

2012 BNC, BNAC & NAE



FIRST PLACE, best breaking news photo, non daily division, circulation less than 5,000
 By Jeff Egbert, The Pinckneyville Press, Anna, IL
HEARTBREAKING—Fire consumes opera house downtown.

**NNA's 2012
 Better Newspaper Contest,
 Better Newspaper Advertising
 Contest & Newspapers And
 Education Winners**

A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

BNC & BNAC OVERVIEW

Entries came from 39 states.

186 newspapers sent in entries, and 135 were selected as winners.

BNC FUN FACTS

1,954 entries were received; 530 were selected as winners.

The Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, had the most wins

for the fifth year in a row with 23.

BNAC FUN FACTS

395 entries were received; 115 were selected as winners.

NAE FUN FACTS

Entries came from 10 states. A total of 12 awards were won by 11 newspapers.

Kidsville News! a literacy and educational newspaper, based in Fayetteville, NC, sponsored the NAE contest.

SUBSCRIBER BONUS INSIDE

Celebrate 25 years of Missouri Lawyers Weekly with our 2012 office calendar inside this issue. Order more at www.molawyersmedia.com.

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 50 WWW.MOLAWYERSMEDIA.COM DECEMBER 12, 2011 \$8.50

Missouri Lawyers

Expertly focused. Widely acclaimed. WINNER OF 35 STATE AND NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS IN 2011 WEEKLY

Findings

Here are some of the findings from Missouri Lawyers Weekly's review of the state judicial discipline system:

- The Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline of Judges has not recommended a suspension in more than 11 years.
- With about the same number of judges as Missouri, Washington state has publicly disciplined 63 judges in the past decade. Missouri has issued one public reprimand since 2001.
- Halt Inc., an advocacy group for accountability in the justice system, gave Missouri an "F" for its lack of transparency in its judicial discipline system.

SPECIAL REPORT

UNDER WRAPS

Discipline system for judges emphasizes privacy over public accountability

By Heather Cole
heather.cole@molawyersmedia.com

Michael E. Carter was eight months into his job as a municipal judge when he was pulled over for going 16 mph over the speed limit on Interstate 70. He refused to take a breath test, and the next month he was charged with drunken driving. Carter allegedly continued to hear DWI cases. And he initially refused to recognize Doug Smith's ability to disqualify him.

SEE DISCIPLINE ON PAGE 12

Inside

- Lawyers shy away from a "nuclear option" PAGE 15
- Nine judges who publicly faced complaints PAGE 13
- How Missouri's system stacks up against Washington state's PAGE 12-13
- When the judicial discipline commission can talk PAGE 12
- Who is on the commission? PAGE 12

SEARCH FOR VERDICTS AND SETTLEMENTS ONLINE AT WWW.MOLAWYERSMEDIA.COM

Deal done

Bryan Cave sweeps into Denver, eyes expansion in Texas.

■ Page 2

Capital Report

Missouri Plan may face new legislative challenges.

■ Page 5

On Opinions

Workers' comp doesn't cover deputy's charity golf event.

■ Page 18

1 THUNDER ARIZONA WOULD BE NOT BE IN THE TOP 10. ... From our 2012 Best State, along the road to our 2012 Best State ... **CAPITOL TIMES PAGE 4**

ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES

NO GUNS



SHOOTING FOR A COMPROMISE

Firearms bill pits property owners' rules against Second Amendment rights

Republicans in the House may soon be put in the sticky situation of having to choose between two conflicting principles that form the bedrock of their party's view on personal liberty: property rights and gun rights.

A bill that makes sweeping changes to the state's firearms laws, SB1201, was put a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee after its sponsor and stakeholders agreed to work with the chairman to address some of the potential property rights issues. And even with that promise, it only narrowly passed the Republican-dominated committee with a 5-4 vote.

PAGE 14

WITCHCRAFTY SELF-HELP GURU? ... **COME ON IN, THE SUN'S FIN!**

COMMUNITY IMPACT

LEGAL. USEFUL. EVERYONE GETS IT.

Very Women's 10 ... 

Neighborhood organizations work to improve FM 1960

These revitalization groups hope to give the road a face lift

Women's 10 ... 

Small businesses open despite economy

Staff sets course to double within the area

Coalition enhances quality of life along Greens Bayou

Works to ... 

Deal done

Bryan Cave sweeps into Denver, eyes expansion in Texas.

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Capital Report

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■ Page 5

On Opinions

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■ Page 18

FIRST PLACE, excellence in typography, daily division & non daily division
Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ

SECOND PLACE, excellence in typography, daily & non-daily division
Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO

THIRD PLACE, excellence in typography, daily & non-daily division
Community Impact Newspaper/Leander Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX

EXCELLENCE IN TYPOGRAPHY
Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ, Jim Small, Bill Bertolino, Julie Lanley, Gabe Turner.

Throughout the pages of the Arizona Capitol Times, typography is treated with respect and care, even when it's used with flair, such as in a reverse or set in color. There's a strong sense that designers at this publication are aware of the finer points of good typography and that they carry that awareness into the design, especially in their special sections. Nicely done.

2nd place—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO, Jason Lewton, Art Director.

Appealing interaction between different typeface styles is a hallmark of this publication's design. Generous use of negative space helps to set off the well-thought-out typographic approach.

Careful use of color adds to the overall appeal. It's a publication that's comfortable to read and easy to follow. Good work!

3rd place—Community Impact Newspaper/Leander Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Kara Nordstrom, Derek Sullivan, Jenn Rains, Macy Hurwitz.

Typography in this publication is tightly controlled. There's little risk here, with a few exceptions, and that's one of the reasons why the typography excels. Strong consistency and attention to detail raises the typography to a level much higher than other entries in this category.

BEST USE OF COLOR
Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition Pflugerville, TX, Rhonda Bowers, Molly Ryan.

Crisp, clean color that added to enhancement of the articles as well as the advertising.

2nd place—Litchfield Independent Review, Hutchinson, MN, Staff.

Well-laced color that caught the eye and added a nice element to the stories.

3rd place—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Staff.

Multiple sections each had an interesting composition of color used in unique ways.

BEST ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CARTOON
Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—The Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA, Lake Obama, Jack Mays.

Great illustration to show how one man doesn't practice what he preaches.

2nd place—The Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA, Pinocchio, Jack Mays.

Great application of the lesson from a timeless children's story for an adult issue.

3rd place—GA Voice, Atlanta, GA, Now it makes sense, Mike Ritter.

Biting satire, well composed and illustrated.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Union, Grass Valley, CA; Santa Maria Sun San Luis Obispo, CA

BEST HEADLINE WRITING
Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Staff.

The paper is not afraid to use big headlines when it is

appropriate, with perhaps a bit too much all upper case, but still excellent. Those headlines running on top of photos or art were easy to read and that's a trick sometimes.

2nd place—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, Staff.

Good use of large headlines and good mix of fonts.

3rd place—Litchfield Independent Review, Hutchinson, MN, Juliana Thill.

Nice use of fonts and catchy phrasing that still tells the story.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN

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

1st place—Miami Today, Miami, FL, Commission, it's time to yield the helm of the SS Jackson, Michael Lewis.

The writer did an excellent job making his case and of holding the attention of the readers. This editorial flowed from start to finish.

2nd place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Civil unions best option in gay marriage debate, D. Reed Eckhardt.

This editorial took a lot of courage to write, especially in the climate that exists in that state over the issue of gay marriage and civil unions. The editorial was very well written.

3rd place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Your Right to Know, Bill Miller Sr.

Very nice job explaining to the readers why the Sunshine Law is so important—and why everyone should care.

Honorable Mention(s)—Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM

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

1st place—Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO, States obese House offers gobs of fat to cut, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia.

The information contained herein was impressive. Well done.

2nd place—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD, No change is no disclosure, Barbara Grzincic.

The argument was compelling—good to hear someone provide vital information for our democracy.

3rd place—The Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, County Board meetings on TV, Doug Hanneman.

Great. Go after those politicians Also well written and strong argument.

Honorable Mention(s)—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

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

1st place—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ, Blackout, Charlie Zavalick.

Solid defense of the public's right to know. Keep fighting!

2nd place—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY, SMP officials handled bid process poorly, Bruce McCormack.

You are doing a great job in pressing government bureaucrats to be honest. Drawing specifications in a very narrow way usually has a simple explanation: Somebody's getting a kickback.

Even if not, the appearance of wrongdoing is there.

3rd place—Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA, New Graduates: Be ready for anything, Michael Dashiell.

Great writing, very enjoyable. This really more of a column than an editorial. Should be entered in that category.

Honorable Mention(s)—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD

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

1st place—The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, KS, A whole lot of good ideas can threaten our freedom, Steve Haynes.

Clear, concise and passionate writing on that topic most basic to our lives—liberty.

2nd place—Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA, Keep Drakes Bay Oyster Company on Point Reyes, Tess Elliott.

Excellent writing, graceful, with clear exposition about what went wrong with an E.I.R. and what to do about it.

3rd place—The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, TX, All fireworks sales should be banned, Melissa Perner.

Excellent reasoning yoked to clarity of expression, the names named, and a solution that is sensible.

Honorable Mention(s)—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE; Banks County News, Jefferson, GA

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)
Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Staff.

I liked everything about this opinion page and the ones that followed—content, layout—photo, good arguments.

2nd place—The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, 9/11 Opinion Page, Staff.

This was very appropriate for a 9/11 remembrance issue—content, subjects were a good balance and in good taste for this special occasion.

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A supplement to Publishers' Auxiliary

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SECOND PLACE,
best feature photo,
non-daily division, circulation 6,000-
9,999

By Dale Gentry
The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN

CREAMED FOR RELAY—As part of fundraising activities by the Relay for Life Team at BAE Systems in Jefferson City, employees had the opportunity to put a cream pie in the face of supervisors and fellow workers.

3rd place—Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA, Michael Dashiell, Editor.

Good editorial to match the cartoon—a variety of subjects and very community oriented.

Honorable Mention(s)—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA; Washington Missourian, Washington, MO

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

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

1st place— The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL, Pamela Lannom, Ken Knutson, Jim Stonoff.

Clearly reasoned editorials that are locally relevant. Nicely illustrated. Good letters pull.

2nd place— The Mendocino Beacon, Fort Bragg, CA, Staff. Even though layout is old-fashioned, editorial is strong and having lots of letters makes a good Op-Ed page.

3rd place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Opinion/More Commentary, Doug Hanneman.

Very clean layout. Editorial is relevant. More letters.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Imperial Republican, Imperial, NE; Moberg Tribune, Moberg, SD

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ, WHAT WE'RE NOT IRC-ING, Christian Palmer, Evan Wyloge.

Redistricting is one of a state's most important political tasks, and transparency is vital to public support of the outcome. The Arizona Capitol Times went to work on behalf of the people's right to know, started asking key questions of people who really didn't want to answer them, and broke the entire secretive system wide open. Watchdog reporting at its best.

2nd place—Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA, IBTS: Low Bidder

Central City News' fight for access to public records in city where entire government has been privatized. Newspaper's suit is before Louisiana supreme court. Meanwhile, city has fired the contractor in part over lack of transparency, Woody Jenkins, Candi Lee, Terrie Palmer, Jolice Provost, Shara Pollard.

Sometimes the best journalism starts with a single question that begets other questions, until the reporting exposes system-wide failure. This is the case here, as the reporter unveils a dysfunctional disclosure regime.

3rd place—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD, No difference? No disclosure, Danielle Ulman.

Timely, significant local issue that demonstrates the

importance of access to government information in ways that really resonate with readers.

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Daily Division

1st place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Grace of God, Tim Gallagher, Dave Dreeszen.

The depth of the reporting and the quality of writing clearly made this entry stand out among the others. The staff worked hard to capture the voices of the community during this disaster.

2nd place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Teen dad kills baby, shot dead by deputies, Bob Wilson, Chuck Bostwick.

Great coverage on a breaking news story that spanned several crime scenes.

3rd place—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD, Constellation bought by Exelon, Ben Mook, Nicholas Sohr.

Excellent and complete reporting on an important issue that will impact the local economy. Great way to put together a package of a breaking news event.

Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA; Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 12,000 or more

1st place—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM, Del Rio Plaza blazed blamed on electrical fault, Deborah Fox, Clara Garcia.

Thorough on-the-scene coverage of a truly breaking news story. Good writing. The reporter covered all the bases.

2nd place—Miami Today, Miami, FL, Dominant American Airlines' plight no game-changer here, Scott Blake.

Good use of sources to cover the varied implications of the event.

3rd place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Sheriff's helicopter captures fleeing SUV, Alice Dowty.

Some good writing. The reporter went the extra mile in telling the reader what took place.

Honorable Mention(s)—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

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

1st place—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Big crowd, little trouble, Dan Parker.

What a great way to cover a major event in your community.

The reporter did a great job and a lot of work following law enforcement around. This really gives an insight to what happens in your community during Spring Break.

2nd place—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, High-speed chase results in 2 deaths, Steve Ranson.

Great story! Great lead! Great description of what happened! The reporter did a great job of covering this tragic and intense event.

3rd place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Fire blazes path of destruction, Brandon Evans.

Great coverage on a major event that impacted so many in your area.

Honorable Mention(s)—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV; The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

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

1st place—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD, Keeping vigil: After fire, community rallies to help family, Susie Currie.

A well-developed, meaningful community story that shows the reporter spent time observing and interviewing. Very strong writing, careful choice of language, perfect grammar and punctuation. Sidebar provides relevant information to readers.

2nd place—Sparta Independent, Chester, NY, Sparta Police nab four burglars, Fran Hardy, JoAnn Baker.

Engaging narrative, detailed and almost cinematic, with in-depth, entertaining sidebars that enrich the story and provide context. Slightly sloppy editing, but the reporters showed verve and care.

3rd place—Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, WI, Unions fight back, Warren Bluhm.

Solid breaking news story, with strong lead and quotes, as well as contextual/bigger picture information.

Honorable Mention(s)—Hood County News, Granbury, TX

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place— The Journal, Crosby, ND, Flood emergency, Cecile Krimm.

Very good coverage of a disaster of major proportions. This is the type of news for which we would hold the presses. This is a very strong piece in a category where many entrants do not know what breaking news is.

2nd place—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO, \$358,527,186.00, Donna Walter, Allison Retka.

The judgment is staggering, and it would definitely be breaking news. The headline is provocative, and the story is well written and precise.

3rd place—Curry County Reporter, Gold Beach, OR, Local folks save woman swept into ocean; Tsunami surges hit coastline; People and dogs evacuate from low-lying areas; Curry Commissioners declare an emergency after tsunami, Joel Summer, Matthew Smith.

Not too much separates first and third. The sidebars helped this story. The scope in how many people are affected by this article is also a major difference among the first three winners.

Honorable Mention(s)—Clarendon Enterprise, Clarendon, TX

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Daily Division

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Niobrara oil play, Shauna Stephenson, Michael Smith, Angela St. Clair.

Good job at breaking down the oil boom in this area. Well thought out and put together. Each piece came together to create the entire story.

2nd place—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, Bank on the Brink: Facing the recession's challenges (7/16/11); Bank on the Brink: Citizens Bank looking or investors (7/18/11); Feds shut down Citizens Bank (9/24/11); Trina Kleist, Kim Midboe, Stephanie Shaire, Jeff Ackerman, John Hart.

Personal finances can be a very emotional topic for many people, and rightfully so. This was an important series for keeping the public informed of details that maybe had been missed in the often generic bank release. Good work. Just wanted to add that you guys should be very proud of your work.

3rd place—The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, Nurses challenge staffing, Jim Holt.

Such an important job and group of folks working to provide a vital service to the community. Giving a voice to this group and having proven results at the end are a good way for any story to conclude.

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place—Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM, Loopholes Plague State Sex Offender Registry, Bill Rodgers.

Bill Rodgers' three-part series goes beyond the typical sex-offender scare article to examine the shaky registry system

A season of abundance

SHELLY CONE

The Santa Maria Sun,
San Luis Obispo, CA

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

There are some cups that
really overfloweth

Recently, my husband and I celebrated our 12-year wedding anniversary. Yeah, congratulations to me, right? Of course I'm thrilled that 12 wonderful years of wedded bliss has been easy peasy for us, but anniversaries cause me

some amount of anxiety.

What should be a happy occasion I usually look upon with dread because it requires me to "dress."

Knowing this, my husband usually includes a pre-dinner shopping trip, which, for most girls, is a welcome bonus, but for me, it adds more pressure, partly because of my lack of fashion sense, but mostly for two other insidious reasons: my left and my right breasts.

Like an evil arch nemesis, they have infamously thwarted my fashion choices, embarrassed me to tears, and even dominated significant events I've attended. They have exposed themselves to world leaders by way of ill-timed and unnoticed button breaks (unfortunately, not to the U.S. president I would've chosen to expose myself to).

They have a tendency to collect and display various food items like a waiter carrying a dessert platter, and they have invited my 3-year-old to nuzzle his little arms between them and use them as warmers whenever I'm at the cash register at the store, talking to a friend, or otherwise occupied. Once, at a social engagement, they even lured a stranger to abruptly and without warning, squeeze them forcefully; I had to assure her they were very real before she would loosen her grip. I mean, who does that, right?

But more often than not, they simply dictate my wardrobe. Victoria's Secret bras?

"Nope, too dainty."

Strappy tops?

"Not unless you want us to make an unwanted appearance."

Bikinis?

Holy torpedoes, Batman! Not a good choice if you plan to surf or swim.

This dictatorship was at an all-time high three years ago after I had my fourth child. Let's just say God either took favor with me or really didn't like me, depending on your perspective of boobs. This was very evident at that time. This abundance is not a good thing, unless you shop at the same place as the dancers from Spearmint Rhino. Because I don't

make that kind of wage, I shop at regular places, like Walmart.

I wanted something pretty, but in my size, I could only find an industrial-strength steelbeamed support bra with a tiny bow in the center, because you know, nothing says sexy like a microscopic white bow. Then I spotted the only colorful bra in my size. It was pea green satin.

I tried it on anyway, and it was too small. I tossed it on the go-back counter and tried on some other things.

Then I heard the dressing room attendants approach the counter.

"Who would wear this thing. It's a hideous green?" one asked. Then the other added, "And look how big it is! Oh my God, it's huge! Who fits in this?"

To be fair, I could probably cradle a newborn baby in one cup and his buddy in the other. I walked out of the dressing room and answered, "Well, I guess, not me, because it didn't fit."

Then I hurried outside, passed my husband, and I cried in the parking lot.

Did you hear that,

Walmart ladies who worked in the dressing room in 2008? I CRIED!

And my breasts probably laughed a maniacal laugh, but I don't know for sure because it was probably muffled.

And all of this still lingered in my psyche this week as I went on our annual anniversary shopping trip—except this time I concentrated on all the good my boobs stand for in my life. Like, when I am tired of listening to someone at a dinner party, my boobs often act as a stand in for eye contact, allowing that person to blabber on without noticing me rolling my eyes. Hey, without them as my wing women, I'd have to actually pay attention and engage in that boring conversation about that guy's latest book.

And on that rare occasion when my husband and I are too lazy for romance, my husband can just bat at them like a bear pondering food in a half hearted attempt at asking "Do you wanna?" and I can either respond or remain in my pretend sleep mode—without either of us saying a word. And you know, maybe my toddler has the right idea. Who couldn't use a convenient hand warmer every now and then? So, with a renewed outlook about my overflowing cornucopias, I shopped;

my husband patiently stood outside every dressing room, quietly nodding his approval and silently handing me crisp bills with which to pay. I came away with a few very nice things and subsequently the dinner found us both in great spirits.

Of course, I did carry home left-over crumbs of seafood fondue, a bite of crème brulee, and a martini olive in my cleavage, but hopefully no one noticed.



Shelly Cone
The Salad Years

purporting to protect innocents from harm. Rodgers' thorough research, in the form of multiple documents studied and interviews conducted, yields a clear and in-depth explanation of how and why the system does and doesn't work. More important, Rodgers looks beyond problems with the registry to the carrot/stick driving the system.

2nd place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Gas back on ... finally, Staff.

This single-issue series of articles filed by various staff writers deserves recognition for its well-rounded documentation of the events surrounding a six-day natural gas outage that affected their community. The Taos News' concerted effort to provide the information in one issue gave readers a broad picture of what happened, why, and what should happen next.

3rd place—Vermont Woman South, Hero, VT, Making the Economy Our Own - Measuring a Successful Economy by Well-Being not Wealth, Rickey Gard Diamond.

This series of articles, written for a specific community of readers, considers an alternative approach to our nation's economic indicator reporting and to the overall structure of our economy. It is notable for its breadth and for its use of atypical sources.

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

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

1st place—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Destination Southwest Asia, Steve Ranson, Michael Higdon-page designer.

With so many newspapers relegating overseas coverage to syndicates, the Lahontan Valley News' on-the-spot coverage of local troops serving in Afghanistan is nothing short of remarkable. Steve Ranson's reporting is thorough, balanced, and smoothly written, giving the reader a first-hand look at what life is like for the men and women serving in various capacities—and at their thoughts about returning home. Michael Higdon's page design presents Ranson's work to its fullest advantage.

2nd place—Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA, The Lowdown on the Slowdown, Mark Couhig, Amanda Winters, Matthew Nash.

Mark Couhig, Amanda Winters, and Matthew Nash took on a daunting topic—explaining the finances of the real estate and mortgage industry in ways the average reader could understand. Wisely, they secured the help of someone familiar with accounting terms and statistics to help them present the information clearly. Quoting professionals and non-professionals, as well as presenting, citing, and clearly explaining—through words and images—the statistics behind the numbers makes this entry a stand-out.

3rd place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Schools In Transition, Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Chris Olson.

Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, and Chris Olson explored the financial changes to school funding that have taken place over the last couple of decades. Their in-depth, well-documented, and solidly-written coverage of this sometimes forgotten aspect of education provides needed information to their community.

Honorable Mention(s)—El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM; Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ, Birthright citizenship legislation series, Luige del Puerto.

An very good job of making a national story applicable to the reader. It was very easy to follow the progression and see some of the causes and effects of this particular issue.

2nd place—Archbold Buckeye, Archbold, OH, Archbold Elevator License Suspended, David Pugh.

Great following of a local story and the effect one event can have on a community ...

3rd place—Blaine-Spring Lake Park Life, Coon Rapids, MN, Youth homelessness on the rise, Elyse Kaner.

Very good coverage of emotional issue. Good way of bringing the reader in and helping identify with the different people mentioned in the story.

BEST FEATURE STORY

Daily Division

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, The first fish, Shauna Stephenson.

Dazzling layout and story to match. This features story is sharp writing and style. A reader doesn't want to stop reading.

2nd place—Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL, The Grand Slam, Trisha Murphy.

Wonderfully written story about a 86-year-old athlete. What a wonderful way to promote interest in a community event. The quotes were wonderful and used well!

3rd place—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD, Dictators living next door?, Ben Mook.

Excellent story—dictators? The research and writing is marvelous

and layout well done.

Honorable Mention(s)—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st place—Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA, Central Adopting Adalee, 3, and Smith, 2, Woody Jenkins.

Very emotional piece. I had to read through the tears! This is a great story and wonderful pictures—well done!

2nd place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Twist of Fate, Mike Dowdy.

Fantastic story that encompasses so much - resilience, humility, courage and teamwork. I absolutely loved it!

3rd place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Still here: A World War II veteran's story, Carol Stuart.

Wow—what this man has lived through is remarkable! Great job of telling his story. This was a very tough category!

Honorable Mention(s)—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA; Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID

BEST FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 15,000 or more

1st place—Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, Slice of life, Shelly Cone.

The wonderful use of color photos and subject matter helped to edge out all the others. Fairs used to be wonderful events that brought out the best in all of us.

2nd place—Farm and Dairy, Salem, OH, A genetic matchmaker of sorts, Kristy Foster.

This article was very informative and was written in a lively manner that not only explained the process, but personalized the work and routine of the subject.

3rd place—Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, Stars and stripes forever/never, Ryan Miller. America is strong because of her strongest and the belief in a system that works. We cannot allow quirky persons in positions of power to wreak havoc on our values.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY; Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st place—The Journal, Crosby, ND, Beaten down by the boom, Cecile Krimm.

Very descriptive. You feel you know the family and you care about their situation. This story also makes you think about how big this kind of problem is in our society—not just for this one family.

2nd place—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO, The Spirits Can Rest, Scott Lauck.

An inspiring story and very interesting. Also well told. The argument made the attorney and the attorney really made the story.

3rd place—El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM, Cash over sentiment, a sign of the times, Suzanne Barteau.

The reader gets to know the people and care about them and how they came to sell their possessions.

Honorable Mention(s)—Staples World, Staples, MN

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st place—Mountain View Telegraph, Moriarty, NM, 1st Responder, Rory McClannahan.

This newspaper found a great way to localize the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks through the experience of a local resident. The story not only has a compelling subject matter but is compellingly told.

2nd place—Hickman County Times, Centerville, TN, Beat the heat with a cool creek, Bradley A. Martin.

This was a wonderful idea. Everyone can relate to this story and it was remarkably entertaining to follow this attempt to document the best cooling-off spots.

3rd place—Fort Bragg Advocate-News, Fort Bragg, CA, Adventures of a lunar-tic, Tony Reed.

Writing in the first person is seldom a good idea, but this writer made it work. The story was fun to read, even for someone who is not particularly interested in astronomy.

Honorable Mention(s)—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY

BEST FEATURE STORY

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

1st place—Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA, Join us, won't you?, Mark St.J. Couhig.

Unusual, quirky, eye-grabbing pic and headline. Very entertaining and compelling narrative style, that of the tour guide. Enough history and sense of place to make it meaningful and understandable.

2nd place—Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA, Highway of havoc, Amanda Winters.

Very good historical look at a very real problem. Good pics, great stats and great sidebar piece. Solid writing.

3rd place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Hank Williams ... the night he died, Steve Marion.

Fun feature, historic and current, well written and researched. Good use of quotes. Both Hank Williams and the hotel clerk are interestingly portrayed.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN

BEST FEATURE STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division, circulation less than 2,000

1st place—The Courier, Carterville, IL, The Harmon way, Bill Swinford.

Brisk and descriptive piece capturing a remarkable man.

2nd place—Colby Free Press, Colby, KS, WWII veteran remembers 'hell' over Europe, Kevin Bottrell.

Clear and vivid journalistic tribute to a member of "The Greatest Generation."

3rd place—The New Era, Parker, SD, It stole so much but it couldn't take her spirit, Sarah Ebeling.

Sensitive and creative feature reflecting a courageous battle against cancer.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI; The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO

BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

1st place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, One step at a time/There's more to the story, Natisha Hales.

Loved the balance. Tough issue and well investigated.

2nd place—Cortez Journal, Cortez, CO, Farewell comrade; A professional guard; Pride and pain; Finding a trade; Military service and a diploma, Dale Shrull.

Very sensitive. Enjoyed insight to honor guards.

3rd place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Literacy, Julie Drake, Craig Currier, Rich Breault.

We can never do enough about illiteracy.

Honorable Mention(s)—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY; Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

BEST FEATURE SERIES

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

1st place—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA, The New War/ Just One Pill / Bad medicine is big business, Wayne Hardy.

Very nice, in-depth series that highlighted an important issue. Part 2 of the series really brought the problem home with a personal story. Nicely done!

2nd place—Hickman County Times, Centerville, TN, Victim of worst domestic assault now recovering, Bradley A. Martin.

An important story, well told. Harsh details are not omitted, but they are handled tastefully. Good work!

3rd place—The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale, IL, Flynn clan is ready for first day of school, Pamela Lannom, Ken Knutson.

Fun back-to-school series idea that looks at each of the important milestones for students—entering kindergarten, junior high, high school and college. A nice slice of life for a local community.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Journal, Crosby, ND; Fort Bragg Advocate-News, Fort Bragg, CA

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

1st place—Allegan County News, Allegan, MI, The Allegan County News (local news coverage), Staff.

Truly demonstrates what local news is all about. Thorough coverage of rural community events, as well as the death of a teen athlete. Kudos for a top-notch publication that reflects the interests of its readers.

2nd place—The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA, Barrow Journal, Staff.

Packed with news appealing to a diverse readership, this publication successfully delivers up-to-date information on vital topics. Excellent mixture of in-depth and news briefs.

3rd place—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME, Best Local News Coverage, Staff.

Emphasis on "local" is evident throughout publication.

Excellent combination of staff-generated articles and submissions from community organizations.

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

1st place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, STAFF.

2nd place—N'West Iowa REVIEW, The Sheldon, IA, Staff.

This paper did a great job in communities throughout the region. The stories were well written and demonstrated how

local news should be covered.

3rd place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Staff.

This paper took a unique approach to covering a single subject on the front page. The stories were well written about a topic that had wide community interest.

Honorable Mention(s)—Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM; The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN

BEST LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

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

1st place—Delano Herald Journal, Delano, MN, Staff.

The newspaper has clearly tapped into the heartbeat of the community, as shown through the wide variety of topics appealing to a diverse audience. Thorough approach to local news coverage.

2nd place—The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI, Scott Sullivan, editor, Tim Kieth, staff writer.

This paper sets itself apart from others as one that focuses on delivering its readers a solid mix of coverage pertinent to the coverage area—education and the environment. Crisp, clear writing sets the stage for a well-developed product.

3rd place—Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN, Deal struck - March 31, 2011 issue & America is free because of the brave - Sept. 15, 2011 issue, Debra Fitzgerald, Steven Swenson, Kyle Kuphal, Kevin Kyle.

This publication is packed to the seams with local news ranging from adult literacy to rain gardens and a tax levy decrease. Excellent mix of community news topics.

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

1st place—GA Voice, Atlanta, GA, As luck would have it: Ten years after cancer diagnosis, a few thoughts on survival, Tophier Payne.

This is by far the best entry in this category, an absolute stand-out among the rest. I didn't skip a word and laughed out loud. The writer did a great job of adding humor and personality to a very serious topic. Conversational writing makes this a piece anyone can relate to. It's funny, well-written and has universal themes. Great job.

2nd place—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Not a political column again, Rick Seley.

The writer does a great job adding humor and wit to an otherwise less than funny topic on the state of modern politics. Really enjoyed the last several paragraphs of this piece, which kept me reading until the end.

3rd place—Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, TX, Is walking considered a fine art?, Russel Skiles.

The writer gives a unique perspective to a daily task most of us take for granted—walking. Whether you're a parent with a child in college or you've ever taken a class in your life, this is definitely a piece readers will find entertaining.

Honorable Mention(s)—Virginia Lawyers Weekly, Richmond, VA

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

1st place—Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, A season of abundance, Shelly Cone.

Made me laugh. Great job. Subject matter was a little in-your-face to start, but you worked it well. Super ending.

2nd place—The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, Ooops ... did I sing that out loud, Jim Walker.

We could all relate to this column, and it lagged in one place or it would have been the first place winner. Great job. I'm going to steal your story line but with a twist. I have TV commercial song Tourette's in grocery stores.

3rd place—News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Fasten your seat belt, mom; it will be a ride to remember, Nathalie Hardy.

You have the writing length and talent down to an art. Good subject matter. All parents can relate.

Honorable Mention(s)—Miami Today, Miami, FL; Farm and Dairy Salem, OH

BEST HUMOROUS COLUMN

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

1st place—The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, KS, Many lines divide country, Steve Haynes.

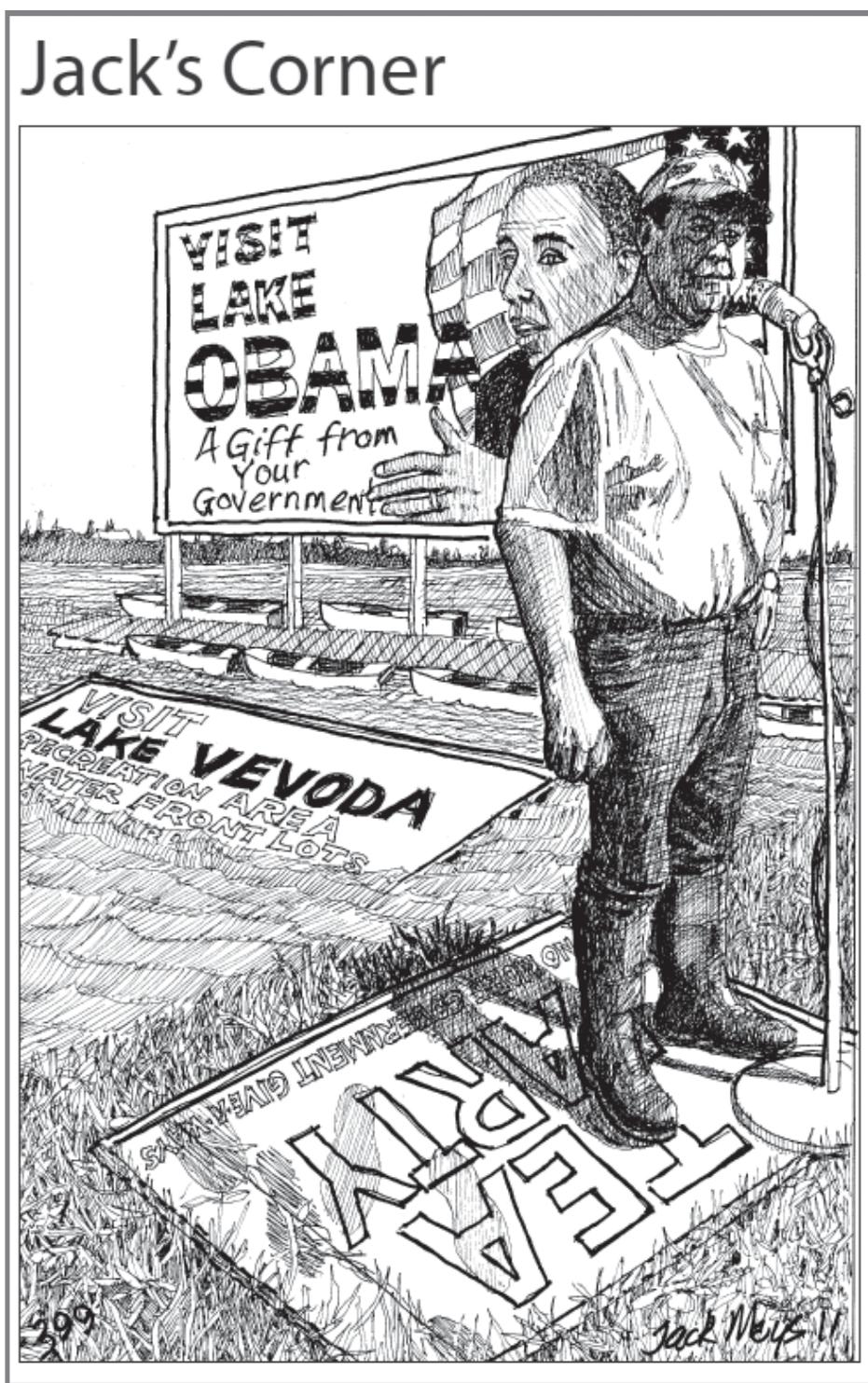
Funniest and wittiest of the bunch. He got the sweet/un-sweet dividing line just right! Liked the firefly line, too.

2nd place—Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN, Ned, I owe you an apology, Kyle Kuphal.

Consistently funny and hit all the current technological buzz spots uniquely.

3rd place—The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO, Declaring Culinary Independence, Jim Dustin.

Good stuff with a nice payoff late in the piece.



FIRST PLACE,
best original editorial cartoon, daily & non-daily division
By Jack Mays
The Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA

Honorable Mention(s)—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE; The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

1st place—Brentwood Press, San Clemente, CA, Old dogs enter golden years of rusty gears, Ger Erickson.

Love it. Love the wonderful language that paints such a vivid image. Love the photo that draws me into the column and makes me fall in love a little bit ... with the dog, with the writer, with the relationship between the two and the sweet scent of the trail ahead. Well done.

2nd place—Miami Today, Miami, FL, The circus comes to town, pitches tent at Miami City Hall, Michael Lewis.

Great column from a writer who clearly does not lack topical material, and who obviously knows all the players. You made me glad to only have the problems with City Hall I have. Bet this piece got the heads talking.

3rd place—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, Jeff Ackerman: Rua died as he lived: On his terms, Jeff Ackerman.

A very touching, simply-told story of one man's decision to die with dignity, which encourages us to contemplate the larger implications of that decision for all of us. Beautifully done.

Honorable Mention(s)—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM; Daily Universe, The Provo, UT

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

1st place—Azle News, Azle, TX, Making the highway journey of a lifetime, Mark K. Campbell.

Tender. Beautiful. Well-written story from the heart. It flows well (and only digresses a little, but that's understandable under the circumstances.) Rhythm of writing super. Perfect ending.

2nd place—The Anderson News, Lawrenceburg, KY, Ripy House: Love at first sight, Meaghan Downs.

Excellent job on restoration column. Great description, and in a conversational and easy-to-read tone. Love that you're a young writer. Keep it up, kiddo!

3rd place—The Anderson News, Lawrenceburg, KY, The great American Dream, Meaghan Downs.

Story grabs you then went off in a tangent on what's wrong with America, but finally came back to an excellent ending.

Honorable Mention(s)—Milton Times, Milton, MA; Mountain View Telegraph Moriarty, NM

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

1st place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, Re-living the loss, MJ Brickey.

Among several columns focusing on the anniversary of 9-11, this one stood out for its raw emotion captured in easy-to-read,

short sentences that pull the reader along. Great job of putting a really human face on the tragedy.

2nd place—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ, Two friends who touched many, Charlie Zavalick.

Does a great job of basically painting a picture with words—a pair of moving funeral ceremonies contrasted with life going on a usual right down the street.

3rd place—Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA, Donal Ray Kennard: A Legacy of Integrity, Woody Jenkins.

An interesting tribute focusing not so much on the legacy of a former legislator but on the wife who has done so much behind the scenes. Well told with special details.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA

BEST SERIOUS COLUMN

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

1st place—The Winters Express, Winters, CA, Never forget that every moment matters, and remember them all, just in case, Debra DeAngelo, Editor.

Jesus was the greatest teacher, and he always spoke in parables, telling a story using word pictures. You have that remarkable ability. You wrote with passion, and I felt it. Never stop writing!

2nd place—The Courier, Carterville, IL, Some things never change, Rev. Ralph Brandon.

You must be a heck of a preacher, because you're a mighty fine writer. Jesus was the greatest teacher, and he always spoke in parables, painting a word picture to make an indelible mark on the mind. I like the way you used word picture to tell this story.

Good job!

3rd place—The Jackson County Star, Walden, CO, Plan A Movie Night With The Kids, Jim Dustin.

When people are being destroyed all around us by the use of drugs, it is difficult to be silent, isn't it? Thanks for telling people what they desperately need to hear. Even if they don't go see the movie, you've made an impact on many lives with your column.

Good job!

Honorable Mention(s)—The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, TX; The Ark, Tiburon, CA

BEST OBITUARY

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, John Keith, Staff.

Here is a man I wish I had known. The layout, photos, quotes convince me he made his community, family and friends better for knowing him. A beautiful tribute.

2nd place—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX, Remembering Bryan Hebert, Jennifer Johnson, Fred Davis, Taryn Sykes, Jennifer Trahan.

The story honors the man, his family and community with a comprehensive look that integrates while separates the event from the consequences from the shared loss. Excellent layout helps to tell the stories in a meaningful way. Newspapers rarely fully tell stories anymore; it takes commitment. This is the way it should be done—not in sound bites.

3rd place—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, Shallotte mayor laid to rest Saturday, Rachel Johnson.

An obituary should tell the story of who the deceased was as a human being as well as their contributions to others while on this earth, not told in resume form but in story form. They serve a greater purpose than just documenting a death but should bring the individual to life one last time in a memorable way for all to learn from. They tell us how to live—or not—a life. When a man like Shallotte dies it's important to share how he lived. Well done.

Honorable Mention(s)—Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA; The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI, (all photos), Staff.

Photos are of people doing things in the community. They are bright and sharp. The paper uses many sizes of photos giving dominance. There are very few gray pages and most pages have photos, some in color and others in black and white. Very nice.

2nd place—Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA, Kathryn Dunn, page design, Steven Felschundneff, photographer.

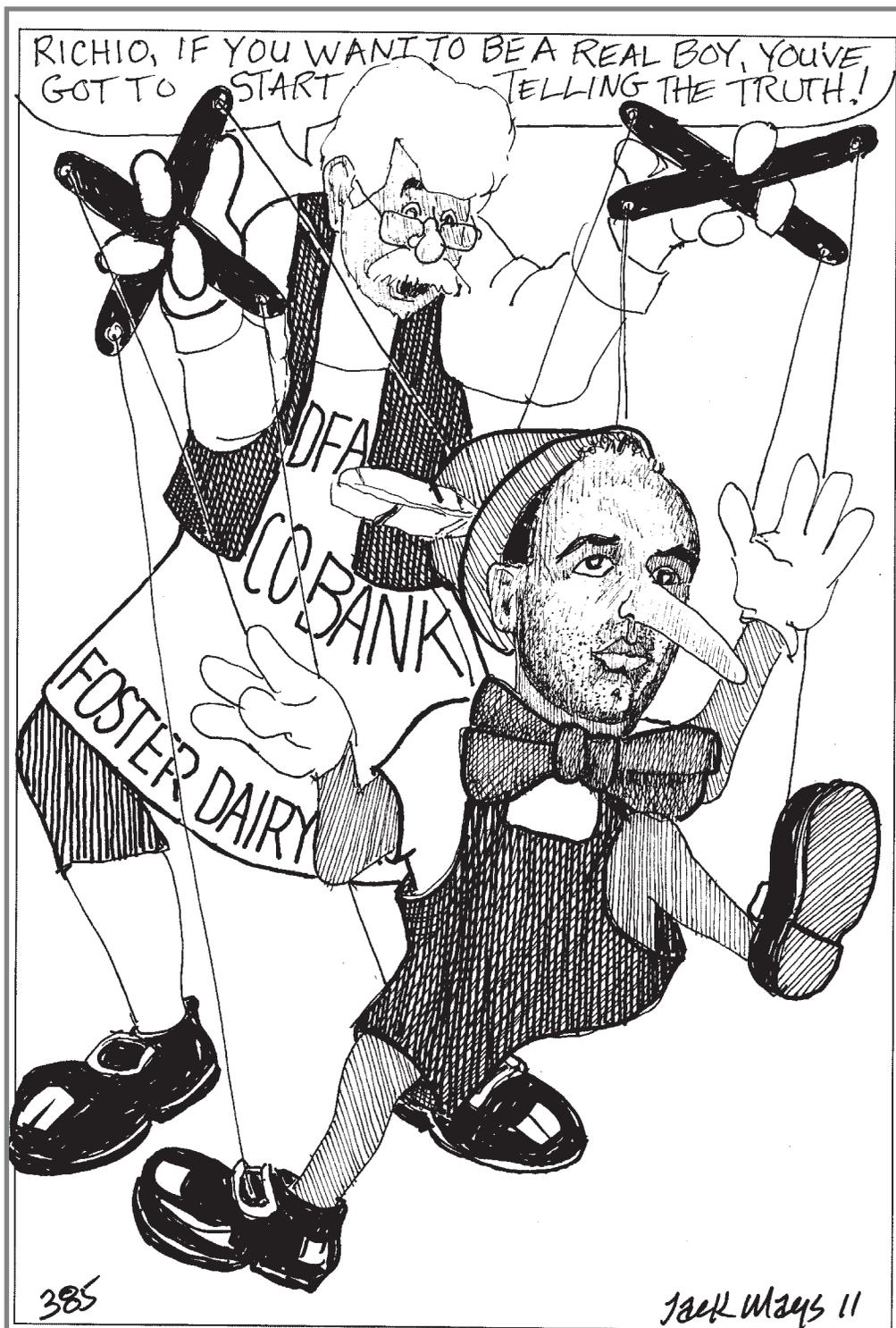
Paper's photos have dominance so your eye knows where to go first. Many photos are playful and fun. The photographers work to make mug shots interesting and not just another head. Only complaint is a few of the pictures were a little dark.

3rd place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Photo staff.

Frontier Days pictures are superb and the photo-art (squirrel-smartphone) was very good. I would have liked to have seen an edition that wasn't done during Frontier Days, which is, of course, the biggest event of the year in Cheyenne.

SECOND PLACE,
best original editorial cartoon,
daily & non-daily division

By Jack Mays
The Ferndale Enterprise
Ferndale, CA



BEST PHOTO ESSAY

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

1st place—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX, Remembering Bryan Hebert, Jennifer Johnson, Fred Davis, Taryn Sykes, Jennifer Trahan.

A wonderful tribute. What a great way to capture a sad moment. This brought tears to my eyes.

2nd place—Mountain Xpress, Asheville, NC, Eyes on the street: Asheville Argus aims to read between the (head) lines, Max Cooper.

Eye-catching! Black and white photography is great to see the insight into a person's soul. That is what this essay did.

3rd place—The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY, Raising Maisy, Carl Glassman.

Very moving. What a way to tell the story of this family's struggle.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

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

1st place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Going to the dogs, Terry Davis.

The Hutchinson Leader chose a topic that would tug at anyone's heartstrings. The photos are sharp, positioned in a way to draw the reader into the essay and hold them until they exit in the lower right of the page. The emotion felt is immediate and it's easy to see that the photographer has a great understanding of how to photograph dogs. The paw print in the middle is a little distracting, however, the choice and position don't break from the storytelling concept created on the page. Best of Show (pun intended).

2nd place—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD, A stalwart in the storm, Maximilian Franz, Rich Dennison.

From the very first picture of the mourners gathered to the

last photo of the folding of the flag, this series of photos tell a great story of a great man. The Daily Record did their research, found the real story and supported it with good photography. A lot of planning obviously went into the shooting of the photographs and the placement of the photos throughout the story. Good job.

3rd place—Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA, National Socialist Movement protest, Steven Felschundneff.

The Claremont Courier took on a tough subject and covered it excellently. The emotion one feels from some of the photographs is immediate and compelling. The pictures tell a dynamic story of both love and hate. Well done.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

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

1st place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Downtown cruise-in, Dale Gentry, Ronnie Housley.

This essay captures not only the classic elements of these great cars, but the camaraderie of the folks who show them. The photographs give the reader the overall cruise-in experience along with an up-close look at the cars' finer details. This was the best story-telling package of all entries.

2nd place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Beekeeping, Tina Larkin.

Minimalist in its approach, this essay had us swatting at bees. Outstanding dominant photo!

3rd place—Cortez Journal Cortez, CO, Ropin', wrestlin' at the Ranch Rodeo, Sam Green.

Great photos overall, but the impact suffered because of the lack of a dominant photo. A solid third-place.

BEST PHOTO ESSAY

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

1st place—Missouri Lawyers Weekly Clayton, MO, One day at a time, Karen Elshout.

The photos really told the story on this one!

2nd place—Cedar County News, Hartington, NE, River residents are sandbagging to protect property, lives, Anna Reed.

A few photos that spoke volumes. Very moving!

3rd place—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO, Occupied, Karen Elshout.

Love the photos!

Honorable Mention(s)—The Pinckneyville Press, Anna, IL

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

Daily Division

1st place—Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL, Boarding Call, Patrick C. Leonard.

A hilarious juxtaposition in this photo with elements on both sides of the frame. The photo is a good example of right place, right time, yet still with a nod toward composition.

2nd place—The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS, 3 rescued from fire, Matt Binter.

Main photo shows great emotion, but some more elements (like the fire ladder) could have been added to the frame to help tell the story in the photo.

3rd place—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, Air Race Tragedy, Tim O'Brien.

With the headline, this photo helps captivate the reader and find out what happened at the crash.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD; Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO

130 KIDS IN MANHATTAN YOUTH'S DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA



FIRST PLACE, best feature photo, non-daily division, circulation 10,000 or more
By Carl Glassman | The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY

NUTCRACKERS—Dancers take the stage as little snowflakes.

A whole lot of good ideas can threaten our liberty

STEVE HAYNES
The Oberlin Herald
Oberlin, KS

First place, best editorial
daily & non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000

Bit by bit, America drifts and slides toward becoming a high-tech police state. Bit by bit, freedoms slip away. And it always sounds like a good idea. There is no enemy on the left—or on the right. The threat comes from the bureaucracy, the security apparatus, from authoritarian thinkers on either side of the aisle.

Think this is silly? Then why are all the conservative Republicans in Topeka patting themselves on the back for passing a law forcing all Kansans to show a photo ID before they can vote? Election fraud's never been a problem here.

What's next? Roving checkpoints where police ask for our citizenship papers, as in some

third-rate communist dictatorship from the Cold War era?

Oh, we call those drunk-driver checkpoints. Hunting license checkpoints. Drug interdiction lanes.

If you think our liberties are not fading, try to get on an airplane without your ID.

If you're stopped for some traffic infraction, notice that the officer is likely to chat you up. He may ask you where you've been or where you're going. If your answer is a little hesitant, he might ask if you'd mind him searching the car.

It's loads of fun, having your car unpacked and dismantled while you sit beside the road.

The other day, Homeland Security agents swept in and took over the train depot in Savannah, GA. They stopped and searched anyone who entered, whether they intended to board a train or not.

Who knows if the Transportation Security Administration even has that kind of authority.

But rail security sounds like a good

idea. Government computers track your movements, your bank accounts, much of your life. And the government can access private computers—at the phone company or the bank or the credit-card company, the airlines, a hundred other firms—and track the rest of your ways.

All of this is done, of course, for the best of reasons. For our own good.

Airport security is vital in the age of terrorism.

Transportation security agents, some one points out, have never caught a terrorist. They have "caught" thousands of people for minor criminal offenses, however.

Isn't election security "vital to democracy?"

How did we ever get by without it for two centuries.

Still, it sounds like "a good idea." Same for "enhanced" border security, with computers tracking not only the comings and goings of foreigners, but of Americans as well.

Your bank is under orders to track your finances, especially any cash you

might come across, and report you if you exceed certain limits. You might be a criminal, a drug dealer or a tax evader, after all.

And we all want them caught, right?

But when does "enhanced" security begin to impinge on our rights, especially the right to privacy? When is enough security way too much?

Will we wake up one morning and find out that, instead of the government serving us, with all those computers, cameras, records and files, that we must serve the government?

If that day comes, when it comes, it will be far too late to complain. Records will be made; action taken.

No, the time to defend liberty, as always, is today. Each policy, from the grossly misnamed "Patriot Act," to the latest "voter security" laws, needs to be questioned.

The best level of government involvement in our lives is the least possible. We need to avoid the point where ever-tighter security of all kinds becomes a straightjacket for America.

Ask questions today, not tomorrow.



FIRST PLACE, best feature photo, daily division

By Maya Sugarman, The Valley Press

BALANCING ACT—Rosamond senior midfielder Alex Harlley moved more than 7,500 miles from his home country, Togo, to the Antelope Valley almost two years ago to live with his father in Rosamond.

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, Beer bash, David Normand.

Good example of a breaking news photo. You can't plan that!

2nd place—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM, Space heater to blame for mobile home fire in Belen, Julia M. Dendinger.

I love the silhouette of the firefighter.

3rd place—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, Two thumbs-up for graduation, Mary Vinson.

Good job on focusing on the emotion from one person at such a big event.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Taos News, Taos, NM

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

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

1st place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Mourning the loss, Joe Duty.

This is a spectacular on-the-scene news photo. The contrast

among the three men—the calm of the trained EMT, the shock of the co-worker with his hand to his head, the devastation of the prostrate co-worker—captures the meaning of sudden death.

2nd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Huge landslide, Bradly J. Boner.

My visceral response to the photo was the word "Holy," followed by a word I dare not use, followed by five exclamation points. This is the rare photo whose power matches the power of nature.

3rd place—News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Major fire strikes downtown Amity, Marcus Larson.

What makes this photo jump to life are the angles: the diagonal streams of water, the side-to-side power lines and "Do not cross" tape, the tilts of the crane and the flagpole. And the colors are so vivid: the blue sky, the charcoal smoke cloud and, of course, the brazen yellow of the flames.

Honorable Mention(s)—Hood River News Hood River, OR

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

1st place—The Pinckneyville Press, Anna, IL, Heartbreaking, Jeff Egbert.

Great use of the front-page layout. Obviously this was taken from a high vantage point, which allows this to be captured at the perfect angle. My photography teacher said that the client doesn't care that you had to hire a helicopter, climb a tree, straddle a ledge, etc., they just want the shot. Congratulations on getting your shot!! Absolutely perfect photo!

2nd place—The Douglas Budget, Douglas, WY, Sean Comes Home, Adam Herrera.

As a photographer, I know it's hard not to get wrapped up in the moment. Great job capturing this heart breaking moment. Great composition. Technically perfect.

3rd place—The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI, Claw full, Scott Sullivan, editor.

Absolutely love this composition. The sign hanging out of the bucket is great!

Honorable Mention(s)—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO; Polk County Itemizer Observer, The Dallas, OR

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Daily Division

1st place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Long way from home, Maya Sugarman.

Interesting, eye-catching photo. Great facial expression. Captures a moment.

2nd place—The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee, WI, Steeple Chase, Kevin Harnack.

Wow! Loved this photo. Photographer took the reader somewhere they've probably never or ever will be. This is a great example of how to take what could have been an average photo and make it special.

3rd place—Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO, Chillin' in Chilhowee, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia.

Too cute! Captures a great, fun moment. Nice play on page.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS; Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place—The Tribeca Trib, New York, NY, Nutcrackers, Carl Glassman.

Great job of capturing moment and faces. Would have liked to see it cropped just a little tighter, maybe cutting out two girls at right. Nonetheless, still the best of class.

2nd place—Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Messina's Shoe & Boot Repair, Chase Martinez.

Great use of depth of field and great lighting. Well done.

3rd place—Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA, Central kids climb rock, watch hot-air balloon at Zoar Baptist Fall Festival, Woody Jenkins, Woody Jenkins.

Composition and lighting contrast made this one a winner in the class.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

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

1st place—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Catch of the day, Jim Turley.

Amazing action shot that is artistic, compelling and simplistic.

2nd place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Wise reflections, Joe Duty.

Difficult to place this as second because actually is more visually appealing to me that is first place, however, technical skills and zoom were considered. Also a truly beautiful photograph.

3rd place—Allegan County News, Allegan, MI, Driving the point home, Ryan Lewis, editor.

Great angle to capture essence of the message.

Honorable Mention(s)—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY; The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

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

1st place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Red, White & Dr. Blue, Bradly J. Boner.

I wish I would have shot this wonderful image. I will try this myself in the future if I get a chance to mount my camera on a Biplane.

2nd place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Creamed for Relay, Dale Gentry.

Great facial reaction at the peak moment.

3rd place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Not the best thing I've tasted, Ronnie Housley.

The two different faces tell the story.

Honorable Mention(s)—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place—The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID, He has risen, John Zsiray.

Fantastic angle, lighting and composition on this one. The circumstances surrounding the event yield an almost spiritual illumination on their faces. Very small window to make this happen and the photographer nailed it.

2nd place—Frazee-Vergas, Forum Frazee, MN, Morning rays, Gale Kaas.

Gorgeous, gorgeous, gorgeous. Wonderful fire and ice aspect of the sunrise against the snow. Those who've photographed sunrises know how difficult this is to pull off. Tremendous photography.

3rd place—The Ark, Tiburon, CA, Just a drill, Elliot Kartan.

Tremendously dynamic photo. The hose looks to have been turned into a light saber. Hard to get this shot without your camera (and your face) melting. Simply awesome.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Courier, Carterville, IL; The Journal, Crosby, ND

Oops ... did I sing that out loud?

JIM WALKER
The Signal
Santa Clarita, CA

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

Do you ever spontaneously break out in song? Now, I'm not talking about being compelled to twirl and belt out "The Sound of Music" every time you're on a grassy hillside in Austria. I mean, everyone does that.

(And they make videos of it for YouTube.)

Nor am I talking about screaming "Getcha motor runnin'" against the wind whenever you crank up your Vespa.

Again, this is a socially accepted norm.

What I'm talking about is the occasional, irresistible urge to underscore a special moment in time by giving musical voice to a corresponding lyric from a popular song ... in public.

Sometimes, the lyric is an exact fit, and it can actually take the place of real conversation in that moment. Say, when you look into your lady's eyes and croon, à la Rod Stewart, "Have I told you lately that I love you?"

This can be the perfect thing to offer her, depending on, (A) how well you sing, (B) who else is within earshot and (C) whether intimate conversation is included in your evening's \$200 "agreement."

And then, sometimes, your lyric is only sort of annoyingly related to the moment.

Take, for example, when the bartender pokes a slice of lime into your Corona and you sing to him, à la Harry Nilsson, "You put the lime in the coconut ..." and

he gives you that tired look that says "You aren't the first mynah bird to perch on a stool."

Well, as you may have surmised, I am afflicted with this tuneful spontaneity, which, some years back, my daughter lovingly labeled as "songisitis."

(We hereby take ownership of and copyright the term.)

You see, she was younger then, and often trapped in the truck with me. She and her sister certainly often heard "Have I told you lately that I love you?" (So sweet). But they also heard "What's the matter with kids today?" and "Short people got no reason to live."

And God help them if they mentioned a friend named Jeremiah because, you know, he "was a bullfrog."

This is aside from the countless original lyrics I sang to them, such as "I know it's hard, but did you remember to pack your shin guards?"

Good stuff.

Now I, for one, find songisitis incredibly endearing.

And on certain happy occasions, it can even become a group project.

It is said that, when your friends have musical Tourette syndrome, life is like a Broadway show. Given the right lubrication, after you offer your mates the first line of a song, they may spontaneously offer the next.

Or they may take away your car keys.

I think there is a gray area here between songisitis and musical Tourette syndrome (MTS), which I read is actually a problem for, you know, some people. One study indicates that 70 percent of the population has a form of MTS.

It's usually found in musicians and people who listen to large amounts of



Jim
WALKER
DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY

music (duh). And MTS is triggered when the subject is exposed to a stressful or uncomfortable situation.

Well, that leaves me out because I'll do it anytime.

But the study is a hoot in itself, with the conversation with one study subject going like this:

Researcher: "How do you feel?"

Test subject (singing): "Sometimes, I feel, I've got to (bangs twice on the table), run away" (Soft Cell).

Researcher: "Are you hungry?"

Test subject: "Gimme fuel, gimme fire, gimme that which I desire" (Metallica).

Researcher: "Picture..."

Test subject: (singing) "yourself in a boat on a river, with tangerine trees and marmalade skies" (Beatles).

I'm sorry; I do not see this as a problem. These are imaginative answers to mundane questions. And such responses can turn the dull and dreary moments of life into uplifting art.

What a wonderful world it would be if people sang their responses throughout the day—especially during important business meetings and murder trials.

However, I will offer one caveat here. Every great now and then, your song lyric might be inappropriate to the cur-

rent surroundings—though this is unintended, at least on a conscious level.

Take, for instance: You're on the street corner and a fully tattooed, fully pierced girl with a Mohawk hairstyle stomps up to you in her heavy black boots and asks if you have a cigarette lighter.

As your eyes zero in on the string of shiny silver links connecting her nose to her ear, you hear your own voice singing, somewhere, à la Aretha Franklin, "Chain, chain, chain, yeah, chain of fools."

(Oops ... did I sing that out loud?)

Or maybe: You're helping 90-year-old Aunt Sarah out to the garden. She adjusts her sunbonnet and says, "I'm going to leave my hat on."

And you can't help it—you hear the sexy piano music bouncing in and you find yourself in throaty voice singing, à la Joe Cocker, "You can leave your hat on. ..." and then you get the visual of what that song is about—and shudder.

Your song trails off into mumbles.

(Aaawkward.)

And finally:

You're in the men's room, face to the wall, and you impulsively sing, à la Neil Young, "Long may you ru-uhun, long may you run." And the guy facing the wall next to you says, "Thanks, it's the Flowmax."

(Oops.)

I'm just sayin', songisitis isn't a bad thing. But there's a time and a place.

Jim Walker's "songs of life" are pretty much his own opinion.

Comment at jwalker@the-signal.com—or tweet at @SCVSignal or @Dont-Seriously, where he is forming a chapter of Songisitis Anonymous (as if you could be anonymous with this affliction.)

BEST FAMILY LIFE/LIVING SECTION/PAGES

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, PEOPLE, Karen Cernich.

Excellent front pages. Clever, eye-catching layouts with good, expressive action photos. Good detail. Well-written feature. Solid content inside. Super job!

2nd place—Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, WI, Lifestyle, Staff.

Lots of photos that tell the story on one of the fronts. Second front is OK but not as dynamic. This made the difference between first and second. The articles were great and the photos showed action. Good job!

3rd place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Diversions: Honoring those who gave Diversions: Trail blazers, Staff.

One very good front page. Second was good but could have been better. The articles all told a story and were easy to read.

Honorable Mention(s)—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY; Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA

BEST SPECIAL NEWS SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

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

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Frontier Days Souvenir Edition, Staff.

Excellent guide for anyone attending the festivities as well as a nice souvenir section to treasure for years to come. Great color and information.

2nd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Life is Good in Las Cruces: 2011-2012 Community Guide, Staff.

Anything and everything you would want to know about Las Cruces in a handy, color-coded piece that makes your particular area of interest easy to find.

3rd place—The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, Diversity, A Business Imperative, Staff.

A multi-section piece that covers many areas of business and industry; centering on individual stories.

Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

BEST SPECIAL NEWS SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

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

1st place—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY, 5 Who Made a Difference in 2010, Staff.

Unique idea, loved the portraits and clean design.

2nd place—News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Discover Yamhill Valley, Dan Shryock, Chris Miles, Staff.

Great design and photos, amazing advertising support.

3rd place—The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, The Chase: 2011 Santa Clarita Valley Football Preview, Staff.

Unique approach on the same old thing. Good design and photos.

Honorable Mention(s)—Walsh County Record, Grafton, ND; The Villager, Greenwood Village, CO

BEST SPECIAL NEWS SPORTS OR FEATURE SECTION OR EDITION

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

1st place—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ, Going Green—Best of the Capitol 2011, Staff.

Best of the Capital—what a unique and fun publication. A great way to humanize those in politics. Nice clean layout, good photos.

2nd place—Curry County Reporter, Gold Beach, OR, Gold Beach Visitors' Guide 2011, Rebecca Macko, Matthew Smith.

Great use of photos and good design.

3rd place—The Winters Express, Winters, CA, Deaths fake, feelings real (A-1); Drunk driver kills two, injures two (A-12), Debbie Hemenway, Staff Writer, Debra DeAngelo, Editor.

Great idea and impactful to the reader.

Honorable Mention(s)—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO; The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI

BEST SPORTS STORY

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

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Adios, Austyn, Robert Gagliardi.

The reporter showed a lot of pluck and loads of savvy. He couldn't have been expecting the departure of Austyn Carta-Samuels, and yet, he did outstanding reporting, even getting an interview with the departing quarterback and a close friend.

But what makes this story stand out is the reporter's own observations from the preceding season. Describing Carta-Samuels as "downright giddy" despite a loss was a moment of piercing analysis.

2nd place—Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL, The Big Kill, Mark Blumenthal.

It is rare to read a story in which the story of an individual player's redemption and fulfillment overshadow a team's accomplishment, but here, the reporter made me care about, and think about, Kayshia Brady even more than about the team. The complementary story lines worked perfectly together.

3rd place—Hood County News, Granbury, TX, Special delivery, Rick Mauch.

The reporter did an excellent job of noticing everything about the drama of both the birth and the stirring comeback by the team. It reads like a screenplay, "Hoosiers" with a pregnant mom playing the Gene Hackman role. I smiled throughout.

BEST SPORTS STORY

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

1st place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Bond of broken hearts - In wake of tragedy, Lady Bulldogs forge way to title, Richard Greene.

Excellent work—this story is worthy of front-page coverage. Great storytelling!

2nd place—Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, MN, Learning curve for Hornet football team begins with season opener, Barbie Porter.

Great story. This is everything that a good game story should

be.

3rd place—Allegan County News, Allegan, MI, Blackhawks carry on with heavy hearts, Jason Wesseldyk.

Great job at showing the emotions of the players in what could have been a typical game story.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Bernardsville News, Bernardsville, NJ

BEST SPORTS SECTION/PAGE

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Scott Campbell.

This section stood out above all others and is deserving of first place. They feature dynamic action shots and excellent articles. There is a good balance of sports and the section is loaded with photos. The articles are well-written.

2nd place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Bill Battle, Craig Vonder Haar.

Big headlines make the front pages pop! Good action photos. Wide variety of coverage. Detailed articles.

3rd place—Wilson County News, Floresville, TX, Sports & Outdoors, Taryn Smith-Morales.

Good variety of sports coverage. Front pages are better than most. Writing is good but didn't impress.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

Daily Division

1st place—The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS, Bull riding is for this dummy, Joshua Kinder.

Joshua Kinder's journey leaves bruises! An engaging tale.

2nd place—The Signal, Santa Clarita, CA, The Emotions of Sports, Cary Osborne, Joey Gulino, Dan Agnew, Paul Putignano.

An ambitious project, but it delivers good stories about a variety of sports and athletes—science meets emotion on the playing field.

3rd place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Undisputed

Re-living the loss

MJ BRICKEY
The McAlester News-Capital
McAlester, OK

First place, best serious column
daily & non-daily division, circulation 6,000-11,999

On Sept. 11, 2001, I lived next to the Ohio River with a friend, close to Portsmouth, OH.

That morning I woke up late, in a hurry to get my daughter to school and to call Shane, a friend that I had possibly offended the night before.

After dropping my daughter off far too late for school, I turned the radio on.

I tuned in on an eerie tone from the radio announcer, but I wasn't sure what to make of half of a report of damage to the World Trade Center.

I called Shane to apologize for something I had said, the details of which that I can't recall if my life depended on it.

As I started to unfold a heart-filled apology, he interrupted and told me that none of that stuff matters and asked if I had heard what just happened.

Shane had news of only one plane but when I arrived at his house, he had a story of another. Then the news told a story of yet another; and then another.

I felt panic. Not for me, but because I knew my friend Rosie's little girl's daycare was in the World Trade Centers and her longtime boyfriend, the father of her child, worked in the same building.

My first—maybe not best—reaction was to call and

see where they were. All of the phone lines by this time were becoming overloaded and tied up.

Rosie and I usually spoke every day by online chat or on the phone.

I couldn't breathe; I was overcome with fear for Rosie's family and decided that I wanted my daughter immediately, because I felt so exposed and vulnerable.

I left Shane's house and headed to the school and was met by the principal and was asked to leave. He advised me that the school was on complete lockdown and in some kind of never-used emergency security state.

I was not leaving my kid and sat outside the school intending to stay until it lifted.

A teacher, with permission from the principal, brought my 5-year-old to me.

I grabbed my child tightly and started to cry uncontrollably. She asked me what was going on and why the planes were crashing everywhere.

I told her to hush and said, "I'll explain later," but I had no explanation. I didn't want her to know that. That is one subject I have yet to explain.

"Crashing through walls. Bowels of hell consuming halls. Today, I realized I never knew anything at all as I watch these planes and Twins fall," is what I thought and later wrote down while I stood in my yard and looked up to the empty sky.

A few days later I was able to get through to Rosie's phone, but only to speak with her mother. Rosie's mom

said that Rosie's boyfriend had not been recovered yet and that fortunately, Rosie's little girl was at home with her when it happened.

Rosie's mom said, "Rosie is not speaking much right now and doesn't feel up to talking on the phone, but she said she will talk to you soon."

I waited and called a few weeks later to find that Rosie's boyfriend's body was located by using some kind of technology that found him by his cell phone.

It was Rosie's mom who told me and she said Rosie was not speaking at all.

I called a few more times over the years.

At some point her number was disconnected.

I tried to locate Rosie this week.

I'm sure Rosie spoke again, but it hasn't been to me.

I know many more people in New York City; a few survivors who do not wish to speak about it and, thankfully, their experi-

ence wasn't anything like Rosie's.

I cry hard and re-live Rosie's loss every 9/11 since.

This story is only one small event among many caused by 9/11 that has changed me. I have questioned God, my belief structure and my humanity.

As I write this I feel displaced again and many of the feelings that I had that day flood my soul.

I don't want to think about it anymore, but I know we must never forget. Realistically, how can we?

'MY DAUGHTER ASKED ME what was going on and why the planes were crashing everywhere. I told her to hush and said, 'I'll explain later,' but I had no explanation. I didn't want her to know that. That is one subject I have yet to explain.'

champ, Eric Smith.

A concise yet moving portrait of a young athlete. Well told.
Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY OR SERIES

Non-daily Division

1st place—Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, WY, Cowgirls don't cry, Tom Milstead.

The headline, the opening section, Halli Ledford's spunk in this story draws you in, from start to finish.

2nd place—GA Voice, Atlanta, GA, Homophobia still accepted in pro sports?, Dyana Bagby.

A thoughtful examination of a tough topic—well written and researched.

3rd place—Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, Fallon, NV, Hazing, Steve Puterski.

This series kept up with the breaking and ongoing news about an incident that needed to come to light.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, MN

BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Be mad at me, not a little girl, Ian St. Clair.

Well said. Hits some very valid points at the risk of angering parents even more, since they probably missed the point of this column as well.

2nd place—Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY, Wiffle ball is dangerous? Only to state bureaucrats, Rick Woodson, sports columnist.

Right on the money and a little humor thrown in for good measure. Hits a home run against bureaucracy.

3rd place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, I do it for the love of sports, Darren Reese.

Might have placed this higher, but since it was a reprint I chose others which had been written within the past year as first and second. Even so, it's a very good column.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS; Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL

BEST SPORTS COLUMN

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

1st place—Allegan County News, Allegan, MI, Leonard left lasting impression on many, Jason Wesseldyk.

What seemed to be a routine story about another high school player took two turns and left the reader with the wisdom only seen through a child's eyes. I must hand it to Wesseldyk's column for bringing the reader not one, but two twists to his piece.

2nd place—North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA, Bettendorf wrestlers a 'litter of adopted pups', Scott Campbell.

Insightful and well thought out column on a very disturbing trend. The writer looks at the topic from various angles, including the coaches, the athletes, and his.

3rd place—Azle News, Azle, TX, Death from above: helicopters vs. wild pigs, Mark K. Campbell.

A little humor never hurt any old sports column, and this one benefits from a lighthearted view about a real nuisance in the Lone Star State. Well done.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID; Mountain View Telegraph, Moriarty, NM

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Daily Division

1st place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Lancaster Grand Prix, Maya Sugarman.

This photos demands attention, full of joy and action while telling the story of a winner's celebration. Capturing a good auto racing photo, barring a wreck, takes a photographer who knows what to hunt and Maya Sugarman captures excitement with this playful trophy shot. "

2nd place—Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL, Soccer, Patrick C. Leonard.

Crisp photo with good flow of action that shows everyone is looking at the ball except for Davis, who has no doubt that she scored.

3rd place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, BYU 42, New Mexico St. 7, Luke Hansen.

One guy chased by a stampede of red helmets, caught at the goal line, but stretching for the score is dramatic. This is an example of solid football photography—conflict between opponents, each striving to achieve in a game of inches.

Honorable Mention(s)—Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL; Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Mincemeyer Stretches Over, Bill Battle.

Nice job by Mr. Battle getting that peak moment in athletics. Great composition at that moment she knows she's over the bar but has not yet let the pole go. A very strong field of finalists.

2nd place—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA, LSU big plays, David Normand.

Tough to finish second with such a strong image. This was a very competitive field of finalists. Great image. I enjoyed viewing your picture.

3rd place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, Leimkuehler Flies, Bill Battle.

Great "up" action. Your pix were all really nice images. Good job.

Honorable Mention(s)—Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA; The Taos News, Taos, NM

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

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

1st place—The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA, Splashing Success, Jessica Brown.

Best of the Best. The cropping is tight and the expression on the swimmers face grabs the readers attention. Out of all the photos in this category, this photo makes you feel as if you are in the water with the swimmer. Depth of field is excellent.

2nd place—El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM, SHS track & field teams 7th at state meet, T.S. Last.

This could have been just an average photo. However, the perspective the photographer used by shooting upwards, with the lead runner dominating the photos is what makes this the second best in this category. Good cropping helps this photo demand attention.

3rd place—Claremont Courier, Claremont, CA, Football champs, Steven Felschundneff.

There were other celebration photos entered in this category, however, this one had the most impact. Tight cropping, good expression on the football player and the contrast of the players uniforms garners this photo third place.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, AZ

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

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

1st place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Title celebration (boys), Darren Reese.

Really nice moment. There's a lot going on in this frame. Nice job with composition. Winner in a really strong field of finalists. Great job. Moments are our friend!"

2nd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, LOTOJA winners, Bradly J. Boner.

Nice job of composing this image with winner reaction and trailing racers, timer, signage. A really strong image in a field of strong finalists.

3rd place—The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, TN, Eye on the ball, Ronnie Housley.

This could have been even more dramatic with a really tight crop for DEEP vertical imaging display. Eyes are GREAT.

Honorable Mention(s)—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX; Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place—West Point News, West Point, NE, Head over heels for bull riding ..., Willis Mahannah.

West Point News photographer Willis Mahannah has shot a classic photograph for the ages. The timing of the shot is what makes the picture so compelling. Good cropping, and print reproduction makes this the best photo in this category.

2nd place—The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID, Rivercats grab third at Caldwell wood bat tourney (Release), John Zsiray.

The use of depth of field is excellent in this photo. Great cropping, and sharp quality of the photo make this one of the best in this category. The signature in the lower right is distracting and should be left off.

3rd place—Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN, Stretching it out, Kevin Kyle.

Love the eyes of the hurdler on this shot and tight cropping. The caption in the upper left-hand corner distracts from a good photograph.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Courier, Cartersville, IL

BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

1st place—Community Impact Newspaper/Georgetown/Hutto/Taylor Edition, Pflugerville, TX, WilCo farmers ponder future, Beth Wade, Samantha Bryant.

The 2011 drought in Texas, Oklahoma and adjoining states was a huge agricultural crisis. The writers made its impact vivid and personal, going behind the often-cited statistics of high temperatures and days without rain.

2nd place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Community Supports Farmer Who Defies State on Raw Milk Sales, Jennifer Osborn.

A well-written and timely article. This look at the conflict between local and state regulation of raw milk sales hit an issue much bigger than a routine ag story.

3rd place—The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, NC, County's tobacco heritage still alive on farms, Rachel Johnson.

Maybe I liked this story because it reminded me of my three years in North Carolina, but I think it can stand on its merits of solid writing. We don't read much good about tobacco growers today. I enjoyed seeing a face and name on the farm side of the industry.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM

BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY

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

1st place—Daily Star-Journal, Warrensburg, MO, The Grape Depression... Raisin Hell: Heat destroys grape crop at Montserrat Vineyards, Jack Miles Ventimiglia.

Vivid, crisp, "right there" writing makes this an entertaining read. Gotta admit, the "Raisin Hell" headline grabbed me.

2nd place—Point Reyes Light, Point Reyes Station, CA, Ranchers foresee elk crisis, fear park inaction, Jeremy Blackman.

Great piece focusing on the conflict between farmers/ranchers and those folks who want to restore pre-settlement ecology. We see similar issues nationwide.

3rd place—The Healdsburg Tribune, Sebastopol, CA, The Mauritson family: Sixth generation of farmers tending the land, Rollie Atkinson.

I'd like to add some typographic pizzazz to this article, but I thought this tribute to our family farming heritage deserved a spot near the top.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD.

BEST BUSINESS STORY

Daily Division

1st place—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD, Won't work for tips, Brendan Kearney.

A clear first-place entry. Excellent research, writing and reporting come together. Appreciated the effort in contacting a wide range of sources that humanizes the subject.

2nd place—The Daily Record, Baltimore, MD, Baltimore's "friendly" rivals /Differing approaches of Legg Mason, T. Rowe Price bring differing results, Ben Mook.

Good enterprise story. Good research techniques. Would have liked more on the economic impact of the two firms on the city and comments from employees of both firms to gain their perspective.

3rd place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Our biggest rival? Weld County, Trevor Brown.

Good research techniques in this enterprise story. Would have liked to have heard from oil companies that have chosen both counties and learned why they chose the location they did.

Honorable Mention(s)—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Yankton, SD

BEST BUSINESS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place—Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition Pflugerville, TX, Panama Canal expansion to boost local businesses, Molly Ryan, Rhonda Bowers.

A purposeful story showing and explaining a business impact. It has the reader's attention immediately and keeps it. Strong sources, solid data, and data is smoothly worked into the story that relates a local impact of a global story. Well written. The accompanying quotes work well in the graphic rather than crammed into the body of the story, where they would not help the story quality or be as easily seen and read by the reader. Info in graphics adds to story and aids the reader.

2nd place—Miami Today, Miami, FL, Mirror image: American flying high here, suffers elsewhere, Scott Blake.

Strong lead immediately pulls reader into the story, which provides an in-depth look at the contrasting situation of American Airlines in great shape in Miami, in trouble elsewhere. Well written and organized with good data and detail in support of

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

By John Zsirayl | The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID

HE HAS RISEN!—Marsing residents Chris Romans, 16, left, and Zach Amelia, 15, stand next to the cross at the top of Lizard Butte early Sunday morning during the 74th annual Lizard Butte Sunrise Service.

main point of the story. Ample sourcing and solid information. Good work on a story where national perception and reality don't happen to match the local situation.

3rd place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Taos foreclosure cases: 554 in 5 years, J.R. Logan.

This is a hard-hitting story written in a way that captures the reader's attention. People losing their homes are not the only ones affected, and this story does good job of showing this. Aside from noting some obvious economics factors, the story touches on questions of economic need, profit, and unanswered questions about banking procedures. Variety of sources add to strength of the story. This story stayed in my mind.

Honorable Mention(s)—Warwick Advertiser, Chester, NY; Community Impact Newspaper/The Woodlands Edition, Pflugerville, TX

BEST BUSINESS STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, "Shaken by layoffs" (How the layoffs might impact local businesses, city services, the local real estate and schools), Doug Hanneman, Jorge Sosa, Terry Davis, Kay Johnson.

This was a first-rate entry, a solid look at the impact of these layoffs on every aspect of the community ... a deserving award winner obviously the result of a substantial staff effort.

2nd place—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ, PHASING OUT: Feelings mixed on demise of 2-decade old Enterprise Zone program, Jeremy Duda.

Very impressive and informed look at a complex and controversial topic from both a state and local perspective.

3rd place—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO, Hell for Hais, Allison Retka.

They know how to cover the business of law. Start to finish I felt comfortable that I was getting the full story and in language I could understand.

Honorable Mention(s)—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ; The Windsor Times, Sebastopol, CA

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Daily Division

1st place—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, What to wear? With more than 2,000 costumes to choose from "it's worth the trip" to the Rough & Ready shop, Cory Fisher.

From the opening line, the humor and personality of the profiled costume store owner made this one sing.

2nd place—The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS, Canine vacation, Kimber Wallace.

This was a fascinating look into the pampered world of doggie boarding and written with a touch of wry humor I appreciated.

3rd place—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Scotland Business Set To Expand, Randy Dockendorf.

This was a good story, but I think some opportunities were missed that could have made it really sing.

Honorable Mention(s)—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place—Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum, ID, Recycle, renew, reinvent: Consignment stores fill niche, Rebecca Meany.

Hallelujah. This was a good story in a category with some other so-so stories and many that were not categorized correctly. So it was all the more pleasurable to read a bona fide good story in the pile.

2nd place—The Jackson Herald, Jefferson, GA, Closing shop, Jana Mitcham.

A real nice job on a kind of place that is disappearing and worthy of documentation.

3rd place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Lobster: There's an App For That, Jacqueline Weaver.

The only downfall to such a short pithy story is that I was left wondering if there wasn't more to the story that could have been developed.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Splash Liberty Lake's Community Newspaper, Liberty Lake, WA; Washington Missourian Washington, MO

BEST BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Craftsman devoted 50 years to Goebel, Terry Davis.

Good lead. Thanks for putting the retirement party info up front. I hate it when writers hide that stuff near the bottom, like, "oh, by the way." "Piece by piece" did not need to be hyphenated, but that's OK. Really enjoyed the story. Well told. Great flow to it.

2nd place—El Defensor Chieftain, Belen, NM, Down to earth, T.S. Last.

Fun to read, fun to learn about something I did not know about. Well told, and quite a timely piece in this back-to-nature culture that's coming up. The fact that it was the first U.S. organic chicken farm got lost near the bottom; you should have worked it into the lead somehow.

3rd place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Niesen seeks good times at Hard Times, Jorge Sosa.

Such a folksy tale, well told in a great voice. Great storytelling, great lead, great closing. Loved the casual tone, the music in the background... Makes me want to root for the guy!"

Honorable Mention(s)—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO; The Ark, Tiburon, CA.

BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Daily Division

1st place—The Union, Grass Valley, CA, Kidder family found: Students solve 110-year mystery, Brian Hamilton, John Hart, Stephanie Shaire, Kim Midboe.

You captured the suspense of the mystery in the fine way you reported it. Excellent example of taking education to the next level. Great piece of work.

2nd place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Pioneer learning, Aerin Curtis.

Great descriptive detail. Well researched and inclusive of many detailed aspects of education. Nice job.

3rd place—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Area Schools Now Walk A Money Tightrope, Randy Dockendorf.

Extremely fine job of detailing education/budget cuts for the common reader to understand. Loved the pull-out quote on the front page. This is a complex topic, and you explained it and gave comparisons quite well.

Honorable Mention(s)—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD

BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation 6,000 or more

1st place—The Chronicle, Chester, NY, War and Peace: On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Pamela Chergotis, and Staff.

Wonderful story idea and development. Nice lead and awesome quotes throughout. Excellent writing.

2nd place—Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, TAP into the future, Amy Asman.

Excellent explanation of a complex topic. Nice subheads to help the consistent flow of the story. Nice transitions in following the money. Great visual references (two circles on the whiteboard).

3rd place—News-Register, McMinnville, OR, The unkindest of cuts (related story Kitzhaber: Trim juvie beds in half), Hannah Hoffman.

Fantastic lead to draw reader interest immediately. Great writing skills and nice explanation of data.



FIRST PLACE, best feature photo,
non-daily division, circulation 6,000 - 9,999
By Bradly J. Boner | Jackson Hole News & Guide Jackson, WY

RED, WHITE & DR. BLUE—With an American flag in tow, Dr. Brent Blue pilots his 1943 Boeing 450 Stearman biplane over the Music in the Hole celebration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.nnaweb.org
or contact Sara Walsh
at 573-777-4980, or sarawalsh@nna.org.



FIRST PLACE, best sports photo, non-daily division,
circulation 3,000 - 4,999
By Jessica Brown | The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA

SPLASHING SUCCESS—The Winder YMCA Barracudas hosted its annual pentathlon Saturday. The event attracts hundreds of swimmers from several counties. Barracuda team member Natalie Gardner competes for coach Meredith Green's team.



SECOND PLACE, best breaking news photo, daily division

By Matt Binter | The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, KS

3 RESCUED FROM FIRE—A woman waits for a firefighter to rescue her and her baby from a fire at an apartment complex at 518 Osage St.



SECOND PLACE, best sports photo, non-daily division, circulation 10,000 or more

By David Normand | Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA

LSU BIG PLAY—LSU wide receiver Russell Shepard stretches across the goal line for a 9-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter of a 41-17 victory over Arkansas. LSU finished the regular season 12-0 for the first time ever and is ranked No. 1 in the nation heading for the Southeastern Conference championship game this Saturday against Georgia.



SECOND PLACE, best breaking news photo, non-daily division, circulation 5,000 - 9,999

By Bradley J. Boner | Jackson Hole News & Guide Jackson, WY

HUGE LANDSLIDE—A landslide covers about 300 feet of Highway 89 in Snake River Canyon, dwarfing vehicles and state workers inspecting the mess.



SECOND PLACE, best sports photo, non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000.
By John Zsiray | The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale, ID

RIVERCATS GRAB THIRD—Zac Lowder delivers a pitch during Wednesday's home game against the Middleton M's. The Rivercats lost to the M's in a one-run battle, 2-1.

BEST EDUCATION/LITERACY STORY

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 6,000

1st place—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO, Lawyers in Training, Anna Vitale.

The clearly superior entry ... well paced, well written, authoritative.

2nd place—Mount Olive Chronicle, Chester, NJ, New world for boy with autism, Phil Garber.

Written with great feeling and insight.

3rd place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Impressions of the U.S., Jorge Sosa.

An interesting synopsis of the experiences of foreign exchange students in a small town.

Honorable Mention(s)—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

1st place—News-Register, McMinnville, OR, Buzz Kill: When bees struggle for survival, we all feel the sting, Nicole Montesano.

Interesting and informative, but not overly dry due to technical details.

2nd place—News-Register, McMinnville, OR, The spoils of deconstruction, Molly Walker.

Good way of showcasing a less-known way of recycling by reusing reclaimed building materials.

3rd place—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO, We All Live Downstream, Karen Cernich, Jeanne Miller Wood.

Honorable Mention(s)—Community Impact Newspaper/Grapevine/Colleyville/Southlake Edition, Pflugerville, TX

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

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

1st place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Clay Cliffs grant OK'd for \$5.8 million preservation project, Alan Campbell.

Hands down a clear winner—well researched flows well and it is obvious they have the readers interests in mind.

2nd place—Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN, Recycling

in Pipestone County, Kyle Kuphal.

Loses on research and writing but a real close second.

3rd place—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ, A U.S.-ARIZONA DUSTUP: Freedom to breathe bill may backfire, force EPA takeover of state's pollution controls, Luige del Puerto.

I like this one for the storyline and the layout—a refreshing angle to a story which has been told from many different angles. Bravo!"

Honorable Mention(s)—The Healdsburg Tribune, Sebastopol, CA

BEST HEALTH STORY

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

1st place—Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD, Home births on the rise in Hyattsville, Amira Aycock, Susie Currie.

Very thorough examination of a much-debated issue. This kind of story is a real public service, providing readers with real-life examples as well as expert opinions. Well done.

2nd place—Mountain Xpress, Asheville, NC, Is There a Doctor in the House?, Caitlin Byrd.

An excellent piece on a growing problem across the country. Good job of helping your readers understand why these puzzling health care decisions are being made.

3rd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, A brain disease unknown, Rachel Christiansen.

A gripping real-life story well told. Excellent work.

Honorable Mention(s)—Kendall County Record, Yorkville, IL

BEST HEALTH STORY

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

1st place—Arizona Capitol Times, Phoenix, AZ, Abortion bill sponsor unfazed by doubts cast on his evidence, Caitlin Coakley Beckner.

Well-written, well-researched story that debunks state rep's claim that gender selective and minority-selective abortions are occurring in Arizona. Nice lede, matching photo. Good job.

2nd place—Pipestone County Star, Pipestone, MN, The doctor deficit, Kyle Kuphal.

An important issue for the majority of NNA communities. Primarily a health story, not a legal story or a government-reporting story that secondarily is about health. Not as in depth as some of the other entries, but solid reporting that covers all the bases. One nit: Chart interrupts copy flow.

3rd place—Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, The go-to guy for headaches, Andy Marso.

Solid examination of physicians who are expert witnesses in civil cases, concentrating on one, a headache expert, in particular. Story reads like a Grisham book.

Honorable Mention(s)—Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, CA; West Point News West Point, NE

BEST NEWSPAPER WEB SITE

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, SiouxCityJournal.com, Journal staff. "From the little things like a privacy policy to the big things like layout and typeface your site has it nailed. Excellent color palette. Your site stood out with a compelling layout and organization. Advertising is present but not overwhelming and works to complement the site without causing a distraction. The main navigation menu features are top notch, with the expansion to show featured headlines and news content along with links. The sticky menu bar while scrolling down is a nice touch. Good mix of social media sharing and connection options. The mobile site was clean, simple and easy to navigate. Every link clicked went somewhere without any dead links. Overall an attractive, easy to use, and ultimately informative site.

2nd place—GA Voice, Atlanta, GA, www.thegavoice.com (website of the Georgia Voice), Design: Ryan Watkins, web manager, Content: Staff, Graphics: Bo Shell, art director.

This site shows that with a few open source tools you can create a great looking, well laid out site that looks just as good as websites that cost way more. Very slick features from the menu expansion to the control users have over story display help separate this site from the pack. Easy to access and upfront social media buttons help reader stay in touch and share the content. Advertising on the site is placed well and not a distraction while still remaining visible and effective. Article pages

are clean and very readable with plenty of social media sharing tools. Job well done!

3rd place—Ellsworth American, The Ellsworth, ME, Best Newspaper Web Site, Staff.

The separate branding concept is intriguing and your execution of the concept is largely successful. The Fenceviewer half feels very news oriented with minimal distractions. The homepage being devoid of social media/sharing links was surprising but helped with that as well. The site is easy to navigate and very responsive with minimal load times. Article pages felt a little busy but option to adjust font size was a nice feature.

Honorable Mention(s)—Daily Record, The Baltimore, MD, thedailyrecord.com; St. Louis American, The Saint Louis, MO

BEST PERFORMING ARTS STORY

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Bah, Humbug!, Ian St. Clair.

This writer makes the timeless story and personality of Scrooge come to life, indeed. Great writing and the layout of the story makes a powerful presentation.

2nd place—McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, OK, Concert draws thousands, James Beaty.

3rd place—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD, Foss Fiddles Way To Fame, Randy Dockendorf.

Wonderfully written story about a musician who didn't count time a negative in his dream of playing the fiddle. The reader is swept away in the story telling.

Honorable Mention(s)—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN

BEST REVIEW

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Lifetime of dreams now realized, Court Mann.

Great story framed by a captivating layout. Emotional, heartfelt writing complemented by an energy-charged layout. I will look for this recording and buy it.

Wiffle ball is dangerous? Only to state bureaucrats

RICK WOODSON

The Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, NY

Second place, best sports column
daily and non-daily division, circulation 6,000 or more

If you're one of us who can see retirement not far down the road, then you probably are glad you're not a kid anymore. Well, welcome to the club, old friend. For those of you who haven't been around long enough to remember what some of us call "the good ol' days," I'll update you. It was long before technology took over our lives. We had cap pistols and played cowboys, sandlot baseball, hide and seek, and hopscotch; we climbed trees, rode our bikes, roller skated and ... well, you name it, we did it. And lived to tell about it!

This really hit home earlier this week, thanks to RBJ's Morning News Roundup e-mail, which pointed me to the New York Daily News story about state Health Department bureaucrats coming up with a list of games kids play in summer camps that pose a "significant risk of injury." They include freeze tag, wiffle ball, kickball and dodgeball. The bureaucrats had planned to ban those games from summer camps, but facing an uproar over the new regulations, they promised to reconsider.

So the department may not be done yet.

No doubt in my mind they're still pondering some other changes in the games kids play.

Thank goodness! Making my grandchildren so much safer makes me feel so much better!

Meanwhile, don't be surprised if "they" ban kids under age 16 from playing tic-tac-toe and rock-paper-scissors. Think about it: A youngster could poke his eye out with a pencil—or (gasp!) even get stabbed by an angry opponent! Solution: Make it mandatory that kids use Crayolas and play with one arm tied behind their backs.

As for the rock-paper-scissors risks, one could suffer anything from a sprained wrist to a broken finger to a bruised palm. In fact, it might make sense to make handclapping illegal—that's right, applauding—especially for youngsters whose bones are still growing and for elderly people with fragile bones.

Did you ever play spin the bottle? You know, four or more of you and your friends sit in a circle, and then you spin a soda bottle and have to kiss the person it points to when it stops. Fun, but today's "experts" might warn that it could get emotional and dangerous if it's someone you refuse

to kiss or someone who doesn't want a kiss from you.

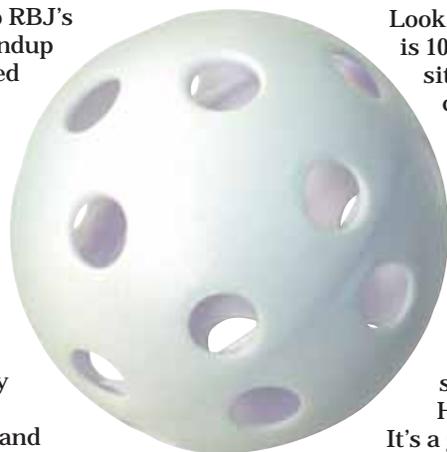
The bottom line: It's OK to have 300-pound kids playing high school football, but a 14-year-old can't play wiffle ball at a summer camp? A 12-year-old playing wiffle ball could hit you in the head with a line drive, and the pain would be minimal. Still, let's ban wiffle ball. But skydiving is OK.

Where does this nonsense stop? I mean, what do human beings do that isn't at least somewhat risky?

Answer: Nothing! If you stay in bed too long, it can have a negative effect on your body. Watching too much TV is a health risk.

Health experts rave about the incredible benefits of walking briskly for 30 minutes five times a week. And yes, of course, they are right. But what if you stub your toe and fall flat on your face on a concrete sidewalk?

You could suffer a broken nose, a concussion, eye damage, a sprained wrist and so on. So should "they" outlaw brisk walking?



Look, no sport or game is 100 percent safe. Well, sit-down games—chess, checkers, Scrabble, etc.—are quite safe, unless you lean too far back in your chair and fall over. Then what? Make people playing those games either stand up or sit on the floor? How about pool?

It's a great game that requires a lot of skill, touch and strategy. However, the players use long, wooden sticks that could cause brain damage if one of the players gets too excited and wields his stick to celebrate a shot. Should the government require that helmets be worn while playing pool?

And speaking of pool, how about swimming?

The aforementioned health experts all agree on the physical benefits of swimming.

Great exercise, no strain on joints, etc. There are, however, a few risks involved, such as drowning if you're only semi-conscious after hitting your head against the wall at one end of the pool. Should helmets and life jackets be required in swimming pools?

Ridiculous? Of course it is, but so is much of that other stuff being banned.

At least, kids playing golf—my favorite sport—hasn't been banned. Well, not yet.

But if somebody reminds the politicians that some golfers, kids included, use steel clubs to hit the ball, the game could be in trouble.

Look, all you worrywarts in the state capital, let kids be kids, OK? Let 'em play the physical games kids play so they don't spend so much time sitting in front of video screens. Some of you are even telling parents what their kids can and can't bring to school for lunch. Is a mandatory bed-time next on your list?

2nd place—Santa Maria Sun, San Luis Obispo, CA, A little Austen will do you good, Ryan Miller.

Fresh look at an ancient subject. Writer reminds the reader of the story, but then leaves the story in the background and focuses his comments on the production itself. Well written.

3rd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, A portrait of a brilliant, repressed, enigmatic man, Amanda Green.

Well written. Centers more on the film than on the historical perspective, rightfully so. Reviewer gives just enough biographical background to help movie viewer more appreciably enjoy the cinema experience.

Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA

BEST WEEKEND EDITION

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, WY, Best Weekend Edition, Staff.

This was a clear cut winner—hands down the most impressive paper in the category. This is an impressive comprehensive package from the front to back. Love the "Cold Cases" feature to kick things off. Great use of color throughout the paper. Photos are superb. It is easy to navigate through this paper. There is certainly a high credibility. Nice use of graphics throughout the paper.

2nd place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Hutchinson Leader, Doug Hanneman, Editor, Tina McMillan, Ad Director, Hutchinson Leader Staff.

Great job in covering the impact of a major company with huge layoffs. This paper does a nice job of layout and design, especially with eye-catching photos, graphics and white space on the front. I question why the opinion page revolved around on different pages as well as why advertising is placed on the opinion page.

3rd place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Best weekend edition, Staff.

Outstanding job of spot news coverage on the front. The photo of the construction accident tells the tragic story more than any words can. The paper has a clean looking layout with nice use of white space.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Las Cruces: A Photographic Journey, Staff.

WOW! What an undertaking! To say this was a community service is a terrible understatement. Fantastic work!

2nd place—The Barrow Journal, Winder, GA, Barrow County budget crisis, Susan Norman.

Great job by the reporter to not just take the numbers at face value but to dig into them and discover the \$2 million error! Well done!

3rd place—The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, GA, The New War / Just One Pill / Bad medicine is big business / Drug net nab ten / Twelve arrested in drug roundup, The Blackshear Times - Wayne Hardy.

An important series that hopefully opened the eyes of many in the community to work to stop this problem.

Honorable Mention(s)—Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Clayton, MO

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Daily Division

1st place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA.

A massive package of news, features, opinion, ads and misc. information. Very nice special sections and feature sections. Colorful and inviting.

2nd place—Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA.

The most attractive, best designed paper in this category. High volume of community news, features and photos. Excellent production; nice ad work. Get a few more local voices on the editorial pages.

3rd place—Wyoming Tribune, Eagle Cheyenne, WY.

Nice package of local news and features. Production is good, but design is a bit over the top; it shouldn't be a distraction. Interesting mix of items on page fronts

Honorable Mention(s)—The Union, Grass Valley, CA

Nice package of local news, features and photos. Not quite the bulk of the higher-placing papers. Design very good in places; needs updating on other pages.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place—The Taos News, Taos, NM

Excellent package of local news, features, photos. nice design; production. Very good opinion pages. Some well-done in-depth reporting. Excellent entertainment and feature insert—Tempo. Top-notch ad work. A clear No. 1.

2nd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM.

Massive amount of news and information. Plenty of local photos, faces, features, plus community details. Nice design; well ordered packages—business, A&E, home, etc. Good, not great, opinion pages

(a few more local voices—column, letters—would be great.)

3rd place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME.

Takes third on volume of content, variety, local focus. Lots of letters; good ad work. Design could use updating (as it could for many of the entries). Wide web is a throwback. Fine bundle of local content in a bulky package.

Honorable Mention(s)—Washington Missourian, Washington, MO.

Impressive bundle of local content—news, features, photos, opinion. Fine production, ad work. Design needs updating, as do most of the newspapers in this division.

The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO.

Nicely designed package. Lots of faces and good news from the African American community. Good paper, but lacks the massive volume of content of the higher-placing entries. Much better looking product that most of the entries in this category.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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

1st place—The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton, NY.

Spectacular package of information—news, features, photos, ads—all excellently produced. Clean, fresh design, layout throughout. Some inside pages a bit gray, but the layout keeps them open, airy. Hefty, wide-ranging content has something that will appeal to everyone at some level. Great No. 1 in a strong field.

2nd place—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA.

A constant gem. First-rate, excellent content, top to bottom, front to back. Superb production; great graphics. Wonderful opinion and special pages. Prodigious, attractive ads. A more attractive entry than No. 1, but not quite the massive amount of content, which is first-rate in both publications. Newspapers are alive and well—at least these are!

3rd place—Sequim Gazette, Sequim, WA.

Like first and second, a great newspaper! Crammed full of wonderful information—news, features, photos, ads that make it a terrific asset for the community. Right up on the heels of 1 & 2. Excellent opinion pages.

Honorable Mention(s)—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY.

Another terrific paper in a strong, solid class of entries.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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

1st place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN.

Excellent community news package. Quality writing, photos, design, production hold strong and steady from front to back of all three papers. Nice, fresh design. Exceptional production. Upbeat presentation. Clean look. Engaging news writing and range of features. A solid No. 1 in a strong field.

2nd place—Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME.

Solid community news/information package. Good writing. Plenty of variety. Volume carried you to second. Strong field with many entries in second-place range.

3rd place—Litchfield Independent Review, Hutchinson, MN.

Wonderful paper; terrific design front to back. Good writing. Engaging range of news, features, photos, commentary.

Honorable Mention(s)—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX.

Terrific community newspaper. A bit loose in design, but open and inviting. A good representative example of a very strong group of papers in the honorable mention range. Lots of fine work being done at small papers across the country. All need to keep updating content, design, presentation.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 3,000

1st place—West Point News, West Point, NE.

Nice package of community news, features and photos. Good opinion page; good special sections. Unless it's just not possible, get color; at least on Page One.

2nd place—The Imperial Republican, Imperial, NE.

Good community package. Nice design. Do whatever it takes to get color; at least on Page One.

3rd place—Delano Herald Journal, Delano, MN.

Nice package of community news, photos, opinion. Work on design—particularly inside.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE - COLLEGE DIVISION

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, CA.

Lots of campus voices—great! Very good in-depth stories (some tended too long). Lots of good photos, columns, features. Layout could use updating, and needs more advertising. Good event/activity coverage—sports too!

2nd place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT.

1st Responder

Edgewood resident was blocks from ground zero

RORY MCCLANNAHAN
Mountain View Telegraph
Palmdale, CA

First place, best feature story
non-daily division, circulation 4,000 - 5,999

Abel Paniagua has a lot of plaques and awards given to him through 22 years in the Marine Corps and 11 years as a federal police officer.

He's also got uniform pins and commendation awards for his service as an officer in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. However, the Edgewood resident has two things he treasures most that harken back to that day.

The first is a "Star-Spangled Tribute Boutonniere" from Project H.E.A.R.T. given to him by a child as Paniagua was manning a security checkpoint in lower Manhattan a couple of weeks after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

"This I treasure more than anything anyone gave me because this came from the heart," Paniagua said. The other object came to him several days later, but he says it was weeks before he realized what he had received.

A LIFE IN UNIFORM

Paniagua grew up in New York City and as soon as he was old enough he joined the Marines.

For 22 years, he had numerous assignments that ranged from drill instructor to security at American embassies overseas. He had a short relationship with one of his colleagues on embassy duty, Alexandra, that didn't work out at the time, but did later, as his military career was winding down and after a marriage and kids.

"She's been my rock," he says. "I'm glad we never gave up on making it happen."

After he retired from the Marines in 1996, Paniagua said he figured "I'd become a New York City cop and that would be it."

But he got an offer to become a federal police officer attached to the U.S. General Services Administration.

The GSA had a history of providing security to government buildings and property throughout the world, but that mission became more important in 1993 after the terrorist bombings of the World Trade Center, two American embassies in Africa and the USS Cole.

It was clear the GSA needed more than security guards with a flashlight—it needed trained professionals.

That's how Paniagua ended up five blocks from the World Trade Center on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

TERROR STRIKES

Paniagua worked on the security team for the two federal buildings at 26 Federal Plaza in New York City.

Sept. 11 didn't start out much different than any other day, other than it seemed like it was going to be a nice day.

"That day was extra beautiful," Paniagua says.

He was at work at the building at Broadway and Dwayne at 6:30 a.m. There was a Pepsi truck nearby that was parked in a spot that could be used by either employees in the federal buildings or by the nearby fire station.

Paniagua says he told the Pepsi driver to move the vehicle, which the guy said he would. Paniagua went about other parts of his routine, and even drove down to the World Trade Center to check on personnel at some federal offices there.

When he returned to his post, the Pepsi truck was still there, and he went to talk to the driver, a fellow named Sal. It was 8:39 a.m.

As Paniagua was explaining to Sal that he needed to move his truck, they both saw the blur and sound of a plane overhead.

"The first plane flew over," Paniagua said. "It was just a loud roaring sound and a blur. Then we heard a boom. Sal says, 'I think he lost an engine' and I told him, 'Sal, you know what? I think you better get out of here.'"

"I walked up to Broadway and looked to see, and all I could see was a cloud of smoke and paper. I knew this was going to be a long day."

But there was no information about the nature of the of the attack.

"We all took it as an accident," Paniagua says.

Ambulances, firetrucks and police all started heading past the federal buildings toward the World Trade Center. At first, people were outside, gawking at the spectacle.

Paniagua says he noticed an older woman holding on to a post. When he approached her, he and other officers tried to get

her to let go of the post, but she kept talking about her heart. Paniagua says he was able to flag down an ambulance and get the woman to a hospital.

As he was wrapping that up, a fellow tapped him on the shoulder—his wife was pregnant and her water had just broken.

This time, Paniagua said he couldn't get an ambulance and a constant refrain kept playing through his head:

"Not here, not now." He was able to get the couple into a cab that sped toward a



RORY MCCLANNAHAN | MOUNTAIN VIEW TELEGRAPH
Abel Paniagua, a former federal police officer who lives in Edgewood, looks at photos taken in the days after 9/11, when he served in New York City.

hospital, but it wasn't long before the second plane hit the second building.

"We knew then that we were at war," Paniagua said.

THE BUILDINGS FALL

What followed was about an hour of intensity as people came to gawk, some to get away. Fire and police had swarmed the area, and a triage was set up between the two burning buildings. Paniagua said he and his crew were working to provide support, while at the same time assure the federal buildings remained secure.

"Broadway had become the route for a marathon of people trying to get out," he said.

At 9:59 a.m., the south tower collapsed, falling on the triage center. A half hour later, the north tower came down. Paniagua said he could see the towers as they went down, and as the second was coming down, he could see that if it fell over in his direction, there was a chance it would reach him.

Instead, it fell down on itself.

Despite the falling buildings, there were still people coming at him from the World Trade Center.

"It was dark, you couldn't see, and the people coming out were covered with gray dust," he said. "They were zombies."

In the aftermath, Paniagua says he shouted himself hoarse trying to get people who could move out. Those who couldn't, he would pour water on their

faces, help them catch their breath.

"You'd think that after 20 years in the Marines I'd seen just about everything."

AFTERMATH

For the next six weeks, while the investigation and cleanup effort continued, Paniagua was working 12-hour shifts, six days a week. But something started to happen—people would come up to him to shake his hand, give him a hug or a cup of coffee. The kind words, he would take, but he couldn't accept gifts.

In his pocket, he always carried a little green notebook and after a day or two of the constant "Thank yous" and "God bless yous" he began to write down each one.

"I (wrote) down every little credit I got because when I die and I make it to the Pearly Gates, I can pull this out and tell the Lord, 'Look, I've got credit,'" Paniagua jokes.

"Knowing my luck, I'll be one short."

He also came to the realization that it was time to leave New York. After the cleanup and lower Manhattan was reopened, he put in for a transfer. New Mexico seemed like it would be nice; by 2002, he

was at the Albuquerque office.

Retirement came in 2009:

He couldn't do the job anymore because of pulmonary problems that doctors have told him were related to the dust from 9/11.

SAYING THANKS

Tucked on the back of a shelf of memorabilia, Paniagua keeps a small seed envelope that has a peach and some Chinese writing on it.

He explains that in the weeks prior to the attacks, he would help a small Chinese woman cross Broadway. She didn't speak English and he didn't speak Chinese, but it was just something you do, he says.

After the attacks, an elderly Chinese man appeared at his checkpoint, bowed and simply said, "Thank you," in broken English. He was the woman's husband, Paniagua said, and he handed him the envelope.

Paniagua said that during Chinese New Year, celebrants would hand out cards to each other, and he figured that this was just one of those instances. He accepted the envelope and stuck it in one of the pockets of his uniform.

Days later, he was emptying the pockets and came across the envelope.

Inside was a \$5 bill.

"I wasn't allowed to take gifts," Paniagua says, "but I figure if I don't spend it, I'm OK."

THE FIRST FISH

SHAUNA STEPHENSON
The Wyoming Tribune Eagle
Cheyenne, WY

First place, best feature story
daily division

She's just a little slip of a girl. Blond-headed with a set of ocean-blue eyes that melt to a virescent core, eyes that will drop some poor dotting beau to his knees one day.

"You're going to have trouble with that one," I tell her father. But he doesn't listen. To him, she will always be 6 years old, always be just as she is now. He can't fathom a day when she isn't.

"Dad!" she says from her seat in the back of the parked truck. "Dad, when are we going to fish? Dad, Dad, Dad! I want to fish."

That day is coming quickly.

She pulls herself up between the passenger and driver seat.

"How long do we have to wait?" she asks as the rain snakes down the windshield, funneling down the black wiper blades.

Her fingernails are painted lime green, a shift from what used to be an ever-present pink. Two years ago, she discovered the cruelty of other little girls and threw out all of her "boy" things, despite the fact she loved them so, and started loving princesses and all things pink, began playing dress-up and putting on makeup. When I was in school, they called it "peer

pressure"—a phrase too meek to describe the reality of girl-on-girl persecution.

"Dad! Hey! I want to go fishing! Why are we just sitting here?"

"It's pouring outside," he says.

She slumps in her seat, a look of displeasure crossing her face. But soon the rain lets up enough to venture out onto the river.

A child-sized fly rod is strung up—the Echo Gecko it's called—bright yellow with a blue and black mottled grip. On the end is a big fat skwala dry fly, which her dad spent hours tying after long days at the office.

We suit her up in a pair of waders, pink rain jacket and oversized pair of black and yellow galoshes. On her head goes the woolen beanie we bought for her last summer on our honeymoon, pink, yellow and green with a little knit flower on the side. The waders have the company name "Caddis" stitched into the label—referring to the jovial little insect that flits about the banks of rivers. It's also her nickname, given by other river rats.

"How's the little caddis?" they would ask.

In some ways, she was born to be outside. She never really had a choice in the matter.

The two of them head down a steep bank to a small riffle situated just below a long, flat stretch of water. The river narrows here, squeezing through rocks, picking up just enough speed to house a



trout. The weather has been cold, and the skwalas are late in making their appearance this year.

He hands her the rod, standing behind her as they do a couple of practice casts. She has been working at this for at least a year now, trolling being the drift boat with various cheap plastic poles, bobbers, wooly buggers and grasshoppers. Some days she would sit up from on her

father's lap, nymphing off one side of the boat or the other as I rowed, happily ensconced at the center of his universe.

But not today.

"I can do it," she tells him. "I want to do it myself."

He steps back, taking a seat on the bank. In that moment it's hard not to notice how tall she's gotten, how her coordination has improved ...

The fly lands in the middle of the riffle and from the depth comes a nose, then a mouth, and pretty soon, she's got an 18-inch brown on the line—her first fish.

Right about then, she looks up to her dad, and without her asking, he steps down, pulls her into his lap, and together, they fight that fish, letting it run and then reeling it in. He reaches down to pick it up, showing her what she caught, what she's worked so hard for, thereby imparting the unsaid hopes so many fathers have: That the burden of classmates and split family will not be so encompassing that she forgets these moments; That she remembers where she comes from; That maybe someday, years down the road, the phone will ring and it will be her on the other end saying, "Dad, Dad, Dad, Dad, I want to go fishing. Lets' go fishing."

She smiles and then flings her arms around the fish and her dad, giggling as photos are taken, her eyes more ocean blue than emerald, the same color as those of the man seated behind her laughing with such surprise and awe.

Making the highway journey of a lifetime

MARK K. CAMPBELL
Azle News,
Azle, TX

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

The sky was crazy last Friday. Dark clouds billowed up then blew past, leaving a brief smear of blue that was then covered by seemingly endless sets of more black clouds.

Mom, 83, was in the passenger's seat of the pickup. She stared blankly for several minutes at the dash then other times she peered out the window at the passing North Texas rolling prairie or up at the sky.

"I know everyone thinks I'm crazy," she said quietly.

We were heading south from Wichita Falls where I had picked her up from a rehabilitation hospital. She was being treated there for dementia and Alzheimer's disease and it was determined that she could no longer tend to herself at her assisted living apartment.

So we were bound for a nursing home in Whitney.

Mom now needs constant skilled nursing care, the kind that will keep her from putting her eyeglasses in her shoes and misplacing her lower dentures (which were never found). The sort of care that would assure her that no "big man" was entering her room at night threatening her and that no one was "stealing her stuff."



I glanced over. Mom was no longer the robust redhead who would tell anyone "how the cow ate the cabbage," who loved to play Chickenfoot, and rooted even louder for the Cowboys than Dad. Now, she's stooped from osteoporosis and frustrated that family names and places are just out of her memory's reach.

"I don't think you're crazy," I said.

"Yeah," she said flatly, like she always does when she doesn't really comprehend what's been said.

I once wrote a column about my search for the oldest thing I owned. I found my 1973-74 high school diary then a homemade "monster movie" scrapbook from the late '60's.

But, eventually, I scrounged up this pennant. Mom made it when the team I played on, the Reds, won the Iowa Park World Series. Unlike today when every kid gets a trophy for anything, back then even World Series winners didn't. (We did get a pin—which I can't find—and a party with lots of Big Red and a giant strawberry cake.)

To commemorate the victory, the team moms, including mine, created championship pennants. It clearly meant something to me since I kept it.

After all, we were the World Series champs of the summer of 1965! And Mom had made it. So I hung on to that red felt triangle with hand-cut white felt letters and numbers glued to it; it's a little moth eaten but in pretty good shape for being 46 years old.

"Look at those clouds," Mom said.

"Everyone's different every time. You just have to keep looking at them."

Age can open your eyes. I remembered the last time I took a driving trip with my dad. It was late spring 2006 and he, 82 and on hospice, decided he needed something from the hardware store. Maybe he did and maybe he didn't, but we drove over to Whitney. They didn't have whatever it was he needed and he probably knew that in advance. But, coming and going to the Western Auto, Dad, mere weeks from death, kept commenting on the trees, about how magnificent they

were, how lovely.

And now Mom was talking about clouds the same way.

"I like clouds," I said.

"Yeah," she said.

She stared some more at the dash.

Mom perked up and clapped her arthritic hands when Janis Joplin's version of "Me and Bobby McGee" played on the radio. Then she returned to the dash when it ended.

Her situation had deteriorated lately, quite rapidly within the last three months. And now it was time for a nursing home, a tough, but necessary, call.

Mom looked out the window again.

"You know, you can be mean or nice to people. You might as well be nice—especially to the mean ones."

"That's true," I said.

"Yeah," she said.

We drove a few more miles. "You'll like it at your new place," I said.

"Yeah."

We arrived near dusk and I parked under a giant oak tree. "Well, we're here. Soon all your friends and church friends will be visiting," I said.

"Yeah," she said.

I took her bent hand, my head saying I was obeying Matthew 19:19, Honor your father and your mother...

(New International Version), but the ache in my heart not so sure. Opening the door, I said, trying to sound chipper, "It's gonna be great."

Brilliantly lit sunset clouds blew past as we stepped inside.

"Yeah," she said.



FIRST PLACE,
best breaking news photo,
daily division

By Patrick C. Leonard
Palatka Daily News
Palatka, FL

BOARDING CALL—Members of the Putnam County Sheriff's SWAT Team prepare to board a houseboat on the St. Johns River on Friday morning during a training exercise.

Teen dad kills baby, shot dead by deputies

CHARLES F. BOSTWICK AND BOB WILSON
Antelope Valley Press
Palmdale, CA

Second place, best breaking news story
daily division

PALMDALE, CA—A 17-year-old father who abducted his baby—and texted his baby's mother threatening to kill him—fatally stabbed the baby Tuesday while fleeing from sheriff's deputies, then was shot to death after he broke into a home, sheriff's officials said.

Christopher Earl Gates, a former star basketball player at Highland High School who as expelled last year, had taken 5-month-old Christopher Glass Jr. from his sister's west Palmdale house about 11 a.m. Tuesday, drove to the mother's home, argued with her, then drove off, texting that he was going to stab his son, officials said.

After an Amber Alert was issued, deputies searching for Glass' white Pontiac Aztec spotted it in Palmdale about 3:35 p.m., and followed. As they followed, they saw the driver make movements as if he was stabbing the baby as he drove, a sheriff's statement said.

"He's stabbing the baby, he's stabbing the baby," a deputy radioed to other deputies.

Deputies tried to get the sport utility vehicle to stop, but it sped away, crashing after two or three minutes into a pillar at the shelter at the Palmdale Metrolink station.

The driver got out and ran, chased by deputies, as other deputies ran to the wrecked SUV. Deputies put the bleeding baby into a patrol car and raced to



Palmdale Regional Medical Center two miles away, blocking traffic at intersections to let the patrol car speed through. Despite their efforts, the baby was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Meanwhile, deputies chased the driver through the train station parking lot, down Sixth Street East and onto Avenue P-14, where they saw him trying to break into a home, the statement said. At least one deputy shot at Glass, but he got into the house with deputies chasing after him, the statement said. He was shot to death in the house.

Mynor Maldonado, a security officer who works at the R. Rex Parris Continuation High School immediately south of the neighborhood where Glass was shot, said the gunfire was heard on the campus.

"I got a call from the principal's secretary that there were shots fired, about eight shots," Maldonado said.

What Glass and the baby's mother argued about was not disclosed. Deputies said Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services officials said Glass did not have custody rights to his son.

The 6-foot-1, 175-pound Glass had played on the Highland High School varsity basketball team in the 2009-10 season as a junior. He led the Bulldogs with 14.1 points a game and was named to the all-Golden League team. He was expelled from Highland after the season for undisclosed reasons and was ordered to attend a Los Angeles Unified School District school, an official said.

Glass' shooting will be investigated

by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as well as by the sheriff's Homicide Bureau and Internal Affairs Bureau, officials said. Attorneys with the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review also review the shooting.

Counseling was offered to the deputies involved, a spokesman said.

"It's an emotional impact to the deputies, too—to see a defenseless child subjected to that," Palmdale Sheriff's Station spokesman Deputy Robbie Royster said.

After the slaying, authorities closed Sixth Street East north of Avenue Q to traffic and cordoned off parking areas and other parts of the Palmdale Transportation Center, which was closed.

Metrolink trains traveled past the Palmdale station and stopped at the Lancaster station, where antelope Valley Transit Authority buses were called in to bring Metrolink riders back to Desert Sands Park, where the recreation building was opened to accommodate stranded commuters.

People were allowed Tuesday night to get their cars in the station's west parking lot, but not those in east parking lot. Commuters may call (661) 272-2530 for details and information regarding pick-up vehicles or passengers, according to a city statement issued Tuesday night.

City officials did not know Tuesday night when Metrolink trains would resume stopping at the Palmdale station, but a sheriff's spokesman said the station and east parking lot may remain closed to the public until after sunrise today to let investigators photograph the crime scene.

FROM PAGE 15

February issues much better than the November issue (a permanent change?). Very nice design and excellent variety of news and features. Good opinion pages in Feb. 15. More entertainment coverage—campus towns are big on entertainment, and more student activity stories would be good. Sports too! Need more sports coverage.

Note: No **3rd place** awarded in this division.



SECOND PLACE, best sports photo, daily division

By Patrick C. Leonard | Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL

SCREAMS OF JOY—Interlachen's Taryn Davis screams with joy as she sinks the ball into the back left corner of the net for the first goal of Tuesday's game.

Ned, I owe you an apology

KYLE KUPHAL
Pipestone County Star
Pipestone, MN

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

A little over a year ago I wrote a column titled "Living in the future" about how technology had won me over to the point that I even purchased a smart phone.

I disavowed my previous distrust of technology and the ways of Ned Ludd (the original Luddite, who was leery of technological advancements like mechanized looms). Well Ned, I think I owe you an apology.

Recently, I've been thinking about the effect technology is having on society. Sure it can do great things like allow us to communicate with each other instantly from almost anywhere—except Jasper—or provide instant access to information at the click of a button, but is it really good for us?

For example, think about the last time there was a piece of information you couldn't remember. What did you do? Google it?

Right. Me too. In fact I found background information for this column by Googling the "Google effect." That's the theory that technology is making it more difficult for us to remember things because it's no longer necessary. I'd heard of it a while back, but forgot what exactly it was all about.

Why take the time to remember something when you can type a word into a search engine and get all the information you need? You don't even have to spell it

right. For example, I actually searched for gogl efct and found a variety of articles on the Google effect.

Some of the articles debate the reality of the phenomenon, but it seems pretty evident to me that technological advancements are turning us into lazy, illiterate, impatient people.

Spelling, for example, has become similar to horseshoes. All you have to do is get it close. Then technology will figure it out for you, whether it's a search engine or spell check. Who has the time to worry about spelling things correctly or using proper grammar anymore anyway, right? Especially when it comes to texting.

It takes 4eva to spell out all that 411, even when u r AATK, unless of course u r ACORN. Translation: It takes forever to spell out all that information, even when you are always at the keyboard, unless of course you are a completely obsessive really nutty person.

BTW (by the way) I had to look up texting shorthand online to figure out how to say that. It's like learning a whole new lazy language even though we have a perfectly good one already at hand. I, for one, still type out complete words and sentences when I text and the extra few seconds it takes hasn't caused me to be late for anything so far.

If my life ever gets that busy I think I'll go build a cabin near a pond and live off the land. Good luck getting me then, technology!

Of course, not everyone is getting lazy. There are still plenty of people out there willing to work hard.

Unfortunately, they were probably put out of work by machines. Maybe the Occupy Wall Street people should protest robots. They're the real cause of economic inequality. If you can afford a robot, you've got it made. And if you can't afford a robot, you're probably about to be replaced by one.

The more technology we have, the fewer jobs for human beings. Take Henry Ford's Model T for example. When the Model T emerged in 1908 it took assembly line workers trained in 84 specialty areas 12 and a half hours to piece together one car. Eventually, Ford started using more machines and fewer people and the production time was reduced to 93 minutes per car.

It was a smart move for Ford—machines are faster, require fewer health benefits and never take vacation time. But what about the assembly line workers the machines replaced? Did anyone think about them?

Warning: The information above was taken in part from a free online encyclopedia that can be edited and changed by the general public, so it's possible that some hooligan made it all up and it is in no way factual.

A more recent example of technology putting people out of work is the U.S. Postal Service. As more people started paying bills online and using email, the

volume of mail declined sharply, which has led to the Postal Service losing billions of dollars in recent years and the subsequent closing of Post Offices considered underutilized like those in Holland and Woodstock in Pipestone County as well as others across the country. More jobs lost thanks to technology.

If we as a society want to become better educated and spur economic growth, we need to start by eliminating technology. Sure, there might be fewer cars on the sale lot and it might take a little longer to put out a newspaper, but hey, at least there will be plenty of jobs to go around.

People scoffed at Mr. Ludd back in early 19th century England when he destroyed those mechanized looms or those English workmen who were later called "Luddites" who destroyed other "labor-saving" machinery in protest around that same time. It might have seemed silly then, but maybe, just maybe they were visionaries and saw what the future would be. Perhaps even a future beyond today—a future where people are no longer needed to do anything and robot overlords rule the world.

It's a simple strategy. Take away our livelihoods and our morale, then dumb us down, make us lazy and take over.

As for me, I'll be keeping a close eye on technology, just waiting for the anti-technology revolution to begin.

In the meantime, I have to check my fantasy football score on my cell phone, get directions to the mall with my GPS, and check my weather app to see if I need a jacket before I go out. (Don't worry, it's just a ruse to make technology think I'm on its side.)

L8R.



BETTER NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING CONTEST

BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

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

1st place—The Democrat-Union, Lawrenceburg, TN, D-U Football Contest, Charlie Crawford.

Unique idea, which would be of interest to lots of readers (and advertisers!).

2nd place—Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA, Real Life Tax Buster, Woody Jenkins.

Strong promotional piece. Well laid out, and interesting to peruse.

3rd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Bravo: Driven by Las Cruces, Theresa Montoya Basaldua, Jorge Lopez.

Beautiful layout; of strong community interest.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM.

BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

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

1st place—The Akron Hometowneer, Akron, IA, Where do you read your Akron Hometowneer?, Dodie Hook, Nancy Enstrom.

This is a brilliant campaign designed to get local faces into the newspaper. It encourages readers to take their paper on vacation, and photograph themselves in exotic locales (each probably trying to outdo the last one). This can be a very long-term campaign that gets people talking about their neighbors and their newspaper. Well done!

2nd place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Job Application, Debra Campbell.

I like the fact that this advertiser believes that newspaper readers will actually read something longer than two sentences. The job application grabs attention in a tight job market, and the B2B story is compelling.

3rd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Support your Town Hill, Lydia Wanner.

Wonderful graphic and layout with superb use of color help promote local use of a local tourist asset. The appeal is for fun and public service all at the same time, in low-key sell.

Honorable Mention(s)—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX.

BEST CLASSIFIED SECTION

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Hutchinson Leader Classified Section, 6/12/11, 6/15/11, 6/19/11, Tina McMillan.

This is a very clean, professional-looking classified section. Text type was well set and legible and the columns weren't too narrow! (Six column format on a broadsheet page, which should return as newspapers' standard.) Navigation was easy to follow and the section was packed with photos and display ads. Ads were nicely segmented into Farm, Real Estate, Jobs and Vehicles and the cover featured attractive photos with each main category and a convenient map of the circulation area. More color would have improved this section—like getting those real estate or car ads in color or making the lead page color every day. There were a few other minor drawbacks: The liners using reverse type on a black background competed with the nav and were hard to read. And please drop the code numbers as navigation. Readers don't use them! I'd also prefer to see the direct URL to your online classifieds, not the general newspaper web address and you should stress that the online placement option is 24/7.

2nd place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Classifieds, Debra Campbell, Joy Holmes, Patrice Korson.

Aside from being packed with ads, the Leelanau Enterprise's classifieds were basically all what most papers would call inline display ads. Rather than tiny type packed into columns, most ads featured boxes, headlines and various type styles. It is an interesting strategy that might be particularly effective for papers losing lineage—make the ads you have bigger and stronger to make your classifieds stand out in the marketplace. I liked the business directory and that page flag, which looked much more modern than the typography elsewhere. This section was packed with ads, including large, color display ads with lots of images. This paper uses local photos behind the nameplate—a good idea that was not well executed here. The word Classifieds was huge and covered up too much of the image. Using a giant S on the end of the word is not sophisticated, either. Better to make that header a little deeper and give the photo more room to work.

Other upgrades for this paper would be using more photos in the classifieds themselves—especially color photos—and introducing a limited (and keep it classy) color palette for upgraded liners.

3rd place—Brentwood Press San Clemente, CA, Classifieds, Carol Laird.

This paper featured a very attractive, full color professional services directory on the lead page that helped it stand out from

the pack. The classifieds themselves were in large, legible type in well-organized columns. Even the legals, which were in a very small type size, were very legible because of good font selection and settings. Nice. Upgrades for this paper would be to get more of that color into the liners, especially in the form of photos, which are the best way to increase readership and revenue in print classifieds (closely followed by added color).

BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

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

1st place—The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, Diversity, A Business Imperative, Staff.

Ad content follows theme very nicely, impressive! Large amount of ads support great editorial, should be a winner for readers. Presented in very neat style.

2nd place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, July 4th Extravaganza, Staff.

Wow! Great revenue builder. I liked that all business names were at the top (and bottom) of each ad, easy to identify in high-graphic/color ads. Nice job.

3rd place—Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, NM, Summer Hot Spots, Angie Zamora.

I liked this—very nice for parents/guardians to help plan the kids' summer. Ads were informative. The page was a bit busy, but kids are busy (which fits the theme, right?)

Honorable Mention(s)—Livingston Parish News Denham Springs, LA; Palatka Daily News Palatka, FL.

BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

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

1st place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, This Year Fight Like a Girl, Staff.

Good twist on a Health section. Very clean looking.

2nd place—Warwick Advertiser, Chester, NY, Over the river and through the woods to Downtown Warwick we go ..., Terry Reilly, and Staff.

This is a great local marketing piece. Nicely done.

3rd place—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN, Back in the Classroom, Tina McMillan.

I loved the concept on all of your entries, but the art work was the most eye catching on this one. Good job!

Honorable Mention(s)—Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN; Mountain View Telegraph, Moriarty, NM.

BEST MULTIPLE ADVERTISER SECTION

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 5,000

1st place—The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI, 2011 Lakes Edition, Break out of the routine and have an adventure, Diane Everson, staff.

Wow! This a wonderful special section. The time and effort spent on this piece shows. Everyone involved should be very proud.

2nd place—The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI, The Resorter, Fall 2011, ArtPrize special section, Scott Sullivan, Joleen Christine, Sara Ramaker, Matt Gliwa, Chris McDuff.

The color and layout on all the pages really made this special section stand out. Beautiful!

3rd place—The Pinckneyville Press, Anna, IL, 89th Annual Pinckneyville Mardi Gras, Shea Campanella, Judy Mayer, Jessica Holder, Jeff Egbert, Sarah Shasteen, Pat Bathon.

What a great piece! Looks like the whole city participated in this special section. Pinckneyville Mardi Gras looks like a lot of fun!

BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

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

1st place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, National Newspaper Week, Staff.

Well written articles about where people read their newspaper. I bet this was a very popular series. Excellent promotion for National Newspaper Week.

2nd place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Advertising Works!, Marketing Department.

What a great way to use your advertisers while promoting advertising in your paper.

3rd place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Thanks for a year to never Fredette, Alyssa Watson.

Very clever ad! Way to use and highlight the names in the copy. Well done.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT.

BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

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

1st place—Lawrence County Record, Mount Vernon, MO, 7,000 issues and counting ..., Kathy Seneker Fairchild.

Outstanding entry. Great planning, great design and execution. Newspaper's pride it its community shows with this top-notch entry.

2nd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Photo Reprints, Caryn Wooldridge.

This promo takes selling a newspaper's photos to a whole new level. Outstanding photography makes this entry shine.

3rd place—Sequoyah County Times, Sallisaw, OK, Where Do You Read Your TIMES?, Staff.

Many newspapers use this promotion, but few execute it as well as the Times. Clean, attractive design featuring readers' winning photos.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Fairbury Journal-News, Fairbury, NE.

BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION

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

1st place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Street Vendors, Ray Seale.

What a great concept to use your vendors in the ads promoting your paper. Makes me want to go buy a paper from one of them. Very well done.

2nd place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Read Me, iPad App is Here! and A Great Read!, Staff.

A very nice promotion to let your readers know how you are expanding your coverage and that they can receive the paper on an ipad or iPhone. Also liked how the actual paper was used on the ipad in the ads.

3rd place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Summer Visitor and Newcomer Guide, Julie Osmanski.

Loved the photo on the cover for your summer guide. Very serene and pleasant to look at. I imagine many people will pick this up.

BEST PUBLIC NOTICE SECTION,

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Crime Stoppers of Wise County - Where Sex Offenders Reside in Wise County, Staff.

This was a very well-executed section showing head shots of dozens of sex offenders, sorted by town. Produced in full color, this section showed the offenders, their addresses and their transgressions. It had a national color map on the cover showing that their home state was above average in the number of sex offenders per capita. It also had good contact info if anyone needed to report a sex offender or crime. It was not only a great presentation for the client (the County Sheriff) but also chilling editorial content to look through the faces of all those offenders. The best public notice sections go beyond publishing legal notices by trying to make them interesting content as well and/or they educate the public about a topic or what public notices are. Making the content easy to read and scan are bonuses, too. This section did a great job on all counts.

2nd place—Central City News, Baton Rouge, LA, Staff.

This paper broke up more than a dozen pages of legal ads with nearly 40 color photos from a Christmas parade. I had a lot of nits to pick with the packaging (why not tell me on the Page One photo that there were 40 more inside?) and even the photos (too many people staring at the camera), but this paper gets an A for creativity! I'm sure the photos drew people through the section and something that might have been simply thrown away had a double win for both the advertiser (because readership is the reason to keep this stuff in local newspapers) and the reader (who got to see about a hundred local faces that never would have made print without all those legal ads). I would have loved to see an article in the section explaining how things get on the list of unclaimed funds or even how to make a claim. That would have taken this section up a notch.

3rd place—The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee, WI, Staff

The Daily Reporter did a nice job of explaining public notices, what they are and how to place one on their cover page, which was accessible and understandable. Nicely done and thoughtful work for readers. The notices themselves were presented in a traditional way beyond that—which is to say in tiny type that was difficult to read or penetrate. But the inviting cover text helped push this entry above the rest.

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Daily Division

1st place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Future Leaders, Staff.

Basic Idea makes this the winner. If I were in business in that area I would purchase a full page color ad! I would have liked more color on ads but the sheer number of ads is impressive. Section as a whole was good, ads showed well against editorial. Basic logo info is important in print advertising and the ads reflected that.

2nd place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Housing Guide: The 2011 Adventure, Staff.

From cover to back page, this is a do-not-miss edition for

students. I'm not sure how many ads were created in-house (and that's a compliment)—they all were well designed and informative.

3rd place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Antelope Valley Lifestyle, Marketing Department.

Great cover followed by colorful ads AND the Contents page is very well done. Kudos for having large number of coupons but disappointed that not all coupons had business name and/or logo in it. (old school training—look at national brand coupons, no matter size they include it) It's clear the sales team and ad graphics team gave the editorial team a lot of space to work with. Winning entry for sure.

Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale CA; The Daily Universe, Provo, UT.

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Non-daily Division, circulation 10,000 or more

1st place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Taos Summer/Fall & Winter/Spring Visitor and Newcomer Guides, Staff.

1st place—TIE—The Taos News, Life at a Higher Level Two large (11.5 x 13) full color Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall Visitors Guides, each 160 pages and apparently sold as a package as most of the advertisers ran in both editions

A super production.

2nd place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Best of Taos, Staff.

Best of Taos Another successful 60-page full color celebration of the choices of the newspaper's readers as the best in dozens of classifications. A great guide for anyone planning a best-of promotion.

3rd place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Out & About, Staff. Out & About: 25 Years in Downeast Maine

Beautifully written and designed visitor guide on 11 x 13.5 bleached stock. a real gem.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM; The Taos News, Taos, NM, Taos.

BEST SALES PROMOTION SECTION OR EDITION

Non-daily Division, circulation less than 10,000

1st place—The Pagosa Springs Sun, Pagosa Springs, CO, Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide - Summer, Terri House, Shari Pierce, Mike Pierce.

A 140-page full color, coated stock magazine that had to be months in the planning and execution. Far larger newspapers would be proud to have produced such a professional and successful special section.

2nd place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Leelanau Visitors Guide 2011, Debra Campbell, Joy Holmes, Patrice Korson.

Another successful 116-page full color guide, a mix of coated stock and bleached newsprint that would be welcomed by visitors.

3rd place—Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI, Fall in Love with Leelanau, Debra Campbell, Joy Holmes, Patrice Korson.

Good concept, well executed. Love should be an easy sell for any newspaper.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Pagosa Springs Sun, Pagosa Springs, CO; The Pinckneyville Press, Anna, IL.

BEST SERIES AD IDEA- BLACK & WHITE

Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Cougar Dental, Alyssa Watson, James Gardner.

Clever. Eye-catching. Simple. Great job adding some fun to need for dental work!

2nd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Suburban Urology, Creative Services.

Urology advertiser—not the easiest account for newspaper ad illustrations, but this series does the trick with eye-catching art and copy.

3rd place—Wilson County News, Floresville, TX, Vineyard Funeral Homes, Cathy Green.

Simple design and layout, but effective use of advertiser-appropriate photos and copy.

Honorable Mention(s)—Sequoyah County Times, Sallisaw, OK.

BEST SERIES AD IDEA-COLOR

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

1st place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Bridal Showcase, Theresa Montoya Basaldua.

Love this concept. Very simple but effective. Nice way the ads look the same so you see it right away on the page. I couldn't wait to see what was said in the next ad!

2nd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Bravo, Staff.

Car ads can sometimes be hard to make interesting. I like the way you did these ads. I really liked the headline Driven by Las Cruces and the highlighting of one car. Nice job.

3rd place—Brentwood Press, San Clemente, CA, National Flooring, Annie Ray.

Very creative ads for a flooring company. Nice way to use the owner as a different character in each ad. I imagine the advertiser is very happy with these ads.

Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA.

BEST SERIES AD IDEA-COLOR

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

1st place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Teton Eye Clinic, Creative Services.

Creative, fun ad series proves simple, small-space ads can benefit from great color use. Limited color type very effective. Well done!

2nd place—Cadillac News, Cadillac, MI, Highpoint - Comics Ads, Kathryn Kidder, Amber Simonton, Kathy Walker.

Another strong creative entry. Ad team definitely was thinking outside the box on this ad series. Good job matching color use to cartoon design.

3rd place—Port Aransas South Jetty, Port Aransas, TX, Zarsky Lumber (6 AD), Elizabeth Weaver, Judy Krantz.

Good job developing and following theme on this series.

Simple but effective.

Honorable Mention(s)—Sequoyah County Times, Sallisaw, OK.

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA-BLACK & WHITE

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

1st place— The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Squinting to Read Sudoku?, Marlena Prophet.

Super headline. Asks a great question. Clean ad. Perfect use of photo. Ad is located perfectly with the Sudoku and Crossword puzzle.

2nd place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Get that Warm, Fuzzy Holiday Feeling, David Bowman.

The headline works great with the socks and the snowflake artwork. Clean layout and message. Super offer from the client. This coupon must have worked!

3rd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Red Wing Shoes, Marissa Barrio.

Creative use of headline and art. Simple message. Gets right to the point.

Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA; The Daily Universe, Provo, UT.

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA-BLACK & WHITE

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

1st place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, Best Elected Official in Wise County - Kevin Burns, Staff.

Great, eye catching design. Unique & stands would stand out from everything on the page

2nd place—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO, Holiday Extravaganza—S&W Auto, Darci Tomky.

Large ad tastefully done. Not over crowded. Lights and darks mixed nicely.

3rd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Slideshow with Patagonia Trail Running Ambassador Chloe Lanthier: Hell in Paradise, Caryn Wooldridge.

Good use of a colorful photo type done in gray scale

Honorable Mention(s)—The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, CO; Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY.

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA-COLOR

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

1st place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Stray Hearts, Julie Osmanski.

Wonderful artwork. Clean, creative idea. Gets your attention. Great headline.

2nd place—The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME, Rosen's - Maine's Best Selection of Pendleton, Staff.

Wonderful use of photos. Clean layout. Just enough words and description.

3rd place—The Taos News, Taos, NM, Taos Retirement Village, Ray Seale.

Clean ad. Great tie to the theme of heros. Good use of artwork and headline.

Honorable Mention(s)—The Taos News, Taos, NM; The Taos News, Taos, NM.

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA-COLOR

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

1st place—Community Impact Newspaper-Lake Travis/Westlake, Pflugerville, TX, 11 plates & wine, Lisa Rehbein.

Super use of the color of the wine and the stain from the glass. Super use of photos. Clean layout. Makes me want to go to Eleven!

2nd place—Brentwood Press, San Clemente, CA, Swim Lessons - Delta Valley Athletic Club, John Carter.

The top photo makes it extremely clear what this ad is about. Fun and colorful photos. Great use of the map. Clear message.

3rd place—Las Cruces Bulletin, The Las Cruces, NM, NMSU Aggies are Tough Enough to Wear Pink, Theresa Montoya Basaldua. Super use of the color pink. Great positioning of the photo and verbiage placement. Really a standout ad!

Honorable Mention(s)—Community Impact Newspaper/Georgetown/Hutto/Taylor Edition, Pflugerville, TX; The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM.

BEST SINGLE AD IDEA-COLOR

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

1st place—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY, Freedom of Motion, Desiree Gilbert, Lisa Beres. Great use of font & image. Stands out & sticks in your mind

2nd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Halloween Bash, Stacey Oldham.

Awesome image while message is clear & clean.

3rd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Lucchese Boots - Jackson Bootlegger, Creative Services.

Nicely placed dominate image & good branding

Honorable Mention(s)—Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY; Plainwell & Otsego, The Union Enterprise, Allegan, MI.

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

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

1st place—Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition, Pflugerville, TX, Jolie Salon, Rhonda Holden.

Immediately liked this ad. Great use of graphics and limited color use. I imagine the client was very pleased. Easy choice for First Place! Congratulations.

2nd place—The Daily Universe, Provo, UT, Squinting to Read Sudoku?, Marlena Prophet.

Clever! Great placement and original idea!

3rd place—The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, MO, Alvin Ailey, Angie Jackson. A runner along the bottom of the page is always a challenging space to work with; you did so with great style, and achieved an eye-catching layout in this small space. Great job.

Honorable Mention(s)—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA; Community Impact Newspaper/Leander Cedar Park Edition, Pflugerville, TX.

BEST SMALL-PAGE AD

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

1st place—Warwick Advertiser, Chester, NY, Hip & Chic, Staff.

Great shape that makes the ad stand out. reflects the brand—Hip & Chic!

2nd place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, 2011 Cruise Nights, Staff.

Good image & placement.

3rd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Jackson Hole Art Quilt Show - Stitch N Time, Lydia Wanner.

Colorful and great use of text vertical and horizontal on the bottom.

Honorable Mention(s)—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY.

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

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

1st place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, NMSU Aggies are Tough Enough to Wear Pink, Theresa Basaldua.

The combination of shades of pink and gold make this ad pop right off the page. Very eye-catching and effective.

2nd place—Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA, Prestige Assisted Living, Staff. This ad stands out because of the colored rings around the photos. They draw the eye and attract interest.

3rd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Duffey's Beauty Salon, Ramon Gonzalez. The contrast of the red and green in this ad, plus the graphics, make it stand out.

Honorable Mention(s)—Community Impact Newspaper/Northwest Houston Edition, Pflugerville, TX.

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

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

1st place—Sequoyah County Times, Sallisaw, OK, Dwight Mission Quilt Retreat, Staff.

Wonderful juxtaposition of traditional sepia tone (harkening back to bygone days of quilting bees) and full color on patches spelling out quilt. Aside from the contest, I think it is a clever

marketing idea and can't help but wonder how successful was the event.

2nd place—Hutchinson Leader Hutchinson, MN, American Red Cross, Tina McMillan.

Using black and white photo with just the red highlighted really packs a punch for the Red Cross. Very creative use of color to bring home the point of the advertisement.

3rd place—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX, 2011 Cruise Nights, Staff.

Loved the dominant graphic in this one, which clearly tells the story of what you're going to encounter at this event. The overall color use is subtle but adds substantially to the impact of the ad.

BEST USE OF AD COLOR

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

1st place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Marshall Noice - Altamira Gallery, Lydia Wanner.

Subtle yet eye-catching color sets this ad apart from the others. Very polished look, beautiful ad.

2nd place—Palatka Daily News, Palatka, FL, The Most Wonderful Sale of the Year, Judy Markey, Jeannette Eveland.

Nice use of color on this winter ad, simple and clean layout. Well done!

3rd place—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY, Teton County School District, Lydia Wanner.

This ad is just fun! The road at the bottom a nice touch - liked

The National Newspaper Association wishes to thank the following individuals for their time and talent in judging the 2012 Better Newspaper Contest, Better Newspaper Advertising Contest & Newspaper And Education

Anne W. Anderson
Dennis Anderson
Ashleigh David
Jamie Baker-Nantz
Jerry Bellune
Joni Berg
Mark Berryman
Brenda Johnson Brandt
Wayne Braverman
David C. Breland
Laurie Ezzell Brown
Kelli Bultena
Rick Bussler
Mark K. Campbell
Rusty Carter
Jennifer Cone Chciuk
J.P. Crumrine
Charles N. Davis
Sharon DiMauro
Tess Elliott
Cheryl Ellis
Bill Felber
Sam Finazzo
Ralph Fitzgerald
Kent Ford
Tania French
Jim Hamilton
Doug Hanneman
Richard Hanner
Cynthia Haynes
Edward F. Henninger
John Hewitt
Katherine E. Hill
Harry L. Hix, Jr.
Dodie Hook
Josh Hoppe
Terri House
Travis Hudgons

how the blocks of colors were used to divide up the information. Great job.

Honorable Mention(s)—Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY; Jackson Hole News & Guide Jackson, WY.

BEST USE OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN ADS Daily & Non-daily Division

1st place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Bravo, Staff.

Car dealers are difficult to get to think outside the box—which makes this local photography effort incredible. It obviously took the account executive a long time to put this together, and it really paid off for a hometown feel that will make this auto dealer stand out from the crowd. Well done!

2nd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, Toucan Market, Staff.

This is a delightful grocery ad that really makes me as a consumer want to shop there. The reader definitely feels welcomed, and the photos are very well composed.

3rd place—The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM, NMSU Aggies are Tough Enough to Wear Pink, Staff.

Nice variation on the pink theme with a local runner.

Outstanding use of large focal point.

Honorable Mention(s)—Wise County Messenger, Decatur, TX.

Woody Jenkins
Tad Johnson
Jerry Jordan
Connie Korbel
Diana Kramer
Cecile (Wehrman) Krimm
Lisa Loomis
Stacey S. Manning
Dave Marner
Brian Martin
Cherri Medcalf
Bonnie Miller
Ellen Mortensen
John Nelson
Nancy O'Halloran
Bill Ostendorf
Russell Pankonin
Bev Pechan
Melissa Perner
Steve Ranson
Keith Rathbun
Dan Robrish
Ray Seale
Larry See Jr.
Jeri Seely
Carol A. Sisco
Russel G. Skiles
Gary & Helen Sosniecki
Jim Stasiowski
Jay T. Strasner
Greg Tock
Gloria Trotter
Jack Miles Ventimiglia
Barbara A. (Barb) Walter
Kay Watson
Margaret Williams
Amy Wilson



FIRST PLACE, general excellence, daily division
Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, CA



FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation 10,000 or more
The Taos News, Taos, NM



FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation 6,000 - 9,999
The Southampton Press-Eastern Edition, Southampton, NY

Congratulations

to all the winners of NNA's Better Newspaper Contest

and

Better Newspaper Advertising Contest

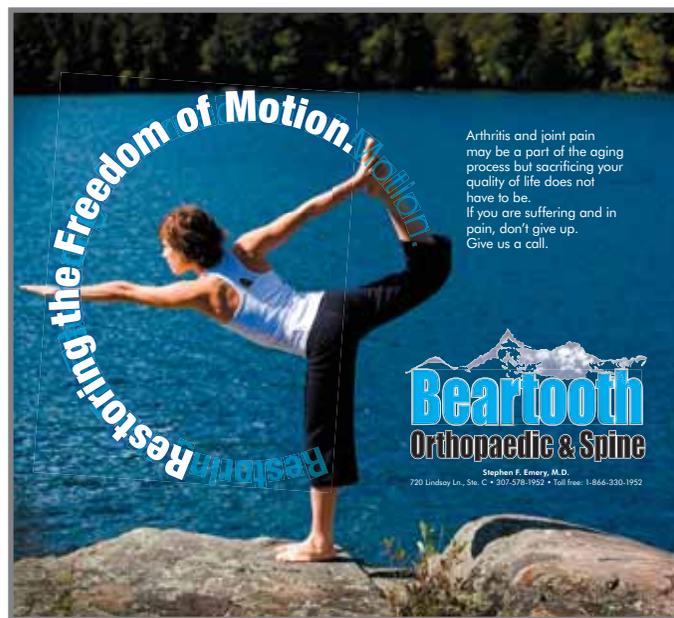
from the board and staff of the

National Newspaper Association

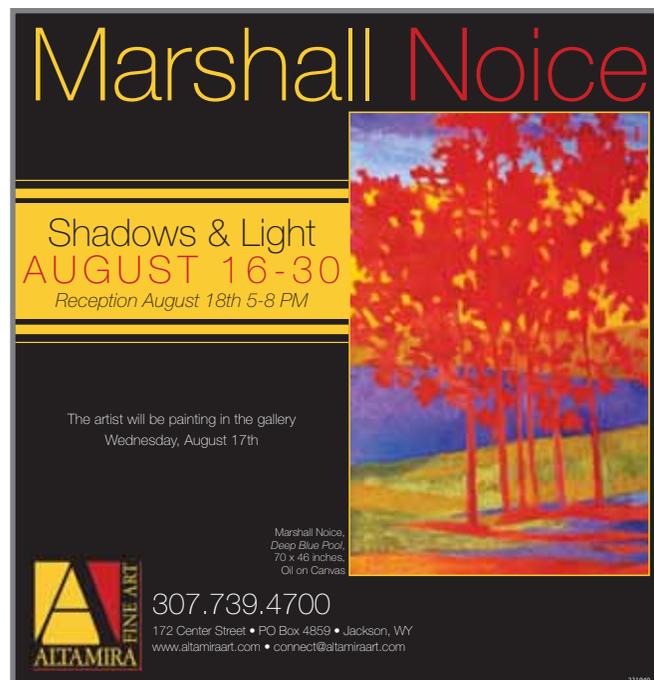


BETTER NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS

Visit www.nnaweb.org
or contact Sara Walsh
at 573-777-4980, or sarawalsh@nna.org



FIRST PLACE, best single ad idea - color, daily & non-division, circulation less than 10,000
The Cody Enterprise, Cody, WY



FIRST PLACE, best use of ad color, non-daily division, circulation 8,000 - 15,999
Jackson Hole News & Guide, Jackson, WY

defending the title

Hutchinson Leader

Teachers oppose contract offer

In God they trust

Hutchinson to tackle \$154,000 budget gap

Teachers' union members opposed a contract offer that would have raised their pay by 3.5 percent over the next three years.

Members of the Hutchinson School District Board of Education met Monday night to discuss the offer.

“T

...the board of education...

WEDNESDAY 36 17

THURSDAY 36 17

FRIDAY 36 17

SATURDAY 36 17

SUNDAY 36 17

Town & Country tire (320) 587-5250 www.TownAndCountryTire.com

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation 3,000 - 5,999 Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, MN

CATTLEMAN'S BALL ARRIVES; SPECIAL SECTION BEIGE PROVIDES INFORMATION

WEST POINT NEWS

Roof raised, tickets sold out in preparation for the Ball...

Dry land acre values increase most in county

Veterans, their families thanked for sacrifices they made in name of freedom...

Large tents were raised Monday morning north of the Knolls Food Center, site for this year's Cattleman's Ball of Nebraska.

...the roof was raised...

...dry land acre values...

...veterans and their families...

LEGAL OPINION CALLS ELECTION MAILER ILLEGAL

...the election mailer...

INSIDE: Jagt eliminated from playoffs

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000 The West Point News, West Point, NE

THE SUN SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Former VP hid, dumped millions

Board settles with Singh

UCSD raises SWC TAG GPA standard

Legal opinion calls election mailer illegal

INSIDE: Jagt eliminated from playoffs

...the former vice president...

...the board of trustees...

...the university...

...the election mailer...

FIRST PLACE, general excellence, college division, daily & non-daily The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, CA

now open!

11 eleven plates & wine

a dining room with **great views of the Hill Country** and one of the best patio atmosphere's in Austin

join us for **nightly happy hour**

Monday - Thursday 11am - 10pm
Friday & Saturday 11am - 11pm
Sunday Brunch 10am - 3pm

Monday-Friday 3pm to 6pm
Saturday 3pm to 5pm

1/2 price off select small plates,
\$2 off beer, \$3 off glasses of wine,
\$11 off bottles of wine

www.elevenplates.com

3801 N. Capital Of Texas Hwy., Suite C-200
Austin, TX 78746 | Located in Davenport Village **328-0110**

FIRST PLACE, best single ad idea - color, daily & non-daily division, circulation 16,000 or more Community Impact Newspaper-Lake Travis/Westlake, Pflugerville, TX

NMSU Aggies are Tough Enough to Wear Pink

New Mexico State University would like to thank the university and Las Cruces community for its generous and enthusiastic support of NMSU Aggies Are Tough Enough to Wear Pink. Your demonstration of faith, hope, love and strength are why our community is such a great place to live, learn and thrive.

NMSU Campus Events in Support of Tough Enough to Wear Pink

Tuesday, Oct. 11 Student Dinner, Fashion Show and Silent Auction; Taos Dining Hall in Corbett Center, 5-8 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 12 Luminaria Remembrance Ceremony in front of Pan Am Center, 6-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 13 Pop Rally Outdoor Stage near Corbett Center, 6-9 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 14 Pink Happy Hour and Obstacle Course Competition International Mall, 4-6 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 15 5K Fun Run and Walk; Horseshoe in front of Hadley Hall, 8 a.m.

For more information, contact Julie Weber at 575-646-3202 or jeweber@ad.nmsu.edu

FIRST PLACE, best use of ad color, daily & non-daily division, circulation 16,000 or more The Las Cruces Bulletin, Las Cruces, NM

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

DOGS

ADOPT • DONATE • VOLUNTEER

www.strayhearts.org

1200 ST. FRANCIS LANE • JUST OFF SALAZAR ROAD
TAOS • 575.758.2981
PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

FIRST PLACE, best single ad idea - color, daily & non-daily division The Taos News, Taos, NM



In 2003, NNA initiated a Best of Newspaper In Education contest to recognize the excellent effort made by many community newspapers to engage young readers. In an effort to recognize traditional and non-traditional newspaper and education programs, this year, the contest was redesigned and renamed the Newspaper And Education contest. Kidsville News!, a literacy and educational newspaper, based in Fayetteville, NC, sponsored the contest. First place winners received \$100 along with an award certificate. Kidsville! mascot Truman made a special appearance to help present the awards to the contest winners. The Summerville (SC) Journal Scene won first place, newspapers supporting education and civic literacy. Standing with Truman are (left to right) NNA President Reed Anfinson, Journal Scene Publisher Ellen Priest, Judy Watts, Truman, Chris Zoeller, regional ad director for the Summerville Journal Scene, Bill Bowman, president and founder of Kidsville! News, and NNA Contest Committee Chair Jeff Farren.

NEWSPAPER AND EDUCATION CONTEST

DIVISION A—TRADITIONAL NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION STORIES AND CURRICULUM

Daily newspapers, circulation 10,000 or more

1st Place—The Seattle Times, Seattle, WA, The Seattle Times Newspapers In Education Bartell Drugs Health Rocks!, Diane Brady, Tamara Galvan, Katie Johnson.

Taking the NIE program from reading to health, and then aligning with prominent local institutions—Bartell Drugs and Pacific Science Center—is a sure win.

2nd Place—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Saint Louis, MO, Reading with the Rams, Cathy Sewell, NIE manager.

Who could ignore this campaign? Full-color house ads, tweets by pro football players ... no wonder reading increased in the St. Louis area.

3rd Place—The Lima News, Lima, OH, Josh Franklin's Far Out Family Blog, Ohio Newspaper Association NIE Committee, Anne Coburn-Griffis, chair.

This is an interesting project, and I enjoyed reading it. But it would have scored better if there had been more data regarding results or participation.

Honorable Mention(s)—Gettysburg Times, Gettysburg, PA, Gettysburg Times Design An Ad Project, Holly Fletcher, NIE coordinator, Circulation Department staff, Advertising Department staff, Editorial staff/Photographers, Production/Graphics Department staff.

This is a big project, and I'll bet the kids had fun. But it's hard for me to put it into the context of the judging standards without more information. Did the student artists interview the businesses? Did they visit websites?

DIVISION A—TRADITIONAL NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION STORIES AND CURRICULUM

Non-daily newspapers, circulation 5,000 or more

1st Place—Wilson County News, Floresville, TX, Wilson County News NIE: A Community of Lifelong Learners, Tiffany K. Polasek, Elaine Kolodziej, Kristen Weaver.

Creating Wilson was a brilliant move for the Wilson County News. Now there's a mascot to lead the effort. He's friendly and identifiable and once in place, not expensive to keep. This is a traditional campaign, linking young readers to the newspaper via activities and stories, and it's well done. I enjoyed the Young Journalists column—a nice touch.

DIVISION B—NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND CIVIC LITERACY

Daily newspapers, circulation 10,000 or more

1st Place—The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, CO, Community Connections, Debra Robbins, NIE coordinator, Ann Wright, features writer, Mike Erskine, creative services director, Sentinel feature writers and Sentinel photographers, Laurena Davis, managing editor.

How do we make our newspaper useful to teachers and relevant to students? A great deal of thought has gone into answering this question in a way that works to enhance readership and civic engagement. Combining the printed

newspaper and e-edition is very smart. The ads are very strong in design and content, so much better than the standard list of sponsors I typically see. These ads tell us why the program is important, and how it works. Well done.

DIVISION B—NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND CIVIC LITERACY

Non-daily newspapers, circulation 5,000 or more

1st Place—The Summerville Journal Scene, Summerville, SC, The Turtle Times, a Newspaper Project of the Summerville Journal Scene, staff.

This is an amazing entry! Making a newspaper fresh and real to students in this way is hard work. And yet, you've done it. I imagine this project created a buzz throughout the community of students, parents, educators and businesses—just what a really great project should do. Linking it all to the writing standards was a tremendous idea. And yes, it made writing real! Great job.

2nd Place—The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, IA, The N'West Iowa REVIEW All-Academic Team, staff.

Choosing to honor students who perform academically is a wonderful idea. Not everyone works hard for public acclaim, but it certainly doesn't hurt. Keeping this program alive through good and tough times requires dedication. You've chosen lead sponsors well. Good job.

DIVISION B—NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND CIVIC LITERACY

Non-daily newspapers, circulation less than 5,000

1st Place—Lakota Country Times, Martin, SD, AMERICAN HORSE SCHOOL, Connie L. Smith, owner, Lakota Country Times

staff, Jodi Richards, American Horse School, American Horse School staff.

This project does a fantastic job of linking the Native American culture of oral story-telling to print journalism. These students are learning that their (written) words matter, and that stories about their fellow students' accomplishments are being spread beyond their immediate school. Bravo to the Lakota Country Times for starting this project, and then spinning it out to more schools and communities. It cannot be easy or simple to do this on an ongoing basis.

2nd Place—The Commercial Record, Allegan, MI, DES Gazette, Cheryl Kaechele, publisher, Scott Sullivan, editor, Sara Ramaker, copy editor, Matt Gliwa, graphic artist.

Working with young writers to help them produce a newspaper is no easy task. And then getting it into a publishable format helps turn young writers into young readers. Well done!

3rd Place—Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, MO, The Mustang Memo and Democracy Day, Tammy Witherspoon.

Coordinating speakers for this event takes a great deal of effort. The follow-up coverage is the linchpin of the entire project—closing the loop between school and the broader community.

Honorable Mention(s)—Lakota Country Times, Martin, SD, SD GEARUP Summer Students Complete Tipi Building Session, Connie L. Smith, owner, Lakota Country Times staff, Darla Drew Lerdal and SD GEARUP staff.

Although not a NIE project in the traditional sense, this is a broad project that goes above and beyond traditional reporting. It's important for a community to see itself in the newspaper, and you've helped to ensure that the GEARUP students and their families will become newspaper readers. Also, that this particular project will continue to receive funding in these uncertain times.



FIRST PLACE, best sports photo, non-daily division, circulation less than 3,000

By Willis Mahannah | West Point News, West Point, NE

HEAD OVER HEELS FOR BULL RIDING—Jeff Kraft is about to bite the dust after being rudely ejected from his perch atop this bull during the bull riding event Saturday night at the Cuming County Fair. Fans filled the bleacher seats early and were lined up along the dike to catch the action.