**NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION**

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**2015**

**Better Newspaper Editorial Contest**

**WINNERS**

**(Winners listed A-Z by newspaper).**

**Note: Winners must remain members in good standing with NNA through Oct. 2015 to remain eligible for this year’s awards.**

***The Akron Hometowner, Akron, Iowa***

**Second Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Akron, Iowa. Credit(s): staff. Judges' Comments: "A really great looking section. You showed the community what you could produce and gained the respect of city leaders and advertisers - not to mention your readers. Well done!"

***The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina***

**First Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Christmas pork. Credit(s): Tom Boney, Jr. Judges' Comments: "A powerfully stated position in defense of the public treasury. It rightly points out the impact of wasteful spending on the general public. Great tone calling politicians out by name. A great example of local editorial writing."

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Final filings in DOJ case vs. sheriff. Credit(s): Tomas Murawski & Tom Boney, Jr. Judges' Comments: "This is a solid piece showcasing an issue that likely generated huge public interest. The writing is crisp and clear. It impressive to see the amount of space devoted to this story. The only drawback is that such a story is naturally non-visual. But the paper did a great job in putting together sidebar pieces, graphics and timelines to enhance the visual element. Great effort in detailing a huge story."

***The Allegan County News, Allegan, Michigan***

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Fennville storyteller tells of train robbery. Credit(s): Virginia Ransbottom. Judges' Comments: "Good story re-told from the perspective of an aging member of the community."

**Third Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Martin school class linking students benefits both. Credit(s): Virginia Ransbottom. Judges' Comments: "This story is driven by the experience, which is conveyed by Link students, the parents of autistic children and teachers. It is a complete package. Excellent work by the reporter to interview these people and synthesize the information so it is compelling to readers."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999*. Entry Title: So close ... Wayland falls just short in state semifinals. Credit(s): Jason Wesseldyk. Judges' Comments: "Strong action in this photo and the flying dust accents the feel of the moment. Good crop and good play. Nicely done."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: So close ... Wayland falls just short in state semifinals. Credit(s): Jason Wesseldyk. Judges' Comments: "Placing second in the state championship tournament obviously has human interest and appeal to the readers. So, the story scores in that regard. However, it also scores in the quality of writing and construction of the story. It grabbed my attention immediately and kept me interested throughout. Good quotes. Story captures the feelings and reactions of the coach and players."

***Antelope Valley Press, Palmdale, California***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Community Picking Up Daisy's. Credit(s): Christina Ramos. Judges' Comments: "Christina Ramos used her camera to capture an image that transcends anything that can be described in words. April Ray picks up the pieces as she begins to reassemble her livelihood. A strong, strong image that deserved to run larger."

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Gabriel Fernandez Grand Jury. Credit(s): Andrew Clark. Judges' Comments: "Powerful piece! The reader ends up weeping for the child. How could they? How could the system be so blind? This is one of those stories painfully difficult to put into words, but also a story that needed to be told."

**First Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Mental Health. Credit(s): Andrew Clark. Judges' Comments: "Andrew Clark offered a pair of excellent entries in this contest, but his look into a local mental health care crisis takes top honors. Clark put together a very thorough examination of the issue in his three-part series and hits all of the requirements for this contest better than the other strong entries—and there plenty of them. This was a tough contest to judge."

**Second Place**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: The Great Recession. Credit(s): Jim Skeen. Judges' Comments: "Very well-written story. Great use of graphics."

**Second Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Teachers Dig Deep Into Own Wallets. Credit(s): Julie Drake. Judges' Comments: "This story does a great job of explaining the reasons why teachers use their own money for classroom supplies. It is a compelling piece."

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Dog Jumping. Credit(s): Ron Siddle. Judges' Comments: "Excellent shot from a great angle that showed both dog and owner working this stunt, except the dog had to do the diving!"

**Second Place**, *Best Business Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Virgin Galactic to Carry on. Credit(s): Allison Gatlin. Judges' Comments: "Good article - well written."

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Knight Family Legacy. Credit(s): Merisa Jensen. Judges' Comments: "Good story. Well-written."

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Mustang Power. Credit(s): Christina Ramos. Judges' Comments: "What a moment. Crisp shot, great emotion, great composition/crop, eye-catching."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Rapist lands in Lake L.A. Credit(s): Claudia Lopez and Chuck Bostwick. Judges' Comments: "I can hear the coffee shop talk as individuals read your paper and more specifically the article, Rapist lands in Lake L.A., as they say, 'You've got to be kidding’ and then going home and locking their doors. The writer put a human element into an already human laden story."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Corey King Verdict. Credit(s): Andrew Clark. Judges' Comments: "Historical perspective provided so that someone just tuning in can understand the King sentencing."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: AV Hospital Staff Busy Saving Lives. Credit(s): Andrew Clark. Judges' Comments: "Andrew Clark gives a good look at the operations inside a hospital emergency room."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: AV Scrapbook. Credit(s): Karen Maeshiro. Judges' Comments: "Even though this was the EIGHTH annual issue of the Scrapbook, the quality (and quantity) remain strong and the effort is worth it. Lots of good news-editorial, advertisements, photographs, color, etc. Good job to one and all."

**Honorable Mention**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Future Leaders. Credit(s): Valley Press Staff. Judges' Comments: "Congratulations on a product that focuses on what's right with the youth of today!"

***The Ark, Tiburon, California***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999*. Entry Title: Get the bad guys out. Credit(s): Emily Lavin. Judges' Comments: "Kid-with-leukemia features are common, and they often get entered in contests. This one is exceptional because of the creative, informative lead, which draws the reader into the story. It could stand some editing for length, but the quotations, good writing and story development maintain reader interest. Fine work with a common feature theme. Lead creates tension, narrative evokes horror of the stricken child, resolution provides welcome relief with child's recovery and increasing success in treatment of this dread disease.”

**First Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: The Ark - Best Local News Coverage. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "This newspaper had many entry points, a good mix of news and community information, and graphics to draw readers into the story more. I especially enjoyed the calendar of events. Also had many fun tidbits of information and good coverage of several different topics."

**First Place**, *Best Public Notice Journalism, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Councils eye $300k school bus subsidy. Credit(s): Deirdre McCrohan. Judges' Comments: "Deirdre McCrohan's persistence got in the way of government officials hoping to ram a measure through without public input. The issue was never made public with a notice; it was up to the Ark staff to help the public know."

***The Ark, Tiburon, California***

**First Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Tiburon's 50th Anniversary. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Nice-looking and well- designed section. A surefire keeper for the community for years to come."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Tiburon man shot twice in apparent road-rage case. Credit(s): Deirdre McCrohan. Judges' Comments: "A clear picture of the events of a road-rage incident make this a readable, disturbing story. Nice job of external quotes."

***Azle News, Azle, Texas***

**First Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Here's Why We Didn't Go Home the Other Day. Credit(s): Mark K. Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Spare, descriptive, moving. A fine piece of writing."

**Third Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Earthquakes: Facts Versus Fervor. Credit(s): Mark K. Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Great tone. Wonderful approach. Well done."

**Third Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-7,999*. Entry Title: Pro Tips From the Photographer of the Year. Credit(s): Mark K. Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Well done."

***The Bandera Bulletin, Bandera, Texas***

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Focused and Determined. Credit(s): Jessica Hawley-Jerome. Judges' Comments: "Cute photo of kids ... these always grab a reader's attention."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Athletic booster clubs in legal limbo. Credit(s): Jessica Hawley-Jerome. Judges' Comments: "Nice work in seeking to providing some sunshine into part of what matters in small-town Texas−high school football (and other sports)−and to do it even though it ruffled feathers in the community."

***The Barberton Herald, Barberton, Ohio***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Barberton Herald Best Breaking-News Photo. Credit(s): Rich Muller. Judges' Comments: "What a gripping photo of a dog rescue. I especially took note of the dog's teeth as rescuers tried to pull him out. Good job capturing that intensity!"

***The Blackshear Times, Blackshear, Georgia***

**Third Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: He's nuts about bolts. Credit(s): Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: "Well-developed story provides a solid backdrop for the subject matter. Excellent conversational tone to draw readers."

**Third Place**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Your home insurance bill could eventually feel the heat. Credit(s): Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: "This is an interesting story that clearly outlines the issue that most readers would never have considered, had it not been for the report. It would have benefited from the perspective of an affected homeowner."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: A ‘smashing’ good time. Credit(s): Wayne Hardy. Judges' Comments: "That had to hurt his elbow. Great stop-action as the bricks explode."

***The Brunswick Beacon, Shallotte, North Carolina***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999*. Entry Title: Nora's Christmas story. Credit(s): Laura Lewis. Judges' Comments: "I absolutely loved this story. Well written and informative. Nora sounds like a very special lady - thank you for writing about her. Even though the story was a little long, I was captivated from the first paragraph all the way to the last paragraph due to your descriptive writing and good use of quotes."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Hewett’s death a tragic ending to a sad story. Credit(s): Jackie Torok. Judges' Comments: "A nice editorial about a former county official. Very well written."

***Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, Wyoming***

**First Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Buffalo Bulletin. Credit(s): Buffalo Bulletin staff. Judges' Comments: "From start to finish, this publication practically screams ‘local flavor.’ Fantastic variety of topics explored with a solid mix for readers of all backgrounds."

***Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, Wyoming***

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999*. Entry Title: Ride 'em, Cowboy! Credit(s): Alex Shoemaker. Judges' Comments: "Lots of action in this shot, but it's all focused on the bull and rider. Looks like that rider is about to make strong contact with the earth. Good cropping. Good play. Fine photo."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Kaycee Brothers Pass on Reins of Family Ranch. Credit(s): Andy Kerstetter. Judges' Comments: "Family ranches are still alive, but getting fewer in number. This story takes an interesting look at the passing of yet another family ranch. This situation is somewhat different in that the owners are two unmarried brothers retiring due to age and they have no offspring to inherit or take over the ranch. The writer does a good job of interviewing the brothers and working their thoughts into the story, as well as backgrounding the family history in operation of the ranch. Interesting read."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Unschooling Movement Takes Root. Credit(s): Emma Kennedy. Judges' Comments: "This is a very good story. The interviews with family members were compelling. It would have benefited from perspective of the students and statistics to back up claims. Data on a broad cross-section of students who are homeschooled would have been better than relying on anecdotes."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: One Year Later. Credit(s): Jen Sieve-Hicks.

***Cedar County News, Hartington, Nebraska***

**Third Place**, *Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Hartington Entrepreneurs. Credit(s): Wayne Stroot. Judges' Comments: "I liked the cartoon, especially when paired with the editorial directed at the high school graduate and the community's ECAP program."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Don't Get Caught Up In Party Politics. Credit(s): Rob Dump. Judges' Comments: "A well-written appeal to look past the party to the candidate. Smartly done."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Rob Dump St. Patrick's Day. Credit(s): Rob Dump. Judges' Comments: "Going forward, no excuses allowed for not wearing green on St. Pat's. After all - you're part Irish."

***The Chaffee County Times, Buena Vista, Colorado***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: River of risks: Deadliest year on the Arkansas belies safety record. River accidents claim two. Credit(s): Maisie Ramsay. Judges' Comments: "This was a comprehensive piece that covered all the bases. Also worth noting was the deaths sidebar. A great job of complete coverage."

**First Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Tests take toll. Credit(s): Maisie Ramsay. Judges' Comments: "This story was well-researched using multiple sources, including teachers and administrators. A student perspective would have been helpful. This story also would have been helped by an estimate or specific number of hours a student spends on testing each year. The 14 percent number was good, but that seemed to tell me how much time the schools spends on testing. I really liked the teacher talking about what curriculum adjustments needed to be made. The quotes from individual teachers in the sidebar helped breathe more life into the story."

**First Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Bull rider. Credit(s): John King. Judges' Comments: "Photo is colorful and shows lots of action. It's an attention-getter!"

**Second Place**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Workforce housing crunch. Credit(s): Kim Marquis. Judges' Comments: "Well-researched story with excellent anecdote from sources who are affected by the issue."

**Second Place**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Pot therapy curbs seizures. Credit(s): Maisie Ramsay. Judges' Comments: "Great details. Informative sidebar a nice touch for those looking for more information on the topic."

***Cody Enterprise, Cody, Wyoming***

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Earl Durand. Credit(s): Amber Peabody. Judges' Comments: "The feature about the young friend of the killer−the central figure here−makes the entry. That piece could have had a stronger lead, but the strong quotes are woven nicely into a compelling narrative. A good read, even of the original reporting of the crime spree."

***Colby Free Press, Colby, Kansas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: For Crying Out Loud: Four in Playoffs Enough. Credit(s): R.B. Headley. Judges' Comments: "Enjoyed the passion but needed more editing."

***The Commercial Record, Saugatuck, Michigan***

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000*. Entry Title: Fowl friends 'goosed' again by Gert/George. Credit(s): Scott Sullivan. Judges' Comments: "Each time I pulled up this story, it made me smile - no chuckle is closer to reality. I loved it!"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Making up angels. Credit(s): Scott Sullivan. Judges' Comments: "Great faces and choice of photos to round out the theme!"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Blue Star: Under God. Credit(s): Scott Sullivan. Judges' Comments: "A little controversial, a little sarcastic - good job."

***Community Impact Newspaper - Northwest Austin Edition, Pflugerville, Texas***

**Third Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: AISD faces drop in student population. Credit(s): Kelli Weldon. Judges' Comments: "Good. Some discussion of strategy, but no mention of children without identifying how many leave?"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: City boosts recycle services to meet zero-waste goals. Credit(s): Amy Denney. Judges' Comments: "Excellent info-graphics; very informative."

***Community Impact Newspaper - Cy-Fair Edition, Pflugerville, Texas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Cy-Fair ISD Overcomes Financial Challenges to Keep Up With Growth. Credit(s): Marie Leonard. Judges' Comments: "Good, insightful, but why no legislative comments?"

***Community Impact Newspaper - Spring/Klein Edition, Pflugerville, Texas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Employers prep for ACA mandate. Credit(s): Matt Stephens and Jesse Mendoza. Judges' Comments: "This was a very tough category for us to judge, but we found ourselves drawn to stories that revealed the human face of a medical issue. Still, this report had beautiful graphics and was well-organized, with nicely-presented comments on the impact of the ACA mandate and what is being done to prepare for it from a variety of viewpoints. Useful and accessible information for employers and health care consumers alike."

***Community Impact Newspaper - Central Austin Edition, Pflugerville, Texas***

**First Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Enrollment Decrease Not Deterring ACC Long-Term Planners. Credit(s): Joe Lanane. Judges' Comments: "Good balance and thorough."

***Community Impact Newspaper - Southwest Austin Edition, Pflugerville, Texas***

**Third Place**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Red tape slows local business development. Credit(s): Kelli Weldon. Judges' Comments: "Well written and informative."

***Community Impact Newspaper - The Woodlands Edition, Pflugerville, Texas***

**First Place**, *Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Community Impact Newspaper, The Woodlands Edition. Credit(s): Brian Walzel - Editor, Jackie Brunk - Designer. Judges' Comments: "Very sophisticated use of color to create multiple attention points for the reader. Professional look and feel throughout."

**Second Place**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: Water reduction plans address long-term overuse. Credit(s): Matt Stephens. Judges' Comments: "Very informative; excellent graphics. Timely and well-written."

***Community Impact Newspaper - Katy Edition, Pflugerville, Texas***

**Second Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: International Markets Offer Flavor of Home. Credit(s): Nick Cenegy. Judges' Comments: "Could be a little stronger on the sociological implications."

***The Community News, Aledo, Texas***

**Second Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: The circus comes to town. Credit(s): Kathy Chruscielski. Judges' Comments: "The headline compliments the photos that confirm it was a ‘fun’ time for all. The designer did a great job with fonts and layout, as well."

***The Community News, Aledo, Texas***

**Second Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Erasing History. Credit(s): Randy Keck. Judges' Comments: "Brief but well-done column on local issue being debated nationwide."

**Third Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Your Parker County. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "A really well-done community guide."

***The Dalles Chronicle, The Dalles, Oregon***

**Second Place**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Changing Times. Credit(s): RaeLynn Ricarte/Mark B. Gibson. Judges' Comments: "Excellent work. Story not only newsworthy-it is newsy. Writer has done substantial research and quality interviewing to gather a wealth of information and then packaged that together in a well-written, easy-to-read story filled with information of interest to the reader. You don't have to be an agriculture person to appreciate this story. This is quality work. Farming techniques and upgrades used to meet the changing times are clearly presented in the story. A fine job of weaving this story together."

**Third Place**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Water Dispute Boils. Credit(s): RaeLynn Ricarte/Mark B. Gibson. Judges' Comments: "This is one of those stories that local residents would certainly have an opinion about. Good job shedding light on the viewpoints of both sides."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: A Legacy Branded in Beef. Credit(s): RaeLynn Ricarte/Mark G. Gibson. Judges' Comments: "Strong human interest story on a topic frequently in the news−the vanishing family-operated ranch. Story takes an interesting look at the joys and heartaches experienced by one family and the decision being faced by the current generation whether to stay on the ranch. The human-interest angle and the insights offered by family members carry the story more strongly than the writing. It is a story with reader appeal."

***Dodge County Pionier, Mayville, Wisconsin***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: The world became a lot less funny on Monday. Credit(s): Ed Zagorski.

***Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin***

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Winning is his game. Credit(s): Korey Mallien. Judges' Comments: "I really liked this story. Excellent story-telling on someone who is very competitive. I felt his competitiveness just by reading your story! I liked the way you brought in his background to the story without a lot of boring facts but good use of quotes and sentence structure. I can understand through your words how his players would respect him and do anything for him. Great job!"

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Best sports photo. Credit(s): Korey Mallien. Judges' Comments: "What goes up must come down, and Korey Mallien’s shot leaves the viewer with both the certainty that the airborne player will descend and with the uncertainty of how that descent will play out. At this point, the viewer might cringe at the implied belly flop, not softened in the least by the player directly underneath, who has just hit the ground. But the airborne player is high enough he could still right himself. Either way, the important thing is that he has the ball in hand."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Your Key to the Door Weekly. Credit(s): Editor Christopher Clough and contributors. Judges' Comments: "Great variety of content and impressive array of listings."

***Douglas Budget, Douglas, Wyoming***

**First Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999*. Entry Title: Bearcats dive into soccer season. Credit(s): Kasey M. Orr. Judges' Comments: "Clearly the standout in a good group. The mid-air moment for both goalie and soccer ball give a strong sense of immediacy to the photo. Perfect timing. Good to see that it got such great play, and the headline completes the package. Congratulations!"

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999*. Entry Title: And the steer wins. Credit(s): Beth Wood. Judges' Comments: "A great moment, and the lines of force here are dynamic. You can ‘feel’ the cowboy's stretch. Good cropping and excellent play makes for a fine photo. Good work."

**Third Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Angels on Parade. Credit(s): Kasey M. Orr. Judges' Comments: "Sweet."

***Echoes-Sentinel, Bernardsville, New Jersey***

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Heart and Soul. Credit(s): Kelly Fenton. Judges' Comments: "What a heartwarming story. I fell in love with James Soranno just by reading your story! Very well done. I liked your use of bold sub heads in the story, which made it more eye-appealing and easier to read. Keep up the good work!"

***Eden Valley-Watkins Voice, Eden Valley, Minnesota***

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Greg Lux matching catch. Credit(s): Laurie Schultz. Judges' Comments: "This is a super action photo."

***The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, Wisconsin***

**First Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Editorial\_14 for May 7, 2014. Credit(s): Diane Everson. Judges' Comments: "A great job of outlining the key issues facing a small community with suggestions on what to do. This more than fulfills the roles of the editorial page as a starter of community conversation and providing leadership. Well done."

**Third Place**, *Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Chilimania photos that fill front page, Sept. 3. Judges' Comments: "Would have preferred some form of captions, but overall, very good. Tough entries."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Shooting (Dec. 10). Credit(s): Diane Everson. Judges' Comments: "A solid defense of our watchdog function. Nice."

**Honorable Mention**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Created community Book and Film Festival - now celebrating 10 years. Credit(s): Diane Everson and staff. Judges' Comments: "It would be difficult to re-purpose a community - congratulations on the 10th anniversary - you have much to be proud of!"

***The Eldon Advertiser, Eldon, Missouri***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Precious memories, how they linger. Credit(s): Tammy Witherspoon. Judges' Comments: "Poignant piece with excellent anecdotes."

***The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, Maine***

**First Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Mill Town Blues & Gubernatorial Candidates React. Credit(s): Charles Eichacker. Judges' Comments: "Well written, great interviews, excellent topic."

**First Place**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Beauty Is in the Eye. Credit(s): Steve Fuller. Judges' Comments: "Terrific story with fascinating details that allow the reader a glimpse into the little-known world of facial prosthetics. The photos made this a complete package."

**Second Place**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Editorial Pages. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "The American offers attractive editorial pages loaded with local opinion. Very good job."

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Sisters at Sea. Credit(s): Jacqueline Weaver. Judges' Comments: "Great topic for a feature story written very well. Excellent quotes from all of the women, used well. Good pace, no clutter to bog down the flow of the story. A good sidebar would have been some detail about a daily lobster trip−what happens when−maybe some of the atmosphere aboard the lobster boat during the day−sounds, smells, sights. The elderly lady who lobsters during summer when she's not teaching at the university would have made a complete feature alone, but the younger women added a different perspective and dimension. An enjoyable read."

**Second Place**, *Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Spamalot. Credit(s): Steve Fuller. Judges' Comments: "Interesting article … excellent writing. Writer took the time and space to explain what the production is about. He also added a number of quotes from several participants."

**Third Place**, *Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Family Life/Living Section. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Wonderful array of content, briskly presented. Captures a vibrant and diverse community."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Sullivan Home Fire. Credit(s): Larry Peterson. Judges' Comments: "I can feel the fire just from first glance at this intense photo. It really captures what firefighters were up against. This is photojournalism at its finest."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Local News Coverage. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Excellent attention to development of stories for local interest. Well-rounded publication."

***The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, Maine***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-12,000*. Entry Title: The Big Freeze. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Great effort and some real gems in this extensive layout. Captures a great story; could have skipped a few of the more mundane shots to make room to improve the occasional lack of hierarchy."

***Falmouth Outlook, Falmouth, Kentucky***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000*. Entry Title: Car bursts into flames on Ridgeway Ave. Credit(s): Jessie Beckett. Judges' Comments: "The other fire image worth noting among this year’s submissions is Jessie Beckett’s shot of a car fire. Even though the car is stationary, the successive waves of flame—tight ripples toward the front of the car and more billowed toward the rear—create a sense of movement. The crisply focused forward flames draw the eye in to the heart of the image. The diagonal line of the image as a whole highlights the contrast between an icy white background in the upper left and a smoke-blackened foreground in the lower right."

***Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio***

**Second Place**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Drone gives clearer picture of crop scouting. Credit(s): Susan Crowell. Judges' Comments: "The story was interesting and told in a straight-forward fashion. That never gets old."

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Our Farm Roots. Credit(s): Farm and Dairy Staff. Judges' Comments: "Fantastic topic with many avenues for development. Stories are well written with a clear connection to the community."

**Second Place**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Winning farmers’ hearing loss battle. Credit(s): Brian Lisik. Judges' Comments: "An important exploration of the impact of the agriculture industry on hearing loss and the safety issues that result, even for younger producers. Thorough, detailed, well-organized, easy to ready. A great service to your readers."

**Third Place**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Two sides to every border. Credit(s): Chris Kick. Judges' Comments: "This story exposes some interesting views about work ethic in America vs. Mexico. One of several stories about migrant/immigration issues and how that's impacting agriculture. Well done."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Farm hops into growing cricket food market. Credit(s): Brian Lisik. Judges' Comments: "Very interesting topic; learned from it."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: We didn't plan for it to happen. Credit(s): Susan Crowell. Judges' Comments: "Amen. This hits home and is applicable to people's lives, as well as to our community's institutions. Beautifully written."

***The Fayette County Record, La Grange, Texas***

**First Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Golden Girls. Credit(s): Jeff Wick. Judges' Comments: "This state title victory shot, a close-up of a crowd, draws the eye in to the exuberant faces, two of which look directly at the reader, then follows the raised arms up to the trophy, the angle of which leads the viewer sky-high and, quite possibly, to the proverbial cloud nine. Bright sunlight, ball caps, and crowds of people often combine to thwart photographers, but Jeff Wick clearly captures each face. The close-up view invites the reader to step in with congratulatory hugs and high-fives."

***Fort Bragg Advocate-News, Fort Bragg, California***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Del Fiorentino. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "What an impressive package of a horrific story that affects the entire community. The staff did an outstanding job capturing the horrible events surrounding the officer's death. An event like this rips at the inner core of society and certainly deserves the play it received in the newspaper. Outstanding work on devoting the entire front page to this story. It was also impressive to see the "Loving Tribute" page inside. Terrific job by all involved."

***Fountain Hills Times, Fountain Hills, Arizona***

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000*. Entry Title: Oktoberfest flooding. Credit(s): Mike Scharnow. Judges' Comments: "Mike Scharnow focuses attention first on the floating coolers, festive but empty table, bedraggled banners, and collapsed tarp, then draws the eye further back to notice that the damage extends beyond one corner of the festival area. The flood continues at a third distance, beyond the festival area, and seems to be halted only by the hills rising in the far background. Even readers who hadn’t planned to attend this event can empathize with the sense of a gathering disrupted."

**Second Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Road to success: Special education at FHHS aims for life achievements. Credit(s): Ryan Winslett. Judges' Comments:

"This is a well-constructed story. The reporter brings the reader into the classroom using visual descriptions and perspectives of the students and teachers in the class. This is an illuminating window opened to a class that is not typically seen by readers."

**Second Place**, *Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best use of color, 2 issues. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Color provides an effective mechanism to draw reader attention. Good consistent quality throughout publication."

***The Frankfort Station, Orland Park, Illinois***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: State Funding. Credit(s): Rebecca Susmarski. Judges' Comments: "Good balance of interviews."

***Frazee-Vergas Forum, Frazee, Minnesota***

**First Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: A box-store comedy. Credit(s): Barbie Porter. Judges' Comments: "I could visualize the conversations! Seriously funny."

**Second Place**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Late night tour makes resident ask, is Town Lake safe for swimmers? Credit(s): Barbie Porter. Judges' Comments: "Impressive research made this story stand out. Very timely topic of obvious interest to members of the community."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: End of a season. Credit(s): Gale Kaas. Judges' Comments: "Beautiful photo. Reader can almost feel the color creeping off of the page and into the room. Good eye and execution."

***The Galena Gazette, Galena, Illinois***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Bidding farewell to beloved teacher. Credit(s): Hillary Dickerson. Judges' Comments: "Very sweet, well-written story about the positive effect one person can have on students and the community."

**Honorable Mention**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: A Salute to our Veterans. Credit(s): Hillary Dickerson. Judges' Comments: "Your paper in 2014 bled red, white and blue. The Salute to the Veterans provides a wonderful keepsake for the families who will find its way into cedar chests and be kept for generations to come."

***The Glenview Lantern, Northbrook, Illinois***

**Third Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Glenview Finances. Credit(s): Alex Mayster. Judges' Comments: "Good work in seeking to explain the business of municipal finance, which is difficult to understand and more difficult to explain to readers. Missing from this was deeper explanation from municipal officials about how things got this way, and graphics that would have better eased readers into the complicated issue."

**Third Place**, *Best Localized National Story, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Seeing Eye to Eye. Credit(s): Alex Mayster. Judges' Comments: "What a great program. The story is well written and the photos draw the reader into the story very well."

**Third Place**, *Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Glenview Finances. Credit(s): Alex Mayster. Judges' Comments: "Digging deeply into budget numbers is an often-unrewarded chore. This paper looked inside and found a mess. Good for them."

***The Goodland Star-News, Goodland, Kansas***

**Third Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Directions to nowhere. Credit(s): T.V. Hagenah. Judges' Comments: "Your directions to nowhere were spot on. And true!"

***Hendersonville Lightning, Hendersonville, North Carolina***

**First Place**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Tree to Table. Credit(s): Bill Moss. Judges' Comments: "To break out a time-worn cliché, everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask about this area's chief agricultural crop, apples, is found in this expansive, well-research, well-presented, and interestingly written series of stories on getting apples grown and to your table. Even readers familiar with this key crop in their area most likely learned something from one or more of the stories in this season-long series. Choosing a family operation and sticking with it throughout the season was an effective way to show the ups and downs of being an apple producer and to find out about the new efforts being implemented to improve the operations of their orchards. Impressive work."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000*. Entry Title: Apodaca keeps up the banter while he relishes role in Senate. Credit(s): Bill Moss. Judges' Comments: "This was a treat to read - not your usual political banter!"

***Hickman County Times, Centerville, Tennessee***

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999*. Entry Title: A veteran's story: Rescuing the wounded. Credit(s): Bradley A. Martin. Judges' Comments: "Sobering content; wonderful quotes. This story about a veteran finally coming to terms with his grief is well-paced and gripping. On the other hand, it is a perfect example of a compelling feature story that could have been told better if broken into pieces. It would benefit from a stronger lead. The part about the chance meeting with one of the men he evacuated would have made a dynamite sidebar, or a powerful lead to the main story. Another great sidebar would be the material about the holidays and his thoughts about them. When everything is put into one long story, you lose too many readers intimidated by the length, and they miss all of the great content in the later portions of the story, things like this man's suggestion about what can be done for today's service people, at the very end of the story.

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Search can't save Tristan, 6. Credit(s): Bradley A. Martin. Judges' Comments: "I like how the writer shared the story of this miracle child, even though it had a sad ending. Great job in sharing a real human tragedy with readers."

***The Holyoke Enterprise, Holyoke, Colorado***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000*. Entry Title: Pinterest just got more Pinteresting. Credit(s): Darci Tomky. Judges' Comments: "This was a fun read - it made me smile! I loved your perspectives and play on words."

***The Homer Horizon, Orland Park, Illinois***

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Fireworks. Credit(s): Jean Lachat. Judges' Comments: "This photograph is more difficult than a novice might think. Beautiful shot enhanced by backlighting. Excellent work."

***Hood County News, Granbury, Texas***

**First Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: He's just a kid! Credit(s): Kathy Cruz. Judges' Comments: "An excellent editorial! Hopefully, these teens will have learned a lesson."

**First Place**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Back in the game. Credit(s): Rick Mauch. Judges' Comments: "This story sucked me in, right from the first sentence. Great writing on determination and resiliency of an athlete who loves the game of softball and fought back to play again after getting injured. I like your use of short paragraphs, which makes reading the story easy. Good use of quotes. All- around excellent job."

**Third Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: A mother's message about suicide. Credit(s): Kathy Cruz. Judges' Comments: "Wow. The real faces of suicide. You handled this perfectly. Hope it was read, and saved, and read again."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Streetcar a dark but delicious experience. Credit(s): Rick Mauch. Judges' Comments: "A very well-written review of a done-a-million times play. The actual writing is a cut above most in this category."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Andrews retires after 51 seasons. Credit(s): Rick Mauch. Judges' Comments: "Retirement of a long-time coach has built-in human interest and reader appeal, but this one is enhanced by the fact that the coach has spent 51 years coaching and built a record of noteworthy achievement. Story has a nice flow to it and clearly documents the coach's achievements—most wins ever by a coach, hall of fame memberships, etc. In addition, comments from the coach and those who know her give the reader a picture of her personality and the fondness with which others view her. Well written."

***Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, Minnesota***

**First Place**, *Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: How do you spell fun? BINGO! Credit(s): Kay Johnson. Judges' Comments: "This is an excellent article. The writer tells the story of the production in an interesting way with lots of quotes. She made me want to see this play."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Fun in the mud. Credit(s): Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: "I just like it. Summer days, what fun. I can imagine what the next shot would have looked like."

***Hutchinson Leader, Hutchinson, Minnesota***

**Third Place**, *Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best Headline Writing - Hutchinson Leader. Judges' Comments: "Headline variety is attractive, drawing attention to each story. Overall package is effective."

**Third Place**, *Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Hutchinson Leader.

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Propane prices burning consumers. Credit(s): Terry Davis. Judges' Comments: "This is a good story with an effective combination of local, state and national sources. The shortage was national news. This reporter did a good job to localize the story."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: County must stop kicking the can. Credit(s): Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: "A solid, well-reasoned call to action."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Hutchinson Leader. Credit(s): Doug Hanneman. Judges' Comments: "Wide variety of sources; good content; good-looking pages."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Best Local News Coverage - Hutchinson Leader. Judges' Comments: "Excellent variety in coverage of the local community."

***Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, Maryland***

**Third Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: March and September Issues. Credit(s): Caroline Selle, Rebecca Bennett, Susie Currie, Rosanna Landis Weaver. Judges' Comments: "Thorough coverage of a niche community with special attention to details. Excellent local news opportunities."

***Idyllwild Town Crier, Idyllwild, California***

**Third Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Off the Leash. Credit(s): Conor O'Farrell. Judges' Comments: "Vivid, entertaining column brings a fresh voice to a somber topic."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Butterfly Daze. Credit(s): Cheryl Bayse. Judges' Comments: "Very well done!"

***The Imperial Republican, Imperial, Nebraska***

**Third Place**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Opinion pages. Judges' Comments: "Pages are visually interesting, with mostly local content and varied local items. Kind of one-note on political stances."

***The Jack County Herald, Jacksboro, Texas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Tax Rate Series. Credit(s): Cherry Rushin.

***Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: July 30, 2014, & Sept. 24, 2014, issues. Credit(s): Staff, edited by Ben Graham. Judges' Comments: "This salute to the Jackson Hole Centennial is a fine effort, not only to pay tribute to current people and businesses and events, but also those over the past 100 years. You only get a shot at this once, so your efforts are well appreciated and have result in a nice contribution to the local literature, as well as a souvenir for the community. The blended cover is especially clever."

**First Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Housing Shortage. Credit(s): Staff - Jackson Hole News&Guide. Judges' Comments: "Excellent work, with a combination of statistics and multiple points of view on the human side of the housing equation."

**First Place**, *Best Newspaper Website, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best Website - www.jhnewsandguide.com. Credit(s): Staff - Jackson Hole News&Guide. Judges' Comments: "Great website filled with tons of local news! It was easy to navigate! Makes me want to come visit the town!"

**First Place**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Snow Survey. Credit(s): Molly Absolon. Judges' Comments: "This column was a well-written way to reflect on a national controversy with a compelling personal perspective."

***Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, Wyoming***

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Motorcycle crash. Credit(s): Sofia Jaramillo. Judges' Comments: "Talk about being in the right place at the right time. This photo captures the emotion of a tragic situation. It is an emotional photo to see someone's heart aching after losing a close friend. This also portrays the power of prayer. Great work in capturing a unique way of showing the raw emotion of tragedy."

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Muddercycle. Credit(s): Price Chambers. Judges' Comments: "So tightly has Price Chambers framed this image, even viewers who are not fans of endurocross racing might take an involuntary step back to avoid being spattered by the mud being slung from the tires of this dirt bike. At the same time, the sharply-focused foreground freezes the frame, pulls the eye in to examine the detailed patterns in the sprays of muddy water, and unlocks the imagination to project oneself into the moment. Time has stopped, and so must the viewer."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Yellowstone's hidden golden opportunity. Credit(s): Emma Breysse. Judges' Comments: "Intriguing, well-written story about hunting treasure; adventurous, mysterious, dangerous. Wonderful elements of any treasure hunt story. Nice photos and terrific graphic of hunting regions and clues. Many readers can relate to the region described, having visited Yellowstone. Quite long. Breaking some of the side stories into sidebars with their own headlines would have offered opportunities for more creative presentation."

**Third Place**, *Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: April 23, 2014, & Dec. 31, 2014, editions. Judges' Comments: "Very tough competition.”

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Wilson Bank back from the brink. Credit(s): Richard Anderson. Judges' Comments: "Nice job. The bank survived, but what was the reason for the confidentiality?"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Valley sections. Credit(s): Johanna Love.

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Making Music. Credit(s): Bradly Boner. Judges' Comments: "Expression is everything. Photo fits with layout and adds to package. Good work."

***The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota***

**First Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Farmers Union Elevator Ray--75 years. Credit(s): Cecile Krimm. Judges' Comments: "Full of depth, this story is a true business feature. There is a solid mix of history that creates an added level to an already interesting story."

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999*. Entry Title: Kiss an angel good morning. Credit(s): John D. Taylor. Judges' Comments: "Excellent lead−critical for a newspaper feature. Very nice, well-paced story about a couple's long marriage. Stories like this usually dissolve quickly into smaltzy drivel. This one holds up well to the end with good quotes and just enough detail to provide a glimpse into the couple's life. Terrific newspaper feature writing."

**Third Place**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: One Million Barrels--One Million Thanks. Credit(s): Journal Publishing Staff. Judges' Comments: "Once I started to read your entry - putting it down wasn't going to happen - It was such a great read full of information and historical perspective. It's a great educational piece; congratulations."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Farming with a feminine touch. Credit(s): Sydney Glasoe Caraballo. Judges' Comments: "Timely topic, and the significant number of persons interviewed and quoted put a personal face on the data presented. Story was well researched. Reader has to be impressed by the amount of information presented and the number of sources used."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000*. Entry Title: Quick trip becomes carnival ride. Credit(s): Cecile Krimm. Judges' Comments: "Not all breaking news need be tragic or serious, and Cecile Krimm’s eye-catching shots capture the unusual predicament one worker faced when the load in the back of his truck shifted, causing the front wheels to leave the ground and the driver to be stuck in his cab, suspended in mid-air. The people standing near the truck help give the viewer a sense of visual scale. Overall, the images provide a perspective-shifting chuckle at the humorous side of life."

***The Journal, Crosby, North Dakota***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Radioactive filter socks found. Credit(s): John D. Taylor. Judges' Comments: "Exploration of interesting topic demonstrated in article."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: What a Joke--John Bayer columns. Credit(s): John Bayer. Judges' Comments: "You painted a delightful portrait of California at Christmas - nice job."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Rodeo is fun for all. Credit(s): Don Anderson. Judges' Comments: "The photographs capture the sheer joy of youngsters creating rodeo!"

***La Vernia News, La Vernia, Texas***

**Third Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Deaf Smith Oak succumbs. Credit(s): Nannette Kilbey-Smith. Judges' Comments: "Seeing such a vital part of a state's history succumb needs solid documenting, and that's what this piece does. Nice job."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: The Monuments Men. Credit(s): Gabe Valdez. Judges' Comments: "This writer knows his movies−and he jams the story full of art history before ever getting to the review. The writing gets a little purple at the end, but the arty preface works when tied in with the actual movie."

***Lahontan Valley News, Fallon, Nevada***

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: FYB thrives due to Ellis, Paulson. Credit(s): Thomas Ranson. Judges' Comments: "Nicely written piece about major figures in local youth sports."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Overlie decision curious. Credit(s): Steve Puterski. Judges' Comments: "Good job on coaching controversy. Needed a bit more background."

***Lakota Country Times, Martin, South Dakota***

**Second Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Best Photo Essay - Jerry Matthews - Lakota Country Times, July 24, 2014. Credit(s): Jerry Matthews. Judges' Comments: "Beautiful photography ... caught lots of action."

***Lamesa Press-Reporter, Lamesa, Texas***

**Third Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000*. Entry Title: Intense Blaze. Credit(s): Russel Skiles. Judges' Comments: "Images of fires predominated the submissions in this category, but Skiles’ stood out for its surreal war-zone setting. Even though only the bare bones of a structure and a leafless tree remain standing, the firefighters—in a pose somewhat reminiscent of the Iwo Jima Memorial—soldier on, undaunted and determined, attacking the inferno with what seems to be a futile spray of water. The angle of this shot leads the eye up and in, but to what?"

***Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: Teens' stunt driving takes heavy toll. Credit(s): Patti Brandt. Judges' Comments: "This is straight-forward news written in a concise, professional manner. Great job."

**First Place**, *Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Diversions, June 26 & July 3. Credit(s): Alan Campbell, Mike Spencer, Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt & Eric Carlson. Judges' Comments: "What an amazing trove of local content! Great ideas, well-executed. A true gift to the the community."

**First Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Boy running with shoe in hand at PTO fundraiser. Credit(s): Mike Spencer. Judges' Comments: "Cute photo. The more you look at it, the more you discover. Child's stance gives it action, and the girls all have various expressions, which bring the moment to life. Dynamic entry."

**First Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: Intolerant newsman recalls how he got that way. Credit(s): Eric Carlson. Judges' Comments: "I knew I'd like this column as soon as I read the headline. I more than liked it and found myself wanting to stand and salute after reading the final graph. Well said. Deal with it. P. S. Where the heck is Leelanau...because if I'm ever in the neighborhood, I'm buying Mr. Carlson lunch."

***Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, Michigan***

**Second Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: Meth house. Credit(s): Amy Hubbell. Judges' Comments: "My favorite thing about this column, besides the enticing first sentence, was the point midway through in which the writer described the former homeowner's charity work, to the abrupt transition in the next graph, in which she describes the neon orange sign posted on the front door, through which men in haz-mat suits enter to find a meth lab. Could there be any starker picture of the contrast between a life well-spent and one (or more likely many) so tragically wasted? Pat Fleis is rolling still. Excellent column."

**Third Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: On being partisan, and the need for forums. Credit(s): Alan Campbell. Judges' Comments: "A good editorial on voting and how the public needs to be informed."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Champagne rains. Credit(s): Patti Brandt. Judges' Comments: "Cool photograph and a difficult shot to catch. Solid composition. Kudos to the photographer for an excellent effort."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Cherry section. Credit(s): Alan Campbell, Mike Spencer, Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt & Eric Carlson. Judges' Comments: "The story about the lack of migrant workers in this tab is an important story. While the purpose of the tab is to promote the industry, this story really should have received better play even though it’s a ‘negative.’ The approach in this story, with the plight of a single grower lacking migrant labor, is much more powerful than others entered in the contest about the same issue. Judged as a single story, it may have placed better."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Oct. 2 & Oct. 9 issues. Judges' Comments: "The Enterprise provides strong editorial pages, but they aren't as extensive as the other winners."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Lou Batori, Leelanau's oldest living legend. Credit(s): Alan Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Superbly written story about an interesting character who happens to be quite elderly. The word ‘old’ doesn't seem appropriate. Perfect lead, gives immediate idea about the man's personality. Story flows nicely, abetted by wonderful quotes. Gets a bit long, but all of the content is interesting. Very sound writing mechanics and sentence structure. A joyous read."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 8,000 or more*. Entry Title: Fiddler bottle dance sticks in my mind. Credit(s): Patti Brandt. Judges' Comments: "As this writer obviously knows, there is dancing and then there is dancing. She lets readers know this in an amusing presentation of her personal reaction to the skilled dancing she observed while attending a performance of ‘Fiddler on the Roof.’ I like her originality of thought on this, and her writing clearly shows her sense of humor and a bit of her personality. A nice read."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: Questioning the value of the Pledge of Allegiance. Credit(s): Eric Carlson. Judges' Comments: "Excellent argument against requiring the Pledge or prayer in public meetings. I hope it provoked as much thought as I am sure it did conversation."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Runner-up Comets. Credit(s): Mike Spencer. Judges' Comments: "Taking second has clear reader appeal, and the remembrance of a time past provides interesting human interest angle. Coach interviews provided some interesting quotes for the story and helped make the story more appealing to the reader. Well written and organized."

***Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, Minnesota***

**First Place**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Fraud outbreak hits local cardholders. Credit(s): Jenny Berg. Judges' Comments: "This reporter did a great job gathering up sources and information and distilling it into a piece that has local impact and flavor on a national issue. The reporter was impressive in connecting with people affected by the credit card scam and what banks did to help these people."

**First Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Anti-bullying bill acts like a bully. Credit(s): Andrew Broman. Judges' Comments: "Excellent column combining personal experience with research and thought."

***Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, Minnesota***

**Second Place**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Independent Review Best Editorial Page Submission. Credit(s): Andrew Broman. Judges' Comments: "Nice mix of items and positions. Good-looking, clean layout."

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Samurai sword. Credit(s): Jenny Berg. Judges' Comments: "Unique and eye-catching photograph. Expression on subject's face makes for a wonderful composition overall. Excellent photo. Photographer should be very proud of this entry."

**Second Place**, *Best Localized National Story, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Law enforcement embraces body cameras. Credit(s): Andrew Broman. Judges' Comments: "This was a great idea for a story, and it was generally well executed. I did have some trouble with awkward wording in a few places. One example: No taser is required, as the man finally stops and drops to his knees. On the suspect, Massingham discovers a DVD, suspenders and various other items believed to be shoplifted from Walmart. I would re-write that to be more direct. ‘The man finally stops and drops to his knees without Massingham needing to deploy his taser. The officer discovers a DVD, suspenders and other items believed to have been shoplifted.’ No need to advertise Wal-Mart; ‘various’ is extraneous. We make speak that way, but it doesn't work well in print."

**Second Place**, *Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Independent Review Excellence in Typography. Judges' Comments: "Very close second"

**Third Place**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: The gift of 'a beautiful death'. Credit(s): Jenny Berg. Judges' Comments: "This story was a great presentation of an obviously difficult topic of discussion. The emotion was strong in the story. Good read."

**Third Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Independent Review Best Local Coverage. Credit(s): Independent Review Staff. Judges' Comments: "Very in-depth news coverage; interesting and well-researched articles. This newspaper is filled with a wealth of information that would please any reader, as well as the issues they should know about."

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Stuck in the rough. Credit(s): Louie Opatz. Judges' Comments: "While this is not a story of a dramatic comeback on the back nine to win a tournament, it is a sports story, a sports business story. It is well written and has strong research and documentation. Although state championships or dramatic victories are naturals for exciting sports stories, it is refreshing to see the energy and diligence required for a quality story devoted to presenting a story of significance to the community beyond the warm, fuzzy feeling of a championship. Some good research done for this story, resulting in data and information most readers likely did not know."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Welcome home. Credit(s): Jenny Berg. Judges' Comments: "Endearing photograph. Camera from photographer on right side adds to package and composition."

***The Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, Louisiana***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Dog rescue. Credit(s): David Normand. Judges' Comments: "A firefighter rescues a Chihuahua from a burning house and returns the pooch to his owner—what image could be better for any front page?"

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999*. Entry Title: Mr. Smith goes to war. Credit(s): Carol Stuart. Judges' Comments: "What a heartwarming story about a special veteran. I loved the headline, ‘Mr. Smith goes to war,’ which brought me right into the story. Well written, and I feel I know Mr. Smith after reading the article!"

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: Doyle rallies in thriller. Credit(s): John Dupont. Judges' Comments: "This writer knows how to catch readers' attention and hold it throughout the article."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000-14,999*. Entry Title: Tides high and low. Credit(s): Lisa Dowty. Judges' Comments: "Interesting feature on your cruise, and the first paragraph drew me right in. I liked how you also incorporated other interesting tidbits about cruises. Very informative."

**Third Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: Recreating history. Credit(s): Lisa Dowty. Judges' Comments: "Good work - interesting subject and angle."

**Third Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: Ways & Means/Jeff David. Credit(s): Jeff M. David. Judges' Comments: "Apparently, Mr. David was not the only one who saw through the legendary Edwin Edwards. You called a spade a spade, and a fool a fool, in this well-written column, which saved its most effective punch for the last graph. KO."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: March 16/October 30. Credit(s): Staff.

***The Manhattan Mercury, Manhattan, Kansas***

**First Place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: Leticia Romero transfer series. Credit(s): Joshua Kinder. Judges' Comments: "This is a long series, but it is well-written and holds the reader's attention. Congratulations on a job well done."

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Just married. Credit(s): Brady Bauman. Judges' Comments: "Fun piece that paints a colorful picture of the day. Enjoyed the multiple perspectives."

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Romero's case makes K-State look like a bully. Credit(s): Joshua Kinder. Judges' Comments: "This column adds some useful discussion to a story that is not only shaking the local community but also has wider implications as criticism grows regarding mistreatment of college athletes nationwide."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: History and hospitality. Credit(s): Megan Moser. Judges' Comments: "Fun read. Reporter paints a picture of the transformation of this structure."

***McAlester News-Capital, McAlester, Oklahoma***

**Second Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Public deserved more information on inmate walkaway. Credit(s): Glenn Puit. Judges' Comments: "A well-stated case about protecting the public rather than government image. Nice."

**Second Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Remembering Heroes. Credit(s): James Beaty. Judges' Comments: "Fine, personal piece. Emotional without being maudlin."

**Third Place**, *Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Dylan Digs Deep. Credit(s): James Beaty. Judges' Comments: "There's a lot of info here, and the piece is a little long. But it's jam-packed with details that Dylan fans will revel in and newcomers might be interested to learn."

***The News-Register, McMinnville, Oregon***

**First Place**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Viewpoints. Credit(s): Ossie Bladine, Steve Bagwell, Marna Porath. Judges' Comments: "The News-Register provides a really good array of views, both from staff and readers. Plenty of space is offered for opinions without any advertising. This was tops on my scorecard for a contest that offered a lot of strong competition.”

**First Place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Stopping By. Credit(s): Starla Pointer. Judges' Comments: "This series represents a significant amount of depth and research, clearly providing value to the local community. Good variety of subject matter selected."

**First Place**, *Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: The final flight. Credit(s): Starla Pointer. Judges' Comments: "Well-written and researched tribute to a man's life with both his accomplishments and failures. By the end, I wished I'd had the opportunity to know him."

**Third Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: Parker Moore slaying. Credit(s): Paul Daquilante and Robert Husseman. Judges' Comments: "A well-covered story of a tragedy. Factual and documented with multiple sources. Nice job."

**Third Place**, *Best Newspaper Website, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: NewsRegister.com. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Nice website. The masthead is a little large. Clean layout and lots of local news!"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Rising to the Common Core. Credit(s): Starla Pointer. Judges' Comments: "Good assessment of implementation, but why?"

***Miami Today, Miami, Florida***

**First Place**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: As development booms, air- right sales soaring skyward. Credit(s): Lidia Dinkova. Judges' Comments: "Great story. Very informative."

**First Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 8,000 or more*. Entry Title: Top 10 lists and stadium quests. Credit(s): Susan Kahn. Judges' Comments: "My immediate reaction to reading this was, ‘Now, that's funny.’ Writing sarcasm is an adventure because written comments lack the body language, facial expressions, gestures and tone of voice that make verbal sarcasm more readily understood. But, this writer does well in tossing verbal darts that hit the bull's eye of humor. I actually laughed out loud two or three times reading this. It's short, pithy, and easy to read. Each time I reread the entries, I came back to this one. Definitely fits the bill as being humorous."

***Miami Today, Miami, Florida***

**Second Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 8,000 or more*. Entry Title: Seal deal for soccer at seaport fast, before the waters rise. Credit(s): Isaac Prilleltensky. Judges' Comments: "Planned humor, especially with a lightly sarcastic touch, is difficult to write successfully, but this writer succeeds. Considerable originality is found in this cleverly written but obviously planned humorous look at a topic of concern, soccer legend David Beckham's desire to build a soccer stadium on Port Miami. It took some thought, as well as a well-developed sense of humor, to come up with lines like these: ‘Next to Brazilian butt lifts and LeBron James, soccer is the only thing Miamians can agree on,’ or ‘Beckham is the perfect role model for kids in Miami. He has a hot wife, plenty of tattoos and his very own brand!’ Miamians might also agree that the writer is humorous, but likely do not wish to be the object of his humor."

**Third Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: A family's vision: inland cargo port, waste-energy plant. Credit(s): Scott Blake. Judges' Comments: "Well written, but still speculative about outcome."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 8,000 or more*. Entry Title: Mr. Manners' five solutions to the Miami RSVP dilemma. Credit(s): Michael Lewis. Judges' Comments: "Quite amusing. Smiled often, chuckled at occasional lines, such as ‘let’s admit that RSVP … can puzzle those whose acquaintance with French is limited to fries and very attractive actresses,’ and appreciated the originality of the topic. Quality writing. Were I a subscriber, I would look for this columnist regularly because of his off-beat sense of humor."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Miami Today: Best Local News Coverage. Credit(s): Miami Today Staff. Judges' Comments: "Publication does a good job serving its readership with niche coverage. Wide variety of stories."

***Michigan Lawyers Weekly, West Bloomfield, Michigan***

**Second Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: All that and a bag of chips. Credit(s): Paul Fletcher. Judges' Comments: "Funny - your last sentence ... 'It was clearly nacho typical business dispute' provided serious moan factor."

***Missouri Lawyers Weekly, Saint Louis, Missouri***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 5,000*. Entry Title: Grand jury verdict, 12/01/14. Credit(s): Karen Elshout. Judges' Comments: "Karen Elshout’s image of Lesley McSpadden and others reacting to the grand jury’s decision not to indict the police officer who killed her son is both intimately personal and nationally significant. Elshout’s shot places the viewer in the crowd as one jostling for a view; the dark foreground and background frame the subjects and add further depth to the image. If there is a weakness to this entry, it is that the caption does not identify the women supporting McSpadden, nor does it identify specifically where and when the shot was taken."

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Church accord averted jurors’ wrath. Credit(s): Allyssa D. Dudley. Judges' Comments: "A very detailed piece on the intricacies of a troublesome lawsuit. Very well researched and presented."

**Second Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Supremetrics. Credit(s): Scott Lauck. Judges' Comments: "Excellent use of data to provide information that makes the news organization the expert on a topic, which sometimes makes it hard to find 'experts' to provide the quotes needed. This is impressive work - even with a court where 80 percent of cases are unanimous."

**Second Place**, *Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Merle Silverstein brought gentlemanly nature to historic cases. Credit(s): Heather Cole. Judges' Comments: "Interesting, well-written, giving real insight into the kind of man he was, both professionally and personally."

***The Mokena Messenger, Orland Park, Illinois***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: With-A-Switch. Credit(s): Danny Ciamprone. Judges' Comments: "Sad story, but very well written"

***Moonshine Ink, Truckee, California***

**First Place**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: When the River Stops Flowing. Credit(s): Melissa Siig. Judges' Comments: "Not only is this a timely story with wide reader interest, it was crafted with research in mind. Very interesting angles presented from start to finish."

**First Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Tahoe Forest Hospital: New Revelations & Transformation. Credit(s): David Bunker. Judges' Comments: "Solid work that clearly led to Bob Schapper's departure, whether hospital officials will acknowledge it or not. It will be fun to see whether this leads to charges. Excellent work at looking through the documents and seeking to piece together a puzzle, despite little help from the principles involved."

**Third Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Keeping the Conversation Going. Credit(s): Moonshine team. Judges' Comments: "A solid defense and explanation to readers of our role as watchdogs. Hurrah!"

***Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, Maine***

**First Place**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Best Editorial pages. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Very good pages - letters expanded for election coverage; pro/con columns; local/state/national mix. Layout could be less gray."

**Second Place**, *Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Education Policy Report Card. Credit(s): Joseph Marshall. Judges' Comments: "I have to ask the question - how many readers looked at your report card and laughed - because they believed the grades were spot on? Great job of putting into the cartoon format the message of the editorial."

**Third Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Local News Coverage. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Publication clearly provides local coverage for its readers. Good mix of stories. Overall impact/quality causes publication to stand out in competition."

***The Mountain Enterprise, Frazier Park, California***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Drought and fire in the mountains. Credit(s): Jeff Zimmerman. Judges' Comments: "The type of shot that makes the reader gasp. Simultaneously ominous and beautiful. Kudos to the photographer. Best entry in a very large field."

**Third Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Is sludge being dumped in Lebec? Credit(s): Patric Hedlund and Gary Meyer. Judges' Comments: "Excellent sleuthing work when something was stinky in town."

***The New Era, Parker, South Dakota***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000*. Entry Title: Unconditional Love. Credit(s): Sarah Ebeling. Judges' Comments: "Written from a perspective of one who knows, of one who 'gets it' looking in. Congratulations!"

***The North Scott Press, Eldridge, Iowa***

**First Place**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Celebrating a miracle. Credit(s): Scott Campbell. Judges' Comments: "You simply cannot stop reading this story. Great details, great emotion, great storytelling."

**First Place**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: True winners don't always cross the finish line first. Credit(s): Scott Campbell. Judges' Comments: "Moving tribute to a winning high school athlete."

**Third Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Hunter's Story. Credit(s): Scott Campbell. Judges' Comments: "The writing in this story is superb with excellent story-telling abilities displayed throughout the piece. The writer did a great job of detailing a crime that could have had a tragic ending. Nice job using powerful quotes in the story. It was also nice to see the story focused on who it should have been−the victim−instead of officials.

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Davenport's news hub a misuse of tax money. Credit(s): Bill Tubbs. Judges' Comments: "A great example of watchdogging public officials."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Pit Bull Problems. Credit(s): Sarah Hayden. Judges' Comments: "Nice work in expanding on what could have been a short story into work that provided both context and a personal touch on this story about pit bulls."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Where do we find security in a senseless world? Credit(s): Bill Tubbs.

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Remembering the North Scott Honor Flight. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "A very well-done section commemorating a historic event in your community. Congratulations on your leadership and participation. All aspects of the section are solid−news-editorial, advertising, graphics, etc. It was especially fitting to ask the participants themselves to describe their experience ‘in their own words.’ The cover is an attention-grabbing winner, too."

***The North Scott Press, Eldridge, Iowa***

**Honorable Mention**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Remembering the North Scott Honor Flight. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Beautiful product-from the families of the veterans - from the historians of tomorrow-thank you for telling their story."

***The Northbrook Tower, Northbrook, Illinois***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more*. Entry Title: Longitud315. Credit(s): Matt Yan. Judges' Comments: "Wish the writer had given a photo of the cook. Nice lead."

***The N'West Iowa REVIEW, Sheldon, Iowa***

**First Place**, *Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best Headline Writing. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Fantastic use of headline tools to grab attention. Good mix of styles that incorporates a penchant for creativity."

**First Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Flood 2014. Credit(s): John Williams and Rylan Howe. Judges' Comments: "Captured emotion, destruction, prevention−all with a keen eye; excellent job."

**First Place**, *Excellence in Typography, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Excellence in Typography. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Love everything about this paper−columns, layout, ads, stories! Awesome!"

**Second Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-7,999*. Entry Title: Talking like politicians. Credit(s): Ken Fuson. Judges' Comments: "Nicely written."

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Bos gets respect for being truthful. Credit(s): Scott Byers. Judges' Comments: "Good piece about a high schooler's integrity."

***The Oberlin Herald, Oberlin, Kansas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Chase ends with shooting death. Credit(s): Ladd Wendelin. Judges' Comments: "This piece had good research and was thorough. The tale was well-recorded, and readers got all angles of the event."

***The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, Omak, Washington***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: God's got us. Credit(s): Roger Harnack. Judges' Comments: "This is a dynamic photo in every sense. It captures the intensity of the wildfire, while at the same time, ties the church and cross into the headline of ‘God's Got Us.’ I loved the framing used in this photo with the cross. I also like the inset photos showing the aftermath damage. Great work showcasing a major news story through photojournalism."

**First Place**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Carlton Complex. Judges' Comments: "Congratulations to the staff of The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle for stepping up as leaders, historians and community members during the Carlton Complex wildfire. The respect for and love of your community came through by your coverage of the event, and your participation in the after events when it came time to put the community back together. I wish there were an award that went beyond first place, because if there were, you would be deserving."

**Second Place**, *Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Three Rivers. Credit(s): Jennifer Marshall, Dee Camp, Roger Harnack. Judges' Comments: "A classic case of dogged investigative reporting revealing officials who see themselves as bigger than those who pay their salaries. Well done."

***The Orland Park Prairie, Orland Park, Illinois***

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more*. Entry Title: Engaging Reads. Credit(s): Bill Jones. Judges' Comments: "Engaging read grabs the reader with the engaging photographs first. The lede to the story is clean and a grabber, as well. Most retirees can identify with this teacher's journey. The article is a great contribution to the community, as is the teacher a great contribution to children cutting their teeth on first books."

**Third Place**, *Best Obituary, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Jane Caliendo. Credit(s): Heather Warthen. Judges' Comments: "Even though this was a bit too long, I was struck by the impact this woman had on her students and community. The ad at the end, with the students standing and paying tribute as the funeral procession passed, was a visual testament to the love the community shared for this teacher."

***The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, Texas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: 3/12/14 and 9/17/15. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "It's nice to see a good mix of news and strong community coverage of the local sports team that is very important to the community."

***The Ozona Stockman, Ozona, Texas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: 2014 Hunting Guide. Credit(s): Susan Calloway.

***Park Cities People, Dallas, Texas***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Splash Brothers: Sibling Swimmers Make Waves. Credit(s): Don Johnson. Judges' Comments: "Excellent portrait of two swimmers in the school pool; well executed in every way."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Park Cities People: Headlines. Credit(s): N/A. Judges' Comments: "Headline usage handled very well to draw the reader into various points throughout the publication. Good mix of styles to add contrast."

***The Paynesville Press, Paynesville, Minnesota***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: BONANZA VALLEY: Irrigation vital to ag economy. Credit(s): Michael Jacobson. Judges' Comments: "The role and importance of irrigation are clearly newsworthy and of interest to readers. The story is well written, reads easily, and has solid quotes. Some quality research done for this story, and the result is a story loaded with interesting information. Good work."

***Petersburg Pilot, Petersburg, Alaska***

**Second Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: March 27 and Sept. 25, 2014, issues. Credit(s): Pilot Staff. Judges' Comments: "I thought this paper had very interesting news stories that were very informative and also interesting to read. A very good community focus and nice photography."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Fourth of July fun in Petersburg. Credit(s): Mary Koppes. Judges' Comments: "Nice backlighting. Entry stands out in a large field of competitors."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Making sisters out of strangers: A kidney transplant brings two Petersburg women together. Credit(s): Mary Koppes. Judges' Comments: "This story had a lot of great research and flowed very well. It had lots of quotes, which helped supply a multitude of voices to the story."

***The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina***

**Second Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: Finding Peace Along a Freshly Mown Path. Credit(s): Jim Dodson. Judges' Comments: "Oh, I love this column. I could smell the cut grass, feel the sun's heat, sense the clarity and quiet, all while fighting that pit-in-the-stomach feeling that just beyond that patch of earth, the world was reeling out of control. Love this column."

**Third Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 8,000 or more*. Entry Title: Frozen Caveman Columnist Gets the Cold Shoulder. Credit(s): Jim Dodson. Judges' Comments: "Angels likely fear to tread in humor where gender differences are real or inferred, but this writer either knows no such fear or is comfortable with both himself and his audience and wades right in. He dares to find humor in women having cold hands and warm hearts in the winter, and he offers his warm hands to warm theirs as he somewhat coolly spars verbally with office mates about their hands being colder than ballpark franks from the fridge. He writes in a light-hearted manner, dropping in several amusing phrases. While his co-workers may have cold hands, they apparently did not give him the cold shoulder—or we would't be reading this amusing account."

***Pine Journal, Cloquet, Minnesota***

**First Place**, *Best Humorous Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-7,999*. Entry Title: In Our Own Backyard. Credit(s): Wendy Johnson. Judges' Comments: "Clever"

***The Plainwell & Otsego Union Enterprise, Allegan, Michigan***

**First Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Veterans remembered in Otsego and Plainwell. Credit(s): Walter Kaechele, Daniel Pepper. Judges' Comments: "The solemn meaning of this salute is captured nicely in the photo essay presentation."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 2,000*. Entry Title: Couple finds lasting love at local nursing home. Credit(s): Virginia Ransbottom. Judges' Comments: "Love is oblivious to an age boundary. Congratulations on finding a very nice story and putting the charm of the story into words."

***Preston Hollow People, Dallas, Texas***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more*. Entry Title: One Man Band: Youngblood Pulls Strings on Unique Sound. Credit(s): Todd Jorgenson. Judges' Comments: "The writing gives great description and a glimpse of a unique young artist."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Greenhill Student Has His Heart in Swimming. Credit(s): Todd Jorgenson. Judges' Comments: "Nice story about a young man overcoming his health issues and his long-term goal of swimming in the Olympics."

***Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, New Mexico***

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Instant Karma Takes Care of Recliner. Credit(s): Wheeler Cowperthwaite. Judges' Comments: "This photo illustrates the peril of throwing a lit cigarette out the window. But why would a man want to throw a stick onto his burning new recliner?"

**Third Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-12,000*. Entry Title: Embudo Library Has New Digs. Credit(s): Robert Eckert. Judges' Comments: "Great work capturing the spirit of what could have looked somewhat mundane. Pictures are laid out for great impact. Little grainy here and there. Page 3 lacked dominant picture, but I’m sure it looked pretty good overall in the two-page spread. Fun, full of life, great expressions, great emotion."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: County Contract Questioned. Credit(s): Barron Jones. Judges' Comments: "Nice catch! Good journalism looks through the fine print to find what's missing and why it matters."

***Riverhead News-Review, Mattituck, New York***

**First Place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Sports Story: Tom Cutinella. Credit(s): Michael Lewis, Carrie Miller, Jen Nuzzo, Grant Parpan, Paul Squire and Joe Werkmeister. Judges' Comments: "A must-read at all levels: writing, organization, research, presentation, human interest, reader appeal. Well-written, compelling story. The quality and construction of the story are enhanced by the research done to provide context and background, as well as a variety of sources and quotes. Obviously, a tragedy of this nature is of reader interest, but it is one to be handled with respect and good taste. The writers achieved this so that the account is done with dignity sans sensationalism, yet provides a full account for readers. Placing story in a national context helped it. Story held my attention each time I read it."

**Second Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: In-Depth: Tom Cutinella. Credit(s): Michael Lewis, Carrie Miller, Jen Nuzzo, Grant Parpan, Paul Squire, Joe Werkmeister and Bob Liepa. Judges' Comments: "Excellent, tasteful, well-written coverage - with both big-picture information and story telling that helped readers feel the loss. And done in a hurry."

***Rochester Business Journal, Rochester, New York***

**Third Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Excellus payout grows. Credit(s): Will Astor. Judges' Comments: "Good work in trying to follow the money involving seven-figure payouts for this and other leaders of this non-profit healthcare organization."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Hard choice. Credit(s): Velvet Spicer. Judges' Comments: "Hard choices, indeed, but ones that have been made clearer, if not easier, by this report, which offers a clear picture of the options available and the differences in each one. Any reader facing these issues will feel a little bit less alone with his decision after reading this story."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: RBJ 75: Rochester's Top Employers. Credit(s): RBJ staff. Judges' Comments: "This is to recognize the solid effort made by your publishing team to pull together a myriad of facts and figures into ’RBJ75,’ a report to the community which is valuable to many, many businesses, institutions, associations, and individuals. A nice blend of news-editorial (the primary emphasis), graphics, and advertisements for a section which was not only throughly read and studied, but also saved and filed."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Kelly’s finest hours have come during his most trying times. Credit(s): Scott Pitoniak. Judges' Comments: "This column nicely handled an important story to the local readership on the sad developments in the post-retirement life of a beloved athlete."

***Santa Maria Sun, Santa Maria, California***

**First Place**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Stretched thin. Credit(s): Camillia Lanham. Judges' Comments: "Starting with a single producer's impacts, then broadening the focus to include the bigger picture, made for very effective storytelling."

**First Place**, *Best Localized National Story, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Selfie incrimination. Credit(s): Joe Payne. Judges' Comments: "Very interesting, very real with great local sources. Quite the cautionary tale with a ‘killer’ ending!"

**First Place**, *Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: The beauty of Santa Barbara County without oil. Credit(s): Ross Mayfield. Judges' Comments: "The visual was crystal clear–congratulations."

**Third Place**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: Not a drop to spare. Credit(s): Camillia Lanham. Judges' Comments: "Great, in-depth use of an individual's experience to speak to the larger issue. Excellent writing, accessible tone. Good research."

**Third Place**, *Best Performing Arts Story, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: The power of one. Credit(s): Joe Payne. Judges' Comments: "It is a strong article on a hard subject to write about. It was, however, hard to decide if he was writing about the fate of the prisoners or Arts in Corrections. Might have been better if it were written in two different stories, one as a sidebar ... that might have given the writer a higher rating."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: Big dam problem. Credit(s): Camillia Lanham. Judges' Comments: "Great research, great voice."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more*. Entry Title: Game-changer. Credit(s): Wendy Thies Sell. Judges' Comments: "A touching story. One hopes the safety protocols in wineries are reviewed closely."

***Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, Iowa***

**First Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Economic Operation: Siouxland's 5 employment weak spots. Credit(s): Dave Dreeszen. Judges' Comments: "Excellent package. Extremely creative layout pushed this entry to the top. Very nice work."

**First Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Feature photo - Dunk tank. Credit(s): Jim Lee. Judges' Comments: "I'd love to see this shot in color! It's a very interesting moment after the subject is submerged in a dunk tank framed in the splashes created by the landing. A really complex, interesting photo and something a little different, which got it just a notch above some other strong entries. All the winners in this category were strong."

**First Place**, *Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Once shocking, ‘Hair’ loses some of its steam through the years. Credit(s): Bruce Miller. Judges' Comments: "Snarky, bold comments raised this review above all the rest. It's a close look at a classic play−one that maybe doesn't hold up today, the writer says, who then backs up his argument. Very nicely done!"

**First Place**, *Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Weekend edition. Credit(s): Journal staff. Judges' Comments: "Easily a first-place winner. Excellent photography, layout, graphics and well-written stories!"

**Second Place**, *Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Siouxland Life magazine, Feb. 2014. Credit(s): Journal staff. Judges' Comments: "Great focus on local people. Profiles are thoughtfully written and photographed. Design is excellent."

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Making it to America: Immigrant to Sioux City shares story of his journey, current battles. Credit(s): Dolly A. Butz. Judges' Comments: "Dolly Butz's tale of a young immigrant is a good one that's told well. The accompanying graphic is a plus to a compelling story."

**Third Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Fine arts part of lessons at Hunt. Credit(s): Greg Forbes. Judges' Comments: "This story does a great job of painting a picture of how schools have built arts into its instruction using specific examples and anecdotes from teachers."

**Third Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Health care behind bars. Credit(s): Bret Hayworth and Dolly Butz. Judges' Comments: "Hayworth and Butz' report on prison health care doesn't have the depth of other entries, but it's a really excellent job of reporting."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Big Sioux Flood. Credit(s): Molly Montag and T.J. Fowler. Judges' Comments: "Lots of great info - the stories told here will be used by future historians."

***Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, Iowa***

**Honorable Mention**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Flight 232 Anniversary. Credit(s): Journal staff. Judges' Comments: "25 years is not a long time for those who lived the event … not a long time when the loss of a loved one is involved. Congratulations on honoring the victims of Flight 232, honoring the community and providing an additional platform for the families to heal."

***The St. Louis American, Saint Louis, Missouri***

**First Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: For the sake of Michael Brown. Judges' Comments: "Very powerful editorial on a subject matter that is spreading across the country."

**First Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: Chaos Erupts in Ferguson. Credit(s): Wiley Price & Lawrence Bryant. Judges' Comments: "Very, very powerful. Excellent work."

**Second Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: From jails to GED. Credit(s): By Rebecca Rivas. Judges' Comments: "Good balance, good research and interviews."

***The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, Tennessee***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: C'mon, Molly, show these kids your smile! Credit(s): Ronnie Housley. Judges' Comments: "What a great shot! The look in Molly's eye tells the whole story."

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: We're going to the state tournament. Credit(s): Dale Gentry. Judges' Comments: "An excellent shot. You can feel the excitement of the moment."

**Third Place**, *Best Agricultural Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Spreading the gospel of beekeeping. Credit(s): Dale Gentry. Judges' Comments: "A reader is pulled immediately into this story, and few, if any, will fail to read it to conclusion. The importance of bees to agriculture and the national attention that has been directed toward the increasing loss of hives across the country emphasize the newsworthiness of beekeeping as a topic. The story is well written, has interesting quotes, is well researched and presents a substantial amount of interesting information. Turned out to bee a honey of a story."

**Third Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Time to burn. Credit(s): Dale Gentry. Judges' Comments: "Great images."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Standard Banner Best Sports Section. Credit(s): Dave Gentry. Judges' Comments: "Stellar photography dwarfs the run-of-the-mill sports writing. Sports Editor David Gentry and writer Daniel Burton have very gifted eyes. Eye-catching action photos ... maybe the best photography in the competition."

***The Suffolk Times, Mattituck, New York***

**First Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Local News: The Suffolk Times. Judges' Comments: "Thorough attention paid to the local community and news of interest. Fabulous coverage."

**Third Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Breaking Photo: Jeff Heidtmann. Credit(s): Katharine Schroeder. Judges' Comments: "This is an outstanding photo of showing human emotion to a happy ending of what could have been really tragic. The framing of the blistering hand captures the intensity of what this man is going through. Thanks for a great news photo."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Editorial: The Suffolk Times. Credit(s): The Suffolk Times. Judges' Comments: "A good editorial on keeping city officials on their toes."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Sports Section: The Suffolk Times. Credit(s): Bob Liepa and Joe Werkmeister. Judges' Comments: "Good writing and treatment on lead sports stories, but section was otherwise lacking. Needs more general information−stats and schedules,

sidebars−to finish it off.”

***The Taos News, Taos, New Mexico***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: The Cost of a Life. Credit(s): Andrew Oxford. Judges' Comments: "Well-written account of a tragedy that continues to haunt those involved. Painful to read; quotes add to the agony. Well constructed; good flow. Confused by the inclusion of regulations on trailer parks, which seem irrelevant to the underlying tragedy."

***The Taos News, Taos, New Mexico***

**First Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-12,000*. Entry Title: Balloon. Credit(s): Katharine Egli. Judges' Comments: "Clear winner. Vibrant colors and wide-angle shots truly capture the size and majesty of the hot air balloons. There’s creativity in the framing and timing. Great layout, all strong shots. A delight to peruse."

**First Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: 2014 Tradiciones. Credit(s): Various. Judges' Comments: "A magnificent product in every aspect−news-editorial, advertisements, photography, graphics, color. This surely is a labor of love showing best efforts of all involved. It is not only a good read and viewing, but it is a major contribution to local area, and state literature and history. Just one in the terrific special sections by the staff of The Taos News."

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: Questa mine closed: 300 lose jobs. Credit(s): Andrew Oxford, J.R. Logan, Elizabeth Cleary. Judges' Comments: "Comprehensive, detailed coverage of an event that will completely change a town. The mine closing was examined from personal and financial perspectives−very nice job."

**Second Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Governor's visit to Questa miners: Why the Delay? Credit(s): Joan Livingston. Judges' Comments: "A good editorial calling out the need for state officials to step up to the plate during a time of crisis."

**Second Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-12,000*. Entry Title: Glamtrash. Credit(s): Katharine Egli. Judges' Comments: "Despite being packed in, these pictures are full of character (and characters). Great choices with eye-catching framing. No picture seems like filler. Fun to look at and pick out details. Strong second."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Business Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Growing youth at Red Willow Farmers Market. Credit(s): Cody Hooks. Judges' Comments: "Very well written."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Team Spirit. Credit(s): Katharine Egli. Judges' Comments: "Good emotion. Nice job of catching a fun moment."

***The Alamance News, Graham, North Carolina***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Wal-Mart land. Credit(s): Tomas Murawski. Judges' Comments: "Strong work in explaining to readers the complicated, behind-closed-doors deal to bring the Wal-Mart distribution center to the area."

***The Times - Blooming Prairie, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota***

**Second Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Best Business Feature Story. Credit(s): Rick Bussler. Judges' Comments: "Interesting story with multiple angles for development. Good flow to effectively communicate to readers."

**Second Place**, *Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best Headline. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Nice, well-rounded use of headline-writing techniques throughout publication. Good mix of typefaces for variety."

**Third Place**, *Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best use of photos. Credit(s): Staff.

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Best photo essay. Credit(s): Rick Bussler. Judges' Comments: "Nice choice of photos."

***The Times Leader, Princeton, Kentucky***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-4,999*. Entry Title: Best Sports Photo. Credit(s): Todd Griffin. Judges' Comments: "Really good photo of a wonderful moment. Cropping out the player at the left to focus on on the dad and son would have made this much stronger.”

***The Tinley Junction, Orland Park, Illinois***

**Second Place**, *Best Review, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Aerosmith. Credit(s): Bill Jones. Judges' Comments: "It's hard to make a concert review different, but that happens here. The writer captures the feel of the event−how a concert is just as much a corporate experience as a musical one. Nice."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Headline Writing, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Headlines. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Good use of headline writing tools to gain reader attention. Overall impact is cohesive."

***Tioga Tribune, Tioga, North Dakota***

**Second Place**, *Best Public Notice Journalism, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Special waste landfill. Credit(s): Kevin Killough. Judges' Comments: "Kevin Killough did an excellent job of covering the issue that was first mentioned in a public notice. Very thorough reporting."

***Tioga Tribune, Tioga, North Dakota***

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: A tail of two booms. Credit(s): Kevin Killough. Judges' Comments: "Interesting parallels and lessons learned from another community in this series."

**Third Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: White Earth Valley Rodeo. Credit(s): Madelyn Beck. Judges' Comments: "Hats off to the photographer and the layout designer. The story combined with the action makes us all want to head to a rodeo."

**Third Place**, *Best Use of Color, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Tioga Tribune. Credit(s): Tioga Tribune staff. Judges' Comments: "Color used on the rodeo page was especially well done. Good variety of color throughout publication to draw the reader."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Blowout was big. Credit(s): Cecile Krimm. Judges' Comments: "This was an interesting story that detailed the complexities of pulling off such an event on a grand scale. Good overall coverage."

***Tribune-Phonograph, Abbotsford, Wisconsin***

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999*. Entry Title: Chains of command. Credit(s): Kevin O'Brien. Judges' Comments: "A thorough, detailed look at a military rape victim's story. Writing is good; construction tends toward patchwork. Lead needs more punch. The content is certainly compelling. Some of the information provided in the feature could have been presented in brief sidebars, which would have helped break up the mass of the main feature. Military response made an interesting sidebar but could have been edited down significantly."

***Uinta County Herald, Evanston, Wyoming***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 2,000-3,999*. Entry Title: Coast-to-coast skateboarder rolls through Wyo. this week. Credit(s): Bryon Glathar. Judges' Comments: "Nice lead into cross-country genre feature with a twist−a personal, private purpose rather than a publicity stunt to attract attention to a cause. Nicely paced and excellent quotes used well. Some sentences tend toward too long with clauses and compounding connectors (dashes). The lead is creative, reverse logic−‘this isn't that.’ It goes on too long, though. Use more periods; you won't run out of them.”

***The Union, Grass Valley, California***

**First Place**, *Best Business Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Better broadband access sought to boost economic development. Credit(s): Keri Brenner, Ivan Natividad. Judges' Comments: "I liked the additional information added to these articles−know and go and more information. These additions should have been very helpful for the readers. A good series on a subject of interest to many. Lots of quotes. An all-around super series."

**First Place**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Common Core: As California starts first full year with new standards, county educators focus. Credit(s): Ivan Natividad. Judges' Comments: "This is a well-thought-through series. The series offers both sides of the Common Core debate equal time and equal scrutiny. The series is a great for readers with little or a lot of knowledge about Common Core. Readers would have appreciated the depth, quality of sources, variety of perspectives and analysis."

**First Place**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: Water for gold: Standoff heightens on San Juan Ridge. Credit(s): Keri Brenner. Judges' Comments: "Great, great coverage from the initial protests to the in-depth piece as the mining issue wore on. Skilled, concise writing. Important, timely topic. Won out by doing the hard work and the many interviews to put the issue in context."

**Second Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: The Union (Grass Valley, Calif.) Judges' Comments: "Good attention to detail in local news coverage with a wide variety of stories. Good, well-rounded publication."

**Second Place**, *Best Weekend Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: The Union - Weekender. Credit(s): The Union staff. Judges' Comments: "Loses a little on layout, but not a lot.”

**Third Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Lamphier under criminal investigation. Credit(s): Liz Kellar/Keri Brenner/Pascale Fusshoeller. Judges' Comments: "Yes, this is an example of quality news writing, but even more importantly, it is a prime example of a quality newspaper doing its job - keeping our elected officials and the choices they make in the eye of the public. I enjoyed reading the reports as they unfolded."

**Third Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: What's cookin' at Tess'? Credit(s): Cory Fisher. Judges' Comments: "Reporter does solid job of reporting and telling the story of this business. Good job."

***The Union, Grass Valley, California***

**Third Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: County deserves more than silence on investigation of elected official. Credit(s): The Union Editorial Board. Judges' Comments: "As a voter in this county, I would be upset not knowing what is going on with the elected official. The newspaper does a good job of explaining to the readers how uncooperative local law enforcement was on this matter and demands answers for the sake of voters in the community."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: The Union celebrates 150th anniversary. Credit(s): The Union staff. Judges' Comments: "History plays an important role in a community, which is evident in the content of this series. Well-researched articles provide a wide variety of interesting details to connect the past and present."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Jadee's Journey. Credit(s): Cory Fisher. Judges' Comments: "Cory Fisher put together a really good account of a student's transgender experience. It's good handling of a controversial topic."

**Third Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: The Union celebrates 150th anniversary. Credit(s): The Union staff. Judges' Comments: "A very nice commemorative section fitting for the occasion. A solid balance of news-editorial, advertisements, photographs, color, etc. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this great effort."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: It takes a village idiot. Credit(s): R.L. Crabb. Judges' Comments: "The message comes through strong - and that makes a great editorial cartoon."

***Valencia County News-Bulletin, Belen, New Mexico***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more*. Entry Title: Getting the story. Credit(s): Julia M. Dendinger. Judges' Comments: "This insight into a newspaperman's career, varied and deep, is fascinating. The piece is well written, but the stories shared by Boggs put it over the top. It's a rare insight into the history in a field and time that has changed a lot. It's a piece not to miss reading more than once."

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best Sports Section. Credit(s): Kenn Rodriguez. Judges' Comments: "Great action photography complements strong sports writing. Full coverage of three area scholastic programs. Strong design and layout organization make for a very reader-friendly sports section. C'mon, give Kenn Rodriguez his due as sports editor and drop the ‘staff writer’ job title. This is one hard-working guy."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 15,000 or more*. Entry Title: Fulfilling a dream in Valencia County. Credit(s): Deborah Fox. Judges' Comments: "The story is remarkable and well written, giving the reader a good understanding of dreams, struggle, success and a journey far from ‘home.’ All those ingredients along with complimentary photos make us care about this young man's journey. Bravo."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Illegal dumping. Credit(s): Julia M. Dendinger. Judges' Comments: "Story is packed with information to keep the reader's interest. Well-developed series highlights a problem within the community and does it in an effective way."

***Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, Wisconsin***

**Third Place**, *Best Editorial Page(s), Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Editorial-Opinion-Commentary. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "The News-Review comes through with good content and good reader appeal. Coming up with first, second and third was no easy task."

**Third Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Salute to Emergency Personnel. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "A magnificent job of gathering all those photos and names and all that information to pay tribute to the unsung heroes of your communities−the emergency responders. Just to tackle the job was a big enough decision, but to pull it off is a really big deal. Not only have you provided a valuable service to the entire area, but you made some history, as well. Congrats to all who participated in this project."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Family Life/Living Section/Pages, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Lifestyle. Credit(s): Staff.

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Newspaper Website, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best website. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Nice community-friendly website."

***Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River, Wisconsin***

**Honorable Mention**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Warm the Children. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Congratulations on seeing a need, taking action and then seeing that it succeeded."

***Washington Missourian, Washington, Missouri***

**First Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Tag! You’re Safe. Credit(s): Bill Battle. Judges' Comments: "Great stop action! You can feel and see the play!"

**Second Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: 175th Anniversary Special Edition of The Missourian. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "A very nice job of celebrating a milestone in the community. Wish there had been a more memorable cover, though. But otherwise solid from front to back−news-editorial, advertising, graphics, use of color, etc. Lots of great, historical photos and copy. A nice souvenir and contribution to area history. A deep bow for all the hard work resulting in a memorable keepsake."

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Focusing on the Shot. Credit(s): Bill Battle. Judges' Comments: "What a great shot!"

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Fumble! Credit(s): Bill Battle. Judges' Comments: "Very nice action shot."

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best Sports Section, Washington Missourian. Credit(s): Bill Battle, Craig Vonder Haar, Jason Peake, Jeremy Housewright. Judges' Comments: "Vast coverage of area and regional sports, but the paper appropriately gives its bread-and-butter scholastic sports teams priority over the distant pro teams. Great side graphics and solid photography throughout. Nice little boxes of standings, schedules and other information round out stories."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000-11,999*. Entry Title: Abuse of Drug Not Rampant/Teens Get High. Credit(s): Ed Pruneau and Susan Miller. Judges' Comments: "The mother's story was compelling reading. This was an eye-opening examination of a growing problem. The story shone a light on a public problem−which is what newspapers do. Nice."

***West Point News, West Point, Nebraska***

**First Place**, *Best Use of Photographs, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Best use of photographs. Judges' Comments: "Awesome front page photos."

**Third Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: Victory was sweet, but post-game celebration was for teammate. Credit(s): Willis Mahannah. Judges' Comments: "Very nice column that has an important message inside."

***Westmore News, Port Chester, New York***

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Minnie Mouse face paint. Credit(s): Claire K. Racine. Judges' Comments: "You captured Lily Wolf's moment of glee!"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Hear No Evil. Credit(s): Jananne Abel. Judges' Comments: "It's always good stand up for what it right. This does that well."

***The Wilmette Beacon, Northbrook, Illinois***

**Second Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Fourth of July. Credit(s): Joe Coughlin. Judges' Comments: "Nice moment featuring an airborne gymnast while a big crowd watches. Needed a tighter crop and to run in a more vertical format to get it up a notch."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Movie Night. Credit(s): Joe Coughlin. Judges' Comments: "Nice moment of a kid in his homemade box car."

***The Winnetka Current, Northbrook, Illinois***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Environmental Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Elder Beach. Credit(s): April Dahlquist. Judges' Comments: "Good development of topic."

***Wise County Messenger, Decatur, Texas***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999*. Entry Title: So long, Mr. Clark. Credit(s): Kristen Tribe, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "Sweet story with a happy/sad outcome. Well-written; strong lead; good quotes used well. We're told about how often the teacher helped the kids and vice versa. An anecdote or two showing those things would have been stronger than simply telling us they occurred. Clever sidebar with lyrics to the teacher's song. This feature is a breath of fresh air on a number of levels. Good instinct recognizing the story and good judgment in how it is played. Most of the entries were strong feature material; several had bland or routine leads, which hurt their effectiveness as contest entries. Features need interesting subjects, but they also demand powerful, creative, skillful writing with active verbs and appropriate pace and construction. Sometimes breaking out material into sidebars is a good tactic."

***Wise County Messenger, Decatur, Texas***

**Second Place**, *Best Local News Coverage, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: March 8, 2014, and Sept. 13, 2015. Credit(s): Messenger Staff. Judges' Comments: "Thorough job in packing a variety of community coverage within the pages of the newspaper."

**Second Place**, *Best Newspaper Website, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: WCMessenger.com. Credit(s): Todd A. Griffith, Messenger staff. Judges' Comments: "Great website! Very easy to navigate; very easy to log in. Daily briefs and breaking news a great touch!"

**Second Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Welcome to Wise. Credit(s): Messenger Staff. Judges' Comments: "A major gift to the community is this ‘Welcome to Wise’ special section. While the advertisements often seem to overshadow the news-editorial, there is enough valuable information throughout to keep readers turning the pages. I like having a theme, this time featuring artists in the area. Overall, a job well done with the editorial, ads, photos and graphics."

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Defying Gravity. Credit(s): Richard Greene, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "Well written and organized. True human interest and reader appeal. Presentation of story excellent. Top notch. The story has a flow to it that keeps the reader's attention and keeps the person reading. It provides a personal insight into Desiree and what motivates her. In addition to the stats and figures a sports junkie reader wants, the story includes a touch of humor. Enjoyed the story and hope by now to have heard whether Desiree achieved her goal at the state meet."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 3,000-5,999*. Entry Title: Justice of the peace, 3 others killed in wreck. Credit(s): Brian Knox. Judges' Comments: "Nice job in showcasing a tragedy that happens on our roadways far too often. I like the use of photos and maps to enhance the story."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 4,000-5,999*. Entry Title: The American dream through Buddhist eyes. Credit(s): Brandon Evans, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "Interesting story with an unusual topic−Buddhism−in North Texas, of all places. Writing is good; story flows well. It's always interesting to read about people who live among us with such different lifestyles. It would have been interesting to have a bit more, a sidebar perhaps, about the earlier temples and some comments from the area residents, most of whom I must assume are devout Christians. Perhaps a bit more about the daily activities of these folks, too, and their reactions to political, criminal and civic events."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Coming Back Strong. Credit(s): Richard Greene, Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "Enjoyed the story about Kayson's comeback and her never giving up. She is an inspiration."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Photo, Non-daily Division, circ. 5,000-9,999*. Entry Title: Taking on Austin. Credit(s): Joe Duty. Judges' Comments: "The winner comes into focus as he crosses the finish line; while not as sharply focused, the strain and disappointment is evident on the faces of the second- and third-place runners. At this moment of victory, everything else is irrelevant and disappears into the background."

***Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming***

**First Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: It's Pure Joy. Credit(s): James Chilton. Judges' Comments: "Vivid coverage of a major legal and cultural event."

**First Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Downtown Cheyenne: Ready for renewal? Parts 1-5. Credit(s): Becky Orr. Judges' Comments: "Solid work, well told with images and graphics and quality writing. Bringing in information from places with similar issues was helpful."

**First Place**, *Best Serious Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: Mead reminds us of another bigoted governor in 1963. Credit(s): D. Reed Eckhardt. Judges' Comments: ‘The narrow-minded edifice erected against their fellow homosexual Americans by social conservatives, as well as those who have pandered to them.’ What's not to love about straight-shooting writing like this? Thanks for this eloquent verbal tug on the narrow fig leaf."

***Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming***

**First Place**, *Best Special News, Sports or Feature Section or Edition, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: UW football preview 2014. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "A terrific section covering the University of Wyoming upcoming football section with emphasis on the new coach. A solid balance of news-editorial, advertising, photos, graphics, etc. Great photographs throughout; good graphics and special features (Q&As, analyses of other teams, Heisman coverage, etc.). Good job by everyone involved. What football sections should be. Clear winner overall."

**First Place**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Rodeo Tuf. Credit(s): Jeremiah Johnke. Judges' Comments: "Very good. Interesting. Well-written."

**First Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Bittersweet end for East. Credit(s): Michael Smith. Judges' Comments: "Captures the utter heartbreak of the moment. Extraordinary timing, framing on display, using shallow focus to blur out the celebrating opposing team. A crisp, indelible shot. A great, great sports picture."

**First Place**, *Best Sports Section/Page, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Wyoming Tribune Eagle - Feb. 2 and Oct. 26. Credit(s): Staff. Judges' Comments: "Locked & Loaded. This staff has assembled a great sports package mixing in pro sports with collegiate and scholastic athletics. Great photos complement strong writing. Good balancing act of the three sports levels, providing enough of each to make every sports fan in the house happy. Good sidebar stories and easy-on-the-eyes layout complete the package. Really well done."

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Summer snow. Credit(s): Michael Smith. Judges' Comments: "There's not a great amount of devastation shown in this photo, but it's highly effective, showing the after-effects of a storm. Editors did the smart thing by running it large."

**Second Place**, *Best Breaking News Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: Execution-style killing. Credit(s): Sarah Zoellick. Judges' Comments: "Timely and thorough breaking news account of a horrific crime."

**Second Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Anti-Common Core bill is misguided. Credit(s): D. Reed Eckhardt. Judges' Comments: "Well thought-out editorial. Very detailed. Attacks the rumors and states the facts while giving a strong opinion."

**Second Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Can UW survive? Credit(s): Robert Gagliardi. Judges' Comments: "Robert Gagliardi gave a very thorough examination of the plight of a college football program. He approached the topic from many angles, contacted ample sources and left readers with a good understanding of the topic."

**Second Place**, *Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more*. Entry Title: Education standards: Past, present and future, Parts 1-3. Credit(s): Aerin Curtis. Judges' Comments: "Excellent work in providing multiple points of view, plus the lessons at the classroom level, to an issue that is raging across many states."

**Second Place**, *Best Photo Essay, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 12,000 or more*. Entry Title: Our Faces: Portraits of Laramie County. Credit(s): Michael Smith. Judges' Comments: "These photos draw me in and make me want to know more about the people profiled."

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Column, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Rudolph shows true grit. Credit(s): Dave Shelles. Judges' Comments: "This column was very well-written and treated its subject commendably."

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Feature Story or Series, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Eye of the beholder. Credit(s): Dave Shelles. Judges' Comments: "The writer caught my attention with the first sentence and held it until the end of the story. Well-written."

**Second Place**, *Best Sports Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Cheyenne Frontier Days - Tom Hansen. Credit(s): Michael Smith. Judges' Comments: "Something about the grit being chewed up and tossed into the air that makes this picture fascinating to look at. You can feel this one in your teeth. All perfectly frozen, well composed, expert focus. Close second."

**Second Place**, *Community Service Award, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Our Faces: Portraits of Laramie County. Credit(s): Michael Smith. Judges' Comments: "Wow - what a great, painstakingly labor− intensive idea! The pages and portraits were beautiful. Your community, you said, thanked you for recording this snippet in time through the faces of the day-to-day history-makers."

***Wyoming Tribune Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming***

**Third Place**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Capitol visit. Credit(s): Blaine McCartney. Judges' Comments: "It's not often that a newspaper photographer gets this close to a moose, but when it's in your downtown and it's been tranquilized, grab your camera. Blaine McCarthy did a great job of capturing the relative calm by including the two women in the background."

**Third Place**, *Best Feature Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: A high-stakes game of catch. Credit(s): Blaine McCartney. Judges' Comments: "Great moment and expression on the subject. Perfect technically and well played in the paper. Nicely done."

**Third Place**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 9,000 or more*. Entry Title: Raising the bar. Credit(s): Dave Shelles. Judges' Comments: "Excellent article. Interesting reading. He made me feel like I was there watching the girls jump!"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Breaking News Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Fuel blast kills one. Credit(s): Blaine McCartney. Judges' Comments: "A simple but powerful photo. The hand over the forehead tells us a lot."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Education/Literacy Story, Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: School bullying has decreased. Credit(s): Aerin Curtis. Judges' Comments: "Lot of data, easy to read, but needed editing−way too long. Also, on page 3, there was no follow up about the reluctance of some staff members to be involved."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Dedication. Credit(s): Blaine McCartney. Judges' Comments: "This photo of a lone ice fisherman braving a heavy snowstorm took some dedication to capture this shot, too!"

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Feature Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Get your goat. Credit(s): Miranda Grubbs. Judges' Comments: "Nice moment, and I like that the photographer got a little more from the subject about how he enjoys his life with a goat. Good reporting."

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Photo, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Cheyenne Frontier Days - Wes Stevenson. Credit(s): Blaine McCartney. Judges' Comments: "A moment I would expect from most rodeo shots, but it's still incredible timing and focus. Great shot."

***Yankton County Observer, Yankton, South Dakota***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Series, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 6,000*. Entry Title: Old Time Crimes. Credit(s): Brian J. Hunhoff. Judges' Comments: "Well written−A+. Well researched. Interesting topic. Readers love history of the area pieces, and this series has it in spades. Would have liked some subheads to keep pulling the reader along. Great job."

**First Place**, *Freedom of Information, Daily & Non-daily Division*. Entry Title: Closed government in South Dakota. Credit(s): Brian J. Hunhoff and Bernie Hunhoff. Judges' Comments: "A powerful set of editorials aimed at informing the public and its officials about the importance of transparency. This is something only a newspaper can do, and this paper does it well."

**Second Place**, *Best Editorial, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 3,000*. Entry Title: 10 Commandments for local officials. Credit(s): Brian J. Hunhoff. Judges' Comments: "Nice job of detailing for public officials how they should act in accordance with transparency. Also serves as a teaching tool for readers so they can better measure the performance of those they put into office."

***Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, South Dakota***

**First Place**, *Best Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: A Teachable Moment. Credit(s): Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "Randy Dockendorf proved that he's a great story-teller. His feature about a teacher with breast cancer was the favorite of this judge."

**Second Place**, *Best Business Feature Story, Daily Division*. Entry Title: Santee Sioux Gamble Pays Off. Credit(s): Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "Clever lead. Good job of collecting facts and presenting story."

**Third Place**, *Best Health Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 6,000 or more*. Entry Title: Peanut Ban Enacted To Protect Student. Credit(s): Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "This writer did a great job of calling attention to the food allergy problem in a manner that was both matter-of-fact and not overly alarmist. I imagine the parents of the student who is dangerously allergic to peanuts appreciated both his and the school district's level-headed treatment of the problem and the useful information that was provided."

***Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, South Dakota***

**Honorable Mention**, *Best Sports Story, Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. less than 9,000*. Entry Title: Overcoming Obstacles. Credit(s): Randy Dockendorf. Judges' Comments: "Good example of taking an ordinary situation and turning it into a story with appeal. Human interest and reader appeal are key elements. Writer builds on these and works in interesting information gained through research and successful interviewing. Well written."