**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5000

The Alamance News

*2023 Alamance County High School Football Preview Special Section*

John Adams, Bob Sutton, & Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Good looking Football preview section, with most of the ads getting into the spirit of the theme.*

1

**Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Alamance News

*2023 Alamance County High School Football Preview Special Section*

John Adams, Bob Sutton, & Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great Fall Sports Section. Hard to pull off such an in depth section these days.*

2

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Grill 584*

John Adams

Judge’s Comments: *Beautiful graphics in this ad -- now I'm hungry!*

3

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Best Local News Coverage - The Alamance News*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *The mold situation in the school is a fascinating read. Really, how do they close the school because of dangerous mold but open the locker rooms for athletes? Good for you for asking the questions. Too many newspapers think it is their job to be the school system's best friend. It is not. Schools deal with our children and dollars. More newspapers should follow your example. Also enjoyed the story about the battle with the big box store. Overall, excellent local news coverage.*

4

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Supt.'s secret recordings are Nixon-esque*

Tom Boney, Jr.

Judge’s Comments: *The winner in a category with some great entries that were very close. The writers take an almost unfathomable behavior by a local official and clearly dispute many of the outrageous claims and actions. After reading, you wonder how this person could have been in control of a district and better yet, is he still in control after this? Bumfuzzled???*

5

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Burlington grandsons now Navy pilots, one a 'top gun'*

Charity L. Cohen

Judge’s Comments: *Nice hook in the lead paragraph with recalling how the pilot got hooked on flying. This should provide an inspiration for others to serve their country. Solid writing!*

6

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

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Toxic mold contamination in Alamance-Burlington schools, fall 2023*

Kristy Bailey

Judge’s Comments: *A double-barreled travesty uncovered -- ignoring warnings about mold that endangered students and staff, and spending the money that should have gone for repairs on salary increases. Good, good work.*

7

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Commissioners, Mebane city council looking at Transload facility*

Tomas Murawski

Judge’s Comments: *Very well written, non-bias and informative.*

8

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Should county go to war with Big Box retailers after revaluation?*

Tomas Murawski

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent story about questionable actions by elected leaders.*

9

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Remote voting: when is it allowed?*

Tomas Murawski

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent in-depth look at how local governments can interpret unclear state laws on public officials ability to vote remotely in meetings. Great job in providing comparisons with other localities on how they dealt with the issue.*

10

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Alamance News

*Rules required coach's ejection*

Bob Sutton

Judge’s Comments: *An interesting baseball story where the reporter focused on an unusual series of events that became pivotal in the result of the game.*

*A note to sports competition entrants: Focus on key/defining moments that help the reader understand sport more than simply report what happened. "Big game" and "feel-good" features are big stories for the community, but will be much stronger with tighter focus.*

11

**Best Series Ad Idea, Black & White**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Antelope County News

*McIntosh Jewelry*

Angelique Boyer

Judge’s Comments: *The Christmas ads with the diamonds and other gems are beautiful and very attention-grabbing.*

12

**Best Series Ad Idea, Color**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Antelope County News

*Stealth Broadband*

Angelique Boyer & Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *Lovely series! Simple, effective, and some made me chuckle! Good job!*

13

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Antelope County News

*Explosive Speed*

Angelique Boyer

Judge’s Comments: *Strong, impactful ad, with a graphic that is outstanding. I love that there's very little copy with it -- the graphic says it all!*

14

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Antelope County News

*Beef. It Made Us Famous.*

Angelique Boyer

Judge’s Comments: *Great graphic catches the attention of the reader. Good use of color and an interesting font.*

15

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Antelope County News

*Queen of the Latrine*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *Pretty good column about the trials of replacing a toilet yourself.*

16

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Antelope County News

*First Holiday As A Widow*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *The writer demonstrates a keen eye/ear/nose for a story and then does what all journalists need to remember to do: listen. The column is one to share every holiday season.*

17

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Antelope County News

*Best Use of Photos*

Antelope County News Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Lots of really good, locally-generated photos creatively and professionally displayed. Solid work.*

18

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Antelope County News

*No Way Santa*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *So much motion here - Loved the expressions on the faces. Why bury such a great photo at the bottom of the page?*

19

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Antelope County News

*Clearwater Rodeo*

Antelope County News Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Terrific action photo leads this essay! Subordinate photos add good visual reflections/context.*

20

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

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Antelope County News

*Neligh's 150th Celebration*

Antelope County News Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Lots of work went into this piece, especially the in-depth feature. Great mix of old and new photographs*

21

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Antelope County News

*Not again: Semi blows past intersection*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *This is almost comical.*

22

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Antelope County News

*Remembering A Christmas Miracle*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *A bit wordy but a powerful story.*

23

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Antelope County News

*From Paralyzed To State Champion*

Jenny Higgins

Judge’s Comments: *Nice deep story with multiple interviews. Well arranged and organized.*

24

**Best Classified Section**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark

*Ark Classifieds*

Leigh Pagan

Judge’s Comments: *Good effort*

25

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5000

The Ark

*Home, spring 2023*

Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin, Staff

Judge’s Comments: *The ARK is in a class all it's own. Beautiful photography, inviting layouts. The cookbook double page spread was a fun idea.*

26

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5000

The Ark

*Home - Fall 2023*

Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin, Staff

Judge’s Comments: *The ARK is well done all-around, layouts choice of images and the ads a beautiful too!*

27

**Best Public Notice Section**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark

*Public notices*

Leigh Pagan, Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Clean layout.*

28

**Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark

*Holiday Guide*

Henriette Corn, Emily Lavin, Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great local content and photography. Congratulations*

29

**Review - Best Review**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark

*"‘Odyssey’ shows hero’s journey through female lens"*

Michele Caprario

Judge’s Comments: *A little hard to forage through at parts, but, overall, a good review filled with opinion.*

30

**Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Ark

*ArkBeat*

Kevin Hessel & Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Solid stories and engaging content for readers. Good use of photos and placements.*

31

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Tiburon resident cements her legacy as a pioneer among women in medicine*

Deirdre McCrohan

Judge’s Comments: *Well written. Excellent insight into what it took for women to break the barrier in the medical field. Great job.*

32

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Strawberry tennis legend turns 100*

Francisco Martinez

Judge’s Comments: *A well-written profile of a tennis legend. Lots of good data and first-account information. A solid read!*

33

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

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*New captain to become Tiburon’s first female police chief*

Katherine Martine, Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *There is so much in this story that it could have been made more powerful with some graphics and photos to break up the heavy, dense reading.*

34

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

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Paradise Cay puts in private license-plate cams*

Francisco Martinez, Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Well researched but written kind of matter of fact, needs more oomph.*

35

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

The Ark

*Strawberry tennis legend turns 100*

Francisco Martinez

Judge’s Comments: *Well written and informative. I like how it not only told about the life of Mr. Seixas, but also incorporated how the sport has changed since he played.*

36

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Ark

*Belvedere residents launches new space for Marin’s teens*

Emily Lavin

Judge’s Comments: *Strong article about how one person can make a difference. The story of how the new space came to fruition shows what a community can accomplish. Good job.*

37

**Rookie Reporter of the Year**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division

The Ark

*Ark Rookie of the Year*

Francisco Martinez

Judge’s Comments: *Actually 7.5+*

*This was a five-story entry by a new reporter covering mostly city government, but also some general local stories. The government stories, especially, were well written, compelling, and easy to read.*

38

**Best Informational Graphic**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Belvedere Challenge fun run tackles city’s walking lanes*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Clear graphic outlining the course and its highlights.*

39

**Best Informational Graphic**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Tiburon sees lowest levels of crime in four decades*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *The graph is a great visualization, allowing the reader to get a quick glimpse of crime statistics.*

40

**Best Informational Graphic**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Cougar tracked deep into Tiburon*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *A good overlay of GPS data that tracked a cougar through town, giving the reader a detailed view of where this big cat was. Yikes!*

41

**Best Front Page Design**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Ark

*The Ark - Sept 20*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Attention getting above the fold. People will buy this paper.*

42

**Best Front Page Design**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*The Ark - Dec 27*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Amazing photo and eye catching fonts.*

43

**Best Front Page Design**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*The Ark - Feb 22*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Multiple entry points with strong fonts selection.*

44

**Best Use of a Double-Truck**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Spring cookbooks*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Book covers and font make this page a must-read!*

45

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Angels soar over Tiburon*

Frank Fennema

Judge’s Comments: *Great job at catching the action.*

46

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Marin Home Care named peninsula business of the year*

Emily Lavin

Judge’s Comments: *Thank you, Emily Lavin, for opening this story on how the home care business came to be, and saving the "business of the year" angle until the 4th paragraph. Excellent background & context, quotes and personality included.*

47

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Tiburon Laundroman will close its doors after three decades*

Emily Lavin

Judge’s Comments: *This story by Emily Lavin reflects the challenge of being a small business owner. Good job.*

48

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Tiburon sees lowest levels of crime in four decades*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Thorough research and the info graphics really helped tell the story.*

49

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Tiburon council is targeted by antisemitic ‘Zoom-bombing’*

Kevin Hessel

Judge’s Comments: *Well told.*

50

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Cities, residents balk at new California housing laws*

Kevin Hessel, Francisco Martinez, Deirdre McCrohan, Katherine Martine, Hemananthani Sivanandam

Judge’s Comments: *Comprehensive coverage of important housing regs affecting the communities you cover. Solid writing that made the state's opinions vs. local cities' desires easy to understand. Well done.*

51

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Tiburon man takes tennis crown at world masters tournament*

Francisco Martinez

Judge’s Comments: *Good coverage of a local athlete on the world stage.*

52

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*San Diego’s Svajda clinches second straight crown at Tiburon Challenger*

Francisco Martinez

Judge’s Comments: *Good topic, through coverage of the athlete's success.*

53

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Ark

*San Diego’s Svajda clinches second straight crown at Tiburon Challenger*

Frank Fennema

Judge’s Comments: *This was by far the best photo in this category and division. Great action shot.*

54

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Ark

*Three-peat*

Elliot Karlan

Judge’s Comments: *That is a quite good championship celebration photo.*

55

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Ark

*History Scrapbook*

Dave Gotz

Judge’s Comments: *A great series spanning centuries. Enjoyed reading even the "recent" histories. It would benefit from a consistent presentation or distinct standing head.*

56

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Brentwood Press

*Pittsburg Chamber 9-1-2023*

Eric Kinnaird, Anne Ray, Heather Mariano - Graphic Designers

Judge’s Comments: *Great use of color and fonts. Great picture. Graphics were amazing. Well done.*

57

**Video Journalism**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Brentwood Press

*Seniors learn self defense - using their canes*

Jeff Weisinger, Reporter and Andrew Rulloda, Visual Media & Writer

Judge’s Comments: *Well told! No matter how old you are, you will get something out of this story.*

58

**Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Brentwood Press

*Senior Helpers Advertorial*

Anne Ray, Heather Mariano, Eric Kinnaird - Graphic Designers

Judge’s Comments: *Nice local piece, community ties, good job.*

59

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Brentwood Press

*Muse looks forward to 'the next level'*

Jeff Weisinger, Staff Writer

60

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*First Northern Bank*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *I love the message in this ad -- and frankly, I'd come by for the coffee! Beautifully done.*

61

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Sports Lure*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *Love this ad. Beautiful images make it eye-catching.*

62

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Legacy Diamonds*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *Good ad. The dark background enhances the appeal*

63

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Buffalo Bulletin

*Best use of photos: Buffalo Bulletin*

Ethan Weston, staff

Judge’s Comments: *This paper has pulled off something extremely difficult: in two consecutive editions, they published not even ONE "execution at dawn" or staged photo. Not one.*

*Photo feature layouts are clean, pleasing top the eye and proof that papers do not need to run photos in color to be effective.*

*Ethan Weston has a good eye.*

64

**General Excellence**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Buffalo Bulletin*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *x1st Place/Buffalo Bulletin: The compact flag at the top of page one of the Buffalo Bulletin sets the tone for all of its 18 pages—all pertinent information is upfront, plainly stated against an iconic image, and takes the minimum amount of space to get the job done. Front pages, themselves, are equally eye-catching and straightforward, leading readers to the content inside. Each week the Bulletin packs, but doesn’t cram, concisely written articles, features, commentary, police and court logs, public notices, ads and more into its 18 pages. Crisp, vibrant, tightly-framed action photos pull readers into the articles; short and to-the-point headlines are not above a touch of wordplay. Carefully designed ads, large and small, promote local businesses and events. County-wide church and event calendars, school lunch menus, balanced sports coverage and more undergird community connections. The Buffalo Bulletin’s well-managed space, straight-forward reporting, and thoughtful overall voice get the job done … and done exceptionally well.*

65

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Boys of summer*

Ethan Weston

Judge’s Comments: *I love this picture because it could have been taken anywhere in the country -- boys being boys! Climbing up on the dugout ledge, watching the goings-on -- it's truly just a slice of American life. Perfect.*

66

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Best friends*

Ethan Weston

Judge’s Comments: *Beautiful shot of a tender moment.*

67

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*On the road*

Seth Taylor

Judge’s Comments: *Well done. The reader is treated to details of how this service enhances life in the community.*

68

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Timber sale in Circle Park promotes forest diversity*

Alex Hargrave

Judge’s Comments: *Educational, explanatory piece covers the story from all angles. Good use of quotes keep it readable and relatable.*

69

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Do the fandango*

Peder Schaefer

Judge’s Comments: *Super interesting, education, personal. This is what I want to see in a feature. Great job!*

70

**Best Restaurant Ad**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Bozeman Trail Steakhouse*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *A mouth-watering choice of photo!*

71

**Best Informational Graphic**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Johnson County ag by the numbers*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *This infographic is a clear winner. The outstanding use of relevant art makes it clear and easy to understand. Well done!*

72

**Best Informational Graphic**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*First time home buying by the numbers*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *Nice graphic in a honeycomb pattern that clearly demonstrates the information needed to accompany the article.*

73

**Best Front Page Design**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Best Front Page Design*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *Use of fonts and photos makes this easy to read.*

74

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*All in a day's work*

Peder Schaefer

Judge’s Comments: *Great story. It has an interesting spin on labor day.*

75

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Local banks healthy*

Jen Sieve-Hicks

Judge’s Comments: *This was a nicely done story. the reporter did a good job localizing the situation. Good work!*

76

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Small towns struggle to secure federal funds*

Seth Taylor

Judge’s Comments: *Good piece on the difficulties small communities face. Well written and sourced.*

77

**Best Holiday Ad**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily Division less than 5000

Buffalo Bulletin

*Pumpkin festival*

Stacy Bronson

Judge’s Comments: *This ad is really beautiful, and "fall-ish." Love the pumpkins!*

78

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Buffalo Bulletin

*Historian finds manuscript*

Alex Hargrave

Judge’s Comments: *A great story about how a historian's diligence turned a lucky discovery into an important piece of history.*

79

**Civic - Community Service Award**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Cadet

*Saving Freedom of Speech for the Virginia Military Institute Community*

Cadet Russell Crouch ‘24, Cadet Dylan Palmer ’24, Cadet Cody Bartmann ’25, Cadet Jackson Creach ’25, Cadet Adam Cioffi II ’26, and Cadet Alex Dieffenbach ’26

Judge’s Comments: *The perils and challenges of reporting at a college like VMI are often unknown outside the region the school is located and the military community. However, having friends who went to VMI decades ago, I know of those issues via stories from friends. That element alone makes this series and coverage important and difference making community service journalism. I felt that this was most powerful in sense of making issues public, shining that light and challenging the tough authority of the college. Writing was good enough, but as reality check, these are college students and not professionals. I applaud y'all. Thank you.*

80

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Cadet

*Sun Li-Jen '27: A cadet until the end*

Adam Cioffi II '26

Judge’s Comments: *The writer introduced a person whose life had to have been filled with internal conflicts but someone who made choices with great courage. Fine work.*

81

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Cadet

*Student journalists stand against repression of free speech*

Cadet Russell Crouch ‘24, Cadet Dylan Palmer ’24, Cadet Cody Bartmann ’25, Cadet Jackson Creach ’25, Cadet Adam Cioffi II ’26, and Cadet Alex Dieffenbach ’26.

Judge’s Comments: *Bravo for standing up for your publication. Solid points made. Probably not easy to opine against the administration but proof the students have a spine. Well worth the read and hope it was shared by papers with wider circulation.*

82

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Greatest of the Grande 2023 Winners Section*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Looks like you spent a lot of time on this section, good job.*

83

**Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Small Business Showcase*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great layout and a wonderful way to allow the advertiser to thank the community.*

84

**Best Series Ad Idea, Black & White**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Al & Riley's Air Conditioning & Sheet Metal, Inc.*

Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell

Judge’s Comments: *Good variety of designs to avoid looking stale.*

85

**Best Series Ad Idea, Black & White**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande Dispatch

*J. Warren Funeral Services*

Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell

Judge’s Comments: *The ad with the photo of the serenity gardens at a local cemetery was the nicest in this series.*

86

**Best Series Ad Idea, Color**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Crossroads Auto Center*

Wiley Acheson, Byron McConnell

Judge’s Comments: *so clever!! catchy!*

87

**Best Use of Local Photography in Ads**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Casa Grande Union High School District*

Zoe Cooper, Byron McConnell

Judge’s Comments: *The graduation photo works well for this ad.*

88

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Casa Grande Dispatch

*12 lessons from a year of asking Pinal's People a simple question*

Rofida Khairalla

Judge’s Comments: *A fairly easy story, but probably one often overlooked. Strong lede, and a great concept to highlight locals in a podcast and then wrap it up with a story. Nice work! I plan to go look up this podcast and am sure it will be worth my time. Congrats on 2nd place. This really emphasizes the importance of community journalism.*

89

**Social Media Journalism**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Hosting an Event?*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *You can tell that they have engaged the readers who are sharing their events. While many may wonder why you would go to this trouble, you are offering a service of bringing it all together so your readers don't have to spend their valuable time hunting for upcoming events. Good work, 4th place!*

90

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Bunnies choose salad cover soup*

Bill Coates

Judge’s Comments: *A delightful story about perseverance -- by the bunnies, although the writer gave it his best shot.*

91

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Casa Grande Dispatch

*Rough forest road*

Bill Coates

Judge’s Comments: *Another fun story from Bill, although I am not sure I would have his patience.*

92

**Civic - Community Service Award**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Cedar County News

*Community Service - Vets Memorial*

Rob Dump

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

93

**Editions - Best Headline Writing**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Cedar County News

*Best headline writing - April 12 Sept 6*

Rob Dump

Judge’s Comments: *Some cleaver stuff.*

*And a vile pun or two should ALWAYS earn an entry bonus points!*

94

**Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Cedar County News

*Best Editorial Page - June 28 July 5*

Rob Dump, Peggy Year

Judge’s Comments: *Quality opinion pages that could be better by having more variety, including letters to the editor.*

95

**Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Cedar County News

*Best editorial cartoon - Vet Memorial dedication*

Wayne Stroot

Judge’s Comments: *Good artwork, but would have benefited from being in color when up against the other entries in this category.*

96

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Cedar County News

*Best sports photo - mud game*

Darin Epperly

Judge’s Comments: *Two warriors, neither budging. Essence of the game.*

97

**Best Informational Graphic**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Cedar County News

*Best info graphic - thermometer*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *excellent graphic.*

98

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Cedar County News

*Best feature photo - Swimming lessons touching the bottom*

Jeremy Buss

Judge’s Comments: *Photographer Jeremy Buss got to the bottom of this feature photo assignment and came to the surface with a First Place photo. Creativity and technically-proficient equipment pay off! This judge has been rating photo contests for 30 years and has never seen an underwater capture from the local pool; that rarity makes it First Place in a competitive category. Congratulations!*

99

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Cedar County News

*Best Feature photo - sledding*

Darin Epperly

Judge’s Comments: *"Go out and find a feature photo for a weather story." Great job by Darin Epperly filling that assignment quite well. Love the angle and action. Anyone who grew up in snow country can relate to this photo.*

100

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Cedar County News

*Best Business story - minimum wage - Feb 8*

Trisha Benton

Judge’s Comments: *Fantastic story. Only thing that would have improved it would be to have had the perspective of a minimum wage worker voiced as well.*

101

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000

Cedar County News

*Local Govt reporting - Nuisance house*

Rob Dump

Judge’s Comments: *Good beat reporting on an issue that affects many in the community. Solid city hall beat coverage. Keep it up!*

102

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-Daily Circ under 2500

Cedar County News

*Preserving local history - Pages of History, Archives pg, Museum, Trin Luth*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Celebrating history is an ongoing strength and commitment of the Cedar County News. Way to go.*

103

**Best Real Estate Ad**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Chronicle

*Riverside on the Delaware*

Christina Scotti

Judge’s Comments: *A nice ad series.*

104

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Chronicle

*Strange vibrations in the night*

Beth Quinn

Judge’s Comments: *Loved following the writer's adventures. Remember -- the solution is usually the simplest possibility!*

105

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

College Park Here & Now

*Spa in the spathe 2-2023 CPHN*

Rick Borchelt

Judge’s Comments: *Very interesting story on a plant lesser known than some of its cousins. Found ourselves continuing to want to read more.*

106

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

College Park Here & Now

*History Touches Down*

Braden Hamelin

Judge’s Comments: *Headline and photo peaked my interest. Putting his age by his name at the onset would have been a good touch. A well-written piece overall and this young man will serve as a role model for many children. This is the kind of stories more people should write. Our youth are a valuable resource for features! Congrats on 4th place!*

107

**Best Front Page Design**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

College Park Here & Now

*College Park Here & Now July 2023 Cover*

Ashley Perks, Valerie Morris

Judge’s Comments: *Nice clean layout makes this paper eye appealing and draws readers into wanting to read it. The large photo grabs readers in.*

108

**General Excellence**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Columbia Gorge News

*Columbia Gorge News*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *x2nd Place/Columbia Gorge News: The 30-page Columbia Gorge News takes on the challenge of covering communities in two states—Oregon and Washington—communities that are united by their proximity to the river that divides them. The News maintains offices in both states, and well-written coverage reflects the common interests of issues affecting the bridges at both ends, development along the banks, and the health of the river itself as well as the more usual coverage of schools, governments, economies, and sports teams on both sides. The attractive front page includes cover stories from each area while, inside, event calendars, church directories, and ads combine information from both sides of the river. Sharp, colorful images throughout make the News a compelling read.*

109

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999

Columbia Gorge News

*HRV TOPPLES TD*

NOAH NOTEBOOOM

Judge’s Comments: *I enjoyed this photograph for several reasons - the framing was really nice, centering on the catch while also getting some (expected) less focused crowd reactions in background. Nice work; if had more definition and focus and zoom, could be top two. Third IMO. Thank you.*

110

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Columbia Gorge News

*Embrace Disability*

Noah Noteboom

Judge’s Comments: *Actually 7.5*

*A feel-good feature about a young equestrian who has overcome adversity to become a top competitor in her sport. An interesting read, but would be better if it focused more on a moment than her entire life in the sport.*

111

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Columbia Gorge News

*HRV GRADS SET NEW HEIGHTS*

Noah Noteboom

Judge’s Comments: *A local high school female wrestler succeeds in a new competitive sport. A good feel-good story.*

112

**Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Columbia Gorge News

*Active Shooter*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great story and great post. Good job on including timely updates.*

113

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

The County Chronicle

*Artificial Intelligence*

David Porter

Judge’s Comments: *A columnist with writer's block turns to artificial intelligence for help, and gets none.*

114

**Best Public Notice Section**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Daily Washington Law Reporter

*Daily Washington Law Reporter*

Donald J. Nichols

Judge’s Comments: *I love this layout- best legal layout ever.*

115

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Douglas Budget

*Black and White Ball*

Alisha Carver

Judge’s Comments: *Nice and clean ad. Effective use of white space.*

116

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Douglas Budget

*Best use of photos*

Cinthia Stimson Rj Morgan, Clifford Smith, Jackson Day

Judge’s Comments: *Gonna assume I have a low resolution version because none of the images here are clean, which makes it difficult to honestly judge the quality of the photography.*

*That said, the photos appear to be well-composed and refreshingly candid throughout. They are placed on the page with care and skill.*

117

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Douglas Budget

*Voters Deserve Voice*

Matt Adelman

Judge’s Comments: *Lays out its argument in a clear, logical fashion. Strong conclusion leaving no doubt of the newspaper's position.*

118

**General Excellence**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Douglas Budget

*General Excellence*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *x3rd Place/Douglas Budget: The Douglas Budget provides balanced coverage of Converse County and provides space in its pages for another community 75 miles away in a different county. Lively photos and graphics inform and add interest, complementing articles about what’s happening (or has happened), when, where, why/how and who was involved. An especially strong sports section includes articles and action shots from a variety of sports as well as insets of conference standings to keep readers apprised of how teams are faring. Large headings on each public notice make it easy to find ones of interest, and the layout is clean and consistent. In addition, the Budget subscribes to two pages full of puzzles—one for youth—encouraging the paper’s longer life in reader’s homes.*

119

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Douglas Budget

*Egg White Success*

Cinthia Stimson

Judge’s Comments: *A laughing kid and her chicken gains top honors in this division.*

120

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999

Douglas Budget

*Kings of the Upset*

Scott Ramsey

Judge’s Comments: *Really stellar image here of a winning celebration with players and coach; excellent focus and technical ability showcased with this and popping with great color and the framing was elite. Thank you.*

121

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Douglas Budget

*Stronger than a Tornado*

Cinthia Stimson

Judge’s Comments: *A harrowing story about a man surviving ground zero of a twister. Intense and compelling.*

122

**Best Use of a Double-Truck**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Douglas Budget

*State champions*

RJ Morgan, Matt Adelman

Judge’s Comments: *Graphic over the years at the bottom of the page is a good representation of imagery for this double truck.*

123

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Downey Patriot

*Downey Memes tries to capitalize on popularity with apparel line*

Eric Pierce

Judge’s Comments: *Downey, CA has developed a popular local clothing line with humorous messages. The photos are professional and captivating.*

124

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Downey Patriot

*Downey Greek Festival Brings Back the Sun*

Lorine Parks

Judge’s Comments: *This story took me straight to our annual Greek Festival!*

125

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Downey Patriot

*Dia de los Muertos festival leaves a lasting impression*

Lorine Parks

Judge’s Comments: *Great piece with a lot of information.*

126

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Dynamic Dozen highlights memorable home football game*

Dave Wedeward

Judge’s Comments: *An interesting piece - even for someone far removed from the people and places in this piece.*

127

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Best Local News Cover September 20 2023*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Good small-town coverage of local items. Well done!*

128

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Transparency Editorial*

Diane Everson

Judge’s Comments: *Strong, succinct and gets right to the heart of the matter. Makes its point and backs up the position with well-laid out arguments.*

129

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Tina Hinchley Dairy Story*

Tristan McGough

Judge’s Comments: *An interesting article on the state of dairy and agriculture. Informative but the quality of writing didn't merit a two or three.*

130

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Haunted Lincoln-Tallman House*

Tristan McGough

Judge’s Comments: *Love the supernatural elements described in this piece. The article is thorough and easy to read. Good lede.*

131

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Local man wins national tournament*

Ryan Baker

Judge’s Comments: *Wonderful storytelling.*

132

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Pins (300) fall for prep bowler Shawn Simdars*

Sam Martino

Judge’s Comments: *Good story and interview. Would have liked to hear from the coach or some of his opponents.*

133

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Edgerton Reporter

*Boys Wrestling*

Elizabeth Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *I would have cropped this not quite so tightly, but otherwise a good close-up shot.*

134

**NIE - Educational Support & Civic Literacy**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Eldon Advertiser

*Democracy Day*

Tammy Witherspoon

Judge’s Comments: *I very much like this topic and how it is presented. I like the use of student writers and the work they did.*

*Layouts are nicely done.*

*This Democracy Day looks like a lot of fun for everyone involved. It is very important as this is an area that has had curriculum cutbacks in many states.*

*Good work!*

135

**NIE - Educational Support & Civic Literacy**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Eldon Advertiser

*Veterans Project*

Tammy Witherspoon

Judge’s Comments: *This was a solidly done educational section. I liked the stories the students contributed, and really like the idea of students doing interviews. I also liked the sections where students commented on what veterans Day means to them*

*Layouts were nicely done. But this is really, really dense in terms of copy and more photos could break it up to better effect.*

*Student writers: watch sentence structure and run-on sentences.*

136

**Best Advertising Idea**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Subscriber Appreciation*

Isabelle Kern

Judge’s Comments: *fun way to add subscribers.*

137

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Chambers Funeral Home*

Isabelle Kern

Judge’s Comments: *Good photo and wording choices for this business.*

138

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Electronic Vehicles of Iowa*

Isabelle Kern

Judge’s Comments: *We like the use of large type and a large photo here.*

139

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Artist's Vault*

Isabelle Kern

Judge’s Comments: *The coloring activity earned this entry some bonus points.*

140

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Eldridge Library*

Erin M. Gentz

Judge’s Comments: *Sensational. Well written, great local historical context, passionate and informed. Way to go!*

141

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*CyHawk Week*

Bill Tubbs

Judge’s Comments: *A nice blend of the past and present of an important rivalry in the readership area.*

142

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Don't mess with our library*

Bill Tubbs

Judge’s Comments: *The writer does an excellent job stating the problem and then giving the reader a background on why and how the current library came to be where it is now. In tough times when city budgets are tight, sometimes councils look for an easy fix and we need more editorials like this calling out councilmembers.*

143

**Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Best Editorial Pages*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Far and away the best entry in this category, not just because of the amount of content, but also because of the variety and strong visual presentation. Your community should be proud of your efforts! Well done!*

144

**FOI - Freedom of Information**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Open records law applies to everyone*

Bill Tubbs

Judge’s Comments: *Hypocrisy by government officials sadly is all too prevalent. The writer produced evidence of not just what happened, but how it happened. This publication is blessed with enlightened leadership that encourages excellence and works to protect the public's right to know. Fine effort.*

145

**FOI - Freedom of Information**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Seeds of Davenport disclosure were planted at North Scott*

Bill Tubbs

Judge’s Comments: *Outstanding account of how persistence resulted in uncovering information readers needed about how their tax money is being spent. Well reported and written.*

146

**General Excellence**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*North Scott Press*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *x4th Place/North Scott Press: In addition to the usual lead paragraphs of four or five cover stories, the front page of the North Scott Press fills the space above and alongside its flag with photos and teasers of other articles inside. Additionally, the Press helps readers navigate its pages and articles by including a listing of contents in the masthead area on page 2 and by using bolded subheadings within articles. Colorful photos, maps, and graphics provide visual information and complement the well-written news and feature articles, commentary, and human-interest stories.*

147

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Duane Miller of the Eldridge VFW salutes the American flag during the presentation of the colors.*

Erin M. Gentz

Judge’s Comments: *Beautiful shot with excellent perspective. The framing makes the photo.*

148

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9000

Eldridge North Scott Press

*North Scott Press*

Ross Shinberg

Judge’s Comments: *Nice page with the three photos on top.*

149

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Denise Benson Theft*

Mark Ridolfi

Judge’s Comments: *The last-minute release of an audit makes this breaking news. Good story.*

150

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Tuftee's Garden*

Erin M. Gentz

Judge’s Comments: *The writer captured the adventurous spirits of the business owners. Very readable.*

151

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*A Young Man and Fire*

Mark Ridolfi

Judge’s Comments: *Great job in sharing a young man's passion for firefighting. This is well written with solid quotes interspersed throughout the story. I'm glad to see volunteers are recognized for such an important role in our communities.*

152

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Tom's Curtain Call*

Erin M. Gentz

Judge’s Comments: *It always amazes me when someone achieves a half century mark with a career. The writer does a great job in capturing this man's dedication "behind the curtain."*

153

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Tom's curtain call*

Erin M. Gentz

Judge’s Comments: *Tom Goodall - glad you submitted this piece. As I read Our Town, which I really liked, I wondered who is Tom Goodall. This story was a much more enjoyable read. Rarely do I see stories on the set designers. They are as critical to the theatrical production as the players on stage. Congrats on 3rd place!*

154

**Best Online Album or Slide Show**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Kindergarten Queen*

Mark Ridolfi

Judge’s Comments: *I'm sure the community loved this. Well done.*

155

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-daily circ. under 5,000

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Back home at last*

Erin M. Gentz

Judge’s Comments: *A thought-provoking account of diligence and persistence that resulted in the return of a fallen soldiers remains after decades was well handled by the writer.*

156

**Best Restaurant Ad**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Eldridge North Scott Press

*Capriotti's*

Isabelle Kern

Judge’s Comments: *Good blend of different elements: company logo, gift card, photos of the food, lots of the color red.*

157

**Social Media Journalism**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

ETV News

*ETV News - Social Media Journalism*

Jamie Swank

Judge’s Comments: *A concise pdf detailing each entry across various platforms, and the ability to click and view each were key for this category. ETV News understood the assignment! Backing up their entry with the why, and stats, etc.*

*Great use of social media and great overall entry. First Place all the way!*

158

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Examiner

*Fred Miller's Unique Gifts*

Brittany Chaney

Judge’s Comments: *Very unique ad. Fun. Love the "DAD" in a different font.*

159

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Examiner

*Fred Miller's Unique Gifts*

Brittany Chaney

Judge’s Comments: *Nice Ad.*

160

**Best Use of Local Photography in Ads**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Examiner

*High School Football*

Brittany Chaney

Judge’s Comments: *Great dominant photo.*

161

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*City deserves better*

Don Dodd

Judge’s Comments: *Solid, tightly written editorial that gets right to the point and makes it strongly. Well done!*

162

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Heat and a hangover*

Don Dodd

Judge’s Comments: *Bold editorial, but maybe a bit too bold, accusing the subject of being a drunk. I appreciate the accountability called for here, but the tone wasn't quite right.*

163

**General Excellence**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Examiner

*The independent voice of Southeast Texas*

Don Dodd and Examiner Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Solid mix of news. Good storytelling. Clean layouts from cover to cover.*

164

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Examiner

*Scott Stapp of Creed*

Chad Cooper

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent live concert photography worked into a creative page design.*

165

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Examiner

*UBR Rodeo*

Chad Cooper

Judge’s Comments: *Very good action photos of professional bull riding blended into a good page layout brings the sport to life.*

166

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Examiner

*Celebrating after a touchdown*

Chad Cooper

Judge’s Comments: *What makes this photo stand out even more is his teammates' reaction.*

167

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Examiner

*Deadly drunk driver sentenced*

Jennifer Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *Tough stories to write, but reporter handled them well. This entry had just a bit more detail that the other.*

168

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Inner city girl rises to global leader*

Jennifer Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *Good story. Nice quotes. Well written and presented. Solid writing from start to finish.*

169

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Hope in the darkness*

Barbara Davis

Judge’s Comments: *Hard hitting story that offers hope to those who are seeking it. Well written. Good quotes.*

170

**Story-Series - Best Feature Series**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Examiner

*Homes for the homeless*

Barbara Davis

Judge’s Comments: *A solid series on the homeless situation in the community. Well done.*

*Judges Note: This was a "series" competition, but most entries were single stories.*

171

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10000

The Examiner

*The ballad of Danny B and ‘Dem Boys*

Chad Cooper

Judge’s Comments: *Danny B still seems like a young boy enthusiastic about his team - I especially enjoyed the part about his birthday face-time.*

172

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Examiner

*Transforming the system*

Barbara Davis

Judge’s Comments: *Well writing. Very informative.*

173

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Examiner

*Bicycles and Bibles*

Jennifer Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *Very nice "feel good" story.*

174

**Best Informational Graphic**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Examiner

*Halloween happenings*

Brittany Chaney

Judge’s Comments: *Great use of fun fonts that are still easy to read to display local events. Plenty of fun little additions like candy corn and characters without it being overwhelming. Good job*

175

**Best Front Page Design**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Big money Beaumont*

Dannie Oliveaux

Judge’s Comments: *Very interesting first page with eye catching art and good use of the right side of the page to encourage people to look inside the issue.*

176

**Best Use of a Double-Truck**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-Daily Division, circ. over 6,000

The Examiner

*Convo with Collective Soul*

Chad Cooper, Brittany Chaney

Judge’s Comments: *Very nice background and use of space.*

177

**Best Use of a Double-Truck**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-Daily Division, circ. over 6,000

The Examiner

*Rodeo*

Brittany Chaney

Judge’s Comments: *Nice photo placement.*

178

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Fatalities multiply as fentanyl fills in for designer pills*

Jennifer Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *This story has a lot of great information but the lead is an utter mouthful. Run-on sentences really create a lot of confusion for readers. It's hard to get into a story after having to wade through that.*

*Otherwise, this was s solidly done, well-organized story.*

179

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Community In Crisis*

Jennifer Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *A well written report on the threat to public safety posed by a staffing shortage of First Responders in the city of Beaumont, TX. The story quotes a range of residents, elected officials and first responders. They are supported with statistics from several sources. Very informed reporting.*

180

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Kountze city administrator terminated*

Dannie Oliveaux

Judge’s Comments: *Unbiased overage of the ouster of a city administrator shows how petty politics can disrupt a community. Fair, good reporting.*

181

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*A vision for Lamar Athletics*

Chad Cooper

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting story with good information. Easy to read even though it contained a lot of information.*

182

**Best Holiday Ad**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily Division more than 5000

The Examiner

*Happy Thanksgiving*

Brittany Chaney

Judge’s Comments: *Nice looking ad with a strong graphic.*

183

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

The Examiner

*Crime survivors pack courthouse*

Jennifer Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *Where are captions and photo credits for photos? Many photos throughout are lacking these. In saying that, the photos chosen to run with the articles are great captures, I just wish they had more context other than trying to find information within the article next to it.*

184

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-dailiy circ. over 9,000

The Examiner

*Fields of cotton, dreams & perseverance*

Jennifer Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *Good story on an inspirational person. It held my interest to the end.*

185

**FOI - Freedom of Information**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Fairbury Journal News

*Shakeup On Jansen Village Board*

Gordon Hopkins

Judge’s Comments: *As question after question emerged about improprieties this writer got his teeth into the story like a tiger refusing to let go fueled by the people's right to know. Solid demonstration he knew the players and was determined to stand by his responsibility to readers. Congratulations.*

186

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

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Fairbury Journal News

*Toxic Workplace*

Gordon Hopkins

Judge’s Comments: *Awesome series about a dangerous scam artist, sounds like the mayor is a creep as well. Exactly the kind of non-emotional investigative reporting that we are made for.*

187

**Best Holiday Ad**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily Division less than 5000

Fairbury Journal News

*Merry Crispness*

Jennifer Lewis

Judge’s Comments: *Very clever and certainly eye-catching. Fun ad, with a great play on words!*

188

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Farm and Dairy

*Bee hives in Pittsburgh produce lanternfly honey*

Liz Partsch

Judge’s Comments: *Sweet!*

*Nice story with multiple angles*

189

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Farm and Dairy

*Brunton Dairy loses barn and milk bottling plant in fire*

Rachel Wagoner

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent coverage of a fire that went beyond just reporting on the fire. The fire affected a family and so many others, and this story covered all bases. Great ending: "“You have to laugh or you’ll cry."*

190

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Farm and Dairy

*Pennsylvania cideries reinvent hard cider industry*

Liz Partsch

Judge’s Comments: *Compelling writing and a fun angle from which to profile two local businesses for their sustainable approaches to their craft. This piece is not only likely to increase reader awareness but also to invigorate a customer base.*

191

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Farm and Dairy

*Emily Mullen ushers family dairy farm into future by bottling milk*

Rachel Wagoner

Judge’s Comments: *This story hit me hard. It is a fleeting way of life and hard just as the writer described. The details -- all perfectly placed. The photos -- absolutely essential to the story being told. The message -- do hard things is one for the ages. Well written. Beautifully done. Bravo.*

192

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

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Farm and Dairy

*Failure by design: leaking oil and gas wells slip through the cracks*

Rachel Wagoner

Judge’s Comments: *Great narrative, excellent sourcing and writing that should engage readers . . . at least those with patience and interest. This is a long version of what could have been an extended series. However, it’s all here at once. This judge read every word. Hope others did, too, because it’s just an excellent story reported in detail with huge sourcing inventory!*

193

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10000

Farm and Dairy

*Interest in youth trap shooting growing rapidly*

Rachel Wagoner

Judge’s Comments: *An interesting story on a sport many do not know about.*

194

**Best Informational Graphic**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Farm and Dairy

*Safety tips for Ohio’s fall wildfire season*

David Hartong

Judge’s Comments: *Very informative graphic. The middle section with the outline graphics feels unbalanced, but other than that well done!*

195

**Best Front Page Design**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Farm and Dairy

*August 10 Farm and Dairy front*

David Hartong

Judge’s Comments: *Beautiful front page with a large photo to draw the eye. The use of the benday column down the right side also helps keep the page clear and easy to follow.*

196

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster

*Humphrey lives the good life*

Scott Reese Willey

Judge’s Comments: *Creative lead hooks the reader immediately and quickly backs up the statement with facts the newspaper unearthed. And says what the paper will do to follow up. Good work.*

197

**FOI - Freedom of Information**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster

*They Swipe A Lot*

Scott Reese Willey

Judge’s Comments: *In a tough category with many find entries, this demonstrated a thorough amount of research and effort and the result was phenomenal writing. Absolutely great work.*

198

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

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster

*THEY SWIPE A LOT*

SCOTT REESE WILLEY

Judge’s Comments: *The Fort Bend Herald created a textbook example of good investigative reporting in a small town. The articles dug into public record, laid out the facts and followed the scrambling that ensued. Well researched, well written and well organized.*

199

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. under 5,000

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster

*ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION...*

Scott Reese Willey

Judge’s Comments: *A good story deserves a good storyteller. The two met here to make for a great read.*

200

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster

*THEY SWIPE A LOT*

Scott Reese Willey

Judge’s Comments: *The clear winner in this category. Great example of watchdog journalism and thorough reporting about a mayor and city clerk's spending of city funds, and detailing where the money went.*

201

**News and Opinion on Public Corruption**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster

*THEY SWIPE A LO*

Scott Reese Willey

Judge’s Comments: *A good job pursuing all the details of the story.*

202

**Best Classified Section**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Gazebo Gazette

*The Gazebo Gazette Classified Pages*

Hunter Dawkins

203

**Best Advertising Idea**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Gazebo Gazette

*Rotary Club of Pass Christian: A Century of Service*

Hunter Dawkins

Judge’s Comments: *Unique ad.*

204

**General Excellence**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Glenrock Independent

*General Excellence*

Glenrock Independent Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great mixture of fonts, terrific use of active photos, especially the skydiving story. Used graphics in an eye-catching, compelling, and informative way*

205

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Glenrock Independent

*Converse County Fair, Slip-Slidin’ Away*

Jackson Day

Judge’s Comments: *Love me some pig wrasslin! Jackson Day's photo is packed with action, expression and a sense of, "Did the photographer really get in the mud with the kids and the pig?" yes, it appears he did. Excellent effort and great photo.*

206

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Green River Star

*"Castle Rock Hospital District needs to be more accessible"*

Hannah Romero

Judge’s Comments: *Good position, backed up by facts from the entity's own website.*

207

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Green River Star

*"The power of connection"*

Hannah Romero

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent writing. I get a solid look at Dan Parson and the impact he's had on students and the speech and debate community. Well done.*

208

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Green River Star

*"'Amazing technology:' Hospital celebrates new da Vinci robot"*

Hannah Romero

Judge’s Comments: *Fantastic story! I can feel Croft's excitement through the reporters words. Only thing that would have made this story better would be to have some quotes from a scrub tech trained to be in the room with the robot. Great job!*

209

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Green River Star

*"Panel discusses new industrial projects"*

Hannah Romero

Judge’s Comments: *Affordable housing and workforce availability are big issues nationwide, and this story brings those issues home to Green River, Wyoming.*

210

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Green River Star

*Concerns over the BLM's RMP*

Hannah Romero

Judge’s Comments: *An important but not easy issue to write about. You handled it well. Each story presented a clear narrative that guides the reader through a complex local government issue.*

211

**Best Sales Promotion Section or Edition**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Harlan News-Advertiser

*Prime of Life Special Section*

Marissa Wingert

Judge’s Comments: *Wonderful section.*

212

**Best Real Estate Ad**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Harlan News-Advertiser

*Osborn Realty, Commercial Building for Sale*

Marissa Wingert

Judge’s Comments: *The interior photos really helped convey the message much more effectively than just an exterior photo would have.*

213

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Harlan News-Advertiser

*EMS as an essential service series*

Renée Brich, Elizabeth A. Elliott

Judge’s Comments: *This was an interesting and important issue affecting too many communities, and you covered it well. Liked that it started with a specific example - Who will answer the call? -- but expanded to provide much needed information for the public.*

214

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Harlan News-Advertiser

*Cyclones scratch and claw for 3rd consecutive victory*

Alex Martin

Judge’s Comments: *I would have cropped this differently so the ball handler's torso is centered in the photo. Otherwise good.*

215

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Harlan Tribune

*Local travel impacted by airline trouble*

Elizabeth A. Elliott

Judge’s Comments: *Very thorough.*

216

**Best Advertising Idea**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Henderson Independent

*Congratulations on a Star performance!*

Rachel Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Great way for companies to get their name out there and congratulate the high school on their 18th state star rating*

217

**General Excellence**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Henderson Independent

*Henderson Independent - General Excellence*

Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish, Mary Sherlock

Judge’s Comments: *This paper did a great job using a variety of fonts and other ways to make each individual story stand out. It also had a very good mixture of stories and the photograph quality was very good*

218

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Henderson Independent

*Belle Plaine One Act Play*

Rachel Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Each piece in this package was carefully crafted and the initiative to follow it from start to finish really is impressive. Add to the fact that you had supporting elements including full page color advertising elevated it. Great stage photography, layout and the repeated cast boxes were all four stars. These days you have to keep repeating things for your readers to retain it and you did exactly that with those cast breakouts. Congratulation on 1st place!*

219

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

Henderson Independent

*Voice of the Valley*

Rachel Miller

Judge’s Comments: *The first article was very touching and well written. I feel like the second rehashed the first article a little too much, but overall a good series.*

220

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

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Herald-Banner

*End Zone football preview*

David Claybourn, Ashley Garey and Laurie White King

Judge’s Comments: *Very professional in appearance. Great format that includes action photos, stats and information at a glance, and well-written features*

221

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Herald-Banner

*Storm expected to lose punch today*

David Claybourn

Judge’s Comments: *More of a feature-type of photo which falls short of breaking news.*

222

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Hickman County Times

*Rushing wind "and a big fireball"*

Bradley A. Martin, William Hayes

223

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Hickman County Times

*A pre-war musical tour*

Bradley A.Martin

Judge’s Comments: *Aside from some of the unexplained jargon, I really enjoyed reading this story.*

224

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Get It Done Now*

Pierce Strudler

Judge’s Comments: *Very effective. Straight and to the point.*

225

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Out There: The Buried Streams of Beacon*

Brian PJ Cronin

Judge’s Comments: *Nice! Hidden gems about water, history and asylum institutions. A terrific local read*

226

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Highlands Current

*Wide Angle: The Trouble With Toilets*

Stowe Boyd

Judge’s Comments: *At first glance I thought this was in the wrong category -- but indeed it's not. An important topic that gets too little attention. In addition to the research, the national and international comparisons, wish the author had gone and interviewed some local people currently.*

227

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Reporter's Notebook: Trout Still Live in Clove Creek*

Joey Asher

Judge’s Comments: *This was a very strong contender; it was difficult to pick between first and second place. I appreciated that the writer sought outside sources on the topic too; more columnists should do this!*

228

**Editions - Best Headline Writing**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Highlands Current

*Issues of April 28 and Sept. 15*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Some well-thought out stuff; one or two that could be seen coming form 100 yards away, but they worked. And kudos for making the vaccination headline about as subtle as a sledge hammer.*

229

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Issues of April 28 and Sept. 15*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *This readership knows where the money is being spent, thanks to the Highland. School taxes, hotel taxes, etc, Stories so readable. The short business feature in Q/A format is something that would be effective in all newspapers.*

230

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999

The Highlands Current

*Headed for Home*

Ross Corsair

Judge’s Comments: *Appreciate your entry; for me as judge, the image was a basic baseball sports photo. I did like the dual action of player rounding base with fielder attempting to get ball in background. Thank you.*

231

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Dire Warmings*

Brian PJ Cronin, Michael Turton

Judge’s Comments: *Dire Warnings: Mild winter was a sign of trouble for Hudson Valley agriculture. The reporter tied in different aspects of the crops affected by the changing weather patterns. Based on the quality of writing, the reporter detailed illustrations to get his points across to the readers.*

232

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Train from Poughkeepsie to Croton in Eight Hours*

Leonard Sparks

Judge’s Comments: *Great story about passengers being stuck for hours on a stalled train during a rainstorm. Good descriptions and even a bit of humor. Good read.*

233

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Confusion in the Classroom*

Jeff Simms

Judge’s Comments: *Confusion in the classroom. Well-written and includes lots of sources and a variety of viewpoints on a very important issue in many communities across the nation if not the world. Good job of allowing these parents to speak out about a teacher who is willing to spread misinformation to her students. These sorts of stories remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.*

234

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Dire Warmings*

Brian PJ Cronin, Michael Turton

Judge’s Comments: *A well sourced collection of stories with details from the farmers (and a sap gatherer) who are directly affected by climate change. Good use of quotes to tell the story. Supporting photography is a big plus.*

*Well done, Team.*

235

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

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Highlands Current

*Teaching Across the Spectrum*

Joey Asher

Judge’s Comments: *More in-depth than investigative, the report does a great job of balancing the conundrum small school districts face in providing for the needs of the growing autistic population while still delivering for all students. I came away enlightened and disturbed.*

236

**Website - Best Newspaper Website**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Highlands Current

*Highlandscurrent.org*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Nice and clean. Easy to navigate. Lots of important community information along with in depth reporting on important local issues (childcare, etc).*

237

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Born to Be Wild*

Alison Rooney

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent story. Certainly unique among the entries and very interesting.*

238

**Best Front Page Design**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Issue of Sept. 1*

Pierce Strudler

Judge’s Comments: *Use of color and photos makes this front page appealing.*

239

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Can Everyone Shop Main Street?*

Joey Asher

Judge’s Comments: *Thought provoking, and brings to light issues of disabled folks that needs immediate addressing.*

240

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Highlands Current

*Beacon: Then, Now and How*

Jeff Simms, Brian PJ Cronin, Leonard Sparks

Judge’s Comments: *Outstanding, in-depth, comprehensive look at the successes and the unintended consequences of a decades-long redevelopment effort by a small community. Great writing, great story selection. I felt I had a better understanding of this community after reading.*

241

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Highlands Current

*Unified on the Court*

Joey Asher

Judge’s Comments: *A feel-good story about a basketball team for students with physical or intellectual disabilities. Decent*

242

**Best Reader-Generated Campaign**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division

Hooker County Tribune

*The Vacationer*

Gerri Peterson

Judge’s Comments: *Absolutely loved the take on reader submitted travel photos to fill your January pages. What you don't gain in advertising, you gain in readership and rack sales. Nice work! I'm guessing they printed in black and white, but you should generate a color digital version for online purposes. Congratulations on 4th place!*

243

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*Prioritize teachers, not technology, for improved education outcomes*

Griffin Limerick

Judge’s Comments: *The writer, Griffin Limerick, does a terrific job of using statistics and other research to prove a point. Hire more teachers! Strong opinion backed up by facts.*

244

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*July 2023 Hyattsville Life & Times*

Griffin Limerick, Heather Wright, Ashley Perks

Judge’s Comments: *Good looking paper with good local coverage.*

245

**General Excellence**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*September 2023 Hyattsville Life & Times*

Griffin Limerick, Heather Wright, Ashley Perks

Judge’s Comments: *This is a nicely done paper. It is the whole package, from news writing to page layout and use of photos and graphics. This is a solidly done small paper, with a good variety of news and features. Good work!*

246

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*Ice Cream Truck Vendor, May 2023 Hyattsville Life & Times*

Juliette Fradin

Judge’s Comments: *Perfect photo of everyday happening, expertly done. Great job!*

247

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*Grazing goats tackle invasive plant species*

Griffin Limerick

Judge’s Comments: *The power of goats -- not to clear lawns -- but to clear areas with invasive plants.*

248

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*Cargo train derailment causes road closure, environmental concerns*

Heather Wright and Sophie Gorman Oriani

Judge’s Comments: *Great article! Covering a train derailment is always a hard task, information can be difficult to come by. Great job keeping your readers informed.*

249

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*Clear backpacks, metal detectors come to PGCPS: Do they work?*

Heather Marlene Zadig

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

250

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*The game of bridge connects neighbors in Mount Rainier*

Jessica Arends

Judge’s Comments:

*This is an interesting feature about local citizens getting together to play bridge. It is informative and somewhat interesting. It's a non-profile competition, but the author could have gotten deeper into what the activity means to regular participants.*

251

**Best Front Page Design**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*September 2023 Hyattsville Life & Times*

Ashley Perks

Judge’s Comments: *Good design helps draw in readers. This paper meets all the elements of having a solid layout and design. Great work!*

252

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Hyattsville Life & Times

*DeMatha runner wins WCAC cross country championship*

Chris McManes

Judge’s Comments: *The writing wasn't all there but it was a good story.*

253

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Idaho Mountain Express

*Nightmare in the Woods: Stranded Family Saved by Hikers in the Frank Church Wildnerness*

Andrew Guckes

Judge’s Comments: *Pretty good feature about a family that had trouble returning home from a hike in the woods. I liked this story best, but is it a "column" or a "feature." Because it lacked anything in the story that suggested "column," I placed it second.*

254

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Idaho Mountain Express

*Idaho Mountain Express Local News Coverage*

Mark Dee, Greg Foley, and staff

Judge’s Comments: *Here on the East Coast what we hear about Idaho is not that great, at least to our standards. Who would think that Idaho would have such a great local paper! Kudos!!!*

255

**General Excellence**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Idaho Mountain Express

*Idaho Mountain Express General Excellence*

Pam Morris, Mark Dee, Greg Foley, Tony Barriatua, and staff

Judge’s Comments: *What a wonderful and engaging news piece. I loved the simplicity of the layout combined with excellent writing as well as great ad placements. There was such a good mix in every edition. Easy to read and left me wanting to read another edition.*

256

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Idaho Mountain Express

*Structural rot found at Sun Valley condos, residents advised to vacate*

Gabe Barnard

Judge’s Comments: *In-depth coverage that covered all bases: engineers, condo association and residents. Well written and issue explained in detail.*

257

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Idaho Mountain Express

*All you need is 'LUV': New air filtration system brings technology to Ketchum before anywhere else*

Andrew Guckes

Judge’s Comments: *The community, local businesses and consumers all benefit from the in-depth reporting in this profile that lucidly explains and enthusiastically explores a structural innovation and business collaboration that responds to COVID-19 demands. Super interesting work!*

258

**Website - Best Newspaper Website**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Idaho Mountain Express

*www.mtexpress.com*

Pam Morris, Greg Foley, Gabe Barnard, Tony Barriatua, and staff

Judge’s Comments: *Well-put together site. Broad, well-rounded coverage, pleasant to look at and easy to navigate.*

259

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Idaho Mountain Express

*At Warm Springs, resort rises to the 'challenge'*

Gabe Barnard

Judge’s Comments: *Great writing. Fun story.*

260

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Idaho Mountain Express

*How would a government shutdown affect the Wood River Valley?*

Gabe Barnard

Judge’s Comments: *The lead was a mouthful with run-on sentences. It detracts from your otherwise strong writing.*

*The story otherwise was well done. I liked the organization and the use of several sources. You did a great job outlining what could and would not be affected. Good work!*

261

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division circ. over 10,000

Idaho Mountain Express

*Development of Ketchum's interim and permanent building ordinance*

Andrew Guckes

Judge’s Comments: *This report on a local housing crisis in Ketchum, ID is a microcosm of this situation in towns and cities across the country. By examining the suggested solutions this article takes a creative approach.*

262

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Idaho Mountain Express

*"Look at me: I'm lucky." How Mike Vowels faced his past trauma, and rediscovered his love for skiing*

Andrew Guckes

Judge’s Comments: *Clear winner in this division. Excellent writing and story; not just sports story but 'comeback' story. Well done.*

263

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Business Focus - New and Changing Businesses in Jackson Hole*

Jackson Hole Creative Services Team

Judge’s Comments: *I liked how you had personal stories with some of the businesses and not just all advertisements.*

264

**Best Use of Ad Color**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Does your Dog or Cat Need a Job?*

Heather Haseltine

Judge’s Comments: *Great layout, design and color choice.*

265

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Common Ground column*

Paul W. Hansen

Judge’s Comments: *Paul Hansen's column on water issues in Jackson Hole is very well researched and well written. Water, it's one of those things that affects us all. Well done.*

266

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Mountainside column*

Molly Absolon

Judge’s Comments: *Thoughtful writing on an attention-grabbing topic. I appreciated the references to prior research, although the cited article is a secondary source rather than an actual study. This was one of the longest entries, and most columns this length are a slog, but to the writer's credit this one kept my interest throughout.*

267

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Increase penalties for Passholes*

Johanna Love, Cindy Harger, Adam Meyer, Kevin Olson

Judge’s Comments: *A persuasive and well-sourced editorial that didn't just point out the issue but offered solutions. Well done.*

268

**General Excellence**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*General Excellence*

Jackson Hole News&Guide

Judge’s Comments: *This entry is the real deal for me. The writing is great. Stories are well organized. I can always pick out solid editing as it preserves a writer's style and makes that person's work stronger.*

*I liked the use of photos and graphics. Page layout is great. This was a really tough class and the top two entries were very close. If I could give more first places, I would. Fine work!*

269

**Legacy.com's Best Obituary Tribute**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Old-time cowboy, mountain man 'Gator' dies at 79*

Mark Huffman

Judge’s Comments: *A first-class tribute and a great piece of storytelling. Huffman chooses and arranges details brilliantly in the service of methodically unfolding his portrait -- both those details he observes himself and those he collects from his sources.*

270

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Their last chance*

Bradly J. Boner

Judge’s Comments: *Deep colors almost look storybook like. LOVE!*

271

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Jackson family navigates rare cancer diagnosis*

Morgan Timms

Judge’s Comments: *This photo story easily jumps to the top. Dynamite photos captivate readers into a life threatening situation for a sweet little girl. The front page photo alone is dominant enough to tell this story, but then there are many other great photos that result in a spectacular photo story! Excellent job by Morgan Timms.*

272

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Resillient Broncs*

Kathryn Ziesig

Judge’s Comments: *This photo display outlines one good photo after another. Judging from all the photos, you would have never guessed this team went winless except maybe the photo of the coach in the locker room, which in itself captures the frustration of the season. Great photos show lots of emotion and action. Nicely done.*

273

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Students help each other try to end vaping addictions*

Jeannette Boner

Judge’s Comments: *Second Place: Jeannette Boner’s article, “Students help each other … vaping addiction,” written for the Jackson Hole News & Guide, presents a chilling look at how vaping—using a battery-powered e-cigarette to inhale nicotine-laced oils—has infiltrated local high schools, middle schools, and even elementary schools. Boner also highlights a peer-to-peer, student-sponsored group working to fight their own addictions to vaping—with the support of a school nurse and a resource officer—and to steer other students away from the danger. Drawing on national, state, and local resources, Boner’s clearly written and well-organized article describes the challenges parents, schools, and communities have in facing an old drug packaged in a new, more easily camouflaged form.*

274

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Top climbing ranager retires after 30 years of high drama*

Billy Arnold

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

275

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

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*5-bed home, 9 occupants, 8 lawsuits*

Kate Ready

Judge’s Comments: *Delicious deep dive into a spate of civil cases arising out of a housing shortage. Good documentary research, good interviews, good read.*

276

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9999

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Their last chance*

Billy Arnold

Judge’s Comments: *What a monumental effort this must have been to report and photograph, but it paid huge dividends. Tremendous work.*

277

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9999

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*'Everesting' King*

Sophia Boyd-Fliegel

Judge’s Comments: *These extreme thrill-seeking "Everesters" are fascinating subjects, and the writer was wise to speak with so many of them for this piece.*

278

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Passing it down*

Jasmine Hall

Judge’s Comments: *Actually 7.5+*

*This is a compelling first-person feature about a woman trying to reconstitute a family Thanksgiving after losing it as a child in her estranged family.*

279

**Rookie Reporter of the Year**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Kyle Leverone*

Kyle Leverone

Judge’s Comments: *This entry was series of recreational and competitive sports stories from the community and surrounding area. Clear writing, but after a while there seemed to be a sameness to the feature style used in the array of topics. But then there was a good news story about conflict between a city-run ice rink and the community of users to balance it out.*

280

**Best Informational Graphic**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Taxi fares*

Andy Edwards

Judge’s Comments: *Great use of map to show clearly what rates should be. I'm sure readers found it much more useful than a simple list of example fares.*

281

**Best Use of a Double-Truck**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-Daily Division, circ. over 6,000

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Top climbing ranger retires after 30 years of high drama*

Andy Edwards

Judge’s Comments: *Love the use of the mountain range with explanations.*

282

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Government shutdown could hit parks, tourism*

Billy Arnold, Jasmine Hall

Judge’s Comments: *With federal employment a big part of the local economy, the paper took a look, from all sides, at how an impending government shutdown would impact the area. Nicely done.*

283

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Fire Chief Jellie*

Sophia Boyd-Fliegel

Judge’s Comments: *The reporter used good narration, meaningful quotes and laid out the situation of how a community and a former fire chief are showing their displeasure with the current chief. I didn't have to look for an answer to a question. It was there regarding the concerns. Great job of reporting, and I wish I could've also selected this as first place.*

284

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Miles High*

Kyle Leverone

Judge’s Comments: *Very well done feature on a very interesting subject.*

285

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*Parents dished assist for basketball coach's ouster*

Mark Baker

Judge’s Comments: *Fascinating story on multiple levels. It toes the line of an editorial/opinion piece but dives into why a coach was not asked back after a banner season with the boys basketball program. The usage of sent emails/texts between parents and administrators was a huge get by the journalist, taking advantage of a Wyoming state late that allows him to do so.*

286

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Jackson Hole News&Guide

*R Lazy S Ranch celebrates 75th anniversary*

Jasmine Hall

Judge’s Comments: *Nice piece.*

287

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Journal

*April 12 and Sept. 20*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Super good! I enjoyed seeing and reading.*

288

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

The Journal

*April 5, Sept. 13*

Jody Michael

Judge’s Comments: *Good job slamming everything into a single page like this. Not easily done. And local sports briefs, which gets the rest of the news in. Enjoyed the new coach softball story.*

289

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Journal

*Protecting the planet from the ground up*

Sydney Glasoe Caraballo

Judge’s Comments: *This is a very in-depth look at climate and climate change and its effects on agriculture. The reporter detailed her subject and gave ample examples. The graphs further brought attention. One thing I would do is be more consistent in your attributions to the various sources who responded in hour article.*

290

**Story-Series - Best Feature Series**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Journal

*Divide County School District new teachers*

Brad Nygaard, Jordan Rusche

Judge’s Comments: *A remarkable series of personality features introducing new teachers to the community, and in one story a sidebar on the teacher’s “escape” from a major family legal crisis. Mostly good writing and sourcing beyond the featured personality.*

291

**Best Front Page Design**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Journal

*Feb. 8, May 17, Aug. 16*

Cecile Wehrman

Judge’s Comments: *Overall, a nice, clean design. Use of photos does well to tie into stories. I like the cutout preview at the top.*

292

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Journal

*Junior Gold hopes to defend state title this week*

Brad Nygaard

Judge’s Comments: *Great story, but I wish I knew the outcome of their state playoff! Multiple quotes - coach and players, important. Sometimes it's hard to get quotes from the high school athletes, but with it being a state game, having those are important. Adding in descriptive details, like nods and shrugs were also nice touches. Congrats on 4th place!*

293

**Best Use of Local Photography in Ads**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Journal-News

*Tosetti's Good News Page*

Mike Plunkett

Judge’s Comments: *The judges liked how many local photos you were able to get for this ad.*

294

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Journal-News

*A Grace-Filled Journey*

Mary (Galer) Herschelman

Judge’s Comments: *Powerful first person accounts*

295

**Rookie Reporter of the Year**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division

The Journal-News

*Rookie of the Year*

Isaiah Atkins

Judge’s Comments: *This entry includes movie-themed columns and general assignment features/stories. Good variety, but not as strong as others in the competition.*

296

**Best Informational Graphic**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Journal-News

*Redskins, Pirates Put On a Show*

Kyle Herschelman

Judge’s Comments: *Not a true infographic, but nice looking and informative just the same.*

297

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Journal-News

*Best Use Of Photography*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *The Journal-News of Hillsboro, Ill did a great job recording the lives of the people in their community with many black and white photos that had depth and character. Not an easy task, but one well done.*

298

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Kemmerer Gazette

*Down but not out*

Don Cogger

Judge’s Comments: *You can feel the pain on the face of the little catcher. I hope they got the out.*

299

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Knox County News

*Organized Chaos*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *Great job at catching all of the chaos.*

300

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. under 5,000

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard

*Romania: Eye on the Ukraine*

Steve Ranson

Judge’s Comments: *The writer took advantage of a great opportunity and gave readers a deep-dive look into local National Guardsmen's service in Romania. The series provided important insights into the NATO Alliance at a time when it is under threat. Well done.*

301

**Story-Series - Communication in Crisis**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard

*Flooding*

Steve Ranson, Sara Dowling

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting coverage of this event as it occurred.*

302

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard

*Pay It Forward*

Sara Dowling

Judge’s Comments: *A true "feel good" story that puts lots of names and faces in the newspaper, supporting a local business and many valuable non-profits and other programs that benefited.*

303

**Best Use of Local Photography in Ads**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Lake Oswego Review

*Once a Pacer, Always a Pacer*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Good example of when to use one big photo instead of multiple smaller ones.*

304

**General Excellence**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Lake Oswego Review

*Lake Oswego Review*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *This entry was the whole package for me, with all around strong quality. But a somewhat cluttered front page was a distraction. Consider a bit of streamlining. Otherwise, good work!*

305

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Lake Oswego Review

*Down Memory Lane*

J. Brian Monihan

Judge’s Comments: *This is an appealing photo. Not sure why but it stuck in my gut and wouldn't get out of my mind. Good job!*

306

**Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Lake Oswego Review

*Bill Warner Tribute*

J. Brian Monihan

Judge’s Comments: *Community oriented like that a lot.*

307

**Best Real Estate Ad**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Lake Oswego Review

*Terry Sprague - Luxes - Forbes*

Kelli Lair and Bren Swogger

Judge’s Comments: *A strong ad. Highlighted by great photography*

308

**Best Reader-Generated Campaign**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division

Lake Oswego Review

*Holiday Cheer - Lake Oswego Review*

J. Brian Monihan

Judge’s Comments: *Clever way to fill the pages in a busy time of the year! Having faith in your readers to submit the images is great. Loved the 'greeting card' format and the fact you were not seeking advertisement to get these published. 3rd place win!*

309

**Best Front Page Design**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Lake Oswego Review

*Lake Oswego Review - 2023 graduation*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Love the large photo concept with the design. It immediately pulls in the reader. I appreciate how attention is drawn to graduation with a single story on the page. Great photos help complement to make this a top-notch design.*

310

**Best Holiday Ad**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5000

Lake Oswego Review

*2023 Holiday Services*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Merry Christmas!!! Lovely color, messages, and information for readers from multiple advertisers! Clean, easy to read!*

311

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Lander Journal

*Mayflower murder*

Sarah Squires

Judge’s Comments: *Great lede. Draws in the reader. A good overview of what's offered at the Night at the Museum event.*

312

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Laurel Independent

*Major fossil discovery at Dinosaur Park*

Sophie Gorman Oriani

Judge’s Comments: *Who knew there were dinosaurs in Maryland? We do now!*

313

**Best Classified Section**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Leelanau Enterprise

*Classified Section*

Jason Plowman

Judge’s Comments: *Great section. Clear, concise, well organized*

314

**Best Advertising Idea**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Nittolo's 2 for $20.23*

Mike Anderson

Judge’s Comments: *Delightful! Great use of space!*

315

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Aaron's Piano*

Jason Plowman

Judge’s Comments: *Stands out among the others.*

316

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Knot Just A Bar Polish Christmas Dinner*

Mike Anderson

Judge’s Comments: *Stands out!*

317

**Best Use of Ad Color**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Leelanau Enterprise

*Kids Fishing Day*

Mike Anderson

Judge’s Comments: *Great ad copy. Congratulations*

318

**Best Use of Ad Color**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Leelanau Enterprise

*Falcon Roofing*

Jason Plowman

Judge’s Comments: *Makes me what to hire Falcon Roofing.*

319

**Best Use of Ad Color**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Leelanau Enterprise

*LLCA Bridgewalk*

Jason Plowman

Judge’s Comments: *Great use of color and layout was fantastic.*

320

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Sending aloha, pule to Hawaii*

Meakalia Previch-Liu

Judge’s Comments: *Even for those of us who don't live in Hawaii, Meakalia pounds the emotion into a column about the devastating wildfires in Maui. Very well written.*

321

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Media inquiry policy*

Editorial staff

Judge’s Comments: *Sometimes newspapers must call out those in power who want to take their rights away. This one was did that with solid reasons while avoiding hard punches. Well done.*

322

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Kid in the rain*

Brian Freiberger

Judge’s Comments: *A perfect moment in time! The "curtain" formed by the water droplets is caught perfectly.*

323

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*10 acres burned in national park*

Brian Freiberger

Judge’s Comments: *Printing this photo in black and white really adds to the overall effect. Nice shot.*

324

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*State Champs*

Brian Freiberger

Judge’s Comments: *The joy on the faces of the coach and the team members is palpable! Love this! (And congratulations to the girls!)*

325

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*GTB tribal member dancing center at Pow Wow*

Meakalia Previch-Liu

Judge’s Comments: *Colors are incredible as is the look on the dancer's face. Well Done!*

326

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Eagles upset Red Devils*

Brian Freiberger

Judge’s Comments: *Great job capturing an emotional moment and the joy on the girls' faces.*

327

**Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Leelanau Enterprise

*Leelanau on a Dime*

Leelanau Enterprise staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great package cover to cover. This is a nice feature package that has things that any family or person could do without breaking the bank.*

328

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Underpaid tarts*

Alan Campbell

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting well written piece about the background of the cherry (and other berry) business, the current state of the industry and the difficult current crop haul. Good national and local perspective knitted together.*

329

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Northport icon leaves behind legacy of service*

Meakalia Previch-Liu

Judge’s Comments: *A beautiful memorial piece on someone who was obviously well loved in the community.*

330

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Whitefish catch doubles*

Alan Campbell

Judge’s Comments: *Everything you wanted to know about whitefish, and then some.*

331

**Story-Series - Best Feature Series**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*People of the Peninsula*

Brian Freiberger, Meakalia Previch-Liu and Zachary Marano

Judge’s Comments: *This is a good "get to know those in your community" feature series.*

332

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Jesus in song*

Alan Campbell

Judge’s Comments: *Actually 7.5*

*One in a series of themed features, this story looks at the loss of the Jesus message in Christmas music. This is an interesting concept, but I felt it could have been much stronger. It is a global issue not fully developed locally.*

333

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Cold temps bring ice wine harvest*

Meakalia Previch-Liu

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting and informative story on a unique wine making process.*

334

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*Business high employees low*

Brian Freiberger

Judge’s Comments: *This was an informative look at issues facing every business today, but not well covered in local news outlets. Nice job.*

335

**Best Holiday Ad**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5000

Leelanau Enterprise

*Holiday ads*

Jason Plowman

Judge’s Comments: *Longing for an up north Michigan Christmas!!! Nice mix of ads with Letters to Santa!*

336

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*State Champs*

Brian Freiberger

Judge’s Comments: *The Leelanau Enterprise photographers captured all the excitement and energy of winning a high school basketball championship and delivered it dramatically to those who could not be there. Wow!*

337

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Leelanau Enterprise

*TRASHion FASHion show*

Meakalia Previch-Liu

Judge’s Comments: *This is nicely done but I'd like to see more than one source in a story. Why not email a past winner or a current competitor for a quick quote or two?*

*And what happens to the fashion after the show? Does it just become more trash?*

338

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 5,000

Leelanau Enterprise

*Leelanau vets and Camp Jejune*

Alan Campbell

Judge’s Comments: *Actionable information provided by this story increased the value. Well written and good use of local voices.*

339

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Manhattan Mercury

*The intermittent grief*

Ned Seaton

Judge’s Comments: *Well-done column on the personal emotions of losing a dad at holiday time.*

340

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Manhattan Mercury

*It’s time to hop on the women’s hoops bandwagon*

Zach DeLoach

Judge’s Comments: *A very prescient column about a timely topic. Written well and at a good length for a column, not too long but not too short. Easy for casual sports followers like me to understand without feeling dumbed-down. This was the ideal column out of all the entries; other columnists take note!*

341

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9999

The Manhattan Mercury

*GOT THEIR GOAT: Meet Gap Goat, the alleged key to K-State's defensive success*

Zach DeLoach

Judge’s Comments: *This is the lightest subject matter out of the four entries that placed, but so what? It's a fun read, it was worth reporting and it was reported well.*

342

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily

The Manhattan Mercury

*LAST STOP: K-State ends year with Elite 8 loss to FAU*

Zach DeLoach

Judge’s Comments: *A fan who had to miss the game just had to read this coverage. Goes beyond a typical game story.*

*Terrific, entertaining storytelling.*

343

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

The Manhattan Mercury

*The banana republic just an hour south*

Ned Seaton

Judge’s Comments: *This was an important issue the newspaper really HAD to cover. The writer did a great job of localizing the issue.*

344

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily Division

The Manhattan Mercury

*The booze-tax shell game*

Ned Seaton

Judge’s Comments: *The writer does a good job of explaining a very complicated issue*

345

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-dailiy circ. over 9,000

The Manhattan Mercury

*'Wildkittens': 50 years after Title IX, a look back at women’s sports at K-State*

Megan Moser

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting historical look back at women's athletics. Would like to have had more from more current times.*

346

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Maricopa Monitor

*Boys & Girls Club of the Sun Corridor*

Nick Arnold

Judge’s Comments: *great ad*

347

**Social Media Journalism**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Marietta Monitor

*Love County Coaches Show*

Connor Choate & Bryson Culwell

Judge’s Comments: *I really like the idea of this coaches show, and I'm familiar with Oklahoma and h.s. football is king in these parts. Good effort, hope they expand upon their idea. 3rd place*

348

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Marietta Monitor

*Local family evicts unwanted guest*

Joani Hartin

Judge’s Comments: *Admittedly, I didn't expect much from this story, in terms of it being strong enough to place. I'm happy to say that I was quite wrong! This was a splendid piece that is certainly award-winning. Kudos for taking a subject that has (unfortunately) happened to many and turning it into an enjoyable read!*

349

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Marietta Monitor

*Lost and found*

Joani Hartin

Judge’s Comments: *Lovely story that you made quite interesting to read.*

350

**Best Online Album or Slide Show**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division

Marietta Monitor

*The Thrill & Agony*

Connor Choate

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent!*

351

**Best Online Album or Slide Show**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division

Marietta Monitor

*Best photos of 2023*

Connor Choate & Anabel Ulloa

Judge’s Comments: *Powerful images that gives the viewer a glimpse of the community.*

352

**Best Informational Graphic**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Marietta Monitor

*Cotton in Love County through the years*

Anabel Ulloa

Judge’s Comments: *Fun graphic.*

353

**Best Informational Graphic**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Marietta Monitor

*ODOT Plan*

Anabel Ulloa

Judge’s Comments: *Nice and informative*

354

**Best Front Page Design**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Marietta Monitor

*Inching closer - Marietta Monitor*

Connor Choate

Judge’s Comments: *The white space on this page is nice. I wish the photos were bigger, or at least one of them was to help balance out the writing.*

355

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Marietta Monitor

*Deadline accident*

Connor Choate

Judge’s Comments: *Graphic photo that shows the magnitude of this crash.*

356

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Marietta Monitor

*A heartbreaking loss*

Joani Hartin

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent story, way to take the defeat and make it positive. It's always a challenge in a small sports driven community, especially at state playoffs. (Especially in Oklahoma!) The coach states the issues matter-of-factly and still keeps an upbeat tempo. Congratulations on 2nd place!*

357

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-Daily Circ under 2500

Marietta Monitor

*Rural Churches in Love County*

Joani Hartin & Connor Choate

Judge’s Comments: *A sweet concept that's nicely written*

358

**Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Moonshine Ink

*Local and Proud*

Mike English

Judge’s Comments: *Strong point, made simply, but with good visuals. Nice standalone cartoon!*

359

**Best Reader-Generated Campaign**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division

Moonshine Ink

*Uniquely First*

Marianne Porter

Judge’s Comments: *Porter shared her many firsts, probably inspiring readers to collect their own memories of firsts. While the entire idea is of photos, the accompanying story made the vintage 80s photos even more interesting. I hope more of your readers are submitting photos and maybe not full stories, but interesting cutlines. Congrats on 2nd place!*

360

**Story-Series - Communication in Crisis**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Moonshine Ink

*Housing Crisis*

Julie Brown, Alex Hoeft, Melissa Siig

Judge’s Comments: *Well written, many sources and quotes to back up the stories. The best thing these stories do is to explain in layman's terms why these problems exist.*

361

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Moonshine Ink

*Many ‘Coulds’ and ‘Shoulds’ Loom Over Multi-Agency Land Swap*

Alex Hoeft

Judge’s Comments: *Another solid reporting entry. Each concern is followed up by the reporter who lays out the roadwork to tell a good story. After I finished reading the article, I felt like I was a resident of your community. Your second article was also a gem.*

*By the way, the illustrations are some of the best I've seen in years.*

362

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Moonshine Ink

*The Birth of Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue*

David Fenimore

Judge’s Comments: *Nice piece showcasing an important service.*

363

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 5,000

Moonshine Ink

*Coming Home*

Juliana Demarest

Judge’s Comments: *Well written story with a good local angle. Telling the airman's story from childhood made this especially compelling.*

364

**Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The N'West Iowa REVIEW

*Editorial - Best Editorial Pages*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Strong editorial pages with well-written editorials, good guest columns and plentiful letters to the editor. Nice work!*

365

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9000

The N'West Iowa REVIEW

*The N'West Iowa REVIEW*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Well placed photos and stories.*

366

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The N'West Iowa REVIEW

*"Substitute Shortage"*

Aleisa Schat

Judge’s Comments: *Solid reporting. I liked the narrative lede. You put a face on the story and it helps the reader to grasp the issue immediately. Good use of national stats as well. Good job of getting variety of viewpoints in the story and good use of quotes. Substitute shortage is impacting school districts nationwide and many newspapers are publishing stories on the subject. Well done. Keep up the good work.*

367

**Story-Series - Best Feature Series**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The N'West Iowa REVIEW

*"Homelessness & Housing"*

Aleisa Schat

Judge’s Comments: *This series on homelessness, rather than examining those wandering town streets and parks seeking shelter, focused on housing needs for domestic victims, for youth without family, for those forced out of homes and apartments in financial distress. Huge detail, sourcing, and text volume delivers the stories to readers with interest and patience. Good writing/reporting! Lengthy stories could have been broken into a primary feature with graphically appealing sidebars.*

368

**Best Restaurant Ad**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The N'West Iowa REVIEW

*REVIEW-Best Restaurant Ad2*

Kira Spaans

Judge’s Comments: *Use of color and imagery makes this one the top winner!*

369

**Best Holiday Ad**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5000

The N'West Iowa REVIEW

*REVIEW-Best Holiday Ad2*

Elizabeth Myers

Judge’s Comments: *Festive!*

370

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

News Letter Journal

*Totes for Hope*

Amy Menerey

Judge’s Comments: *For a small ad, it's a good amount of information and well-organized to not feel overcrowded.*

371

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

News Letter Journal

*Karpe Dogie*

Sonja Karp

Judge’s Comments: *This writer is not afraid Tom put it all out there. Opinion pieces like this need to be written once in awhile.*

372

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

News Letter Journal

*News Letter Journal*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Enjoyable paper with plenty of white space, good pictures, interesting articles.*

373

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

News Letter Journal

*News Letter Journal*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Good photo feature layouts. Good photography through out. In general, good photo selection.*

374

**General Excellence**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

News Letter Journal

*News Letter Journal*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great use of photos, especially on the front page and in the sports section. On 4/27, the top front page headline was very good and compelling.*

375

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

News Letter Journal

*NLJ Sports*

Sonja Karp, Amy Menerey

Judge’s Comments: *The consistent and clean look of the sports front really sets a good tone for this section to its inside pages. I really liked the inclusion of columns (well written) and schedules turning that left column in a mini rail. Nice job. Consider a few more breakout boxes to turn good into excellent.*

376

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

News Letter Journal

*Letting the Spirit take control*

Walter Sprague

Judge’s Comments: *Beautifully written account that told the reader very clearly why the subject was worthy of such an excellent profile. Profiles so often seem to keep the writer a distance from the subject. Not the case here. Great piece.*

377

**Best Front Page Design**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

News Letter Journal

*News Letter Journal*

Amy Menerey

Judge’s Comments: *I like how this front page flows. The photos are well-sized, and there's plenty of white space to separate the stories, but not so much that it's overbearing. The different font for the bottom left story was a nice choice. Well done.*

378

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

News Letter Journal

*Road rage*

Amy Menerey

Judge’s Comments: *In terms of finding a "random" feature photo, this Wyoming version of Road Rage takes the cake. Great capture by Amy Menerey.*

379

**Best Advertising Idea**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The News-Gazette

*Shop Local, Shop Small*

Matt Paxton

Judge’s Comments: *Very informative and educational. The graphic used is very impactful.*

380

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The News-Gazette

*Book Battle at Lylburn Downing*

Ed Smith

Judge’s Comments: *Proof that editorials can tackle important and timely topics without shouting. A well-reasoned piece to help give needed information.*

381

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

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Norfolk Daily News

*Protect the Pillar*

Daily News staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great series on why what we do is so important!*

382

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

**SECOND PLACE**

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

North Bend Eagle

*The Dynasty Continues*

Nathan Arneal

Judge’s Comments: *Terrific use of extended metaphor of card-playing through much of the piece. Very good how they used playing cards to represent the players. Also great how they integrated player photos into advertising.*

383

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

North Bend Eagle

*Comfort amongst chaos*

Nathan Arneal

Judge’s Comments: *The composition is unique, and if a photo is worth a thousand words, this is it. This is the type of photo one would find in a daily newspaper. Great job.*

384

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Oakland Independent

*Vietnam veterans honored*

Janice Hunt

Judge’s Comments: *This visual display has great text support. Photos provide grand context for this community’s recognition of its Vietnam War veterans!*

385

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Oakland Independent

*A legacy takes root*

Janice Hunt

Judge’s Comments: *Loved this article which focused on a different aspect of agriculture. The reporter hooked me from the first few paragraphs on the lavender farmer and then tied it in with his military service in Iraq.*

386

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Oakland Independent

*A legacy takes root*

Janice Hunt

Judge’s Comments: *The reader is provided clear proof of the admiral personalities of this business team. Good selection of quotes.*

387

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Oakland Independent

*A legacy takes root*

Janice Hunt

Judge’s Comments: *Fascinating profile of a person whose life seemed doomed, how the subject facing devastation, finding strength in beauty and ultimate turnaround to a future that was grown from what was originally a coping mechanism.*

388

**Best Reader-Generated Campaign**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division

Oakland Independent

*News Travels*

Janice Hunt

Judge’s Comments: *While not a new or unique idea, just getting readers to submit images and details is challenging in today's fast-paced "post it to FB" world. Multiple months exhibit the long-range dedication by both the newspaper and the readers. Traveled vicariously through the images and cutlines. Noteworthy: the break-up in cutline for Nov. 30 in that small space, excellent, easier to read. Congrats on 1st place!*

389

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Opinion-Tribune

*Mills County landfill gas being processed into renewable energy*

Joe Foreman

Judge’s Comments: *This is one very enterprising approach to getting an open house notice in the paper. The writer does a good job explaining the process and its environmental benefits with straightforward, to-the-point writing.*

390

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000

Opinion-Tribune

*Future of PJ Fire Department in limbo following resignations*

Joe Foreman

Judge’s Comments: *Good reporting! I'm certain your readers had heard something about the fire station shutting down and your story told them all they needed to know. Hopefully, this story will move townspeople to demand the city provide more funding for the fire department.*

391

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Opinion-Tribune

*The Accidental Fighter*

Joel Stevens

Judge’s Comments: *Refreshing to see something besides a traditional sports feature, along with well chosen photos and layout. The subject seems thoughtful and offers candid reasons, with a great line about playing the long game in his quest to move up the ranks. Makes for great reading for younger sports people. Well written, but extra source quotes would have made it even stronger. Congratulations 3rd place!*

392

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Park Cities People

*Best Multiple Advertiser Section\_PCP Football Preview*

Park Cities People

Judge’s Comments: *Fantastic section. The layout is visually stunning and the ads look great.*

393

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Park Cities People

*Best Multiple Advertiser Section\_STEAM-PCP*

Park Cities People

Judge’s Comments: *Great layout. Very nice design.*

394

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Park Cities People

*Best Multiple Advertiser Section\_20 Under 40\_April PCP*

Park Cities People

Judge’s Comments: *Nice use of space. Great content featuring leaders in the community.*

395

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Park Cities People

*Best Single Ad Color Ad\_Oct PCP LennoxMiller*

Melanie Thornton, Quita Johnson

Judge’s Comments: *Love the picture and placements. I love the use of different fonts. I almost called the company because of this ad! Well done!*

396

**General Excellence**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Park Cities People

*General Excellence Park Cities People*

Park Cities People Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Enjoyable read. Good stories and photos. Nice mix of stories to be of interest to a wide variety of readers.*

397

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

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Park Cities People

*Best Special Section\_20 Under Forty 2023\_Park Cities People*

Rachel Snyder, Park Cities People

Judge’s Comments: *It’s been done by other publications, but I haven’t seen one this good. A+ design. Enough information on each of the 20 without overkill. If done annually, I imagine it makes young people strive to be included.*

398

**Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Park Cities People

*Best Sponsored Advertorial\_PCP Nov\_Jim Mueller-People to Know*

Melanie Thornton, Tana Hunter, Maddie Spera

Judge’s Comments: *Very professional.*

399

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

Park Cities People

*Best Performing Arts Story\_Park Cities People\_Apr Pg 12\_Reluctant Tx Champs Dallas Arts*

William Taylor, Park Cities People

Judge’s Comments: *A story about persistence well-told.*

400

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Philadelphia Gay News

*Hope for the future*

Mark Segal

Judge’s Comments: *Good focus theme, but the arguments are too general.*

401

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Philadelphia Gay News

*Coming out to LGBTQ peers is just as challenging*

Jeremy Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *Well-worded personal piece that made good points and challenged their fellow LGBTQ+ colleagues to do the right thing. Nicely done.*

402

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Philadelphia Gay News

*Drag performers are under attack under the country*

Kelly Burkhardt

Judge’s Comments: *Well posed group photos of Drag performers show their design skill and creative talent.*

403

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Philadelphia Gay News

*Fairness Act passes PA House*

Jason Villemez

Judge’s Comments: *Good story and good writing on an issue many states are facing. Plenty of background and detail. Well done.*

404

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Philadelphia Gay News

*The booksellers that built a community*

Jason Villemez

Judge’s Comments: *This profile excavates a rich history -- both of the bookstore itself and of the many waves of LGBTQ+ history it has marked over the generations of its existence. The profile is a tribute the meaning of these historic business landmarks and to the exceptional work of the advocates and owners who keep these kinds of businesses open.*

405

**Website - Best Newspaper Website**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Philadelphia Gay News

*Philadelphia Gay News*

PGN Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Easy to navigate, appeared to have excellent coverage of LGBTQ+ issues, as well as traditional lifestyle reporting (movies, culture, etc).*

406

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

Philadelphia Gay News

*Pride in Philly*

PGN Staff

Judge’s Comments: *The biggest suggestion I have is to write captions for photos. There are two pages full of photos and I have no idea why they are relevant. Photo sizes could vary as well; most appear to be the same size. Don't be afraid to really showcase photos*

*bigger now and then, especially on those larger events and moments. The photo on the front is a great photo, but could have really shined if it was bigger. Otherwise, I think the photos tie in well with the articles they're accompanying.*

407

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-dailiy circ. over 9,000

Philadelphia Gay News

*The booksellers that built a community*

Jason Villemez

Judge’s Comments: *Great piece on an iconic institution in the community. The dedication required of the founders and later owners just to remain in business in the face of discrimination on top of the normal pressures of business is inspiring, and that come through in the writing.*

408

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Photo News

*Mechi's*

Kayla Hartigan

Judge’s Comments: *Love this!*

409

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Pilot

*Living in Man's World, Mom Found a Place*

John Nagy

Judge’s Comments: *A sentimental remembrance of mom, who raised a family when it was a man's world. Well-written, but could have used a stronger focus.*

*Columns tend to fit into two groups: "I have a relationship with my readers and here is something from my life" and "here is something to think about rom someone else's life." Both are valid and both were represented. With both, ask "what makes this a column and not just a feature?"*

410

**Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Pilot

*The Pilot Best Editorial Page*

John Nagy, David Woronoff

Judge’s Comments: *Nice design. Solid opinion pieces. Well written, thought-provoking editorials By looking at the local letters, it’s obvious this is a well read page*

411

**General Excellence**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Pilot

*The Pilot's General Excellence*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great newspaper from cover to cover with solid stories and coverage of what matters to its readers.*

412

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10000

The Pilot

*The Pilot Best Sports Section*

Jonathan Bym

Judge’s Comments: *Almost entirely local coverage with an interesting emphasis on horses. Great photos and well-organized layout*

413

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

The Pilot

*One Emergency!*

John Nagy

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent writing. Right from the start, the writer had me tighter than polygrip on dentures. Head and shoulders above the rest.*

414

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Powell Tribune

*River Crossing*

Mark Davis

Judge’s Comments: *Great photo of a horse team crossing a river - I wish it could have been larger, but that wasn't the photographer's fault*

415

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Powell Tribune

*Yellowstone Winter*

Carla Wensky

Judge’s Comments: *Stunning outdoor photography of beautiful places. Makes one long to see it in person.*

416

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Powell Tribune

*The Nutcracker*

Carla Wensky

Judge’s Comments: *Beautiful capture of a well-loved play.*

417

**Best Use of a Double-Truck**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Powell Tribune

*State track champions*

Mark Davis

Judge’s Comments: *Color, layout & photos make this an inviting double truck*

418

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Preston Hollow People

*Best Multiple Advertiser Section\_PHP\_Football Preview*

Preston Hollow People

Judge’s Comments: *x*

419

**Review - Best Review**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Preston Hollow People

*Best Review\_Preston Hollow People Sept Pg 10\_PH Man Pens Tribute to Bronco*

Kersten Rettig, Preston Hollow People

Judge’s Comments: *A fair book review. The author backs into the review with too much background before getting to opinion.*

420

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

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Preston Hollow People

*Best Special Section\_Preston Hollow People STEAM 2023*

Preston Hollow People

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting, informative stories about education packaged nicely. Bonus for including youth in the section. Well done.*

421

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10000

Preston Hollow People

*Best Sports Feature Story\_Preston Hollow People Oct Pg 14\_Defensive Lineman Tackles Multiple Roles*

Todd Jorgenson, Preston Hollow People

Judge’s Comments: *Stories like this are important for students trying to get their name in front of college coaches and admissions departments.*

422

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Preston Hollow People

*Best Non-Profile Feature Story\_Preston Hollow People Oct Pg12\_Trains at NorthPark May Be Cool*

Josh Hickman, Preston Hollow People

Judge’s Comments: *fun story, nicely written.*

423

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Preston Hollow People

*Best Localized National Story\_Preston Hollow People Dec Pg 10\_I Really Want To Believe In Peace*

Rachel Snyder, Maria Lawson, Preston Hollow People

Judge’s Comments: *This was a nicely done, concisely done story on an important national issue. the lead drew me in right away.*

*the writing was strong and consistent, and I appreciate the great organization. outstanding work!*

424

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Preston Hollow People

*Best Sports Story\_Preston Hollow People Dec Pg 16\_Parish Lineman Cultural Roots*

Todd Jorgenson, Preston Hollow People

Judge’s Comments: *Good subject and story, but a deeper look into the player's culture would have enhanced it.*

425

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Red Hook Star-Revue

*Asthma Series*

Brian Abate

Judge’s Comments: *Fantastic! This is such a well researched article on a topic that seems to have been that talk of the community at the time. Not only offering information on the different causes of asthma in the community but also offering solutions to help those who have it. Incredible job!*

426

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Red Hook Star-Revue

*Museum of Failure*

Erin DeGregorio

Judge’s Comments: *This was quite nicely done — kudos.*

427

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Red Hook Star-Revue

*The Royal Scam*

George Fiala, Brian Abate

Judge’s Comments: *Great story and great subject matter. Would have liked to hear from an employee or two about their thoughts on the extended two week furlough. Love how the story is broken up with subheads, makes for a visually appealing read. Great job.*

428

**Editions - Best Headline Writing**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Riverton Ranger

*Riverton Ranger headline writing*

Sarah Squires, Marit Gookin

Judge’s Comments: *Particularly good in the sports section, but nice overall job.*

429

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Riverton Ranger

*Riverton Ranger local news coverage*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *This newspaper had a great variety of stories - all interesting. The story about the new school program read like a feature - but was packed full of hard news. Loved the technique.*

430

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Riverton Ranger

*Eastern Shoshone Powwow - top right, Pema Bullbear*

Carl Cote

Judge’s Comments: *Stunning portrait.*

431

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Riverton Ranger

*Pioneer Days action*

Carl Cote

Judge’s Comments: *These photos are extremely sharp and focus on the emotions of the individuals captured.*

432

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Riverton Ranger

*Hot air*

Carl Cote

Judge’s Comments: *Wonderful shots of larger than life balloons that capture the human aspect of those around them.*

433

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Riverton Ranger

*Girls fight too*

Carl Cote

Judge’s Comments: *Her coach may not appreciate the look but it sure makes for a great photo. Great action.*

434

**Rookie Reporter of the Year**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division

Riverton Ranger

*Marit Gookin, Rookie Reporter of the Year, Riverton Ranger*

Marit Gookin

Judge’s Comments: *The is entry featured a series of news and feature stories that were interesting. The new stories tended to get bogged down in statistics and could have used a human element designed to draw the reader in before the numbers get in the way.*

435

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Riverton Ranger

*'White Robe' celebrates Roberts*

Sarah Squires

Judge’s Comments: *Great mix of different elements*

436

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Riverton Ranger

*Riverton Ranger Real Baby*

Sarah Squires

Judge’s Comments: *Funny! I felt bad for the Real Baby but it got its revenge.*

437

**Story-Series - Best Feature Series**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Rockwall County Herald-Banner

*Stem Cell Transplant Series*

Kent Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Exceptional writing/reporting! The story makes readers personal witnesses to the value of stem cell donor’s value, and the recipient’s life-saved appreciation. While part two of this limited series recounts much of the part-one story, it serves to emphasize the value and need for life-saving stem cell donors. Mission accomplished!*

438

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Rockwall County Herald-Banner

*She's Got Spirit*

Kent Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Amazing story on a young girl who has gone through such a traumatic experience. Only thing that would have made it better would be some quotes from coaches or teammates. And maybe a little bit of information on why the blood clot formed or how others could keep it from happening if it is preventable.*

*Overall, amazing, well-written story. Great job!*

439

**Best Front Page Design**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Rockwall County Herald-Banner

*FRONT PAGE DESIGN - Friday, December 1, 2023 Rockwall County Herald-Banner*

Kent Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Fonts are easy to read.*

440

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Royse City Herald-Banner

*TCEQ should say no to concrete batch plant*

Kent Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Solid editorial with good points to back up stance on a controversial issue. Would have liked something like the 2nd paragraph to be the lede to hit the readers up front with the paper’s opinion. Still, well done.*

441

**Best Front Page Design**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Royse City Herald-Banner

*Front Page Royse City*

Warren Morrison

Judge’s Comments: *Clean design, eye-catching photo with a bold headline. The only design aspect I would suggest changing is the headshot—make the story two columns and place his headshot in the second column, instead of crunching words together. Makes it difficult to read. Overall, a crisp design.*

442

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Royse City Herald-Banner

*Vehicle fire on I-30*

Laurie White King

Judge’s Comments: *The glow catches my attention, especially with how the darkness of the night makes the photo stand out.*

443

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

San Fernando Valley Sun

*San Fernando Native Celebrates 100th Birthday*

Maria Luisa Torres

Judge’s Comments: *Solid story with plenty of supporting details and insightful photos from the story's subject.*

444

**Story-Series - Best Feature Series**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

San Fernando Valley Sun

*Cruising*

Semantha Raquel Norris

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting feature, but how is this a series? (Answer: The other parts of the series apparently were outside the eligibility period.) This is a good story but since this is a series competition ...*

445

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

San Fernando Valley Sun

*A Mother’s Long Struggle to Help Her Homeless Son*

Cesar Arredondo, Diana Martinez

Judge’s Comments: *A powerful news feature, this story gives a name and a face to experiences that so often go unacknowledged and unrecognized. Bridging the personal story with substantial research into a timely development in the courts, this story spreads awareness and raises compassion.*

446

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

**THIRD PLACE**

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

San Fernando Valley Sun

*Drag Story Hour*

Semantha Raquel Norris, Gabriel Arizon

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent, multi-sourced series compellingly written about a public library event that drew protesters that forced closure. The variety is sources—protesters, library official, local law enforcers, public community agencies, legal authorities, event supporters and especially the “drag queen” at the center of the conflict. A grand example of Journalism practiced at the highest level for readers’ engaged consumption.*

447

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

San Fernando Valley Sun

*Organ Donor from Pacoima Saved and Touched the Lives of Many*

Maria Luisa Torres and Diana Martinez

Judge’s Comments: *So well written. A story that will help someone else in the future.*

448

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

San Fernando Valley Sun

*GR818ERS*

Semantha Raquel Norris

Judge’s Comments: *This is an upbeat telling of an upbeat story. The writer displays the energy of the subject matter.*

449

**Social Media Journalism**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Selma Sun

*Live Weekly Newscast on Social Media*

Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater

Judge’s Comments: *Great segment! These two have a good on-camera presence and they get right to the matter of news. They also do a good job of using most available social media platforms. Congratulations on 2nd place!*

450

**Story-Series - Communication in Crisis**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Selma Sun

*Communication in Crisis -- Tornado Recovery*

Cindy Fisher, Todd Prater, Brad Fisher

Judge’s Comments: *Great follow up to this breaking story, multifaceted coverage looking at governmental response, local businesses and individuals. Well done.*

451

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Sidell Reporter

*Battling Blindness*

Brett McMahon

Judge’s Comments: *While this is a solidly done personal story, it would have stronger had we seen some kind of comment from a medical expert or someone who dals with assistive technology or someone with a disability service organization.*

452

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Sioux City Journal

*Refugees leave behind family*

Nick Hytrek

Judge’s Comments: *A fairly good story of a young couple who fled Ukraine to come to the United States. Well told, but would have been stronger with a deeper focus. What makes it a column?*

453

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Sioux City Journal

*Little Brown Jug rivalry resumes*

Nick Hytrek

Judge’s Comments: *As an ex-sportswriter and history minor, this story is a great read on all levels.*

*I'm a bit surprised this wasn't been picked up by national media.*

*This story would have been great closing feature to the Sunday evening national newscast on ABS, NBC or CBS.*

454

**General Excellence**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Sioux City Journal*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Very well put together product. Great local news. Front page design really stands out*

*Five questions with……. Is a great piece that allows readers to really get to know their neighbors.*

*Over heard in the news and photo quiz are nice features to engage the readers.*

*The opinion page from these submissions are lacking in local content. Cable TV, and the internet can tell me all about the issues you carry on your opinion page. If I’m reading your paper, I need to be able to learn about your community.*

455

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Memorial Day preparations*

Tim Hynds

Judge’s Comments: *The easy winner in this division. Photo definitely captures the moment.*

456

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Dakota Valley loose ball*

Tim Hynds

Judge’s Comments: *This is a nice basketball shot, capturing two players diving for the ball at the same time. We see it every game, but it's tough to capture. Nice tightness on the photo. Well done.*

457

**Review - Best Review**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*One of the year's best*

Bruce Miller

Judge’s Comments: *A nicely done review where the author walks us through the plot with opinion.*

458

**Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Siouxland Life*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *This piece made me wish it was more than twice a year. It was filled with great info for folks in that area. The photos were great. Placements were spot on. Easy to read.*

459

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

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Sioux City Journal

*Siouxland Foodball '23*

Ryan Timmerman, Dave Dreeszen, Jared McNett, Robyn Levine, Tim Hynds, Jesse Brothers

Judge’s Comments: *Huge undertaking by staff – 70 pages! Crisp page design. Nice mix of local and statewide teams. Just enough info on each with great photos and info boxes. It’s a reader keeper for sure.*

460

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10000

Sioux City Journal

*Sioux City Journal*

Ryan Timmerman, Dave Dreeszen

Judge’s Comments: *Great photography and easy to follow layout. Masthead looked spare*

461

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*The Bing at 100*

Mason Dockter

Judge’s Comments: *This story was nice in several respects, notably that it made me want to gobble one of these tasty-sounding treats! Reporters covered many bases well and the writing was sharp. History was well chronicled after an introduction explaining the main aspect of story: candy hitting century mark. I'd like to have seen/read some comments from folks in community who eat the candy. If had gone out and done a 'person on street' comment seeking quest for Bing eaters, you'd have won first. Thanks!!*

462

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Arnolds Park mobile homeowners have 90 days to leave*

Jared McNett

Judge’s Comments: *Your entry was missing the third page (second jump), hence was not able to read the full article. That said, this was less of a business story and more of a profile of the people being forced to move out. There was very little "business" info in this compared to the excessive details of residents having to leave. This also has a tone of judgement or "feel sorry," to it. The reality of life is stuff like this can happen, and it is both legal and part of life. I give reporter credit for getting as much balance as possible from the parent company kicking out the residents. Thank you.*

463

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Librarians 'vigilant' in book selections*

Caitlin Yamada

Judge’s Comments: *This was a well-rounded story on a hot topic from a more unique perspective. Well-done.*

464

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Sioux City Journal

*Challenges for dental patients*

Dolly Butz

Judge’s Comments: *From data to anecdotes to exceptional visual narratives, this story makes systemic issues personal and digestible. Readers are carried carefully and thoughtfully through multiple perspectives and levels of the issue; by the end of the story, everyone is better informed and more compassionate about an important social and systemic concern. An exceptional package from top to bottom.*

465

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

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Michael Meredith shooting*

Nick Hytrek

Judge’s Comments: *Great in-depth piece.*

466

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily

Sioux City Journal

*The Scientist and the Spy*

Jared McNett

Judge’s Comments: *This is a richly detailed story. The writer had great information to draw on. My guess is that a lot of folks in the coverage area aren't aware of this unique tie to area and world history*

*I'd like to have seen the writing tightened up a bit. I also would have organized material a bit differently. that being said, I enjoyed reading this. great work!*

467

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily

Sioux City Journal

*Triumph and disappointment*

Dave Dreeszen

Judge’s Comments: *I can't remember the Supreme Court justice who said he always read the sports section of the paper first, because it is the only place where he read about people's triumphs rather that their failures or shortcomings.*

*But he would have love this story*

468

**Website - Best Newspaper Website**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*siouxcityjournal.com*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Beefy, full-featured website with all the bells and whistles.*

469

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Heartbreaking mystery*

Dolly Butz

Judge’s Comments: *Very compelling story that could easily draw one into the speculation game on what happened to this man. Well written documentation.*

470

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Deadline missed*

Caitlin Yamada

Judge’s Comments: *How does government today miss something that will cost its taxpayers added millions?*

*This story lays the answer out clearly and concisely.*

*Somebody somewhere is making a buck off of government nonfeasance.*

471

**Best Front Page Design**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*The scientist and the spy*

Deborah Hile

Judge’s Comments: *Great page design, and use of photos.*

472

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Sioux City Journal

*Hold contractor accountable for delay in jail opening*

Dave Dreeszen

Judge’s Comments: *The writer does a great job of explaining the issue and the frustrations. A very easy to read piece.*

473

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

Sioux City Journal

*We have a few questions for you to answer*

Bruce Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Good job. Regular life can be very interesting when a good writer decides to tell a story.*

474

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

Sioux City Journal

*Iowa's close-up*

Bruce Miller

Judge’s Comments: *A quick telling of the story behind the story was interesting and compelling. Well done.*

475

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 5,000

Sioux City Journal

*The ship has sailed*

Nick Hytrek

Judge’s Comments: *Well done piece. Good explanation of why a relatively new ship is being decommissioned. Captured the disappointment of the local community.*

476

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Southwest Ledger

*This Is Where The Cowboy Rides Away. So Long, Crutcher’s*

Don Armes

Judge’s Comments: *A sweet, well-told and detailed remembrance of a community's vital industry that has been so changed by technology.*

477

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Southwest Ledger

*Gaddie Out: Prominent Political Scientist Leaves OU after 25 years*

M. Scott Carter

Judge’s Comments: *Brilliant profile that captured the essence of its subject, compelling the reader to want to know everything possible about this man. In the hands of this talented writer, the profile was told with a depth of feeling not always evident from others. Outstanding.*

478

**Story-Series - Best Feature Series**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Southwest Ledger

*The hidden Watergate story*

M. Scott Carter

Judge’s Comments: *Terrific depth, terrific writing, an excellent story. Writer drew conclusions and offered personal commentary mixed with historic sourcing and sometimes factual elements without attribution.*

479

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

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Southwest Ledger

*Chickasha Water Plant from Idea to Ballot*

Mike W. Ray

Judge’s Comments: *Lots of work done here.*

480

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Southwest Ledger

*Half-penny sales tax hike obvious choice for financing new water treatment plant*

Southwest Ledger Editorial Board

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent job explaining a complex issue. A lot of pertinent information shared, and the graphics helped. Best sentence of all the entries: “Today is now the tomorrow that was discussed yesterday.”*

481

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Southwest Ledger

*MICHELIN CLOSING: Workers at Ardmore tire plant to receive separation benefits*

Mike W. Ray

Judge’s Comments: *well researched and well written story on a subject that I'm sure was the hot gossip in the community. Very well done.*

482

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**FIRST PLACE**

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000

Southwest Ledger

*Boynton Town Audit*

Mike W. Ray

Judge’s Comments: *Wow, what a great report! It's hard to dispute court records, bank records, cashed checks that have been endorsed, payroll records and receipts — or lack thereof. Solid reporting supported by a well-sourced paper trail that gives readers all the information they need to know. This is government-watchdog reporting at its finest! Stories like these remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. This is a fine example of enterprise reporting. In fact, this is the only enterprise story submitted in the contest. All others were simply reporters covering a beat — city council meetings, courts, and other breaking news events that must be covered. But the Ledger expended the time and resources to file open records requests, seek out comments from those involved. Great job. Head-and-shoulders above all the other stories submitted.*

483

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000

Southwest Ledger

*All 4 officials indicted over asphalt plant plead to reduced charges and sentenced*

Mike W. Ray

Judge’s Comments: *Good beat reporting. I'm certain the story provided your readers with lots of insight into these defendants and their actions. Most likely, people speculated about what happened and why and the outcome. Typically, in cases like these, the defendants simply lie about their involvement or non-involvement. Then, a local newspaper, like the Ledger, lays out the facts. Good job.*

484

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division circ. less than 2,000

Southwest Ledger

*Cotton County Officials engulfed in scandal*

Mike W. Ray

Judge’s Comments: *Good beat reporting. Keep up the good work! I'm certain your readers learned a lot about this county official by reading this story. Can anyone so willing to kill helpless animals be trusted in positions of power or using their position to intimidate investigators? The readers can decide that for themselves by reading this story. Well done.*

485

**News and Opinion on Public Corruption**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Southwest Ledger

*Fraud and Corruption discovered in Tryon*

Mike W. Ray

Judge’s Comments: *Good professional tone. Covers the matter at hand thoroughly, but there was a lot of repetition between articles.*

486

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Ongoing Corruption Poisons Our College*

Alicia Rivero, Liliana Anguiano

Judge’s Comments: *A very impressive editorial that spells out how a recent incident is just the latest in many years of corruption in a university's administration. Also could have easily won.*

487

**Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Southwestern College Sun

*Here’s Looking at You, Kid*

Edmundo Godinez

Judge’s Comments: *Strong visuals, could have been first place, but feels like it depends on the accompanying text.*

488

**Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Southwestern College Sun

*Black Hole of Student Debt*

Edmundo Godinez

Judge’s Comments: *Another well-drawn cartoon, but a little too simplistic to place higher.*

489

**General Excellence, College Division**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Southwestern College Sun

*General Excellence*

The Sun Staff

Judge’s Comments: *This is an outstanding entry. I really enjoyed the stories. Writing is strong, as is editing. Layouts are attractive, as are photos and illustrations. the quality of work is consistent throughout - which is not easy to maintain in this day and age. Fine work!*

490

**Review - Best Review**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Southwestern College Sun

*'Mugre' A Gratuitous, Machismo, Sexist, Mess Of A Play*

Anahy J. Gutierrez

Judge’s Comments: *Well done passionate review of a play. The author did not like the play and did a good job explaining why as he sprinkled in just enough plot.*

491

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

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Century of Sewage*

Iyarie Murguia

Judge’s Comments: *Taos was looking to sweep the category, then the Sun came in with some really important content presented in a very nice visual way to force me to recognize them as well in what was a loaded and extremely diverse category.*

492

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

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Mexico's Women Fight Femicide*

Ailyn Dumas, Nicolette Monique Luna

Judge’s Comments: *This is very well done.*

493

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9000

The Southwestern College Sun

*Best Sports Section*

Emily Ingco, Juan H. Estrada

Judge’s Comments: *Very appealing page with the inset story.*

494

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Humanitarian Founded Schools In Tijuana Dumps*

Camila A. Gonzalez

Judge’s Comments: *Really great job of telling people about this wonderful human being and what he went through to educate poor children in a real-life dump. Incredible! If anyone deserved to be recognized in the newspaper, it was David Lynch, and you did an excellent job of that! Commendable! I could smell the stench and felt the flies buzzing around me as I read your account. Well done! Keep up the great work!*

495

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Remedial Math, Eng Classes Are Gone For Good*

Ewan Toledo

Judge’s Comments: *Good job of getting both sides of the story. Lots of sources offering a variety of viewpoints. I would have liked to have seen more comments from students. Still, solid reporting on a very important topic certain to impact lots of students and families.*

496

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9999

The Southwestern College Sun

*Tough But Fun-Loving Women Bring Roller Derby Back Around*

Camila A. Gonzalez

Judge’s Comments: *This student reporter has a very bright future in the industry if this feature is any indication.*

497

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Messengers of Heaven*

Nicolette Monique Luna

Judge’s Comments: *It's my belief that the heavier the topic, the harder the feature. The author did a good job at blurring the line between heavy and feature.*

498

**Best Informational Graphic**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Accidental Drug Medication Deaths*

Razylin M. Avendano

Judge’s Comments: *Nice graph to show a very sobering statistic.*

499

**Best Front Page Design**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Front Page Design*

Morgan Jacobson, Emily Ingco, Julio Rodriguez, Juan H. Estrada, Yanelli Z. Robles

Judge’s Comments: *Imagery and colors makes this front page appealing.*

500

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Seeking Congressional Stamp of Approval*

Juan H. Estrada

Judge’s Comments: *Enjoyable story about an important effort*

501

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*Best Use of Photos*

The Sun Staff

Judge’s Comments: *The Southwestern College Sun made strong use of photos and photo based illustrations to present their stories.*

502

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Southwestern College Sun

*'Deportee' Still Haunts America*

Nicolette Monique Luna

Judge’s Comments: *This is a well done feature, and is rich in details. I really don't need the word "pissed" repeatedly thrown in my face. Otherwise, this would have placed higher.*

503

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Sparta Independent

*Is that recyclable?*

Becca Tucker and Kayla Hartigan

Judge’s Comments: *Good story on the ever changing rules of recycling. Especially liked the graphics and item by item walk through the grocery story.*

504

**Best Restaurant Ad**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Sparta Independent

*Industry*

Christina Scotti and Kayla Hartigan

Judge’s Comments: *Use of photos in these ads make them enticing.*

505

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Sparta Independent

*'It was 100% vengeful'*

Becca Tucker

Judge’s Comments: *This is an inspired concept for a local feature story. The publication sought out parents who had been contacted by local Child Protective Services and their experiences with the system. The entry was missing the tail end of the feature, but is compelling, nonetheless.*

506

**Best Informational Graphic**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Sparta Independent

*'Bigots' vs. 'Groomers'*

Christina Scotti

Judge’s Comments: *This is a great, graphical way to get reader into the story.*

507

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Sparta Independent

*'Bigots' vs. 'Groomers'*

Becca Tucker

Judge’s Comments: *An impactful story that did what it could to clarify both sides of a very controversial issue at a local level.*

508

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Sparta Independent

*'It was 100% vengeful,' 'Bigots' vs. 'Groomers'*

Becca Tucker

Judge’s Comments: *First, I want to say this category had 10 entries, and each one of them could've been first place. In all my years of judging, I am impressed with the qualify of reporting from each reporter. The article on book bans, the arguments for and against and the explanation of the board overriding each recommendation was thorough reporting. Furthermore, the entire package including the pulled quotes in boxes under the headline captured my interest from the beginning. I would recommend any newspaper that faces this situation in their community to read this article.*

509

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Standard Banner

*City's strong-arm decision: More questions than answers*

Dale Gentry

Judge’s Comments: *A great call to action editorial. Very tough category and this could have easily been the winner. Does a great job questioning the need for a recent council decision on a land purchase when similar facilities are currently available. Something smells rotten in Denmark.*

510

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999

The Standard Banner

*Game-winning celebration*

Dennis Barker, Jr.

Judge’s Comments: *This was a very nice close-up/zoomed in capture of a joyous moment, which was well done on many levels - framing. Lost out on 1st due to the winner having better definition and focus. Thank you.*

511

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Standard Banner

*A matter of life and death*

Mark Brown

Judge’s Comments: *Of several well-written entries, this one had the best quote selection. They drew in the reader and revealed the personalities of the people who were quoted. Well done.*

512

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Standard Banner

*Chairman of the boards*

Steve Marion

Judge’s Comments: *The headline reeled me in right away; however, not what I was expecting to read. Excellent job sharing this man's passion for constructing things. The photos help tell this story. The writer did an outstanding job in capturing this man's personality. The drop quote says it all, "I've just always loved making things, and I can't really stop." He's definitely an outstanding candidate for CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS!*

513

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Standard Banner

*City's use of eminent domain for recreation land*

Mark Brown

Judge’s Comments: *Good series fully reporting on controversial city action on eminent domain.*

514

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Standard Banner

*Standard Banner preserving history*

Steve Marion, Mark Brown

Judge’s Comments: *Every community has its own unique history but not all of them have storytellers to keep that history alive. A terrific series... keep it going.*

515

**Michael Kramer Best Public Notice Journalism Award**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Stanton Register

*Incomplete Budget*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent efforts to hold local government responsible and communicate what their responsibilities are to the public.*

**Best Series Ad Idea, Color**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Stanton Register

*Stanton State Bank*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *these are creative and clever ads!*

516

**Best Advertising Idea**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Stanton Register

*Into The Future*

Carrie Pitzer & Angelique Boyer

Judge’s Comments: *excellent ad, graphics are incredible, adding the letter describing the reasons made it much easier to judge.*

517

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

Stanton Register

*Challenging Ourselves*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *These are really dynamic single sports pages. Nice photography. Very good page design. Not afraid to use vertical photos as the dominant images.*

518

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Stanton Register

*Helicopter Crashes Into Field*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *Great job.*

519

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Stanton Register

*Life Worthy Of Life*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *Loved the storytelling of this event. The writer put me as close to it as I could have been without being there. I understand deadlines and mistakes can happen, first graph with "later" on the bedside. Other than that, I found it to be a worthy piece. Good job on sourcing quotes from multiple players, including the students. If it were not for the slight mistakes this would have been 1st place! Congrats on 2nd! Life worthy of Life is worth reading!*

520

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

Stanton Register

*Late Coach Leaves Lasting Memories*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *A sweet story that flowed well and definitely touched readers' emotions.*

521

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Stanton Register

*41 Years Sober*

Carrie Pitzer

Judge’s Comments: *Great job telling a story that is quite important to be told, including all the honesty he put forward.*

522

**Best Informational Graphic**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Stanton Register

*Two Of A Kind*

Angelique Boyer

Judge’s Comments: *Stunning!*

523

**Best Use of a Double-Truck**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Stanton Register

*Undefeated Season*

Stanton Register Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Nice use of photos*

524

**Best Holiday Ad**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily Division less than 5000

Stanton Register

*Father's Day*

Angelique Boyer

Judge’s Comments: *Beautiful page full of heartfelt sentiments. Great idea to make a collage of ads -- it could bring in businesses that don't generally advertise.*

525

**Video Journalism**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

State Port The Pilot

*Walker Jenkins picked No. 5 in MLB draft*

Michael Paul

Judge’s Comments: *You really captured the athletes charisma.*

526

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Steele County Times

*Best Local News Coverage*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Nicely done*

527

**Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Steele County Times

*Steele County Times Editorial Pages*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Good content overall. Too many jumps, and I don't care for the placement of corrections to news stories on these pages.*

528

**Legacy.com's Best Obituary Tribute**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Steele County Times

*Jean Zamboni*

Kay Fate

Judge’s Comments: *Well reported, beautifully written biographical obituary that conjures the presence of an individual who was deeply loved and respected by those around her. Quotes and photos are both incredibly well chosen for their evocative impact.*

529

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Steele County Times

*Child With Cow*

Rick Bussler

Judge’s Comments: *Lots of children in this division. The cow and the child seem to be wearing the same expression. I would have liked to see the photo cropped tighter.*

530

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Steele County Times

*Satisfaction Guaranteed for All*

Rick Bussler

Judge’s Comments: *People and critters enjoying the fair. A fine display reflects the community’s response and interactions; even shows rear view of a cow a-milking!*

531

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

Steele County Times

*Steele County Times Best Sports Section*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *This is a strong sports section that features great photos, columns, statistics, and writing that pulls it all together. Really liked the "clean" look and consistent designs, and the commitment to covering local teams so well. Terrific job!*

532

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Steele County Times

*Overpass Killing*

Kay Fate, Rick Bussler

Judge’s Comments: *Very thorough job of explaining the timeline and events. This article made me mad that the system failed that woman and her grieving family.*

533

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Steele County Times

*Still Fighting After 3 Cancer Bouts*

Rick Bussler

Judge’s Comments: *Such a wonderful story. Great conveyance of emotions. Timeline seems to jump around a little, but overall great job.*

534

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

Steele County Times

*Robb Fights Back from Rare Infection*

Johnnie Phillips

Judge’s Comments: *Intriguing medical mystery. Well written and inspirational for anyone who has had to fight back into a sport they love after an illness.*

535

**Best Front Page Design**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Steele County Times

*Steele County Times Front Page*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Eye catching cover with multiple entry points.*

536

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Steele County Times

*'She Believed in the Best in Everybody'*

Rick Bussler

Judge’s Comments: *Great job at capturing the heartache.*

537

**NIE - Educational Support & Civic Literacy**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Tampa Bay Times

*Genocide in the 20th and 21st Centuries*

Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

Judge’s Comments: *This was an outstanding entry in the NIE category. In many years of judging contests, this entry is the strongest I have seen. It covers all of the bases.*

*I am that rare if not oddball journalist who has also done curriculum work and it is not always an easy writing and researching shift. But this is great.*

*I really appreciated the curriculum guide, the 20-page supplement and the student contest. Everything was well done.*

*I especially like the ties to history and the use of cartoons, which can be very effective when working with students.*

*This is outstanding work. Great job!*

538

**NIE - Partnerships**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Tampa Bay Times

*History of Chocolate*

Sue Bedry, Stacy Rector

Judge’s Comments: *Fun way to get students involved!*

539

**NIE - Partnerships**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Tampa Bay Times

*Be Vape/Smoke Free*

Jodi Pushkin, Stacy Rector

Judge’s Comments: *Imagery and messaging is targeted to the intended audience.*

540

**Best Classified Section**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Taos News Classified Sections*

Mary Chavez, Sean Linton, Jasmine Struck

Judge’s Comments: *A close second. Well designed and organized*

541

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos Map*

Isabel Pena, Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *Cute idea.*

542

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*Enchanted Circle Map*

Cris Brisbin

Judge’s Comments: *Very fun, eye catching.*

543

**Best Public Notice Section**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Taos News Public Notice Section*

Mary Chavez, Sean Linton

Judge’s Comments: *This layout is very neat and attractive.*

544

**Best Newspaper Promotion**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Uniquely Taos*

Chris Wood

Judge’s Comments: *NICE MIX OF ADS*

545

**Best Newspaper Promotion**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Land Water People Time*

Chris Wood

Judge’s Comments: *WELL DONE SET OF ADS WITH STRONG ARTWORK*

546

**Best Newspaper Promotion**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Testimonials*

Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *Nice execution*

547

**Best Series Ad Idea, Color**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Athlete of the Week*

Chris Wood

Judge’s Comments: *A great way to recognize students through advertising! Hooray for sponsorship on these also!*

548

**Best Advertising Idea**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Father's Day Photo Contest*

Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *Splendid! We love how this special showcases the faces of the community and the readers.*

549

**Best Advertising Idea**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*Voices of Taos Podcast*

Laura Martin

Judge’s Comments: *x*

550

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Apothecary*

Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *Love this!*

551

**Best Single Ad Idea, Black & White**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*David Douglas*

Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *The white space catches your eye!*

552

**Best Single Ad Idea, Color**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*La Tierra Mineral Gallery*

S'zanne Reynolds

Judge’s Comments: *The photo is phenomenal. Great ad. Well done. Maybe enlarge the name of the business a little more.*

553

**Best Small-Page Ad**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos Inn*

Jason Rodriguez, S'zanne Reynolds

Judge’s Comments: *very catchy!*

554

**Civic - Community Service Award**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Tradiciones*

Paul Gutches, Michael Tashji

Judge’s Comments: *This entry was IMO far and away the best entry in this challenging and competitive class of community service. OUTSTANDING in all respects, from the crisp, flowing writing; to the diverse subjects reported on; to design and layout; amazing photographs and imagery; and clearly a high level of impact and importance to this fascinating and diverse historic community. Really incredible production, one of best I've seen across my judging of 6 different state's news contests. Bravo!!!*

555

**Editions - Best Headline Writing**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Taos News best headline editions*

Taos News editorial staff

Judge’s Comments: *Some cleaver wordplay, and some plain-language fastballs that in a perfect world enrage readers and cause elected officials to reconsider a few things.*

556

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos News best local news coverage editions*

Taos News editorial staff

Judge’s Comments: *Very close call - the Taos News and the Idaho Mountain Express are both handsome papers with great local coverage. More kudos.*

557

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos News best editorial submissions*

John Miller

Judge’s Comments: *"Language of Northern New Mexico" --Editorial was well-structured, well-sourced, informative, and topic was important for local residents.*

558

**Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos News best editorial pages*

Taos News staff

Judge’s Comments: *These folks know what it means to run a quality local newspaper. Great writing, great typography, local insights, local cartoons and an engaged subscriber base.*

559

**General Excellence**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*General Excellence*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *This paper hits every mark - strong writing and editing, good story organization, great use of photos and graphics, and great layout. I really appreciated the wide variety of topics covered, and the different styles of writing. Good editing preserves a writer's style while making a story stronger.*

*Honestly, if I could give a tie for first place, I would have. Great work and keep it up.*

560

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Grim, chaotic, costly*

Nathan Burton

Judge’s Comments: *Heartbreaking shot... you can feel the sadness and exhaustion just by looking at the body posture and faces of the men in the photo. Nice work.*

561

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*'This one feels different'*

Nathan Burton

Judge’s Comments: *Nice framing on the photo of the officer using drip torch in the forest. Also love how the plumes of smoke blend into the blue sky and clouds. Great work!*

562

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Plenty of horsin' around*

Liam DeBonis

Judge’s Comments: *What a shot! I don't know how you got that angle but it makes an already amazing scene top notch.*

563

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*White Sox Taos Little League Majors*

Nathan Burton

Judge’s Comments: *I can't imagine a more perfect still from this scene. Perfect timing, great shot.*

564

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

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Discover Taos Summer Magazine*

Paul Gutches, Michael Tashji

Judge’s Comments: *Having already judged a few 'Taos' publications, I was expecting a lot from this going into it and it did not disappoint. This magazine is chock full of great content from stories, photos, ads, maps, the list goes on. I hope everyone picks this up. They're doing themselves a disservice if they don't!*

565

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

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos Aglow*

Paul Gutches, Michael Tashji

Judge’s Comments: *Why wouldn't there be a holiday issue? haha Love the name of it, Aglow. Another tremendous job. Congratulations.*

566

**Section - Best Sports Section/Page**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9000

The Taos News

*Taos News best sports section/page*

Taos News staff

Judge’s Comments: *great photo placement*

567

**Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*'It's a balancing act'*

Geoffrey Plant

Judge’s Comments: *A big problem that's a balancing act*

568

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Red River shooting*

Geoffrey Plant, John Miller and Nathan Burton

Judge’s Comments: *This was such a difficult category to judge, everything was extremely well written.*

*The use of the editorial in addition to the fantastic news coverage is what set you apart. Great job*

569

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*Local chefs discuss industry-wide substance use*

Liam Easley

Judge’s Comments: *Though not exactly a business profile, this powerful feature explores an important issue for the business sector with nuance, creativity and human interest. It's a story worth telling, full of evocative personal narratives and images to match.*

570

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Turning up the heat*

Liam Easley

Judge’s Comments: *Third Place: Liam Easley’s “Turning Up the Heat,” written for the Taos News, takes readers into the world of high-school level competitive culinary arts. Easley follows a local five-person team during a practice event as they prepare two three-course meals—in an hour—for a panel of judges drawn from local restaurants, all while being watched by a noisy crowd of family and friends cheering them on. Easley’s descriptive writing captures the atmosphere of the evening, highlights the breadth of knowledge and skills the students must have to compete at the national level, and provides a beyond-the-basics window into a pre-professional high-school program.*

571

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Precision regulator*

Geoffrey Plant

Judge’s Comments: *Loved this story! So few clockmakers left and it reminded me of a story I did over 20 years ago. This is well-written and provides so much education. Hopefully some teachers are using it in classroom lessons! Nice photography! Congrats on 3rd!*

572

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Plumber deploys overdose prevention training*

Geoffrey Plant

Judge’s Comments: *Such an important story well-told: This personal example helps shed light on a public-private collaboration that is spreading information and saving lives in the community. This coverage further contributes to that effort -- efficiently, effectively and expertly.*

573

**Video Journalism**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Portrait of a newspaper cartoonist*

Nathan Burton, Geoffrey Plant and John Miller

Judge’s Comments: *Inspirational.*

574

**NIE - Partnerships**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*NIE Campaign Partnership with the NM News Fund*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Great example of working together to help accomplish a goal!*

575

**Best Advertorial or Sponsored Editorial**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Success Stories*

Jason Rodriguez, Paul Gutches

Judge’s Comments: *Really like your business pages with the design.*

576

**Best Restaurant Ad**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos Inn*

Jason Rodriguez, S'zanne Reynolds

Judge’s Comments: *Use of food and drink are great. Colors and fonts used make the advertisements more modern.*

577

**Best Restaurant Ad**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*Gorge Bar and Grill and Parcht*

S'zanne Reynolds, Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *Use of food and drink are great. Colors and fonts used make the advertisements more modern.*

578

**Best Real Estate Ad**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Let us show you the beauty of Taos*

Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *The photographs are spectacular! A better approach than selling a house. These ads sold the area and the team to trust. Well done.*

579

**Best Online Album or Slide Show**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Questa celebrates Homecoming with football victory*

Liam DeBonis

Judge’s Comments: *Storytelling at its best.*

580

**Best Informational Graphic**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Town of Taos Council Election Results*

Paul Gutches

Judge’s Comments: *I love this presentation, the faces show the real people behind the votes. I could see page of results presented this way.*

581

**Best Informational Graphic**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*Impact of Avian Flu on price of eggs*

Paul Gutches

Judge’s Comments: *Simple but effective.*

582

**Best Front Page Design**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos News front page, June 29, 2023*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent page design that's clean, clear and crisp. This is easy to follow. I appreciate the guide lines separating the different layout packages. Nic visual element with the teaser cut-out at the top. Photos are solid. Great all around design package!*

583

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Questa loses its only supermarket*

Liam Easley and John Miller

Judge’s Comments: *A well assembled look at how the closing of a small, remote mountain community lost its grocery store and the impact it will have on the locals who depend on it.*

584

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Business owners outraged at $25 minimum wage proposal*

Geoffrey Plant

Judge’s Comments: *The reporter interviewed all the right people for this one. Nice informative story on a national-level business topic.*

585

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Egg shortage ruffles feathers*

Liam Easley

Judge’s Comments: *A fantastic package with great photography, an infographic, and a well written and researched story that definitely shed light on the impact the national egg shortage had on local farmers.*

586

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Taos News

*Who owns Taos Plaza?*

Geoffrey Plant

Judge’s Comments: *Another great article in this category. You have taken a subject and laid it out very well. Not only have you written an excellent government article, but you also have shown some very thorough investigation into the ownership of the plaza.*

587

**Best Holiday Ad**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily Division, circ. more than 5000

The Taos News

*Give the gift of the outdoors*

Jason Rodriguez

Judge’s Comments: *This is a nice, clean, easy ad with good ideas for gift giving from one advertiser. It makes me long for fun snow play!*

588

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Taos News best use of photographs editions*

Taos News staff

Judge’s Comments: *The Taos News is an attractive newspaper that has syle and energy thanks to it's outstanding photography..*

589

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Taos News

*Flower Moons and Water Lilies: Patricia Michaels goes to Cannes*

Lynne Robinson

Judge’s Comments: *I read this and initially had the impression that the writer went to Cannes. it was not clear.*

*It would have been a much stronger story had the lead not been buried.*

*Otherwise, i really enjoyed reading this and learning about the artist, her heritage and her work.*

590

**Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Taos News

*Shootout in Red River*

Geoffrey Plant, John Miller, Heather Owen

Judge’s Comments: *Fantastic use of social media to cover this breaking news. First post was timely, and informative. Updates on the event were also timely, well done.*

591

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Maine Monitor

*Small towns struggle to plan*

Kate Cough

Judge’s Comments: *I liked this but frankly, it receives first place because it is the only entry in the category.*

*The writing was generally solid. Story organization could have been stronger.*

*Please watch run-on sentences. Those were confusing. I had to read them a few times to understand what you were trying to say.*

*The material is quite good but it could be used to better effect.*

592

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Maine Monitor

*50 years of an energy crisis*

Tux Turkel

Judge’s Comments: *good story looking back at the 70's energy crisis*

593

**Story-Series - Best Health Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Maine Monitor

*A Death of Choice*

Caitlin Andrews

Judge’s Comments: *What an unbelievably moving story. Readers will come out of this experience better informed and more compassionate about the long, difficult journey (and rarity) of medically assisted death.*

594

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

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Maine Monitor

*Maine's Part-Time Court*

Samantha Hogan

Judge’s Comments: *An institutional story made personal: exceptional sourcing from responsible officials to those affected by the series’ focus! Maine’s probate courts are independent and absent oversight by any agency dealing with human guardianship and estate management. The affect on human life quality is staggering—less than positive. And the Journalist team for this news organization provides readers with the comprehensive detail!*

595

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

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Maine Monitor

*Maine's Long-Term Challenges*

Rose Lundy

Judge’s Comments: *Compelling reading though lengthy. Excellent writing and sourcing. In-state regulators, senior-care facility staff and administrators, patient advocates and relatives are gathered for comments, care details, and statistical analysis by these reporters. The details and reporters’ source-based analysis make this collection essential for reader’ engagement!*

596

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Maine Monitor

*Ham radio operators air a grievance: Leave our hobby alone*

Joyce Kryszak

Judge’s Comments: *Well written. Helpful info for those not in the ham radio "world"*

597

**Story-Series - Communication in Crisis**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Maine Monitor

*Lewiston mass shootings*

Staff of The Maine Monitor

Judge’s Comments: *Good job of following this evolving story. Well-written. It must have been tough writing about this happening in your community.*

598

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-daily Division circ. over 10,000

The Maine Monitor

*Lewiston struggles to answer housing demands*

Emily Bader

Judge’s Comments: *Stories about homelessness and housing shortages are everywhere.*

*They are significant but not repetitive. Thanks to insightful, informed reporting.*

599

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily/Non-dailiy circ. over 9,000

The Maine Monitor

*Saving the halls and granges that house so much of our heritage*

Joyce Kryszak

Judge’s Comments: *Well done piece on saving local historic buildings. This story illustrates the difficulty of preservation and does it well.*

600

**Civic - Community Service Award**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Paper

*Debate of the Confederate Monument in Morganton*

Staff

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

601

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

The Paper

*Show and tell and the demise of Mrs. Allen*

Allen VanNoppen

Judge’s Comments: *A humorous remembrance of sixth grade show and tell. Stands out above most entries. Brings back memories of the time I brought a dead rat for show and tell.*

602

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Paper

*Burke woman views Confederate monument as a memorial to devastation*

Marty Queen

Judge’s Comments: *Most who go into journalism do so to tell underrepresented stories, the voices no one is listening to. This writer found someone who represents a little heard voice in the many conversations ongoing around historical monuments being viewed through a modern lens. Kudos to the writer for letting the subject share their opinion.*

603

**Column - Best Serious Column**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

The Paper

*Know the candidates, weight the issues, vote!*

Angela Kuper Copeland

Judge’s Comments: *As newspaper people, as journalists, we can't share this point enough: local newspapers help voters make informed decisions so read them! And the writer does an excellent job of pulling in the reader through a well-told personal anecdote.*

604

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Paper

*School board meetings no place for tent revival*

Bill Poteat

Judge’s Comments: *Proof that good editorials don’t have to be wordy. Crisp writing that leaves no doubt on the paper's stance. Congrats on taking a stance on an issue that too many papers have stayed silent on.*

605

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Township Journal

*The Bully System*

Molly Colgan

Judge’s Comments: *First Place: Molly Colgan’s article “The Bully Study,” written for the Township Journal, takes a deep look at a pervasive problem: students bullying other students in what should be environments of learning. Colgan’s study included a survey of 145 readers whose students had experienced bullying at school or on a school bus, in-depth interviews with willing respondents, research into the language of laws and regulations as well as into the disposition of reports, and interviews with school administrators. Because the Journal’s readership crosses state boundaries, Colgan’s research included the laws and school systems of three states. Colgan’s tightly organized and succinct article draws on the experiences of three families to demonstrate the vague legal and regulatory definitions of bullying, the difficulties of proving bullying, the varying official responses to bullying, and the choices families make to protect their students from physical and psychological harm.*

606

**Best Informational Graphic**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Township Journal

*The Bully System*

Christina Scotti

Judge’s Comments: *Incredibly impactful graphic with the quotes of parents. That complimented the story so well it made me want to read the whole thing. Very good job.*

607

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

Township Journal

*For soup kitchen regulars, homeless census is more than a head count*

Becca Tucker

Judge’s Comments: *This is a solidly done story but run-on sentences really detract from your work. Good writing is being cluttered with long sentences.*

*The story organization could be stronger.*

*I'd also like to see more national data on homelessness and more about why the counts of unsheltered persons are so important on terms of government funding.*

608

**Column - Best Sports Column**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Uinta County Herald

*The world needs more Sams*

Don Cogger

Judge’s Comments: *After reading this, I feel like I know Sam - and I definitely feel the pain of having one less person like this walking the Earth.*

609

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Uinta County Herald

*Just along for the ride (bull riding photo)*

Don Cogger

Judge’s Comments: *That's a lot of bull and you have to admire the rider. I spent more time looking at this photo, just trying to figure out how the rider escaped. Great job.*

610

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Uinta County Herald

*School bus stops and sex offenders: Should they be at the same address?*

Hayden Godrey, Bryon Glathar

Judge’s Comments: *This is heartbreaking.*

611

**Column - Best Humorous Column**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

Versailles Leader-Statesman

*Nickels and Sense - Terminological Inexactitudes and Other Truths*

Bryan E. Jones

Judge’s Comments: *Actually 7.5+*

*A humorous look at a new euphemism.*

612

**Best Multiple Advertiser Section**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5000

The Village Reporter

*Honoring Years in Business*

Forrest R. Church

Judge’s Comments: *Great idea for a clean layout and great participation from the community.*

613

**Best Newspaper Promotion**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Village Reporter

*800,000+ Photo Reprints*

Forrest R. Church, Publisher

Judge’s Comments: *Nice piece promoting a strong community service*

614

**General Excellence**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

The Village Reporter

*The Village Reporter - General*

Forrest R. Church, Publisher

Judge’s Comments: *Very colorful front page. Good preview section on front page to steer readers to stories inside. Superb sports section*

615

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Village Reporter

*Bundle Of Joy*

Forrest R. Church, Publisher

Judge’s Comments: *Just a huge bundle of joy! Basic photos, yet a terrific “bundle” not just for the parents, but the entire community!!!*

616

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Village Reporter

*Swimming Form*

Jacob Kessler

Judge’s Comments: *Perfectly captured dive*

617

**Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Village Reporter

*Embracing The Unexpected*

Amy Wendt

Judge’s Comments: *Nice selection of stories with a family feel to the entire paper. Solid writing. Consistent layout.*

618

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

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Village Reporter

*150 Years Of Fayette History*

Forrest R. Church, Publisher, Jacob Kessler

Judge’s Comments: *This was not just a piece of journalism. It's also a piece of history in how it not only chronicles the history, but also how that history is seen. Great mix of old and new photos. The point of view of the children is a great inclusion.*

619

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-daily under 5,000

The Village Reporter

*Bryan High School Theater Presents "Clue On Stage"*

Jacob Kessler

Judge’s Comments: *Clever way to tell the story! The layout, great photos and cutlines and a short brief article. You wrote to your audience and many of these younger people don't want to read a long story, but they do want to be featured. Big congratulations on 4th place. There were some amazing entries in this category, so give yourself a pat on the back!*

620

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. under 5,000

The Village Reporter

*Veterans Tribute*

Forrest Church, Jacob Kessler, Anna Wozniak, Amy Wendt

Judge’s Comments: *A great group effort that explored many facets of veterans' and current military members' service produced a section with substance. Wish we saw more of the same from other newspapers.*

621

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

The Village Reporter

*Fish Farm*

Jacob Kessler, Forrest R. Church, Publisher

Judge’s Comments: *great story, there is a mention of a first part to this that I would have liked to read too, maybe it could have filled in the gaps in information like potential employment numbers. Overall, great job.*

622

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

The Village Reporter

*Edgerton’s Kayt Timbrook Reaches 1,000 Career Digs*

Nate Calvin, Sports Director

Judge’s Comments: *Well written, plenty of details, background info, multiple quotes. Loved the layout and photos of this entry much more than the other volleyball feature, though it was a good story too. Congratulations 1st place!*

623

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**SECOND PLACE**

Non-Daily Circ under 2500

The Village Reporter

*150 Years Of Fayette, Ohio History*

Forrest R. Church, Jacob Kessler

Judge’s Comments: *A massive project that paid off handsomely for readers. Great deep dive into a community's story.*

624

**Story-Series - Preserving Local History**

**THIRD PLACE**

Non-Daily Circ under 2500

The Village Reporter

*185-Year-Old Historic Cabin Has Deteriorated Past The Point Of Restoration*

Forrest R. Church, Publisher; Rebecca Miller

Judge’s Comments: *a sad current situation is put into perspective with good historical narrative. Nicely reported.*

625

**Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Village Reporter

*Local Pastor's Charges Dropped*

Forrest R. Church, Publisher, Jacob Kessler, Writer

Judge’s Comments: *Nice and short memo that is a perfect summary of the article to go along with the link, I bet absolutely it drove traffic to the website. And what a cool way of being the ones to break the news not only to readers and social media, but to the pastor himself.*

626

**Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily & Non-daily Division

The Village Reporter

*Suspect Found Dead*

Forrest R. Church, Publisher

Judge’s Comments: *Good post with short headline, only critique is that I would have made it different from the title of the link, give readers just a touch more information, a neighborhood where he was found, how long since his escape, etc.*

*Very nice post.*

627

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Warwick Advertiser

*Mayor dragged from moving truck in attempt to stop errant driver*

Molly Colgan & Victoria Hoffman

Judge’s Comments: *great story! the subject matter lends itself to an entertaining story, and you did a fantastic job with it.*

628

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Warwick Advertiser

*Snapping Out of It*

Molly Colgan

Judge’s Comments: *Writer took on the challenge of delving into an individual's struggle with how changes to a national program would affect her family. Well researched and well written.*

629

**Michael Kramer Best Public Notice Journalism Award**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Washburn Leader-News

*Kramer Award*

Alyssa Meier

Judge’s Comments: *The newspaper has done a very good job of informing the public how the school did not fulfill its statutory requirement regarding notice of an election.*

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Washington Daily News

*Smoke on the Water*

Ashley B Futrell Jr

Judge’s Comments: *Such a heart-warming story! Well written. Kudos!*

630

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Washington Missourian

*Crashing Down*

Arron Hustead

Judge’s Comments: *The wrestler's hand on the mat makes this photo out of the ordinary. Nice shot!*

631

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Washington Missourian

*Eyes on the Ball*

Bill Battle

Judge’s Comments: *Love the hair standing up and the ball resting on his arm. Makes me wonder if the photographer was lying on the ground!*

632

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Washington Missourian

*Air Ballou*

Bill Battle

Judge’s Comments: *Great capture of athlete's concentration on the ball!*

633

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Westfield Leader

*Best Local News*

Lauren S. Barr, David B. Corbin, Suzette F. Stalker, Katie Moen

Judge’s Comments: *One of the few newspapers in this division that covered planning and zoning issues. Overdevelopment is facing many communities - and this newspaper is on it.*

634

**Photo - Best Breaking News Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Westfield Leader

*14 Hour Standoff*

Lauren S. Barr

Judge’s Comments: *This captured the intensity.*

635

**Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Best Local News Coverage*

WTE staff

Judge’s Comments: *Some good local coverage. Good looking paper.*

636

**Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)**

**SECOND PLACE**

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Wyoming Tribune Eagle Opinion Pages, April 14-15, 2023*

Brian Martin

Judge’s Comments: *Solid local input. Well thought-out pieces a real winner.*

637

**General Excellence**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Wyoming Tribune Eagle, General Excellence, Daily Division*

WTE staff

Judge’s Comments: *A solid product from front to back. Editorial pages are well packaged and feature great, varied content. Everything from local, to national opinion pieces. Reader polls, letters, and political cartoons*

*Classified section is very impressive. The section is typographically pleasing and very easy to read .*

*The Today in History section is a great idea, and as well packaged as it is, it is sure to be popular with readers.*

638

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Easy does it now!*

Alyte Katilius

Judge’s Comments: *Without reading caption it's hard to know what it is, but good timing.*

639

**Photo - Best Photo Essay**

**THIRD PLACE**

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Our Chance to Compete*

Alyte Katilius

Judge’s Comments: *Love the photo on the front page of the girl cheering. This is followed by a series of excellent photos capturing the entire story. Great cropping and nice sized photos carry this package as a strong winner.*

640

**Photo - Best Sports Photo**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Right on the money*

Alyte Katilius

Judge’s Comments: *Looks like this photo is right out of Yellowstone! Great job at getting the exact moment. Great composition and tightness. Dirt flying.*

641

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

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Community Connections 2023*

Brian Martin and Rachel Girt

Judge’s Comments: *A must-read, go-to resource for all readers. A lot of good information packed into 40 pages. Clean layout, easy to read. Like it!*

642

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Woman-owned tech company strikes major opportunity*

Ivy Secrest

Judge’s Comments: *This was a nice topic to focus on, but the writing was a bit formulaic and stodgy and got me bogged down as I continued. That said, good additional sourcing was present and reporter explained the issue well. I've got 3rd place IMO as judge. Thank you & good luck in your future career.*

643

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*LCSD1 board approves library book policy*

Samir Knox

Judge’s Comments: *Thorough reporting and a well organized story.*

644

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*A rainy day in October*

Will Carpenter

Judge’s Comments: *Heartwrenching and heartwarming at the same time. The writer captures the bond between mother and son when telling this powerful story.*

645

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

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: Do Wyoming LGBTQ+ youth have it?*

Jasmine Hall and Ivy Secrest

Judge’s Comments: *Great informative piece.*

646

**Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10000

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*New chapter: Lain returns to dugout in Fort Collins*

Jeremiah Johnke

Judge’s Comments: *Well written an carries important supporting details and statistics. A nice introduction to a new coach.*

647

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Diversity helps South soccer*

Matt Atencio

Judge’s Comments: *Some of the best sports stories are less about sports than about the people who play them.*

*This article is an excellent example.*

648

**Video Journalism**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Our Chance to Compete*

Alyte Katilius

Judge’s Comments: *Well done. They journalist allowed the athletes to tell their story and they told it well.*

649

**Best Reporting on Local Government**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Burns community members ashamed of their town council*

Noah Zahn

Judge’s Comments: *Keeping an eye on government is our most important obligation, and this is terrific coverage of an issue that stinks to high heaven.*

*I'd love to read about any follow-up. This seems tailor-made for the state Attorney General's office.*

650

**Editorial - Best Editorial**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Wyoming leaders apparently want young people to leave*

Brian Martin

Judge’s Comments: *Good sourcing for a well-written thought provoking piece.*

651

**Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Use of Photographs, WTE, July 28-29, 2023*

WTE staff

Judge’s Comments: *Would like to see more local photos, like the ones on the sports pages—those are fantastic! I like the large photos on the front, really draws the eyes in.*

652

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 10,000

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

*Cheyenne's brimming with local music*

Will Carpenter

Judge’s Comments: *Extremely well-done sharing of the perspectives of local musicians, which is not something most patrons ever think about.*

653

**Photo - Best Feature Photo**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

The Wyoming Truth

*Northern Lights Over Wyoming*

Matt Stirn

Judge’s Comments: *Nice capture of northern lights. Photo obviously took good planning.*

654

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

The Wyoming Truth

*Wyoming's Courtship of the Digital Asset Industry*

CJ Baker

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

655

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

The Wyoming Truth

*Charter Schools in Wyoming*

David Dudley

Judge’s Comments: *This was a well-researched project and the story thoroughly covered the issue of charter schools in Wyoming, breaking down the legislation and offering glimpses into what three of the states' charter schools are bringing to the table.*

656

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily Division

The Wyoming Truth

*Harriet Hageman's First 100 Days on Capitol Hill*

Jacob Gardenswartz

Judge’s Comments: *Excellent coverage through questions while making the story and the subject of said story more like a sharing of family information.*

657

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily

The Wyoming Truth

*25 Years Later, Wyoming Still Grapples With Legacy of Matthew Shepard's Murder*

Jacob Gardenswartz

Judge’s Comments: *This is a very well done story. It captures the past and present very well.*

*It is well written and well organized. It flowed nicely and while it covers a difficult topic, it is a great read.*

*Outstanding work!*

658

**Best Front Page Design**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

The Wyoming Truth

*The Wyoming Truth, Front Page Design*

Staff

Judge’s Comments: *Nice home page.*

659

**Legacy.com's Best Obituary Tribute**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily & Non-daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Sister Ann Kessler*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Dockendorf does diligent work in gathering and presenting the perspectives of many people whose memories of Sister Ann add up to an impactful tribute.*

660

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Crofton Law Enforcement Controversy*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Yet another series of well-written pieces on this case. Has left this reader to wonder why the officers were terminated....developing that curiosity is a sign of craftsmanship in writing.*

661

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Hillcrest Country Club Lawsuits*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Thorough coverage of interesting case. Definitely draws in the reader and leaves one wondering how these suits will conclude.*

662

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Hartington Murder Case*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *In depth coverage of all aspects of this murder case. Very thorough reporting.*

663

**Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Tabor Man Gets 21 Months For Church Wire Fraud*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Thorough coverage of news that likely affected whole communities. Well done.*

664

**Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Fryn’ Pan ‘Family’ Celebrating 50 Years Of Service*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *The reporter was very diligent with this story, documenting the history of the restaurant as well as weaving in tales/testimonials from customers (loved that!) as well as lots of info and quotes from longtime employees. I especially enjoyed the lead-in few lead graphs and how the reporter set the story up - very astute approach in my judge opinion. First place IMO and hope I get there to eat someday. Cheers.*

665

**Story-Series - Best Business Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Labor Pains*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Really loved this story, and the reporter did an excellent job on all levels: good quotes and sourcing; explaining the program and importance; and very flowing story which was broken up properly and astutely with good subhead breaks. Very well done. Thank you.*

666

**Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Avon Struggles With Teacher Resignation*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *This writer covered a controversial topic with grace and with zero bias. The story would have scored higher for me had more effort gone into getting more input from parents on both sides of the issue, instead of just the parents at the meeting one set of parents at the meeting.*

667

**Story-Series - Best Environmental Story**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

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

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Mussels On The Move*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Well written story sounds the alarm on invasive mollusks and their potential harm, and importantly tells what people can do to prevent further spread.*

668

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Signing Off*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *A piece truly explaining a career and sharing the legacy of one obviously loved and respected for the job he did.*

669

**Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story**

**SECOND PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Honoring A Submariner*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *A fitting tribute of a true American hero despite his own saying that he is not. A piece of writing that will provide a historical piece for years to come.*

670

**Story-Series - Best Localized National Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Local Jewish Man Reflects On New Conflict, Old Issues*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *This was nicely done but more sources would have made it a much stronger story.*

*Writing was crisp and clear and the material was well organized. But more sources would have meant a higher placement.*

671

**Story-Series - Best Sports Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Santee Basketball Goes To State*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *A fascinating story and a compelling read. Sports, history, a little bit of everything.*

672

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Advocates Of Sage Brothers’ Recognition Turn To Congress For Help*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Detailed story of what can only be described as a travesty. Motivational to get readers on board to help facilitate the change to allow the names on the Wall.*

673

**Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story**

**THIRD PLACE**

Daily Division

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*A Historic Perspective*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Interesting piece as are most pieces with any connection to the Kennedy lore. Even one playing a relatively small part in that fateful day continues to make headlines.*

674

**Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story**

**FIRST PLACE**

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

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Film About 19th Century Irish Priest Being Shot In The Tabor Area*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *This was a clear winner for its strong writing and great organization. The story flowed well.*

*The writer used quotes well and mixed those with the history to tell a compelling story. Reading this made me want to see the film. A strong arts story should draw in a prospective audience.*

*Great work!*

675

**Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Daily/Non-daily circ. over 5,000

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

*Yankton Priest Reflects On His Military Deployment To The Middle East*

Randy Dockendorf

Judge’s Comments: *Not your usual military topic. Well written.*

676