North Scott Press, PO Box 200, 214 N 2nd St, Eldridge, Iowa 52748 by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Winner will be drawn from all correct entries and announced in Dec. 28 NSP.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

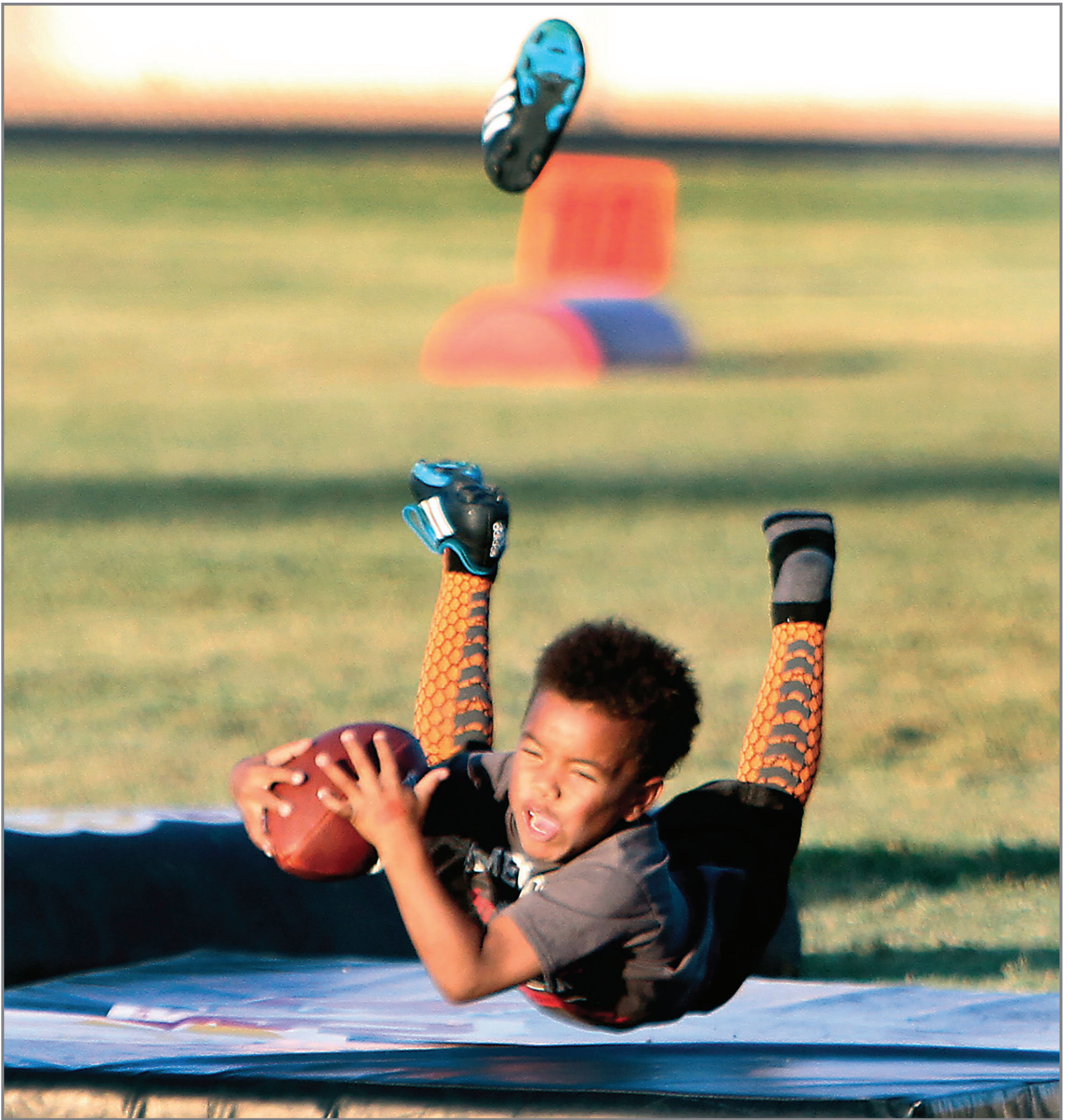
1. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 2. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 3. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 4. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 5. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit]

6. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 7. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 8. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 9. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 10. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 11. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 12. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 13. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 14. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 15. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit] 16. [Photo of a person in a red and green outfit]

Central Scott
Classic Concepts
Eldridge Family Dentistry
Grand Haven
KING'S
Quick Lube
Mamas Pastors
Tina's Dance Studio

Send or drop off your entry to The North Scott Press, PO Box 200, 214 N 2nd St, Eldridge, Iowa 52748 by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Winner will be drawn from all correct entries and announced in Dec. 28 NSP.

FIRST PLACE, best advertising idea, non-daily division, circulation less than 5,000
North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA



SECOND PLACE, best feature photo, daily division

By Oscar Perez | Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ

DIVING CATCH—A boy loses his shoe while making a diving catch, above, at the end of an obstacle course during the Gatorade Play 60 Initiative Cardinals Heads Up Football program Wednesday at Carr McNatt Park in Casa Grande. Youths from kindergarten to eighth grade were eligible to participate.