



Winners!
2018 Better
Newspaper Contest

WNA
FOUNDATION



The Gazette

WISCONSIN'S BEST NEWSPAPER
Sunday, February 18, 2018 • Our 172nd year • \$2.50

Sports • 2B

The hands of Erin Nyhus have made her both the leading basketball scorer in Brodhead High School history—and a talented pianist



A movement in motion

Local women reflect on #MeToo moment

By Ashley McCallum
amccallum@gazette.com

JANESVILLE Erin Conley was denied a promotion at work because she was told she probably would get married soon.

Soi Lather was placed in a different internship because an older co-worker asked her on a date.

Cecie Ritter was told the only reason she was useful was because she had a nice butt.

These are some of the experiences local women say they have endured in the workplace or at school.

The Gazette reached out to nine women who hold leadership roles or are students to see how national movements such as #MeToo and Time's Up have affected them.

The #MeToo movement moved nationwide in October, when multiple women accused film producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault encounters. Since then, stories of harassment and sexual misconduct

have flooded the news and social media.

The movement led to the creation of Time's Up, an organization that provides legal funds and resources to women who have experienced or experienced workplace harassment.

Many recent harassment accusations have involved A-list celebrities or politicians, but many more involve ordinary people.

Conversations with local women revealed they agree on one thing: It happens here, too.

Women share stories

When #MeToo started spreading on social media, Kathy Sukas reflected on her past. Sukas is the director of the Rock County Communications Center.

Who's #MeToo started spreading on social media, Kathy Sukas reflected on her past. Sukas is the director of the Rock County Communications Center.

WHO THEY ARE

The women The Gazette interviewed for this story included (pictured above clockwise from top left): **Erin Conley**, manager of Janesville's House of Merry Wives; **Soi Lather**, Janesville City Council member; **Lon Lufkin**, Beloit city administrator; **Andis Schumacher**, senior at Parker High School in Janesville; **Cecie Ritter**, senior at Craig High School in Janesville; **Jana Ringland**, state senator; **Kathy Sukas**, director of the Rock County Communications Center; and **Kelsey Hood-Christensen**, program director at the Beloit Domestic Violence Services Center. All were photographed by Angela Mayer except King Johnson, who was photographed by Anthony Vahl.

For Soi Conley, a Janesville city councilwoman, it was the leaked Access Hollywood tape of President Donald Trump describing intimate interactions with women that made her reflect.

"I think part of the reason this has come to be a conversation nationally is because that tape smacked a lot of us in the face and gave women the courage to say it's not OK," Conley said.

She recalled applying for a promotion while working at a bank when she was 18. Conley said her boss told her she was young, pretty and probably would get married soon, so he would not let her change departments.

But Conley didn't get married right away. She continued to work at the bank and started getting promotions.

While negotiating her salary for a new job, Conley said she was told she couldn't make as much as a man in a similar job because he was married and had children.

"You know, you get dumped because you're young and you might get married, and then you get dumped because you are not married," she said.

Turn to **MOVEMENT** on Page 5A.

Gazette at a Glance

LOCAL • 2A-3A

Powerful pooches compete in event

The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin hosted its eighth annual pooch pull on Saturday in Janesville. The event lets heart-healthy, working-breed dogs compete by pulling a heavy cart that increases in weight each round. The event raises money for the business.

App suggested to report tips

Janesville schools will be the home of a behavioral treatment center and group day care facility for those with autism and related disorders if the city council goes along with a conditional use permit (CUP) recommendation made by its planning commission April 17.

Starlight Centers for Inclusion is seeking permission to locate the treatment center and group day care facility for up to 50 participants in a wing of Riverview Hall at 1803 Joyce Drive.

Dwight Webb, owner of Riverview Hall, spoke on behalf of the proposal, since representatives from Starlight Centers could not attend the meeting.

"One portion of Riverview Hall will be designated as an autism treatment facility," he said.

Fire chief and building inspector Terry Williams said the entire building was originally a nursing home.

"My assistant chief and commercial building inspector Tom Waydick went out

See **CUP** ... page 22

DEATH NOTICES • 10A

OBITUARIES • 10A-11A

INSIDE

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THE LAKELAND TIMES



RAISING THE BAR
Rexrode, Hayes tie indoor pole vault record

Page 13

MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN • FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

75 CENTS

"THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWOODS SINCE 1891"

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Planning commission OKs CUP for autism treatment center

By Jamie Taylor

OF THE ROCKWOODS

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See **CUP** ... page 22



endless winter

Northwoods deals with late season storm setbacks

Businesses, wildlife forced to adapt; role of climate change assessed

By Fred Williford

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The snowfall that pummeled the Northwoods April 13-15 "was a storm for the history books," according to Jeff Last of the National Weather Service in Green Bay.

The storm was the third-largest ever recorded in Rhinelander (the biggest being 29 inches in February of 1937). Last said a storm of that magnitude is "rare, there's no doubt about it. It is not common. But it is also not unheard of."

The snow impacted businesses, recreation, and wildlife throughout the area in a number of ways.

The area was hit by a similar late-season storm in 1995. The Lakeland Times ran photos of ice fishing enthusiasts on area lakes until April 26 of that year.

Docks and piers

In years past, many lake-property owners have hired professionals to install docks by this week in April. Carl Sarges of Pier of North in St. Germain hasn't been able to perform a single set-up because of late-season ice.

"We're down between 10 and 20 percent over last year," he said, though he is keeping a positive attitude. "It might be delayed, but as far as this company is concerned, it just kind of gives us a chance to catch up. You always feel like you're not getting enough done for a particular season. Well, this year, we don't feel quite so strained. It actually probably helps us."

Sarges said the lingering winter hasn't caused him to change his hiring, scheduling, or other business practices.

He's also not worried about a bump's rush of business all coming at once when the ice melts.

"We're not making any special preparation — because it will hit," Sarges said. "We're taking into account the fact that we know we're prepared for the slush, which will come."

That slush, Sarges anticipates, will keep his bottom line from seeing a shortfall at year's end. "It will make up for it in the long run," he said.

See **Weather** ... page 12

History-making general urges citizen engagement

JANESVILLE

Marcia Anderson never thought of herself as a role model until she became the first African-American woman to earn a second star as a U.S. Army general.

Now, the Rock County native wants to inspire others, especially young people, to become leaders.

"Being the 'first' brings a great responsibility to mentor others," Anderson said. "Because they will approach you and ask you how you did it."

She will encourage students when she speaks at a Free Black History Month event Monday, Feb. 26, at Blackhawk Technical College.

"I want people to be engaged," Anderson said. "So many of those we celebrate (during

What: Free talk by Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson.

When: Noon-1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26.

Where: Central Campus, Blackhawk Technical College, 600 S. County G, between Janesville and Beloit.

Details: Event is sponsored by BHC Student Government and Multi-Cultural Alliance in celebration of February as Black History Month.

Black History Month) stepped up and got engaged."

She urges citizens to serve on boards, run for office or embrace leadership in other ways.

"If you are not at the table, you are on the menu," Anderson said. "It's hard to affect changes when you are on the outside looking

Turn to **GENERAL** on Page 11A.

Florida, angry and grieving, takes gun protest to streets

Protesters plead for gun law changes

By James Deane

Allen Reed and Samara Lash

Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — Thousands of angry students, parents and residents demanded stricter gun control laws Saturday as news details were revealed about the shooting and killing of 17 people in a Florida high school.

The rally, held in downtown Fort Lauderdale, was

attended by scores of students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where the carnage happened.

Tenets spoke passionately during Saturday's rally in front of the federal courthouse, pleading with lawmakers to change the nation's gun laws.

One student, Emma Gonzalez, angrily criticized politicians who take campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association. She challenged them to stop taking money, leading the crowd in a call-and-response chant.

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Daily: **The Gazette**, Janesville
Publisher: Sidney "Skip" Bliss

Weekly: **The Lakeland Times**, Minocqua
Publisher: Gregg Walker

On the cover

Top row, from left to right:

Spot News Photo, Division C, Third Place: *Watertown Daily Times*– “Watchful Eyes” by Ed Zagorski

General News Photo, Division B, Third Place, *Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire* – “Emotional Goodbye” by Steve Kinderman

Sports Photo, Division A, First Place, *The Post-Crescent, Appleton* – “Celebration at state soccer tournament” by Dan Powers

Feature Photo, Division D, Second Place, *Lake Country Now, Waukesha*– “Skiers glide past” by Scott Ash

Bottom photo:

Spot News Photo, Division D, First Place, *Vilas County News-Review*– “Monday Mishap” by Doug Etten

Need duplicates?

Additional plaques and certificates are available for purchase from the WNA Foundation. Plaques are \$60 each and certificates are available for \$6 each. Tax, postage and handling are included in the price. Deadline to order is Monday, April 8. For more information, contact Membership & Programming Specialist Jordan Schelling at jordan.schelling@wnanews.com or (608) 283-7624.

Thank you!

Our special thanks to Capital Newspapers in Madison and Wisconsin State Journal Editor John Smalley for printing and assisting with this 2018 Better Newspaper Contest results tab.

Let your readers know:



Visit www.wnanews.com to download your 2018 Better Newspaper Contest Award Winner logo.

Congratulations division winners!

Daily Newspapers

Division A

The Gazette, Janesville

Division B

Beloit Daily News

Division C

The Monroe Times

Weekly Newspapers

Division D

The Lakeland Times, Minocqua

Division E

The Ripon Commonwealth Press,

Division F

The Valders Journal



The 2018 Better Newspaper Contest included 2,799 total entries from 121 newspapers.

Entries were judged by members of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

General Excellence

Division A

First Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Madison. **Judge's Comments:** The editions this paper submitted contained ambitious stories that really took some reporting -- the worker shortage and gun violence. And the reporting was well-supported with graphics. Overall, this is a handsome and well-organized paper. Sunday Best is a great way to package all the lifestyle topics that, in another era, would have each had its own section. Lots of attention to providing diverse voices and community leadership on the opinion pages.

Second Place: The Gazette, Janesville. **Judge's Comments:** The Gazette does a great job of taking community news seriously and covering it energetically. I liked the calendar. The opinion page was solid (and a Sunday "Sound Off" column seemed pretty creative). And it offers just enough nation/state news to serve committed daily readers.

Division B

First Place: The Reporter, Fond du Lac. **Judge's Comments:** The Reporter has the ambition to take on big topics — and the energy to coverage breaking news. It puts it all together in a very nice package.

Second Place: Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire. **Judge's Comments:** The Leader-Telegram provides quite a complete Sunday package. The large news hole requires generous use of wires — but news service copy is interesting and well-selected. Special recognition for having an opinion page that still carries staff and local commentary.

Division C

First Place: The Monroe Times. **Judge's Comments:** The Monroe Times wins for its extensive local coverage from reporters and photographers. It is the only paper evaluated that carried local commentary on its editorial page, offering readers analysis of the community from community members. Kudos for your commitment to your community.

Second Place: Portage Daily Register. **Judge's Comments:** The Register provides extensive front page coverage of local activities, both news and features, with



Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Division A, General Excellence

stories and photographs. It provides regional, state, national, and international coverage through wire services. The strong local voice editorially is from community members offering letters, but there is no local view or analysis on the editorial page.

Third Place: Watertown Daily Times.

Judge's Comments: The Daily Times provides extensive front page coverage of local activities, both news and features, with stories and photographs. It provides regional, state, national, and international coverage through wire services. The strong local voice editorially is from community members offering letters, but there is no local view or analysis on the editorial page.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Minocqua. **Judge's Comments:** Love the overall design of the paper. Has a great modern look. But more importantly, strong reporting and compelling stories throughout each issue.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River. **Judge's Comments:**



Mother of 9-year-old Lisa Ann French hopes her petition will keep convicted 'Halloween Killer' behind bars



'When Lisa can come back and have her freedom, SO CAN HE.'

Police seek vandals destroying decorations

Police seek vandals destroying decorations

Living one surprise bill away from disaster

Extension welcomes family living educator

2 injured in Monticello accident

Pinnacle takes costly plans to deal with water level issues

Black Hawk Reaches D5 Title Game, Monroe Bows Out

What's Next

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ON TO THE NEXT ONE
Black Hawk girls advance to WIAA state championship.
SPORTS, Page B1

THE MONROE TIMES
REAL JOURNALISM MATTERS

2 injured in Monticello accident

Black Hawk Reaches D5 Title Game, Monroe Bows Out

Pinnacle takes costly plans to deal with water level issues

Extension welcomes family living educator

What's Next

CERTIFIED ARBORIST LANT HUNTLEY Horticulture Service

The Monroe Times, Division C, General Excellence

photo big.

Third Place: Spooner Advocate. **Judge's Comments:** A lively read and visual pleasure that takes its journalism seriously, but also unabashedly celebrates the community.

Honorable Mention: The Platteville Journal. **Judge's Comments:** Aggressive and comprehensive coverage, good human interest stories, impressive sports coverage — the complete package, delivered with bold visual presentation.

Division F

First Place: The Oregon Observer. **Judge's Comments:** The Observer has a clean, bright design, with stories that grab the reader's attention and photos that pop of the page.

Second Place: Clintonville Tribune Gazette. **Judge's Comments:** Exciting colorful photos grab reader's attention immediately; stories have depth and heart.

Third Place: The Tribune-Phonograph. **Judge's Comments:** Headlines that pull the reader in - coupled with stunning photography - make the Tribune-Phonograph stand out.

Honorable Mention: New London Press

THE LAKELAND TIMES
MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN • FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018
Page 13

endless winter
Northwoods deals with late season storm setbacks

Businesses, wildlife forced to adapt; role of climate change assessed

Officials mark new certified site in Eagle River

Gov. Scott Walker: "We want not just sites developed, but really what it's about is careers"

The Lakeland Times, Minocqua, Division D, General Excellence

Star. **Judge's Comments:** Newspaper has a clean, modern feel, while capturing the reader's attention with in-depth stories and stunning photography.

Community Service/Engagement Award Daily Division

First Place: The Daily Press, \$1 million referendum for addict services - Peter Wasson, David LaPorte. **Judge's Comments:** This is what a newspaper should do: Serve as an honest broker in the community and make something happen. In this case, the Daily Press, on short notice, organized a public forum with the League of Women voters to give the public a chance to question local decision makers about a \$1 million property tax referendum and opioid epidemic funding. Sixty people turned out at the meeting space, which the Daily Press rented. The Daily Press's reporting on the meeting included the subhead: "Community forum allowed taxpayers to get answers," which sums up the whole effort. Subsequent issues featured various, informed voices sounding off on the issue in opinion columns.

Ripon Commonwealth Press
Wisconsin Weekly Newspaper of the Year 2011 • 2012 • 2013 • 2014 • 2015
Page 1

Optimism abounds downtown
Three historic structures could be saved if projects come to fruition

Knuth's eyes expansion

First hotel, then museum

Condos may save Mapes

City steers clear of bias accusations, votes down Stieber

The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Division E, General Excellence

An exemplary effort where a newspaper stepped up — something all newspapers can learn from.

Second Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Wausau's 20 Under Forty - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** An ambitious, well-done series from the Journal Times on Racine's extremely high eviction rate. The reporters delivered an interesting break down of the costs of evictions to the taxpayer, so that these were not just abstract numbers, but hit home for the reader. Personal stories put a human face on the issue, including the toll on students. This was a deep-dive into an issue not everyone necessarily cares about — the series made clear everyone should. Not least, the reporting triggered a response from the city and a local non-profit that may produce results. Bravo.

Third Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2018 Press-Gazette Academic Team - Pete Frank, Sarah Kloepping, Jim Matthews, Adam Wesley. **Judge's Comments:** There must be a place in our communities for honoring academic excellence. Well executed.

Division D

First Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Partnership to monitor water quality

THE OREGON OBSERVER
Portland, September 28, 2017 • Vol. 102, No. 10 • Oregon, OR • www.theoregonobserver.com • \$1

After the flood
A decade later, lives continue to hold

Managing its growth

2017 tax rate approved

Think Outside the Pot! Fall Container Planting Workshop

The Oregon Observer, Division E, General Excellence

in Lake Geneva - Robert Ireland, Scott Williams. **Judge's Comments:** Timely, helpful advice and important information for the community made this stand out.

Second Place: Courier Press, Community Service: #PdCproud for Olympian Matt Antoine - Correne Martin, Kim Corpian, Meaghan Schneider, Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Civic pride, though sometimes overlooked, can improve a community's health; this was well done, both in stories and in graphics. **Third Place:** Courier Press, Needs of the needy are here, more than ever; Retired Prairie du Chien chiropractor donates big to needy families; Red Kettle Campaign raises \$23K for Crawford County - Correne Martin. **Judge's Comments:** Quality stories for those most in need in the community.

Honorable Mention: Vilas County News-Review, Warm the Children program - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Very accessible for readers who want to know how they can help

Division F

First Place: The Denmark News, Gettin' To Know Ya - Charles Collier. **Judge's Comments:** I found this series to be very powerful in that it brings youth and the elderly together on a personal level...the

articles are fun to read and each shows a different level of writing. Great way to introduce Journalism to a young person who may not have had a chance otherwise.

Second Place: Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Watershed conservation leaders gather in a heartland of watershed restoration - Gillian Pomplun.

Third Place: The Verona Press, Corre la Voz - Scott Girard. **Judge's Comments:** **Honorable Mention:** Kewaskum Statesman, Cancer Awareness Pages - Andrea Steger, Tracy Dieckman, Andrea Hansen Abler, Anne Trautner.

Best Special Section

Division A

First Place: Kenosha News, Class of 2018 - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** This is a true keepsake edition. Every graduate is listed. Every school gets a short feature about that senior class's identify and spirit. Lots of planning and work went into profiles — and getting candid photos from throughout the year.

Second Place: The Gazette, Spring Election - Shari Rampenthal, Gazette staff. **Judge's Comments:** This section performs an important civic function — one of the reasons our work still matters to our communities. 20 pages of candidate profiles, connected to online Q&A videos. These are 20 well-organized pages.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, Extraordinary: Three-page special section commemorates Kimberly High School's 70 straight wins and fifth straight state title. - Mike Sherry, Ricardo Arguello. **Judge's Comments:** It is great when a newspaper can share a community's excitement about a winning team. This has a terrific cover photo and an evocative column about the football team's achievements. But the overall scope of content could have been greater to rank among the top special sections in this contest.

Division B

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Legends of Sports - Jim Franz, Josh Flickinger. **Judge's Comments:** This had some tasty content for a sports-centric community: Mixing stories about current stars with

some good “remember when” yarns. A refreshing approach. The art direction may not be everyone’s cup of tea. And I wish the headlines lived up to the stories themselves.

Second Place: Daily Jefferson County Union, Football preview - Chris Caporale.

Judge’s Comments: This was a colorful, and well-organized project. Writing a bit undisciplined. But all the coverage was probably welcomed by players and their families. Clearly a premium product for those readers. Good breakouts -- coaches’ records, past winners, etc.

Third Place: Beloit Daily News, Stateline Area Community Yearbook - Staff.

Judge’s Comments: What an exhaustive treatment of the annual “progress” edition.

Honorable Mention: Daily Jefferson County Union, Season’s Greetings - Staff.

Judge’s Comments: This could easily be an ad-only gift guide -- but an effort was made to find local pictures and develop human-interest stories.

Division C

First Place: Baraboo News Republic, Flood of 2008 - Staff. **Judge’s Comments:** This is important work fulfilling the primary task of a community newspaper, including being the institutional memory. Great decision to develop and provide this section to the community.

Second Place: Daily Globe, A History Project: Journey back in time - Staff.

Judge’s Comments: Important tribute with a lot of hard behind the scenes work to track and gain the photographs. Great vehicle for capturing advertising.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, 2018 Fall Sports Preview - Adam Krebs, Marissa Weiher. **Judge’s Comments:** Comprehensive preview of the school year and all the sports team. Tremendous job by Adam, a real commitment.

Great vehicle for capturing advertising

Honorable Mention: Watertown

Daily Times, A Tribute to Our Heroes - Staff Watertown Daily Times. **Judge’s Comments:** Important tribute with a lot of hard behind the scenes work to track and gain the photographs. Great vehicle for capturing advertising

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, Salute to Emergency Personnel 2017 - Staff

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Wisconsin State Amateur Preview - Staff.

Third Place: Sawyer County Record, American Birkebeiner Preview Edition - Paul Mitchell, Terrell Boettcher, Frank Zufall, Darrin White.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, Winter Sports Preview - River News Staff.

Judge’s Comments: Very clean, very nice.

Second Place: The Platteville Journal, 2018 Spring Sports Preview - Jason Nihles.

Third Place: Price County Review, Flambeau Rama - Seth Carlson, Jessica Sufak, Jen Moritz.

Division F

First Place: New London Press Star, 2018 New London History Calendar - Scott Bellile, Jamie Baumann. **Judge’s**

Comments: This section took a common project and made it its own. With historical events and break downs, it made it fun to read through.

Second Place: The Valders Journal, Hometown Heroes - Brian Thomsen, Mary Thomsen, Todd Bergmann. **Judge’s Comments:** Great tribute to hometown heroes. Was expecting to see law enforcement along with the firefighters and EMS.

Third Place: The Valders Journal, June Dairy Month - Brian Thomsen, Mary Thomsen, Todd Bergmann. **Judge’s Comments:** This took an interesting aspect on a national “holiday” and localized it to cater to readers.

Honorable Mention: Juneau County Star-Times, Take Aim - Star-Times Staff.

Judge’s Comments: A fun approach to a season that affects many readers.

Editorial Award

Division A

First Place: Wisconsin State Journal, “Of course the cops should stay in schools”; “City shouldn’t bury history at graveyard”; “The president is an enemy of the truth” - Scott Milfred. **Judge’s Comments:** Cops stay in schools – clearly and succinctly puts the issue out there for readers – Part 2 – city shouldn’t bury history – Like they way they state their view at the onset.

Vikings fulfill dream for team, their fans

The carriage is coming soon to take the Valders Vikings to Madison after a fairytale three decades in the making came true.

Basketball is the heart and soul of this sports-minded community, and people will tell stories for days about the powerhouse Valders High School boys teams of the early 1980s. Three times the Vikes made it to Madison, and three times they came home with a silver ball, having lost in the finals.

The memories have mellowed and the trophies have tarnished to an almost-gold hue, but the hunger has never gone away. It’s simply been passed from generation to generation.

The Vikings have gotten close many times, losing twice in recent years to Appleton Xavier in the sectional finals that would have sent them to state.

So the stage was set again this year: The Valders Vikings vs. the Xavier Hawks, who hadn’t lost since the state championship game in 2016, a 53-game winning streak. The stakes were high, but Valders was hopeful.

The Hawks had blown out most of their opponents this year, hitting 100 points several times. The Vikings would have none of that and stayed close all afternoon.

Down by just a point at halftime, it was game on. Somewhere in the midst of that game, the Valders players visibly switched from trying to stay with the Hawks to believing they could win. Their hunger and their heart, buoyed by the shouts and encouragement of their fans, gave them just the advantage they needed.

In dramatic fashion, the game came down to just 3.8 seconds, with the Vikings ahead by two and the ball in the hands of the Hawks. Two timeouts later, the winning streak ended for Xavier and Valders celebrated all night.

This team of young men has already fulfilled a dream of two generations and will be remembered and loved for it always, but if it can dig deep and find a way to a gold ball, it will be legendary.

Whatever happens in Madison this week, the Vikings have made their fans, parents and coaches proud, and they have returned a state spirit to this community that it has missed for 34 years.

Good luck, Vikes. And thank you.

The Valders Journal,

Division F, Editorial Award

Good cross promotion of podcast for readers who want to know more. Again succinctly puts the information out there to educate the public on the issue. Part 3 – The president is an enemy of truth – again like the way they state their view at the onset – very real – admit the fact that they don’t always get it right – they invite readers to look at things from a different perspective in a positive (not arrogant) way.

Second Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Big Top deals while City Council delays; Take secrecy out of Legislature’s harassment cases; Legislators must end dark store comparisons - Pete Frank. **Judge’s Comments:** Part 1 - Calling out a missed opportunity. It’s what we should be doing.

Part 2 - Liked the good, the bad, the ugly

and the takeaway format.

Part 3 – Good logic – Informative, opinion stating the facts, educational to consumers and calling on legislators to act responsibly.

Third Place: Kenosha News, Deputies bring order to courtroom; Quit stalling: close dark store loophole; Ideas that stand out from Dems seeking state posts - Bob Heisse. **Judge’s Comments:** Part 1 - Deputies bring order to courtroom – Love that they are recognizing the deputies for a job well done and sharing the challenges of a job ordinary people may think is an easy one.

Part 2 – Quit stalling – Poses the question leading the reader to ponder. Outlines it so the reader can clearly understand what’s going on. Calls out Legislators to do their jobs. Well stated.

Part 3 – Ideas that stand out – Outlines the differences between candidates – encourages the reader to learn more. Straight and to the point.

Honorable Mention: La Crosse Tribune, Get serious about one fire department in La Crosse area ... There’s nothing fake about the need for a free press ... A life lost too young, too tragically - Russell Cunningham. **Judge’s Comments:** Part 1 – Calling out/on non collaborative fire depts to work together. LOVE the offer to book a venue and supply to coffee. Not just playing with fire, but with lives....

Part 2 – Nothing fake about need for free press – Love how they lead with the first amendment – near and dear to our hearts – Well stated editorial – Isn’t negative - its ok to disagree – reminds the reader the importance of free press.

Part 3 – Life lost too young – solicits emotion – heart wrenching, tragic – encourages community to act if they see something – reminds all to be kind. Repetitive.

Division B

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Out of bounds at golf course; Never be fearful of speaking up; As a community, will we face this? - Bill Barth. **Judge’s Comments:** This is well-reasoned and well-written commentary, original and local! It is evident the paper is courageously raising these topics as pertinent to a functioning community. The paper cares about mobilizing the community.

Second Place: The Journal Times, On Facebook, you're the product being sold | Owners of Wild Root ought to pay into project | Walker offers tax credits, but only to some - The Journal Times Editorial Board . **Judge's Comments:** Good strong analysis of issues at different levels, both state and local. Nice tone of writing.

Third Place: Daily Jefferson County Union, Semper Fi: Remember local Marine by living life as he did; Release of twice-convicted Zhang a slap to all sex assault victims; Passion for telling stories will keep your community strong - Christine Spangler, Alexa Zoellner. **Judge's Comments:** The style is more personal and touching, in the vein of a column. But it works.

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, School not to blame for 'survival by referendum'; Recreational OWI laws should target repeaters; and Conservation wardens shouldn't be park rangers. - Gary Ridderbusch, Kurt Krueger, Doug Etten.

Judge's Comments: Clear, concise, specific and strong topics and language

Second Place: Ladysmith News, Blocking city streets should cost railroads; Transparency on life support in hospital deal; Problem goes higher up than kindergarten - Luke Klink. **Judge's Comments:** Assertive and to the point, make the newspaper a player when it needs to be.

Third Place: The Star News, Time to pull the plug on a bad law, Attorney general's office should pay for Bowers' leave, Ignorance is the enemy of America - Brian Wilson.

Honorable Mention: The Country Today, - Heidi Clausen. **Judge's Comments:** Third piece (Internet) is a favorite, mixing the big issue with the personal

Division E

First Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Tragedy shows need for better mental health care; Human trafficking: We all must try to understand this; Beautification award a pleasant surprise - Scott Williams. **Judge's Comments:** Compelling editorials - even for those who don't live there.

The commentary on the tragic dementia victim was moving, the human trafficking editorial touched on an important

educational message for the community and the beautification piece was a great community-building accolade. Good work.

Second Place: The Record-Review, Rural Realities, A Needed Conversation, Not a Government of Angels - Peter Weinschenk. **Judge's Comments:** Great job calling out the dysfunction a the city level and speaking out against suppression of public information by police. Fascinating take on earmarks. Enjoyed it. Interesting perspective on court ruling of how to define a town as rural.

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Ripon man's 'moving' tale challenges merit-based immigration bill; Another dollar store in Ripon? You don't need a penny (or 100) for our thoughts; Glenn Grothman's gamble? You bet! - Tim Lyke.

Judge's Comments: Reasoned piece on immigration bill, Dollar store editorial addresses the reality but won't change a thing - sorry, nice calling out the U.S. Rep. from your hometown. They need that once in a while.

Division F

First Place: The Valders Journal, Valders gets lesson from failed TIF deal; Vikings fulfill dream for team, their fans; Ambulance needs a turn in direction - Mary Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** Sharp writing on all. Good perspective on responsibility of officials to do homework on financial projects. Nice inclusion of sports success in a community where that means a lot. Offering plain-language perspective on complicated issues like financing ambulance services is great use of newsprint space.

Second Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, Accountable; Do the math; In the dark - Kevin O'Brien, Kris O'Leary. **Judge's Comments:** Good editorial on holding city accountable; nice to see the facts and figures in "Do the Math." Nice tie to Sunshine Week and explanation of coverage of payroll investigation.

Third Place: Courier Sentinel, Failing to plan, is planning to fail; Local planning efforts must continue; School wall plan is misguided waste of resources - Brian Wilson. **Judge's Comments:** Hog farm/zoning - A common-sense editorial on a hugely important community issue. Very similar to the other - some facts and

figures would make it stronger. Fascinating move to build a wall at the school and solid editorial calling for logic.

Editorial Section

Division A

First Place: The Capital Times, - Dave Zweifel, John Nichols, Lynn Danielson, Judie Kleinmaier. **Judge's Comments:** Consistently stellar writing from Dave Zweifel and John Nichols along with solid guest columnists make The Capital Times stand out above their competition.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Journal, - Scott Milfred, Phil Hands, Laura Nolan.

Third Place: The Gazette, - Andrew Broman.

Honorable Mention: Green Bay Press-Gazette, - Pete Frank, Robert Zizzo.

Division B

First Place: Leader-Telegram, - Liam Marlaire. **Judge's Comments:** A two-page editorial section must be a rare thing, indeed. But these are interesting. Nice mix of content and columnists. Particularly enjoyed the column on the Jamf culture. The in-house editorial pieces cover some weighty subject matter, which is refreshing to see. Suggestion: Spell out your opinion right at the top, and then support it throughout the rest. Don't save it for later.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, - Matthew Johnson, Emily Massingill, Susan Endres. **Judge's Comments:** Appreciate the focus on Sunshine Week and newsprint tariffs. Readers often have no idea, and they need to know.

Division D

First Place: The Star News, - Brian Wilson. **Judge's Comments:** Editorials and columns emphasize community issues; letters are encouraged and strong citizen participation through letters; publisher editorials and columnists address diverse issues.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, - Staff . **Judge's Comments:** Editorials and columns emphasize community issues; letters are encouraged and strong citizen participation through letters; publisher editorials and columnists address diverse issues.

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Editorials and



Burlington Standard Press, Division F, Best Front Page

columns emphasize community issues; letters are encouraged and strong citizen participation through letters; publisher editorials and columnists address diverse issues.

Division E

First Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, - Rob Ireland, Scott Williams. **Judge's Comments:** Extensive editorial section; local columnists writing about community concerns or expressing personal opinions; letters to the editor

Second Place: New London Press Star, - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** Local columns and letters to the editor; little publisher viewpoint

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, - Tim Lyke, Ian Stepleton. **Judge's Comments:** lots of letters from readers; two staff columns on important local issues

Best Front Page

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, - Tim Seeman, Shawn Sensiba, Greg Little. **Judge's Comments:** Nice writing, good story selection and great photos make this the winner

Second Place: The Post-Crescent, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Nice clean designs, great headlines, solid writing. Nice job.

Division B

First Place: The Freeman, - Bill Yorth. **Judge's Comments:** Nice use of graphics and photos, bold headlines, and snappy writing make this a first place winner. **Second Place:** Daily News, - Christopher Becker. **Judge's Comments:** Creative design work and good use of graphics make this page an attention getter. **Third Place:** The Journal Times, - Journal Times staff. **Judge's Comments:** Designers here are unafraid to try something new. Each page shows a new approach for drawing readers in.

Division C

First Place: Portage Daily Register, Deputy cleared in death - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Great placement of news and organization of the front page. **Second Place:** Baraboo News Republic, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Great photos to catch the eyes of the readers. **Third Place:** The Monroe Times, - Adam Krebs. **Judge's Comments:** Eye-catching dominate photos and headlines. **Honorable Mention:** Watertown Daily Times, arts, beats and eats; just getting started; more than 60 students - Heidi Schwach. **Judge's Comments:** A lot of news items on the front, but could be aired out a bit.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Leading with multiple murder stories on the front page of a small newspaper is no easy task and the Lakeland Times did a great job with it. Congratulations. **Second Place:** Vilas County News-Review, - Jean Drew, Gary Ridderbusch. **Judge's Comments:** I would liked to have read the page jumps on this entry but they



Carthage College's Bob Bonn, who has been the school's athletic director since 1992, is planning to retire next summer. He will stay on at Carthage in an advisory role through Dec. 31, 2018.

Bonn voyage, Bob

Longtime Carthage A.D. to retire in 2018

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF
Bob Bonn's 26th year as Carthage's athletic director will be his last.

In a statement released by the school Wednesday, it was announced that Bonn — who's been the athletic director there since 1992 — plans to retire next summer.

According to the release, the 65-year-old Bonn decided to make the announcement months in advance to afford Carthage more time to hire his successor.

Bonn plans to step away from his role following the Red Men/Lady Reds Open golf outing in June and will remain on staff in an advisory capacity through Dec. 31, 2018, to assist with the transition.

"I am deeply appreciative of Bob's willingness to stay on as my special assistant," said Carthage President John R. Swallow, who took office in July, in the release.

"And I will welcome his wise counsel even further into the future."

Through 25 years, Bonn has overseen an athletic department that has enjoyed significant on-field success, seen a large growth in the number of student-athletes on campus and has either built or renovated major athletic facilities.

"I've been extremely proud and fortunate to

'I'VE BEEN EXTREMELY PROUD and fortunate to be part of the Carthage community. ... I've just been on watch. The accomplishments, that's just a tremendous group effort.'

Bob Bonn

on assessing his 25-year tenure at Carthage

be part of the Carthage community," Bonn said. "I don't know another college in America that has gone through the improvement and development that ours has."

Athletic success

During Bonn's tenure, Carthage has added nine sports for a total of 24 NCAA Division III teams. The majority of the school's 115 banners, which signify conference titles and top-eight national finishes, have been raised under Bonn's leadership.

"I've just been on watch," Bonn said. "The accomplishments, that's just a tremendous group effort."

Additionally, since Bonn arrived, Carthage has built the Tarble Arena, N.E. Tarble Athletic and Recreation Center, Smeds Tennis Center and Carthage

earned a doctorate in sport psychology and sociology from Boston University in 1983.

Hired by Campbell

After stops in Massachusetts, New Mexico and Oregon, he was hired by Carthage President Emeritus F. Gregory Campbell in 1992 from Pacific University.

"Across the past 25 years, in reviving and building the athletic department, Bob Bonn has contributed fundamentally to reviving and building Carthage itself," Campbell said.

Bonn's family had a large impact on Carthage, as well. His wife, Michele, is now retired after teaching exercise and sport science, as well as having stints as registrar and director of advising. They have two sons, Steven and Ryan. Steven graduated from Carthage in 2010, while Ryan is an adjunct faculty member in the chemistry department.

In the release, Bob Bonn gave his basic philosophy on how he's succeeded at a demanding job for a quarter-century.

"As long as the decision was made for the welfare of the students, I always thought, 'I did a good job today,'" he said.

Bonn, a college letterwinner in baseball and lacrosse,

Mike Johnson

Kenosha News, Division A, Best Headlines

were not included. Lots to Catch the eye, great layout.

Third Place: The Press Times, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Love to see these front pages free from advertisements. **Honorable Mention:** The Star News, - Brian Wilson. **Judge's Comments:** Love to see these front pages free from advertisements.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, River News Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Clean layout, strong headlines, dominant photos. Great looking front pages that really draw you in. **Second Place:** The Ripon Commonwealth Press, - Ian Stepleton. **Judge's Comments:** Great designs really make the major stories pop. **Third Place:** Grant County Herald Independent, - David Timmerman.

Judge's Comments: Prominent photos really jump off the page.

Honorable Mention: Waupaca County Post, - Cody Popp, Robert Cloud, Greg Seubert, Angie Landsverk. **Judge's Comments:** Great clean, consistent layout.

Division F

First Place: Burlington Standard Press, - Ed Nadolski, Sue Lange. **Judge's Comments:** Big stories at the top really pop with strong front page design. **Second Place:** The Chetek Alert, - Chetek Alert Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Fantastic design on main front-page stories really highlights the strong journalism. **Third Place:** The Valdres Journal, - Brian Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** Love the design giving significant space to two significant stories on the dairy industry and high school basketball. **Honorable Mention:** The Stoughton Courier Hub, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Dominant photos really show off the strong photography.

Sports Section

Daily Division

First Place: Leader-Telegram, - Nick Erickson, Spencer Flaten, Joe Ziemer, Mike Klees. **Judge's Comments:** Strong photography, compelling design, depth and breadth of coverage (active mix of local, regional, state, nation, world), tons of stats and a consistent personality make this section the winner. It gets the edge over second-place finisher based on front-page impact.

Second Place: The Gazette, - Eric Schmoldt, Tom Miller, John Barry, Bryan Wegter. **Judge's Comments:** A photo finish for first and second – If I could call it a tie, I would. Engaging throughout for the same reasons as the first place winner.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, - Mike Sherry. **Judge's Comments:** Thorough, action-packed, informative throughout. Some strong photography but overall not quite as visually impactful as first- and second-place winners.

Division D

First Place: The Chronotype, Dave Greschner, Leah Fundell. **Judge's Comments:** Love the perception of the

photos, photos pop off the page, clean layout. Well done!

Second Place: Hudson Star-Observer, - Bob Burrows. **Judge's Comments:** Well done.

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Nice section, has natural flow

Division E

First Place: Grant County Herald Independent, - A.J. Gates. **Judge's Comments:** Colors pop, clean layouts. Absolutely beautiful.

Second Place: Pierce County Herald, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Beautiful sections. Well done!

Third Place: Barron News-Shield, - Mark Bell. **Judge's Comments:** Beautiful sections. Well done!

Division F

First Place: Burlington Standard Press, - Mike Ramczyk. **Judge's Comments:** In a tough field, a nice section on the state girls' volleyball championship stood out. Great photos shared space with player bios and stories digging deeper into the championship. The remainder of the sections were well made and used photos well. Nice work!

Second Place: The Valdres Journal, - Brian Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** The spread on the state basketball playoffs made the competition close for design. The paper features solid, simple design with color and black-and-white photos used strategically to give each page nice emphasis including jump pages. Kudos!

Third Place: Clintonville Tribune Gazette, - Erik Buchinger, Sue Schroeder, John Faucher. **Judge's Comments:** Designers use tools well for cut-outs and pictures making pages vary. Stat page looks nice and is easy to read. Flow of photos works well, too. Nice work!

Honorable Mention: Reedsburg Times Press, - Chris Flores, Sean Davis. **Judge's Comments:** There are some great photos used effectively. Spacing is good for photos and stories and their jumps. Moving a dynamic photo up and the sports schedule down may help the page pop more. The mascot in the schedule does help break it up though. Good job!

Feature/Lifestyle Section

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, Living Section - Shari Rampenthal. **Judge's Comments:** Very clean and easy on the eyes.

Second Place: The Gazette, Home and Money section - Shari Rampenthal.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, - Ed Berthiaume, Shane Nyman. **Judge's Comments:** To make an apostrophe instead of a open single quote, type a letter in front of the apostrophe, type the apostrophe then delete the extra letter. Other than that, loved loved loved the arcade cover. Tough competition, though.

Weekly Division

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, Michelle Drew, Doug Etten, Gary Ridderbusch. **Judge's Comments:** Great variety of stories. Strong coverage of events in the area and the people who live there.

Second Place: The Star News, - Mandi Troiber, Brian Wilson. **Judge's Comments:** Has a great local feel to it. Like you might see a story about a friend or family member in there.

Third Place: Burlington Standard Press, - Todd Mishler, Vicky Wedig, Heather Ruenz, Jennifer DeGroot. **Judge's Comments:** What a touching story on the two children overcoming cancer. Strong, compelling stories really make the most of the single-page format.

Best Headlines

Division A

First Place: Kenosha News, Bonn voyage, Bob; You're a good player, Da'Shaun Brown; Jeer, jeer for old Notre Dame - Jeremy Reeves. **Judge's Comments:** Loved the Charlie Brown reference!

Second Place: The Gazette, Rashkin calls for a county reefer-endum; Bark to the future; It takes a village to irritate a city - Tim Seeman. **Judge's Comments:** "Reefer-endum" didn't do it for me, but you nailed it with the "It takes a village."

Third Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Green & Gold Bombshell; Covert communication; Summer sweat becomes winter heat - Julie Larson. **Judge's**

Comments: These are all solid headlines, but nothing really jumped out at me the way some others did.

Division B

First Place: The Reporter, Gonorrhea gone awry; 'When Lisa can come back and have her freedom, so can he'; Self-rolling snowballs? Yes, snow rollers exist - Sharon Roznik, Sarah Razner, Doug Raflik, Taima Kern. **Judge's Comments:** Has all the components of great headlines: risky/eye-catching, powerful and full of energy.

Second Place: Daily News, Welcome back my friends, to the snow that never ends; Reality check yourself; Diaper dandies - Christopher Becker. **Judge's Comments:** Your headlines drew me in with wit, humor and energy.

Third Place: Leader-Telegram, Guys Eye View; Out Of The Dark; An Olympic Stretch - Tom Gunderson. **Judge's Comments:** I love how your headlines are brief, to the point, and accurate.

Division C

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, How does your garden glow?; Pigment of your Imagination; Keep smiling - Emily Walsh. **Judge's Comments:** Great word play on the first two, and "Keep Smiling" is just fun.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Laughing in the purple reign; King Pin; Not Zettle-ing for a loss - Adam Krebs. **Judge's Comments:** Any Prince reference is a winner in my book. "King Pin" is short to the point, but still punchy.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, Halloween no treat for Monroe meth lab operators; A Merry 'Quiesmas'; Nebulous planning, clear success - Bridget Cooke. **Judge's Comments:** "Merry Quiesmas" is very clever and fun. And great use of nebulous in the third headline.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Raising the bar; Opener not so open; Ott-Lasting the field - Nick Sabato, Jeremy Mayo, Beckie Gaskill.

Second Place: News Graphic, Sky Dance; Treasures of H2OZ; Night of a Thousand Starts - Kay Dahlke.

Third Place: The Country Today, - Heidi Clausen.

Honorable Mention: The Country Today, A ferry tale; In it for the long run; Scray sure to smile if you say cheese - Benjamin Wideman.

Division E

First Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Library closing the book on fines for kids; Magic theater could disappear from downtown; Got a kid in school? There's an app for that - Scott Williams. **Judge's Comments:** Cleverest.

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Engineering Future Success; On a boat or at home, GL native cooks up smiles; Coding Mr. Roboto - Hannah Tetzlaff. **Judge's Comments:** Added to the story.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, Exceeding Axe-pectations; Ready for takeoff; Sticker Shock - Jeremy Mayo, Jamie Taylor, Heather Schaefer, Kayla Thomason. **Judge's Comments:** Punny.

Special Pages

Daily Division

First Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, - Patrick Durkin, Jake Van Camp, Julie Larson.

Weekly Division

First Place: Spooner Advocate, - Bill Thornley. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent writing and storytelling. Love the photos and design. Unlike many entries in this category, this section doesn't have a broad mix of work from different reporters/photographers, but Bill Thornley's writing style, sense of humor and original wildlife photos make this section stand out from the rest.

Second Place: The Northwoods River News, - Beckie Gaskill. **Judge's Comments:** Good blend of news stories, columns and photos. Readers are lucky to have such a well-rounded Outdoors section in their paper every Friday.

Third Place: Kewaskum Statesman, Veterans Day Section - Honoring Those Who Served - Staff of the Kewaskum Statesman. **Judge's Comments:** Nice concept and enjoyed reading the stories about the Honor Flights. Would have liked to see more photos from Statesman staff.

Open Records/FOI Award

Division A

First Place: Wisconsin State Journal, “Don’t rush or hide contract with Foxconn”; “Tell WEDC to cough up the contract”; “Stop playing games with public records”; “Hand over public records electronically” - Scott Milfred. **Judge’s Comments:** Strong and effective advocacy of government transparency gets results. A clear first place winner.

Second Place: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, Investigation of University of Wisconsin sexual harassment coverups - Karen Herzog, Alan Hovorka, Devi Shastri. **Judge’s Comments:** Use of public records here showed how a university employee was able to move from job to job despite numerous complaints about his conduct. Nice job.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, Regulators keep pressure on Greenville to restore stream - Duke Behnke. **Judge’s Comments:** Getting the emails of public officials pulled back the veil on this public controversy. Nicely done.

Division B

First Place: Oshkosh Northwestern, UWO chancellor’s former home is for sale; Audit says UWO center may have broken federal law; Foundation lawsuit against UW System gets trial; Former top UWO officials face felony charges; Former UW-Oshkosh leaders plead not guilty - Devi Shastri, Karen Herzog, Nathaniel Shuda, Nate Beck. **Judge’s Comments:** Thorough and methodical coverage that clearly helped drive official actions and public discourse. Great to see.

Second Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Weston Village Board suspends administrator in secrecy - Haley BeMiller, Mark Treinen, Rob Mentzer. **Judge’s Comments:** Love it when journalistic tenacity forces municipal officials to learn about and comply with public-records laws.

Third Place: Oshkosh Northwestern, Death of psychiatric patient on state’s watch under review by district attorney; No charges in Winnebago patient death; Problems linger 8 months after patient’s death; Changes promised after

third failed inspection - Rory Linnane. **Judge’s Comments:** Important work on a subject that is all too common in many states.

Honorable Mention: Beloit Daily News, Two BPD officers commute to Milwaukee in city-owned vehicles - Austin Montgomery. **Judge’s Comments:** Goes to show that open-records laws can be effectively used to shine a light on everyday community issues that are of great import to local readers.

Division C

First Place: Baraboo News Republic, Baraboo News Republic sues Sauk County for records - Tim Damos, Staff. **Judge’s Comments:** Determined and disciplined reporting on significant local issues obscured by local politicians.

Second Place: Stevens Point Journal, School board wants to charge thousands of dollars for records - Alan Hovorka. **Judge’s Comments:** Sound explanation and example of why open records laws are essential.

Third Place: Daily Tribune, Port Edwards whistleblower coverage - Karen Madden. **Judge’s Comments:** Case study of the impact of whistle blowers and their social contract with the press.

Honorable Mention: The Daily Press, City dumps nearly 75 million gallons of sewage into bay; 19 violations, no penalties for Ashland - Rick Olivo.

Judge’s Comments: Detailed account of significant problem that would have remained hidden without this reporting.

Weekly Division

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Sunshine Week Grades - Staff. **Judge’s Comments:** A prodigious effort succeeding in making transparent the action and inaction of local, state and national government agencies and individuals related to their obligations for transparency. This compendium provides readers specific detail in a scorecard-format on how their government officials performed under Wisconsin’s public records and open meetings laws—and beyond, to include President Donald Trump. The project is a multi-page “editorial” describing and depicting how government agencies, officials and

staff have dealt responsibly and, in cited instances, irresponsibly with their legal obligations for transparency. The message succeeds, if readers take time read the entire text, on reaffirming the statutory dictate: government is accountable and responsible to the residents-voters-taxpayers it serves. A clear, decisive winner here!

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Fontana village shakeup linked to internet porn; Trustees mum about Fontana village action; Fontana administrator on paid leave; Fontana to pay ex-administrator \$35,000; Fontana pays lawyers \$34,000 in administrator’s departure - Chris Schultz. **Judge’s Comments:** A relentless effort to track local government’s reluctance to deal with a touchy personnel issue that eventually earned public exposure. The reporter, and the newspaper’s editorials, carried the transparency banner through this three-month imbroglio. Even with the articles and editorial, the investigation and conclusion still remain murky. Public officers cited lawsuit fears while the newspaper called them for accountability. Regardless of lingering question, the newspaper and its editorial leadership provided readers with details they could apply, should they choose, at a future village election. Good reporting; good leadership!

Third Place: Northwest Now, investigation reveals Germantown fire chief’s history - Tyler Langan. **Judge’s Comments:** As with too many so-called personnel issues, town-city-village-municipal officials remain silent behind state laws that rule government transparency. In this instance, the newspaper pressed for public records related to a fire chief’s departure. Some were finally revealed. But even with the detailed stories here, questions linger, information is absent. And state law designed to perpetuate transparency also can shield essential information from disclosure. Sad!

“Rookie” Reporter of the Year

Daily Division

First Place: The Sheboygan Press,

When a rape stole her sense of control, she fought back by eating fire; ‘I don’t think anyone escaped it’: Sheboygan’s 1998 flood left scars, triggered changes; Shared grief gives Plymouth couple second chance at love; (others) - Marina Affo. **Judge’s Comments:** This reporter is a fine, sensitive storyteller who is able to quickly get to the root of the story. Wonderful work.

Second Place: The Gazette, Complaint: Ex-student tried to stab school official; Local women reflect on the #MeToo movement; Milton mother hopes others can get treatment after son’s overdose; Minorities a sliver of mortgage applicants; Need for certified nursing assistants rising in Rock County - Ashley McCallum. **Judge’s Comments:** This reporter also has a gift that’s worth cultivating: that as a storyteller. Lovely writing. You have a bright future!

Third Place: Oshkosh Northwestern, FIT Oshkosh exhibit highlights diversity; Robotics students grow alongside their machine; Chaos in Omro schools puts leaders on notice; UW-Oshkosh’s all female-deans talk gender progress; DNR says chemical leak after fire not a threat - Devi Shastri. **Judge’s Comments:** You have a talent as a storyteller, and you do it well!

Honorable Mention: The Journal Times, All Saints end vasectomies; Support-animal debate boils; What happens to your possessions?; Officer’s paid leave continues; Bursting at the seams - Adam Rogan. **Judge’s Comments:** Solid work by a promising journalist.

Weekly Division

First Place: The Waunakee Tribune, A year of Waunakee sports - Tom Linder. **Judge’s Comments:** Tom’s work stands out! His opening sentences draw you in and he pulls great quotes from players and coaches alike. The formatting of stories works well too fusing scores and quotes. Keep up the hard work!

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Murphy makes Badger’s first trip to state tournament; WIAA rule change threatens to disband gymnastics co-op; Big Foot QB out for the season; Big Foot duo makes four state straight meets; Regional champions - Andrew Tucker. **Judge’s Comments:** Andrew shows solid writing and perspective as a new reporter.

"All I can do is try and give it my best shot. I have to, because it's going to end up killing me if I don't."

Sarah Bear
Narrowing heroin addiction during two years in prison



Sarah Bear is sentenced at the Marathon County Courthouse in Wausau on June 5. ALEXANDRA WAGLE/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

'I DON'T WANT THIS TO BE MY LIFE'

Pregnant woman in prison after drug relapse

Haley BeMiller Wausau Daily Herald/USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

WAUSAJ - Sarah Bear spent three weeks in an addiction recovery program in the fall, working to shake the hold heroin had on her life. ¶ She graduated from Lakeside Recovery at North Central Health Care in October and moved to Schofield. She got a job. She visited her children. ¶ Everything was going great, Bear said. But like most who struggle with addiction — as many as nine out of 10 people hooked on opiates — she was drawn back to the drugs she sought for an escape. ¶ In March, she was arrested. She learned while sitting in jail that she is pregnant with her fifth child. And earlier this month in a Marathon County courtroom, she quietly listened as a judge sentenced her to two years in prison.

Bear, 33, was one of 10 people interviewed by USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin as part of its Hooked in Wisconsin project, which examined the lives of heroin addicts trying to get clean. In an emotional interview at the Marathon County Jail, Bear said she hopes her time off the streets will help her turn over a new leaf. "I don't want to be here," she said. "I don't want this to be my life."

See RELAPSE, Page 4A



Bear walks with a therapy dog to calm her nerves before her graduation from Lakeside Recovery's inpatient program at North Central Health Care in Wausau on Oct. 6, 2017. ALEXANDRA WAGLE/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Research cited by the National Institute on Drug Abuse indicates 40 percent of people with a drug addiction relapse. Other studies point to a relapse rate as high as 85 percent, with one reporting 91 percent among opiate-addicted patients specifically.

Wausau Daily Herald, Division B, General News Story

I can tell he's looking for new angles and with more experience he'll continue to delve deeper and find more stories that interest him and readers. Your community should be proud to have you!

Third Place: The Valders Journal, Eaton tells company to stop testing sprayers on roads; Miracle League diamond sparkles with smiles; Ruth's gardens stay alive, thrive in lakeside haven; County Dems handicap party's primary for governor; Country schoolhouses don't go quietly - Emma Dill. **Judge's Comments:** With Emma writing a bulk of the stories, she covered a wide-range of topics and features. Her eagerness shows and stepping up to see more of her community will help her writing. As she sees and does

more, it'll strengthen her voice. Good job!

Honorable Mention: The Oregon Observer, Oregon man freed from corn picker after arm trapped for an hour; Reading, recycled; Veterans find peace with pets; Growing into a civic campus; No 'overnight' fix for Dunn flooding - Alexander Cramer. **Judge's Comments:** Alexander shows a strong diversity in his coverage. There are some really strong pieces, such as "Veterans find peace with pets." As he continues to dig, he'll uncover more great features in his community while strengthening his writing. Good job!

General News Story Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Complaint: Ex-student tried to stab school official - Ashley McCallum. **Judge's Comments:** Great, great writing.

Second Place: The Gazette, Man sentenced to 15 years in prison for killing his best friend during drunken Russian roulette - Jonah Beleckis. **Judge's Comments:** Superb reporting and writing.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, Wife's 911 call conveys desperation, heartbreak in Appleton police shooting death - Duke Behnke. **Judge's Comments:** Gripping story.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, Janesville goes BOOM - Frank Schultz.

Division B

First Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Pregnant woman heads to prison after relapse - Haley BeMiller. **Judge's Comments:** Clear and concise, and great job interviewing other people for background/added interest. Well written and interesting.

Second Place: The Reporter, Giving survivors power over their story, student opens 'What Were You Wearing?' exhibit - Sarah Razner. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written and interesting, and lots of background interviews. Easy to read; clear and concise.

Third Place: Beloit Daily News, Questions arise over one of three school finalists - Austin Montgomery. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written and researched, but reporter should have interviewed the litigants against the superintendent

applicant.

Honorable Mention: EagleHerald, Moving a hospital/Planning for everything - Penny Mullins, Melissa Kowalczyk. **Judge's Comments:** Very interesting article and well-written

Division C

First Place: The Monroe Times, Green County secures \$40K grant for business growth - Bridget Cooke. **Judge's Comments:**

Second Place: The Daily Reporter, GOP candidate Jacque facing backlash over prevailing-wage repeal - Nate Beck.

Third Place: Marshfield News-Herald, Owen police chief accused of misconduct, on paid leave - Mitchell Skurzewski.

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Man sentenced to prison for friend's death - Katjusa Cisar.

Division D

First Place: Ladysmith News, Not guilty verdicts reached in Larson stabbing trial; Judge rules to hear jury trial over weekend; Trial halted after officer states he deleted pictures; Text messages reveal 'rollercoaster' relationship; Officer testifies he saw no signs of attack on Mar - Luke Klink. **Judge's Comments:** Depth of coverage here is fantastic. It's clearly a major story for the community, and it's treated that way. Very well-written, good photos and strong overall coverage.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, Opioid abuse, "meth crisis" probed in Vilas - Joe Costanza. **Judge's Comments:** Lede does a good job of putting the opioid and meth crises in perspective, in terms of how long drugs have been a problem in our country. And the rest of the story details how the current issue is affecting the community. Excellent coverage of a major issue.

Third Place: North Shore Now, Former Nicolet teacher accused of sexual abuse found dead in his garage - Alec Johnson, Christopher Kuhagen. **Judge's Comments:** This is excellent work on a devastating story. From the sexual abuse investigation to the apparent suicide, there's so much involved here. The authors do a great job of reporting the news of the day while also incorporating much-needed context on the allegations against this teacher.

Honorable Mention: Waukesha County Now, After marijuana deal turned violent, an 18-year-old Oconomowoc man was shot in the back in Waukesha - Jim Riccioli. **Judge's Comments:** There's so much going on in this story and the reporter does a great job of sorting it out for the reader.

Division E

First Place: Courier Press, Bridgeport murder trial - Correne Martin. **Judge's Comments:** "No more Mother's Days." The emotion in this story just hits you from the start. Very well-written and great coverage of a major story.

Second Place: New Richmond News, Will stagecoach roll-out help crack unsolved St. Croix County murder after 25 years? - Mike Longaecker. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent mix of news and the background story. The important thing here isn't that they're bringing the stagecoach out, but to help remind readers why they're doing so. The well-written description of this cold case does just that.

Third Place: The Portage County Gazette, Stanley Street: A closer look at a controversial topic - Joe Bachman. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent in-depth look at a controversial topic. Traffic and safety issues aren't always the most exciting topics, but they can be some of the most important that we cover.

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods River News, An evening of farewells: Heck, Johns honored for community service - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** These two men obviously cared deeply for their community. The reporting on their farewells clearly conveys that.

Division F

First Place: The Stoughton Courier Hub, Another homecoming - Scott Girard. **Judge's Comments:** Great lede and very well-written. A heartwarming story.

Second Place: New London Press Star, Mosquito Hill may change its name - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** Great story flow and very informative.

Third Place: The Oregon Observer, 'From dream to reality' - Samantha Christian. **Judge's Comments:** "Flurry of activity" gives a good feel for what's been going on. And the story really shows how much

work went into the food pantry.

Honorable Mention: Tribune Record Gleaner, My Dog is Home - Dean Lesar.
Judge's Comments: Touching story.

Breaking News Coverage

Division A

First Place: La Crosse Tribune, August flooding - Kyle Farris, Jourdan Vian, Peter Thomson, Russell Cunningham.

Second Place: The Post-Crescent, DA, police describe horrific conditions as Appleton girl with disabilities dies 'a slow death'; Girl in Appleton neglect case absent from school 162 days in final year before she died; No help came: Heartbreak at every turn in death of 13-year-old Brianna - Alison Dirr, Chris Mueller, Ed Berthiaume.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, Police fatally shoot man acting 'erratically' with knife at Fritse Park; Fox Cities Trestle Trail sees second fatal shooting in three years; DOJ identifies man killed by police as Joshua Gomoll of Kaukauna - Duke Behnke. **Judge's Comments:**

Division B

First Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Helicopter crashes in Hazelhurst - Staff.

Second Place: Daily News, Tornado touches down in Washington County - John Ehlke, Christopher Becker. **Judge's Comments:**

Third Place: The Journal Times, Pedestrians struck; Deputy, bystanders aid couple; 27 felony charges in hit-run mayhem; Deputy, store worker honored - Caitlin Sievers.

Honorable Mention: Daily Jefferson County Union, Good Samaritan risks high waters to save drowning goat - Alexa Zoellner.

Division C

First Place: Daily Citizen, Apartment explosion - Terri Pederson. **Judge's Comments:** On the scene and providing detailed reporting with quotes from residents and officials. Stick to it follow up day after day. Capturing story with photos as well. Building story over time.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Confused trespasser alarms local residents

- Katjusa Cisar. **Judge's Comments:** Well covered and tracked breaking news story following it to its conclusion, supplying specific details. Many good quotes from various sources. Good job.

Third Place: Watertown Daily Times, One dead in apartment building explosion, Explosives destroyed at Beaver Dam apartment, City will take down damaged building, Officials take questions on planned controlled burn at apartment, Authorities identify man killed in explosion - Sarah Weihert, Ed Zagorski. **Judge's Comments:** Well covered and tracked breaking news story following it to its conclusion, supplying specific details. Many good quotes from various sources. Good job.

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Monroe Plane Crash - Bridget Cooke. **Judge's Comments:** Well covered and tracked breaking news story supplying specific details. Good quotes from sources. Good job.

Division D

First Place: Ladysmith News, Trains collide near Exeland; locomotive derailed, catches fire; Railroad begins cleaning up, unraveling what caused trains to crash; Where did rail safety measures fail in crash?; Report sheds light on train crash response - Luke Klink. **Judge's Comments:**

Second Place: Monroe County Herald, Devastating flooding inundates region - Pat Mulvaney. **Judge's Comments:**

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, Three killed in chopper crash, fund established for families; Medical helicopter crew praised for dedicated service - Dean Acheson.

Division E

First Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Cassville, region deluged by storms; Region struck by storms; Village, bank set up flood fund - David Timmerman. **Judge's Comments:** Although there were a few places where editing was needed, this was a very thorough and otherwise well-written set of stories

Second Place: Sun Prairie Star, #SunPrairieStrong after explosion kills one, injures 11 - Christopher Mertes,

Jennifer Fetterly, Brian Sheridan. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written and great photos, but not quite as thorough as the First Place winner

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Area man charged for allegedly threatening to kill Ripon officials - Ian Stepleton. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written and thorough, and good photos. I was a bit thrown by referring to the mayor by his first name.

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods River News, Man arrested after 6-hour standoff - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written and to the point.

Division F

First Place: The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent, Deerfield Tornado and Cambridge Gas Line Hit - Karyn Saemann. **Judge's Comments:** The double-duty effort of the staff and their good work truly shows! Lots of reporting initiative, including hiring the drone. Two events in one week, and how to cover them - We've all had that situation. This was a marvelous effort in response. Congratulations!

Second Place: The Chetek Alert, Remembering Natalie; Ex-husband said to be shooter; Criminal, civil charges precede fatal shootings - Carl Cooley, Bob Zientara. **Judge's Comments:** Triple death story, lots of details included. Good visuals. I like the court and police records search and reporting on the assailant.

Third Place: New London Press Star, Weekend dumpster fire could have destroyed New London landmark - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** Dumpster fire story nicely written, and with an engaging flare too. I count in the apparent pictures of a second reporter at the scene, making a team effort.

Honorable Mention: Kewaskum Statesman, Fire Rages Through Village Neighborhoods - Anne Trautner.

Investigative Reporting

Division A

First Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Company has nine violations - David Wahlberg. **Judge's Comments:** An ambitious effort to track health company's performance in a number of states -- just as it prepares to open in the newspaper's

CLASSROOMS AT A CROSSROADS



School District of Beloit teachers speak out about large class sizes, mental health needs of students and lack of appropriate student discipline at a staff and board meeting in February at Beloit Memorial High School. The Daily News has checked back with teachers, some of whom left the district, to see if things improved following the meeting.

Months after town hall, issues still remain for Beloit schools

By HILARY GAVIN, SENIOR STAFF WRITER

BLUETT — In February, School District of Beloit staff and board spoke out on the problems in a town hall meeting held at Beloit Memorial High School, some talking about things to what would be the future of the district. Some, including the superintendent, were asking for more support, but some were asking for more. As the district has moved into a new year, are these issues and more still being addressed? After the town hall meeting, the Daily News spoke with several people involved in the meeting, including the superintendent, to see how things are going. Some of the issues that were discussed at the meeting include: large class sizes, mental health needs of students, and lack of appropriate student discipline. The superintendent, David Bellile, said that the district is working on these issues, but that it will take time. He also said that the district is looking for ways to improve its services and that it is committed to providing a high-quality education for all students.

District resident students not attending Beloit Schools

YEAR	ENROLL-IN	ENROLL-OUT	NET LOSS
Sept. 2014	186	536	350
Sept. 2015	174	558	384
Sept. 2016	164	553	389
Sept. 2017	151	685	534

The chart above shows the number of students enrolling in or out of the School District of Beloit each year, from Sept. 2014 to Sept. 2017.

Beloit Daily News, Division B, Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

market.

Second Place: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, Delays, blunders and police neglect in Wisconsin's response to rape kits - Keegan Kyle, Alison Dirr. **Judge's Comments:** A topic more papers should be pursuing. Shocking numbers reinforced by good human-interest storytelling.

Third Place: The Capital Times, Lawmakers call for Matt Flynn to exit Wisconsin governor's race over priest abuse cases - Katelyn Ferral, Jessie Opoien. **Judge's Comments:** A damning compilation of on-the-record facts about a candidate.

Honorable Mention: The Capital Times, Grave Matters - Katelyn Ferral. **Judge's Comments:** Paper found a great source and used his examples to show how slopping the military headstones are.

Division B

First Place: Leader-Telegram, Altoona fires Biedron; Board reaches employee

decision; District denies Biedron fired; Texts play role in controversy; Staff unease cited; Good vs. bad; Biedron resigns, reaches deal with board - Julian Emerson. **Judge's Comments:** This is what investigative journalism is all about. You follow a small detail that uncovers bigger issues. Those issues revealed by the stories build public pressure and force officials into action. Great reminder of how journalism can make a difference.

Second Place: Oshkosh Northwestern, UW O chancellor's former home is for sale; Audit says UW O center may have broken federal law; Foundation lawsuit against UW System gets trial; Former top UW O officials face felony charges; Former UW-Oshkosh leaders plead not guilty; UW-Oshkosh Foundation s - Devi Shastri, Karen Herzog, Nathaniel Shuda, Nate Beck. **Judge's Comments:** Sometimes the key to investigative journalism is owning a story. After you dig up the initial details, you have to stay on it and cover any and every development in the story. This team clearly did so and it made a difference. Great use of open records.

Third Place: Wausau Daily Herald, The real story behind a murder-for-hire plot - Haley BeMiller. **Judge's Comments:** This story blew me away. It's devastating to read about such abuse, but getting the victim to discuss it is a remarkable achievement by the reporter. Matching it up to her statements to police and digging into the details shows good investigative work as well.

Honorable Mention: Leader-Telegram, A matter of degrees; Memory jarred, job lost - Julian Emerson. **Judge's Comments:** This investigation should serve as a reminder to anyone involved in a public project that you can't hide past lies and/or mistakes from your past. Great digging by this reporter.

Division C

First Place: Stevens Point Journal, University administrator accused of sexual harassment, rehired - Alan Hovorka. **Judge's Comments:** It must have felt good to know your reporting led to an overhaul of the UW hiring practices system (and get Governor Walker involved to boot). Great investigative work.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Monroe's deputy fire chief resigns; Heins,

Rausch handled MFD accounts outside city oversight - Bridget Cooke. **Judge's Comments:** You saw a small detail on a city agenda and followed it to reveal a great story. Wonderful job.

Third Place: The Daily Reporter, Subcontractor booted from Foxconn project after WisDOT work ban comes to light - Nate Beck. **Judge's Comments:** One simple question can have huge results. Keep up the good work.

Honorable Mention: Daily Citizen, Claim filed against ICE - Aaron Holbrook. **Judge's Comments:** I was a little confused how a citizen with permanent legal status could be deported, and wanted more information on the legality behind that. Besides that, good story — I'd be interested in a followup on the \$5 million lawsuit.

Division D

First Place: Wausau Pilot and Review, Court docs: Riverlife developer CEO embroiled in \$8.3M Colorado ripoff - Shereen Siewert, Kirk Mitchell. **Judge's Comments:** The totality of this entry is what made it the winner. This type of information is not easy to find. The depth of this investigation is evident. The editor's note helped as it explained changes that have happened as a result of the entry.

Second Place: Waukesha County Now, An off-duty New Berlin police officer was driving drunk. Waukesha police didn't cite him. - Elliot Hughes. **Judge's Comments:** The best-written storytelling of all the entries, by far. But in this category we also have to look at the depth of the information and how hard it is to obtain it.

Third Place: West Now, Video captures Wauwatosa police officer punching teen outside Mayfair mall - Karen Pilarski. **Judge's Comments:** This entry shows just how important social media is to newspaper coverage today.

Honorable Mention: The Lakeland Times, Rape allegation unreported to sheriff for three years - Richard Moore. **Judge's Comments:** A solid story. Too good not to recognize in some way.

Division E

First Place: New Richmond News, Impaired in the north country: Chronic drunken drivers plague Minn., Wis.

roads; At a crossroads: Repeat impaired drivers continue to slip through the system - Mike Longaecker, Youssef Rddad. **Judge's Comments:** Outstanding reporting and thoughtful writing with the potential to prompt meaningful change. The journalists chose a worthwhile subject, and did an excellent job of using personal stories to put the grim statistics in context. Kudos too, for treating both the victims and the former perpetrators with compassion.

Second Place: Pierce County Herald, Records reveal reasons behind three Prescott police terminations; Prescott official: 'No doctored documents'; Former Prescott cops sue city; Judge strikes down lawsuit by former Prescott cops - Mike Longaecker, Sarah Nigbor. **Judge's Comments:** The reporter did a nice job of pushing for records that held some less-than-stellar public servants to account. Well-chosen details and consistent followup stories that showed the lasting repercussions of the police department disfunction.

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Stuck on Second - Ian Stepleton. **Judge's Comments:** Great quotes in a story about an often over-looked group of people. The story highlighted the lax quality standards inside too many facilities that serve elders.

Honorable Mention: The Valders Journal, Would-be TIF developer's background shows violations in running centers - Todd Bergmann. **Judge's Comments:** Reporter did a nice job of vetting a business developer. It's so important to investigate the realities behind the shiny advertising, and this reporter proved it was worth the time to check them out.

Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

Division A

First Place: The Capital Times, Off the Menu - Lindsay Christians. **Judge's Comments:** Crisp, fresh, and authentic reporting of the day to day challenges facing workers in this industry long ignored. It was the exquisite writing that floated this cream to the top.

Second Place: La Crosse Tribune,

Behind-the-scene sleight-of-hand inserts legislation aimed at benefiting a single out-of-state frac sand mining company - Chris Hubbuch. **Judge's Comments:** Powerful and clear reporting of how the game really plays out.

Third Place: The Capital Times, Mad About Bitcoin - Steven Elbow. **Judge's Comments:** The power of great writing and top notch graphics came together to decode the mysteries behind cryptocurrencies. Positively brilliant writing by Steven Elbow.

Honorable Mention: The Capital Times, Rebuilding: Tomah VA Medical Center works to improve after opioid scandal - Katelyn Ferral. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent writing.

Division B

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Classrooms at a crossroads - Hillary Gavan. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent reporting. Clear explanation of the problems facing the school and a series of well-peopled stories. A fine example of education reporters doing the work readers and taxpayers deserve when their district is in crisis.

Second Place: The Journal Times, Forced out; What happens to your possessions?; Cycle of evictions; The toll on students; Stemming the tide; The evictions conversation must continue; Housing action plan discussed - Caitlin Sievers, Adam Rogan, Christina Lieffring, Sari Lesk. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent reporting and good interviews. I especially liked the section on what happens to people's belongings when they're evicted.

Third Place: Herald Times Reporter, Proposed Lake Michigan marine sanctuary sparks fears of federal overreach - Alisa Schafer, McLean Bennett. **Judge's Comments:** I like this a lot. Good writing, and a very clear exploration of all sides of the issue on declaring a sanctuary. It could be a government takeover or a boon for communities.

Honorable Mention: The Freeman, What's caught at the courthouse? - Brian Huber. **Judge's Comments:** What a good read from start to finish! I love this story idea -- what security screening catches walking into court houses.

Division C

First Place: Marshfield News-Herald, Hispanic immigration transformed Abbotsford. His life tells the story. - Keith Uhlig. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent use of a personal narrative to tell how one community copes with immigrants coming to town. Well written and researched. Clearly the best in this category.

Second Place: Daily Tribune, Heroin killed Daniel Martz. But other people are paying the consequences. - Keith Uhlig, Karen Madden. **Judge's Comments:** Vivid and unflinching look at how one overdose death affects everyone associated with it. It's clear a lot of work went into this piece.

Third Place: The Daily Press, City dumps nearly 75 million gallons of sewage into bay; 19 violations, no penalties for Ashland; Fosh Creek rehabilitation underway; Northland project aims to clear bay's muddy waters; Local tourist economy battered by storm - Rick Olivo. **Judge's Comments:** A town comes face to face with its infrastructure crisis and a century of delayed maintenance. Well written. Nicely done.

Division D

First Place: Hudson Star-Observer, Setting the stage: A recap of the history behind Citizens for the St. Croix Valley and Hudson Inclusion Alliance; A growing divide: As Hudson discusses inclusion, 'Citizens' flagged as hate group; - Jackie Renzetti, John Russett. **Judge's Comments:** An ambitious, sweeping, four part series on inclusion in the local community, from Syrian refugees to same-sex couples.

Explored from different angles, with many voices from the community being heard, the series brings a grass roots reality to a national debate.

The narrative is compelling. The issues are serious; people of differing viewpoints need to be heard, and they are.

One woman, one-half of one of the first same sex couples in the area, is quoted: "When you are in a very homogenous area, I think you have to make some intentional efforts."

The Hudson Star-Bulletin has done just that.

Second Place: Lake Country Now, The 12 most crash-prone intersections in the Milwaukee area - Bob Dohr. **Judge's Comments:** A superb treatment of a compelling subject: The dangers waiting in a familiar landscape.

For regular drivers of the area, this is an eye-opener, and maybe a life saver. Maps, explanations behind the danger points and driving tips make this essential reading.

A subject every newspaper should address.

Third Place: Lake Country Now, Firefighter crisis - Tyler Langan. **Judge's Comments:** Beautifully illustrated. At first blush, this might not seem as compelling a subject as it turns out to be. The series, it turns out, is more than the sum of its parts. What we learn, besides the issues surrounding the subject at hand, is how our communities are changing, especially family life and the decline of single-income households. Well done.

Honorable Mention: Lake Country Now, Germany trip - Tyler Langan. **Judge's Comments:** The amount of money involved on a trip by two city officials to their German sister city is only \$6,000 dollars or so; this detailed analysis of expenses incurred might seem like overkill.

But it's the principle of the thing. When the mayor defends his considerable airline seat upgrade, saying he wanted to be fresh and ready to put the city's best foot forward upon landing, you know he'll think twice in a similar situation next time.

Division E

First Place: Sun Prairie Star, A Voice for Mom - Jennifer Fetterly. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written, evocative piece that provides a voice and seeks answers.

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Trouble in dairyland - Ian Stepleton. **Judge's Comments:** This vital industry faces tough times, and the reporter seeks to dig beneath the surface issues for answers.

Third Place: Tomahawk Leader, Cry for Help; Coverage of Lincoln Hills has been embarrassment; Legislators urge judge to rescind restrictions at Lincoln Hills School; Thoughts from inside Lincoln Hills; Governor's Letter - Kathy Tobin, Larry Tobin. **Judge's Comments:** This is

fine coverage of an issue that ended up getting needed government attention.

Honorable Mention: Courier Press, Day one of murder trial depicts tumultuous relationship; Jury debates between strangulation or hanging; GUILTY: Defendant murdered girlfriend; 30 years prison given for Bridgeport murder - Correne Martin. **Judge's Comments:** Exhaustive coverage of a murder trial with a lot of moving parts.

Division F

First Place: The Stoughton Courier Hub, Alders want info on demo, restoration; Forging ahead; A history with history; Demolition follows years of decline; Saving the blacksmith shop - Bill Livick. **Judge's Comments:** Massive, commendable effort! What a contribution to a community's knowledge of its past and present, as a defunct property is converted.

Second Place: Juneau County Star-Times, The brain drain pain - Jake Ekdahl. **Judge's Comments:** Important topic. Story extremely well conceived and put together, taking broad trends and state statistics and illuminating them locally. And it holds out hope and solutions, not just pain

Third Place: The Oregon Observer, After the flood - Bill Livick. **Judge's Comments:** This is a nice readable account that ties a devastation of 10 years ago to positive actions paying off today.

Feature (Non-profile)**Division A**

First Place: Wisconsin State Journal, 'Dow Day' left mark on Madison - Gayle Worland. **Judge's Comments:** A well-sourced and fascinating look at a pivotal day in history and how it has rippled through the lives of participants and witnesses.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Journal, The Norway Building returns home - Barry Adams. **Judge's Comments:** A remarkable account of an artifact's travels through time and distance, connecting the descendants of immigrants with the home of their ancestors.

Third Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Washington Island ferry is the remote Wisconsin island's link to the world -

Nathan Phelps. **Judge's Comments:** Loved this story's sense of community and its look inside the colorful occupation of ferryman.

Honorable Mention: Green Bay Press-Gazette, At Lenny's, the Old Style and bull have been on tap for 43 years - Kendra Meinert. **Judge's Comments:** Something quite touching about one tavern's role in a neighborhood through the generations.

Division B

First Place: The Reporter, Under water; 2008 flood hits well beyond Fond du Lac; Readers share personal experiences with flood - Sharon Roznik, Taima Kern. **Judge's Comments:** Impressive reporting depth for this anniversary series including a main story and sidebars. Multimedia storytelling complements the entire one-day package.

Second Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Passengers respond to medical emergency aboard Delta flight - Keith Uhlig. **Judge's Comments:** Bright spot feature: a story with a happy ending with people helping people in need. Well written--concise and gripping.

Third Place: The Reporter, A city, rebuilt; Business share path to recovery - Sarah Razner. **Judge's Comments:** Stories of recovery a bright spot! Story approaches are engaging and varied.

Honorable Mention: Leader-Telegram, Twist of Fate - Eric Lindquist. **Judge's Comments:** Fun human-interest story well-told. Good access to the sisters. I wanted to keep reading all the way to the end!

Division C

First Place: Stevens Point Journal, Inside PaddleQuest, the kayak race that has pirates, time travel and lots of beer - Keith Uhlig. **Judge's Comments:** This was an entertaining read from beginning to end. The writer pulled it off perfectly, with colorful writing, expertly crafted humor. I loved it.

Second Place: The Daily Press, WWI image headed for Navy Archives - Rick Olivo. **Judge's Comments:** The story of the WWI vet was wonderfully written and a great look at history. Reading it was like looking into a time capsule.

Third Place: Watertown Daily Times,

She paid mortgage, taxes on home ...



Diane Neumann of Schofield thought she owned this home on Depot Street. But apparently, the Canadian National Railway owns more than half of it. TXER ZHON KHA/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Schofield residents find out Canadian National Railway owns part of their homes, land

Haley BeMiller Wausau Daily Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

SCHOFIELD – Diane Neumann has owned a house on Depot Street in Schofield since 1994 – or so she thought.

It turns out her home is split down the middle, and much of it doesn't belong to her.

Neumann and her neighbors learned this year that a portion of their properties are owned by the Canadian National Railway, despite the fact that they've spent years paying mortgages and property taxes. The homes sit just feet away from a set of railroad tracks. But until now, Neumann said, the railroad has never been a problem.

According to a recent plat survey, the railroad's land extends along Depot Street starting at Ross Avenue and right through the homes of Neumann and her neighbors. The land where Depot Street sits also belongs to the railroad, not the city.

Neumann is stuck. She planned to sell the home to her daughter, who has been living there with her family for a few years, but she can't sell a house that isn't hers. And based on the survey, Neumann can stake a claim only to part of the kitchen and a back room.

See OWN, Page 2A

Wausau Daily Herald, Division B, Reporting on Local Government

The land is a canvas - Steve Sharp. **Judge's Comments:** This is a very interesting story with lots of explanation. The kind of piece that makes the reader smarter!

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Monroe middle schooler wins his first district spelling bee - Marissa Weiher.

Judge's Comments: This was a fun spelling bee story featuring the winner who didn't study. Nicely written.

Division D

First Place: The Country Today, Craving cranberries - Benjamin Wideman. **Judge's Comments:** This was a well-written story that provided plenty of useful information

to readers.

Second Place: Waukesha County Now, Bored to tears: Damage from emerald ash borer taking toll in Waukesha County - Jim Riccioli. **Judge's Comments:** Very newsy, informative and well-written, to boot. It's great to learn something from a story.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Farmer, Waupun community pulls together following destructive tornado - Colleen Kottke. **Judge's Comments:** Great story with plenty of perspectives for quotes.

Honorable Mention: Wisconsin State Farmer, This generation of women aren't just "farm wives" - Colleen Kottke. **Judge's Comments:** Great story that blends

history with the now. Especially relevant today.

Division E

First Place: Hocak Worak, Deputy makes a hoop dream come true for children - Ken Luchterhand.

Second Place: Barron News-Shield, Shark Tank TV deal nets Schauf \$200,000 investment - Bob Zientara.

Third Place: New Richmond News, Helicopter museum will preserve the lessons of sacrifice - Tom Lindfors.

Honorable Mention: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Duck tale comes with a happy ending - Ian Stepleton, Hannah Tetzlaff.

Division F

First Place: Kewaskum Statesman, Cold Case - Anne Trautner. **Judge's Comments:** Wow. What an emotional and sad story.

The narrative really puts you at the scene of the crime. You can almost hear the mother screaming as you read.

Second Place: Washington Island Observer, Use caution on icy roads - Dick Purinton. **Judge's Comments:** Great narrative. Had my heart pounding too when the truck broke through the ice.

Third Place: Columbus Journal, Coming back home on Fourth of July - Kevin Damask. **Judge's Comments:** Great story with a great, emotional photo. It's hard to beat a military reunion, especially on July 4.

Honorable Mention: The Valders Journal, If reindeer could really fly - Todd Bergmann. **Judge's Comments:** Fun look at something most of us take for granted and don't think much about at Christmas time.

Feature (Profile)

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Hailey's dilemma: Drug addiction, attitude and growth intersect on road to recovery - Jonah Beleckis. **Judge's Comments:** The vivid details in the lede put you right there in the courtroom and hooks you in. Drug addiction is unfortunately all too common today and this story is a rewarding look at someone who beats the odds to overcome it. Well done!

Second Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Green Bay socialite's affair, struggle with alcohol and mental illness, inspire film, book - Paul Srubas. **Judge's Comments:** What a fascinating story. It truly does read like a movie script. Great writing and storytelling by the author throughout.

Third Place: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, Culver's just turned 34. Its butter burgers, custard are 'exporting Wisconsin' nationwide. - Daniel Higgins. **Judge's Comments:** Just reading this made me hungry. This story was fun, informative and filled with great visuals. Loved the video interview with the founder.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, Harvest gives Templeton family fulfillment during busiest time of year - Jim Dayton. **Judge's Comments:** This is an excellent in-depth look at life on the farm. The timeline-type story structure really gives the reader a good feel for just how much goes into a single day for farmers.

Division B

First Place: The Sheboygan Press, When a rape stole her sense of control, she fought back by eating fire - Marina Affo. **Judge's Comments:** love the story load on the site – powerful – like the series of photos – the pull quotes, video, sub heads etc. powerful story – like the end telling readers how to get help.

Second Place: Herald Times Reporter, We Leave No Child Behind - Patti Zarleng. **Judge's Comments:** loved the multi media aspects of this story – online, video, good lead in, use of pull quotes, tells their story but also the story of the kids themselves. Like how pull quote became headline and truly tells the story in and of itself.

Third Place: Daily Jefferson County Union, Mckee recalls Tuesday morning when father died; Ajango witnessed rescue attempt - Ryan Whisner. **Judge's Comments:** Like that they tell the story of McKee and then tell the story from a different perspective through the eyes of an onlooker.

Part 1 – McKee recalls when father dies – great story – don't like the double jumps but story is really told well. Like the fact that they got multiple onlookers to share how they remember it. Like the pull quote in part 2 I can still hear the screams. Like how Ajango became a water safety

Ecology students get to know trees at high school

Project has them taking inventory

By Peter Lindblad
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Todd Shucha saw an opportunity for students in his fall ecology classes that doesn't come around every day.

A press release had gone out from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources about its Community Tree Map project. The Waunakee science teacher figured his students could lend a hand by taking inventory of the trees on the high school campus earlier this fall, starting with the west and north sides of the building.

The information they collected is now available for all to see, via the DNR's Community Tree Project.

"The thing that's really exciting is, it's a real-world, hands-on application for them," said Shucha. "They gather data in the field and then they can see the results."

Waunakee is the only school district in the state that's participated in the Community Tree Map project. Shucha and Dan Buckler, of the DNR, collaborated on including Waunakee students in the project. They will give a presentation on how the project went to the Wisconsin Association of Environmental Educators in January.

When Shucha applied to have his two fall ecology classes - about 15 to 20 students in each section - participate, Buckler thought it was a perfect match.

"I immediately pounced on it," said Buckler, who teaches a different ecology class in the spring. "It was a great idea, from an educational perspective and with regard to



Jacob Reimer and Rachel Hebblewhite are students in Todd Shucha's fall ecology class who took part in a tree inventory and mapping project. They are measuring the diameter of a tree on the high school campus.

crowd sourcing the project. I think that class, but others as well. It's an it has a lot of potential for not only

See TREES, Page A6

Waunakee Tribune, Division E, Reporting on Local Education

feature amongst tough competition.

Division D

First Place: Inter-County Leader, Daniel has a missile in his closet - Greg Marsten.

Judge's Comments: This was an enjoyable bit of storytelling with great flow and just the right amount of facts and data. It was unexpected, and I enjoyed that.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Farmer, Evansville youth sells pig, donates \$10,070 for cancer research - Carol Spaeth-Bauer.

Judge's Comments: You took me along with this piece. I cared about this young man and cheered for his spirit.

Third Place: Hudson Star-Observer, Trains, planes and automobiles - Jordan Willi. **Judge's Comments:** I found myself thinking: "I hadn't thought of that." Good writing does that, makes you think. Nice job.

Honorable Mention: Wisconsin State Farmer, Blind sheep in Jefferson County inspires children's book - Carol Spaeth-Bauer. **Judge's Comments:** I wanted to hear more! Interesting topic and great flow.

Division E

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, 'A sorcerer from Wichita' - Maic D'Agostino. **Judge's Comments:** Maic D'Agostino -- making a note of that name because this reporter's work is well worth the read. What a wordsmith.

When someone can make you care about something you thought you would have only marginal interest in, that's talent.

Second Place: The Northwoods River News, Rhinelander police dog to hang up his badge - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** Stories on K9 officers aren't unusual, but this one is very good right from the lead to the focus on retirement and what comes next. From a salary of belly rubs and ice cream -- to a retirement of belly rubs and ice cream. We should all be so lucky!

Third Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Nursing home resident a high school graduate at age 92 - Mara Matovich. **Judge's Comments:** Lovely story sure to make you smile. Nice that the graduate was able to hold her own with an interview.

Honorable Mention: Pierce County Herald, Family mourns death of 'Strongest girl in Beldenville' - Sara Tischer.

Judge's Comments: Heart-breaking yet inspirational story of how family prepared for the inevitable loss of their child. Particularly liked the part about how they made a bucket list for a 2-year-old.

Division F

First Place: Kewaskum Statesman, Game Winner - Anne Trautner. **Judge's Comments:** You can feel the joy jump off the page when you are reading this one. I love how the writer described this little girl in a way that made me feel like I was standing there beside her as she went on this adventure. I read this one with tears in my eyes. Heartwarming story told in a beautiful way.

Second Place: The Valdres Journal, Teen goes beyond just survival to thrive in love - Mary Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** Powerful story, with great quotes. Solid profile.

Third Place: Sauk Prairie Eagle, Remembering Rayce - Autumn Luedke. **Judge's Comments:** This one was heartbreaking. I think the key here was getting so many voices in the story. Well done.

Honorable Mention: The Sun, Love, addiction and triumph: St. Croix Falls man graduates from drug court - Suzanne Lindgren. **Judge's Comments:** I loved this story! The competition was fierce this year so it didn't quite make the top three, but

I'm so glad I got to read it.

Reporting on Local Government

Division A

First Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Some county supervisors ignore public's emails; Brown County's dome-coating choices questioned; 4 more Green Bay officers suspended in 2017 - Doug Schneider. **Judge's Comments:** Aggressive, thorough reporting at its best.

A story headlined "Some county supervisors ignore public's emails" starts off with this sentence: "If you've sent an email to Supervisor Andy Nicholson at his official Brown County address, he probably hasn't responded."

This matters to the local citizenry, but an outsider passing through town would feel compelled to keep reading.

This same kind of reportorial storytelling is trained on smaller issues, like a local courthouse dome that has quickly lost its new shine. The story uncovers informed second guessing on the project. The dome is a local icon. People will wonder.

A story on a high suspension rate at the Green Bay police department reveals, as one expert observer put it, either a necessary housecleaning or a problem. The story provides ample context — a recent history of suspensions, and disciplinary actions towards certain problematic officers. As in the writer's previous stories, he is able to tap into critical sources willing to speak on the record.

The overall tone in these stories is one of objectivity and trustworthiness. Bravo.

Second Place: The Gazette, Former GM site receives \$500,000 state grant to aid redevelopment; Officials: Housing developer who advocated for TIF did not have conflict of interest; Other cities with anti-bullying ordinances say they can be effective prevention tool - Jim Dayton.

Judge's Comments: Strong writing with strong ledes. How do you approach what might be a mundane story on an industrial site clean-up? You put the reader there with the opening sentence: "Rusty motors and piles of twisted steel, aluminum and copper sit at the western edge..."

Another story asks: "Do bullying ordinances work?" This is a reporter who can move fluently between nuts and bolts

instructor because of what he witness. Really tells full scope/story from multiple angles.

Honorable Mention: Daily Jefferson County Union, Schultz marks 26th year helping to 'internationalize' education - Alexa Zoellner. **Judge's Comments:** Like the pop quiz - different twist. As I read on A1 - I thought to myself, that would get a great pull quote and then I go to the jump and there it is. ☺ don't care for the double jumps - Like the quotes from various "sons". Nice touch.

Division C

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, Lottery No. 1 in Draft Enlistment - Ed Zagorski. **Judge's Comments:** Ed Zagorski's craftsmanship made this veteran's story come alive and rocket to the top like no other. Beautifully and thoughtfully written.

Second Place: Watertown Daily Times, Custard, curds and Chelsea - Sarah Weihert. **Judge's Comments:** This is an excellent story on a subject that doesn't get the attention it deserves. Bravo!

Third Place: Watertown Daily Times, Coffee, Camera, Country - Sarah Weihert. **Judge's Comments:** A great feature story in a competitive category. Interesting all the way through.

Honorable Mention: Portage Daily Register, Mr. Fix-it closes shop - Noah Vernau. **Judge's Comments:** An excellent

stuff to enterprise writing. Another story addresses a proverbial conflict of interest involving a local developer.

The reporter tells each story through a network of informed sources. The reader comes away with a sense that the newspaper is keeping an eye on local government.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Dane County Board set to approve development without seeing other proposals; Dane County begins 'Suck the Muck' project to remove phosphorus-laden sludge from waterways; Dane County task force makes recommendations on reducing runoff that harms waterways - Shelley K. Mesch. **Judge's Comments:** Clear, concise reporting on issues that matter to readers and taxpayers, whether it is a proposed low-cost housing development where county board members and the public haven't seen competing bids, or the health of local waterways and lakes. The stories are nicely illustrated.

Division B

First Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Schofield residents find out railroad owns part of their homes, land; Wausau neighbors angry over demolished, burned building still not cleaned up; Mosinee Fire moves forward after misconduct probes of former chief, deputy chief - Haley BeMiller. **Judge's Comments:** Writer followed threads in public records research and unearthed some really interesting stories. I especially liked the one where it was discovered that the railroad actually owns most of a family's home. And the rubbish pile was gold. The fire chief issue is standard dirty politics, but these are the stories that make a city beat interesting.

Second Place: The Journal Times, Area could be blighted; Land declared 'blighted'; Blight designation challenged - Ricardo Torres. **Judge's Comments:** Good reporting on a very important issue -- government taking over private land to benefit a corporation. Declaring properties blighted for redevelopment is worth the careful look given in these stories.

Third Place: The Journal Times, City's fiscal picture studied; Morale 'horrible', survey says; Benefit costs pressure budget - Sari Lesk, Stephanie Jones. **Judge's Comments:** This is the kind of nuts and

bolts coverage citizens and taxpayers need. Kudos for very well researched explanation on how the city is using people's tax dollars.

Honorable Mention: The Freeman, Delafield development debate; Local tax increases less than inflation (as well as the 2018 Municipal Tax Levies and Rates chart); Development boom near Hartland - Kelly Smith. **Judge's Comments:** The writer really brought the characters in to life. I loved reading who these people are and what they argue about.

Division C

First Place: Daily Tribune, Wood County's proposed horse-buggy rules will drive out Amish, expert says - Karen Madden, Melissa Siegler. **Judge's Comments:** A good range of sources were engaged for these stories on Amish buggies sharing the road. This coverage was even-handed and looked at the issue from multiple angles to give a broad picture.

Second Place: Portage Daily Register, City: Spraying not answer; Teens dine with leaders; County gets good Extension news - Lyn Jerde. **Judge's Comments:** Smart lede to the county leaders dining story on local government meeting with the public.

Third Place: Stevens Point Journal, Uproar over violent sex offender's release in Portage County - Alan Hovorka, Mark Treinen.

Division D

First Place: Wausau Pilot and Review, Court docs: Riverlife developer CEO embroiled in \$8.3M Colorado ripoff - Shereen Siewert. **Judge's Comments:** Strong reporting

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, EMS payments to drop over 11%; Short-term rentals now legal in single-family zoning areas; Airport plan hits snag with landowners. - Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting reporting

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, Woodruff questions legality of non-profit stipends; Sparks fly at Woodruff Town Board meeting; Confusion, dysfunction continues in Presque Isle - Abbey McEnroe. **Judge's Comments:** Strong reporting

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, New era begins with Frederickson's first city council meeting; Walmart files Dark Store lawsuit against city; Belliveau, Sauer renew call for City Council discussion on public works department - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** Overall work was far superior technically to competition.

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, City wants its own tourism 'cheerleader'; Hillmoor owners file \$55 million suit against Lake Geneva; City seeks role in school safety measures - Dennis Hines. **Judge's Comments:**

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, County forecloses on Boca HQ (sidebar: Site will now go up for auction); Developer gives up on hotel idea; Rotary plaza? It's not a new idea - Ian Stepleton.

Division F

First Place: New London Press Star, Drug abuse, prosecutor shortages problematic for Outagamie County; 'Mosquito Hill?' How about 'Wolf Peak?'; Sheriff candidate sought chief job failed background check - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** Solid reporting and clear, concise writing. The subjects were interesting and the stories had good flow, with nice use of quotes.

Second Place: The Oregon Observer, Library gets \$6M, needs to fundraise; Officials don't agree on restorative court; Seeking compliance - Bill Livick. **Judge's Comments:** Clearly explained local government issues and had a nice blend of paraphrasing and direct quotes.

Third Place: The Valdres Journal, Developer pulls out of Valdres TIF; Would-be TIF developer's background shows violations in running centers; Sales tax faces uphill battle in '18; Valdres TIF in limbo for time being; County finance officials decries Valdres' handling of TIF district - Todd Bergmann. **Judge's Comments:** Good reporting and decent explanation of issues that are important but not always super exciting.

Honorable Mention: New London Press Star, Battle over former Simmons property appears to be over; Safe Routes to School proposal terminated; 5 things to know about the pool shutdown - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** Straightforward local

government reporting. Nice job.

Reporting on Local Education

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Freshmen only; Promises to keep; An unsettling message - Catherine W. Idzerda. **Judge's Comments:** Though they vary topic, the "Freshmen only" and "Promises to keep" stories both paint an excellent picture of life as a high school student in Janesville.

Second Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, State's rural schools face unique challenges; Discipline disparity; Two Green Bay schools, two turnaround stories - Samantha Hernandez. **Judge's Comments:** Shows an excellent ability to dig deeper for stories that go beyond the typical education coverage. The discipline story is a great example of using open records and data to report on an important public issue.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Journal, State's smallest school district challenged by island location; Zebras, Chinese lessons, waiting lists and tons of construction as child care centers continue to expand; Twin plethora no big deal for nine sets at Lodi High School - Barry Adams. **Judge's Comments:** Enjoyed the variety of coverage. The twins story is definitely an outside-the-box approach to education coverage.

Division B

First Place: The Journal Times, Case pool closed down; Swimmers want solutions; Swimmers: Unified reneged on pool - Caitlin Sievers, Peter Jackel, Adam Rogan. **Judge's Comments:** Great series about the pool. Good job.

Second Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Wausau student ensures year of bullying: 'I didn't feel very good about myself'; Wausau superintendent choice tied to controversies in Ashland School District; Mosinee School Board strikes down student effort to change Indians mascot - Haley BeMiller. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting article about bullying, with an interview of a student who experienced it personally. Good job.

Third Place: Daily Jefferson County

Union, Jefferson High lifeguard class grads use skills in real rescue; New Jefferson club 'raises its voice' at Capitol; Shop around - Nevaeh said. "I like working with engines — something about it just intrigues me." **Judge's Comments:** "Lifeguarding sounds like a very essential class to offer to students. Mental health is also a very important topic. Great quote in the gender gap article-- "I want to be an auto mechanic like my dad."

Honorable Mention: The Freeman, New policy in place after teachers show 'Beautiful' music video; The case for cursive; Mukwonago schools testing GPS monitoring on bus routes - Ashley Haynes. **Judge's Comments:** GPS monitoring on bus routes and the "case for cursive" are very interesting topics. Good job.

Division C

First Place: Stevens Point Journal, SPASH students walk out for 'victims of all school violence'; Voters to decide on spending millions for Stevens Point school programs, renovations; UW-Stevens Point receives 'unsatisfactory' rating in bank management audit - Alan Hovorka.

Second Place: Portage Daily Register, Portage OB-GYN part of rural doctor push; Academy changes lives; Drama teacher remembered - Noah Vernau.

Third Place: The Daily Reporter, Wisconsin schools earmark cash for trades careers; UW budget bonanza; Expanding on safety - Nate Beck. **Judge's Comments:**

Division D

First Place: Lake Country Now, Panel presents motivational talk to KM Global students; Oconomowoc High School students taking a stand in joining national school walkout; Oconomowoc students call for stricter gun laws during a walkout on the Columbine shooting anniversary - Alec Johnson. **Judge's Comments:** Great to see articles focusing on the students and how they respond to the world around them. Bravo.

Second Place: The Press Times, HSSD hires 22 teachers to reduce classroom size; HSSD to get roughly \$34.5 million in state funding; HSSD has few spaces for open enrollment - Ben Rodgers. **Judge's Comments:** Class size, teachers and their salaries, funding; problems all school

boards face. Excellent reporting on those issues.

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, Provision moves proposed school forward; Autism school parents' group makes pitch to LUHS board; Lakeland Star charter schools open house set for March 28 - Richard Moore. **Judge's Comments:** Charter schools and special needs students: fascinating to read about how one community approaches both.

Honorable Mention: West Now, So class, what was good about slavery? - Darryl Enriquez. **Judge's Comments:** Loved reading about this issue and how it was handled.

Division E

First Place: The Waunakee Tribune, Ecology students get to know trees; With 3D printers and more, Big IDEA class coming next year to Waunakee High School; Students honor slain peers at walkout - Peter Lindblad. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written and good quotes; interesting subject matters.

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Got a kid in school? There's an app for that; schools crack down on student vaping; Big Foot's new principal changes her mind about job - Chris Schultz.

Judge's Comments: The three articles are well-written, to the point, and interesting. There is no padding and no need for editing.

Third Place: New Richmond News, 'Start With Hello': SCC fifth graders wins national essay contest; The life cycle of a farm animal; A shark tale: NRHS student raising sharks - Jordan Willi. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting and well-written articles.

Honorable Mention: Hocak Worak, Newly-formed club, Indigenous Students United, to help students with culturally-sensitive issues; Youth learn about culture and tradition at annual summer camp; School mural created to emphasize the inclusion of all people - Ken Luchterhand. **Judge's Comments:** Well written and great photos; interesting.

Division F

First Place: The Oregon Observer, Engineering a future; Getting results; Report: Expand by2020 - Scott De

Laruelle. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent reporting and writing, providing detail-in-context for these focus issues. Such thorough, enterprising coverage provides readers with information sharply relevant to the issues. "Getting Results" story could have included parent/taxpayer reactions/observations for additional relevancy and reader connectivity. Referring readers to more information at a website could invite lingering questions about the importance of material left out. Just excellent coverage of critical community issue: Taxpayers' responsibilities to support their education institution and students.

Second Place: The Verona Press, 'Hope for the deaf culture'; Making the grades; Principal's exit follows years of complaints - Scott Girard. **Judge's Comments:** • Nice story on development of signing course with students pushing for inclusion and their concern for those with hearing disability. Students press for inclusive community from first a club to a formal classroom experience.

• Standards rather than grade points. Could use specific parent responses/reactions. Well written, sourced.
• A superb, balanced account of a contentious issue related to elementary school leadership. The reporter did outstanding work gathering specific information, dealing with many related sources—school board, administration, parents whose concerns initiated investigation and faculty who had views contrary to parents' contentions. Just a very good story!

Third Place: New London Press Star, School board says district was misrepresented by news coverage of DPI suit; Shuttering rural schools would not save money, analysis finds; Referendum proposed - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** Good accounts of three issues related to or affecting the community's educational institutions, students, faculty, administrators, elected officers—and residents-parents-taxpayers! They focused on the town's education system, were thorough and well sourced beyond just "meeting stories." These served readers' comprehension/understanding of the issues detailed.

Honorable Mention: The Denmark News, Sheriff's Office Talks SRO With School Board; "Career Academy"

Approved; Safety Education - Charles Collier, Jan Carlo Marquez. **Judge's Comments:** Well-written accounts of special educational opportunities for students; learning experiences for parents, faculty, staff and administrators on school safety issues.

Business Coverage

Division A

First Place: The Post-Crescent, Appvion employees grapple with losing \$40 million in retirement funds; Turmoil in the mill at Kimberly-Clark; Neenah Clubstore Outlet Owners: We were duped - Maureen Wallenfang. **Judge's Comments:** The investigation on Clubstore franchisees being duped offered some surprising comments from the owner and a good warning for anyone researching this company.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Oscar Mayer auction draws many to storied plant; Genetics, Assaf sheep and, in a few years, more award-winning cheese; Contraction and adjustment for the Fox River Valley's paper industry - Barry Adams. **Judge's Comments:** The Oscar Mayer auction story showed that the journalist mingled with the crowd for quotes, and great comments. The sheep milk story was well-written.

Third Place: Kenosha News, Store closings leave food desert; Food deserts: Is racism to blame?; Colbert Packaging making moves to capture the market; Putting their best food forward - James Lawson.

Honorable Mention: Wisconsin State Journal, Lord of the Rings: Middleton man has turned up 60 lost rings so far; Thousands pay last respects to Ella's Deli, a Madison institution; Tory Miller, Madison's star chef, works hard to balance food, family - Samara Kalk Derby.

Division B

First Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Employees who shut down Wendy's in Weston speak out about conditions, pay; Ginseng pills and ginseng whiskey: Wisconsin growers seek new customers amid trade war; Federal regulators: Granite Peak Ski Area withdrew water without license, may owe Domtar - Laura

POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING



RICK OLIVO/STAFF PHOTO

Law enforcement vehicles block access to a portion of East Maple Street in Odanah, where a police-involved shooting led to the death of a single male subject after Ashland County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a 911 emergency call from a resident stating that someone was walking around the street carrying a knife. The incident is currently under investigation by the Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation.

One dead in Odanah shooting

RICK OLIVO
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ODANAH — A news release issued Wednesday evening by the Ashland County Sheriff's Office confirmed that a male subject was killed Wednesday in an officer-involved shooting on East Maple Street in Odanah, not far from the Bad River Casino.

A release issued by the Bad River Tribal Council also on Wednesday evening said that a "young boy" was shot and killed by an Ashland County Sheriff's deputy.

Those releases were made made several hours after multiple reports of a shooting at the Reservation were made on

social media. According to the Sheriff's Department news release, at 11:40 a.m. Wednesday, the Ashland County Communications Center received a 911 call from an Odanah resident reporting a male subject walking around Maple Street carrying a knife.

The release said Ashland County deputies responded to the scene and at about 11:48 a.m., a responding deputy fired shots and the suspect was struck by gunfire. The deputy involved in the shooting was uninjured.

The suspect was treated by Bad River First Responders and Ashland EMS at the scene

and was transported to Memorial Medical Center in Ashland by Ashland Emergency Medical Services. The suspect was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Sheriff's Office release said that in accordance with standard protocol, the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation was contacted and is conducting an independent investigation of the incident. In addition to DCI and the Ashland County Sheriff's Department, the Ashland Police Department assisted with the response.

The identity of the suspect was not released pending no-

tification of family members. "It is believed this is was an isolated incident and no other suspects are at large," the release said.

The matter is being investigated by DCI with the coordination and support of the Ashland County Sheriff's Office. According to the release, additional information will be made available following further investigation.

A news release on the shooting issued by the Bad River Tribal Council confirmed the victim was a youth.

"On November 8, 2017 a young boy was shot and killed

SEE SHOOTING, 5A

The Daily Press, Ashland, Division C, Best Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Schulte. **Judge's Comments:** Sharp, interesting writing and thorough reporting that produced stories that draw a reader in to read more. The Wendy's walkout would be a tough story to cover, but Laura managed it well. Particularly appreciate the effort to get the other side of the story, even though higher management wasn't talking. The ginseng story is another piece of great writing and solid journalism that explores not only a business but local impacts of national decisions. Great straight-forward coverage of the water problem with Granite Peak. Some stories are best played straight.

Second Place: Leader-Telegram, Wanted: Anyone; Under the gun; Shopping shake-up - Eric Lindquist. **Judge's Comments:** Eric has the magic formula for business coverage -- looking for trends that affect

not only the businesses themselves but consumers. The story on the worker shortage went into detail on how it's happened and efforts to get past the problems. His story on preparedness for violence in the workplace was timely and explored not only the reason for the interest but also touched on the solutions businesses are hearing about. The story on retail closings and the ongoing struggle was a great piece on an issue every community faces now. Those are the kind of businesses stories every newspaper should be doing at a local level.

Third Place: Beloit Daily News, At mid-year, Beloit's development already surpasses totals from 2017; Krueger golf revenue rounds higher; Blender Cafe teaches students valuable skills - Austin Montgomery. **Judge's Comments:** Good

data-driven work. Austin understands that covering business requires comfort with the numbers. Nice overview story on development; a good look at changes at a local golf course and a nice feature on a business model you don't see every day, involving students. Clean writing without extra, unneeded fluff.

Honorable Mention: The Journal Times, Foxconn to create R&D hub; Woo: Foxconn won't waste water; The 51 who landed Foxconn; Meet the local Foxconn project team; Failed firm's saga ends - Michael Burke. **Judge's Comments:** The FoxConn stories are interesting and well-written. Surely the community is eager for anything you can dig up on it. Good story on the failed Promotions Unlimited and the impact its closure had on employees who had to fight for a piece of their last paychecks.

Division C

First Place: Stevens Point Journal, SPASH grad starts iame clothing brand to celebrate confidence, embrace individuality; 'Wimpy Kid' author Jeff Kinney celebrates 200 millionth copy at Worzalla Publishing; Tree tech, baby onesie startups split \$10K award in HATCH finals in Stevens Point - Caitlin Shuda.

Second Place: Portage Daily Register, Mr. Fix-it closes shop; 300 students browse career paths at fair; Apprenticeship 'priceless' - Noah Vernau.

Third Place: Marshfield News-Herald, Silver Dome Ballroom in Neillsville has hosted Johnny Cash, other musical superstars; Melvin 'Fuzzy' Mohan was face of small-town beer bars in early '70s; Athens bed-and-breakfast offers rural Wisconsin respite - Mitchell Skurzewski.

Honorable Mention: Daily Tribune, Rapids Mall to close Thursday in Wisconsin Rapids; From Rapids Mall to YMCA and Boys & Girls Club: What will it look like?; Take a final look inside Rapids Mall in Wisconsin Rapids - Caitlin Shuda.

Division D

First Place: Sawyer County Record, Book World closing makes people ask, what's next?; Snowmobile season was 'near the top'; The Boulevard on K offers

several new twists - Frank Zufall. **Judge's Comments:** Great reporting work done in all three stories. All well-paced and easy to read and follow. Great choice in the three stories, as it mixed hard facts and numbers (Snowmobile story) with personality (Restaurant story). My personal favorite was the story on the book store closing and connecting that with bigger issues like the loss of small retail shops both locally, and nationally.

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Walker looks to cut small business costs; Walker taps Rhinelander for possible economic opportunity zone; On Labor Day weekend, a national labor shortage fuels concerns - Richard Moore, Fred Williston. **Judge's Comments:** Very in-depth reporting. Does a good job of giving the reader a lot of information without overloading them. Easy to tell a lot of time, research, and reporting went into these stories.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Farmer, Pagel's calf ranch is learning ground for visitors; Welder Jerry Hubert helps farmers hold it together; Honoring veterans one sun over at a time - Colleen Kottke. **Judge's Comments:** A lot of personality in these stories. Fun reads with great characters that also highlights local businesses. Great work.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, Doctors Foster & Smith transitioning 'most of front office functions' to San Diego; Success breeds success: Nicolet receives second state WEDC entrepreneur grant; A history of healing - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:**

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Walworth company's cards deliver season's greetings; Buyers aim to revive old Williams Bay school; Abbey Resort switches management companies - Chris Schultz.

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Spartech will close Ripon plant; Alliance sites new HQ in Miami; Alliance confident tariffs will not disrupt growth - Ian Stepleton.

Honorable Mention: Lake Geneva Regional News, Top home sale rings in at \$7.4 million; Stone Manor buyer pays \$16 million for control of historic property; Lakefront mansion sells for record-high

\$11.25 million - Scott Williams. **Judge's Comments:** The writer has tracked the properties on Lake Geneva and provided insight into the housing market, location highlights and history of the properties.

Division F

First Place: The Valdres Journal, Getting to work becomes a commute; Dark Clouds Over Dairyland; Soybean oil makes its debut soon - Todd Bergmann. **Judge's Comments:** - Great story about how a once economically thriving area is starting to transform into a bedroom community because of the lack of jobs.

- Best story of the lot. It did a great job connecting the dairy farming industry to how rising and falling prices a

Second Place: The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent, Deerfield, Cambridge economic development pushes ahead - Karyn Saemann. **Judge's Comments:** As the reporter of a small town myself, stories about revitalizing a downtown corridor are always interesting. These were very well written — I wish I could have seen a hard copy.

Third Place: Burlington Standard Press, Farming downtown; Tight labor market; Businesses that make charity part of the bottom line - Tracy Ouellette, Heather Ruenz, Jason Arndt, Todd Mishler. **Judge's Comments:** Really enjoyed the Generac and Wisconsin Oven stories — I think it's super important for any business, large or small, to be innovative on how to attract highly skilled workers and keep them engaged in the company. I also enjoyed the Farmer's Market story, but it did seem more event-centric than business-centric.

Honorable Mention: The Verona Press, Chamber adding tourism coordinator; Finally caught up; Lincoln apartment back for revote - Jim Ferolie, Kimberly Wethal. **Judge's Comments:** I enjoyed all the articles, but the Epic and apartment story were more about development than business. Still, I wish I could give this more than Honorable Mention, because of the content and how well written it was.

Environmental Reporting Award

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Farmer-led



The Post-Crescent, Appleton, Division A, Spot News Photo

group working to improve water quality in Sugar River - Jim Dayton. **Judge's Comments:** I loved this story. Farmers working to help the environment and doing a better job at it than the bureaucrats they're keeping off their backs. The writing is crisp and engaging and a great read start to finish.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Murky future - Steven Verburg. **Judge's Comments:** Wow! Excellent reporting and crisp clear writing. I learned a lot from this story package and it was a very satisfying read start to finish.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, Electric barrier to deter goby might be solution to reopening of Menasha lock to boaters - Duke Behnke. **Judge's Comments:** Wonderful story. This was a fun, informative read with excellent writing and reporting. It left me with just one question: Can you eat a goby?

Honorable Mention: The Capital Times, Climate change is here - Steven Elbow. **Judge's Comments:** This one deserves a bigger prize, but I could pick only three. The reporting, graphics and writing are impressive. On an important issue, the information was presented in a clear, concise with engaging writing. That makes it a winner. If the contest czars would allow it, I would tie it for second place.

Division B

First Place: The Freeman, The drawbacks of the drawdown; Wading through the muck; Council to decide whether

Gavan, Clint Wolf. **Judge's Comments:** Fascinating look at an unexpected environmental subject. Who would have thought where you park at work every day could leave your car vulnerable to rust-causing iron?

Division C

First Place: The Daily Press, Ashland's water woes - Rick Olivo. **Judge's Comments:** By far the best of this class. Good leads, interesting topics, a lot of depth, but not too wordy or long. Keeps readers engaged.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Pinnacle progress still water-logged; Pinnacle, county argue over permit; State experts reject Pinnacle proposal; County hears water study results; Pinnacle takes costly plans to deal with water level issues; Pinnacle production to start by July - Bridget Cooke. **Judge's Comments:** It was obvious a lot of work went into this series. The depth of coverage of a big story was evident. More-interesting leads would have given it a chance at the top spot.

Third Place: Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Supreme Court to decide whether Saratoga mega-dairy can use land for crops; Saratoga dairy case now in hands of Wisconsin Supreme Court justices; Few solutions given for high nitrate levels in Armenia, Port Edwards water - Karen Madden. **Judge's Comments:** An important story lacked the depth of the other entries but still was worthy of third.

Division D

First Place: Lake Country Now, Muskrats remain a huge problem on Okauchee Lake - Steven Martinez, C.T. Kruger. **Judge's Comments:** I learned a lot about muskrats, from reading this article, including how they are used for food and fur. Interesting video too.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Farmer, Brickstead Farm is rock solid on conservation - Colleen Kottke. **Judge's Comments:** Nice article about a family farm. Some words appear to be missing at the end of this sentence-- "Local 4-H clubs provided a petting zoo and while conservation groups provided informational exhibits including a rainfall simulator that shows the real life impacts of no-till and cover cropping measures, food and fresh ice cream."

to negotiate dredging contract; Little Muskego Lake drawdown reduces invasive plant numbers - Brandon Anderegg.

Judge's Comments: This series of stories is very well-written and shows a strong commitment to covering an important environmental topic. It also does well to cover a variety of angles to the topic, from the invasive species to the impact of the drawdown to the success in reducing the problem. Well done.

Second Place: Oshkosh Northwestern, DNR says chemical leak after fire not a threat; DNR confirms virus caused April fish die-off; How you can fight algae on Lake Winnebago; Winnebago sturgeon conservation a triumph - Devi Shastri. **Judge's Comments:** Strong writing and very informative. It's clear from these stories that Lake Winnebago is important to the community and to this newspaper.

Third Place: The Journal Times, Who pollutes the air? - Ricardo Torres. **Judge's Comments:** Air quality is always an important environmental topic, but the idea of air quality near state borders definitely make you think. This story is a good reminder that one's actions affect others and of the unexpected controversies that can come up with economic progress.

Honorable Mention: Beloit Daily News, Scores of vehicles at risk for damage from discharge; EPA report: Metallic dust issue lingered into the spring; Councilors unaware of discharge from foundry; Foundry owners work to control metal dust - Austin Montgomery, Hillary

Third Place: Wausau Pilot and Review, Thomas Street contamination: Scare tactic or wakeup call? - Shereen Siewert. **Judge's Comments:** The articles demonstrate the use of a lot of research. Well done.

Division E

First Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Lesser Celandine coverage - Steve Targo. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting, informative stories written about a new, invasive species. It's an important topic not bogged down in environmental jargon, which is seen often in projects like this. Writers know how to write leads to get readers into the stories.

Second Place: The Record-Review, Ag changes needed to keep water clean - Peter Weinschenk. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting story on interesting topic. A little too wordy and government heavy at the top kept it from placing higher.

Third Place: Pierce County Herald, Diving in behind the scenes of the Mississippi River - Steve Gardiner. **Judge's Comments:** Enjoyed the lead especially as it was about real people talking about interesting current patterns and the dangers about them.

Division F

First Place: Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Rural LaCrosse residents seek well water answers; Local government is exploring ways to protect groundwater; Natural capital - is it time to take inventory? - Gillian Pomplun. **Judge's Comments:** As one of our most important natural resources, water is a fitting focus of the excellent environmental reporting here.

Second Place: The Valdres Journal, Battle lines drawn to get 'alien' weed out of county; Foreign invaders latches onto lakes - Emma Dill. **Judge's Comments:** Both stories illustrate the compounding problems that can result from invasive species. Fascinating topic.

Third Place: The Verona Press, Milling about - Scott Girard. **Judge's Comments:** Great story. Kudos to the high school for reusing the trees and to the reporter for showcasing something relatively positive for the environment.

Honorable Mention: The Stoughton Courier Hub, Bait and switch -

Taming the Magic Man



Hunter Ball, Dayton, Ohio, rides a bucking bull named Magic Man during the Green County Bulls and Barrels at the Green County Fairgrounds July 18. For more photos from the rodeo, see Page B3

Photo by Marissa Weiher
photo@themonroetimes.com

The Monroe Times, Division C, Sports Photo

Alexander Cramer. **Judge's Comments:** Great example of how a community's environmental issues can impact its residents.

coverage of a potentially dry subject that nonetheless affects an entire community.

Division B

First Place: The Reporter, 'Halloween Killer' release stirs up memories of 1973, loss of Lisa Ann French - Sharon Roznik. **Judge's Comments:** Clearly told story with, I imagine, a great deal of community interest. Well-structured, and main historical story shows terrific reporting depth. Subsequent court stories do a good job of avoiding jargon.

Second Place: The Journal Times, Foxconn coverage - Journal Times staff. **Judge's Comments:** An impressive array of approaches and reporting depth on an issue no doubt critical to this community. Storytelling quality a little uneven story to story, but definitely an impressive entrant in the ongoing-coverage category.

Third Place: The Freeman, Residents personal information held for ransom; Still not clear how hacker breached village system; Data breach prompts broader cybersecurity discussion; Nashotah to file insurance claim to cover ransomware payment - Brandon Anderegg. **Judge's Comments:** Tight series of stories that anticipate and try to answers readers' questions as the information unfolds.

Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Division A

First Place: The Capital Times, Opioid addiction - Jessie Opoien. **Judge's Comments:** Detailed and compelling look at complex and moving subject.

Second Place: The Capital Times, The Transportation Debate - Katelyn Ferral. **Judge's Comments:** Lucid guidance through complicated subject essential for taxpayers to understand.

Third Place: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, 'Hooked in Wisconsin' and follow-up reporting on opiate epidemic fallout - Keith Uhlig, Haley BeMiller, Sharon Roznik, Karen Madden. **Judge's Comments:** Sensitive but unflinching account combining multiple narratives to convey the impact of the opioid epidemic.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, Delavan-Darien School District closes Darien Elementary, cuts 39 teachers - Nate Jackson. **Judge's Comments:** Compelling

Sidebar about other localities systems a great idea. Good community-service journalism.

Honorable Mention: Oshkosh Northwestern, Romanian charged in Oshkosh ATM skimming; Romanian card-skimming ring hits Wisconsin; Romanian nationals in court in fraud case - Sophie Carson. **Judge's Comments:** Good work at reporting the breaking news and then stepping back to explain the scam and the suspects. Good community-service story.

Division C

First Place: The Daily Press, One dead in Odanah shooting; Shooting fatality IDed by family; DA: No charges in Pero shooting; Conversation circle seeks understanding, harmony; Pero family files \$9.5 million claim - Rick Olivo. **Judge's Comments:** The entry about the support groups is what separates this entry from the others. Great coverage.

Second Place: The Daily Press, Task force taking three-pronged focus; Drugs leave lasting impact on users; Addiction exacts terrible toll on families; Meth, opioids have devastating impact on body - Sara Chase, Rick Olivo.

Third Place: Stevens Point Journal, UW-Stevens Point plans to cut 13 majors, add or expand 16 programs - Alan Hovorka, Keith Uhlig, Mark Treinen.

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, Three Lakes School sets meeting following airing of campaign ad; School leaders issue apology for Walker ad; Three Lakes backs Karling in closed meeting. - Gary Ridderbusch, Evan Verploegh. **Judge's Comments:** Great story - good reporting.

Second Place: Hudson Star-Observer, Drones a privacy issue for Hudson; Council approves drone ordinance in Hudson - Rebecca Mariscal. **Judge's Comments:** Great writing.

Third Place: South Now, Reggie "Da Crusher" Lisowski Statue Fundraising/Plan Ongoing Coverage - Erik Hanley, Elliot Hughes. **Judge's Comments:** Crushed it.

Honorable Mention: Door County Advocate, The saga of Sturgeon Bay's Teweles and Brandeis Granary - Liz Welter.

Division E

First Place: Tomahawk Leader, Told it didn't meet standards, THS valedictorian withdraws speech; Principal issues statement: THS valedictorian's rejected speech finds national audience; Kathy's Kolumn - Jennifer Ruid, Kathy Tobin.

Judge's Comments:

Second Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Deputy involved in fatal shooting - David Timmerman, Erin Martin.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, Dr. Trung and Ellen Tran toddler death case - Jamie Taylor, Heather Schaefer.

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods River News, Mendez cold case homicide - Jamie Taylor, Heather Schaefer, Brian Jopek.

Division F

First Place: The Chetek Alert, Scars of tornado still present a year later - Carl Cooley, Bob Zientara, Luke Klink. **Judge's Comments:** An excellent job covering the ways the community responded to a disaster.

Second Place: Washington Island Observer, (1) Island's electrical lifeline breaks; (2) Repairing the lifeline: Co-op works to keep Island's lights on following electrical cable break; (3) Success! Washington Island Electric Co-operative splices underwater cable, plans for replacement; (cont.) - Kyra Haas, Laurel Hauser. **Judge's Comments:** Island life can be tough when you are trying to provide utilities. Clear writing and comprehensive coverage lifted this entry above most others.

Third Place: The Sun, Old hospital site captures imaginations; Former hospital site re-imagined as 'North Bluff'; Concept plan for 301 River Street evolves; LAD shares latest specs for potential development; With plans at standstill, old hospital raises concerns - Suzanne Lindgren, Laurie Sabata. **Judge's Comments:** Public processes can be convoluted and take interesting turns. This covered it all.

Local Column

Division A

First Place: The Capital Times, Scott Walker's rejection of representative democracy is shameful; Let's explore lowering the voting age to 16; John Nichols: Vel Phillips was the first ... and the first ... and the first - John Nichols. **Judge's Comments:** Literate and relevant beyond its local roots.

Second Place: The Gazette, A century ago, influenza left Janesville families mourning; From Bosnia to Janesville: Refugee mother grateful for new home; A creative focus: People with disabilities thrive at Whitewater's Studio 84 - Anna Marie Lux. **Judge's Comments:** Good story telling using local events to make more universal connections.

Third Place: Kenosha News, In it's 17th year, enjoy seeing, making kites; Wisconsin drivers lose as the can keeps being kicked down the road; A Kenosha example of why your vote matters - Bob Heisse. **Judge's Comments:** Straightforward, thoughtful and locally focused editorial writing.

Honorable Mention: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Hidden note in café restores faith in humanity; Trends that should go away in 2018; Knee-jerk reactions to headlines fuel fake news - Shelby Le Duc. **Judge's Comments:** Good writing with local appeal.

Division B

First Place: Leader-Telegram, The bold and the cheap; seeing gold again; all the world is her classroom - Liam Marlaire. **Judge's Comments:** Each column finds and tells a great local story. Exactly what a local columnist should do.

Second Place: Daily Jefferson County Union, Reader panel offers sneak peek at upcoming bestsellers; Heritage Christmas ornaments connect generations; 'Libraries Transform' reporter's family - Pam Wilson. **Judge's Comments:** Writer offers a great personal look at life as a reporter.

Third Place: Daily News, Don't forget about this song-writin' Texan; Where have all the guitar bands gone? Here are 10 great players; The tracks of my tears:

Hunters set sights on season

BY GREG SEUBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

WAUPACA - It won't be long and hundreds of hunters will be out and about in Waupaca County for the state's annual gun-deer hunt.

Those with a properly sighted-in weapon will have an advantage for this year's hunt, which gets underway Saturday, Nov. 18, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 26.

Conservation clubs across Wisconsin are helping hunters prepare for the season with sight-in clinics. Two area clubs hosted clinics Nov. 4.

"You could actually shoot somebody if you're not careful," said Tom Mitchell Sr., who assisted hunters at the Chain o' Lakes Conservation Club near Waupaca. "If your gun's shooting high, (the bullet) could fly way high. We bore-sight it for him and get the scope dialed in so he's ready to go. If you happen to bump or drop your scope, that's another reason to come and have it sighted in. Some of these guns are well over \$1,000, so you want to treat it carefully."

Meanwhile, a few hunters showed up at the Iola Conservation Club, just north of Iola.

Paul Kobs, the club's secretary-treasurer, said a properly sighted-in gun is an important part of a safe, successful hunt.

"If you're not an every-day or every-week shooter, this is necessary," he said. "A lot of hunters don't shoot routinely. They wait until the season opens and take their gun, which has maybe been stored in a closet for the last 11 months."

"You just can't expect that to be at peak performance," he added. "It familiarizes the hunter with his



Arnold Seitz makes an adjustment to Luke Mounce's rifle Nov. 4 at a sight-in clinic at the Iola Conservation Club. Mounce lives in Green Bay, but bowhunts in the Iola area. Greg Seubert Photo

weapon, we get to familiarize him with all the safety rules and regulations and he proves that mechanically, his gun is accurate."

Mitchell said his club typically assists about 40 hunters at the one-day clinic.

"We have a couple Lead Sleds, which reduce the recoil tremendously," he said. "You put the gun in there and screw the dials until

you get the crosshairs dead-center on a target. There's no recoil involved because the weight of the sled takes that."

"We have them shoot at 25 yards and figure out where they shot," he said. "With a Lead Sled, what you do is hold the gun with the crosshairs dead-center on the target. One of us will move the dials on the scope so that the crosshairs move down to where the bullet ac-

tually struck and you're sighted in. It's a very simple process."

A sighted-in gun can be the difference in a successful hunt and going home empty-handed, according to Mitchell.

"One of the guys here today was shooting 4 or 5 inches low," he said. "We put it in the Lead Sled,

Hunters
CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

Waupaca County Post, Weekly Division, Local Outdoor Column

Music that can make me cry - Ken Merrill. **Judge's Comments:** This column delivers exactly what it says it will. A look at music for grownups, and in particular, those that aren't interested in Top 40 hits.

Honorable Mention: EagleHerald, Mother's Day as seen by a military mom (retired); Writing and medicine make a great combo; Community shares success of BAMC - Penny Mullins. **Judge's Comments:** Great writing with a personal touch. Loved the Mother's Day column.

Division C

First Place: Baraboo News Republic, It's a Funny Thing - Ben Bromley. **Judge's Comments:** Great column writing, a pleasure to read.

Second Place: The Daily Press, What's next after referendum?; Bear with me here, please; It's high time to try a new drug strategy - Peter Wasson. **Judge's Comments:** Surprised by its front page

placement but certainly your readers like this guy.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, Best Friends - Marissa Weiher. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting and well done Q&A

Division D

First Place: Wausau Pilot and Review, No, sexual assault victims aren't part of the problem - Shereen Siewert. **Judge's Comments:** Well written, strong arguments with good points.

Second Place: Trempealeau County Times, Just Another Week - Andrew Dannehy. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting stories and a glimpse into a reporter's world.

Third Place: Sawyer County Record, Boomer Life: The voices of the baby boomers; 'We were all somebody else'; And then we fall - Kathy Hanson.

Division E

First Place: Price County Review, Who shall bear this cross?; Abolish the moving home stigma; 4 deep winter hacks to get you to spring - Seth Carlson.

Second Place: Spooner Advocate, 40 years pass in just a blink - Bill Thornley.

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, A geezer's lament? No, life's a party for this 59-year-old; Here's the scoop: Customers concerned while Culver's is flooded; Don't be not-so cheeky: Air kiss near miss gets boo hiss - Tim Lyke.

Honorable Mention: Pierce County Herald, Sarah Nigbor column: It's wood cutting weather; Finding my roots, and Finnish ones at that; The circle of life - Sarah Nigbor.

Division F

First Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, A question of political correctness; 'Dark irony' is my kind of gift idea; Alex Jones should not be silenced - Kevin O'Brien.

Judge's Comments: Great topics and I can tell the author was passionate about them.

Second Place: Tribune Record Gleaner, Charlie Brown knew the real reason all along; Would you have gone it after it or not; I wanted mac and cheese. I got coleslaw. Now what? - Dean Lesar. **Judge's Comments:** Humorous and kept the attention of the reader.

Third Place: Courier Sentinel, A hope and a prayer for Main Street; When a surprise is a good thing; Summer heat, autumn leaves - Ross Pattermann. **Judge's Comments:** This column can relate to most people.

Sports News Story

Division A

First Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Waunakee holds off Hartland Arrowhead - Jon Masson. **Judge's Comments:** The writer drew the reader into the story in a unique fashion. You could feel the emotions of the participants.

Second Place: The Gazette, That's a problem; Love of the game; More cheering, less jeering - Eric Schmoldt, John Barry. **Judge's Comments:** Story was a comprehensive overview of a complex

subject.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, John Mielke resigns as Appleton East boys basketball coach - Ricardo Arguello, Mike Sherry. **Judge's Comments:** You can tell a lot of work went into this breaking news story.

Honorable Mention: Wisconsin State Journal, Brookfield East beats Sun Prairie at overtime horn - Jon Masson.

Judge's Comments: A great account of a memorable game.

Division B

First Place: The Journal Times, Mallwitz Is A Local Treasure - Peter Jackel. **Judge's Comments:** "Who was your favorite player." "All of them." The passion of this longtime coach comes through loud and clear in the story. You can't help but pull for him to get out of that hospital bed. Fantastic work. Sometimes sports is about much more, and this is one of those stories.

Second Place: Daily News, Oh my Zarling! - Adam Lindemer. **Judge's Comments:** Love the headline. Love the photos. Love the story. The lede sets the scene perfectly. Even if you didn't see this game, the story makes it feel like you did. That's what a good game story should do.

Third Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Football coach in elite company with 400th win - Mitchell Skurzewski. **Judge's Comments:** Sometimes a game is not "just another game," and this story hits that nail on the head. What happens in the game isn't always the most important thing about a game. This is a good example of focusing on the big picture rather than getting bogged down in the details of a 70-0 blowout.

Honorable Mention: Daily News, Larson beats the buzzer - Gidal Kaiser. **Judge's Comments:** Tension building lede, vivid language throughout and strong quotes. This is a great recap of what sounds like a thrilling game.

Division C

First Place: Daily Citizen, Coronation - Mark McMullen. **Judge's Comments:** Personality, context, impact, all supported by a crucially important but not overwhelming back-story. Important emotional component (not easy to extract from a high school kid) woven in with

genuine relevance and without hyperbole.

Second Place: Stevens Point Journal, Decision to enroll early at Marquette a tough call for Joey Hauser - Scott Williams. **Judge's Comments:** Likely a high-profile story in this community, told with insight, appropriate background and a human touch. I like that it does everything it needs to do economically - would have been tempting to over-write.

Third Place: Daily Citizen, Dodgeand girls win first-ever state championship - Mark McMullen. **Judge's Comments:** Very nicely told celebratory story with telling details about the team's goals and work ethic. Sets appropriate tone from the first graph. Good coverage of the actual race as well - cross-country can be challenging to make exciting.

Honorable Mention: Watertown Daily Times, Warriors dig out, strike gold; Warriors add gold ball to trophy case (sidebar) - Tom Kahl, Kevin Wilson.

Judge's Comments: This story came with built-in drama, but that doesn't guarantee a dramatic telling. This one delivered on that count, with strategic details that may not be evident to spectators but make a difference on the court.

Division D

First Place: Lake Country Now, After a Shoreland Lutheran baseball player died unexpectedly, regional opponent Lake Country Lutheran helped his team say goodbye - Curt

Hogg. **Judge's Comments:** The story was a sensitive account of a tragic event. The writer really conveyed the emotions of the parties involved.

Second Place: Lake Country Now, Zak Karrels hits dramatic walk-off homer just before midnight, sending Arrowhead to state baseball final - Curt Hogg. **Judge's Comments:** A riveting account of a game that many players, coaches and fans will remember for a long time.

Third Place: The Chronotype, Kenny adds team to title list - Dave Greschner. **Judge's Comments:** I like how the writer combined to tell the story of an individual and a team's success in one well-written piece.

Honorable Mention: Lake Country Now, Pewaukee's JJ Watt says Man of Year Award is 'so much bigger than just one man' - Christopher Kuhagen. **Judge's**

Comments: A comprehensive account of JJ Watt and the difference he's made in people's lives.

Division E

First Place: The Portage County Gazette, Heck started on Amherst's State Championship team - John Kemmeter.

Judge's Comments: This should have been main story on the page, the remembrance of a football player that died in a motorcycle crash. Good quotes, including the victim, that fleshed out a portrait of a young-man lost.

Second Place: The Northwoods River News, Undeniable: Hodags rally to beat Mosinee 5-4 in OT, advance to regional finals - Jeremy Mayo. **Judge's Comments:** Great hockey story centered on resilience, twice overcoming two-point deficits to advance in playoffs.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, Stopping the streak: Hodags snap 23-game GNC skid on late goal line stand - Jeremy Mayo. **Judge's Comments:** Glad you talked to players, especially on defense. Great description of key plays.

Honorable Mention: Pierce County Herald, Did that just happen? Prescott brings home a gold ball in epic fashion - Katie Davidson. **Judge's Comments:** Four basketball teams entered center court at state, only one walked away with the revered championship trophy. Plenty of game description and insightful quotes.

Division F

First Place: Burlington Standard Press, Champions on parade; A strong foundation; Demons own the decade; Demons capture...; Meet the Demons; 30 years young; Sport Check - Mike Ramczyk. **Judge's Comments:** Fantastic. Big events deserve big coverage, and this is exactly how you do it. Reporting, photos and space devoted to major story ensures all angles are covered.

Second Place: The Stoughton Courier Hub, Warm memories of Pieper - Anthony Iozzo. **Judge's Comments:** Love the first-person approach. Perfect for this type of story.

Third Place: The Valders Journal, Hearts break for Vikes as buzzer-beater connects; Hickmann hits shot heard around Valders in semi - Brian Thomsen.

Amery Free Press

Honorable MentionBest Special Section

Baraboo News Republic

First PlaceBest Special Section
 First Place Open Records/FOI Award
 First PlaceLocal Column
 First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Second PlaceBest Front Page
 Second PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Third Place..... Portrait or Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention Sports Photo

Barron News-Shield

Second PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Third PlaceSports Section

Beloit Daily News

First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceEditorial Award
 First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First PlaceFeature Photo
 First PlaceOverall Page Design
 First PlacePage Design - Feature
 First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread

First Place Best Digital Ad
 Second PlaceLocal Sports Column
 Second PlaceFeature Photo
 Second PlacePage Design - Feature
 Second PlaceBest Small Ad
 Second PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion
 Second PlaceBest Niche Product
 Second PlaceBest Digital Ad
 Third PlaceBest Special Section
 Third PlaceGeneral News Story
 Third PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Third PlaceSports Photo
 Third PlaceBill Payne Award
 Third PlaceBest Special Section
 Honorable MentionOpen Records/FOI Award
 Honorable MentionEnvironmental Reporting Award

Burlington Standard Press

First PlaceBest Front Page
 First PlaceSports Section
 First PlaceSports News Story
 First PlaceSports Photo
 Third PlaceFeature/Lifestyle Section
 Third PlaceBusiness Coverage

Campbellsport News

First PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 Honorable MentionBest Large Ad

Clintonville Tribune Gazette

Second PlaceGeneral Excellence
 Second PlaceBest Video

Third PlaceSports Section

Columbus Journal

Third PlaceFeature (Non-profile)

Courier Press

First PlaceGeneral News Story
 Second PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Third PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Third PlaceBill Payne Award
 Honorable MentionEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Honorable MentionBill Payne Award

Courier Sentinel

Third PlaceEditorial Award
 Third PlaceLocal Column
 Honorable MentionSpot News Photo

Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout

First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 Second PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Honorable MentionBest Localized National Story

Daily Citizen

First PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 First PlaceSports News Story
 First PlaceBest Localized National Story
 First PlacePage Design - Sports
 First PlaceBest Niche Product
 Second PlaceBest Special Section
 Second PlaceBest Niche Product
 Third PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Honorable MentionInvestigative Reporting

Daily Globe

First PlaceSpot News Photo
 First PlaceBest Small Ad
 First PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)

First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 Second PlaceBest Special Section
 Second PlaceSports Photo
 Third PlaceBill Payne Award
 Third PlaceBest Grocery Ad
 Third PlaceBest Digital Ad

Daily Jefferson County Union

Second PlaceBest Special Section
 Second PlaceLocal Column
 Third PlaceEditorial Award
 Third PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Third PlaceReporting on Local Education

Honorable MentionBest Special Section
 Honorable MentionBreaking News Coverage

Honorable MentionFeature (Profile)
 Honorable MentionPortrait or Artistic Photo

Daily News

First PlaceSports Photo
 First PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Second PlaceBest Front Page
 Second PlaceBest Headlines
 Second PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Second PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceLocal Column
 Third PlaceBest Localized National Story
 Honorable MentionSports News Story
 Honorable MentionSports Feature

Daily Tribune

First PlaceReporting on Local Government
 Second PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second PlaceBest Localized National Story
 Third PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 Third PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 Honorable MentionBusiness Coverage

Dodge County Pionier

First PlaceBest Large Ad
 Second PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Third PlaceBest Large Ad
 Third PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 Honorable MentionFeature Photo
 Honorable MentionBest Grocery Ad
 Honorable MentionBest Use of Color
 Honorable MentionBest Newspaper Promotion

Door County Advocate

Honorable MentionOngoing/Extended Coverage

EagleHerald

Second PlaceBest Use of Local Photography
 Third PlaceBest Niche Product
 Honorable MentionGeneral News Story
 Honorable MentionLocal Column
 Honorable MentionBest Special Section
 Honorable MentionBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Honorable MentionBest Use of Art Service

Fennimore Times

First PlaceBest Grocery Ad
 First PlaceBest Large Ad

Grant County Herald Independent

First PlaceSports Section
 First PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 First PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)
 Second PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Second PlaceSports Feature
 Second PlaceSports Photo
 Second PlaceFeature Photo
 Second PlaceBest Grocery Ad
 Second PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion
 Third PlaceBest Front Page
 Third PlaceBest Use of Local Photography
 Honorable MentionBest Multiple Advertiser Spread

Green Bay Press-Gazette

First PlaceSpecial Pages
 First PlaceReporting on Local Government
 First PlaceSports Feature
 First PlaceLocal Outdoor Column
 Second PlaceEditorial Award
 Second PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Education
 Second PlaceBest Video
 Third PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Third PlaceBest Headlines
 Third PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Third PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Third PlaceFeature Photo
 Honorable MentionEditorial Section
 Honorable MentionFeature (Non-profile)
 Honorable MentionLocal Column
 Honorable MentionLocal Sports Column
 Honorable MentionDigital Journalism

Herald Times Reporter

First PlaceSports Feature
 First PlaceSpot News Photo
 First PlaceBest Video
 Second PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Third PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting

Hocak Worak

First PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Honorable MentionReporting on Local Education

Hudson Star-Observer

First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First PlacePhoto Essay
 Second PlaceSports Section

Second PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Third PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Third PlaceBest Digital Ad
 Honorable MentionBest Digital Ad

Inter-County Leader

First PlaceFeature (Profile)

Juneau County Star-Times

Second PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Honorable MentionBest Special Section
 Honorable MentionSports News Story

Kenosha News

First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceBest Headlines
 Second PlaceSpot News Photo
 Third PlaceEditorial Award
 Third PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Third PlaceLocal Column
 Third PlaceLocal Sports Column
 Third PlacePage Design - Feature

Kewaskum Statesman

First PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 First PlaceFeature (Profile)
 First PlaceBest Special Section
 Third PlaceSpecial Pages
 Third PlacePhoto Essay
 Third PlaceBest Small Ad
 Honorable MentionCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Honorable MentionBreaking News Coverage

La Crosse Tribune

First PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Second PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Honorable MentionEditorial Award

Ladysmith News

First PlaceGeneral News Story
 First PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Second PlaceEditorial Award

Lake Country Now

First Place ...Reporting on Local Education
 First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 First PlaceSports News Story
 Second PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second PlaceSports News Story

Lake Country Now

Second PlaceFeature Photo
 Second PlacePhoto Essay
 Third PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting

Third PlaceSpot News Photo
 Honorable MentionEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Honorable MentionSports News Story
 Honorable MentionGeneral News Photo
 Honorable MentionPortrait or Artistic Photo
 Honorable MentionBest Video

Lake Geneva Regional News

First PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 First PlaceEditorial Award
 First PlaceEditorial Section
 First PlaceBest Headlines
 First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award

First PlaceBest Video
 Second PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 Second Place“Rookie” Reporter of the Year

Second PlaceReporting on Local Government
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Education

Second PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Second PlaceLocal Sports Column
 Second PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Second PlaceBest Website
 Third PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Third PlaceBest Localized National Story
 Honorable MentionBusiness Coverage

Lake Mills Leader

First PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread

Leader-Telegram

First PlaceEditorial Section
 First PlaceSports Section
 First PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 First PlaceLocal Column
 First Place ...Best Localized National Story
 Second PlaceGeneral Excellence
 Second PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Second PlaceSports Feature
 Second PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Third PlaceBest Headlines
 Third PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Third PlaceFeature Photo
 Third PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Third PlaceOverall Page Design

Honorable MentionInvestigative Reporting
 Honorable MentionFeature (Non-profile)

Honorable MentionLocal Sports Column

Honorable MentionAll-Around Newspaper Photography
 Honorable MentionSports Photo

Marshfield News-Herald

First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third PlaceGeneral News Story
 Third PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Honorable MentionSports Feature

Milton Courier

Second PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography
 Third PlaceFeature Photo

Monroe County Herald

Second PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Third PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)
 Honorable MentionBest Large Ad

New London Press Star

First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceReporting on Local Government

First PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography
 Second PlaceEditorial Section
 Second PlaceGeneral News Story
 Second PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication

Third PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Third PlaceReporting on Local Education

Third PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Honorable MentionGeneral Excellence
 Honorable MentionReporting on Local Government
 Honorable Mention ...General News Photo

New Richmond News

First PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Second PlaceGeneral News Story
 Third PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Third PlaceReporting on Local Education
 Honorable MentionBest Niche Product

News Graphic

Second PlaceBest Headlines
 Third PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Third PlaceOverall Page Design

North Shore Now

Third PlaceGeneral News Story
 Third PlaceBest Localized National Story
 Second PlaceSports Photo
 Third PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award

Oshkosh Northwestern

First PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 Second PlaceInvestigative Reporting

Second PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 Third PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 Third Place“Rookie” Reporter of the Year
 Honorable MentionOngoing/Extended Coverage

Pierce County Herald

First PlaceBest Use of Color
 Second PlaceSports Section
 Second PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Second PlaceGraphics
 Second PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
 Second PlaceBest Digital Ad
 Third PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award

Third PlacePhoto Essay
 Third PlaceBest Small Ad
 Third PlaceBest Niche Product
 Honorable MentionFeature (Profile)
 Honorable MentionLocal Column
 Honorable MentionSports News Story

Portage Daily Register

First PlaceBest Front Page
 Second PlaceGeneral Excellence
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Government
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Education
 Second PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Honorable MentionFeature (Profile)

Price County Review

First PlaceLocal Column
 Third PlaceBest Special Section
 Third PlaceDigital Journalism

Reedsburg Times Press

Honorable MentionSports Section
 Honorable MentionEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting

River Falls Journal

First PlaceSports Photo

Sauk Prairie Eagle

Third PlaceFeature (Profile)

Sawyer County Record

First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 First PlaceBest Niche Product
 First PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication

Third PlaceBest Special Section
 Third PlaceLocal Column
 Honorable MentionBest Localized National Story
 Honorable MentionBest Niche Product



Congratulations to our award winners!

Dave LaPorte

Pete Wasson

Rick Olivo

Sara Chase

Seth Carlson

Jessica Sufak

Jen Moritz

Bill Thornley

Michelle Carlson

Deb Fosberg

Janis Redman

Frank Zufall

Kathy Hanson

Paul Mitchell

Darrin White

Heidi Schwoch

Emily Walsh

Sarah Weihert

Ed Zagorski

Steve Sharp

Tom Kahl

Kevin Wilson

Jenni Mickelson

Liz Quezada

Mark Shingler

Chris Caporale

Christine Spangler

Alexa Zoellner

Ryan Whisner

Pam Wilson

Becky Weber

Coyt Ruell

Ben Gauger

Brooke Ostema

Rebecca Kanable

Karyn Saemann

Christopher Mertes

Jennifer Fetterly

Brian Sheridan

Tom Linder

Peter Lindblad

Dave Greschner

Leah Fundell

Eileen Nimm

Heidi Clausen

Benjamin Wideman

Liam Marlaire

Nick Erickson

Spencer Flaten

Joe Ziemer

Mike Klees

Tom Gunderson

Julian Emerson

Eric Lindquist

Dan Reiland

Steve Kinderman

Elena Dawson

Spencer Nickel

APG MEDIA
of
WISCONSIN LLC

Ashland Daily Press

Price County Review

Spooner Advocate

Sawyer County Record

Watertown Daily Times

Daily Jefferson County Union

Lake Mills Leader

Milton Courier

Cambridge News &

Deerfield Independent

Sun Prairie Star

Waunakee Tribune

The Chronotype

The Country Today

Leader-Telegram

Great People. Great Newspaper.

Congratulations to the staff of The Valders Journal. Your hard work makes us a trusted source of local news for our readers... and now one of the **Best Weeklies in Wisconsin!**



Front: Mary Thomsen, Diane Herrmann.
Back: Dawn Coonce, Brian Thomsen, Todd Bergmann.
Insets: Gregg Novachek, Emma Dill



South Now

- First PlaceBest Localized National Story
- First PlaceGeneral News Photo
- Third Place ...Ongoing/Extended Coverage
- Honorable MentionFeature Photo

Southwest Now

- Second PlaceGeneral News Photo

Spooner Advocate

- First PlaceSpecial Pages
- First PlaceSpot News Photo
- Second PlaceLocal Column
- Second PlacePhoto Essay
- Third PlaceGeneral Excellence
- Third PlaceLocal Outdoor Column
- Third PlaceOverall Page Design
- Third PlacePage Design - Sports
- Honorable MentionLocal Sports Column

Stevens Point Journal

- First PlaceInvestigative Reporting
- First PlaceFeature (Non-profile)

- First Place ...Reporting on Local Education
- First PlaceBusiness Coverage
- First PlaceSports Feature
- Second PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
- Second PlaceSports News Story
- Third PlaceReporting on Local Government

Third Place ...Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Sun Prairie Star

- First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
- Second PlaceGeneral Excellence
- Second PlaceBreaking News Coverage
- Honorable MentionSpot News Photo

Superior Telegram

- Honorable MentionSports Feature

The Boscobel Dial

- First PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
- Third PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
- Honorable MentionBest Small Ad

The Brillion News

- Second PlaceSpot News Photo
- Third PlaceBest Localized National Story
- Honorable MentionPhoto Essay

The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent

- First PlaceBreaking News Coverage
- Second PlaceBusiness Coverage
- Second PlaceBest Localized National Story

The Capital Times

- First PlaceEditorial Section
- First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
- First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
- First PlaceLocal Column
- Second PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
- Third PlaceInvestigative Reporting
- Third PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
- Third PlaceBest Localized National Story
- Third PlaceBest Website
- Third PlaceDigital Journalism
- Honorable MentionInvestigative Reporting
- Honorable MentionEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
- Honorable MentionEnvironmental Reporting Award

The Chetek Alert

- First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
- First PlaceDigital Journalism
- Second PlaceBest Front Page
- Second PlaceBreaking News Coverage
- Third PlaceSpot News Photo

The Chippewa Herald

- Second PlaceSports Feature
- Third PlacePhoto Essay

The Chronotype

- First PlaceSports Section
- Second PlaceBest Localized National Story
- Second PlacePage Design - Sports
- Third PlaceSports News Story
- Third PlaceSports Feature
- Honorable MentionPhoto Essay

The Country Today

- First PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
- Second PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
- Third PlaceBest Headlines
- Honorable MentionEditorial Award
- Honorable MentionBest Headlines

The Daily Press

- First PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
- First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
- First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
- Second PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
- Second PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
- Second PlaceLocal Column
- Third PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive

Awards by Newspaper

	Reporting	First PlaceBest Use of Art Service	Honorable MentionBest Localized	Second PlaceBest Real Estate Ad
Honorable Mention	Open Records/ FOI Award	First PlaceBest Use of Local Photography	Honorable MentionNational Story	Second PlaceBest Large Ad
		First PlaceBest Use of Humor	Honorable Mention ...General News Photo	Second PlaceBest Special Section
The Daily Reporter		First PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion	Honorable MentionPhoto Essay	Second PlaceBest Niche Product
Second Place	General News Story	First PlaceBest Niche Product	Honorable MentionBest Grocery Ad	Third PlaceEditorial Section
Second Place	Best Website	First PlaceInnovative Online	Honorable MentionBest Use of Local Photography	Third PlaceSports Section
Third Place	Investigative Reporting	First PlaceBest Digital Ad	Honorable Mention ...Best Ongoing Niche Publication	Third PlaceReporting on Local Government
Third Place	Reporting on Local Education	Second PlaceGeneral Excellence		Third PlaceReporting on Local Education
		Second PlaceBest Special Section	The Journal Times	Third PlaceGraphics
The Denmark News		Second PlaceSports Section	First PlaceReporting on Local Education	Third PlaceBest Grocery Ad
First Place	Community Service/ Engagement Award	Second PlaceFeature/Lifestyle Section	First PlaceSports News Story	Third PlaceBest Small Ad
Honorable Mention	Reporting on Local Education	Second PlaceBest Headlines	Second PlaceEditorial Award	Third PlaceBest Use of Art Service
		Second Place“Rookie” Reporter of the Year		Honorable MentionInvestigative Reporting
The Freeman		Second PlaceGeneral News Story	Second PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting	Honorable MentionSports Photo
First Place	Best Front Page	Second PlaceReporting on Local Government	Second PlaceReporting on Local Government	Honorable MentionBill Payne Award
First Place	Environmental Reporting Award	Second PlaceLocal Column	Second PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage	Honorable MentionBest Ad Idea (Series)
First Place	Local Sports Column	Second PlaceSports News Story	Second PlaceBest Localized National Story	Honorable MentionBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
Second Place	Photo Essay	Second PlaceSports Feature	Third PlaceBest Front Page	The Monroe Times
Second Place	Best Special Section	Second PlaceLocal Sports Column	Third PlaceBreaking News Coverage	First PlaceGeneral Excellence
Third Place	Ongoing/Extended Coverage	Second PlaceBest Localized National Story	Third PlaceReporting on Local Government	First PlaceGeneral News Story
Third Place	Best Use of Local Photography	Second PlacePage Design - Sports	Third PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award	First PlaceSports Photo
Honorable Mention	Enterprise/ Interpretive Reporting	Second PlaceGraphics	Third PlaceSports Feature	First PlacePhoto Essay
Honorable Mention	Reporting on Local Government	Second PlaceBill Payne Award	Third PlaceLocal Sports Column	First PlaceBest Use of Color
Honorable Mention	Reporting on Local Education	Second PlaceBest Grocery Ad	Honorable Mention“Rookie” Reporter of the Year	First PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
Honorable Mention	Bill Payne Award	Second PlaceBest Real Estate Ad	Honorable MentionBusiness Coverage	Second PlaceEditorial Section
Honorable Mention	Best Niche Product	Second PlaceBest Large Ad	The Lakeland Times	Second PlaceBest Headlines
		Second PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)	First PlaceGeneral Excellence	Second PlaceBreaking News Coverage
		Second PlaceBest Special Section	First PlaceBest Front Page	Second PlaceInvestigative Reporting
		Second PlaceBest Use of Color	First PlaceBest Headlines	Second PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
		Second PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread	First PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award	Second PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography
		Second PlaceBest Use of Art Service	First PlaceLocal Sports Column	Second PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
		Second PlaceBest Use of Art Service	First PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography	Second PlaceBill Payne Award
		Second PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication	First PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo	Second PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
		Third PlaceInnovative Online Advertising	First PlaceOverall Page Design	Second PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)
		Third PlaceBest Digital Ad	First PlacePage Design - Sports	Second PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
		Honorable Mention ...General News Story	First PlaceBest Small Ad	Second PlaceBest Use of Art Service
		Honorable MentionOngoing/Extended Coverage	First PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)	Second PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication
		Honorable MentionSports Feature	First PlaceBest Special Section	Third PlaceBest Special Section
			First PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)	Third PlaceBest Front Page
			First PlaceBest Special Section	Third PlaceBest Headlines
			First PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread	Third PlaceLocal Column
			First PlaceBest Use of Local Photography	Third PlaceSports Feature
			First PlaceBest Use of Humor	Third PlaceBest Localized National Story
			First PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion	Third PlacePage Design - Sports
			Second PlaceBest Special Section	Third PlaceBest Special Section
			Second PlaceBusiness Coverage	Third PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion
			Second PlaceSports Feature	Third PlaceBest Niche Product
			Second PlaceLocal Outdoor Column	Honorable Mention ...General News Story
			Second PlaceSpot News Photo	Honorable MentionBreaking News Coverage
			Second PlacePage Design - Feature	Honorable MentionFeature
			Second PlaceDigital Journalism	

(Non-profile)
 Honorable MentionSpot News Photo
 Honorable MentionFeature Photo
 Honorable MentionPortrait or Artistic Photo
 Honorable MentionBest Website
 Honorable MentionBest Special Section
 Honorable MentionBest Niche Product

The Northwoods River News

First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceBest Front Page
 First PlaceReporting on Local Government
 First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 First PlaceSports Feature
 First PlacePhoto Essay
 First PlaceOverall Page Design
 First PlacePage Design - Feature
 First PlaceBest Small Ad
 First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 First PlaceBest Niche Product
 Second PlaceSpecial Pages
 Second PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Second PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceBest Headlines
 Third Place ...Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceLocal Sports Column
 Third PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Third PlaceSports Photo
 Third PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Third PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
 Third PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication
 Honorable MentionGeneral News Story
 Honorable MentionBreaking News Coverage
 Honorable MentionOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention ...General News Photo
 Honorable MentionSports Photo
 Honorable MentionPortrait or Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention ...Page Design - Sports
 Honorable MentionGraphics

The Oregon Observer

First PlaceGeneral Excellence
 First Place ...Reporting on Local Education
 First PlacePhoto Essay
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Government
 Second PlaceBest Small Ad
 Third PlaceGeneral News Story
 Third PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Honorable Mention“Rookie” Reporter of the Year

The Platteville Journal

Second PlaceBest Special Section

Second PlaceBest Localized National Story
 Honorable MentionGeneral Excellence
 Honorable Mention ...Overall Page Design

The Portage County Gazette

First PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceGeneral News Story
 Third PlaceSports Feature
 Third PlaceBest Special Section

The Post-Crescent

First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 First PlaceLocal Sports Column
 First PlaceSpot News Photo
 First PlaceSports Photo
 First PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 First PlaceBest Video
 Second PlaceBest Front Page
 Second PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Second PlaceFeature Photo
 Second PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Second PlaceOverall Page Design
 Third PlaceBest Special Section
 Third PlaceSports Section
 Third PlaceFeature/Lifestyle Section
 Third PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 Third PlaceGeneral News Story
 Third PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Third PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 Third PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceSpot News Photo
 Third PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Honorable MentionSports Photo
 Honorable MentionPortrait or Artistic Photo
 Honorable MentionBest Video

The Press Times

First PlaceBest Website
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Education
 Third PlaceBest Front Page

The Progressive

Third PlaceBest Use of Color

The Record-Review

First PlaceBest Localized National Story
 Second PlaceEditorial Award
 Second PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 Second PlacePage Design - Sports
 Third PlaceBest Use of Color

The Reporter

First PlaceGeneral Excellence
 First PlaceBest Headlines
 First PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Second PlaceGeneral News Story

Second PlaceSports Photo
 Second PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Second PlaceBest Video
 Third PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention ...General News Photo

The Ripon Commonwealth Press

First PlaceGeneral Excellence
 First PlaceFeature (Profile)
 First PlaceFeature Photo
 First PlacePage Design - Sports
 First PlaceGraphics
 First PlaceBill Payne Award
 First PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
 First PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread

First PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion
 First PlaceBest Digital Ad
 Second PlaceBest Front Page
 Second PlaceBest Headlines
 Second PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting

Second PlaceSpot News Photo
 Second PlaceOverall Page Design
 Second PlaceBest Large Ad
 Second PlaceBest Small Ad
 Second PlaceBest Special Section
 Second PlaceBest Use of Color
 Second PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 Second PlaceBest Use of Local Photography

Third PlaceEditorial Award
 Third PlaceEditorial Section
 Third PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Third PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Third PlaceReporting on Local Government
 Third PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Third PlaceLocal Column
 Third PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography

Third PlaceFeature Photo
 Third PlacePage Design - Feature
 Third PlaceBest Website
 Honorable MentionFeature (Non-profile)

Honorable MentionPhoto Essay
 Honorable MentionBest Real Estate Ad
 Honorable MentionBest Use of Art Service

The Sheboygan Press

First Place ...“Rookie” Reporter of the Year
 First PlaceFeature (Profile)
 First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 First PlacePhoto Essay
 First PlaceDigital Journalism
 Second PlaceSpot News Photo
 Third PlaceBest Video

The Star News

First PlaceBest Large Ad

First PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 First PlaceEditorial Section
 Second PlaceFeature/Lifestyle Section
 Second PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)

Second PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 Second PlaceBest Use of Humor
 Second Place ...Best Newspaper Promotion
 Third PlaceGeneral Excellence
 Third PlaceEditorial Award
 Third PlaceBill Payne Award
 Third PlaceBest Use of Color
 Honorable MentionBest Front Page
 Honorable MentionSports Feature
 Honorable MentionBest Small Ad

The Stoughton Courier Hub

First PlaceGeneral News Story
 First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First PlaceSports Feature
 First PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication

Second PlaceSports News Story
 Second PlacePhoto Essay
 Second PlaceBest Large Ad
 Honorable MentionBest Front Page
 Honorable MentionEnvironmental Reporting Award

The Sun

Third Place ...Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable MentionFeature (Profile)

The Tribune-Phonograph

First PlaceLocal Column
 Second PlaceEditorial Award
 Second PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Second PlaceSports Photo
 Second PlaceFeature Photo
 Third PlaceGeneral Excellence
 Third PlaceSports Feature
 Third PlaceBest Large Ad
 Third PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 Honorable MentionFeature Photo
 Honorable MentionBest Use of Local Photography

The Valdars Journal

First PlaceEditorial Award

The Valdars Journal

First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 First PlaceBest Localized National Story
 First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 First PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Second PlaceBest Special Section
 Second PlaceSports Section
 Second PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Second PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award

Second PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 Third PlaceBest Special Section

Third PlaceBest Front Page
 Third Place“Rookie” Reporter of the Year
 Third PlaceReporting on Local Government
 Third PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceSports Photo
 Honorable MentionInvestigative Reporting
 Honorable MentionFeature (Non-profile)

The Verona Press

First PlaceBest Small Ad
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Education
 Second PlaceBest Special Section
 Third PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Third PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 Third PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography
 Third PlaceBest Special Section
 Third PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Third PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion
 Honorable MentionBusiness Coverage
 Honorable MentionSports Photo

The Waunakee Tribune

First Place“Rookie” Reporter of the Year
 First Place ...Reporting on Local Education

Tomahawk Leader

First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Third PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third PlaceSpot News Photo

Trempealeau County Times

Second PlaceLocal Column

Tribune Record Gleaner

First PlaceFeature Photo
 Second PlaceLocal Column
 Second PlaceSports Feature
 Second PlaceBill Payne Award
 Second PlaceBest Use of Color
 Second PlaceBest Use of Art Service
 Honorable MentionGeneral News Story
 Honorable MentionSports Feature

Tri-County Press

First PlaceBest Use of Color
 Second PlaceBest Ad Idea (Series)

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

First PlaceBest Localized National Story
 First PlaceDigital Journalism
 Second PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 Second PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Second PlaceDigital Journalism
 Third PlaceFeature (Profile)

Third Place ...Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Vilas County News-Review

First PlaceBest Special Section
 First PlaceEditorial Award
 First PlaceFeature/Lifestyle Section
 First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 First PlaceSpot News Photo
 First PlaceFeature Photo
 First PlaceBill Payne Award
 First PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
 First PlaceBest Real Estate Ad
 First PlaceBest Use of Color
 Second PlaceGeneral Excellence
 Second PlaceEditorial Section
 Second PlaceBest Front Page
 Second PlaceGeneral News Story
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Government
 Second PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography
 Second PlaceOverall Page Design
 Second PlaceBill Payne Award
 Second PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
 Second PlaceBest Small Ad
 Second PlaceBest Use of Color
 Second PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread

Third PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Third PlaceFeature Photo
 Third PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
 Third PlaceBest Real Estate Ad
 Third PlaceBest Large Ad
 Third PlaceBest Multiple Advertiser Spread

Third PlaceBest Use of Humor
 Third PlaceBest Newspaper Promotion
 Honorable MentionCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Honorable MentionSpot News Photo

Washington Island Observer

First PlaceSpot News Photo
 Second PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Second PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Third PlaceGeneral News Photo

Watertown Daily Times

First PlaceBest Headlines
 First PlaceFeature (Profile)
 First PlaceFeature Photo
 First PlacePortrait or Artistic Photo
 First PlaceBill Payne Award
 First PlaceBest Large Ad
 First PlaceBest Use of Local Photography
 First PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication
 Second PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Second PlaceSpot News Photo
 Second PlaceFeature Photo
 Second PlacePhoto Essay

Second PlaceBest Large Ad
 Second PlaceBest Use of Local Photography

Third PlaceGeneral Excellence
 Third PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 Third PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Third PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Third PlaceSpot News Photo
 Third PlaceSports Photo
 Third PlaceFeature Photo
 Honorable MentionBest Special Section
 Honorable MentionBest Front Page
 Honorable MentionSports News Story
 Honorable Mention ...General News Photo
 Honorable MentionPhoto Essay
 Honorable MentionGraphics

Waukesha County Now

First PlaceSports Feature
 First PlaceSports Photo
 First PlaceBest Video
 Second PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Second PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Third PlacePhoto Essay
 Third PlaceBest Video
 Honorable MentionGeneral News Story
 Honorable MentionDigital Journalism

Waupaca County Post

First PlaceLocal Outdoor Column
 Honorable MentionBest Front Page

Wausau Daily Herald

First PlaceGeneral News Story
 First PlaceBreaking News Coverage
 First PlaceReporting on Local Government
 First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Second PlaceCommunity Service/Engagement Award
 Second PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 Second PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Second PlaceReporting on Local Education
 Second PlaceLocal Outdoor Column
 Third PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Third PlaceSports News Story
 Third PlaceSpot News Photo

Wausau Pilot and Review

First PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 First PlaceReporting on Local Government
 First PlaceLocal Column
 Third PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award

Waushara Argus

Third PlaceBest Niche Product

West Now

Second PlaceBest Video

Third PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Third PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Third PlaceSports Photo
 Honorable MentionReporting on Local Education

Wisconsin State Farmer

Second PlaceFeature (Profile)
 Second PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award
 Third PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Third PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Honorable MentionFeature (Non-profile)
 Honorable MentionFeature (Profile)

Wisconsin State Journal

First PlaceGeneral Excellence
 First PlaceEditorial Award
 First PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 First PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 First PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 First PlaceSports News Story
 Second PlaceEditorial Section
 Second PlaceFeature (Non-profile)
 Second PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Second PlaceEnvironmental Reporting Award

Second PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Second PlaceSports Photo
 Second PlacePhoto Essay
 Third PlaceReporting on Local Government

Third PlaceReporting on Local Education
 Third PlaceSports Feature
 Third PlaceAll-Around Newspaper Photography
 Third PlaceSports Photo
 Third PlacePhoto Essay
 Third PlaceBest Video
 Honorable MentionBusiness Coverage
 Honorable MentionSports News Story
 Honorable MentionSpot News Photo

Judge's Comments: "Two great players and two great shots." Solid lede and great recap of what sounds like a thrilling, but disappointing game. Love the photo, too.

Honorable Mention: Juneau County Star-Times, Clock countdown - Zachary Rastall. **Judge's Comments:** Good reporting with a nice variety of sources. Great look at a controversial issue with an uncertain future.

Sports Feature

Division A

First Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Why Lance Kendricks sat in protest for national anthem - Ryan Wood. **Judge's Comments:** Anyone who thinks NFL players kneeling in protest are ungrateful millionaires should read this story. It offers much-needed context on an issue that has a lot more layers than the typical narrative would have you believe.

Second Place: The Gazette, Ride or die: Area woman conquers heartbreak, loss to achieve barrel-racing dream - Bryan Wegter. **Judge's Comments:** "It's proof she survived." The second line of this story hooks you in and brings you along for the ride. What a great story of overcoming challenges in life, and one that's particularly timely given the crisis of drug addiction in this country.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Badgers running back Jonathan Taylor a top candidate for Heisman Trophy - Jason Galloway. **Judge's Comments:** For those who haven't followed Jonathan Taylor as closely, this profile offers excellent background on one of the best players in college football.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, That's a problem; Love of the game; More cheering, less jeering - Eric Schmoldt, John Barry. **Judge's Comments:** A referee shortage isn't the kind of topic you expect to be a three-part series, but this is well done and offers a great look at the issue.

Division B

First Place: Herald Times Reporter, Ships made basketball history 50 years ago; Catching up with Lincoln's 1968 boys hoops team; Lincoln's '68 state title forged at summer camp - Tom Dombeck, Josh Clark. **Judge's Comments:** Fantastic

effort all-around! The staff presents great historical photos, biographies, retrospectives, video, and a general sense of reliving the glory days. This entry is exactly what historical sports writing should strive to be. It's inspiring, interesting and fun! Excellent work!

Second Place: Leader-Telegram, Thumbs Up, Fly High - Nick Erickson. **Judge's Comments:** This is a great biography piece with a lot of interviews fleshing out the impact of Owen on and off the field. The amount of space given to share his story worked well and flowed nicely. Good job!

Third Place: The Journal Times, Remembering Mia - Peter Jackel. **Judge's Comments:** Mia's story is well-written and showcases her impact as an athlete and a person. An array of quotes from those close to her enhance the story a lot. Everything flowed well. Nice work!

Honorable Mention: Daily News, Master of the fundamentals - Adam Lindemer. **Judge's Comments:** In a tough field, this story was a good retrospective on an outgoing coach. I especially appreciated the diversity in the quotes breakout box. The story is a nice send-off and it's something he should frame for his house. The photos helped enhance the story too. Good work!

Division C

First Place: Stevens Point Journal, For SPASH boys soccer, team activities include lessons in respect for women - Scott Williams. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting, offbeat take on a nationwide subject.

Second Place: The Chippewa Herald, The Fisherman - Brandon Berg.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, Just 'one of the guys' - Adam Krebs.

Honorable Mention: Marshfield News-Herald, Northwoods quarterback fights for his life at Children's Hospital - Mitchell Skurzewski.

Division D

First Place: Waukesha County Now, Comeback Vi-Kings: An oral history of New Berlin West's wild, dramatic run to the 2013 state title - Curt Hogg. **Judge's Comments:** Great use of the oral history format. The first-person view from the players and coaches puts you on the field for this thrilling win.

Second Place: The Lakeland Times,

There's no place like home - Nick Sabato.

Judge's Comments: Scene-setting lede puts you in the gym and the rest of the story offers tons of background to explain what motivates him.

Third Place: The Chronotype, Bear of a day conquered in Boston - Dave Greschner. **Judge's Comments:** Fantastic. The lede really draws you in and paints a picture. Great story.

Honorable Mention: The Star News, Redmen return for coach's finale - Matt Frey. **Judge's Comments:** What a fun story and great send off for that coach.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, Finding a purpose: Seven wounded military veterans get a second chance on national sled hockey team - Nick Sabato.

Judge's Comments: Great quotes, insight in a tough sports with tougher competitors

Second Place: Grant County Herald Independent, The Golden Years; Stuart Harper kicks off retirement with cross country bike ride - A.J. Gates. **Judge's Comments:** Felt like you were right the retiree going over mountains, swatting mosquitoes and cramping hands on downhill braking.

Third Place: The Portage County Gazette, Mitch celebrated for coaching career - John Kemmeter. **Judge's Comments:** Nice to have others recognize you as you retire.

Honorable Mention: Superior Telegram, Stroke sidelines SHS baseball coach - Ken Olson. **Judge's Comments:** Short and sweet story about getting seen after stroke symptoms.

Division F

First Place: The Stoughton Courier Hub, From the NSA to the NBA - Anthony Iozzo. **Judge's Comments:** First-class profile of a unique subject.

Second Place: Tribune Record Gleaner, Bulletproof Ben - Dean Lesar. **Judge's Comments:** Well written piece.

Third Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, Capturing the Cloverbelt - Ross Pattermann. **Judge's Comments:** Story captures the essence of high school sports.

Honorable Mention: Tribune Record Gleaner, Small-town dream leads to big-time offer for Spencer senior - Ross Pattermann. **Judge's Comments:** The writer really conveyed the journey of a kid,

who'll be playing Division I football.

Local Sports Column

Division A

First Place: The Post-Crescent, Kimberly's historic run of five consecutive football titles, 70 straight wins extraordinary; 10 changes to high school sports we'd like to see in 2018 and beyond; Appleton North's success had humble beginnings - Ricardo Arguello. **Judge's Comments:** The writer has a lively and easy to read style. The 10 changes column allowed the writer to bring important issues to the forefront in a way that is accessible for the reader.

Second Place: The Gazette, More Cheering, Less Jeering; Brooms, Bruises and a night of curling; Tuesday will go down as a 'Remember when?' day - Eric Schmoldt. **Judge's Comments:** The curling piece was a fun first-person account. The column on officials brought up important issues.

Third Place: Kenosha News, UWP seniors deserved better; Enjoy it, All-Stars; Complaints make softball tournaments tough to stomach - Mike Johnson. **Judge's Comments:** You don't see too many pieces on adult softball. The writer made this reader shake his head in amazement.

Honorable Mention: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Rodgers' return in uncharted waters; Winds of change: Timing right for Packers to part ways with Thompson; Changes in Packers leadership could run deep - Pete Dougherty. **Judge's Comments:** You can tell the writer lives and breathes Green Bay Packers football.

Division B

First Place: The Freeman, Prep football season starts too early; Girls reaping benefits of long wait; Best of friends, best of players - Chuck Delsman. **Judge's Comments:** Column about the friends/competitors could almost form the basis of a movie script. Also especially appreciated the stand against seasons starting too early.

Second Place: Beloit Daily News, Packard leaves legacy; Summer-time leaves lasting legacy; Class of 2018 remembered fondly in 'pics' - Josh Flickinger. **Judge's Comments:** Like my friend and neighbor Buzz Bissinger, I most value the human stories that take place within a sporting context. This column does a good job of

capturing those, and reveal the writer's genuine affection for his subjects.

Third Place: The Journal Times, Rising From The Ruins; Therapy For A Man, Wisdom For A Team; Brewers' Nelson Was A Treasure - Peter Jackel.

Judge's Comments: Loved the story of redemption and perseverance in the lead-off column, and how it delved into this young's man's life. I hope to continue to succeed!

Honorable Mention: Leader-Telegram, His brother's hero - Nick Erickson. **Judge's Comments:** Loved the column about your brother!

Weekly Division

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Sometimes adults ruin it for everyone; It's time to make a change to girls' hockey in Wisconsin; Lakeland track and field demonstrates how to build a great program - Nick Sabato. **Judge's Comments:** These columns did a good job of hitting all the right notes: Not too long, not too short, with an engaging prose and a writer willing to take a stand.

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Why are there no local hockey teams?; Sports' role in the community; Wisconsin needs more officials, and they could be you - Andrew Tucker.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, For Hodag girls' swim team, Bryka's resignation a loss and an opportunity; WIAA goes over and back on shot clock decision; Old Man Winter's 1-2 punch harkens back to 2013 - Jeremy Mayo.

Honorable Mention: Spooner Advocate, It really was a great team effort, lakers, Bob LeMoine: He wore the red shirt proudly, goodbye, Little Girl - Bill Thornley.

Local Outdoor Column

Daily Division

First Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Remembering Dad on Lake Poygan shores; Familiarity breeds contempt with nesting birds; Rewriting the rules - Patrick Durkin. **Judge's Comments:** • If/when I read my obituary, this is what I'd want: a personal account of life, shared with family (son) out on the salt-chuck (a west-coaster), or off a mountain trail, or in a backyard "wilderness." Exceptional human

quality in this column: it's personal!

• Then we get to bird-culture. Beware! this column is fraught with conflict and mayhem. It works because it's a conversation between author and reader. Excellent writing!

• Great commentary on a dynamic political challenge to Wisconsin's wetlands' environment. Yet, while railing on the political process, no real alternative proposal is offered, merely "opposition" to a string of legislative proposals that appeared to entrap—or at least capture—environmentalists' acquiescence. Ah, but this column's writer remains a master of readability!

Second Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Bike Across Bago: The Fox Valley's frustrating, awesome test of winter cycling mettle - Keith Uhlig. **Judge's Comments:** • Cute account of suffering along a 'Bago biking event, literally chilling. Wear a helmet or hard-hat while reading. Relates experience in personal narrative, while personifying elements along the route

• Relating winter blizzard in April to what normally is an event endured in winter. Again, cute writing, casual observations, a truly personal account shared with readers who live the same extremes.

• Personal experience is shared, again, with readers as the writer narrates another life-experience: running with the pet dog. Better yet, dog readers could enjoy this trip, too. This is a diary of hope as author recovers from the enduring pain of others' cancer trauma. Unique, and repeatable!

Third Place: The Gazette, Man looks for spring in first'conk-la-ree!; For the love of birds: volunteers keep track of migration; Home again: Janesville couple finish cruising the Great Loop - Anna Marie Lux. **Judge's Comments:** • Nicely written narrative with an avian-buff protagonist. More a "news story" than a column. It's a comfortable read.

• Again, a narrow avian-focused piece related to a looming event, in this case. Nice writing, but limited "sourcing." More a news story with a feature bent.

• A nice feature focused on a couple's sailing adventure. Still searching for the "columnist's" perspective.

Weekly Division

First Place: Waupaca County Post, Hunters set sights on season; This hike's



Bombs bursting in air

Above: Spectators watch the fireworks finale Wednesday at Traxler Park in Janesville from the roof of a truck. **Left:** Ja'Corian Brooks, 6, watches a sparkler burn while he waits for the Traxler Park fireworks show to begin. **For more photos from the Traxler Park celebration, which included a Rock Aqua Jays show, and from July Fourth parade in Janesville's Fourth Ward Park (see story below), go to gazettextra.com/galleries.**

Photos by Angela Major
amajor@gazettextra.com

The Gazette, Janesville, Division A, Feature Photo

for the birds; 'Fonzie' finds his happy days on a trout stream - Greg Seubert. **Judge's Comments:** Did a fine job of keeping the reader engaged, without sinking into jargon.

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Fish Like a Girl: Who are the people in the blue shirts?; Losing a mentor; 3rd annual veterans' tournament brings smiles to anglers - Beckie Gaskill.

Third Place: Spooner Advocate, Grizzly encounters frequent during Wyoming hunt, An encounter with the king of the deep woods, 5-ponter offered rare view into a buck's world - Bill Thornley.

Best Localized National Story

Division A

First Place: USA TODAY NETWORK-

Wisconsin, Taking the power back: Wisconsin women share experiences with sexual misconduct - Haley BeMiller, Laura Schulte, Melissa Siegler. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent approach to an emotional topic. The statewide look at #MeToo demonstrates how commonplace sexual assault, harassment and discrimination really are.

Second Place: The Gazette, A movement in motion - Ashley McCallum. **Judge's Comments:** It's harder to say "those things don't happen here" when you put a name and a face to them. Great work.

Third Place: The Capital Times, Wisconsin school groups urge lawmakers to reach compromise on school safety bill - Jessie Opoien. **Judge's Comments:** Lede really grabs your attention with the idea of the shooter targeting an armed teacher.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, Possible trade war with China could

hurt local farmers - Jim Dayton. **Judge's Comments:** Really shows how national policies can have a local impact.

Division B

First Place: Leader-Telegram, Out of the dark - Eric Lindquist. **Judge's Comments:** This story drew me in and kept my attention until the very end. The quotes were effective and the reporter handled a very sensitive subject in a way that respected the family while still giving readers the kind of intimate details that really paint a picture. Great job localizing a national story.

Second Place: The Journal Times, Numerous arrests at local DACA rally; Family, friends plead for release; ICE: No exemptions - Ricardo Torres. **Judge's Comments:** Great assortment of angles on the national issue of immigration. Reporter deftly moved from straight news reporting to feature writing. The inclusion of the arrested congressional candidates and the father picked up by ICE really helped localize these stories.

Third Place: Daily News, Recovery in Washington County - Alex Beld. **Judge's Comments:** Reporter did a good job finding subjects who would talk honestly about their addiction and recovery. Would have liked to know more about the recovery services offered in the county and a bit more about how much of a problem opiate addiction is in this particular county compared to the rest of the state/nation.

Division C

First Place: Daily Citizen, Couple recalls horror in Vegas - Kelly Simon. **Judge's Comments:** Chilling and heartbreaking. Does a great job of telling the story of that night through the eyes of the couple. Great work.

Second Place: Daily Tribune, 'We are the storm': After email scandal, Wisconsin women help reshape Miss America - Caitlin Shuda. **Judge's Comments:** Great job combining the large-scale issue of the #metoo movement with these local pageant contestants. Some of these stories are so sad and tough to read, but are important.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, Opioid crisis goes to the dogs - Katjusa Cisar.

Judge's Comments: Really interesting look into the opioid epidemic through the lens of drug dogs. Definitely unique in that regard.

Division D

First Place: South Now, Cudahy students 'join the revolution for school safety' by participating in walkout - Erik Hanley.

Judge's Comments: Stood above many other school shooting walkout stories by focusing the narrative on the power of the students' voices, including by opening with a quote lede.

Second Place: The Chronotype, Surviving the school day - Eileen Nimm.

Third Place: North Shore Now, Whitefish Bay man recounts horrific Vegas concert shooting - Jeff Ramage.

Honorable Mention: Sawyer County Record, Hurricane-damaged flag repaired - Frank Zufall. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting tie-in to Hurricane Maria with a lot of heart and good storytelling.

Division E

First Place: The Record-Review, Bowfishing business boats to Houston - Casey Krautkramer. **Judge's Comments:** Great story about a local business assisting in Texas. Great quotes and characters and very in-depth.

Second Place: The Platteville Journal, "Within a minute or two, we got word that first we'd be getting maybe 10 casualties. And then it was 50 to 100." - Steve Prestegard. **Judge's Comments:** Awesome story that gave an inside look to the hospital-side of that horrific event. Great character and very in-depth.

Third Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Lake Geneva resident faces deportation after traffic ticket; Local immigration case remains unresolved; Attorney says local immigrant may be free soon - Dennis Hines. **Judge's Comments:** Lots of time and research went into this series. Great reporting that covered both local and national angles.

Division F

First Place: The Valdres Journal, Woman sends aid while holding Puerto Rico in heart - Mary Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** This story provides a personal experience for a tragedy many people in

Wisconsin likely felt distant from.

Second Place: The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent, Student walkout - Karyn Saemann. **Judge's Comments:** This story package is strong. Promoting student voices above adults' was a great choice.

Third Place: The Brillion News, Students here are serious about school shootings - Ed Byrne. **Judge's Comments:** This story shows that even small events or decisions can be impactful.

Honorable Mention: Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Sex trafficking and social media - Emily Schendel. **Judge's Comments:** This story provides information on a topic not well understood by many.

All-Around Newspaper Photography

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, - Angela Major, Anthony Wahl. **Judge's Comments:** All good photos - focused on local - shows different perspectives - Harvest - seeing it through the farmers eyes, voting - depicts impact of voting/importance to family and who doesn't love kitties - easily tells the story that the person is involved with animals; finally great shot of football player "breaking through"

Second Place: The Monroe Times, - Marissa Weiher. **Judge's Comments:** Love the focus on living local! All photos focused on local people doing local things important in the community.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Journal, - Steve Apps, Amber Arnold, John Hart. **Judge's Comments:** Powerful photo. impactful. Love the little girl looking at her doctor and the smile on the father's face looking at his baby girl. thought Octoberfest photo could have done a better job of depicting "Octoberfest" instead of an overview of a crowd.

Honorable Mention: Leader-Telegram, - Dan Reiland, Steve Kinderman, Elena Dawson, Spencer Nickel. **Judge's Comments:** All great action shots.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, All Around Photography — The Lakeland Times - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Good all-around photographs, and a lot of them.

Image size was determined by importance, with larger images at the top and smaller at the bottom. Not all newspapers play photos well. Keep up the good work.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, - Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten, Kurt Krueger, Jacki Risjord.

Judge's Comments: Good image quality throughout. Images are treated with prominence.

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Nice photos. But in some cases they are a little crowded. Overall, a nice all-around photography package.

Division F

First Place: New London Press Star - Scott Bellile, John Faucher, Erik Buchinger. **Judge's Comments:** Good all around photography in a small community. Keep up the good work.

Second Place: Milton Courier - Ben Gauger, Brooke Ostema, Rebecca Kanable. **Judge's Comments:** Nice use of photos throughout.

Third Place: The Verona Press - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Fun, well-played photos.

General News Photo

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Life-saving lessons: Janesville Fire Department recruits in midst of six weeks of training - Angela Major. **Judge's Comments:** You pulled me into story with the unique and interesting angles of these photos. I'm not certain I would have read whole piece if you had not grabbed my attention.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Contentious Meeting - John Hart. **Judge's Comments:** Great energy and emotion in this pause of time photo. It beautifully supports the story.

Third Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Marguerite Bachhuber of Green Bay reacts as she is as honored as the 20th member of the Green Bay Packers fan hall of fame. - Adam Wesley. **Judge's Comments:** I absolutely love the pure emotion in her face. Great capture.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, Siblings share their pain - Anthony Wahl. **Judge's Comments:** Beautiful capture of

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June 28, 2018 OREGON OBSERVER 7

SUMMER FEST 2018



Photo by Kimberly Wehler
Rain couldn't stop the fireworks show on Saturday, June 23.



Photo by Alexander Crumer
Halle Lust and her daughter Destiny Rudolph ride in the GO! train in the Summer Fest parade.



Photo by Kimberly Wehler
Blaine Cederquist, 5, catches a toy fish at the carnival.



Photo by Kimberly Wehler
Raana Oltinski, 6, smiles at her mother as she rides on the swings on Saturday, June 23.



Photo by Alexander Crumer
Nitro the boxer in full parade regalia (thanks to her human, Brittany Doerfer) at the Summer Fest parade.



Photo by Kimberly Wehler
Shelley Faith, singer for the Angels and Outlaws band, sings a Lady Antebellum song during their performance at Summer Fest on Saturday, June 23.

On the web

Check out more photos of Summer Fest 2018 on our website:
ConnectOregonWI.com



Photo by Alexander Crumer
At left, grill-master Kenny Carl spreads barbecue sauce on some ribs. Carl said the Lions' Club fundraiser 'Thrilla on the Grilla' fed about 700 people at Summer Fest.



Photo by Kimberly Wehler
From left, Isla, 2, Ashley, Max, 4, and Andy Jensen, of McFarland, ride the Merry-Go-Round as a family.

Save the Date

10th Annual **Senior EXPO**

October 10, 2018

Stoughton Wellness & Athletic Center
2300 US Highway 51-138 • Stoughton, WI

Does your business serve the senior community?
Booth reservations now being accepted.

To reserve your spot or to get more information, please contact us at 845-9559.

The Oregon Observer, Division F, Photo Essay

raw emotion. It is done with respect and dignity.

Division B

First Place: The Sheboygan Press, Saved by the fire - Gary Klein. **Judge's Comments:** Nice shot of the flames. Drew me into the story.

Second Place: Leader-Telegram, Blue Angels - Dan Reiland. **Judge's Comments:** Nice clear shot of the plane, good focus!

Third Place: Leader-Telegram, Emotional Goodbye - Steve Kinderman. **Judge's Comments:** Nice goodbye. Love the color and the silhouette.

Honorable Mention: The Reporter, Eldorado holds hog wrestling at community picnic - Doug Raflik. **Judge's Comments:** Looks like a "muddy" good time! Nice action, nice emotion. Fun event!

Division C

First Place: Baraboo News Republic, Spinning plates in Big Top Parade - Todd Krysiak. **Judge's Comments:** Love the clown - which is perfect with the theatre background. Great candid shot.

Second Place: Baraboo News Republic, Circus World surprises Lucille Henry with elephant visit - Jake Prinsen. **Judge's Comments:** Love the focus of the photo. Great emotion. You can see the elephant without showing it's entire body. Great job!

Third Place: Daily Citizen, Dodge County Sheriff candidates debate - Terri Pederson. **Judge's Comments:** I like the determination on their faces. Looks like a serious race.

Honorable Mention: Watertown Daily Times, Picture Perfect - Ed Zagorski. **Judge's Comments:** Love the candid shot. Looks like the couple is really enjoying their visit.

Division D

First Place: South Now, Four-year-old Evan Bondar of Oak Creek looks out of the gunner's turret - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** Well executed and framed shot. Exposure was spot on in two different lighting environments.

Second Place: Southwest Now, Greendale's first girl Cub Scouts - C.T. Kruger. **Judge's Comments:** Great shot truly telling the story and taken with no notice from the photo subjects.

Third Place: West Now, Elm Grove Oktoberfest - C.T. Kruger. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting angled shot that captures the emotion of the event.

Honorable Mention: Lake Country Now, Gianna Shields, 7, of Pewaukee, tries to launch her kite - Scott Ash.

Division E

First Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Active shooter training - David Timmerman. **Judge's Comments:** Striking photo.

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Fishing for answers - Chris Schultz. **Judge's Comments:** I love this. I feel like we are right there on the beach with him.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, An evening of farewells - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** You can see

the history in this photo.

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods River News, Dunk the Chief - Kayla Thomason. **Judge's Comments:** A lot of fun!

Division F

First Place: The Valdres Journal, Time to fly - Brian Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting perspective of the eagle before flight.

Second Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, A hair-raising performance - Kevin O'Brien. **Judge's Comments:** Like the action - perfectly timed with the hair in the air.

Third Place: Washington Island Observer, Training for an ice rescue - Tyler McGrane. **Judge's Comments:** Like the color, contrast and composition. Puts the viewer right in the rescue.

Honorable Mention: New London Press Star, Spreading resiliency one color at a time - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** Like the action of both the runner and the "color thrower". Colorful and fun.

Spot News Photo

Division A

First Place: The Post-Crescent, Barn fire in Ellington - Danny Damiani.

Second Place: Kenosha News, Man injured, pinned in fiery crash - Sean Krajacic.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, Historic Brin Building in Menasha ravaged by fire - Bill Glasheen.

Honorable Mention: Wisconsin State Journal, Acid Attack - John Hart.

Division B

First Place: Herald Times Reporter, Wisconsin cleans up spring snow - Joshua Clark. **Judge's Comments:** I liked this photo a lot.

Second Place: The Sheboygan Press, Hose snakes its way toward fire at Arabella Family Restaurant - Gary Klein. **Judge's Comments:** I thought this was interesting.

Third Place: Wausau Daily Herald, Police: Man apparently shot self in Wausau home - T'xer Zhon Kha. **Judge's Comments:** I liked this photo a lot. I think it would have been better with less of the front car in the frame.

Division C

First Place: Daily Globe, Gales of November Came Early - Jason Juno.

Judge's Comments: Wow, serious wind causes big waves and you caught it perfectly.

Second Place: Watertown Daily Times, Soak it in, Summer is Here! - Emily Walsh.

Judge's Comments: Nice clear shot with good emotion. Like the water droplets caught in action.

Third Place: Watertown Daily Times, Watchful Eyes - Ed Zagorski. **Judge's Comments:** Nice job in taking what could have been a "boring" shot of a man in a truck and turning it into something interesting and eye catching. I like that you got his reflection in both mirrors. Wish it could have printed in color, but nice job!

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Nerf wars and snow forts - Marissa Weiher. **Judge's Comments:** This shot makes me want to play too! Nice angle.

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, Monday Mishap - Doug Etten. **Judge's Comments:** This photo was a clear standout because it showed both an authentically harrowing situation and people in action. The firefighter's snowy boots and posterior wedged between the truck and car add an element of whimsy to an otherwise serious scene.

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Lake Tomahawk fire - Dean Hall. **Judge's Comments:** There's a lot going on in this photo. The colors and setting are visually appealing, but a cleaner composition would have made it even better.

Third Place: Lake Country Now, Two vehicles involved in Pewaukee rollover accident - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** This night-time scene has some technical issues caused by shooting in low light. However, it's interesting to look at, and the lone responder in the frame running between the cars conveys a sense of urgency and makes the scene carry more emotional weight.

Honorable Mention: Vilas County News-Review, Highway 155 rollover - Gary Ridderbusch. **Judge's Comments:** The photographer did a good job or

getting relatively close to the action, and showed the seriousness of the situation without compromising the dignity of the victims. Toning needs work - the color temperature is too yellow.

Division E

First Place: Spooner Advocate, Kissing the Rodeo Queen - Bill Thornley.

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Grazing in debris - Hannah Tetzlaff.

Third Place: Tomahawk Leader, Test Drive Disaster - Kathy Tobin.

Honorable Mention: Sun Prairie Star, #SunPrairieStrong after explosion kills one, injures 11 - Christopher Mertes.

Division F

First Place: Washington Island Observer, Throwing rocks on Rock Island - Tim Sweet. **Judge's Comments:** Crisp action shot that captures youth. The background adds more to the photo without becoming the main focus.

Second Place: The Brillion News, Fieri Night of Training at Wayside - Ed Byrne. **Judge's Comments:** The contrast of dark and light here made for a great shot. The photo makes you think about being there in that time and place which I think it important to be able to convey to a viewer.

Third Place: The Chetek Alert, Motorists: watch for turkeys, upland birds, other wildlife feeding along roadways - Tyler Florczak. **Judge's Comments:** White vs these bright colors made for a great shot that is rare to come by.

Honorable Mention: Courier Sentinel, Streaks of lightning - Ginna Young. **Judge's Comments:** You took something that people have taken photos of 100 times and made it unique. I would've liked to see a contrast enhancement with the colors of the rainbow against the lightning.

Sports Photo

Division A

First Place: The Post-Crescent, Celebration at state soccer tournament - Dan Powers. **Judge's Comments:** There were a lot of celebration photos in this category. This one stood out because the photographer captured something that



Case analysis matches what experts say: Child sex assaults almost always committed by people known to the victims

The Gazette, Janesville, Daily Division, Graphics

made the photo different – catching the player in midflip. Reactions of teammates a plus.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Four Point Play - John Hart. **Judge's Comments:** ffThe players' expression makes this photo. Great composition. The crowd reactions are priceless.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Match Point - John Hart. **Judge's Comments:** This celebration photo shows great emotion, of course, but also captures a player on the other team on the photo. Right place, right time.

Honorable Mention: The Post-Crescent, Kimberly vs. Hortonville basketball game - Danny Damiani. **Judge's Comments:** This movement photo stood out from others in the competition because it was able to focus on the player with the ball's face.

Great job.

Division B

First Place: Daily News, Safe at home plate - John Ehlke. **Judge's Comments:** Fabulous shot – right in the action! You can taste the dust.

Second Place: The Reporter, Division 2 state wrestling - Doug Raflik. **Judge's Comments:** Love the candid excitement of the wrestler's teammates.

Third Place: Beloit Daily News, Knitro still sizzling - Jim Franz. **Judge's Comments:** Nice clear shot in the moment!

Honorable Mention: Leader-Telegram, Blind Baseball - Dan Reiland. **Judge's Comments:** I've never heard of blind baseball. This photo drew me right into the story and I wanted to find out more!

Division C

First Place: The Monroe Times, Taming the Magic Man - Marissa Weiher. **Judge's Comments:** Not a hoof on the ground! Nice clear rodeo action. Everything fell

into place for this shot. You can even see both the bull and rider's faces. Nice job capturing the action!

Second Place: Daily Globe, Hurley's Mara Wick competes in the 100 hurdles at state. - Jason Juno. **Judge's Comments:** Great action shot. Nice and clear and great determination on the runner's face.

Third Place: Watertown Daily Times, Hottinger heats up Lacrosse at State - Emily Walsh. **Judge's Comments:** Nice and clear. Caught the action at just the right moment!

Honorable Mention: Baraboo News Republic, Riptide swim hearts out - Chris Flores. **Judge's Comments:** Nice swimming photo in action. Just wish it could have run in color.

Division D

First Place: Waukesha County Now, Andrew Guelzo of Grand Rapids, MI. leads competitors - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** A great mix of camera know-how, color, action and intensity.

Second Place: Northwest Now, New Berlin Eisenhower senior Mary Sommers makes a diving save - Scott Ash.

Third Place: West Now, Brookfield Central senior Lexi Romero competes in the long jump - Scott Ash.

Honorable Mention: The Lakeland Times, Snowhawk dive - Dean Hall.

Division E

First Place: River Falls Journal, Wildcats earn their overnigher - Bob Burrows. **Judge's Comments:** Unusual angle puts reader in the right place at the right time to see winning (and only) goal.

Second Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Heartbreak in Potosi; Chieftains lose on last-second three pointer to surging Southwestsern - A.J. Gates. **Judge's Comments:** A very worthy sad-glad photo that clearly shows the emotion of both teams at the end of a tough competition.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, Green Bay Packers' Aaron Jones ... - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** Love the leap, clearly shows a great moment in a game, especially at Lambeau Field.

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods River News, Northland Pines defender Rowan Klaver ... - Jeremy Mayo. **Judge's**

Comments: Great moment in a soccer match.

Division F

First Place: Burlington Standard Press, The thrill of victory - Mike Ramczyk.

Judge's Comments: Love the emotion. Great picture.

Second Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, Too fast - Ross Pattermann. **Judge's**

Comments: In sports, timing and depth of field matter. And this photographer got both. Excellent image.

Third Place: The Valdres Journal, On a Collision Course - Brian Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** Another image with strong action and great timing. Keep up the good work.

Honorable Mention: The Verona Press, Carson Bull makes catch over defender - Anthony Iozzo. **Judge's Comments:** One of the best football photos in the contest this year. Had the image been given more prominence on the page, it likely would have placed higher. Nice shot.

Feature Photo

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Bombs bursting in air - Angela Major.

Second Place: The Post-Crescent, Balancing on soccer ball - Dan Powers.

Third Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Paige Vanderveren makes faces at her rabbit - Adam Wesley.

Division B

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Puppy playtime helps fund Humane Society - Erica Pennington. **Judge's Comments:** They say owners and their pets "look alike." Love these two together.

Second Place: Beloit Daily News, Green eggs and ham - Ryan Silvola. **Judge's Comments:** Love the expressions on everyone's faces. Great candid shot.

Third Place: Leader-Telegram, Osprey - Dan Reiland. **Judge's Comments:** Great shot. Nice and clear.

Division C

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, Smashing Pumpkins - Ed Zagorski. **Judge's Comments:** Amazing job on focus

and making the reader feel they are sitting in the seat with you.

Second Place: Watertown Daily Times, Doll's room - Jenni Mickelson. **Judge's Comments:** Great job on focusing on the main subject with the secondary subjects in the photo also.

Third Place: Watertown Daily Times, Pigment of Your Imagination - Emily Walsh. **Judge's Comments:** Nice job on the subject being in focus and her surroundings providing depth into what she is doing.

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Making a splash - Marissa Weiher. **Judge's Comments:** Good job on focusing the faces and capture the movement.

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, Going My Way? Wild turkey on top of a car. - Dean Acheson. **Judge's Comments:** This engaging photo caught a truly unique moment. While many feature photo entries are static images of cute subjects, this one caught an action, and a reaction. The composition is well-balanced and the colorful leaves make a great backdrop for the bird.

Second Place: Lake Country Now, Skiers glide past - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** This photo captures the fun of summertime. The symmetry of the skiers and the flags adds visual appeal, and catching the sunlight through the fabric was a great way to show the sun on the lake.

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, Look here. Many birds are laying their eggs with the spring weather. - Doug Etten. **Judge's Comments:** Strong feature photos capture moments and emotions that viewers can relate to — In this case, the joy of discovering the beauty of nature alongside a small child. Who doesn't have a happy memory of doing something similar? A minor, fixable issue kept this warm, celebratory photo from getting a higher rating. The toning skews yellow and green, which gives it a slightly surreal feeling. Avoid filters, and aim for capturing the natural tone of the light when possible.

Honorable Mention: South Now, Four-year-old Evan Bondar of Oak Creek looks out of the gunner's turret - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** A nice composition and parity between the colors of the

vehicle and the child's shirt make this fun to look at.

Division E

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Beat the heat! - Ian Stepleton.

Judge's Comments: I absolutely love this photo. You can see almost hear the fun these girls are having. The light, the color, the emotion, it all worked for me.

Second Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Grant County Fair corn crib - David Timmerman. **Judge's Comments:** I feel like i was transported to this fair through this picture, which made it really stand out. I love the different faces on the kids. Looks just like siblings!

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Never been on skates? No problem! - Ian Stepleton. **Judge's Comments:** You captured a perfect moment for these girls. You can see what they are feeling. Thank you for sharing.

Honorable Mention: Dodge County Pionier, St. Mary Catholic School Children - Samantha Teeters. **Judge's Comments:** I loved this one. I loved how the different kids all have different expressions!

Division F

First Place: Tribune Record Gleaner, Future Winter Olympic bobsledders - Cheyenne Thomas. **Judge's Comments:** Amazing job on capturing facial expressions of the kids and the snow flying on a crisp winter day.

Second Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, Now you see me - Ross Pattermann. **Judge's Comments:** Great use of color and focus pulling the reader into the clarity of the child's eyes.

Third Place: Milton Courier, Running Through Fountain - Ben Gauger. **Judge's Comments:** Good focus and framing.

Honorable Mention: The Tribune-Phonograph, A butterfly tree? - Kevin O'Brien. **Judge's Comments:** Good job on focusing so many butterflies.

Portrait or Artistic Photo

Division A

First Place: The Post-Crescent, Priest builds his own casket - Dan Powers. **Judge's Comments:** Striking photo creation. It feels natural, not over-

contrived, yet all the elements needed to be conveyed are there. Tops a good batch of entries.

Second Place: The Post-Crescent, Fourth of July fireworks - Bill Glasheen. **Judge's Comments:** I sense personally how difficult this kind of shot is to create. Well done.

Third Place: The Post-Crescent, Becoming the Grinch for Appleton West production of "Seussical the Musical" - Ron Page. **Judge's Comments:** The right shot right at the right moment.

Honorable Mention: The Post-Crescent, High school soccer player of the year portrait - Danny Damiani.

Division B

First Place: Daily News, A diving catch - John Ehlke. **Judge's Comments:** Good way to compose a baseball player flying through the air to catch a ball.

Second Place: The Reporter, Fireworks over Waupun - Doug Raflik. **Judge's Comments:** Good fireworks shot. Including the crowd made you feel like you could have been there watching.

Third Place: Leader-Telegram, Festival In The Pines - Steve Kinderman. **Judge's Comments:** Great shot of the woman showing here bubble maker, might have thought of making the shot slightly longer to not have a little girls head only.

Honorable Mention: Daily Jefferson County Union, Over the River - Pam Wilson. **Judge's Comments:** Nice shot of bridge at night.

Division C

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, Muggles see Magic - Emily Walsh.

Judge's Comments: Amazing focus and framing of main subject while giving a great perception of a full crowd in the background.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Monroe senior Leah Peterson suits up for football - Marissa Weiher. **Judge's Comments:** Great focus and choice of background so there isn't anything to take from the facial expression.

Third Place: Baraboo News Republic, Local artisans restore historic circus wagon - Jake Prinsen. **Judge's Comments:** Nice focusing and framing. Gives a feel for

his job while still focusing on him.

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Ghost hunting in Green County - Marissa Weiher. **Judge's Comments:** Good job on framing and feel to go along with the information.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Frozen in his tracks - Dean Hall. **Judge's Comments:** Photographer in the right place at the right time, got close and it played well on the page. Well done

Second Place: The Country Today, Peeking out - Benjamin Wideman. **Judge's Comments:** May be the best photo in composition; crop and placement on a page hurt this entry a bit

Third Place: News Graphic, Cold temperatures create beauty on local waterways - Mark Justesen. **Judge's Comments:** Strong photo here in composition and color; impact on the page is diluted a bit by having a photo of almost identical size district.

Honorable Mention: Lake Country Now, Mark Leipski of Waukesha chases visitors - Scott Ash.

Division E

First Place: The Boscobel Dial, Number of females in Tech Ed growing - Emily Schendel. **Judge's Comments:** Nice composition and color. Love that this photo helps tell the story and shows the action. Well done!

Second Place: Dodge County Pioneer, White Pelicans on Horicon Marsh - Karen Rouse. **Judge's Comments:** Beautiful details in their beaks and a nice contrast to the white space in the photo. Pretty shot!

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, Misty Morning - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** Love the contrast between the icy banks and trees and the soft fog coming off the water. Would have liked to have seen more of a story in this photo — a person or animal, perhaps.

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods River News, October sky - Cory Dellenbach. **Judge's Comments:** The sky is, obviously, gorgeous. Would have liked to see more action on the field, though.

Division F

First Place: The Valders Journal,

Doughboy at Christmas - Brian Thomsen.

Judge's Comments: This was the best photo in the entries I was sent. I like the composition

Second Place: The Valders Journal, Happy at Home - Brian Thomsen. **Judge's Comments:** This was an good shot.

Third Place: New London Press Star, Welcome to New Dublin - Scott Bellile. **Judge's Comments:** This was ok, it was better then the remaining entries.

Photo Essay

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Harvest gives Templeton family fulfillment during busiest time of year - Angela Major.

Judge's Comments: I loved the photos involving the calf. There were a lot of creative angles and ideas used for photos, such as Don pouring milk from the farm's cows over his cereal. Kudos for getting a shot of the sunrise.

Second Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Vintage Bowling Tour - John Hart. **Judge's Comments:** I love the closeup of the boy collecting the bowling pins, and the action shot of the older man bowling. I also liked the ground level shot, from behind, showing someone bowling.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Antique Apples - John Hart. **Judge's Comments:** Nice use of angles, showing a variety of details--colorful apples and wrinkled face and hands. Amazing photo, taken from an apple tree, showing Ken Weston, 88, on a lawn mower.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, A wedding at mom's place: Assisted living facility hosts ceremony - Angela Major. **Judge's Comments:** The photographer captured the emotions of the day. Great details, showing wrinkles on faces and hands. It might have been fun to see a photo of the cat.

Division B

First Place: The Sheboygan Press, A Holland holiday - Gary Klein. **Judge's Comments:** Great composition of the different events.

Second Place: The Freeman, Calling all superheroes - Alex Nemec. **Judge's Comments:** Nice choice on showing all the different type of superhero's.

Division C

First Place: The Monroe Times, Fishing on Lake Beckman - Marissa Weiher.

Judge's Comments: Great focus on fishing and including all the different aspects.

Second Place: Watertown Daily Times, Happy energy bubbled up Riverfest goers - Emily Walsh, Ed Zagorski. **Judge's Comments:** Good job on allowing the reader to feel like they were there.

Third Place: The Chippewa Herald, Chippewa Herald Top Photos of 2017 - Brandon Berg, Spencer Flaten. **Judge's Comments:** Nice focus on sports and the many different events the year brought.

Honorable Mention: Watertown Daily Times, Hot, Happy Crowds - Emily Walsh, Liz Quezada. **Judge's Comments:** Nice fair collection on showing all the different parts.

Division D

First Place: Hudson Star-Observer, Hot Air Affair lands early in Hudson - Rebecca Mariscal, Mike Longaecker. **Judge's Comments:** Great individual shots, nice layout.

Second Place: Lake Country Now, 4th Annual Wiener Dog Derby at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson in Oconomowoc - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** Some precious moments captured here.

Third Place: Waukesha County Now, Cats of Wisconsin CFA Championship Cat Show - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** Nice job of varying photo ops, getting close and also capturing wide-angle view. **Honorable Mention:** The Chronotype, The Look of 2017 - Dave Greschner, Leah Fundell. **Judge's Comments:** great variety of shots here, layout is solid (better on second page).

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, Honor Flight - Jamie Taylor. **Judge's Comments:** Emotional photos, thank you.

Second Place: Spooner Advocate, Feathered & Fantastic - Bill Thornley. **Judge's Comments:** Beautiful birds, colors abound.

Third Place: Pierce County Herald, Ellsworth's 2018 Cheese Curd Festival - Sarah Nigbor. **Judge's Comments:** Yummy, Cheese! Great photos. Would love to come visit!!

AS A JOURNALIST,

I chose the profession for several reasons, the most important being it's a solemn expression of one of our country's greatest liberties: freedom of speech. It's a right that's being threatened, but my role as a reporter has given me the privilege to unveil truths, including some others would rather stay hidden. I do my best to accurately report the facts, keep the public informed and hold officials accountable. It's a humbling honor to know my words have power and influence.

– Jake Magee

I am a Gazette reporter, and

JOURNALISM is my legacy.

The Gazette
Local Matters.

The Gazette, Janesville,
Division A, Best Ad Idea (Series)

Honorable Mention: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Batter Up - Jonathan Bailey. **Judge's Comments:** Kids and baseball, what's not to like!

Division F

First Place: The Oregon Observer, Summer Fest photos - Kimberly Wethal, Alexander Cramer. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent variety, sharpness, and

composition, wonderful at capturing the moment ... cumulatively creates a sense of being there, and intense human engagement. Resists temptation to over-clutter with lesser selections.

Second Place: The Stoughton Courier Hub, Syttende Mai - Kimberly Wethal, Amber Levenhagen. **Judge's Comments:** Captures the pageantry, passion and joyfulness of the day with intimately personal photos. Feeling of action

throughout. Nicely composed and effectively cropped. Again, just enough selections, not too many.

Third Place: Kewaskum Statesman, A Message For Life - Anne Trautner. **Judge's Comments:** Powerful story-telling with compelling images, obviously well thought-out and executed. It's not easy to make staged events seem spontaneous, but this package does that boldly and effectively.

Honorable Mention: The Brillion News, Hilbert 4th of July Parade & Picnic - Ed Byrne. **Judge's Comments:** Everyone loves a parade, but it's challenging to photograph one without succumbing to clichés. This essay overcomes that with its variety and focus on action. I might have used a few fewer images, and pumped up the best ones.

Overall Page Design**Daily Division**

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Getaways Amsterdam; History, Mystery; Practice, Patience - Erica Pennington.

Second Place: The Post-Crescent, - Bill Wambeke.

Third Place: Leader-Telegram, - Tom Gunderson.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, - Sasha Case.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, - Jean Drew, Gary Ridderbusch.

Third Place: News Graphic, - Kay Dahlke.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, - Sasha Case. **Judge's Comments:** Creative layout, dominate headlines, nice prominent artwork used in an interesting way. Good breakout stats.

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, - Maic D'Agostino. **Judge's Comments:** Packaging is superb on these stories. Really cohesive.

Third Place: Spooner Advocate, - Bill Thornley. **Judge's Comments:** Traditional layout with good, clear hierarchy of stories and artwork.

Honorable Mention: The Platteville Journal, - Steve Prestegard.

Page Design - Feature**Daily Division**

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Simply Spring; Spring is finally here...; Something's Afoot - Erica Pennington.

Second Place: Beloit Daily News, Welcome to the circus; The doctor will see you now; The Gathering - Ryan Silvola.

Third Place: Kenosha News, Lifestyles: Layer color; Pour a glass; Vinyl love at Longshot Vinyl - Julie Vander Velden.

Division D

First Place: The Northwoods River News, - Sasha Case. **Judge's Comments:** This entry was the clear winner. Nice clean layouts, compelling headlines and great art make for very readable and interesting pages.

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, - Sasha Case. **Judge's Comments:** Consistently good. Nice use of color and photos.

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, - Maic D'Agostino. **Judge's Comments:** Creative approach to story telling and page design. To make these pages first place winners, go for simpler layouts, fewer photos.

Page Design - Sports

Division A

First Place: Daily Citizen, - Sports Staff. **Judge's Comments:** These pages are consistently creative. Great photos and creative layouts make this a winner.

Second Place: The Gazette, - Bryan Wegter. **Judge's Comments:** Very nice pages. The chalkboard display is very clever and the Mad Scientist page is a thing of beauty. Strong graphics, great headlines.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, - Adam Krebs. **Judge's Comments:** Nice approach that covers lots of bases. Suggested improvement would be to pick one photo as the main graphic to anchor the page and make it the biggest photo.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, - Sasha Case.

Second Place: The Chronotype, - Dave Greschner, Leah Fundell.

Division E

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, - Jonathan Bailey.

Second Place: The Record-Review - Casey Krautkramer.

Third Place: Spooner Advocate, - Bill Thornley.

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods

River News - Sasha Case.

Graphics

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, Misplaced Trust - Anthony Wahl. **Judge's Comments:** Simple, stark, effective. Nice work.

Second Place: The Gazette, Chalkboard drawing for high school football column - Bryan Wegter. **Judge's Comments:** It looks like an obvious choice but I'm not sure anyone else would have thought of this - well done.

Third Place: The Gazette, What happens when guns get stolen - Anthony Wahl.

Judge's Comments: I like the solk screen effect but why is the gun pointed down?

Honorable Mention: Watertown Daily Times, veteran bio - Heidi Schwoch.

Weekly Division

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Men's Conference Tournament Preview - Jonathan Bailey. **Judge's Comments:** Nice use of color and design to illustrate the story.

Second Place: Pierce County Herald, 'The Hunt is on' hunting page graphic - Troy Becker, Abbie Flynn. **Judge's Comments:** A little busy, but very colorful and communicates a TON of data in a much-less-boring way that run on sentences about statistics.

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, Health ranking puzzle - Sasha Case.

Judge's Comments: Nice graphic visually, though it really doesn't communicate much (i.e., the size of the puzzle pieces isn't tied to anything, so it's pretty, but not informative).

Honorable Mention: The Northwoods River News, Hodag Country Festival tab cover - Sasha Case. **Judge's Comments:** Nice artwork, but in a category that describes graphics used to illustrate stories, this doesn't really fit in.

Best Website

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, - Dave von Falkenstein, Staff.

Second Place: The Daily Reporter, - Rick

STATE'S BEST COVERAGE

THE LAKELAND TIMES: BEST WEEKLY IN WISCONSIN 2016

THE LAKELAND TIMES
THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWOODS SINCE 1981
WWW.LAKELANDTIMES.COM
510 Chippewa Street, Minocqua, WI 54848 • 715-356-5236

THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY SEAT
WWW.RIVERNEWSONLINE.COM
232 S. Courtnay Street, Oneida, WI • 715-365-6397

PROUDLY SERVING ONEIDA, VILAS, IRON AND LINCOLN COUNTIES, AND THEIR NORTHWOODS COMMUNITIES

The Lakeland Times, Minocqua, Weekly Division, Best Use of Local Photography

Benedict, Dan Shaw, Joe Yovino.

Third Place: The Capital Times, - Katie Dean, Jason Joyce, Rob Thomas, Lynn Danielson.

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, - Staff.

Weekly Division

First Place: The Press Times - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Home sparse above the fold, but rich one "page" down. Hyperlocal, super-current. Double bonus for a responsive design that doesn't become a mishmash on smaller screens. Doesn't do well with reader engagement - finding contact info is hard, Facebook link doesn't work, there are no classifieds or

calendar listings, or sitemap, or archives, or other things that let readers DIY their experience. Typography is uniquely legible amongst others in the category. The lack of ads inserted mid-story also puts this site above the competition. Doesn't seem to have galleries or videos or other features that take advantage of all the things the web can do that print does not. Straightforward navigation, though the switch to a different website for subscriptions is jarring, and makes it unclear to the user that they are leaving your site and how to return to it.

Second Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Lake Geneva Regional News - Staff

Judge's Comments: This site wins second by virtue of failure of competition. The overwhelming no. of ads makes it hard to absorb the content and follow the story. Menu organization and categories are odd — remember the first “W” of WWW stands for “Worldwide” so your categories and organizational structure should make sense to people who have never seen your paper or been to Wisconsin (it doesn't have to match your paper to be a good website).

On the up side, Twitter feed is nice way to provide current content. Content appears to be hyper-local, no filler. Bonus points for having a responsive site, though it kind of falls apart in the responsive version, at least it's legible.

Re: Navigation: Drop down menu under home button might easily be missed, organization of items in home menu slightly confusing (e.g. obituaries between news and sports), content in footer menus is buried

Visual: Site is mobile friendly, clean design, but could use some improvement with spacing (e.g. in main navigation) and use of color (e.g. breaking news banner is obnoxious)

Third Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** This website wins an award by virtue of being better than the competition. For readers, though, it is a maddening website. The half stories that force you to buy print to purchase are useless to readers at distance or readers attempting to do research. Most recent blog post is from 2015. You can't even pay to get the full story online. Site is not mobile friendly. Missing reader favorite classifieds and community calendar. Pluses: Design is clean, though colors and theme are dated. Information is mostly current. Main menu fairly straightforward, though the news submenu needs rearranging (e.g. “Report a news tip!” is not content, and should not come between links to content) how to menu has too many items & is too verbose.

Digital Journalism

Our view

Tragedy shows need for better mental health care

James Demeuse deserved better than this.

The town of Geneva man was a military veteran, a grandfather, and a retiree who enjoyed bowling and fishing.

Unfortunately, many people in the Lake Geneva area did not know Demeuse before last October, when police issued a Silver Alert for help locating him.

At age 70, Demeuse had gone missing. His family was particularly concerned because he had symptoms of dementia. That meant he could be anywhere — and he could be in danger.

Posters were distributed around town to get his picture into circulation

and to solicit information about his whereabouts. One poster hung in the lobby of the Lake Geneva Regional News.

But the Silver Alert was only half of the story.

It turned out that one day before his disappearance, Demeuse had been in a place where he could have easily gotten the help he needed: the Walworth County Courthouse.

According to court records, Demeuse had been arrested and accused of physically attacking another person in his home. For older people with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, that sort of outburst is not uncommon.

But rather than receiving help with his health problem, it appears that Demeuse was processed and pushed through the system like any other criminal offender.

In fact, court records show a judge told Demeuse that, pending the outcome of his case, he could not have any contact with his alleged victim — even if that meant staying away from home.

Imagine that: A 70-year-old man with dementia is hauled in front of a judge, and is told, for all practical purposes, that he cannot go

home. And then the courthouse doors swing open, and he is sent back out onto the streets.



Demeuse

If that sounds like a prescription for disaster, it was. On April 1, a couple of teenage hikers in the town of Geneva found Demeuse's dead body in a marshy area.

We do not yet know his cause of death. Nor do we know precisely when the police, prosecutors or others at the courthouse learned about his mental health issues.

But we do know that the circumstances surrounding

his death have raised some troubling questions about the way mental illness is handled in the criminal justice system. And not just in Walworth County.

If dementia led to James Demeuse's physical outburst, why was he arrested and prosecuted instead of hospitalized and treated? Why does government spend so much punishing people like that, and so little trying to understand and rehabilitate them? Is mental illness still so badly misunderstood that the best we can do is lock it up in handcuffs?

In the six months that James Demeuse was missing, imagine how much

progress we could have made in diagnosing and treating his dementia.

This U.S. Army veteran and grandfather deserved to have good health care. Rather than wandering the countryside in a haze or wherever he was between October and April, he should have been resting comfortably in a mental health facility where doctors could care for him — and keep him from harming himself or others.

For this complex problem of mental illness, we will not pretend to have all the answers.

But the tragic case of James Demeuse is certainly helping us to see the questions better.

Division A

First Place: The Post-Crescent, One of a kind: Surgical setbacks haven't dimmed Avi's spirits - Dan Powers.

Judge's Comments: Evokes emotion with excellent child-level angles.

Second Place: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Snowmobile racing: Speed, dreams, and glory - Adam Wesley. **Judge's Comments:** Fun topic engagingly shot and told.

Third Place: Wisconsin State Journal, Playing along with the silent films - Barry Adams. **Judge's Comments:** Nice shooting in the dark! Interesting character at the center of this character-driven story.

Honorable Mention: The Post-Crescent, A theory of frogs and toads - Bill Glasheen. **Judge's Comments:** Creative idea for visual storytelling. Videography is stunning.

Division B

First Place: Herald Times Reporter, Your Stories: Saving Wisconsin wildlife one injured animal at a time - Joshua Clark.

Judge's Comments: Compelling story, variety of voices, engaging visually.

Second Place: The Reporter, See storm chaser in action as he chases storms across Wisconsin, Great Plains - Doug Raflik.

Judge's Comments: Gorgeous visuals, interesting story. A bit on the long side, pacing drags a little bit. Would like to see more voices included. We wouldn't write a news or feature story with only one source.

Third Place: The Sheboygan Press, Sheboygan woman copes with assault by learning fire eating - Gary Klein. **Judge's Comments:** Stunning visually, compelling story. Would like to see the addition of other voices — experts, advocate, something. We wouldn't write a news or feature story with only one source.

Division D

First Place: Waukesha County Now, The very last day of Tess Corners Elementary - C.T. Kruger, Steve Martinez. **Judge's Comments:** Video captures a ton of great moments and gives enough narrative to give a story without bogging it down.

Second Place: West Now, Video: Paczki Day at National Bakery in Brookfield - C.T. Kruger. **Judge's Comments:** Nice mix of scenes with the music overlay.

Third Place: Waukesha County Now,

Lake Geneva Regional News, Division E, Editorial Award

Division A

First Place: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, Hooked in Wisconsin:

When heroin hits home - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Compelling storytelling on a far reaching issue. Hearing the subject's narration helps to bring the issue home on a deeper level.

Second Place: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, This is Normal podcast - Robert Mentzer, Rory Linnane. **Judge's Comments:** Great work on an important issue.

Third Place: The Capital Times, Wedge Issues - Jessie Opoien.

Honorable Mention: Green Bay Press-Gazette, Roster Builder - Doug Schneider, Chad Burkholder, Chris Speckhard.

Division B

First Place: The Sheboygan Press, 'I don't think anyone escaped it': Sheboygan's 1998 flood left scars, triggered changes - Marina Affo, Gary Klein, McLean Bennett.

Judge's Comments: An engaging use of multimedia to enhance this look back at a monumental event in this community. Good to see and hear voices of the players in the video. Story is engagingly written. Use of slider graphic is a nice touch.

Weekly Division

First Place: The Chetek Alert, Before and after: One year later - Carl Cooley. **Judge's Comments:** This is a fantastic presentation of a devastating event. The University's tool really brought the story to the forefront showing community members' efforts to rebuild. Staff's efforts to showcase the before and after really

shows and I'm sure this new tool can be used in a lot of creative ways going forward. Nice work!

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Spirit Air crash Facebook coverage - Brian Jopek, Dean Hall. **Judge's Comments:** Staff use an array of posts to share the bigger story about a sad event. Facebook posts with photos, video, memorials, and a press release show how the community came together for the families/victims.

This was a good example of how newspapers are an important part of the community in print and online.

Third Place: Price County Review, Drawn Down: Phillips chain of lakes drawdown intrigues many - Seth Carlson. **Judge's Comments:** The presentation was slick and progressed nicely down the page. Photos showed an unexplored area and the intrigue that went into it being uncovered. I appreciated how hyper-local this story was and could really appeal to people in the area and out. Good job!

Honorable Mention: Waukesha County Now, Live coverage: 2017 WIAA state football championship games - Christopher Kuhagen, Andrew Gruman, JR Radcliffe. **Judge's Comments:** These pages showed a good way to use resources alongside the standard recap/photo pages. The play-by-play provided in-depth information and ways to interact that I'm sure die hard fans appreciated. As you use it more, polls and Q&A could be used more. Easy links to story recaps and photos was appreciated too. Nice work!

Best Video

Real People. Real News.

We're proud of our team.



Bob Burrows
Sports Reporter



Katie Davidson
Sports Reporter



Steve Gardiner
Reporter



Donna Kauffman
Advertising Sales



Marianne Koivuluoma
Designer



Tom Lindfors
Reporter



Mike Longaecker
Reporter



Rebecca Mariscal
Reporter



Sarah Nigbor
WI Regional Editor



Jackie Renzetti
Reporter



John Russett
Reporter



Scott Thompson
Advertising Sales



Jordan Willi
Reporter



HUDSON STAR-OBSERVER:

Sports Section - Division D - Second Place - Bob Burrows; Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting - Division D - First Place - Jackie Renzetti, John Russett; Feature (Profile) - Division D - Third Place - Jordan Willi; Ongoing/Extended Coverage - Division D - Second Place - Rebecca Mariscal; Photo Essay - Division D - First Place - Rebecca Mariscal, Mike Longaecker; Best Digital Ad - Division D/E/F - Third Place - Donna Kauffman; Best Digital Ad - Division D/E/F - Honorable Mention - Scott Thompson



NEW RICHMOND NEWS:

General News Story - Division E - Second Place - Mike Longaecker; Investigative Reporting - Division E/F - First Place - Mike Longaecker, Youssef Rddad; Feature (Non-profile) Division E - Third Place - Tom Lindfors; Reporting on Local Education - Division E - Third Place - Jordan Willi; Best Niche Product - Division E/F - Honorable Mention - RiverTown Multimedia Advertising, Sarah Nigbor, Anna Hensvirk, Staff



PIERCE COUNTY HERALD:

Sports Section - Division E - Second Place - Herald staff; Investigative Reporting - Division E/F - Second Place - Mike Longaecker, Sarah Nigbor; Feature (Profile) - Division E - Honorable Mention - Sara Tischauser; Environmental Reporting Award - Division E - Steve Gardiner; Local Column - Division E - Honorable Mention - Sarah Nigbor; Sports News Story - Division E - Honorable Mention - Katie Davidson; Photo Essay - Division E - Third Place - Sarah Nigbor; Graphics - Division D/E/F - Second Place - Troy Becker, RiverTown Multimedia Advertising; Best



Restaurant Ad - Division E/F - Second Place - Marianne Koivuluoma, RiverTown Multimedia Advertising; Best Small Ad - Division E - Third Place - RiverTown Multimedia Advertising; Best Use of Color - Division E - First Place - RiverTown Multimedia Advertising; Best Niche Product - Division E/F - Third Place - RiverTown Multimedia Staff; Best Digital Ad - Division D/E/F - Second Place - RiverTown Multimedia Advertising

RIVER FALLS JOURNAL:

Sports Photo - Division E - First Place - Bob Burrows



Video: Activists march in Waukesha to protest gun violence - Scott Ash, Christopher Kuhagen. **Judge's Comments:** Good job of mixing video and stills. **Honorable Mention:** Lake Country Now, Video highlights from Kettle Moraine's victory over Waukesha West - Scott Ash. **Judge's Comments:** Still, video mixed well.

Division E

First Place: Lake Geneva Regional News, Cruise line's office boat dry-docked for repairs - Scott Williams.
Second Place: Clintonville Tribune Gazette, Training day - Scott Bellile.

Bill Payne Award

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Bodacious Shops - Mary Hamlin. **Judge's Comments:** Great use of space and to the point.
Second Place: The Gazette, As A Journalist - Sara Van Galder, Anthony Wahl. **Judge's Comments:** The news can be harsh at times. Nice to bring a friendly face into the homes of readers and out of the newsroom.
Third Place: Beloit Daily News, First Congregational Church and United Church of Beloit invite you to Honor Our Heroes - Staff.
Honorable Mention: The Freeman, Waukesha Walk-In Clinic - Colleen Miller.

Division C

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, Kayser Chrysler Center - BAM! - Mark Shingler. **Judge's Comments:** BAM! I'm ready to buy myself a RAM. Love the play on the Batman themed words and bursts.
Second Place: The Monroe Times, Our Family - Jaimie Tran, Matt Johnson. **Judge's Comments:** Definitely hits home... very hard for community newspapers. Love the personal touch with the use of photos. Very clean and great choice of color.
Third Place: Daily Globe, Ironwood Snowmobile Olympus - Staff.

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, 55 Years - Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger,

Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten. **Judge's Comments:** This ad is fun and inviting. The colors and design work make it intriguing.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, Now Bidding Residential & Commercial Landscaping - Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger. **Judge's Comments:** This is a great example of the services being advertised. The greenery is eye-catching.

Third Place: The Star News, Recreational Vehicle Loans - Peoples Choice Credit Union - Mandi Troiber, Todd Lundy.

Judge's Comments: The road tracks are a nice addition to this ad.

Honorable Mention: The Lakeland Times, Kitchen & Bath Mart — Safe & Sylsh - Sasha Case, Laura Larson. **Judge's Comments:** This ad is nice but has a lot going on. Focusing on a few images rather than six would make it stronger.

Division E

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Grand Opening - gofetch - Tami Conlon. **Judge's Comments:** The puppy is such a fun touch to this ad!

Second Place: Tribune Record Gleaner, Military Working Dog Tribute - Janna Johnson. **Judge's Comments:** The addition of names from the memorial as an overlay is a thoughtful addition.

Third Place: Courier Press, Ashley Furniture Presidents Day Sale - Kim Corpian. **Judge's Comments:** This ad is bright and inviting.

Honorable Mention: Courier Press, Blake's Prairie Jr. Fair - Kim Corpian. **Judge's Comments:** This ad is exciting and intriguing.

Best Grocery Ad

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, Daniels' Sentry - Donna Felland. **Judge's Comments:** Great use of art and space.

Second Place: The Gazette, Woodman's - Mary Hamlin. **Judge's Comments:** To the point, easily read.

Third Place: Daily Globe, Sixth Street Market - Staff.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, Woodman's - Mary Hamlin.

Weekly Division

First Place: Fennimore Times, Bender's Foods Christmas Grocery Ad - Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly.

Second Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Okey's Grocery Ad - Kevin Kelly, Jessica Brownell.

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, TJ's Butcher Block - Sasha Case, Tony Loomis.

Honorable Mention: Dodge County Pionier, Piggly Wiggly - Brooke Hattori, Heather Kopsi.

Best Restaurant Ad

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, Hawk's View Golf Club - Trish Edwards.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Black Walnut Kitchen - Diane Albright.

Third Place: The Gazette, Whiskey Ranch - Nina Perona, Anthony Wahl.

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, Main Street Ed's October Steak Special - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel. **Judge's Comments:** This ad makes me want to go there for some good Midwest food.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, Gateway Lodge New Year's Eve - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel. **Judge's Comments:** Nicely done. Very classy.

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, Golden Pines Chalkboard Specials - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel. **Judge's Comments:** Cute idea with the chalkboard.

Division E

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Thunderboss Rolling Thunder - Brandi Dolgner. **Judge's Comments:** This entry provides dominating graphics, focus on the opening event. The pronoun "we" personalizes message setting this ad apart. Just a great professional and personal display attracts readers' attention!

Second Place: Pierce County Herald, Molly On Main Mother's Day - Marianne Koivuloma, Nancy Long. **Judge's Comments:** Good color complements theme; detail is specific to event; menu, date, pricing and location all clearly defined.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, Historic Davenport House - Chris

Frame, Gregg Walker. **Judge's Comments:** Spot color enhances the detail, though overall art work does manage to express the restaurant's status, location and theme. Special event element should have dominated!

Best Real Estate Ad

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, Century 21 - Julie Rease - Nina Perona.

Second Place: The Gazette, Advantage Homes - Nina Perona.

Third Place: The Gazette, Coldwell Banker - Trish Edwards.

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, Judy Barr - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel.

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Redman Realty - Sasha Case.

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, Catfish Lake Manor - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel.

Honorable Mention: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Century 21 Tucked in the Woods - Tami Conlon.

Best Large Ad

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, K&W Greenery - Mary Hamlin.

Second Place: The Gazette, K&W Greenery - Mary Hamlin.

Third Place: The Gazette, J to Z Window Cleaning - Cindy Micha.

Division C

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, Kayser Chrysler Center - BAM! Large AD - Mark Shingler. **Judge's Comments:** There is nothing I don't like about this advertising. Great use of color...LOVE!

Second Place: Watertown Daily Times, Holz Chevrolet 100 Years - Mark Shingler. **Judge's Comments:** Love the concept of portraying the Chevy trucks through the years.

Division D

First Place: The Star News, Thank You - Black River Industries - Mandi Troiber,

Todd Lundy. **Judge's Comments:** Great ad featuring the employees whose lives are changed because of what this company does.

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Benson Builders — What Have We Been Building? - Yvonne Immel, Tony Loomis. **Judge's Comments:** Love the photos - they certainly make you want to live in any of these places.

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, 55 Years - Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten.

Honorable Mention: Monroe County Herald, Cotter Pin - Logan Everson.

Division E

First Place: Dodge County Pionier, Mayville Maxwell Street Days - Brooke Hattori, Heather Kopsi.

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Butzin-Marchant Funeral Home - Tami Conlon, Brandi Dolgner, Todd Sharp.

Third Place: Dodge County Pionier, June Berry Month - Brooke Hattori, Heather Kopsi.

Division F

First Place: Fennimore Times, Taste of Fennimore 2018 - Jessica Brownell. **Judge's Comments:** Motion garnished graphics and clean layout with plenty of white space immediately grab attention. Good choice of event photos - the people look like they are truly enjoying themselves - I would want to go to this event if I lived closer. The type is well organized and readable. Nice job.

Second Place: The Stoughton Courier Hub, Conant Automotive - Woodward Community Media Composing Department. **Judge's Comments:** Fun concept for a holiday greeting ad - I imagine the advertiser and the readers enjoyed the playful spirit. Traditional Christmas colors boldly alternated with the white graphics and backgrounds in a candycane like pattern work well together with the homey warm message. The only thing I would have liked to have seen are names to go with the faces superimposed on the snowman characters.

Third Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, Congratulations Falcons - Rachel Wellman, Ross Pattermann, Lori Totzke. **Judge's Comments:** The typography and

action photos are the stars of this sports booster ad for me. The colors are also well coordinated, but the cutouts of some of the featured athletes are literally jumping off the page. The sponsor blocks are tidily organized, yet incorporated in a way that makes them very much part of the ad rather than apart from it.

Best Small Ad

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Hesser Collision Center - Nina Perona.

Second Place: Beloit Daily News, Cool Down from the Dog Days of Summer - Staff.

Third Place: The Gazette, Downtown Beloit Farmers' Market - Mary Hamlin.

Division C

First Place: Daily Globe, Leather & Gift - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Nice and clean. Love the use of the sign and photo.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Eye Candy Cakes - Sasha Case, Tony Loomis. **Judge's Comments:** This entry caught my eye the most out of all the submissions. I like that it shows an example of what it's selling and has minimal text.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, Gateway Lodge New Year's Eve - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel. **Judge's Comments:** The design on this entry is fun and is a unique way to showcase what the ad is about.

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, Island City Wine Walk - Sasha Case, Tony Loomis. **Judge's Comments:** I like that this entry showcases people enjoying the event. However, I wish more had been done with the text on the bottom portion of the ad.

Honorable Mention: The Star News, Stepping Stones Polar Plunge - Mandi Troiber, Todd Lundy. **Judge's Comments:** This ad has fun colors and is eye-catching.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, Bassett Jewelers - Sasha Case, Tony Loomis. **Judge's Comments:** Great use of color in this ad. The color of the ring and the tree really compliment each other

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, J & J Trucking Drivers Needed - Brandi Dolgner. **Judge's Comments:** Really like the way the truck looks like the sunshine is hitting it just right and fading away onto the horizon.

Third Place: Pierce County Herald, Beldenville Vet Clinic - Abbie Flynn.

Honorable Mention: The Boscobel Dial, Veteran Memorial Car Cruise - Emily Koch.

Division F

First Place: The Verona Press, Verona Vision Care - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Literally "eye" catching with a clever headline that both ties in with the theme and invites the reader to take an action (to look closer at the ad). Graphics complement the theme. Clean reverse ad stands out on the page with an appropriate amount of type to read in reverse. Made good use of the limited front page real estate.

Second Place: The Oregon Observer, K&A Greenhouse - Woodward Community Media Composing Department. **Judge's Comments:** Bold color - couldn't miss this one in highlighter yellow. Offers prominently placed, and a seasonal tie-in with gift certificates for mom at the top. Balanced layout.

Third Place: Kewaskum Statesman, All In Books - Andrea Steger, Kathy Marin-Kopping. **Judge's Comments:** Clean layout with a the offer appealing to book buyers prominently displayed. Colors coordinate well with the logo.

Honorable Mention: Campbellsport News, Gellings Implement Job Fair - Andrea Steger. **Judge's Comments:** The large impactful photos and the bold blue and yellow are pleasing to the eye.

Best Ad Idea (Series)

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, As A Journalist - Sara Van Galder, Anthony Wahl. The Gazette, Edgerton Pharmacy - Nina Perona.

Second Place: The Gazette, Nina Perona

Third Place: The Gazette, Copper Falls - Trish Edwards.

Division C

First Place: Daily Globe, Gogebic County Fair ads - Staff.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Graceland Manor - Diane Albright.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Minocqua Area Chamber — Thank You Veterans - Sasha Case, Tony Loomis.

Judge's Comments: Strong package **Second Place:** The Star News, Taylor County Dairy Promotion - Julie Seifert, Sarah Komarek, Kelly Schmidt. **Judge's Comments:** Interesting and informative **Third Place:** Monroe County Herald, Cotter Pin - Logan Everson. **Judge's Comments:** Makes me want to check out the venue!

Honorable Mention: The Lakeland Times, Island City Lanes - Yvonne Immel, Tony Loomis. **Judge's Comments:** Nice placement.

Division E

First Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Grant Regional Health Center - Jessica Brownell. **Judge's Comments:** Stylish, well designed layouts coupled with story telling and soothing graphics work well together to accomplish the goal of promoting a calm, personal, positive health message. The photography is very professional looking with bits of the logo tastefully placed as ornamentation throughout. High marks for graphic design.

Second Place: Tri-County Press, 8 Ways To Save - Jessica Brownell. **Judge's Comments:** Bright colorful concept really stands out on the pages. Deals to draw in readers. Reminds me of a gameshow or board game spinner wheel - along with playful summery graphics brings element of fun to it. I want to spin that wheel. Some of the offers change, giving readers a reason to read it over carefully each time to prevent fomo (fear of missing out) on a good deal.

Best Special Section

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Parker 50th

Anniversary - Staff . **Judge's Comments:** Great section - putting the black & white photos in the section and datelines really brought the reader from the past to the present. Excellent.

Second Place: The Gazette, Spring Ahead - Staff . **Judge's Comments:** Great tips - colorful photography.

Third Place: The Gazette, High School Football - Staff . **Judge's Comments:** Could have used some personal stories about the players & coaches to give this more personality.

Division B

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Stateline Area Community Yearbook - Staff .

Judge's Comments: Beautiful publication.

Second Place: The Freeman, Holiday Wishbook - Pat Scheel, Helena Shoemaker, Colleen Miller. **Judge's Comments:** Colorful and fun.

Third Place: Beloit Daily News, How to Guide - Staff . **Judge's Comments:** Great concept and ads.

Honorable Mention: EagleHerald, EagleHerald BAMC Commemorative Edition - Penny Mullins, Laurie Caebe, Advertising Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Nice clean look.

Division C

First Place: Daily Globe, NIE Creative Kids - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Love this idea!

Second Place: Daily Citizen, Surviving Cancer - Melissa Boehler. **Judge's Comments:** Wonderfully put together.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, Monroe State and Blackhawk State Girls Basketball - Laura Hughes, Diane Albright, Tai Ruesegger, Lance Ray. **Judge's Comments:** love the double cover idea.

Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Saluting Our Cheesemakers - Laura Hughes, Lance Ray, Diane Albright, Tai Ruesegger. **Judge's Comments:** so very interesting.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Beef-A-Rama 2017 - Staff. **Judge's Comments:**

Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Lions 100th Anniversary - Staff.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, Hodag Country Festival - Staff .

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Willmore Center - Congratulations - Staff .

Third Place: The Portage County Gazette, Football Preview - Amanda Wherritt, Megan Tetzloff, Joe Diedrich, John Kemmeter.

Honorable Mention: Amery Free Press, Love Local: Support Your Roots - Pam Humpal, Jamie Stewart, Teresa Holmdahl, Roberta Hein.

Division F

First Place: Kewaskum Statesman, Honoring Our Local Firefighters And EMTs - Andrea Steger, Tracy Dieckman.

Second Place: The Verona Press, 2018 Young At Heart - Staff.

Third Place: The Verona Press, Verona Hometown Days - Staff.

Best Use of Color

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, First Luthern Church - Jazz Fest - Mary Hamlin. **Judge's Comments:** Really stands out on the page; color complements messaging, doesn't distract.

Second Place: The Gazette, Interiors - Mary Hamlin. **Judge's Comments:** In this graphic case, use of limited color is arresting.

Third Place: The Gazette, Gazette - Sara Van Galder. **Judge's Comments:** Nothing says spring better than pink tulips.

Division C

First Place: The Monroe Times, Our Family - Jaimie Tran, Matt Johnson.

Judge's Comments: Great use of color!

Division D

First Place: Vilas County News-Review, 55 Years - Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, Now Bidding Residential & Commercial Landscaping - Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger.

Third Place: The Star News, Lighting of the Lights - Julie Seifert, Kelly Schmidt.

Division E

First Place: Pierce County Herald, Beldenville Vet Clinic - Abbie Flynn.

Judge's Comments: Great use of color in mimicking the dogs hair color. Really grabs the eye.

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Go Fetch Doggy Day Care - Tami Conlon. **Judge's**

Comments: Very cute. It caught my eye with the dog almost photo-bombing the ad.

Third Place: The Record-Review, Athens High School Graduation - Rachel Wellman, Joyann Chilson. **Judge's Comments:** Great shot of all the graduates in their tie-dyed shirts & headbands. Great community support with the sponsors.

Honorable Mention: Dodge County Pionier, Mayville Chamber Easter - Brooke Hattori, Heather Kopsi. **Judge's Comments:** The Easter egg colors are very eye catching.

Division F

First Place: Tri-County Press, Cuba City Track Congrats - Jessica Brownell. **Judge's Comments:** Great photos of the athletes and wonderful artwork. The support from the sponsors is outstanding. This was put together very well.

Second Place: Tribune Record Gleaner, Valentine's Kid's Zone - Rachel Wellman. **Judge's Comments:** Great idea for kids to get involved in holding a newspaper in their hands.

Third Place: The Progressive, Iowa County Dairy Breakfast - Emily Koch. **Judge's Comments:** Cute ad - great use of color.

Best Multiple Advertiser Spread

Division A

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Golf Guide - Staff .

Second Place: The Gazette, On The Menu - Rachel Vogt.

Third Place: The Gazette, Supporting Our Farming Communities - Rachel Vogt.

Honorable Mention: EagleHerald, Mother's Day Dining - Advertising Staff.

Division C

First Place: The Monroe Times, FFA - Laura Hughes, Tai Ruesegger, Diane Albright, Lance Ray.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Farm Harvest Times - Laura Hughes, Diane Albright, Tai Ruesegger, Lance Ray.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, 100 Years of Service - Michel Lathrop, Laura Larson. **Judge's Comments:** Very classy. I found myself wanting to view this ad since it was such an eye catcher.

Second Place: Vilas County News-Review, Pond Hockey Championships - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel, Collette Sorgel. **Judge's Comments:** Great photos & great use of color.

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, Holiday Gift Guide - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel, Collette Sorgel. **Judge's Comments:** Great one stop shopping spot for readers.

Honorable Mention: The Lakeland Times, Festival Italiano - Laura Larson, Production Dept. . **Judge's Comments:** Love the Italian flag colors used throughout.

Division E

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, WOW - Tami Conlon, Steve Wendt, Todd Sharp. **Judge's Comments:** Less really is more. When it comes to layout editorial design you do not want to overwhelm the viewer and confuse them with hectic images and type. This is a great example demonstrating the hierarchy of information in a clean, professional manner.

Second Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Lancaster Soccer & Football Congrats Pages - Jessica Brownell, AJ Gates. **Judge's Comments:** Clean, simple, and to the point

Third Place: The Boscobel Dial, June Dairy Days - Emily Koch. **Judge's Comments:** I like how there was an experiment using different typefaces. The use of photography, type, and grid make for an overall good layout.

Honorable Mention: Grant County Herald Independent, Wrestling Congrats Pages - Jessica Brownell, AJ Gates. **Judge's**

Comments: Clean, simple, and to the point.

Division F

First Place: Lake Mills Leader, Football contest - Becky Weber, Coyt Ruell. **Judge's Comments:** Love the green and the field goal post design.

Second Place: Lake Mills Leader, Fall sports calendar - Coyt Ruell, Becky Weber. **Judge's Comments:** Great clean design. The schedules offer something useful that will keep these ads in front of readers for months.

Third Place: The Verona Press, The Season of Giving Back - Angie Roberts, Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Great use of color really makes all the ads pop off the page.

Best Use of Art Service

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, K&W Greenery - Mary Hamlin.

Second Place: The Gazette, Sidelines - Justin Winkofsky.

Third Place: The Gazette, Rock River Lanes - Sybil Winchel.

Honorable Mention: EagleHerald, Stephenson Bakery Menu Guide - Laurie Caebe.

Division C

First Place: Daily Globe, Summer Fun cover - Staff.

Second Place: The Monroe Times, Speich Oil - Diane Albright.

Division D

First Place: The Star News, Not Holiday Lights - Taylor County Tavern League - Sarah Komarek, Tresa Blackburn. **Judge's Comments:** Excellent choice of art and design! The message is clear.

Second Place: The Star News, We have ice melt - T&C Water - Mandi Troiber, Todd Lundy. **Judge's Comments:** Appropriate, simple, and especially effective out-of-the-box: no border!

Third Place: The Lakeland Times, Nimsgern Funeral Home — Pre-plan for the future - Sasha Case, Laura Larson. **Judge's Comments:** Timing life's events, even for death. An appropriate, convenient

art device for this advertiser.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News, Dental Assistants - Chris Frame, Heather Holmes.

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, No Way - It's Free - Tami Conlon.

Third Place: Dodge County Pionier, Mayville Golf Course - Brooke Hattori, Heather Kopsi.

Honorable Mention: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Wow - Its FREE - Green Hair - Tami Conlon.

Division F

First Place: Campbellsport News, Essence - Andrea Steger.

Second Place: Tribune Record Gleaner, Thanksgiving Kid's Zone - Rachel Wellman.

Third Place: The Tribune-Phonograph, Knights of Columbus Breakfast - Janna Johnson, Lori Totzke.

Best Use of Local Photography

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, As A Journalist - Sara Van Galder, Anthony Wahl.

Second Place: EagleHerald, Marinette Civic Center - Laurie Caebe.

Third Place: The Freeman, Saloon on Calhoun - Pat Scheel.

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, Whiskey Ranch - Nina Perona, Anthony Wahl.

Division C

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, Grinwald Ford - Trucks are for girls too! Pink pickup - Mark Shingler. **Judge's Comments:** Engaging creative approach

Second Place: Watertown Daily Times, Kayser - Buy Local - Mark Shingler.

Judge's Comments: Ambitious montage work.

Weekly Division

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Best in State - Dean Hall, Sasha Case. **Judge's Comments:** Dramatic photo carries this simple, direct ad. The photo enhances the message!

Second Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Ripon Sports Twitter - Tami Conlon, John Bailey.

Judge's Comments: A lot of photos, but appropriately contained in a very good graphic design. This works to convey the message!

Third Place: Grant County Herald Independent, GRHC Breast Cancer Awareness - Jessica Brownell. **Judge's Comments:** Great use of action photos . . . but the one, big group photo should have been the only one used. Smaller photos are repetitive.

Honorable Mention: The Tribune-Phonograph, Congratulations Falcons - Rachel Wellman, Ross Pattermann, Lori Totzke. **Judge's Comments:** A very busy display to challenge readers' eyes. At least it consumes a full page and compels readers' recognition.

Best Use of Humor

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, Rollin Pin Bakery - Trish Edwards. **Judge's Comments:** Very cute...love the circus them.

Weekly Division

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Kurt's Island — Minnow Mike - Yvonne Immel, Tony Loomis. **Judge's Comments:** Engaging cute kid with an obviously yucky raw bait fish hanging out of his mouth smiling and saying it's tasty is made me laugh.

Second Place: The Star News, Look out for deer - Ed's Auto - Julie Seifert, Tresa Blackburn. **Judge's Comments:** Chuckle worthy graphic and headline make this small space ad get attention. Ties in with the advertiser's message that it doesn't matter how the damage occurred, even something as ludicrous as deer smashing the vehicle.

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, 2018 Fall Sale - Betsy Boulden, Jo Daniel. **Judge's Comments:** High quality silly graphic given enough of the ad's space to be impactful. Colors used in the ad and typography tie in well together.

Best Newspaper Promotion

Daily Division

First Place: The Gazette, As A Journalist - Sara Van Galder, Anthony Wahl.

Second Place: Beloit Daily News, The Stateline at your Fingertips; Everything Stateline Area Served Up - Staff.

Third Place: The Monroe Times, Our Family - Jaimie Tran, Matt Johnson.

Division D

First Place: The Lakeland Times, Best in State - Gregg Walker, Sasha Case. **Judge's Comments:** Fantastic photo. This really captures the readers eye.

Second Place: The Star News, Win Christmas Cash - Sarah Komarek, Kelly Schmidt. **Judge's Comments:** Will be sharing this contest with the marketing team for 2019.

Third Place: Vilas County News-Review, Photo Gallery - Betsy Boulden, Kurt Krueger. **Judge's Comments:** Good idea but a little too much in one ad.

Division E

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Wow - Its FREE - Tami Conlon.

Judge's Comments: Ad gets my attention: Colorful, and FREE! Though that last exclamation should have a ? rather than a ! A note on the response would help this judge: define "fabulous" with numbers

Second Place: Grant County Herald Independent, Bridal Guide Promotion - Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly, Cari Mergen. **Judge's Comments:** A unique "promotion" in an eye-appealing ad, but in my view, the key ad elements are out of sync. The block "Share Your Engagement Story" should be the lead element rather than, in print medium, a rhetorical question.

Third Place: The Verona Press, Don't Forget Don this Father's Day - Monica Morgan, Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Nice theme with appealing content. It's buried on the page. Self-promotion ads deserve big space. Impact leads to response! However, this offer should work. Did it?

Honorable Mention: Dodge County Pionier, 90 days for \$9.00 Promotion - Dawn Krueger, Jessica Billington, Andrea Steger. **Judge's Comments:** Focused theme with supportive art, clean layout, offering readers subscription options related to

days rather than months plus e-edition.
What were results?

Best Niche Product

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Rock County Roots Book - Pam Schmoldt, Donna Felland, Emily Rezin, Staff. **Judge's Comments:** I really like this idea, lets the reader know who the businesses really are
Second Place: Beloit Daily News, Legends of Sports - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** Fun idea bringing the past and present athletics together
Third Place: EagleHerald, EagleHerald Small Town Summer - Advertising Staff, Laurie Caebe. **Judge's Comments:** Really nicely done for a small publication.
Honorable Mention: The Freeman, Fall Fun Guide - Pat Scheel, Helena Shoemaker, Colleen Miller. **Judge's Comments:** Really has a fun, fallish feel!

Division C

First Place: Daily Citizen, Waupun Visitors Guide - Melissa Boehler. **Judge's Comments:** Very nice to look at, like the Chamber directory and calendar of events pages
Second Place: Daily Citizen, 2018 Summer Recreation Guide - Melissa Boehler. **Judge's Comments:** Like the activities pages and how the information is uniformly displayed.
Third Place: The Monroe Times, Monroe Parks and Recreation & City Resource Guide - Laura Hughes, Jaimie Tran. **Judge's Comments:** So much information! Like the tie-in of the colors on the cover with the edges of the pages, makes it easier to find a section.
Honorable Mention: The Monroe Times, Monroe Cheesemakers - Laura Hughes, Jaimie Tran. **Judge's Comments:** Really great concept.

Division D

First Place: Sawyer County Record, Visitor: Spectator's Guide to the Birkie/Birkebeiner Official Race Guide - Paul Mitchell, Darrin White. **Judge's Comments:** The dual nature of the product covering both spectators and participants, which in turn increases distribution.
Second Place: The Lakeland Times, Northwoods Artist Directory - Staff.
Third Place: Waushara Argus, Class of 2018 - Karla Perkins, Bonnie Krohn, Bonnie Monacelli, Marge Williams.
Honorable Mention: Sawyer County Record, Lumberjack World Championships Official Program - Paul Mitchell, Darrin White.

Division E

First Place: The Northwoods River News,

Holiday Recipe & Songbook - Staff.

Second Place: Spooner Advocate, The Source 2018 - Michelle Carlson, Deb Fosberg, Janis Redman.

Third Place: Pierce County Herald, Prescott Community Guide - Staff.

Honorable Mention: New Richmond News, Baldwin-Woodville Community Guide - Nancy Long, Sarah Nigbor, Anna Hensvirk, Staff.

Best Ongoing Niche Publication

Division A

First Place: Watertown Daily Times, Family and Friends Magazine - Mark Shingler. **Judge's Comments:** This was a great, fun magazine to read. Nicely done!
Second Place: The Monroe Times, Sports Preview - Laura Hughes, Lance Ray, Diane Albright, Tai Ruegsegger. **Judge's Comments:** Lots of hard work/time went

Striving for Excellence in Journalism and Marketing

The Lakeland Times
Best in State 2018

16 - First Place Awards 11 - Second Place Awards 8 - Third Place Awards 5 - Honorable Mention Awards

The LAKELAND TIMES | THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

*Congratulations to the Staff of The Lakeland Times
and The Northwoods River News!*



into this, great photos!

Third Place: The Gazette, Dining & Destinations Guide - Staff. **Judge's**

Comments: Beautifully put together

Honorable Mention: The Gazette, 5ive

for Women Magazine - Staff. **Judge's**

Comments: Nice looking layout and good topics!

Division D

First Place: Sawyer County Record, Visitor Magazine - Paul Mitchell, Darrin White. **Judge's Comments:** Really liked the layout, and the idea as a hole.

Division E

First Place: The Stoughton Courier Hub, Your Family Magazine - Ellen Koeller, Staff. **Judge's Comments:** I liked this one a lot.

Second Place: New London Press Star, On the Water Fox Valley - Scott Bellile, Sue Schroeder, Kevin Jacobs, Holly Neumann. **Judge's Comments:** This one was really good.

Third Place: The Northwoods River News, What's New - Staff. **Judge's Comments:** I liked the content in this entry.

Innovative Online Advertising

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, Walk to end Alzheimers - Justin Winkofsky.

Second Place: The Gazette, Rotary Gardens - Sybil Winchel.

Third Place: The Gazette, Blackhawk Community Credit Union - Nina Perona.

Best Digital Ad

Division A

First Place: The Gazette, JTS - Justin Winkofsky.

Second Place: The Gazette, K&W Greenery - Mary Hamlin.

Third Place: The Gazette, K&W

Greenery - Mary Hamlin.

Division B

First Place: Beloit Daily News, Awesome



South Now, Division D, General News Photo

nurses wanted at Cedar Crest - Staff.

Judge's Comments:

Second Place: Beloit Daily News, Adventurers wanted, spectators welcome - Staff.

Third Place: Daily Globe, Remax Action North online ad - Staff.

Division D

First Place: The Ripon Commonwealth Press, Ace Hardware - Todd Sharp, Tami

Conlon. **Judge's Comments:** Eye-catching use of color. Clear at a glance what the ad is about. Clever concept. Only detriment is that the copy beyond the logo is a bit small to read on reduced-size screens.

Second Place: Pierce County Herald, Six String Saloon - Nancy Long. **Judge's Comments:** Very simple but clear at a quick read what the ad is about. Important text is large enough to be legible on smaller screens. Increased contrast would improve the ad, as would a graphic

element that informed the reader with 0 reading required.

Third Place: Hudson Star-Observer, Hudson Boosters - Donna Kauffman. **Judge's Comments:** Clear even at a

thumbnail size what the ad is about. Design is nice, though pretty busy. More contrast in the call to action (button) to make it stand out more would improve it.

Honorable Mention: Hudson Star-Observer, North Hudson Pepper Fest - Scott Thompson. **Judge's Comments:**



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