

2024 NPA CONTEST AWARDS

<http://www.nebpress.com>

April 27, 2024

BREAKING NEWS!

32 Pages

Nebraska's Best Published in 2023



CONGRATULATIONS!

WE SALUTE ALL OF THE WINNERS AT THE 2024 NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

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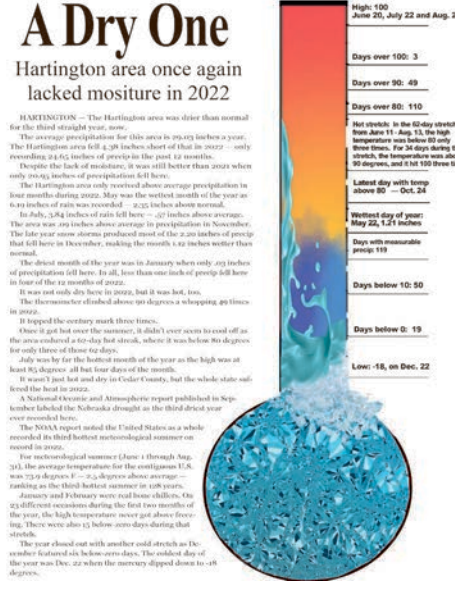
Division A

- 1st Place**
Stanton Register
Two of a Kind
By: Angeliqe Boyer
Judge's Comments: Love the players shattering through this graphic! Excellent attention to detail. Every element has been carefully selected and executed -- from the reflecting headline and background graphics to the display of stats and photo cutouts. Very well done!
- 2nd Place**
Stanton Register
Enrollment Changes
By: Angeliqe Boyer
Judge's Comments: Beautifully designed. Great color, shape and font selections. Graph does a good job of explaining enrollment trends.
- 3rd Place**
Stanton Register
Closing to Champion
By: Angeliqe Boyer & Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Headline type and art draw you into graphic. Multiple elements included without being too busy.



Division B

- 1st Place**
North Bend Eagle
Galler of EHC champs
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: A terrific, eye-catching graphic. The clipped-out athletes combined with elements of action/movement really pulls it all together. Fantastic use of the conference decal in the display.
- 2nd Place**
North Bend Eagle
Winter sports preview graphic
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: Great use of clipped-out artwork with artistic elements.
- 3rd Place**
Pender Times
Pender's community websites you should know
By: Jason Sturek
Judge's Comments: Good display of information.



Division C

- 1st Place**
Hartington Cedar County News
Best computer graphic - Weather in Review - Thermometer
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Liked the combination of two graphic elements to create the thermometer, clever use of art.
- 2nd Place**
Ord Quiz
State Track
By: Alexis Hagstrom
Judge's Comments: The sweeping accent lines, the use of the man font in italics and the background picture of the track, all serve to indicate speed, something you better have in a track meet!
- 3rd Place**
Arcadia Fall Festival
By: Alexis Hagstrom
Judge's Comments: Nice use of the fall colored leaves. Especially like the little accent leaves for the Labor Day events entry.



Washington County Enterprise
<https://www.enterprisepub.com>
North bypass to uproot Blair's foot traffic

Division D

- 1st Place**
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
Blair's future?
By: MaKayla Polak
Judge's Comments: This is an excellent use of graphics to express a point or perspective. The use of a search bar with only one result is great and shares with the reader the inevitable future. This is subtle and not over the top and I love it.
- 2nd Place**
Crete News
Boys basketball, Pool page, and paving infographic
By: Amy Hausman, Keaton Burgess
Judge's Comments: These are nicely done, the pool page is expressive and designed well and the paving graphic was nice and simple but shared all it needed to.
- 3rd Place**
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
FCHS Science Teachers' career exceeds four decades
By: Alaina Albricht
Judge's Comments: This is a cool design with the teacher's historic photo and the graphical representation of science as a backdrop, liked it.

Building Circulation

Division B

- 1st Place**
Greeley Citizen
Every Community Matters
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: What makes this entry remarkable is its judicious use of space—dedicating an entire page to its message. This bold choice speaks volumes about the entrant's commitment to community and their belief in the power of their message. It's a testament to the idea that sometimes, less truly is more, and that the impact of a well-conceived concept can be amplified by the space it occupies.
- 2nd Place**
Kimball Western Nebraska Observer
138th Birthday Subscription Offer
By: Jim Orr
Judge's Comments: The inclusion of the historical image serves as a poignant reminder of the newspaper's longstanding commitment to journalism and its pivotal role in the community through generations. This visual connection to the past not only celebrates the publication's rich heritage but also bridges generations of readers, connecting the dots between the newspaper's origins and its present-day relevance.
- 3rd Place**
Mullen Hookey County Tribune
Community Newspaper Week
By: Gerri Peterson
Judge's Comments: This entry stands out for its blend of reverence for the publication's history and its innovative approach to community involvement. It is a reminder that a newspaper's strength lies not only in the quality of its reporting but also in its ability to reflect and incorporate the voices of those it serves. The recognition of publishers' contributions alongside reader feedback exemplifies a holistic view of the newspaper's ecosystem, where leadership and readership are seen as co-contributors to its legacy.

COMMUNITY

EVERY COMMUNITY. EVERY COUNTY. YOU MATTER.

Some are villages. Others are cities. Regardless of size, it's important for every community to have a voice.

We're proud to be your voice as your local newspaper.

EVERY ISSUE IS ARCHIVED
OUTDOORS • SPORTS • ANNIVERSARIES
BIRTHS • MILESTONES • SCHOOL NEWS
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cedar Valley News
A Division of Fairbury Journal-News

IT'S A BEER! WE'VE KEPT THIS HISTORICAL DOCUMENT ALIVE!
SUBSCRIBE BY CALLING 888-884-9159

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK • OCTOBER 2-7, 2023

Division A

- 1st Place**
Springview Herald
Community Newspaper Week
By: Amy Johnson & Kelsi McGee
Judge's Comments: Neat idea! This really goes beyond the traditional Newspaper Week promotions. I especially like the quotes about journalism and the quotes from advertisers. Great work promoting the important work we all do in this field!
- 2nd Place**
Petersburg Press
52 Ways to Say I Love You
By: Julie Dickerson
Judge's Comments: Cute and catchy ad! Great idea to promote new subscriptions for Mother's Day. This could be replicated for any holiday.
- 3rd Place**
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Newspapers are cool again.
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: I love the ad and agree with it. Newspapers are always cool! Love the color scheme to play off of the "What's black, white and read all over?" joke.

In Print. Online. For You.

In Honor of National Newspaper Week...

From Long Ago... To The Future We're Here To Keep You Informed.

What Does Friday's E-edition Have That FJN Print Doesn't... Want To See Who Is In Court and For What, Area News, Features, Event Photo Pages & More.

We're Offering New Digital Subscribers 1 Year Online for only \$25.

You get 2 editions a week, with expanded court cases, features and news.

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Now thru Oct. 20, 2023

The Fairbury Journal-News

Division CD

- 1st Place**
Fairbury Journal-News
National Newspaper Week
By: Jennifer Lewis
Judge's Comments: Love the super hero theme to this.
- 2nd Place**
Crete News
Fall Subscription Special
By: Hayli Froshaiser, Nichole Javorsky
Judge's Comments: Great color/design
- 3rd Place**
Falls City Journal
Valentine's Day Coupon
By: Chelsie Alexander
Judge's Comments: Cute idea.

Reader Interaction/Contest

Division A

1st Place
Hemingford Ledger
Recipes for the Perfect Turkey Day
By: Kay Bakkehaug
Judge's Comments: Precious feature that is sure to get giggles from readers. Great way to get the community engaged in your Thanksgiving edition.

2nd Place
Hemingford Ledger
Delivering Santa's Letters

By: Kay Bakkehaug
Judge's Comments: Members of your community certainly enjoy reading these letters to Santa!

3rd Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Candy Cane Counting Contest
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Cute idea for reader engagement during the holidays.

Recipes

From AI
turkey for: it does need to be steaming hot to cook it. I will enjoy my Thanksgiving with cousins and my family. And Ty.
By Anna Kuhn

- Hot Dog
- Crost
- Stick
- Ketchup and Mustard
- I am going to Grandma's for Thanksgiving. We are having turkey and grandma is preparing it. Grandma will get the turkey from the store. She will take it home and chop it up. We will travel to her house. She will put it on a plate and put it in the oven. She will cook it for 1 hour at 6 degrees. She will know it's done when the oven dings. We will all gather around the table and eat. After we are done, we will help clean up and go home.
- By Jayla Curtis
- Noodle
- Chicken
- Salt and Pepper
- Milk
- My mom will get a ham at the grocery store in Hemingford. She pays for the ham and she will go

back home. We will put it in the microwave for 6 minutes. After 6 minutes, it should be done but if it's burnt Daddy will eat it. When we eat, we will eat on the couch and watch a movie.
By Skylar Sorensen

- Milk
- Salt
- Olives
- Cheese
- Water
- We are going to have ham. Mom or dad will go to the store in Hemingford or Alliance. They will get some cheddar cheese too. They will pay for the food with money. Then we will go to the gas station to get a chicken. We will go home and start cooking. We will cook the ham first on the stove. We will cook that for 15 minutes. When it's done, I will sprinkle the cheese on the ham. We will also cook the chicken on the stove. When it's done, we will add it to the ham and cook it together in the microwave for 40 minutes. I will enjoy it with Grandma Linda.
By Kevin Sorensen
- Yogurt
- Water
- Fries
- Chicken nuggets
- I will have a chicken turkey. I will get it at the farm. I will pick the best turkey by how small it is. I will cook it in the oven for 6 minutes. Then I will take it home. I will enjoy it with my family. I have a lot of families.
By Mill Leah
- Popcorn
- Oreos
- Apples
- Milk
- We will have pizza for Thanksgiving. My mom will get it from the pizza place. I will enjoy it with my uncles, aunts, my grandma and my grandpa. We will play games over Thanksgiving.
By Alyvia Hernandez
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Chicken
- Strawberries
- Flour
- My family will go to the store and get a turkey. We will go home and mom will heat it up. She will use the oven. She will cook it to 20 degrees. She will cook it for 5 minutes. It will be done when it dings. I will eat it with all of my family members. Over Thanksgiving break we will play games.
By Lindy Cullen
- Mac-n-cheese
- Watermelon
- BBQ Chips
- Peanut Butter and Jelly Bread
- I am going to have pizza for Thanksgiving. So we'll make homemade pizza. We get the dough out of the package. Then we put pizza sauce on it, and then we add cheese. We will put pepperoni on it. Then we will put it in the oven for 10 minutes. I will enjoy it with my mom.
By Madison Siegler
- Pumpkin Pie
- White pudding
- Cottage Cheese
- Turkey
- We will have pumpkin pie, we already made it. We will have turkey, but then we will go to Waitiki. We will have cake, pie, everyone will be happy. My mom is feeling better. Dad will be home because he will have the day off.
By Bristol Foster

Division B

1st Place
Arnold Sentinel
Thank You Readers
By: Janet Larreau and Debbie Connelly
Judge's Comments: Captions and photos conveyed a connection between the readers and the paper. Great to see multiple generations included!

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
Vacation Eagle
By: Mary Le Arneal, Janet Dunker
Judge's Comments: Very nicely done!

3rd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Salute to Harvest
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Great photo! Would have liked to see more of the photos as well as the call for photos.

Division C

1st Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
Dad Jokes campaign
By: Barbara Perez
Judge's Comments: Uses humor to great effect.

2nd Place
Oshkosh Garden Co. News
Every summer
By: Emma Christiansen
Judge's Comments: A contest format that is sure to solicit reader interaction.

3rd Place
Tekamah Burt Co. Plaindealer
Reader Interaction
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: I'm sure the families loved being featured!

Division D

1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Lemonade Days
By: Jennifer Lewis
Judge's Comments: This is cute and feels like a more original, beneficial idea for a community interaction. I like this idea and it really sells a new value of the paper and giving back to readers.

2nd Place
Falls City Journal
Reader Interaction
By: Chelsie Alexander
Judge's Comments: Great use of user-generated content keeping people feeling valued and important. Submissions like this are nice, as sometimes reporting and photography can hyper-focus on a few subjects.

3rd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
#WeSeeYou
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: This is nice and incorporates

social media, I liked that a lot. Gotta meet people where they're at and this is putting the paper on their minds but also incorporating their own teams.

Newspaper Organized or Sponsored Event

Division AB

1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Pride of the Platte Photography Display
By: Eagle Staff
Judge's Comments: Love this idea! It really gets the community involved by taking/submitting photos, viewing them, and then voting. I'm sure this helps create/boost community pride.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Sponsoring Santa
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Santa photos with kids are always my favorite! What a great way to provide a positive event for the community!

3rd Place
Springview Herald
Hungry? Then come to the Spirit Breakfast
By: Amy Johnson
Judge's Comments: Love this idea! Homecoming is big in any community. What a great way to give back to the community.

Division CD

1st Place
North Platte Bulletin
Music on the Bricks
By: The Bulletin Staff
Judge's Comments: Wonderfully attended and newspaper organized series of concerts.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Neligh 150 Celebration
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Great coverage of the 150 year celebration.

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
FJN Toy Giveaway
By: Jennifer Lewis, Tim Linscott
Judge's Comments: Wonderful community involvement!

- 100+ Full-time designers on staff.
- Our 20th Year serving the industry.
- Simple flat-rate pricing with no extras whatsoever.
- 315+ newspapers and magazines designed each week.

- ★ FREE stock photography.
- ★ FREE changes and corrections.
- ★ FREE charts and infographics to embellish your stories.
- ★ FREE unlimited spec ads.
- ★ FREE e-book files.
- ★ FREE posting and uploads to your CMS.
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- ★ AND MORE!

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Community Promotion Advertisement

Kids Take Over!

Thank you to Mrs. Reed's 6th grade classroom for designing the advertisements and to the businesses for sponsoring their ads.

Most loved events of the year!

Make sure to get your local newspaper so you can enjoy it too!

Arlington Citizen

Bring your car in today! Let your car fly after a nice fix up!

Let's make your car fly after a nice fix up!

Division A

1st Place
Arlington Citizen
Kids Take Over
By: Blair Advertising Staff
Judge's Comments: LOVE this idea. It's a great way to get kids involved in something. Parents and business must love this idea.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Back the Blue

By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Love this look. Great design and color.

3rd Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
2023 Clearwater's 56th Big Rodeo
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Looks very good.

GOOD LUCK GIRLS!

PARENT "SHOUT-OUTS"

BRENNNA Good luck at State, Brenna! We are so proud of you. Let's do this, Pack!

KATE Good luck to you and your team! We are so proud of you.

KAYTON Good luck Kayton! We are proud of your efforts this year. Enjoy the ride and best wishes at State!

LAIJA & SELI So proud of your determination. Good luck and have fun!

CALLIE Good luck Lady Wolfpack! We are proud of you Callie.

ELLIE We're so proud of your hard work and dedication to helping the team get to State. Good luck to everyone.

TAYLYNE & ASHLYNNE Best of Luck to you both!

MADDIE We are so proud of you Good Luck!

KEYERA We are proud of you! Play your game and have fun! Good luck at State!

SARA Good luck at State Lady Wolfpack! We love you! Sara Monstrey and best wishes at State!

SEYLER Best of luck to you, Seyler! We are proud of your hard work and dedication to helping the team get to State. Good luck to everyone!

Division B

1st Place
Elgin Review
Girls Basketball Team at State - Good Lucks!
By: Lynell Morgan
Judge's Comments: An energetic, bold design that pops out of the page! Nice simple headline and great use of photos.

2nd Place
Stapleton Enterprise
Stapleton's Annual Christmas

Event
By: Marcia Hora, Kendra Cutler
Judge's Comments: Fun design choices add a lot of pizzazz to this ad!

3rd Place
Greeley Citizen
Saluting Our Firefighters
By: Kelli Garcia & Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Great use of a striking background graphic!

Division C

1st Place
Ord Quiz
Big Give to Valley County
By: Alexis Hagstrom, Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Great Signature Page Ad. Very colorful.

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
Winterfest Parade

By: Alexis Hagstrom
Judge's Comments: Love the design. Reminds me of ads from years ago.

3rd Place
Imperial Republican
BULL RIDING Challenge
By: Kim Large
Judge's Comments: Great layout. Nice looking ad.

GIVING THANKS by GIVING BACK

March 14 & 15, 2024

WAYS TO GIVE

GIFTS OF:
Volunteering Your Time & Talent
Memorials, Honorariums & Real Estate
Cash & Securities
Your Will, Trust or Life Insurance Policies
Ag Commodities - Grain, Livestock & Machinery

Valley County Philanthropic Partners

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Division D

1st Place
St. Paul Photograph-Herald
LIBRARY CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
By: MICHAEL HAPP
Judge's Comments: Clean, well-balanced theme page supporting the library! Good job filling the entire page with library centric ads with strong copy and graphics. Not a bad one in the bunch! Overall, very easy on the eyeballs...not an easy feat with a theme page of this nature. Congrats to the library!

2nd Place
Crete News
Crete High School Halloween Event
By: Hayli Froseiser, Kaitlyn Dallmann
Judge's Comments: This looks like something that would come

out of an agency! Great use of color and imagery and I love the symmetry and cleanliness of the ads along the bottom. The only reason it wasn't first was the misspelled word!

3rd Place
Seward County Independent
Utica Baseball Organization
By: Hayli Froseiser, Nichole Javorsky
Judge's Comments: Overall a very clean ad. I like the fade using the base to transition to white for the bottom half. I also like using yellow for the copy about the proceeds. That is another nice touch to shift into more information. It could almost be mistaken for 2 different ads but the designer did a good job of bringing it all together.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
Serving St. Paul

Anniversary Celebration: Sunday, September 24, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

A GREAT ASSET TO ST. PAUL
A GREAT ASSET TO ST. PAUL
As the St. Paul Library prepares to celebrate a major milestone in its history, we want to thank the many people who have dedicated time and resources to making the library such a special part of our community.

CONGRATULATIONS St. Paul Library
Congratulations to the St. Paul Library on serving the St. Paul community for a quarter century!

TURNING THE PAGE on the library's story
Congratulations to the St. Paul Library on celebrating its 25th anniversary!

CONGRATULATIONS ON 25 YEARS
THANK YOU to all who partner to invest in helping St. Paul's library be a cornerstone of our community.

CELEBRATING 25 Years SERVING THE COMMUNITY
On the occasion of the St. Paul Public Schools' 175th anniversary, the modern administration staff at the City of St. Paul thanks the library for contributing to our community's quality of life.

A Location to Learn
For twenty-five years, St. Paul Public Schools has been proud to be a partner in the St. Paul Library, providing its space, students, residents, and patrons of all ages a place to continue to learn.

Agricultural Advertisement

Division A

1st Place
Milford Times
Suhr & Lichty
By: Hayli Froseiser, Kaitlyn Dallmann
Judge's Comments: Clean ad that gets a lot of information across to readers. Art and color choices catch your attention. Very well-designed ad in an impressive class of entries.

2nd Place
Palmer Journal
Healthy Lives
By: MICHAEL HAPP
Judge's Comments: Less is more! Small, thoughtful design choices make this striking black-and-white ad stand out.

3rd Place
Friend Sentinel
Friend Fertilizer
By: Nichole Javorsky, Hayli Froseiser
Judge's Comments: Great color and font choices to pair with art. Love the headline!

Farmers Mutual Farm & Ranch Policies

Covering the expected... and the unexpected.

- Home & Household Property
- Farm Property
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- Special form on blanket implement
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- Collapse of grain bins
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INSURANCE AGENCY

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Division B

1st Place
Wilber Republican
Cattle Bank & Trust
By: Hayli Froseiser, Kaitlyn Dallmann
Judge's Comments: The call to action is not just clear; it is compelling, drawing the viewer in and leaving no doubt about the next steps to be taken. The people depicted in the pictures bring a warmth and relatability that often cannot be achieved through text alone.

2nd Place
Elgin Review
Bank of Elgin - Good Deal
By: Lynell Morgan
Judge's Comments: The headline in this entry is not just attention-grabbing; it's thought-provoking, drawing the reader into a deeper exploration of the ad's message. Beyond the headline, the advertisement serves as a valuable source of industry information, presenting

3rd Place
Elgin Review
Bank of Elgin - Crunching Numbers

TALK TO OUR Agriculture Lending Team

- SEED & CHEMICAL FINANCING
- LOAN PROGRAMS FOR BEGINNING FARMERS
- OPERATING LINES OF CREDIT
- TERM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT FINANCING
- FARM REAL ESTATE FINANCING
- BREEDING & FEEDER LIVESTOCK FINANCING

Cattle
BANK & TRUST

CattleBank.com

Judge's Comments: The ad's creators have skillfully balanced visual flair with informational clarity, ensuring that the graphic not only attracts attention but also informs and engages the viewer with its content.

Division C

1st Place
Ord Quiz
FFA Harvest
By: Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Great use of graphics. The all-caps font is a nice touch for the list. Very eye-catching.

2nd Place
Wisner News-Chronicle
AG Advertising
By: Karlie Cole & Dorothy Litz
Judge's Comments: Who knew

Division C

four words and two cows could work so well? Phrasing is great, reverse type is nice and, well, cows.

3rd Place
West Point News
Agricultural Advertising
By: Karlie Cole & Dorothy Litz
Judge's Comments: All three of these are great, but the National Pork Month ad is a standout. Great use of whitespace in the membership dinner ad.

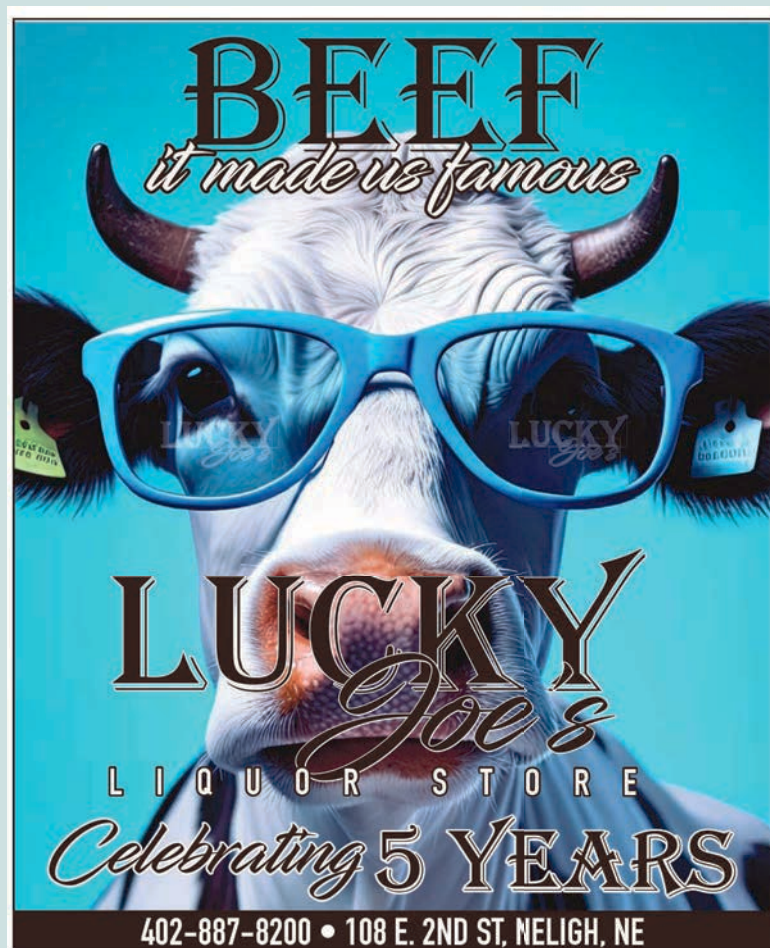
Agricultural Advertisement

Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Beef Made Neligh Famous
By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: LOVE IT!
Love the explanation of the history of the slogan. Very colorful ad.

2nd Place
Falls City Journal
Scheitel Feed & Seed-High Seeds
By: Chelsie Alexander
Judge's Comments: The cutest layout of the ads. Very imaginative.

3rd Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
2023 Washington County Fair Events
By: Lynette Hansen
Judge's Comments: Great color and use of space with all the information included in this ad.



Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Blazek & Gregg
By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Great ad! The layout is done well with the amount of information included in it.

2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Kayton International
By: Suzie Wachter, Cheyanne Fowlkes
Judge's Comments: Love the ad however the phone number and email look off being in pink instead of red.

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Apache Manufacturing
By: Chris Saegbarth, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Nice use of background colors to play off the photos in the advertisement.

FREE WORKSHOP
**Protect Your Farm
Protect Your Family**
Presented by full time Estate Planning Attorneys

Nursing Home Planning **Trust Planning** **Ag LLC Planning**

THE RIGHT TAX PLANNING NOW...AND...
Protecting your farm...
If you go into a nursing home?
If your spouse remarries?
If your child gets a divorce?
If your child dies after receiving their inheritance?

AG ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS
Please join us at a location near you:

HASTINGS, NE		
Wednesday, January 25th • 1:00-3:00 & 6:00-8:00 Hastings Chamber of Commerce, 301 S. Burlington Ave.		
NORFOLK, NE	SO. SIOUX CITY, NE	COLUMBUS, NE
Monday, January 30th 1:00-3:00 & 6:00-8:00 Divest Conference Center 4200 W. Norfolk Ave.	Friday, February 10th 1:00-3:00 & 6:00-8:00 Marriott Riverfront 385 E. 4th St.	Wednesday, February 22nd 1:00-3:00 & 6:00-8:00 Elks Country Club 5113 63rd St.

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Estate Planning Law Group of Blazek & Gregg, P.C. LLO
Attorneys: JAMES T. BLAZEK, JERROD M. GREGG,
PAUL J. BLAZEK and TYLER A. MASTERTSON
Nebraska Iowa Colorado

Over 60 Years Combined Planning Experience
Our Planning Process: Free Client Phone Calls, Asset Valuation Included, Lower Cost Administration
SEATING IS LIMITED
Please call (402) 496-3432 or Toll Free (888) 496-3432 to reserve your space.

Small Ad - Under 1/4 page or less than 3 x 10 1/2"

Division A

1st Place
Milford Times
Pizza Kitchen
By: Kaitlyn Dallmann, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: Terrific ad!
A bold, clever graphic with a clear message and layout. Excellent work.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Saving Isn't Spooky
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Great use of graphics and headline to create a clever hook connecting the client with the holiday. Great layout.

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Pool Opening
By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Wonderful use of bold colors, graphics and whimsical elements to amplify the ad's message. Very eye-catching.



Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Tailgate Time
By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Standout in a class packed with award-winning ads. We love everything about this ad -- clean design, spot on theming, outstanding color and font choices and all the info you need to attend. Good use of QR code to solicit donations.

2nd Place
Greeley Citizen
Poker Tournament
By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Cool ad! Fits a ton of information into a small ad, but is not overcrowded... Excellent use of space, art and effects!

3rd Place
Elgin Review
Pancake Feed Fundraiser
By: Lynell Morgan
Judge's Comments: Effective small space ad! Love the dripping syrup font and stack of pancake art... really grabs your attention!

CHILDREN OF CHRIST SPALDING COMMUNITY DAYCARE

Can't make it but still want to help?
venmo
Donate directly to the daycare through Venmo

Husker TAILGATE PARTY **FRIDAY OCTOBER 06**
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL DAYCARE!

5:00PM - MIDNIGHT FREE WILL DONATION MEAL AND FULL BAR

GAME WILL BE STREAMED ON A PROJECTOR KICKOFF @ 7:00PM

SPALDING CITY AUDITORIUM

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS DAYCARE REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS, AND NEW EQUIPMENT.

Division C

MEETING NOTICE

COLERIDGE GOLF LEAGUE

Tuesday March 21 Rodeo's 7 p.m.

1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Best small ad - Coleridge golf league
By: Peggy Year
Judge's Comments: Perfect example of Less Is More!
Way to go!

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
Pancake Feed
By: Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Good looking, well laid out. There is a lot going on, but it's easy to digest...LOL

3rd Place
West Point News
Small ad
By: Karey Rahn & Dorothy Litz
Judge's Comments: HappyAd 072023 - Angie looks like she enjoys life. Photos captured her perfectly

Tallmon JEWELERS

The 24k Gold Rose

\$135

A real rose dipped in lacquer & trimmed in Sterling Silver or 24k Gold.

\$79

VISA M.C. DISC. AMEX

503 N. DEWEY • 308-534-3384

Division D

1st Place
North Platte Bulletin
Tallmon's Jewelry
By: Caitlin Hatcher
Judge's Comments: Nice use of color. Not too busy. The red border really makes it jump off the page. Just a good, solid ad.

2nd Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
Blair Kiwanis Club Halloween Party
By: John Peetzke & Lynette Hansen
Judge's Comments: Without even reading the copy this ad screams whatever it is promoting is a good time. Love the lone hotdog in the middle, too. Nice touch.

3rd Place
Bloomfield Knox Co. News Monitor
Farm Bureau Ladies Night
By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: There are a few things, if any, that promote female-related events better than red high-heels.

Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
A to Z Vac 'n Sew
By: Lizz Kemling, Cheyanne Fowlkes
Judge's Comments: Clear easy to read fonts
pertinent information on the ad
good color combination
Not too much information on the ad
Congrats on 1st place

2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Foot & Ankle Doctors

By: Suzie Wachter, Cheyanne Fowlkes
Judge's Comments: Good layout
Easy to read
necessary information
Not too overwhelming
Congrats on second place

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Jerry's Trailers & Campers
By: Vickie Hrabanek, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Nice job.

Customer Appreciation Day
Wed., November 1st

Celebrating 50 years of serving you, our valued customers, with dedication and excellence!

• First 50 Customers through the door receive a Gift Box!

Show Pricing on Handi Quilter Machines!
Starting now thru Dec. 31st
Plus, FREE setup and delivery (worth \$500), and a FREE Introduction Class (worth \$100)
OR Introduction to Pro-Stitcher Class (worth \$150)

HUGE Floor Model Sale from Oct. 30 - Nov. 4th!

Drawing for a **FREE JANOME 3160 QDC-T!**
Entries open Mon., Oct. 21 - Fri., Nov. 2
Drawing will be held Sat., Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. Must be present to win.

A TO Z VAC. N. SEW

Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.,
Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
422 W. Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk, NE
(402) 379-0187
www.atozvacnsew.com

Signature Page

Division A

1st Place Palmer Journal NATIONAL EMT WEEK By: MICHAEL HAPP Judge's Comments: Great design and layout. 2nd Place Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger Championship Standard By: LuAnn Schindler Judge's Comments: Love that it's sideways. Great color and design. 3rd Place Friend Sentinel Friend Bulldog Honor Roll By: Nichole Javorsky, Hayli Froshaiser Judge's Comments: Very clean looking but great design.

Advertisement for Palmer Rescue Squad featuring a group photo and text: 'WHERE EMERGENCY CARE BEGINS', 'PALMER FIRE & RESCUE', 'NATIONAL EMT WEEK MAY 21 - MAY 27', 'PALMER RESCUE SQUAD'. Includes a list of area businesses that support the squad.

1st Place Greeley Citizen Riverside Track By: Carrie Pitzer Judge's Comments: Great presentation of a lot of information in a way that wasn't overwhelming. Good use of multiple images, team colors, and a variety of fonts that all work well together. Great job! 2nd Place Gothenburg Leader Take State By: Brandi Kreuger Judge's Comments: Great layout with dominant photo in the middle surrounded by sponsors. Many ads box in the logos and I think this layout is a fresh, clean way to present both the message and sponsors. Nice job! 3rd Place Elgin Review EMS Week

Advertisement for 'Good Luck at STATE TRACK & FIELD' featuring photos of athletes and event details: 'FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 19 & 20', 'OMAHA BURKE STADIUM'. Includes a list of sponsors.

By: Lynnell Morgan Judge's Comments: Clean design, a lot of information but not too busy. The dominant message focuses on the theme and not the advertising support. Good balance and focus while showcasing community participants. Well done!

Division C

1st Place Ord Quiz Popcorn Days By: Staff Judge's Comments: Themed ads POP off the page! Designers did a great job with theme, color, art and fonts. This is really well done... packs in a ton of information, but in a very user (and advertiser) friendly way! 2nd Place Wisner News-Chronicle Signature page By: Karey Rahn, Karlie Friday & Dorothy Litz Judge's Comments: Clean, simple and effective design. 3rd Place Ord Quiz Go Chants! By: Heidi Dawe, Alexis Hagstrom Judge's Comments: An eye-catcher with solid ad support that's going on a lot of refrigerators! Well done!

Advertisement for 'North Loup Popcorn Days' featuring event details for August 18-20, 2023, and a list of participating businesses and activities.

Division D

1st Place Falls City Journal Happy Thanksgiving By: Chelsie Alexander Judge's Comments: I admire the creativity displayed on this page, and it effectively captures the essence of the theme. 2nd Place Orchard Antelope Co. News Heart Health By: Staff Judge's Comments: The graphics are superb, and the incorporation of a narrative truly enhances the thematic cohesion. 3rd Place Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune What's Your Specialty - House Cutaway By: Makayla Polak Judge's Comments: Impressive originality is showcased through the seamless integration of the home layout with the services offered.

Advertisement for 'Happy Thanksgiving' featuring a table setting with various food items and logos for local businesses like 'Falls City Journal', 'Lichty's Agency Insurance', 'CSNC', 'Falls City Family Practice', 'El Camino', 'FM & Bank', 'SONIC', and 'Miller Monroe'.

Division E

1st Place Norfolk Daily News Norfolk High Softball By: Chris Saegbarth, Kelli Ganskow Judge's Comments: Great use of photos! I can feel the energy and excitement for Norfolk High State Softball! Great support from advertisers! 2nd Place Norfolk Daily News Battle Creek Wrestling By: Chris Saegbarth, Brenda Mather Judge's Comments: Love seeing these athletes and the support from sponsors. Good job. 3rd Place Norfolk Daily News Clearwater-Orchard-Ewing Community page By: Suzie Wachter, Ad Staff Judge's Comments: Good sig page showcasing the peaceful rural Clearwater-Orchard-Ewing communities.

Advertisement for '2023 STATE SOFTBALL NORFOLK HIGH' featuring photos of players and game results: '#6 Norfolk (24-11) vs. #3 Papillion-La Vista (25-7) on Field #3', 'WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2023 11:30 a.m.', 'Bill Smith Softball Complex 3900 Osborne Dr. E • Hastings'.

Classified Section

Marketplace section containing various classified ads: 'Marketplace', 'Public Notices', 'Real Estate', 'Services', 'HELP WANTED', 'SINCE WE CAN'T FIND THE AD...', 'WE PRINT IT ALL...', 'Public Notices'.

Division A

1st Place Friend Sentinel Classifieds By: Hayli Froshaiser Judge's Comments: Well organized page that's easy to read. Stands out due to good ad design and nice headers to separate ad categories. Love that your public notices are easy to spot! 2nd Place Milford Times Classifieds By: Hayli Froshaiser Judge's Comments: Good use of strokes, styles, tints and fonts. Good layout. 3rd Place Blount County News Blount County News Classifieds By: Beth Sparrow & Rick Holtz Judge's Comments: Good number of ads. Strong classified section.

Classified Section

Division B

1st Place
Kimball Western
Nebraska Observer
Western Nebraska
Observer Classifieds
By: Jim Orr
Judge's Comments:
Great pops of color that really draw the eye! Nice use of a photo in the header, too, which sets this entry apart.

2nd Place
Greeley Citizen
Classifieds
By: Rikki Rader
Judge's Comments:
Good use of the header to display information.

3rd Place
Nance County Journal
Rick Holtz
By: Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: A well-organized page.



1st Place
Imperial Republican
July 6 Classified Page
By: Kim Large
Judge's Comments: I like the clean lines and bold headers.

2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co.Chief
Classified page, Nov. 2, 2023
By: Mona Weatherly, Donnis Hueftle-Bullock
Judge's Comments: Good use of bold headers and space between ads.

3rd Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
Sun-Telegraph classifieds page
By: Barbara Perez
Judge's Comments: I like the part at the bottom explaining why it's still important and relevant to advertise in the paper.

Division C



1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
P-H Classifieds 8-30-24
By: MICHAEL HAPP & HALEY SPOTANSKI
Judge's Comments:
Generous white space between columns and sections let the ads breathe for easy reading. Headings are clearly defined.

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Classifieds
By: Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: Top page header clearly outlines rates, deadlines, and process to place classified advertising. Reverse category headers neatly organize content for reader.

3rd Place
Bloomfield Knox Co. News
Monitor
Classifieds
By: Sarah Coffey
Judge's Comments: Headers are

Division D



bold and easy to find. Overall page is neat and well organized.

Advertising Campaign

SAVING ISN'T SPOOKY
with our bank

STANTON STATE BANK

TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS
Stanton 402-439-2164 • 1021 Riverside Blvd., Norfolk 402-644-4744
Bank Online At StantonStateBank.com

Don't let **SCHOOL** break the bank!

STANTON STATE BANK

visit www.stantonstatebank.com for our full line of lending options!

924 Ivy St., | Stanton, NE | (402) 439-2164

Division A

1st Place
Stanton Register
Stanton State Bank
By: Carrie Pitzer & Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Very creative tag lines and graphics that match the theme and message of the advertiser. Good coordination with colors and themes.

2nd Place
Palmer Journal
Merrick Medical Center
By: MICHAEL HAPP

Judge's Comments: Beautiful artwork. Great coordination with graphics, font colors and advertisers logo. Simple and clean.

3rd Place
Thedford Thomas County Herald
Sandhills Family Dental
By: Marcia Hora
Judge's Comments: Very creative tag lines to match advertisers message. Able to get message across without the use of color. Very well done.

Division C

1st Place
Broken Bow Custer Co.Chief
Callaway District Hospital Ads
By: Donnis Hueftle-Bullock
Judge's Comments: CONSISTENT PLACEMENT WITH VARYING MESSAGING EQUALS GOOD READERSHIP. WELL DONE!

2nd Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Ad campaign - Anderson and
Anderson Good Old Days
By: Rob Dump
Judge's Comments: WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO SEE HISTORIC PHOTOS FROM THEIR HOMETOWN. GREAT IDEA, WELL PLAYED.

3rd Place
West Point News
Advertising Campaign
By: Karlie Cole & Dorothy Litz
Judge's Comments: GOOD VARIETY OF ADS SHOWING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Your **GOOD HEALTH** is always within reach for a Championship!

Callaway District Hospital and Medical Clinics
308-836-2294 / 308-848-3259

Here to listen and offer advice for **YOUR GOOD HEALTH**

Callaway District Hospital and Medical Clinics
308-836-2294 / 308-848-3259

Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Stealth
By: Angelique Boyer & Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Wow! Great images, eye popping copy. Great use of humor. This campaign was fun and effective.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Thriftway Market
By: Angelique Boyer & Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Color, images, fonts all work together to help sell the grocery story product.

3rd Place

Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
Blair Ace Hardware - Organization, Paint & Grills
By: Lynette Hansen
Judge's Comments: Effective communication of product, price through images, headlines, and copy.

Protection For Your Crops Is In Your Hands. And Ours.

bank of ELGIN Draper Insurance Agency

402-843-2228
www.bankofelgin.com Elgin, NE

We Are Ready - The Question Is, Are You?

bank of ELGIN Draper Insurance Agency

402-843-2228
www.bankofelgin.com Elgin, NE

WAIT NO LONGER!
STEALTH IS NOW IN ORCHARD!
!& We're here to help!

STEALTH Broadband FIBER

Village Wide Sign Up EVENT
Thursday, May 11
10am-1pm
Orchard Village Office

For questions call 402-347-1010
or visit www.stealthbroadband.com (if it's not with your current carrier)

MAKE 2024 A **GIG YEAR**

STEALTH FIBER

402-347-1010 | WWW.STEALTHBROADBAND.COM

Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Divots Conference
By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow, Cheyanne Fowlkes
Judge's Comments: Great use of graphics and a simple, clear message in each ad.

2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
EZ Kitchens
By: Chris Saegbarth, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Good use of an anchoring photo in each ad.

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Domino's
By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow, Cheyanne Fowlkes
Judge's Comments: Good use of bright colors to draw the eye.

We Make Every Wedding Event, Large or Small, a **Unique and Special Affair.**

Plan your big day with us!

4200 W. Norfolk Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 379-3833 (Norfolk Lodge & Suites) | (402) 844-2980 (Divots Conference Center)
www.divotsconference.com

Plan Your Business Event With Us

STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT • IMPRESSIVE AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT
Adjoining lodging • Competitive rates • Custom catering, full size bar, and dining rentals available

Divots CONFERENCE CENTER

4200 W. NORFOLK AVE. | 402-844-2980 | WWW.DIVOTSCONFERENCE.COM

Division B

1st Place
Elgin Review
Bank of Elgin - Agriculture
By: Lynell Morgan
Judge's Comments: Bold and colorful art selection draws readers to the advertisement on the page. Headlines emphasize what the Bank of Elgin can do for you and follow up with easy to read details.

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
AOM
By: Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: Great idea to spotlight members of the community. Sure to get reads.

3rd Place
Stapleton Enterprise
Community First Bank - Putting Community First
By: Marcia Hora
Judge's Comments: Appreciate the consistency of design in the ads as a campaign for the bank. Really puts forward the community message they were trying to convey.

Single Retail Advertising Idea - Color

8th Annual BEER & BACON
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 AT 6-10 PM
 San Carlo Room • Friend, NE

MUSIC BY
BIG DADDY CALEB & THE CHARGERS
 – Foods with Bacon & Beers –

Presale Tickets \$30 – Available at: Pour House or The Blue Blossom or call Diane at 402-499-9309 or Chere at 402-525-0141
 At the Door Tickets \$35 • Kids under 5 – FREE • 5-12 years – \$10
Ticket includes foods (all with the taste of bacon), entertainment & \$2 beers

Fundraiser by Friend Historical Society for the Restoration of Warren Opera House. Sponsors include: *Me Doyle*, BetterLife, Smithfield.

Division A

1st Place
 Friend Sentinel
 Beer & Bacon with the Friend Historical Society
 By: Nichole Javorsky, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: The prominent food images and large heading in a fun font draw the reader to the ad—and make mouths water. Designer made a lot of

information easily readable in a small space.
2nd Place
 Friend Sentinel
 Friend Community Healthcare System
 By: Paula Miller, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: Clean design and fonts. Color choice complements the VA message of the ad.

3rd Place
 Milford Times
 Bern's Body Shop
 By: Kaitlyn Dallmann, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: The use of spot color highlights help ad stand out from other ads on the page. Text is well-organized and readable.

Division C

1st Place
 West Point News
 Single and Color
 By: Karlie Cole & Dorothy Litz
Judge's Comments: Good solid ads that have everything an advertiser would want. Nice job.
2nd Place
 Ord Quiz
 Carl's Tavern Celebrates Year 2
 By: Alexis Hagstrom
Judge's Comments: This add gives off a vibe that perfectly matches what it is advertising. Never underestimate the power of a great font.
3rd Place
 Ord Quiz
 Teen Night at Carls
 By: Alexis Hagstrom
Judge's Comments: This gives off a 1980s vibe, and that is great. It stands out on the page in every way. First and third places in this category were very close. Could have been a three-way tie for first.

CONGRATULATIONS SWEETHEART King and Queen

Paul Timmerman and Geraldine Hagedorn

St. Joseph's Elder Services

Division B

1st Place
 Gothenburg Leader
 4-Step Lawn Program
 By: John Bell
Judge's Comments: Eye-catching ad with outstanding use of color, headline and photos. Good font selection. Clear call to action.
2nd Place
 Wilber Republican
 Wilber Garden Club
 By: Hayli Frosheiser, Kaitlyn Dallmann

Judge's Comments: Beautiful small space ad that really catches your attention!
3rd Place
 Wilber Republican
 Wilber Chamber
 By: Hayli Frosheiser, Kaitlyn Dallmann
Judge's Comments: Good use of space and holiday theme!

DIY 4-STEP LAWN PROGRAM
GREAT PRICING!

1 \$46.00 Early April
 2 \$59.90 Early June
 3 \$133.60 Early August
 4 \$44.00 Early October

1 17-0-4+ DIMENSION (50 LB BAG) Crabgrass Control & Spring Fertilizer (\$ 92/LB)
 2 RED BAG (50 LB BAG) "Weed & Feed" Fertilizer for Late Spring (\$120/LB)
 3 WHITE BAG (50 LB BAG) DYLOX6.2 (50 & 20 LB BAG) Stay Green Fertilizer & Grub Control (\$167/LB)
 4 WHITE BAG (50 LB BAG) Stay Green Fertilizer/ Fortifying Nutrients for Winterization (\$ 88/LB)

CALL 308 537 4412 SERVING GOTHENBURG, COZAD & SURROUNDING AREA

Division D

1st Place
 Fairbury Journal-News
 Merry Crispness
 By: Jennifer Lewis
Judge's Comments: Creative use of product, artwork and tag line. Clear message. Good use of color in coordination with logo
2nd Place
 Falls City Journal
 Simplicity
 By: Chelsie Alexander

Judge's Comments: Great use of small space. Very creative use color vs b/w and 3D vs 2D.
3rd Place
 Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
 Furever Home-Country Pet Resort
 By: Alaina Albright & Tom Jelinek
Judge's Comments: Great graphics, very creative. Fonts are fun and fits style of ad. Color scheme is simple and effective, not overdone.

Feidler Eye Clinic
 "Dedicated to Preserving the Gift of Sight."
 Jeff Klein, O.D. • Ann Feidler-Klein, O.D. • Jackson Kube, O.D.

Kindergarten Eye Exams
ONLY \$39

Recommend Children Be Examined Every Year After Age 5

Recommended times for eye exams:
 Infant ages 6-12 months
 Free, complete eye exam (InfantSEE).
 Toddlers age 3 years
 Free vision screening (See To Learn).
 Age 5 years
 Complete Kindergarten eye exam - only \$39.

We offer non-prescription and prescription eye wear.
 • Remember to wear your sunglasses with 100% UVA and 100% UVB protection when outdoors!
 • Protect eyes from digital devices with a blue light filter in the lenses.

Feidler Eye Clinic
 2900 W. Norfolk Ave., Norfolk, NE
 402-371-8535 • www.FeidlerEyeClinic.com

Division E

1st Place
 Norfolk Daily News
 Feidler Eye Clinic
 By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Great pics and graphics. Colors really pop and go well with advertisers logo and theme of ad.
2nd Place
 Norfolk Daily News
 Yankton Medical Clinic
 By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Great graphics and use of bright colors. Ad flows and draws viewer to explore content.
3rd Place
 Norfolk Daily News
 Jakes Bar
 By: Chris Saegbarth, Brenda Mather
Judge's Comments: Good color scheme that matches advertisers logo. Clean and appealing graphics.

Merry Crispness

From The Team At
Westin Packaged Meats,
 The Carlson, Poppen
 AND Schacht Families

AND FOR
52 Great Years
 In Fairbury.

Fairbury

WESTIN PACKAGED MEATS
 Subsidiary of Westin Foods

601 Bacon Rd | Fairbury, NE | westinpackagedmeats.com

Single Retail Advertising Idea - Black and White

Division A

1st Place
 Milford Times
 Seward Pro-Life Council
 By: Nichole Javorsky, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: Great use of the baby face graphic. Really grabs attention. This is truly a case of Go Big or Go Home!
 Love it
2nd Place
 Milford Times
 Christmas in July - Davison Furniture
 By: Nichole Javorsky, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: Good size ad, had some fun with the graphics and still kept the offers the focal point.
3rd Place
 Friend Sentinel
 Speedee Mart - Immediate Openings
 By: Nichole Javorsky, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: Great little ad. Good use of the thick black border and of reverse print at the top.

Pro-Life: No Other Choice

Whatever you did for the least of these, YOU DID FOR ME. -Jesus

NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE
Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023
 Event begins at 10:00 a.m.
 State Capitol • 15th & K, Lincoln, NE

Guest Speaker: Dr. John Bruchalski
 Author of "Two Patients: My Conversion from Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine"

Come support the pro-life cause and hear this man's inspiring story of his life journey following the walk at the UNL Student Union (6th & O) at 11:30 a.m.
 Entry Seward • President Seward Co. Pro-Life Council • 433 S. 2nd St. Seward, NE 68424

Division B

1st Place
 Greeley Citizen
 Dog License
 By: Angeliqye Boyer
Judge's Comments: Straightforward and clear ad with important information prominently displayed. Dog is framed by words in a way that adds visual interest without distraction.
2nd Place
 Kimball Western Nebraska Observer
 Hays Contracting Storm Ad
 By: Jim Orr
Judge's Comments: Simple but eye-catching design with a clever and meaningful tagline about being part of the community. Strong concept that prioritizes information and call-to-action over decorative graphics.
3rd Place
 Wilber Republican
 Clatonia Volunteer Fire & Rescue
 By: Hayli Frosheiser, Kaitlyn Dallmann
Judge's Comments: Simple but highly professional and clear design highlighting most important information. Could use 1-2 clarifying words about it being a sale of pork loins but otherwise well-done.

DOG LICENSES DUE MAY 1ST
CEDAR RAPIDS
MAY 1ST IS THE DEADLINE TO LICENSE DOGS. OWNER OF DOGS NOT LICENSED BY THEN WILL BE ISSUED A CITATION BY THE CITY ATTORNEY. YOU MUST BRING PROOF OF RABIES VACCINATION TO CITY HALL AT THE TIME OF LICENSING.

YOUR LOCAL **One-STOP SHOP**

Placer digital
 (402) 887-4000

Single Retail Advertising Idea - Black and White

Division C

- 1st Place**
Ord Quiz
Fish Fry
By: Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Typography and graphics convey the friendly and approachable nature of the event.
- 2nd Place**
Ord Quiz
Pancake Feed
By: Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Hierarchy is clear and copy is laid out well alongside a compelling image.
- 3rd Place**
Ord Quiz
Kindergarten Roundup
By: Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Typographic treatment is engaging and appropriate for the subject matter.

Division D

- 1st Place**
Seward County Independent
Seward Bowling Center
By: Hayli Frosheiser, Nichole Javorsky
Judge's Comments: Ad plays with form in an eye-catching way, not sticking to the standard rectangular ad shape. Information is clearly laid out in an easy to understand format.
- 2nd Place**
Aurora News-Register
We've flipped our lid
By: Karla Senff, Kurt Johnson
Judge's Comments: Cute concept. Demonstrates the client's sense of humor and the inverted type grabs the reader's attention.
- 3rd Place**
Crete News
Tobias Fun Day
By: Kaitlyn Dallmann, Hayli Frosheiser
Judge's Comments: Imagery and font choice marry well with the content of the ad.

Division E

- 1st Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Terry Rakowsky
By: Lisa McGill, Brenda Mather
Judge's Comments: Great graphics and use of b/w color scheme. Ad flows well and draws reader in.
- 2nd Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Dominos Gift Cards
By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Fun graphics. Great use of limited space.
- 3rd Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Cyndi's Fun Fit Golf
By: Vickie Hrabanek, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Good use of graphics. Love the phone number on the golf ball. Very creative

Single Classified Advertising Idea - Color (DAILIES ONLY)

Division E

- 1st Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Cornhusker Auto Group
By: Vickie Hrabanek, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Strong, vibrant ad. I like the use of yellow that draws the eye to the specials and then gives the ad an anchor at the bottom. The starbursts are jarring and don't work with the overall flow. Nice job overall.
- 2nd Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Jerry's Trailers & Campers
By: Vickie Hrabanek, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: This ad has a lot of information and is a little busy but the designer did a good job of presenting it in a way that wasn't too overwhelming. Good use of tying color elements together, IE the flowers and the corresponding border. Tell the client that less is more! Good job-
- 3rd Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Red 10 RV Sales
By: Lizz Kemling, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: I like the fall theme but the grey/metallic RVs don't really mesh with all of the fall colors. Lots of fonts and the date display seems like an inefficient use of the space.

Single Classified Advertising Idea - Black and White

Division AB

- 1st Place**
Stanton Register
Pool Help Wanted
By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Clean layout but still interesting.
- 2nd Place**
Palmer Journal
JOIN OUR TEAM
By: MICHAEL HAPP
Judge's Comments: Clean look.
- 3rd Place**
Clearwater Summerland
Advocate-Messenger
Holt County Road
Department Grading
Construction & Maintenance Operator
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Clean look.

{PROPERTIES} FOR SALE

- 108 TAYLOR STREET**
5 bed, 3 bath, lots of space \$362,900
-
- 1623 SHERMAN STREET**
3 bed, 3 bath, large shop \$399,900
-
- 921 9TH STREET**
3 bed, 1 bath, updated \$172,500
-
- 1703 W KOENIG STREET**
Grand Island
2 bed, 2 bath, finished basement and lots of updates \$242,500



BRENDA STARKEY - LISTING AGENT
(308) 750-7967
BUYING OR SELLING? GIVE ME A CALL TODAY!

Division D

- 1st Place**
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
Mach 1 Realty - Properties for Sale
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Clean, impactful design with most important info prominently placed
- 2nd Place**
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Join Our Team
By: Annelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Ad is a little bit wordy but overall hierarchy is solid and copy is understandable

Division E

- 1st Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Coldwell Banker Dover Realtors
By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Good idea. Like the feeling of a team effort in looking for home. Clean layout. Good job!
- 2nd Place**
Norfolk Daily News
ERA / Lori Oertwich
By: Vickie Hrabanek, Cheyanne Fowlkes
Judge's Comments: Nice layout. Good photography - few shadows. I like being able to see inside the home as well as outside. Lots of information in a relatively small ad. Nice work!

Creative Ad Writing

Plug into financial services at
Brunswick State Bank
 Member FDIC
for all the power you need to manage your operation.
FFA: Growing agriculture's future!



Brunswick
226 2nd St.
888-393-7945



Winnetoon
314 Main St.
402-847-3223

Division A

1st Place
 Clearwater Summerland
 Advocate-Messenger
 Plug into financial services at Brunswick State Bank
 By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Clever play on energy words "plug into financial services" and "with an image of a light bulb."
2nd Place
 Stanton Register
 Into The Future
 By: Angelique Boyer & Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: Great ad that is instantly identifiable as a play on Back to the Future.
3rd Place
 Clearwater Summerland
 Advocate-Messenger
 We've stacked the plate in your favor
 By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: A good tagline with a personal appeal along with the photo makes effective use of a small ad to draw attendees to a pancake breakfast.

Division B

1st Place
 Kimball Western Nebraska Observer
 Beer & Loathing September Fun Ad
 By: Jim Orr
Judge's Comments: Fun ad to read, verbiage in good order. Less is more with the color; the green grabbed my attention without distracting from the message.
2nd Place
 Greeley Citizen
 Howl-O-Ween
 By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Howl-O-Ween is cute, would have liked to see more creativity in the rest of the ad content. Missed an opportunity to have some fun with this one.
3rd Place
 Kimball Western Nebraska Observer
 FirstTier Bank County Fair Ad
 By: Jim Orr
Judge's Comments: We're Banking On You - This statement is nice, but not up to par against the other entrants.



BEER & LOATHING
 206 S Chestnut, Kimball

ALL KINDS OF FUN! ALL SEPTEMBER!
KARAOKE SATURDAYS!
With First Amendment Sound Productions
SEPT. 2, 16 & 30 from 7 P.M. to 1 A.M.

TWISTED TRIVIA!
Free to Play
4-6 P.M. EVERY SUNDAY
STARTING SEPT. 10
Nightly & Grand Prize Winners
\$50 FUEL GIFT CARDS
\$100 MAIN ST MARKET GIFT CARDS

Division C

1st Place
 Wisner News-Chronicle
 Karlie Cole & Dorothy Litz
 By: Creative Ad Writing
Judge's Comments: Very creative tags lines. Great coordination of graphics and message
2nd Place
 Ord Quiz
 Wanted - A Happy Birthday
 By: Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Very fun graphics and fonts. Great creativity.
3rd Place
 Ord Quiz
 Fuel up for FFA
 By: Heidi Dawe
Judge's Comments: Very memorable graphics. Creative tag line that matches message.




THERE IS A LOT TO "LOIN" ABOUT CORN

Corn helps make your steak taste great. It takes about 6 pounds of corn to raise one pound of meat. And with more than 2.23 million cattle on feed in the state, the livestock industry is the biggest customer of Nebraska corn producers. Nearly 45% of the state's corn crop is consumed by livestock. Livestock producers know that corn provides high rates of gain, lean meat, and profitable feed efficiency.

That's helping Nebraska Corn Producers "Meat" with success!

Feller & Co. 402.529.6007 Wisner	Ott Livestock Steve Ott - Adam Ott 402.750.1823 Wisner	Wisner Feedlots Gene Ott 402.529.3571 Wisner
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Congratulations!
You Snailed It!



Pest Control Services
Don Ferguson
402-245-0339

Division D

1st Place
 Falls City Journal
 Pest Control-You Snailed It
 By: Chelsie Alexander
Judge's Comments: I wanted to hate this ad but I can't stop telling my co-workers that they "snailed it". The headline's memorability is undeniable.
2nd Place
 Aurora News-Register
 Advertising works
 By: Karla Senff, Bekah Mead
Judge's Comments: Effective concept. I was compelled to read the ad all the way through.
3rd Place
 Falls City Journal
 El Camino Electric
 By: Chelsie Alexander
Judge's Comments: As a reader this ad would convince me that the owner had a sense of humor and would be pleasant doing business with.



HAPPY TAILS BOARDING

After 35 years of doing what we love best...
 We are passing the leashes, treat bowls and keys on to the Mazuch family...Mark, Tina, Jackson and Taylor.

Happy Tails Boarding will go on operating just as it has yesterday...last month and the past 12 years.
 We plan to spend some time traveling and enjoying our home, caring for our puppies Sunny and Della. Our daughter Carla says "Time to relax Mom and Dad" so we will try to do just that. We both think that will be one of the biggest challenges of all.
 We will miss seeing all the pups and their families but we know Mark and Tina will follow in our footsteps giving them the same love and affection.
 Good luck Mark and Tina...May your days go as fast as ours have and may all the puppies love you as much as we have loved them.
 Roger & Sharon Schultz

Mark and Tina begin their Happy Tails Journey April 1, 2023

We Mark and Tina Mazuch with our children Jackson and Taylor have lived next to Happy Tails for the last 7 years. Currently, Mark works at Melsinger Oil Company and plans to run the Happy Tails business as a full-time career. Tina works at Northeast Community College as Director of the Health Information Management Systems program. Jackson, a Junior at Norfolk Senior High School, is involved with football, swimming and track. Taylor, a freshman at Norfolk Senior High School, is involved with basketball and FFA. Mark and Tina both grew up with dogs in the home and know what a dog means to its family.
 Their family Golden retriever, Copper, was "employed" as a "Greeter" for Roger and Sharon in exchange for a 2nd breakfast, pig ears, tons of pats on the head, and affection. After Copper passed away in 2020, we added German Wirehaired Pointers to our family. We now have three Wirehaired Pointers, as the male and female had a litter of puppies and we kept the funniest one.
 Mark is an avid bird hunter who loves watching his dog do what they love, being out in the field bringing back the birds. He says "we have gotten to know our neighbors, Roger and Sharon, over the last 7 years. The Schultz's have a special heart for dogs, and my family looks forward to continuing their tradition of taking care of your dogs while you are away."
 While the business is geared toward dog boarding and grooming, we see opportunities for growth. All pets could be accepted - cats and dogs to fish and frogs. We grew up in Northeast Nebraska and look forward to working with the pets and families who call here home. While we welcome you and your pets to Happy Tails anytime, we especially invite our current and future customers to our open house.
 Mark & Tina Mazuch
 Jackson & Taylor

OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 3402 N 1st St, Norfolk, NE • (402) 640-9997

Division E

1st Place
 Norfolk Daily News
 Happy Tail Boarding
 By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Excellent writing, theme and story to accompany the images and overall advertisement. It was more than an advertisement; it provided an informed story.
2nd Place
 Norfolk Daily News
 Vic's Engine Service
 By: Vickie Hrabanek, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Great use of words, colors and contrast as the advertisement was clear, catchy and called for attention and laughter.
3rd Place
 Norfolk Daily News
 N.E.R.D. - Nebraska Electronics Recycling & Disposal
 By: Vickie Hrabanek, Cheyanne Fowlkes
Judge's Comments: Great use of words and graphics; advertisement was clear and catchy.

Sports Action Photo

Division A

1st Place
 Stanton Register
 Upside down
 By: Jeromy Vuable
Judge's Comments: Nice job in capturing their faces and emotions in their contorted state.
2nd Place
 Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
 Kicking up dust
 By: Mike Tabbert
Judge's Comments: Interesting use of shadows and sunlight.
3rd Place
 Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
 Be 90
 By: Mike Tabbert
Judge's Comments: Great action shot! Detail captures the mood and the action.

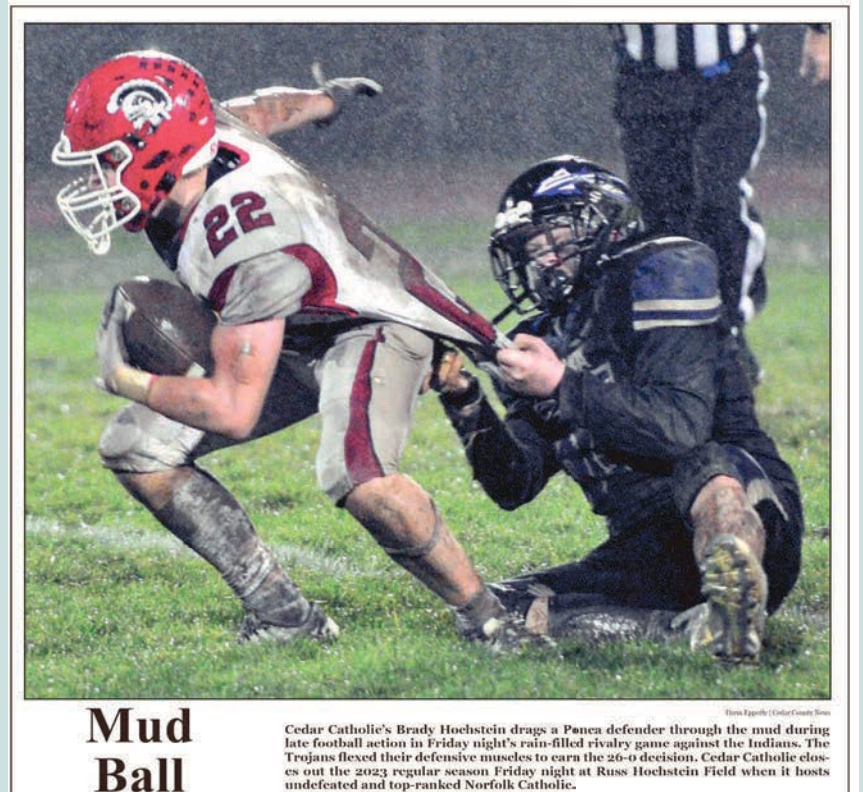


Division B

1st Place
 Wilber Republican
 Board battle
 By: Stephanie Croston
Judge's Comments: Excellent capture of the most heated moment of a rebound fight. Both faces with so much emotion somehow being in focus with all the other action in the frame is a feat. Even the framing of the spectators in the background brings meaning and impact to the image. All-around a top example of an action photo.
2nd Place
 Elgin Review
 Blake Henn - The Reach
 By: Dennis Morgan
Judge's Comments: The framing and composition of this shot effectively focus attention on the action and emotion. The uncertain hopefulness on the receiver's face and the frustration on the defender's face make the photo more impactful.
3rd Place
 Pender Times
 Crippen pin
 By: Jason Sturek
Judge's Comments: Great framing and movement in this shot that effectively highlights the effort and energy involved in the moment.

Division C

1st Place
 Hartington Cedar County News
 Sports action photo - Mud Ball
 By: Darin Epperly
Judge's Comments: Great shot! Isolates action on a muddy field. Sharp focus. Stopped action.
2nd Place
 Hartington Cedar County News
 Sports action photo- HNS mid air FB
 By: Darin Epperly
Judge's Comments: Tightly cropped action shot. Captures unique action. Well played!
3rd Place
 Hartington Cedar County News
 Sports Action photo - going over the hurdles
 By: Jeremy Buss
Judge's Comments: Picture makes you stop and try to figure out how the photographer took the photo. Unique angle. Good stop action.



Sports Action Photo



Division D

1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Header
By: Richard Rhoden
Judge's Comments: In a contest full of exceptional photos this one stood out.

2nd Place
Crete News
Laying it in on the big stage
By: Keaton Burgess
Judge's Comments: I love everything about this photo.

3rd Place
Kearney Hub
Londyn Carnes rebound
By: Larry Sullivan
Judge's Comments: The expressions on these faces make this photo a winner.



BY NORFOLK CORRESPONDENT
CALVIN EMPKEY of Norfolk High celebrates after his semifinal pin of Columbus' Mason Petersen on Friday night at the state wrestling tournament in Omaha. Out of the four Panthers who made the semifinals, Empkey and fellow senior Jackson Bos made the finals.

Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Two make finals for Norfolk High
By: Pat Morland
Judge's Comments: Amazing capture of emotion and intensity. Really showcases the meaning of this win to this athlete.

2nd Place
Grand Island Independent
Avelino-Reyes defeats Oregon in main event
By: Josh Salmon
Judge's Comments: An all around great shot. The timing was perfect.

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Northeast women headed to nationals
By: Dennis Meyer
Judge's Comments: A heartbreaking and exciting photo all in one. You can feel the mixed emotions on the field that day.

Sports Feature Photo

Division A

1st Place
Stanton Register
Stanton Champion Celebration
By: Jeremy Vauble
Judge's Comments: The pure jubilation expressed in this photo tells most of the story. Also, anytime a photographer can capture even a snippet of the water jug dump, then he or she has themselves a real photo.

2nd Place
Clearwater Summerland
Advocate-Messenger
Celebrate good times
By: Mike Tabbert
Judge's Comments: This is one of those all-encompassing

photos that tells readers most of what they need to know. They may not glean specifics from the photo, but they will know that the team accomplished something that made it very happy.

3rd Place
Clearwater Summerland
Advocate-Messenger
Flipping the field •
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: This photo speaks for itself. It placed third only because it is a bit blurry, which is understandable considering the circumstances.



BY PHOTOS AT NORTHBENDEAGLE.ZENFOLLO.COM
NATHAN ARNEAL, EAGLE

Division B

1st Place
North Bend Eagle
"Everything on the line"
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: Gorgeous shot with solid composition. Truly embodies the idea of the feature photo category; tells the story outside of game action but is still extremely attention-grabbing.

2nd Place
Elgin Review
Wolfpack Volleyball Celebrating
By: Dennis Morgan
Judge's Comments: Excellent framing and composition helps highlight the large

amount of emotion and energy on display, even in the spectators. Great movement that focuses the eye on the main action without taking away from everything else there is to look at.

3rd Place
Pender Times
C2 Champs!
By: Jason Sturek
Judge's Comments: Great celebration shot with good visibility of faces and reactions, as well as movement. An excellent capture of energy and excitement!



HEAD COACH DAVID STOKER IS DRENCHED IN WATER WHILE HIS PLAYERS AND COACHES CELEBRATE STANTON'S FIRST STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN SCHOOL HISTORY. THE MUSTANGS DEFEATED CENTER (41) 27-10. MONDAY AFTERNOON TO WIN THE CLASS DII STATE TITLE. IN THE ABOVE PHOTO, JACOB JACOBSON HELDS ON THE FOOTBALL AFTER A FULL-COURT TOUCHDOWN.

Division D

1st Place
Crete News
Flex on them
By: Keaton Burgess
Judge's Comments: Great shot with much expression and vitality that shows through the lens.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Reflections
By: Jenny Higgins
Judge's Comments: Seeing the action through the lenses of glasses is great way to pull focus in for reader.

3rd Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
50-yard-line Seniors
By: Grant Egger
Judge's Comments: I really don't like posed photos, but, this one make me take an extra look. It pulls focus into each player and set a stage for the story. Great job.



KEATON BURGESS

Division C

1st Place
Imperial Republican
Practice makes perfect
By: Diane Stamm
Judge's Comments: Excellent, excellent shot. Using the sun to silhouette the athlete in such a fast-moving sport is a great, but not widely-used choice.

2nd Place
Imperial Republican
Under the bright lights
By: Diane Stamm
Judge's Comments: The photographer did a great job of capturing the anticipation of the wrestler for his next match. Awesome job of doing the most with poor lighting.

3rd Place
Lexington Clipper-Herald
CHAMPIONS
By: Jessica Kennedy
Judge's Comments: Excellent job of capturing the excitement of the moment. Celebration shots are frequent but this one does it well.



Practice makes perfect

The Chase County track teams, including senior pole vaulter Carter Leibbrandt, continue to prepare for their first meet of the season Thursday at Perkins County. Events will begin at 3:30 p.m. in Grant.



GRACIE SMITH, THE INDEPENDENT

Grand Island Central Catholic's Carolyn Maser (11) and Madison Schneider (20) hug after their the loss against Minden.

Division E

1st Place
Grand Island Independent
The agony of defeat for GICC
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: A great moment that made this photo rise to first place.

2nd Place
Grand Island Independent
Game-winning field goal for Iowa
By: Josh Salmon
Judge's Comments: A great reactionary win frame.

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Golf Fans
By: Laura Beahm
Judge's Comments: A lot of the time we forget about what is going on outside of the sports action. We thought the photographer did a great job seeing all around during this golf putt.



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WHITE WOLF
WEB & DIGITAL PRINTERS

WE DELIVER

PRINTING NEWSPAPERS OF ALL SIZES IN NEBRASKA AND IOWA



Sports Page

Division A

1st Place
Stanton Register
Stanton Sports
By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: These pages demand to be read. The design and layout are bold, and despite a few visual conflicts, they grab a reader's attention. Good photos-- both of action and emotion -- contribute to that. Also like the use of cutouts. Lively writing with stories that are more than a dry game recap and where the athletes get to talk, not just coaches.

2nd Place
Stromsburg Polk County News
PCN Sports pages
By: Beth Sparrow & Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: Like

that the entry shows some diversity beyond game/meet stories. The "Good Luck" pages use the sponsorship format well to also provide useful, at-a-glance information. And doing a separate "look ahead" story on a team, instead of just a few grafs in a season-ending story, was refreshing.

3rd Place

Milford Times
By: staff

Judge's Comments: Solid effort. One small but important thing is that the photo captions don't repeat what we can see in the photo or they add useful information or context.



Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Sports Pages
By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: Not only is the design interesting and well-done, the writing is great. It brings readers who might not even care or like sports into the story with personal anecdotes and a clear explanation of what's really at stake for these athletes.

2nd Place
Pender Times
Pender Times Sports 2023
By: Jason Sturek

Judge's Comments: Great visuals on the special section. This sports team balances hometown feel with impressive writing and impactful photos.

3rd Place
North Bend Eagle
Eagle sports pages
By: Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: The use of design and visuals made these sports sections really strong. Unique without overdoing it.



CEDAR COUNTY SPORTS

Division C

1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Sports Pg March 8 March 8 May 3 Oct 4
By: Staff

Judge's Comments: Excellent coverage of prep sports teams within the publication's coverage area. The design of the page is solid, and the accompanying photography is captivating. The written coverage is thorough and well presented.

2nd Place
West Point News
WPN Sports Pages
By: Mike O'Brien, Blair Design Team

Judge's Comments: Functional page layout and excellent photography which catches the readers' attention. Catchy headline that easily catches the attention of readers and the written coverage is informational and well written. Overall excellent layout.

3rd Place
Cambridge Valley Voice
Valley Voice Sports
By: Staff

Judge's Comments: Vibrant, colorful layout catches the eye quickly. Well-placed photography and an easy-to-follow page flow.



Division D

1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
P-H Sports Page
By: MICHAEL HAPP

Judge's Comments: Clean and minimalist but engaging standard page design with variety of coverage. Updated style is big improvement. Writer does a good job of finding interesting storylines rather than straight stat-based gamers.

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Sports pages
By: Richard Rhoden

Judge's Comments: Solid technical execution of page elements, paired with a variety of in-depth and captivating coverage. Great mix of gamers and profiles, with both types of content benefiting from obvious care and attention by reporters.

3rd Place
Blair Washington Co. Enterprise
Washington County Enterprise Sports pages
By: Xaviere Pavlik

Judge's Comments: Great balance of eye-catching and impactful design and clear, straightforward information. Good selection and use of photography to complement design elements. Writing is solid mix of conversational tone and personality without overshadowing information.



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- ✓ AND MORE!



Call us today to get started and see how much you can save.

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Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News best sports page
By: Jay Prauner

Judge's Comments: The winner in a very strong group of entries. Strong local focus, solid writing and excellent use of art made this the winner.

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Telegraph sports page

By: Andrew Bottrell; Jake Dreilinger
Judge's Comments: Lots of local focus, good writing, nice headlines and use of art. Just solid all the way around.

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Tribune sports page combo
By: Staff

Judge's Comments: The focus on local sports was especially strong and the writing was really well done.



Sports Column

Division A

Big changes set for state softball tourney

Celebratory post-match backflips are now penalized at the NSAAS State Wrestling Championships...



The Arlington Eagles arrive at the Bill Smith Softball Complex in Hastings for a 2019 state tournament appearance...

They came through the winners or losers bracket. The double-elimination Hastings portion of the weekend...

1st Place

Arlington Citizen
Zam Driver Turned Writer

Judge's Comments: Unusual topics of local interest - well-written and entertaining!

2nd Place

Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Isms: Creighton Basketball; Isms: Hamlin NFL

Judge's Comments: Strong writing.

3rd Place

Hayes Center Times-Republican
From The Dugout

By: Kyle Cox

Judge's Comments: Great column for diehard baseball fans!

The Chair

by Mark Jackson

Greeting the faithful



Something like that hasn't happened here in a long time, if ever. New University of Nebraska football coach Matt Ruhle was in town Thursday night as the guest speaker at a benefit dinner for the local food pantry...

Division B

Athletes, strings will be missed

1st Place

North Bend Eagle
Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: Brilliant writing! The thoughts are well-articulated, convey the emotion of the subject, and as a reader, I could see myself there and witnessing what the writer was saying...

I've been coaching junior high track for a few years now in 2019 we had an eighth grader who threw the shot and discus...



Nathan Arneal is a sports writer for the Lincoln Journal Star and a former athlete.

During the Nebraska softball game last November at Casey Thompson was going back on the Hankley defense...

2nd Place

Elgin Review
Promise Land

Judge's Comments: Very nice editorial that encapsulates the emotions of being so close to reaching your ultimate goal but falling just short. Well-written and concise thoughts and the writer encapsulates the message and information well.

descriptive language is needed, but this is a functional and informative editorial which imparts to the reader pertinent information about the teams for which the writer has experience covering. It is well-written, and readers were no

3rd Place

Elgin Review
The Beat Keeps Going

By: Dennis Morgan

Judge's Comments: Perhaps a bit more

Division C

1st Place

Tekamah Beat Co. Plaindealer

The Chair

By: Mark Jackson

Judge's Comments: Jenkins takes you behind the scenes at the state wrestling tournament, where athletes deal with the agony of defeat. He points out that through sports, athletes learn important life lessons.

There may be magic, but not a curse

- It's been so long since Nebraska has enjoyed success on the football field that some may think the program is cursed. The writer points out that practice, practice, practice makes the difference between winning and losing.

3rd Place

Broken Bow Custer Co.Chief
Bigger than the game, Jan. 5, 2023;

Ready for the Super Bowl, Feb. 2, 2023

By: Mona Weatherly

Judge's Comments: Bigger than the game - Some things are bigger than football - especially when a star player's life is in the balance. The writer commends ESPN's commentators for their honesty as they covered the Demar Hamlin situation.

2nd Place

Will Nebraska Ruhl? Aug. 31, 2023;

There may be magic but not a curse, Sept. 7, 2023

By: Mona Weatherly

Judge's Comments: Will Nebraska Ruhl? - Writer expresses most Cornhusker fans' hopes for Nebraska football under a new head coach. She starts off with talking about the popularity of Nebraska volleyball and uses the stadium to transition to football.

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

It's fun to follow a winner, isn't it? And we've been having a lot of fun in North Bend lately. Four straight state championships...



Nathan Arneal is a sports writer for the Lincoln Journal Star.

None of these championships were inevitable. In some of these three-state games was NBC the top seed. This year they were. But honestly, I don't know if I would have won if I didn't know if NBC would have the depth, size or athleticism to do what it did...

The BigRich Sports Report

Each time out felt like another Rocky sequel. The expectation was always for the pride of Philadelphia to win. Not to mention a brutal slugfest that goes the distance...



Richard Rhoden

Division D

1st Place

Aurora News-Register

BigRich Report

By: Richard Rhoden

Judge's Comments: The best in a group of entries where the columnists understand the real stories are the human ones, not the numbers ... relationships and memories. I liked the Rocky analogy.

2nd Place

Bloomfield Knox Co. News Monitor

What Coaching Is Really About

By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: Told interesting stories about a coach who wasn't likely his school's first choice and a track meet where the unexpected was the norm.

3rd Place

Blair Washington Co. Enterprise

Zam Driver Turned Writer

By: Grant Egger

Judge's Comments: Once again, the stories aren't about the scores but about life.

SCHULTZ: A Wisconsin transplant in awe at the Nebraska state volleyball tournament

Ben Schultz

That's exactly what Jack Allen's senior wrestling season was like, ending with a crowning achievement. Could anyone else hear the theme music Saturday night? Allen, the pride of Aurora, won Class B's heavyweight crown in the nightcap of Saturday's NSAA state wrestling championships from the CHI Health Center in Omaha...



LINCOLN — When I walked in the back hallways of Pinnacle Bank Arena during the state volleyball tournament for the first time on Wednesday I felt like I was screening fans, the refs' whistles and the PA guy. It was my first time in Lincoln and first time at the arena...

Division E

1st Place

Grand Island

SCHULTZ: A Wisconsin transplant in awe at the Nebraska state volleyball tournament

By: Ben Schultz

Judge's Comments: This is an excellent column. It gives a clear look at the story the writer is telling and the imagery he uses to describe what he is watching brings the reader in and keeps their attention.

2nd Place

Hastings Tribune

Climb back to top a long time coming, a breath of relief

By: Will Reynolds

Judge's Comments: Very well written and a terrific read about a program who has worked hard to earn their place among the best teams in Nebraska. It is attention-getting with its words and imagery.

3rd Place

Hastings Tribune

It's Volleyball Day

By: Will Reynolds

Judge's Comments: Excellent read about an amazing event that promotes volleyball in the state of Nebraska. It is informative, engaging, and well-written.

Sports Feature Writing

Division A

1st Place

Stanton Register

Late Coach Park Of Mustang Football Team

By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: This is a great story - heartwarming and a little heart-wrenching. Still, the reader is left feeling good. Congratulations!

2nd Place

Springview Herald

Making the transition from wrestler to referee

By: Amy Johnson

Judge's Comments: Heartwarming story. This article is well written and engaging. I felt like I got to know this young man through your words. Thank you!

3rd Place

Milford Times

Eagle senior flies in gym

By: Stephanie Croston

Judge's Comments: Solid story. It is well written and interesting. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

'HE IS PART OF OUR TEAM' Brechbill called season's first play before he died. It was the first play of the football season. Brechbill called it a great day for the team. He was a great player and a great leader. He was a great person and a great coach. He was a great man and a great friend. He was a great role model and a great inspiration. He was a great example and a great teacher. He was a great mentor and a great guide. He was a great father and a great grandfather. He was a great uncle and a great cousin. He was a great friend and a great neighbor. He was a great community member and a great citizen. He was a great American and a great Nebraskan. He was a great person and a great man. He was a great leader and a great coach. He was a great role model and a great inspiration. He was a great example and a great teacher. He was a great mentor and a great guide. He was a great father and a great grandfather. He was a great uncle and a great cousin. He was a great friend and a great neighbor. He was a great community member and a great citizen. He was a great American and a great Nebraskan. He was a great person and a great man. He was a great leader and a great coach. He was a great role model and a great inspiration. He was a great example and a great teacher. He was a great mentor and a great guide. He was a great father and a great grandfather. He was a great uncle and a great cousin. He was a great friend and a great neighbor. He was a great community member and a great citizen. He was a great American and a great Nebraskan.

Division B

1st Place

Humphrey Democrat

Allison Weidner never quits

By: Patrick Murphy

Judge's Comments: College basketball player returns to her roots to help younger players. She shares her memories of what it was like as a child on the same court as well as what it's been like for her to suffer a knee injury and go through rehab. Great quotes from Allison

feature about an older brother coaching his younger brothers. Older brother explains how he got involved in pole vaulting and how he uses his experience to help his siblings. Use of first names helps avoid confusion.

2nd Place

Wilber Republican

Bar set high? No problem for brothers

By: Stephanie Croston

Judge's Comments: Nice

feature about an older brother coaching his younger brothers. Older brother explains how he got involved in pole vaulting and how he uses his experience to help his siblings. Use of first names helps avoid confusion.

3rd Place

North Bend Eagle

Reduced participation

By: Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: Good story. Led off with the problem, talked about the possible causes for the reduced participation and gave some possible solutions. Good quotes from coaches.



Allison Weidner was back on St. Francis court helping with summer basketball camp as she works to get back on the Huskers

Hometown hero

Allison Weidner was back on St. Francis court helping with summer basketball camp as she works to get back on the Huskers

By: Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: Good story. Led off with the problem, talked about the possible causes for the reduced participation and gave some possible solutions. Good quotes from coaches.

Judge's Comments: Excellent read about an amazing event that promotes volleyball in the state of Nebraska. It is informative, engaging, and well-written.

Sports Feature Writing



Wayne State's top-ranked volleyball team leads NCAA Div. II with a .524 hitting percentage thanks to their own version of the fabled Murderer's Row hitting unit of the 1927 New York Yankees. The Wildcats' net attack includes (from left) freshman Chammye Robles, junior Maggie Bradner and Taysa Heller and senior Kelsie Cuda.

Murderers' Row in 21st century

Wayne State's NSIC assault led by hitting foursome
By MICHAEL CARNES
For The Herald
About a century ago, the New York Yankees had a hitting lineup that was so dominant, they were dubbed "Murderer's Row."
That 1927 lineup included legends like Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig and won through the American League (they just missed 11 games and were swept by the Boston Braves in the World Series).
The Wayne State volleyball team seems to have developed a 21st century version of "Murderer's Row." Five starters appear through the Northern States Inter-

Division C

1st Place
Wayne Herald
Murderer's Row in 21st Century
By: Michael Carnes
Judge's Comments: Well-written, creative article. I loved how the writer tied in the Murderer's Row baseball analogy to a group of heavy hitters in college volleyball.
2nd Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Sports Feature Story - Sibling rivalries
By: Mike Renning

Judge's Comments: I really enjoyed how the writer connected the siblings rooting interests together into a unique idea for a sports feature.
3rd Place
South Sioux City Dakota Co. Star
Let's Go Racin'
By: Michael Carnes
Judge's Comments: A good article about a family's bond over racing weekends and how this hobby is being passed down between generations.

Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
From paralyzed to state champion
By: Jenny Higgins
Judge's Comments: Compelling story. Well done!
2nd Place
Kearney Hub
UNK grad Kosmicki makes championship call for Denver Nuggets

By: Justin Slepicka
Judge's Comments: Great topic. Strong story.
3rd Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
7-year-old motocross standout
By: Grant Egger
Judge's Comments: A fun read with lots of adorable details about this young competitor.

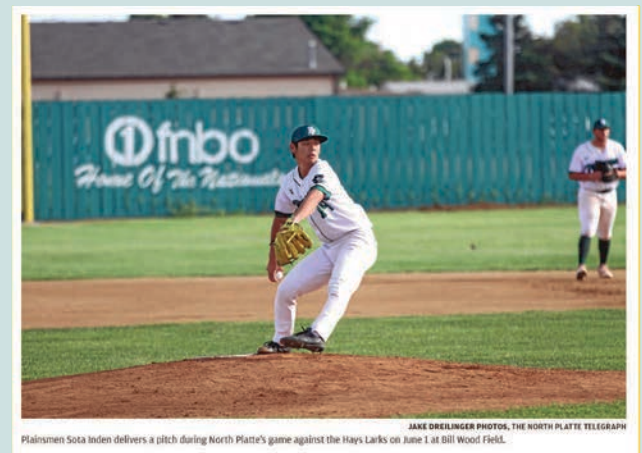


State Champions

Neligh-Oakdale winners win titles
Kuester claims second gold medal
Drueke goes from paralyzed to champ
By JAKE DREILINGER
The Neligh-Oakdale wrestling team won the Class D state championship on Saturday night.
Kuester claims second gold medal...
Drueke goes from paralyzed to champ...

Division E

1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
Learning a different style of baseball
By: Jake Dreilinger
Judge's Comments: Interesting topic well told and excellently reported.
2nd Place
York News-Times
Cotton, Vernon, Turner's trails blaze a path to state wrestling
By: Christian Horn
Judge's Comments: Really nice job getting good content and quotes from the athletes.
3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Cook goes cowboy in Central City
By: Will Reynolds
Judge's Comments: The reporter had me when he told me where the boots were bought. Great detail.



Four Japanese players join the NP Plainsmen

Learning a different style of baseball

Plainsmen players Sofia Inden and Hideoyu Kawamura learn all about the Buffalo Bill Rockies from their host families.
Plainsmen coach Jared Jones, who coached all four players for the effort they put in.
Inden and Kawamura are two of four Japanese players on the Plainsmen this season, and where they're from, they're not just players, they're students.
Inden and Kawamura are two of four Japanese players on the Plainsmen this season, and where they're from, they're not just players, they're students.

Sports Game Coverage

Division B

1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Flirting with perfection
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: A well-written fun story that does a great job of building suspense right up to the disappointing end of a near perfect game.
2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
FOUR!
By: Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: A nice game story that is bolstered by solid play-by-play details and good use of quotes.
3rd Place
Greeley Citizen
No Shoe? No Problem!
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: This is a good job of going beyond the outcome or box score to find something interesting to build a story around.

Donahey Brings Home the Gold



PALMER freshman Marlea Donahey tied her personal best in the high jump to win a gold medal at the NSAA State Track and Field Championships in Omaha on Saturday. Donahey's victory is the first for Palmer at the meet since 2018. (Michael Hays)

Just weeks after trying the Palmer High School high jump record, freshman Marlea Donahey was crowned the Class D State Champion in the event, becoming the Tigers' first champion since Haden Jensen won double-gold in 2010.
"I was extra nervous because it's state, but I was excited," Donahey said. "That's usually how it is at every track meet for me. I was extra nervous because it's state, but I was excited."
Donahey cleared the opening height of 4-08, her nervousness started to wear off. She would go on to clear the first three heights without falter, leaving just the Tiger and Zengh boost of Loomis as the only jumpers left standing when the bar was raised just 5-00.
Donahey missed her first two attempts at 5-00, but refocused and was successful on her final jump.
"I felt it was a good jump once I got my shoulders over it," Donahey said. "That's when I know I can get over it."
See - DONAHEY - page 3

Division A

1st Place
Palmer Journal
Donahey Brings Home the Gold
By: Jordan Coslor
Judge's Comments: What a good sports story should be. Lets readers get to know the athlete through her own quotes, not through some coach's. Provides the event basics but also good color.

Judge's Comments: Really good consolidating an entire track meet into a strong, readable story.
3rd Place
Tekamah Burr Co. Plaindealer
Tigers pick their spots
By: Mark Jackson
Judge's Comments: Good play-by-play account and nice job of keeping an account of an 8-6 football game entertaining.

Bowling: Howells-Dodge Invitational

Cosgrove flirts with perfection

The North Bend Central bowling team partook in their first tournament Saturday in the Howells-Dodge Invite in Norfolk.
While both teams finished in the top four, it was a historic performance by senior Alex Cosgrove that had everyone talking.
In the first game of the day, bowling in the Tigers' No. 1 slot against Howells-Dodge, Cosgrove opened with five strikes in a row. Then the streak grew to seven strikes, the farthest he's ever gone into a game without missing a pin.
"I was definitely on autopilot after those first five or so," Cosgrove said. "They just kept going in and it felt amazing."
People started noticing and watching. Cosgrove began to take walks between his throws to keep his nerves calm.
Nine frames, nine strikes.
By this time, pretty much the whole bowling alley was watching Cosgrove chase perfection.
His first throw of the tenth frame was on the money. Ten in a row.
His second throw of the tenth he pulled a little bit. It missed the headpin, but a ricocheted pin came out and knocked it down. Eleven in a row.



Cosgrove

Division C



Members of the Wayne American Legion Post 43 Seniors double on the pitcher's mound after finishing a 15-0 win over Battle Creek to claim the Class B Area 4 title Tuesday night in Columbus. The win sends them to the Class B state tournament that begins Saturday in Pierce.

SCORING EXPLOSION

Wayne Seniors' bats explode, land them in state tournament
By MICHAEL CARNES
The Wayne American Legion Post 43 Seniors exploded for 15 runs, 15 hits and 15 errors in a 15-0 victory over Battle Creek Tuesday night in Columbus. The win sends them to the Class B state tournament that begins Saturday in Pierce.
The Wayne American Legion Post 43 Seniors exploded for 15 runs, 15 hits and 15 errors in a 15-0 victory over Battle Creek Tuesday night in Columbus. The win sends them to the Class B state tournament that begins Saturday in Pierce.

1st Place
Wayne Herald
Scoring Explosion
By: Michael Carnes
Judge's Comments: Killer lede, excellent use of quotes and very descriptive play-by-play accounts. Just an awesome story from start to finish.
2nd Place
Imperial Republican
CCS boys cap season with historic team win

By: Diane Stamm
Judge's Comments: Really good and strong work on consolidating an entire track meet into a strong, readable story.
3rd Place
Tekamah Burr Co. Plaindealer
Tigers pick their spots
By: Mark Jackson
Judge's Comments: Good play-by-play account and nice job of keeping an account of an 8-6 football game entertaining.

Debuts, KOs reign supreme

Palmer's Robert Potts makes his fight debut for his fight against Denver's Elton Bickett during Midwest Championship Fighting's Andy's Day Backdown on Saturday at the MidN Event Center in North Platte. Potts won by stoppage. Go to fighting.com for more on Monday's edition, for the full story.
JAKE DREILINGER
THE HORNETT/TELEGRAPH
Vigil wins in 12 seconds at MCF's St. Paddy's Day Backdown
The cheers for Marcus Vigil as he walked to the octagon were loudly heard.
But when Vigil knocked out opponent Sheldon Long of Ogallala in just 12 seconds, the crowd at the MidN Event Center was the loudest it had been all night.
"Vigil is his MMA debut. Midwest Championship Fighting's St. Paddy's Day Backdown on Saturday, got his first win in the most exciting way possible. He knocked out his opponent in a head position. They can recover. I'm proud of that. I'll tell you, I don't know a soul who can't."
"I did exactly what I came here to do."
Vigil opened up about his troubled past to the Telegraph earlier in the week, and the folks about how much this fight meant to him.
"I was interviewed after the fight. In front of the crowd, where he struck a single punch second."
"It means everything because it means the world to me," Vigil said. "I'm sorry, everybody knows my pain, and all I can say is I won't change it for anyone. I got me right here."
Other local fighters entered the octagon on Saturday, and a few made their MMA debuts as well.

Division E

1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
Debuts, KOs reign supreme
By: Jake Dreilinger
Judge's Comments: Really well done piece. Stands out because of the vulnerability of the subject.
2nd Place
York News-Times
Schademann earns career win No. 200, back-to-back state titles

By: Christian Horn
Judge's Comments: Nice job by the reporter with the callback to the athlete's comment after last year's tournament.
3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Arens refuses to lose
By: Dale Miller
Judge's Comments: Perhaps the best job of capturing the tension of the final moments.

KAY'S HALF-COURT HEAVE SENDS BEARS TO DISTRICT FINALS



PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER
PILOT-TRIBUNE
The Blair Bears, the cheer squad and the student section storm the quarter after an improbable overtime victory Thursday night at Bennington High School. Senior Greyson Kay, front middle, hit a half-court shot to win the Class B Sub-district 5 game, 63-62.

Division D

1st Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
Half-court heave
By: Grant Egger
Judge's Comments: This story is worthy of first place recognition. It describes a classic game in vivid detail and conveys the emotion felt by the players and fans with colorful and descriptive language. The story features and excellent and captivating lede that makes you want to continue reading until the end. Well done!
2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
First State Tournament
By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: I thoroughly enjoyed this game story. The emotion felt by the communities that celebrated this historic victory can also be felt by the reader. The writer did a wonderful job describing the action and the aftermath of an emotional victory.
3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Bulls and a cloud of dust
By: Richard Rhoden
Judge's Comments: Terrific game story with great descriptive language and imagery. It paints a vivid picture of the game and its star player.

Photo Page

Division A

1st Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Clearwater's 56th annual Rodeo
By: LuAnn Schindler, Mike Tabbert, Faith King
Judge's Comments: Light triangle perfect.
Not overprocessed pictures
Great demo of understanding when to use shutter speeds and capturing moments that make you feel you are there...great job
2nd Place
Elm Creek Beacon-Observer
FKC Takes Over Lincoln
By: Jordan Coslor

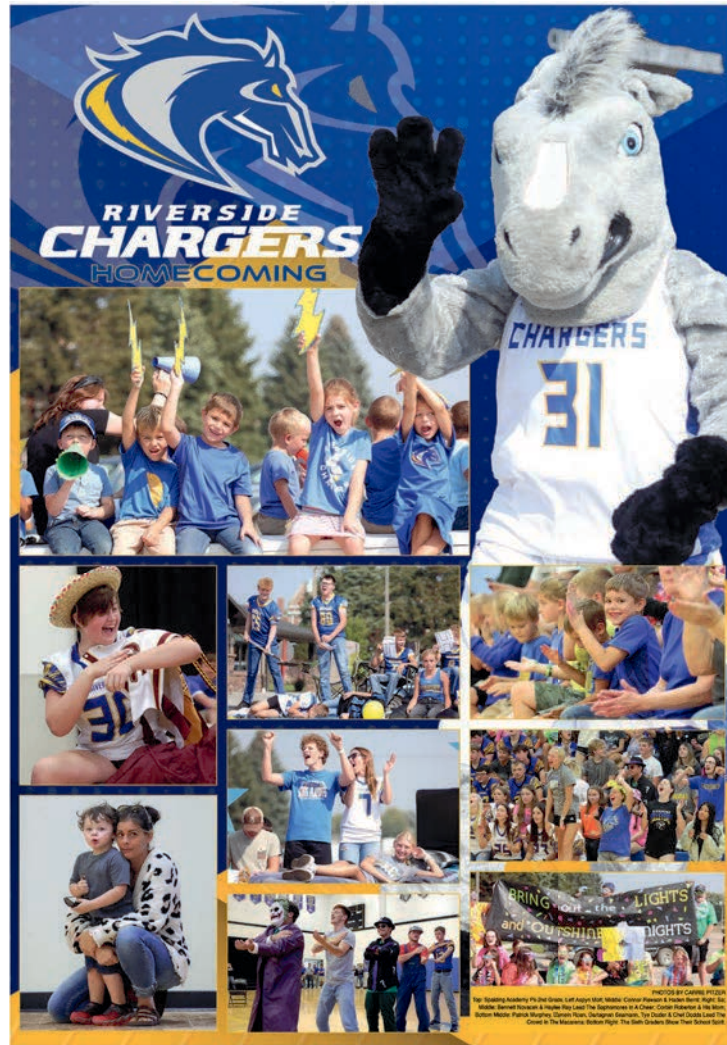
Judge's Comments: Nice portrait shots, crisp clear images, on point focus with each picture, great colors, not overprocessed and capturing images in the moment...
3rd Place
Stanton Register
Fourth of July
By: Angelique Boyer & Jeromy Vauble
Judge's Comments: Each picture on that page is a legit "moment in action" evoking emotion to anyone looking at these. Great focus and rule of thirds used on these images.



Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Charger Homecoming
By: Carrie Pitzer & Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Dramatic use of a cut-out photo and the Chargers logo makes this page stand out. Well done.
2nd Place
Wilber Republican
Ghosts, Petting Zoo, Pool/ Time Capsule, Western, Czech Days, Trick or Treat
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Although the

designer in some cases had to work around ads, they still made the most of the space available. Especially like the page on the senior class play.
3rd Place
Greeley Citizen
Greeley Days
By: Carrie Pitzer & Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Nice use of one dominating photo to tie the rest of the page together. Photographers and designers had to work together to make this happen!



Dog Day at the Bay a splashing success for Papio pooches



Dozens of dogs and their owners have some fun in the sun during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19. The pool closed for the season on Aug. 6, but Papio Bay opened its gates once more to let pups of all ages and sizes in for some fun in the water.

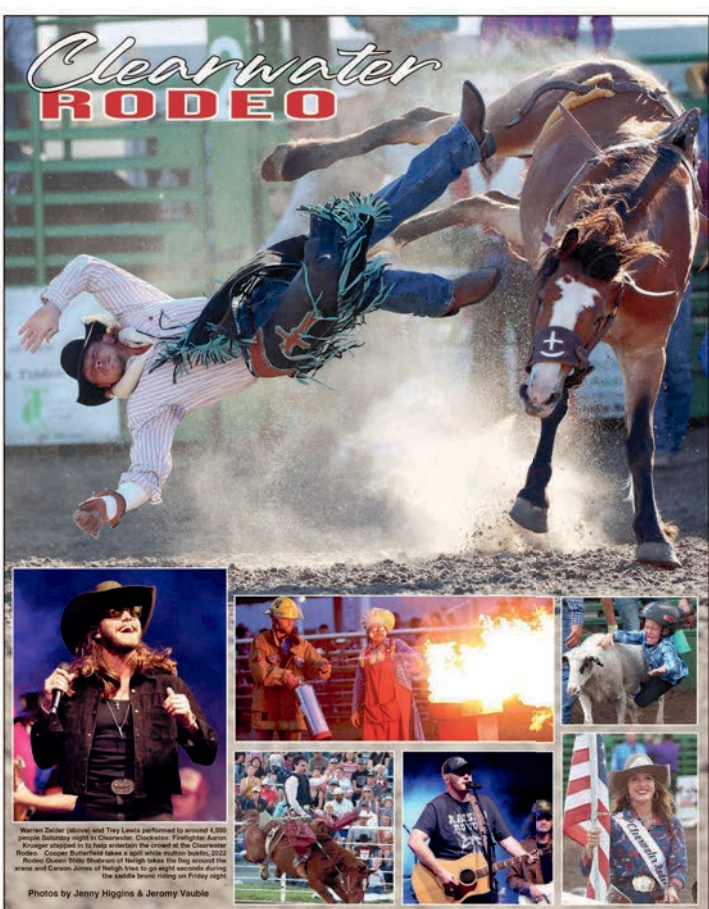


Lucy, a Labrador owned by Dave Blazich, wags into the water while chasing down a thrown pool toy during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19.
From left, Jessica Carlen of Seneca, Brandon Kivussek of Council Bluffs and Gerhardt's nephews, Miles Mandorich, 18, walk Dog Day and Cooper through the kiddie pool area during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19.
Dana Rowland of Omaha, right, settles on her dog, Alvin, 10, top a float toy to the edge of the pool during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19. The pool closed for the season on Aug. 6, but Papio Bay opened its gates once more to let pups of all ages and sizes in for some fun in the water.
Lynn Davison of Bellevue sits outside with her dog, Rocket, during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19. The pool closed for the season on Aug. 6, but Papio Bay opened its gates once more to let pups of all ages and sizes in for some fun in the water.
Tanner, owner of Drisha Bull's terrier dog, Apple, as he meets a new friend in the pool during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19.
Two pups chase down a tennis ball in the pool during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19.
Clever the dog, owned by Denise Tichie, runs through a water slide in the kiddie pool area during the annual Dog Day at the Bay at Papio Bay Aquatic Center in Papillion on Saturday, Aug. 19.
QR VIEW: For video, photos and more content of the event, click the QR code, then tap the link: www.fox4.com/news/2024/08/19/dog-day-at-the-bay-papio-bay-aquatic-center/

Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Clearwater Rodeo
By: Jenny Higgins, Jeromy Vauble & Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: The lede image in this package was the strongest image in the collection of entries. There was a variety in the images that I felt covered the entire event. The images were technically well executed.
2nd Place
Bloomfield Knox Co. News Monitor
Quad County Success
By: Staff

Judge's Comments: The photos were really strong in this whole package. Well toned, cropped and included a variety of moments.
3rd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
No Shortage of Fun at GCA Days
By: MICHAEL HAPP
Judge's Comments: I really enjoyed the lede image in the package and felt there were some strong secondary and third images on the page. The images were unique moments that told the story of the day.



WE ARE AC
HASTINGS TRIBUNE
Monday, March 8, 2022



Adams Central head coach Evan Smith draws up a play during the Class C-1 semifinal game against Bridgport at the state tournament Friday in Lincoln.



Adams Central's Grace Weichman reacts to defeating Bridgport in the Class C-1 semifinal game during the state tournament Friday in Lincoln.
Adams Central's Leayn Scott looks past Guttenberg defender Kylee Strasser in the first round of the Class C-1 state tournament Wednesday in Lincoln.

Division C

1st Place
Sarpy County Times
Dog Day at Papio Bay
By: Joe Shearer
Judge's Comments: Wonderful variety of photos from an unusual event.
2nd Place
Imperial Republican
Imperial celebrates Fourth with bull riding
By: Diane Stamm

Judge's Comments: Nice images, not just bull riding, but other good moments which helped it rise
3rd Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Photo page Fairtastic Fair
By: Jeremy Buss
Judge's Comments: Good variety of images told the story

Division E

1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Girls State Basketball photo page
By: Laura Beahm
Judge's Comments: I like the variety of images to show the community stated in the headline, images you might not see during the action of the game.
2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Chicago
By: Dennis Meyer and Jerry Guenther
Judge's Comments: Effective use of headlines, text, images and graphics. Nicely done page.
3rd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Nebraskaland Days on Parade photos
By: Todd von Kampen
Judge's Comments: The combination of photos and captions made me file like I was at the parade!

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Feature Photography



Division A

1st Place
Clearwater Summerland
Advocate-Messenger
Brand new
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Mike Tabbert's photo captures an intense, exciting moment during a bareback riding contest. The image is riveting to see and shows the determination of Chase YellowHawk.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
41 Years Sober
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: This image by Carrie Pitzer captures the

absolute details that matter. Jim Dixon's rough, wrinkled hand gripping a coin that he has rubbed smooth over the decades he has spent fighting to stay sober. Truly special.

3rd Place
Randolph Times
Feature Photo - Dance studio
By: Darin Epperly
Judge's Comments: Darin Epperly captured an interestingly choreographed moment in the Studio 103 dessert concert. The dance action freezes in an unexpected place to help draw in readers' attention.

Division B

1st Place
Kimball Western Nebraska Observer
King Of The Road Photo
By: Daria Anderson-Faden
Judge's Comments: Being at the right time at the right place is part of being a photographer. Being quick to catch a photo and I like how you used the rule of thirds in this photo. It is not over edited and really tells a clear story. Great job!

2nd Place
Wilber Republican
Honorable retirement
By: Doug Carroll



Judge's Comments: The flames in combination with movement of the flag is very well captured. I like the lens used for this / zoom chosen with the right amount of depth of field.

3rd Place
Wilber Republican
Memorial Day veteran
By: Doug Carroll
Judge's Comments: This photo was taken with skill, making his face clear that really tells a story of what is going on in his mind and all the thoughts that he could be experiencing. This photo makes you "feel" his moment.



Division C

1st Place
Imperial Republican
Chase County Fair Dog Show Obstacle Course
By: Diane Stamm
Judge's Comments: Immediately stood out to me. It's fun, it reads well right off the bat and you see the fun moment between dog and owner without even reading the caption.

2nd Place
Sarpy County Times
Portal Field Day
By: Joe Shearer
Judge's Comments: Great variety, the photographer both stepped back and got close for images here and captured what a field day would feel like. Nice use of a variety of focal lengths.

3rd Place
Sarpy County Times
Fishing
By: Joe Shearer
Judge's Comments: Nice moments, great variety in images on the page and showed interaction between people and not just fishermen and poles!



Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
No Way Santa!
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: No Way Santa captures pure human emotions. The photo subjects seem to move as the boy flees.

2nd Place
Crete News
Rescued horses
By: Doug Carroll
Judge's Comments: Rescued Horses is a direct hit to the heart that captures humans' capacity for callousness, evil even.

3rd Place
Crete News
Say freeze
By: Amy Hausman
Judge's Comments: Say Freeze captures an idyllic moment in a dreamlike setting. Pure joy.



Division E

1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
Snowiest Day
By: Ryan Herzog
Judge's Comments: This moment is unexpected and tells of their emotions. It's a great slice-of-life image! I can feel how hard they've been working, the exhaustion but that they don't mind the work. I can tell so much about them and their day by the details and their surroundings.

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Fire Truck Tour
By: Laura Beahm
Judge's Comments: This is a nice moment between a father and daughter. It is well-composed using rule of thirds, has nice light as well.

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Calf Kiss
By: Laura Beahm
Judge's Comments: This has a really sweet moment and a clean background. The toning is a little off but it could be the print copy's fault.

News Photography

Division A

1st Place
Friend Sentinel
Extra fireworks
By: Doug Carroll
Judge's Comments: Great capture we loved the color and framing.

2nd Place
Palmer Journal
Gazing Up at Old Glory
By: MICHAEL HAPP
Judge's Comments: Nice seeing in this feature. Loved the framing.

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Military Honors
By: Jeromy Vauble
Judge's Comments: Great capture and nice framing.



Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Veterans Wall
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: There are some photos when you open the pdf or the page to look at the, that make you say "wow!" This is one such photo with a visceral punch of impact.

2nd Place
Elgin Review
Burning Down The House
By: Dennis Morgan
Judge's Comments: This photo has everything you want in a fire photo, even though its a fire department exercise -- good definition on flames, firefighters in the photo and the entire fully involved structure is nicely framed.

3rd Place
Wilber Republican
Selling plants on the go
By: Doug Carroll
Judge's Comments: A great (ahem) "environmental" shot, showing the plants and the man who sells them

Division C

1st Place
Tekamah Burt Co. Plaindealer
New pad to make a splash
By: Mark Jackson
Judge's Comments: A different look at a new splash pad, nice image

2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co.Chief
Snow drifts by Jamie Porter Jan. 26, 2023
By: Jamie Porter
Judge's Comments: A good image of snow drifts, well done

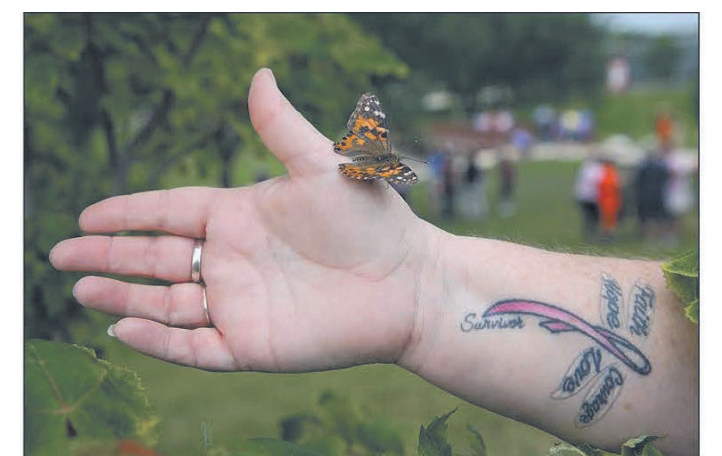
3rd Place
West Point News
Van Cleave house
By: Ashley Gaughan
Judge's Comments: a story telling photo of a house burn



Division E

1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Butterfly Buddy
By: Amy Roh
Judge's Comments: This image is clean and beautiful with great visual symbolism. I think the shallow depth of field and leaf foreground elements contribute to its simple yet graceful look, but this image also maintains its context of the larger event going on outside this

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Spelling Bee Champ
By: Amy Roh
Judge's Comments: This is a clean image that captures the peak moment of the news event.



3rd Place
Grand Island Independent
Pig races at the Nebraska State Fair
By: Josh Salmon
Judge's Comments: Great energy and expressive reactions captured, the toning on the PDF was off but I'm not sure the file would come out that way. The image could be a little tighter as well.

Division D

1st Place
Crete News
Horse rescue
By: Doug Carroll
Judge's Comments: A great shot at a unique angle that captures the emotion and reality of the story. The picture details the condition of the neglected horses — feeble legs, underweight, seemingly sad eyes — both at a quick glance and with continued observation.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Junior Fire Patrol
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: The headline mentions "fun" and you can see that emotion from the young girl in this photo. The picture does a good job at exemplifying what the Junior Fire Patrol program does.

3rd Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
River of Life VBS
By: Joe Burns
Judge's Comments: A clear shot that brings me back to the dog days of summer. Captures the heat (and the cool) of the day. Good work!



Breaking News Photography



Division A

1st Place
Stanton Register
Last Winning Hug
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: We loved the moment which made this rise to the top.
2nd Place
Clearwater Summerland
Advocate-Messenger
Up in Flames

By: Elizabeth Odell
Judge's Comments: Nice framing and capture.
3rd Place
Stromsburg Polk County News
Storm Damages Trees in the County
By: Beth Sparrow
Judge's Comments: A human element would bring more life into the image.

Division B

1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Comfort amid destruction
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: This is a stunning photo that captures the destruction of a tornado, the emotional impact on the affected family, and the surreal peacefulness of the aftermath.
2nd Place
Kimball Western Nebraska Observer

Senator Shows His Sidearm
By: Daria Anderson-Faden
Judge's Comments: Great photo that shows a senator's support of the new gun-carry law.
3rd Place
Stapleton Enterprise
Two Vehicle Accident At Intersection
By: Marcia Hora
Judge's Comments: Strong photo that gives a clear view of the accident scene.



Division C

1st Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
Sidney woman dies of injuries
By: Michael Motz
Judge's Comments: Excellent photo that displays a two-level view of a fatal traffic accident.
2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief
Safranek Building Roof Collapse
Feb. 2, 2023
By: Mona Weatherly
Judge's Comments: Creative

photo showing how the affected property owner documented the weather-related damage.
3rd Place
Imperial Republican
Five departments respond to Nutrien fire
By: Diane Stamm
Judge's Comments: Strong before and after photos of a serious industrial fire.

Division D

1st Place
Falls City Journal
Snooks Hayes is one in 6.2 Billion
By: Brian McKim
Judge's Comments: Her prize is your prize! Her expression is priceless. Photographer was in the right position at the right time, getting everything in focus. Congratulations!
2nd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Lightning
By: Gordon Hopkins
Judge's Comments: Lightning is one of

the hardest images to capture. Getting the water tower in focus as well as "balanced" bolts of lightning takes skill and luck. Excellent image.
3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Midnight Fire
By: Gordon Hopkins
Judge's Comments: Capturing a night fire is always dramatic but these images are unique due to the composition. The photography is clear and crisp. Excellent work.



1st Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Scottsbluff family picking up the pieces after tornado
By: Jeff Van Patten
Judge's Comments: We thought the photographer did a good job framing the subject with what used to be his garage wrecked by a tornado.
2nd Place
Fremont Tribune
Fremont standoff
By: Jeff Forward
Judge's Comments: This was peak action for spot news which made it rise to second place. A better crop would improve this image.
3rd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Semi-truck crash shuts down I-80

Division E



By: Job Vigil
Judge's Comments: We thought the repetitiveness of the blue barrels along with the semis made for a nice pictorial.

Use of Color — News - WEEKLIES ONLY

Division A

1st Place
Stanton Register
Undefeated Season
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Visually captivating photo page about a football team that has good use of orange, one of the team colors.
2nd Place
Arlington Citizen
Pumpkin Patches give update to crops, prepare for season
By: Sandy Diaz
Judge's Comments: Colorful centerpiece about pumpkin patches stands out with orange and green and tasteful use of photos.
3rd Place
Palmer Journal
PALMER JOURNAL COLOR
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Nice use of the color red for Veterans Day.



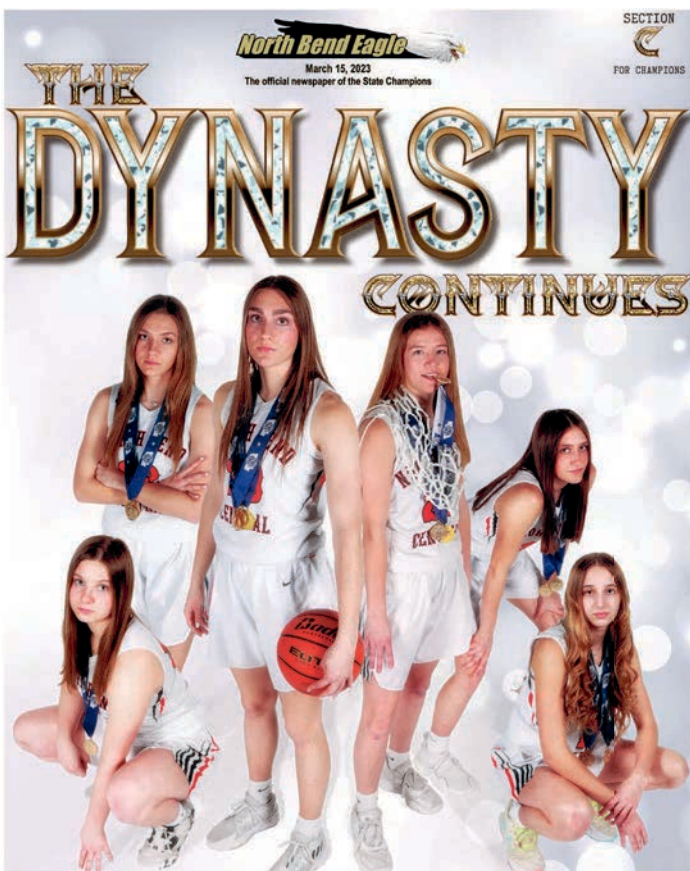
Division C

1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Best use of color - Cedar VB Preview
By: Jeremy Buss and Rob Dump
Judge's Comments: The large play of the full color photo on the electric background captures the reader's attention immediately. The graphic literally jumps out to you!
2nd Place
Tekamah Burt Co. Plaindealer
Talk turkey to me
By: Mark Jackson, Ashley Wimer
Judge's Comments: The fall yellow, orange, and red leaves and turkey perfectly complement the lead article and jump. Beautiful way to include children's photos.
3rd Place
West Point News
Holiday Concert
By: Ashley Gaughan, Blair Design Team
Judge's Comments: The use of the red spot color nicely packages the article and photos in a cohesive way. Background screen is light enough to highlight the content without being distracting.



Division B

1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Dynasty Continues
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: Great use of color on all the pages. It really stands out. Like the use of the card on the coach's page and the four queen page. Backgrounds are good too. Great job of producing a commemoration section.
2nd Place
Wilber Republican
How Reck got hooked
By: Amy Hausman
Judge's Comments: Very creative use of fishing graphic to draw the eye from the main to the two other related stories at the bottom of the page. A lot of thought went into the page design.
3rd Place
Elgin Review
Best Use of Color - August 30, 2023
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Great sports photos. Liked the plowing bee photos as well. The enrollment graphic stood out. Use of a tint box around color pictures detracts from the picture. If you are going to use tint box, go to the opposite side of the color wheel to make the picture



Division D

1st Place
Bloomfield Knox Co. News Monitor
Viking Pride
By: Carrie Pitzer & Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: This page is so much fun! Great use of color!
2nd Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
Annual Gateway Brings Blair Community Together
By: Alaina Albright
Judge's Comments: Great use of color to tell a story.
3rd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Let's Glow Crazy
By: Angelique Boyer
Judge's Comments: Excellent use of color to liven things up!

Personal Column

Division A

1st Place
Friend Sentinel
Nebraska Beautiful
By: Doug Carroll
Judge's Comments: Doug Carroll's single entry, "Nebraska Beautiful," should be clipped and saved by his fellow columnists. He takes a simple idea about a day in the country and puts the reader there with vivid detail. He also renders a heart-warming tale of folks helping a

2nd Place
Clearwater Summerland
Advocate-Messenger
Isms: Chat GPT; Isms: Muscle Cars
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Ms. Schindler could benefit from a good editor. Her columns would be much improved by shortening. That said, she offers good insights into the problems and potential benefits of AI in schools. She is a bright, thoughtful writer. Her column

on muscle cars
3rd Place
Palmer Journal
HAPP-ENINGS
By: MICHAEL HAPP
Judge's Comments: Although Mr. Happ's column on writing his aunt's obituary bordered on indiscretion in a couple places, his yarn about retrieving important mail from the recycling more than redeemed him. Good columnists know not to take themselves too seriously.

Nebraska is a great and beautiful state

BY DOUG CARROLL
dougsewardindependent.com



Doug Carroll

A quick trip to the Spalding area last weekend once again reminded my why I love Nebraska so much. When a shirt tail relative invited me a few weeks ago to come up to the Spalding area for the opening of the firearm deer season, it didn't take long to accept. Even better was the fact that I'd be up that way to photograph Exeter-Milligan-Friend's semifinal football game. Which they won - go Bobcats!

So Saturday morning found me sitting in the dark in the rolling hills of a large pasture (as in

two and half sections of land large) in Greeley County, one of many counties in Nebraska where the cattle outnumber the human population. Hunkered under a cedar tree to escape the brisk wind flowing over the rolling hills around me, I got to experience another Nebraska sunrise. Did I see many deer? No - just one nice buck trotting across a nearby hill, perfectly safe just across the neighbor's fence. So was the morning hunt a failure? Not at all. I saw numerous types of wildlife, including a flock of grouse that flew by, and got to experience the wonderful experience of the hunt, of being outdoors and not knowing what might come into view any moment. Perhaps the best part of the day was after our morning hunt ended. I had been told that my

hunting partner had to help move a "few" cows and that I was welcome to continue hunting on my own, but I immediately offered to help so that we could both hunt after the cattle were moved. As it turned out we had more than 100 cow-calf pairs to move from the pasture to a neighbor's home place some 15 miles away. If this sounds like a tremendous undertaking - it was, but in typical Nebraska fashion, it wasn't done alone. Despite it being the opening day of deer season, dozens of friends and neighbors of all ages showed up to help. Trucks and ATV's scoured the pasture's numerous valleys and soon all the cattle had been herded into makeshift corrals. Kids both old and young were soon trading stories and jokes as stock trailer after

stock trailer was filled with cattle and took off for the home place to be filled again. It was essentially a country assembly line - each returning truck backed its trailer up to the loading chute, was loaded within minutes and was on the road again. People that were hungry or thirsty grabbed sandwiches, chips and a drink off the back of a nearby tailgate and went back to work. Soon the last load of cows were on the road, and everyone was free to go back to hunting or whatever else was on their agenda for the day. The cousin and I went out hunting again that night without seeing any deer, but was my hunting trip unsuccessful? Not at all - I had gotten yst another taste of what to me this state is all about.

First holiday as widow, Peggy is paying forward

It's going to be a difficult Christmas for Peggy Zauha, who's husband passed away the Saturday after Thanksgiving.



CARRIE PITZER
PUBLISHER

I'd never met Peggy until last Friday when we hosted an open house event for the Cedar Valley News at the American Legion in Greeley. She welcomed me into "The Club" with a warm smile and cheerful hello. I never would have guessed she lost her husband less than three weeks earlier. Peggy and I hit it off immediately. There was a vintage Wurlitzer jukebox across the room. I walked over to the dark record player and was disappointed to see a curled "Out of Order" sign taped to the glass. It had obviously been put there years ago, and I told her it was too bad it didn't work. Peggy laughed and said, "Oh it works. We just don't want people jamming it up by pushing all the buttons. You can't start a new one until the last song ends. You wanna play a song?" The Greeley woman pulled out the two-prong plug-in and stuck it into the wall. She punched A1 and smiled as "Downtown" by Petula Clark played. With a smile spread across her face, Peggy started tapping her right foot and swaying to the music while singing along. "When you're alone and life is making you lonely, you can always go downtown. I couldn't help but smile as she moved her head back and forth with the beat. It was like looking into the future at what I will probably look like in 40 years. You never really know what someone else is going through, so

each day." The big box was filled with 12 smaller boxes. Beginning last Wednesday, Peggy was to unwrap and open a box. Each day, she was instructed to open another box with the final gift to be opened on Christmas Eve. "It's supposed to give me something to look forward to, and boy does it. They're little gifts, but it's fun," Peggy said with a smile. "Vicki knows what this is like, so she did this for me after Jim died. Next year, I'm supposed to do it for someone else, and I sure will." Peggy opens a new gift right away in the morning to start her day with a smile, which has proven to be contagious through "The Club" because no one spoke to her without having a smile spread across their face. Peggy was so adamant about the positive power in the "12 Days of Christmas" that she went home to get to the paper to show me what was written on it and how it works. "I think it should be in the newspaper," she told me. "It's better than any other thing I've

Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Holiday As A Widow
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: These were so well written and heartwarming.
2nd Place
Elgin Review
Susan Szalewski - Give Us Blessings & Praying For Lost People
By: Susan Szalewski
Judge's Comments: The story of Sam was beautiful.
3rd Place
Stapleton Enterprise
Odds & Ends - It Could Happen To Any of Us
By: Marcia Hora
Judge's Comments: This column is an act of solidarity with small town newspapers and needed to be said.

Division C

1st Place
Broken Bow Custer
Co.Chief
Off with their heads
06/22/23, Got my deer or did he get me? 11/09/23
By: Kelli Loos
Judge's Comments: Very tightly written columns that are full of description to the point of putting me in with the thistle war and the - surprise! - deer nearly on my lap. Nicely crafted.
2nd Place
Cambridge Valley
Voice
The adventures of a Father of Five
By: Cody Gerlach
Judge's Comments: Love these tales. It's like sitting with Cody in his den, maybe having a beer, and hearing him tell stories that many of us can relate to.
3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Extraordinary News from An 11 year old
By: Reagan SchAAF
Judge's Comments: How can someone not be taken with the writing of an 11-year-old sharing her experiences so well. Reagan SchAAF, keep up the good work and keep honing your craft of sharing slices of life.

Chew on this

Off with their heads

BY KELLI LOOS
Sports Advisor



Not since the Henry VI and Richard III fired up their guillotines has the phrase "off with their heads" been popular unless you count the movie Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. My use of these words has more to do with good pasture management than capital punishment. A native of western Europe, musk thistle were introduced into the eastern United States in the early 1800s and have a long history as rangeland pests in the U.S. It was rumored that European colonists brought them over as garden flowers. Add that to the list of things we didn't need to import from Europe! As I walked the pasture checking for new calves and donning my trusty spade, a flood of childhood memories came to me of evenings spent in the pasture with my Dad and siblings trying to eradicate the thistle population. If you were too little to carry a spade and chop a thistle, you got to carry a little bucket to hold the heads that were whacked off after the thistle was unearthed at the root. We did it night after night and my Dad always had a plan for which area we would do and how we could best stay ahead of those noxious devils despite the fact that right over the fence our neighbor was producing a bumper crop. When my husband and I moved back to Nebraska, he couldn't figure out what was so funny when I bust out laughing at him as we were driving through the pasture and he wanted to jump out and just go "chop that thistle over there." Admirable yes, but that Illinois farm boy didn't know thistles always travel in gangs. You may see one tall one but by the time you get there, his whole family is already at the party. It might take 10 seconds to chop a thistle but it may take you half an hour once you get all of his friends knocked off too! Growing up chopping weeds out of soybeans doesn't prepare you to take on musk thistles in the pasture

Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Queen of the Latrine
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Two very well written pieces. Humorous, with bits of information that teaches what a latrine actually is and brings in her local spin of being a farm girl, which made the story charmingly local. Her connection to the community, and people outside of Nebraska asking about a local bull in a car made the second story trendy and fun to read alongside her being in a parade with Lee Meyer. Overall, very good storytelling and writing.
2nd Place - TIE
Albion News - Boone Co. Tribune
Housing boost for stability
By: Jim Dickerson
Judge's Comments: Jim's story was great on so many levels, he advocated for a younger generation, called out his own and gave a plan on how to save a rural town in Nebraska. He did a great job of presenting data without it being overwhelming, while also keeping his topic on-task and delivering compelling copy. Excellent writing.
2nd Place - TIE
Albion News - Boone Co. Tribune
Response should have been much different
By: Jim Dickerson
Judge's Comments: Amazing job by Jim as he called out the governor and gave praise to a different publication's writer. He wrote this in a stern, yet sincere way and did not shy away from what was right. He put his neck on the line by writing this, and I commend his bravery and journalistic merit for doing so. Well written, and well received.

Who knew I'd become queen of the latrine?

I fought the good fight for six months. On Sunday, I had enough and decided to fix my toilet - by myself, even though I know nothing about toilets.



CARRIE PITZER
PUBLISHER

For the first month or so that it wasn't working properly, I could jiggle the handle just right and it would stop running. After that, if I lifted the lid and pushed the black thingy over, it would stop running. That lasted about a month until I somehow pushed it just far enough to magically fix the toilet. Well, for a couple months anyway. It started again. The last three weeks have been a pain in the butt having to reach in and jiggle something or other. By Sunday, I was over it. It was time to fix my toilet. So, I went to the store and bought a complete tank kit. I found a YouTube video from the kit company and was set. Until the tool they sent wouldn't fit right for the nut on the waterline because it was an older toilet. No problem - I owned a printing press. I have tools. I dug through a box of wrenches and things I'll never use in my lifetime until I found a crescent wrench. Eventually, I maneuvered the wrench enough to loosen the nut to unhook the waterline. On to the next step, which was to remove the tank. Easy peasy. I flipped the tank over, took off the seal and picked up the other tool in the kit. I don't know why I assumed this tool would fit since the other included tool couldn't even twist off a nut. This one was at least an inch in diameter too small, and I didn't have anything like that in my big box of tools I'll never use. I drove my Jeep back to the store for the second time. Why buy a new tool when I was probably going to have another issue with my vintage toilet? Buying a new toilet seemed like an obvious answer until I walked into the toilet aisle. Do you know how many types of toilets there are? Both sides of the aisle. All different toilets up and down the aisle. Holy crap. A friend happened to walk by and asked how I was doing. I looked at him and all I could muster was, "So many toilets." He picked out my new throne and said it had everything I would need, but I should get a better wax ring and new waterline, too. How long of a line was the other one? Did it have a metal or plastic end? Like I had any idea. So, I bought three different waterlines, a ratchet wrench and some other

things he thought I might need. But not a crescent wrench. I was really proud that I not only had one, but I knew what it was called. But I bought everything else because I was not making a third trip to the store. At that point, I probably should have used the restroom at the store, but I was too focused. I had a toilet to replace. Back at home, I took the base off the floor and saw the old wax ring. That had to go. I was a farm kid and grew up with hogs and dairy cattle. I have seen a lot, so believe me when I say that old wax ring was gross. I went back to my box of press tools and found a scraper to clean that mess up. I put the new wax ring down and took the tank and the base out of the box. Did you know you have to connect the tank to the base before you hoist the whole thing up and fit it onto the two screws sticking out of the wax ring? Why not? Let's just make this whole thing even heavier and then try to fit it on top of two screws you can't even see. Makes perfect sense to me. But I did it. I screwed it on. Balanced everything and hooked up the water, which by the way didn't even need a new line. I'm definitely returning the three lines I didn't use. Then it was time for the magic moment of flushing this new toilet, which worked perfectly. And then I waited. My old one flushed fine - it just wouldn't stop running. That was the real test. Would it stop running? So I held my breath. And I had to hold it again because toilets run forever. Finally, it stopped running. And it didn't even leak. I screwed the toilet seat on and stood there looking at my beautiful new toilet that not only flushed, but stopped running without me lifting the lid and pushing the black thingy inside. Alas, I felt like a queen. A queen of the latrine.

Mother's kindness powerful lesson

The late evening of Sunday, May 15, 1983, was as gorgeous as they come in southern



Andy Raun

Nebraska. It had been a festive graduation day at Minden High School, and now I was settled down in the dining room at home to do my sixth-grade homework. I still remember the smell of the lilac bouquet my mother had cut for our kitchen table at the farm. Mom and I were home alone, as Dad was on the road to Lincoln for the new work week. (He was director of the

Division E

1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Cather's words remain a treasure, Mother's kindness powerful lesson
By: Andy Raun
Judge's Comments: Very interesting articles and great writing.
2nd Place
Grand Island Independent
Jeff Bahr's columns
By: Jeff Bahr
Judge's Comments: The personal touch pulls you into the story.
3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
The Wedding Columns
By: Laura Beahm
Judge's Comments: Good writing style

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Breaking News

Wausa still cleaning up after summer storm

Mark Mahoney
Wausa Gazette

Wausa — The severe thunderstorm that swept through Wausa July 10 left quite a mess in its wake in the village and surrounding areas. The community's 120-year-old white Thayer Lutheran Church building lost its steeple, had several trees felled and suffered other damage. The straight-line winds that the storm blew through northeast Nebraska.

The National Weather Service in Omaha estimated the fastest gusts of wind reached more than 80 miles per hour. The storm's swirling winds about 40 miles per hour, struck Wausa at about 4:45 p.m. "This is bad," said Dave Carlson, the vice president of the church council and the head of the church's property committee. "All intentions are we will rebuild. We want to keep the same appearance, the same structure, everything."

The roof material got torn off — about a third of it, El Dorado said of the structure's roughly 6,000-square-foot roof. "Then there was an easy way for water to come through."

The ceiling toward the front of the building was damaged by rainwater and tiles from it were strewn throughout the interior on the floor. El Dorado had people help him put down a black plastic tarp to cover up the parts of the structure's torn-up roof that were exposed to the outdoor elements.

"There's nothing really of high value back here that got wet," El Dorado said of items stored inside the back of the building for his business. "I had no new water softeners in here. These are all old, used ones in here."

Water then started dripping from various spots in the ceiling toward the front of his building, including the attic area containing insulation that was soaked by rainwater. El Dorado recalled another storm traveling through the area the morning of July 12. "That made it worse on the roof," El Dorado said.

Two storms tearing through Wausa within the span of two days was not what the village needed.

"The July 10 storm uprooted trees and caused branches to fall down on houses and scatter along streets throughout the community. Wausa Village Clerk Karen Kleinschmidt noted parts of Gladstone Park were significantly damaged, with downed trees and limbs clogging the area.

See STORM, Page 4.

- 1st Place**
Wausa Gazette
Breaking news - Wind storm
By: Mark Mahoney
Judge's Comments: A thorough story that really gives a reader a sense of the community, such as by naming the owners of every building mentioned. Reporter clearly spent some time on this.
- 2nd Place**
Stanton Register

- Helicopter Crash
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Solid coverage of an unusual helicopter crash with missing pilot. Would have liked to hear what the pilot had to say.
- 3rd Place**
Stanton Register
Shooting Lands One In Custody
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Interesting story



Sisters Emily and Alexa Brink stand in the front yard of their home in North Bend, Mo., after a tornado struck the area on Saturday, June 24. The sisters' home was destroyed by the storm. Photo by Nathan Arneal.

Tornado carves path through area, claims home

Nathan Arneal
Editor

About 15 minutes after the initial warning, Brink was leaving a waxy eye on the sky when his farmstead about five miles east and two miles north of North Bend.

I looked like a cloud on the ground. It looked like smoke from a fire. Then it took form and connected ground and sky.

That's when I headed for the basement. Brink said.

Emily Brink, 20, had just returned home earlier in the week from her sophomore year at Wayne State. She and her sister Alexa, a sophomore at North Bend Central, were visiting and thinking about going to school in the north.

We could look outside. Emily said. "I don't know what we could see."

The dust just spinning. Alexa finished her sister's sentence.

Emily Brink snapped this picture of the tornado at 1:20 a.m., minutes before it hit his farm northeast of North Bend. The shed on the right was completely taken by the storm.

Friday night the Brink family was celebrating their graduation party by having a barbecue in their back yard. The sisters' home was destroyed by the storm. Photo by Nathan Arneal.

TORNADO RECOVERY



What remains of the Wilson family's home and garage can be seen on Saturday, June 24. Their home along Highway 26 east of Scottsbluff was destroyed by a tornado that tore through the area on Friday, June 24. Photo by Nathan Arneal.

Scottsbluff family picking up the pieces after tornado destroys their home

Nathan Arneal
Editor

After the Wilson family's home and garage were destroyed by a tornado that tore through the area on Friday, June 24, the family is picking up the pieces. The Wilsons, who live in Scottsbluff, were in their home when the storm struck. The home and garage were completely destroyed, leaving the family with no place to live.

The Wilsons are currently staying with family members in Scottsbluff. They are working with insurance companies to get their home rebuilt. The Wilsons are optimistic about the future and are looking forward to rebuilding their home.

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What remains of the Wilson family's home and garage can be seen on Saturday, June 24. Their home along Highway 26 east of Scottsbluff was destroyed by a tornado that tore through the area on Friday, June 24. Photo by Nathan Arneal.

Division B

- 1st Place**
North Bend Eagle
"Tornado carves path"
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: Excellent storytelling that captured the fear and uncertainty felt by a family during a tornado strike.
- 2nd Place**
Elgin Review
Four Vehicles, Two Accidents
By: Dennis Morgan
Judge's Comments: Very clear and detailed reporting.
- 3rd Place**
Gothenburg Leader
Bales on Fire
By: Ellen Mortensen
Judge's Comments: Definitely not a story you see every day! This no-frills account still answered all the key questions.

Division E

- 1st Place**
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Tornado recovery: Scottsbluff family picking up the pieces after tornado destroys their home
By: Maunette Loeks, Jeff Van Patten
Judge's Comments: This was the hands down winner in this category. The reporter did several things that made the story stand out. Using dialogue to set the scene. The image of the toy keys on the ground was a wonderful detail. It was obvious the reporter spent time there, capturing it all.
- 2nd Place**
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
'Swatting' calls cause fear at GHS
By: Lauren Brant, Maunette Loeks, Jeff Van Patten
Judge's Comments: Great team effort. It's obvious that a lot went into bringing context and perspective to this statewide breaking news.
- 3rd Place**
Norfolk Daily News
Suspended Operations
By: Jon Humphries and Jerry Guenther
Judge's Comments: Clean, clear and concise writing packed with information.

Division C

- 1st Place**
Imperial Republican
Five departments respond to Nutrien fire; cause unknown
By: Jan Schultz
Judge's Comments: Very informative story about a major fire. Lots of good quotes as well as a statement from the company whose building burned.
- 2nd Place**
Broken Bow Custer Co.Chief
First the snow, then the roof Feb. 2, 2023
By: Mona Weatherly
Judge's Comments: Writer goes into great detail explaining about how the heavy snowfall caused the storage building roof to collapse and the clean-up work that followed. Good story.
- 3rd Place**
Broken Bow Custer Co.Chief
Years to grow, seconds to come down
By: Donnis Hueffle-Bullock
Judge's Comments: Interesting article that details how quickly a community's long-standing trees were felled by high winds. Good quotes from the homeowners that helped tell the story.



Smoke was visible and infrared sensors last Wednesday at an early afternoon fire at a Nutrien Ag Services facility, located along Highway 95 in Lancaster.

Five departments respond to Nutrien fire; cause unknown

By Jan Schultz
Imperial Republican

El Dorado noted some of Kurney's things got wet due to the rain and she recalled several of them out during the days after the July 10 storm. The building also serves as the home base for his business, called El Dorado Water Softeners.

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Statement from Nutrien

The following statement was issued by Nutrien on July 10, 2024, regarding a fire at a facility in Lancaster, Missouri. The fire occurred at approximately 10:30 a.m. on July 10, 2024. The fire was contained to a single building and did not affect other operations at the facility. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

The following statement was issued by Nutrien on July 10, 2024, regarding a fire at a facility in Lancaster, Missouri. The fire occurred at approximately 10:30 a.m. on July 10, 2024. The fire was contained to a single building and did not affect other operations at the facility. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

Division C

- 1st Place**
Imperial Republican
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Fast-moving storm hits with high wind, hail

By George Lauby
The North Platte Bulletin

A fast-moving storm dropped heavy rain and hail on North Platte Saturday evening, July 27, putting an abrupt end to entertainment events around town.

The storm came out of the north and hit the city around 7:40 p.m. Within a couple minutes of heavy rain and hail started to fall. The hail started to pound. The temperature dropped 20 degrees. Wind gusts of 60-70 mph were reported by the National Weather Service in North Platte.

The hail resembled a snowfall in the hardest-hit places. Millions of the size of golf balls were reported. The Lake Maloney area was said to be hit hard, with tree branches knocked to the ground.

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Feature Series

Military was 'life-changing' for Locke

By: Nathan Arneal

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of stories about the life of a man who served in the military. The story is a tribute to the service members who have served our country and the impact that military service has on their lives.

Locke's military service was a life-changing experience. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was deployed to multiple tours. He has a deep respect for the military and the sacrifices that service members make.

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Division B

- 1st Place**
Greeley Citizen
Big Give
By: Damon Crawford
Judge's Comments: Good series that describes how a community plans to raise money for some important projects.
- 3rd Place**
Arnold Sentinel
Dough: We all need it.
By: Janet Larreau and Debbie Connolly
Judge's Comments: Cute series about the different ways young people work to make money during the summer months. Nice variety of articles.

Division D

- 1st Place**
North Platte Bulletin
Fast moving storm
By: George Lauby
Judge's Comments: The story moves as quickly as the storm - what happened, what was affected, recovery.
- 2nd Place**
Seward County Independent
Wildfire jumps I-80, burns two-mile stretch near PDale
By: Emily Hempdall
Judge's Comments: Good detail, nice art
- 3rd Place**
Fairbury Journal-News
Midnight Fire
By: Gordon Hopkins
Judge's Comments: Good job wrapping fire safety info into routine fire story.

Division A

- 1st Place**
Stanton Register
Salute To Veterans
By: Traci Vauble
Judge's Comments: A thoughtful and well written series of profiles about local veterans who served in various wars and conflicts. The series raised money for a good cause to boot. Well done.
- 2nd Place**
Oshkosh Garden Co. News
Young Guns
By: Buddy Paulsen
Judge's Comments: A fascinating topic that invites one to keep reading.
- 3rd Place**
Oshkosh Garden Co. News
Gazebo Dream Made Reality
By: Kate Wolf
Judge's Comments: Compelling writing on an important topic.

Division B

The Rise and Fall of SUGAR CITY

There was once a town between North Bend and Ames with its own dedicated rail line, store, hotel, school and church that was hailed as an economic boon for Dodge County. Then it disappeared.

This is the story of Leavitt, Nebraska.

By Nathan Arneal

Mr. Ames... The town of Leavitt was founded in 1870 by a group of men who saw the potential of the area. The town was named after a local farmer, Mr. Ames. The town was a success for a short time, but it eventually fell into decline. The town was abandoned in 1880 and the site was left to nature.

Division C

CARRYING ON THE FAMILY LEGACY! YOUNG GUNS

The Garden County farmer battled drought, the dust bowl, severe hail, grasshoppers, the Great Depression, two World Wars, the measles virus, and a host of other challenges to survive. This week we feature the young gun who shares a historic family legacy. Both the Cottrill's and Van Paulsen are the direct descendants of one of the original settlers who arrived on the South Table in 1888. Remarkably after several generations, the Paulsen family continues to farm that same land that began it all 137 years ago.

By: Buddy Paulsen

Jim Paulsen

Jim Paulsen is the 13th generation descendant of the Paulsen family. He has a deep respect for the family legacy and the challenges that his ancestors faced. He is proud to carry on the family legacy and to share the story of the Paulsen family with others.

Division C

- 1st Place**
Oshkosh Garden Co. News
Young Guns
By: Buddy Paulsen
Judge's Comments: A fascinating topic that invites one to keep reading.
- 2nd Place**
Oshkosh Garden Co. News
Gazebo Dream Made Reality
By: Kate Wolf
Judge's Comments: Compelling writing on an important topic.

Feature Series

“One of the most sensational, prolonged and bloodiest county seat fights in Nebraska history”



Jesse Cook, owner of the hotel where the Meek-Davis tragedy occurred.

Minutes from the February 11, 1859, County Commissioners meeting state that Falls City Mayor John A. Burbank planned to build a two-story, 30x50 ft. courthouse costing less than \$3,000 (\$98,100 in 2023) on the public square in Falls City to commence on May 1, 1859, and to donate the same with the 24-lots contained in the public square to Richardson County, “provided the county seat should be located in Falls City by a vote of the people at the coming election and to be held so long as the County seat shall remain

man from Rulo, Jesse M. Davis and a man from Falls City by the name of Thomas J. Meek exchanged a few words. They drew and cocked their revolvers when a Mr. McIntire of Falls City interfered to prevent their shooting and held Davis. Davis told him to hold Meek and that he [Davis] would not shoot. McIntire then took hold of Meek and while holding him, Davis shot at Meek twice, only one ball hitting him, making a flesh wound to the thigh.

At this, McIntire released Meek, while firing from both combatants continued until their revolvers were empty. Meek went to the store, Davis to the tavern and upstairs to his room, saying he wished to lie down. As soon as he reloaded his pistol, Meek went on the hunt for Davis. He went to Davis' room, broke open the door and shot Davis, the ball taking effect in the abdomen just below the navel. Someone then shot Meek in the side. He fell to the floor and died within half an hour after he was shot. Davis was alive the following day when the newspaper's informants relayed their story, though they thought he was mortally wounded.

It was rumored that Meek was killed by a Salem man, Dr. Dunn, who by this account, was in the room with several men from Rulo when Meek entered. According to these storytellers, Dunn immediately fled, leaving on his horseback at full speed. Several shots were fired at him, but none hitting him. The gentlemen told the paper that their information was derived from persons who witnessed the altercation.

Falls City Hotel owner Jesse Cook had the most detailed account of the events that unfolded that day. His story was shared with The Falls City Tribune

around to it. The north door of the building faced toward the courthouse. Doctor Davis shot through the second story window at Meek. He then knew where they were and being a big strong man he threw his weight against the hall door and burst it open. A man employed at the hotel grabbed him and undertook to prevent his ascent of the stairs, but he forced his way up and shot Davis. Doctor Dunn stuck his gun just under Meek's right arm and shot him clean through. Meek walked to the bottom of the stairs before dropping dead and Davis died four days later. The last I ever heard of Dunn, he was throwing up dirt around the soldiers tents in St. Joseph, having been arrested as a Sympathizer at the beginning of the war. He, however, had no yellow streak in him, for he was around the country for some time after the murder.

In 1909 the Falls City Tribune reported on the coroner's inquest held over the body of T.J. Meek, who was killed in the hotel. The paper called Meek a man of fearless nature who had gone through Kansas trials and who had been wounded in several parts of his body in numerous fights there.

Davis shot Meek in the hip during the street fight, but whether Davis received his death wound on the street or in an upstairs hotel room was never known. Meek, wounded, went to find Davis after he retired to his room and “finish him.” The paper states there was one witness to this last act of tragedy by the name of William McFarland.

“It is certain that two or more shots were fired after Meek went upstairs, but no evidence of that appears in the records before me,” stated the namesake 1909 Falls City Tribune reporter. “But I know the fact from

Division E

1st Place
Fremont Tribune
Spirits of Barnard Park
By: Jeff Forward

Judge's Comments: Intriguing and interesting storytelling about paranormal investigators hunting for ghosts in a local park built over an old cemetery. Good quotes and anecdotes keep us reading to the end.

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Local clergy share personal Christmas memories, traditions
By: John Huthmacher

Judge's Comments: Warm human-interest stories about clergy who shared Christmas memories about chopping down and bringing home the tree, decorating, cooking and sharing holiday meals, Christmas Eve services and family gathering and sharing. Good memories. Well told.

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Junior High
By: Sheryl Schmeckpeper

Judge's Comments: Fond old-school memories of former students are being resurrected in these well-written stories about the history of the 100-year-old Norfolk Junior High building and the renovations planned for the school's auditorium. Interesting and well-written.

Division D

1st Place
Falls City Journal
“One of the most sensational, prolonged and bloodiest county seat fights in Nebraska history”
By: Nikki McKim
Judge's Comments: Well-researched, interesting historical piece that gives the reader a good idea on the high stakes drama and

events that led to a county's formation.
2nd Place
Aurora Register-Register
Where Are They Now
By: News staff
Judge's Comments: I enjoyed reading this unique series looking at the different career paths pursued by people in the community.
3rd Place

Bloomfield Knox Co. News
Monitor
Small Town Storm Recovery
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Good, well-written features on a town's progress in recovering from a storm. I would have liked a few more details about what happened in the storm.

Single Feature Story

Division A

1st Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Walking Across America
By: LuAnn Schindler

Judge's Comments: What a well-written and compelling story about a Navy veteran and landscaper who walked away from everything in 2004 and is still walking after 26,000 miles. He sleeps under bridges and eats noodles out of a little pot heated by antifreeze in a well-worn cat food can and buys clothes and shoes from thrift stores on the way. You just can't stop reading this story.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Late Classmate Present In Spirit
By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: Extremely well-written story about the tears of joy and sadness of 20 seniors as they remembered and included on graduation day the 21st member of their class who had died in December.

3rd Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Picturesque prose and pictorial panache
By: Sonia Rittscher

Judge's Comments: Interesting story about a local author's first book of hunting and fishing essays. Good job of telling the story with great quotes and anecdotes.

“Dad would have loved this”

Korth family brings tractors together for final time in Greeley
By: CARRIE PITZER

As the line of Farnall antique tractors made its way through Sunday's parade in Greeley, each of Don and Beth's children smiled and waved. Afterward, back at their parent's home just a block away, it felt different. “It's emotional,” said Jamie Korth of St. Paul, who they still affectionately call “the boy” because “mom always did.” It's been almost a year since their father died at the age of 90. Their mother passed away in 2021. Jim, the oldest, also died last year.

Sunday wasn't just another parade for the Korth family, although it would have been strange for Bob's tractors not to be in it. Sunday also marked the last time the tractors would be all together. After Sunday, they all went their separate ways. “They're all staying in the family,” said Jan. “But this is the last time a lot of these will be together. That's what he wanted — them to stay in the family.”

After decades as manager of the co-op, Bob retired in 2006 and spent his later years restoring antique tractors and classic cars and pickups.

“I loved cars, but he figured tractors were easier to restore, so we found his original tractor he had when he was 14.”

Bob and his dad bought the Farnall B in 1946 and eventually sold it. Bob was born on the family farm by Pierce in 1922. He was raised on the family farm and graduated from Pierce in 1950. Three years later, he and Elizabeth Ann “Beth” Klesken at the Klesken Farm near MeLean. After he served in the Army, the couple resided on farms near Pierce and Picher.

After Bob completed management training they moved to North Bend, Scotia and Broken Bow. In 2002, Bob went to an auction to find a similar make and model of the tractor from his youth to restore, and Bob found the original Farnall B he grew up with. “Dad didn't buy it because it brought too much money,” Jamie said. “So Jan and I got together with mom, and we found the guy who bought it. So we bought it back from him and gave it to dad.” Jan said it was meant to belong to their father. “I bought it back exactly 50 years later,” he said. On Sunday, Doug Korth drove that very tractor through the parade, pulling a hayrack that Bob had also restored. It was full of his family members. The original Farnall B ignited Bob's love of restoring antique tractors and led to go of them. Bob restored the tractors and Jamie painted them.



Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Dad Loved Tractors
By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: This was such a great story about what connects families. Most families have something that links siblings and parents. And usually with dads, it's some sort of vehicle.

2nd Place
Pender Times
Banks Brigade — Family, friends and faith triumph
By: Jason Sturek

Judge's Comments: This was a nice tale about the power of faith and importance of organ donation. With a happy ending.

3rd Place
North Bend Eagle
Max 100
By: Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: A love letter from a grandson to his grandmother.

ADVOCATE-MES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023 VOLUME 4 - NUMBER



Walking Across America
Texas native hikes Cowboy Trail en route to West Coast

The sign on the backpack explains it all. Walking across America. Stephen Ashworth, a Terrell, Texas, native, estimates he's trekked more than 26,000 miles by foot.

“In a trailer,” he said. Ashworth ventured through the 26,000-mile region last week, stopping in Clearwater, Wisconsin. He dropped his gear at the village's park, pulled out his super cat gear — a well-worn food can — added fuel — HETI gas-line antifreeze fuses best — and placed a titanium pot on it to heat water for a Cup of Noodles.

Soon, the Clearwater Public Library would open, and Ashworth, also known as Smiley the Champ on hiking routes, would use a library computer to post photos of his travels on his Facebook page.

“I take a lot of pictures and post on Facebook for family and friends,” Ashworth said. A Navy veteran, Ashworth owned a custom landscaping business in Texas. In 2004, he sold his company. He sold his vehicle.

“My driver's license is expired,” he hiker said. Since then, he has the road, hiking when the mood strikes. Ashworth has completed four of the 11 national scenic trails. In 2012, he traversed the Appalachian Trail. “It takes a while to get your hiking legs,” he said.

The following year he walked the Pacific Crest Trail, from Mexico to Canada. He's ambed along an 800-mile Arizona trail, from the Mexico border to Utah. “That's a short trail,” he said. “Then, in 2015, he started what turned into his first walk across America.

He traveled 3,000 miles, starting in Florida, through a swamp. Ashworth said that particular trail is unique because it's more of a water trail. During the pandemic, he got his kicks of Route 66. His path started in downtown Chicago and ended in Santa Monica. “It was quite an experience,” he said.

SEE: Hiking | Page 10

Division C

1st Place
Sary County Times
Gretna Esports
By: Adam Branting

Judge's Comments: Tightly written, strong sentence structure, excellent use of quotes, vivid details (Rice Krispies, for example). The story builds, makes the case for how important the tournament is, wraps back around to tournament. Kudos.

2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief
Moving Forward - Bissonette, Mar.

9, 2023
By: Mona Weatherly

Judge's Comments: Interesting story, good selection of details, excellent quotes. Builds to punch at the end. Well done.

3rd Place
South Sioux City Dakota Co. Star
At long last, Omadi Cemetery found?
By: Michael Carnes

Judge's Comments: Tightly written, good flow, excellent use of quotes. Strong lead and punch at the end.



From left, Brooks Oweil, Corey Chatham and their fellow members of the Gretna High School Overwatch 2 variety esports team get some rounds in before their practice game at the school on Thursday. At left, the Gretna Esports team will compete against Chicago's Gretna Esports in the Intel Inspire/Future Gaming Stars Grand Finals on April 29 at 5 p.m. at the Esports Arena in Arlington, Texas. Gretna and Chatham's teammates include Kasper Taylor, Sam Green, Nicholas Coates and Sam Coates.

“This is a huge deal, because we've been competing with schools from the coasts that have players utilize their opponents and collect bonuses while the Midwest has Gretna High School sports teams. It's extraordinarily fast, requiring hours of practice and perfect timing. In playing, students pick-up valuable skills.

“These are students with programs that are far more developed, from school's much larger budgets. We're able to hold our own with them and make it

Going to nationals

Gretna esports team on verge of bringing home a national title

GRETNA BRANTING
The Times
Gretna High School's Overwatch 2 variety esports team on the verge of clinching a national championship title, solidifying

their status as an American gaming powerhouse. The Gretna Esports team will compete against Chicago's Gretna Esports in the Intel Inspire/Future Gaming Stars Grand Finals on April 29 at 5 p.m. at the Esports Arena in Arlington, Texas. The variety team includes leaders Corey Chatham, Nicholas Coates, Sam Green, Brooks Oweil and Kasper Taylor.

“This is a huge deal, because we've been competing with schools from the coasts that have players utilize their opponents and collect bonuses while the Midwest has Gretna High School sports teams. It's extraordinarily fast, requiring hours of practice and perfect timing. In playing, students pick-up valuable skills.

Division D

1st Place
Kearney Hub
Her first job lasted 50 years
By: Mary Jane Skala

Judge's Comments: Well of COURSE a school secretary would have great stories, and it takes a great writer to know that. Excellent lede and reporting, with thorough story-telling and great quotes. These were two seasoned professionals talking, and the result is educational and a joy to read. Brava!

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register

Encouragement that sticks
By: Ron Burtz

Judge's Comments: Very cool story about a young woman turning a job most would disregard into a ministry for students and teachers. Great hed and pix, too.

3rd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
No Cure But Love Surrounds Family
By: Jenny Higgins

Judge's Comments: well-crafted feature based on a true heart-to-heart interview. Great public service story about FTB.



Dianne Lamb was hired as executive secretary to the Kearney Public Schools superintendent in 1973. She never left. MARY JANE SKALA, KEARNEY HUB

Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Future of Winnetoon's past
By: Kathryn Harris

Judge's Comments: Kathryn Harris delivered a beautifully told story about the death of a woman who honored and cherished a town's past and her family's commitment to carry on her work in an effort to keep the town she so loved from fading away. Bravo. Great read.

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
The night war came to Dickens — sort of
By: Todd von Kampen

Judge's Comments: In “The night war came to Dickens,” writer Todd Von Kampen takes readers on a rich, detailed ride through local history and WWII lore through the eyes of a boy - now elderly man - who witnessed it. Todd explores the wide, deep roots of WWII training in the region and keeps the story building all the way through. Great job.

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Friends on Earth, Friends Above
By: Andy Raun

Judge's Comments: Andy Raun's story about Friend's Motor Supply from its roots to its new future was a joy to read. All of those generations of family ownership and service to Hastings residents

Future of Winnetoon's past



SISTERS TRACY FOLCK and Gina Velasco stand outside the Winnetoon Mill & Post Office, which was operated by their mother, Gayle Neuhaus, until her death in late August. The sisters are putting their hearts together to do a lot to keep their mother's vision for the community alive.

Boardwalk founder's daughters mulling plans for community

By KATHRYN HARRIS
WINNETOON — A month has gone passed since the “COVID-19” Winnetoon lost its most prominent resident. Gayle Neuhaus, the 83-year-old dressmaker who ran the town's post office, antique store and bed-and-breakfast, died Aug. 29 of heart failure with cancer.

It's a fitting motto for the Winnetoon who once said “NEET” that she had inherited in 1910, a year that served as a driving force behind the development of the Winnetoon 1910 Board Walk. Back in those days, the attraction drew the town's main street and had a sign that said “NEET” that she had inherited in 1910, a year that served as a driving force behind the development of the Winnetoon 1910 Board Walk. Back in those days, the attraction drew the town's main street and had a sign that said “NEET” that she had inherited in 1910, a year that served as a driving force behind the development of the Winnetoon 1910 Board Walk.

and had done Velasco knew her and was for her. “We're afraid the community is going to die.”

A love for community
Neuhaus and the Velascos stretched back to her childhood. She was born in California but moved to the “Big Red” City in 1948 after her grandfather suffered a heart attack. She arrived just as the town was being redeveloped.

Entertainment Story

Division A

1st Place
Stanton Register
Life Worthy of Life
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Clear winner in this category. Intriguing lede that puts the reader in the audience and describes the scene and stage vividly. Quotes from different sources enhance the story and help dive deeper into the play's serious subject matter. Well done.

2nd Place
Hemingford Ledger

Mini Bobcats show their school spirit
By: Kay Bakkehaug
Judge's Comments: Different sources add to this well-written story.

3rd Place
Palmer Journal
Art Exhibit a Unique Find a Local Library
By: Michael Rother
Judge's Comments: Unique local angle on an ongoing worldwide storyline. Great find.

'LIFE WORTHY OF LIFE'

Students aren't afraid of 'tough topic' of Holocaust

By: Carrie Pitzer

It was a quiet, somber evening at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts as a group of young students gathered for a performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank." The young actors, dressed in period-appropriate clothing, brought to life the story of a Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II. The performance was a powerful reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and the resilience of the human spirit.

The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts is proud to present this production, which has been a hit with audiences of all ages. The young actors' performances were exceptional, capturing the emotions and complexities of the story. The production is a testament to the power of theater to educate and inspire.

Weborg family hosts 25th Annual Cattlemen's Ball

Weborg family hosts 25th Annual Cattlemen's Ball

Photo courtesy of Kyle Kac, Cattlemen's Ball photographer. The Weborg family hosted this year's Cattlemen's Ball.

Ashley Gaughan
reporter@nepa.com

Thousands entered under a sign that gave welcome to the 2023 Cattlemen's Ball at Nebraska's largest rodeo arena, the Weborg Feeding Co. pasture near Pender this weekend. Preparations have been made over the last year to prepare for 4,000 people to attend the sold-out event. From putting up tents, to creating parking and landscaping, to setting up security, performing, serving food, taking tickets, bartending, to general set up and take-downs, nearly 1,000 volunteers dedicated their time to make the event happen. "The best families of this year's 2023 event," he said.

CATTLEMEN'S BALL NUMBERS & STATISTICS

- The Cattlemen's Ball is a 24-hour charity event, raising millions of dollars for cancer research.
- More than 125,000 people have attended the Cattlemen's Ball since 1998.
- There are 1.9 million people in the U.S. diagnosed with cancer each year.
- The Cattlemen's Ball has raised more than \$17 million to fund cancer research.
- The Cattlemen's Ball is held in a different location each year, and the event is for the benefit of the Weborg family and the community's opportunity to showcase their area of the state.

Photo courtesy of Kyle Kac, Cattlemen's Ball photographer. Josh Turner was the headline for entertainment.

1st Place
Falls City Journal
Snooks Hayes is one in 6.2 Billion
By: Nikki McKim
Judge's Comments: All the extra detail put me right on the scene.

2nd Place
Second County Independent
Local store owner writes book on local legend

Division D
By: Stephanie Croston
Judge's Comments: Very nice lead!
3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Aurora's 1-act hoping to raise the bar
By: Kurt Johnson
Judge's Comments: Bravo for use of multiple sources! Nicely organized and readable.



Snooks Hayes is one in 6.2 Billion

By: Nikki McKim (Photos by Brian McKim)

It didn't matter because Snooks Hayes and his wife were there to prove it was real. Snooks, the neighborhood legend, was there to prove it was real. Hayes said she recognized them and thought she had missed the prize yet again on the day when she and the man she had loved for 62 years had been together.

Hayes called for her husband, Snooks Hayes, who had been missing for 62 years. Hayes said she recognized them and thought she had missed the prize yet again on the day when she and the man she had loved for 62 years had been together.

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Division C

1st Place
West Point News
Cattlemen's Ball
By: Ashley Gaughan
Judge's Comments: Great detail in the story broken up into several sections. Well done.

2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief
End of an era, June 15, 2023
By: Mona Weatherly
Judge's Comments: Love the personal feel to this story.

3rd Place
West Point News
Grist Grimly
By: Ashley Gaughan
Judge's Comments: Entertaining read on a passionate, driven creative mind. Great work.

Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Community Theater
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Carrie knows how to rope the reader in to even the simplest of stories. Great lede and concise quotes that kept the story flowing. Well done.

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle

Food truck satisfied
By: Stephanie Iwan Flamme
Judge's Comments: Great feature with a homely feel. Hungry after reading!

3rd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Festival Friends
By: Ellen Mortensen
Judge's Comments: Great look into a new twist on a small-town tradition.

COMMUNITY THEATER

Audience stars in melodrama

By: Carrie Pitzer

It was a quiet, somber evening at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts as a group of young students gathered for a performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank." The young actors, dressed in period-appropriate clothing, brought to life the story of a Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II. The performance was a powerful reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and the resilience of the human spirit.

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Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Cooler version of school project
By: Milana Done
Judge's Comments: This story stood out for its unique subject about a talented, young, female musician. And the photos and attractive centerpiece layout really made this article stand out.

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Catching the 'Canteen spirit'
By: Todd von Kampen
Judge's Comments: In-depth reporting, good photos, and interesting subject that ties together history, art and people from different states to tell an inspiring story from World War II.

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Thea Kronborg, meet Sarah Arneson
By: John Huthmacher
Judge's Comments: This was an enjoyable story, and the Willa Cather connection was very interesting!

'Cooler version of a school project'

Emma Sue Sedlacek, 17, from O'Neill, sings with Rude Band. She joined the band in March as the newest and youngest member. "There was Emma, front and center, rockin' out," drummer Tyson Conn said, recalling the first time Emma sang for the Rude Band at a St. Patrick's Day celebration earlier this year.

By: Milana Done (Photo: Emily News)

In-depth Writing

Division A

1st Place
Randolph Times
In Depth writing - a load of rubbish
By: Trisha Benton and Mark Mahoney
Judge's Comments: A well-written take on an issue of broad community concern. Nice lede, and multiple sources.

2nd Place
Milford Times
Housing
By: Emily Hemphill
Judge's Comments: A good effort to cover many aspects of housing, which broadly impacts the community in many different ways.

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Teen Sentenced For Sexual Assault
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Strong and well-written coverage of a courtroom sentencing

Trash overflow: Communities change service

By: Trisha Benton and Mark Mahoney

MCLEAN - Devin Kumm's garage became a dumpster out of sheer necessity. He didn't have anywhere else to go with the trash that started piling up when his once-a-week garbage pickup came to an abrupt halt without any warning.

"My car is outside during the winter and my garage is smelling kind of funny," the rural McLean man said.

Others in Cedar, Knox and Pierce counties who utilize Key Sanitation in Creighton for trash service reported similar situations. Village of Belden residents were without trash pickup the whole month of December, Village Clerk Melissa Campbell said.

Wausa residents also had seen trash pile up with no service at times. Village Board Chairman Chris Ferlig said Wausa received no garbage service from early December through early January, so roll-off dumpsters were brought in to dump their trash.

Since that time, Key Sanitation had been providing garbage service, though Ferlig said "not consistently" on the days the company was supposed to have a trash truck in the community.

"They have been here, which is a good thing," he said.

However, the Wausa Village Board of Trustees recently decided to no longer use Key Sanitation - which reportedly has ongoing mechanical issues with its trucks - and to go in a different direction for its trash service. "It's got to be tough," Ferlig said. "Sometimes stuff just happens. Their truck would just break down. Once in a while, it's OK, but they've just been too inconsistent."

As a business owner, Ferlig - a co-owner of Smokin' Chip's Cafe & BBQ in Wausa - felt sorry for Key Sanitation.

"It's almost like the perfect storm - everything happened all at once and then the just kept happening," he said of Key Sanitation's issues. "I know that stuff happens, but at a certain point, it's got to get taken care of. It just wasn't getting taken care of."

There were a few hiccup with service when Kumm started with Key Sanitation in 2017 that he chafed up to being new on the route, but in the last year trash pickup became spotty, sometimes only being picked up once or twice a month.

Most recently, his trash piled up from prior to Thanksgiving until February in 2023 that he chafed up to being new on the route, but in the last year trash pickup became spotty, sometimes only being picked up once or twice a month.

"I don't know how many times I've called throughout the years even. Anytime I've called, especially recently, I get the answering machine or the answering machine has been full. And no one ever calls you back, either," Kumm said.

The one time someone picked up the phone, it wasn't even someone who worked there, he said.

Campbell said a Belden village board representative would make trips to the Key Sanitation location in Creighton to contact the company.

The village of Belden sent a letter to Key Sanitation requesting a copy of their contract, but never heard back from the company.

Northeast Nebraska News has attempted to contact Key Sanitation numerous times for this story. The business phone went unanswered and messages returned.

See TRASH, page 3

Division B

1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Rise and Fall of Sugar City
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: Even though I'm not part of this community, I still found this in-depth history fascinating. Very well written.

2nd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Three schools, a lot of changes
By: Patrick Murphy
Judge's Comments: Good job letting the community know clearly what is at stake when it comes to the state of local schools.

3rd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Fired Teacher Draws Reaction
By: Ellen Mortensen & Colten Venteicher
Judge's Comments: Appreciated the use of the timeline structure to outline a complicated situation.

The Rise and Fall of SUGAR CITY

There was once a town between North Bend and Ames with its own dedicated rail line, store, hotel, school and church that was hailed as an economic boon for Dodge County. Then it disappeared. This is the story of Leavitt, Nebraska.

By: Nathan Arneal

Mr. Ames

Leavitt, Nebraska, was a small town in Dodge County, Nebraska, that was founded in 1870. It was named after the Leavitt family, who were prominent in the area. The town was a hub for the sugar industry, and it was one of the most prosperous in the region. However, it was also one of the most vulnerable. In 1892, a fire destroyed the town, and it never recovered. The story of Leavitt is a testament to the power of industry and the fragility of human-made structures.

The town was founded in 1870 by the Leavitt family, who were prominent in the area. The town was a hub for the sugar industry, and it was one of the most prosperous in the region. However, it was also one of the most vulnerable. In 1892, a fire destroyed the town, and it never recovered. The story of Leavitt is a testament to the power of industry and the fragility of human-made structures.

Division C

1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
InDepth reporting - the cost of murder March 8 Aug 16
By: Trisha Benton
Judge's Comments: Crime not only has a human cost but also a taxpayer cost. These two stories give a strong, in-depth look at the public costs of a horrific quadruple murder. Crime stories typically don't address taxpayer costs, which makes these stories unusual.

2nd Place
Sarpy County Times
Bellevue Parks
By: Scott Stewart
Judge's Comments: Strong local coverage of an issue that is very important to citizens and families.

3rd Place
Cambridge Valley Voice
Medicine Creek Dam
By: Jacey Kent
Judge's Comments: Interesting historical piece on the development of a dam that is vital to the local area.

The cost of murder

Bills expected to add up in Laurel quadruple murder cases

By: Trisha Benton

HEMINGTON - Cedar County law enforcement is expected to spend about \$125,000 in costs stemming from the Laurel quadruple murder cases.

The Laurel Police Department is expected to spend about \$100,000 in costs stemming from the Laurel quadruple murder cases. The Laurel Police Department is expected to spend about \$100,000 in costs stemming from the Laurel quadruple murder cases.

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In-depth Writing

Division D

1st Place Seward County Independent Childcare Desert By: Emily Hemphill

Judge's Comments: This 12-part series is a first-rate example of in-depth reporting on an issue of both local and statewide importance. The reporting, writing and presentation were all outstanding. Reporters and editors nationwide who are searching for tips on how to do a childcare series should use these stories for guidance.

2nd Place Aurora News-Register Hampton eyes development project By: Ron Burtz

Judge's Comments: Strong reporting on important local development issues.

3rd Place Kearney Hub

The Childcare Desert Shortage of care in county affects quality and family lives. Seward County Early Childhood Quality and Capacity Survey Highlights for Employers - Summer 2022. Includes statistics: 73% said NO, 4.6 out of 5, 88% said YES, 4.5 out of 5, 73% said YES.

Schools tackle smartphone addiction, social media issues By: Mary Jane Judge's Comments: Good example of in-depth reporting on the local effects of a nationwide problem.

Division E

1st Place Fremont Tribune Fremont Police series By: Jeff Forward

Judge's Comments: Jeff Forward made public information requests from city and state officials to dig deeply into the Fremont Police Department's problems with officers. It is an outstanding example of journalistic tenacity.

2nd Place North Platte Telegraph Coverage of North Platte housing efforts

By: Todd von Kampen Judge's Comments: A deep dive into affordable housing problems in Nebraska and North Platte. A lot of solid research went into this story.

3rd Place Norfolk Daily News

Protect the Pillar By: Staff Judge's Comments: A well-written series on the loss of community journalism around the nation and state. It really shows the importance of newspapers in their communities and the problems that can occur when those newspapers disappear.

Fremont PD sees 2 more officers resign

Both officers got new jobs at other departments. The Fremont Police Department (FPD) had two officers depart in late July, with both officers resigning in good standing in order to take new jobs with other regional police departments. The two departures are the fourth and fifth departmental employees to resign from the FPD since early March 2023.

Public Notice and Its Promotion

Water conservation district panel planned

Seward County Water Conservation District Map. Includes text: The eastern quarter of Seward County is affected by a Groundwater Conservation District... The district primarily covers the villages of Pleasant Dale and Garland, as well as the rural areas surrounding them.

Division AB

1st Place Milford Times Water, zoning By: Emily Hemphill Judge's Comments: Comprehensive and well-written

Judge's Comments: Informative 3rd Place Stapleton Enterprise We Play A Role In Local Government - Read Public Notices By: Marcia Hora Judge's Comments: Awkwardly written. Contained a couple of grammar errors.

Editorial Page

Division A

1st Place Stanton Register Adventure Called Life By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: Good mix of voices and perspectives that speak to local readers' interests. And a strong watchdog piece questioning why the governor isn't releasing his public schedule. That's what editorial pages are meant for. Bravo.

2nd Place Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger Editorial pages By: LuAnn Schindler, Sandy Schroth

Judge's Comments: There's something for everyone on these opinion pages including guest editorials from state officials to insightful reads from newsroom leaders. A great mix.

3rd Place Friend Sentinel April, June and August By: Staff

OPINION Holiday traditions change as our children grow up. Senators change rules after haphazard motions. Includes crossword puzzle and other content.

Judge's Comments: Lots of good information contained in these pages that speaks to local readers' needs and interests. And a heartfelt celebration of local journalism at a time when we need it the most.

Division C

1st Place Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief Apr 27, Aug. 17 and Nov. 2, 2023 By: Staff

Judge's Comments: The page gives a strong feel for its community, and clearly reflects what's going on around town. It addresses local concerns, community issues, and economic challenges. It also touches on the talk of the boss -- and even bossy mama cows.

2nd Place Hartington Cedar County News Editorial Page - 6-28, 4-5, 8-16 By: Rob Dump Judge's Comments: Nice, clean pages reflecting great professional pride.

Viewpoint Did you know...? Community on the way. From Mona's desk 1938, 1968 and now. Ranch old tails. A youthful eye. Letter to the Editor. Sen. Brewer: LB77 to be signed into law May 2.

Division E

1st Place North Platte Telegraph North Platte Telegraph editorial pages By: staff

Judge's Comments: Nice mix of local and syndicated voices and perspectives. An editorial urging continued press access to legislative executive sessions was particularly striking.

2nd Place Norfolk Daily News Norfolk Daily News By: Jay Prauner Judge's Comments: There's something for every reader on these pages no matter their political leanings, all nicely laid out. Very informative. The "Iron Sharpens Iron" editorial is a well-written reminder to readers about

OPINION THE NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. Includes cartoon 'Democrats need a better, more inspiring candidate' and 'Why do so many air travelers fly off the handle?'.

Division B

1st Place Elgin Review Editorial Page By: Dennis Morgan

Judge's Comments: This was the only entry that addressed news topics in an attempt to inform and explain.

2nd Place Greeley Citizen Editorial Page By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: Nice human interest pieces.

3rd Place Wilber Republican April, June and August By: Staff

Judge's Comments: Readers get glimpses into lives of staff.

Opinion The days dwindle down to a precious few. Finding a responsible way to fund government. Includes cartoon 'Dust in the wind for British monarchs'.

Division D

1st Place Aurora News-Register Editorial page By: Kurt Johnson

Judge's Comments: Pages are clean, clear, well-illustrated and local. Copy is clean and well-edited. It's clear who is responsible for the page and the newspaper. The editorials speak with authority on concerns that hit home, from dueling concerts and junky yards to coping with a local tragedy. A solid voice for the community.

2nd Place Crete News April, August and June By: Staff

Judge's Comments: Editor has a clear voice and gets a lot of other voices on the page.

3rd Place Seward County Independent Seward County Independent By: staff

Judge's Comments: These pages have a lot of personality.

OPINION Full night of music. No reason fair: Bands on the Bricks can't share double feature. Defending school choice, parental rights. Includes cartoon 'A bucket list day for me and my little girl!'.

Editorial

— Editorial — by Sharon M. Wheelock

Unite to Save Our Land—
A slew of events combine to set up concerns.

(1) Out of state people have been moving to rural Nebraska, sometimes purchasing Sandhills land. Various reasons were given for wanting to leave the city because of Covid, crime, etc.

(2) A news report was given that people, even companies—as well as countries (remember when China was buying North Dakota farm land and then was stopped?) and the purpose given for some, was to obtain the water rights beneath the land. The secret we've long known is that water is the next oil, the most needed commodity in the world, and it has become known to countries around the world in dangerous drought, and by utilities that just want to make money themselves or for investors.

Two things are needed to stay alive—air and water. Water must never be used solely for profit, as a luxury that only the wealthy can afford. Sandhills know this and have conserved and cared for the water so deep and pure beneath their land in a way that would benefit the world without causing an on it to make it available only to the rich. The end result of this selfish idea, were it to happen, is too horrible to consider...the poor all over the world dying for lack of water because they can't afford it. Water must be cared for and controlled by unselfish people.

Remember the 'water grab' from many years past and how detailed and scientific their plans were for removing water from the three Grant County towns, Whitman, Hyattsville and Ashby, in huge convoys by rail, then taking it to the coast and sending the water bags behind ships to countries willing to pay large amounts of money?

(3) Then recently came the stunning, heart-breaking news that the Dumbell Ranch is for sale (story on page 1). Though it's been sliced and diced a time or two over the years as original owners died and some divisions were made for heirs, still the Dumbell remained in one family and is the major, the heart, of our original ranch country.

There's more...it gets worse...but the immediate action needed is for area ranchers to work out a deal that one or several local ranchers can buy it up to keep it out of the hands of foreign countries, big cities, states, or companies.

This was done when the old time family Howard ranch was sold earlier this past year and area ranchers bought it. One piece of Sandhills land sale!

This isn't only needed for sentimental, heritage or historical reasons, nor only the reasons above about caretaking of the water, but also if nefarious people get control of the water under the hills—the deepest, purest part under Grant County—it will eventually affect, diminish, the Sand Hills cattle industry, affecting every rancher, large and small.

It was water—so near the surface of the land that caused the birth of the cattle industry in the Sandhills—known then as deadman's or no man's land—where no one entered—or the Great American Desert. But cattle leading into the Sandhills by accident during a winter storm and not only survived, they thrived. Later more control of water—windmills, flow wheels, increased the Sandhills, being home to the greatest place to raise livestock again.

It can go back to being a 'great desert' again if we don't continue our conservation ways, begun by our

Division D

1st Place
Seward County
Independent
Seward County
Independent
By: staff
Judge's Comments: Hyper local, well thought out pieces that take clear and direct stands, even on somewhat lighter matters.

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Editorial
By: Kurt Johnson
Judge's Comments: While not so accustomed to signed

editorials written in first person, these did focus on local issues and stated their points well.

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Help Wanted, Strange Bedfellows, A not so grand experiment
By: Gordon Hopkins
Judge's Comments: These strike me as columns, not so much as editorials. They are well-crafted pieces and do offer a viewpoint. Still, questionable as an "editorial" entry.

EDITORIAL

Consumption tax: Watch the fine print

You've had chances for three years to read The Telegraph about state Sen. Steve Erdman's "consumption tax."

With Erdman's latest version having received public hearings Friday, and with him promising a petition drive if the Legislature won't go along, the time to focus on it has arrived.

He wants voters to chop down all three legs of Nebraska's fiscal stool — income, sales and property taxes — and put a state consumption tax in its place.

A pair of constitutional amendments would abolish all current taxes at the end of 2025 (except excise taxes, which would still be allowed) and impose a consumption tax on services and new products (not used ones), except for groceries and

just 7.5%.
For perspective: Come April 1, that percentage will be North Platte's combined state and local sales tax rate.

And a consumption tax rate of 7.5% is supposed to replace billions statewide in sales, income and property taxes.

Now, that does suggest an experiment: Senators could first abolish every sales tax exemption right now. Except, of course, for food. Then see how much money a 7.5% rate generates.

But a new feature in the 2023 version of Erdman's plan might be especially hard to swallow.

LB 7 would impose some tough decisions on a daily and weekly basis.

Those decisions can be as simple as, "Should we run that photo on Page One or Page Three?" or as difficult as, "Should we call that Board out for violating the public meetings laws by discussing pertinent issues outside of a public meeting?"

We make these decisions based on a few guiding principles to help us pick the right path.

Truth, accuracy and objectivity are the cornerstones of what we do — the cornerstones of journalism ethics.

When putting together the paper each week, we also ask ourselves, "Is this the right thing to do for our readers and for the community?"

Being a journalist has always been a balancing act between getting the facts right and keeping the readers happy and informed. In a perfect world, these would go together hand-in-hand.

Unfortunately, our role as a government watchdog, combined with the misinformation campaigns and propaganda disguised as news, has made our mission tougher than ever these days.

Thankfully, the misinformation campaigns have generally taken aim at national politics and national issues. Unfortunately, these campaigns are making a mark here, too. I can't begin to count the number of times we've been labeled as "fake news."

The common thought these days that newspapers are a thing of the past and an unnecessary part of modern day life has also been pretty disconcerting.

I have to tell you, it's a awfully frustrating to hear folks say they don't read a newspaper, then hear they quote something straight out of the newspaper.

And, just because you misid

Division C

1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Editorial - Oct 4 May 24 June 14
By: Rob Dump and Peggy Year
Judge's Comments: Columns submitted reflect a newspaper that is on top of issues concerning their community. Entries include a well-stated endorsement of National Newspaper Week, an effective appeal for filling a judgeship and praise for those who would not let die the cause for a veterans' memorial.

2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co.Chief
It's not the bill, it's the behavior; Slow progress in the Legislature; LB574
By: Mona Weatherly
Judge's Comments: The Chief's managing editor writes hard-hitting, well-reasoned editorials. All 3 editorials submitted were on a single issue, a filibuster by two state senators who held up action on other key measures because they vehemently opposed a bill to prevent gender-affirming surgery for minors. Lacking, however, was any indication of whether this bill was needed or why its opponents felt so strongly as they did. The editorials would have been stronger had they at least acknowledged the reasoning on the other side.

3rd Place
Tekamah Burt Co. Plaindealer
Editorials
By: Mark Jackson
Judge's Comments: Editorials are well-written but not particularly hard-hitting. The best of the three suggests that several towns work together to hire a single

Division AB

1st Place
Hyannis Grant County
News
Unite to Save Our Land
By: Sharon Wheelock
Judge's Comments: These pieces speak to the crucial issue of local water resources, with a welcome sense of urgency. The writing makes it clear to the reader why this issue matters and what needs to be done.

2nd Place
Humphrey Democrat

Murphy's Law-Editorials
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Does a good job of telling why newspapers matter to the republic, but also to the country.

3rd Place
Mullen Hooker County
Tribune
Pieces of Me
By: Gerri Peterson
Judge's Comments: Succinct writing that shows the newspaper's deep roots in the local community.

Seevers stands ground for beliefs

It's our job to report the news. It's not always good news. The recent disruptions at the Nebraska State Capitol were definitely newsworthy. As we write these articles, Editorial we don't take information from social media sites that can't be verified. We look for credible sources.

The May 24 article about arrests made at the state capitol during debate on LB574 included information reported directly by the Nebraska State Patrol, as stated in the article. Additional information was based on researching text of the bill itself and following both sides of the issue throughout the legislative session up until the vote took place.

Our decision to run the article was not a political statement in favor of or against the Republican party or LB574. Had a member of a different party been involved in a similar situation, we would have reported that as well.

The article was not the Independent promoting one political view over another. As a result, we do not take sides in our reporting. It was a report of an event that occurred in a public setting.

We determine what is newsworthy based on the timeliness of the event, the prominence of those involved, and the effect the event has on the community, among other factors. In this case, the subject was the chairperson of a countywide organization, and the outcome of the vote will affect people in our communities in both positive and negative ways.

In a May 23 email to Seward County GOP members, its executive committee and county central committee, Danna Seewers wrote that by not leaving the balcony, she was standing up for and against a list of certain things and we believe her actions were valid.

"I remained in my seat as a peaceful protest to the clearing of our side of the balcony because no one on our side had done anything wrong," she wrote. "This was the second time the opposition had disrupted the business of the legislature in the same week. I was present when the exact same thing happened on Tuesday during the LB574 floor debate and both balconies were cleared and the disruptors were emptied out into the crowd with no consequences."

Division E

1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph editorials
By: Todd von Kampen
Judge's Comments: All three editorials tackle big issues from tax amendments to school funding. All make their points well and are well written.

2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Good local editorial. The use of the editorial "we" isn't done much anymore. The editorial would have been stronger by stating support for the archdiocese's decision at the start of the editorial and then supporting the opinion.

EDITORIAL

The newspaper business is like any other business — it needs local support to survive

In this business, like any small-town business, we have to make some tough decisions on a daily and weekly basis.

Those decisions can be as simple as, "Should we run that photo on Page One or Page Three?" or as difficult as, "Should we call that Board out for violating the public meetings laws by discussing pertinent issues outside of a public meeting?"

We make these decisions based on a few guiding principles to help us pick the right path.

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Being a journalist has always been a balancing act between getting the facts right and keeping the readers happy and informed. In a perfect world, these would go together hand-in-hand.

Unfortunately, our role as a government watchdog, combined with the misinformation campaigns and propaganda disguised as news, has made our mission tougher than ever these days.

Thankfully, the misinformation campaigns have generally taken aim at national politics and national issues. Unfortunately, these campaigns are making a mark here, too. I can't begin to count the number of times we've been labeled as "fake news."

The common thought these days that newspapers are a thing of the past and an unnecessary part of modern day life has also been pretty disconcerting.

I have to tell you, it's a awfully frustrating to hear folks say they don't read a newspaper, then hear they quote something straight out of the newspaper.

And, just because you misid



ROB DUMP
CROSSCOUNTRY NEWS

In the last few years, the landscape has begun to change. Not everyone can keep up with all of the changes and the amount of time required to stay ahead of the technology curve, and several newspapers have been forced to close their doors.

When we first came to Nebraska 122 years ago, there were 107 newspapers in the state. Today, we have 143 newspapers. That same story is true across the country, as well.

According to Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications' October 2022 State of Local News report, "Newspapers are continuing to vanish at a rapid rate. An average of more than two a week are disappearing."

Since 2005, the country has lost more than 2,500 newspapers. The country lost more than 360 newspapers between the nine-month months of late 2019 and the end of May 2022. That's 360 communities that have lost their historian, their watchdog, and essentially, their voice.

Our business is like any other of modern day life has also been pretty disconcerting.

If you want to help make sure this voice of the community stays strong and vibrant, here's a subscription, buy one for a friend or family member. We've even seen people have subscriptions just

Division A

1st Place
Callaway Courier
Board Divided
By: Ellen Mortensen
Judge's Comments: A well-written and suspenseful account of local school board drama where in took a whopping 12 votes to elect a school board chair. (And the vote for a VP went only slightly better.) A good example of journalism that holds readers' attention while also explaining to them the rationale behind the drama.

2nd Place
Friend Sentinel
23-24 Bobcat activities do not include girls' wrestling
By: Amy Hausman
Judge's Comments: A well-written story about how a school system -- and two

News Writing

First Meeting of 2023 Sees School Board Divided

ELLEN MORTENSEN

After nearly an hour and a half of discussion, voting and re-voting, the Callaway Board of Education finally elected a president for 2023.

The School Board met on Tuesday, Jan. 10, and the first meeting of a new year always begins with election of officers. The school superintendent presides over the meeting until a president is elected, who then takes over.

Superintendent Byron Hanson opened the meeting by swearing in new board member Vincent Gaultier who replaces outgoing member Duane Kimball. Hanson then opened the floor to nominations for the office of president of the board, and current president Liana Hruspek was quickly nominated to retain her seat. By current board secretary Rhonda Pandorf, Board member TR Anderson then nominated Jim Phelps for president.

While the board typically does a roll call vote, in cases of more than one nominee or option on an issue paper ballots are cast. Hanson collected and read the ballots, which resulted in a split decision — three votes for Hruspek, three votes for Phelps.

Following a brief discussion ballots were cast again, and the result was the same. Pandorf then explained that while she believes Phelps would indeed make a good



The Callaway School Board, following the election of officers, an hour with Rhonda Pandorf as president, Mike Bull as president, TR Anderson, Jim Phelps as secretary, Superintendent Byron Hanson, Vincent Gaultier, and Liana Hruspek as secretary. (COURTESY PHOTO BY ELLEN MORTENSEN)

navigate uncharted sports territory. A great example of including several voices and perspectives to expand readers' understanding of an issue.

3rd Place
Randolph Times
Newswriting - school co-op

By: Trisha Benton
Judge's Comments: A clearly written, strong story that explores whether a football co-op is the right fit for two schools. Good job including many different voices.

Division B

1st Place
Greeley Citizen
Quilt of Valor
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: This was beautifully written with care and respect for the family. Well done.

2nd Place
Nance County Journal
Digging for Truth
By: Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: These types of stories are the ones we all hope to tell. My only criticism is in the sentence

with "a number of Indian tribes." It would be culturally appropriate to use indigenous or Native American in that one instance.

3rd Place
Kimball Western Nebraska
Observer
Dark Times At Hometown Hardware
By: Daria Anderson-Faden
Judge's Comments: Well-written, engaging story on the troubles of a hometown store.

'HE HAD A HEART OF GOLD'



Emotional day for Pfeifer family as they are given quilt of valor

By: GARRIE PITZER

It was a beautiful day in the town of Kimball, Nebraska, as the family of a fallen soldier gathered for a ceremony to receive a quilt of valor. The quilt, a symbol of honor and sacrifice, was presented to the family by the local community.

The ceremony was held at the town hall, where the family was joined by friends and neighbors. The quilt was made by local women, each contributing a piece to the final product.

The family expressed their gratitude for the gesture, and the ceremony was a touching reminder of the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform.

Guilty of election falsification

Columbus man was accused of illegally voting in Richland

JEFF FORWARD
Columbus Telegraph

A Columbus man was found guilty on Thursday, Aug. 24, of election falsification following a short trial in Colfax County District Court.

A 12-person jury comprised of six men and six women took only 58 minutes to render a guilty verdict against Larry L. Divis, of Columbus, who was accused of illegally registering to vote and voting in the Village of Richland in the 2020 general election despite really living in Columbus.

State prosecutors presented a case over one and a half days of proceedings against Divis, who was charged with one count of election falsification, a Class IV felony.

The potential punishment Divis could face includes a possible prison sentence of up to two years, 12 months of post-release supervision, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.

After the jury's verdict was read before Colfax County District Court Judge Christina M. Marroquin, Divis must serve several unappealable words to

1st Place
David City Banner-Press
Guilty of election falsification
By: Jeff Forward
Judge's Comments: An interesting court case to cover. Plenty of details and effective writing to keep the reader engaged.

2nd Place
Sarpy County Times
PLCS Bond

Division C

1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Identified
By: Gordon Hopkins
Judge's Comments: Wild story. The way it was written lended to the questions that kept having to be asked to find this man's identity.

By: Scott Stewart
Judge's Comments: Clear, concise writing with all the details voters needed to know.

3rd Place
Hartington Cedar County News
News writing - Motive revealed in murder case
By: Trisha Benton
Judge's Comments: Each new detail was a surprise and twist in this gruesome murder case. Effective writing to tell the story.

Revisiting A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE



Angel leads family to safety during raging blizzard of '83

By: GARRIE PITZER

It's a Christmas story that locals in Lincoln County, Nebraska, have heard many times over. It's about how an angel led her husband to safety on a night when the wind howled and the snow fell like a thick blanket.

The story is set in the town of Lincoln, where a family was struggling to survive a blizzard that hit in December 1983. The husband was away from home, and the wife was alone with their young children.

The family was in a desperate situation when an angel appeared to them, leading them to safety. The story is a true miracle that has been passed down through generations.

Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Christmas Miracle Angel Leads Family Home
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Such an amazing story told so many years later. Written with emotion and really showcases how all involved were feeling.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
WWW: World Wide Watusi
By: Jenny Higgins

Judge's Comments: This is a feel good, curiosity-peaking story that truly captures the spirit of both Meyer and Howdy Doody. A great read!

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Identified
By: Gordon Hopkins
Judge's Comments: Wild story. The way it was written lended to the questions that kept having to be asked to find this man's identity.

Baby found on deck near Alda

7-month-old had spent more than two hours outside

JEFF BAHN
jeffbahn@independent.com

ALDA — A 7-month-old boy, the youngest of the three children kidnapped over the weekend, spent more than two hours outside on a deck near Alda early Sunday morning before he was rescued by the homeowner.

Two suspects in a car theft and kidnapping left the baby outside on a deck near Alda early Sunday morning before he was rescued by the homeowner.

Chuck Sorahan was awakened by an electronic alert asking people to look for the child. After looking around the house, he found the baby on the deck at 5:25 a.m.

Because of the cold, Sorahan feared the worst. The infant's eyes were closed and his hands were up to his chest. Dressed in



Sorahan

Division E

1st Place
Grand Island Independent
Baby Spent Two Hours on Deck of Strangers' Home
By: Jeff Bahr
Judge's Comments: This story does a great job of giving readers the hard facts, while still painting a picture of the scene and the situation. It's easy to understand and immediately draws you in.

2nd Place
York News-Times
Water at women's prison restored after two weeks
By: William Swett
Judge's Comments: Impressive use of public records requests, explaining to readers just how bad the situation is and why it matters.

3rd Place
York News-Times
York improves childcare access
By: William Swett
Judge's Comments: Great example of how important it is to get out and actually talk to people being affected by the issues.

Headline Writing



STUDENTS AT ELM CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, which made the transition to their new classroom layout in 2023, enjoy the new building during a walk-through tour.

Buffaloes Roam to New Home



Buffaloes Roam team members and staff.

Division A

1st Place
Elm Creek Beacon-Observer
BUFFALOES ROAM
By: MICHAEL HAPP, JORDAN COSLOR
Judge's Comments: Simple but great headline that made me smile.

2nd Place
Wausa Gazette
Headline Writing - Aug. 9

By: Staff
Judge's Comments: A punny headline is always a winner!

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Whatever Floats Your Boat
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: The headline with corresponding photo made this entry stand out.

1st Place
Bloomfield Knox Co. News
Monitor
Home Plate Is Where The Heart Is
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Excellent graphic, theme and writing that ties the headline and storytelling all together.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Bank Cooks Up New Location
By: Carrie Pitzer

Division D

Judge's Comments: Very clever play on words in detailing the upcoming bank and former Pizza Hut; writing made it all cohesive.

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Or deer! Break in
By: Ron Burtz
Judge's Comments: Catchy headline that is clear and piques interest right away. Helps that the story was well written and detailed.

HOME PLATE
Is Where The Heart Is

Home Plate is Where The Heart Is

Former college player excited to return as Creighton coach

By BROOKE BAZAMA

The school year is ending and students of the fall are heading to their homes and competing for jobs and college.

Creighton's former ball player has returned to his alma mater as the head coach of the Creighton baseball team.

Creighton's former ball player has returned to his alma mater as the head coach of the Creighton baseball team.

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Clever and effective!

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph
By: Andrew Bottrell; Staff

Division E

Judge's Comments: This headline made me want to read the whole story!

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Front page from April 21, 2023
By: Tami Humphreys
Judge's Comments: Effective play on words.

Two Lose Big in Winners Heist

Police make arrests in local burglary case

Two men were arrested in a burglary case that resulted in the theft of a large amount of cash from a local business.



Police officers at a crime scene.

1st Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
Two Lose Big in Winners Heist
By: Barbara Perez
Judge's Comments: A good play on words without being forced. Doesn't make light of the crime itself, either.

2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief
"Years to grow, seconds to come down"
By: Donniss Hueftle-Bullock

Division C

Judge's Comments: Good observation, great point. Inviting headline.

3rd Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Headline Writing - March 22
By: Rob Dump
Judge's Comments: Wasn't sure which headline, Rough Waters or Tumbling Down. That said, writer has a good sense about creating short, punchy hammer heads.

Division B

1st Place
Kimball Western Nebraska Observer
Western Nebraska Observer Headline entry
By: Jim Orr
Judge's Comments: Perfect headline to go with the story. Headline pulls you in and you know exactly the feeling that the story will convey.

2nd Place
Arnold Sentinel
Grape Fire Results In Some Really Juicy News
By: Debbie Connelly
Judge's Comments: Great cleverness on writer's part. Love those headlines that just make you giggle just a bit.

3rd Place
Nance County Journal
NCJ Headline Writing
By: Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: Clever headline to lead into story.

Dix Road Becoming A Fixed Road

BY DARIA ANDERSON-FADEN
The Observer

In a few weeks, County Road 59 South, otherwise known as the Dix road, will receive two coats of chip seal.

At the present time, the tubes or culverts have been installed, and there are about 3 1/2 miles left to patch before the chip seal project begins. The badly needed repairs will help improve the life of the blacktop and hopefully repair potholes.

Randy Bymer, road superintendent, said the pucker price is set to increase for the chip seal project.

In other news discussed at Tuesday's Kimball County Commissioners meeting, Bymer said the Road Department is blading, fixing washouts and checking roads.

Please See COUNTY, Page B8

NORFOLK DAILY NEWS

SPORTS
RV THERE YET?
Commissioners defer consideration of proposed campground for RVs

REGIONS
2024 candidates

SPY BALLOON (PROBABLY) SPOURED ON NEBRASKA

Front Page

the Sentinel

Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Vol 135, No. 2
Printed, Nebraska
www.thesentinel.com
Price \$1

You can't win together if you don't work together

Dorchester man back in district court
Judge's account of \$22,000 in theft charges from small town bar

Halloween fun

Bobcats shoot for fundraiser

WE'RE GROWING AND ADDING TO OUR TEAM!
SALES EXECUTIVE

Oakland Independent

Oakland-Craig finishes 9th of 20 teams

Teacher shortage prompts creative proposals

60% increase in educator resignations

Grain Markets

Fair Kickoff

Board of Education

Valentines Dinner

AA and NA

Business Hours

Deadlines

Inside

TICKET PINCHED!

Barn in the USA with the Fair Foundation Kickoff planned as improvement to fairgrounds continues

To Be the BEST We Employ the BEST

WEST POINT NEWS

Let us remember
Many gather to honor at Memorial Day service

Patriotic display honors Karl Timmermann

Cattlemen's Ball set to kick off

SALES - 402-948-4000

1st Place
Friend Sentinel
Nov. 1, 2023
By: staff
Judge's Comments: That's a great front page! The cropped photo of the kids at the top really caught my eye. The photos, writing, headlines, and overall layout and design really made this an appealing, strong front page. Great work! It gives me a few ideas for my own paper.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
State Champion
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: The "State

Champions' headline and large celebratory photo really drew me in. I also loved the use of the cropped image of the football player, the quote for a headline, the writing, and the overall look of the page. Great work!

3rd Place
Hemington Ledger
Homecoming Week
By: Kay Bakkehaug
Judge's Comments: The homecoming week package is well done. I especially like the use of the cropped photos and the photo of the fire which catches your attention.

1st Place
West Point News
WPN Front Page
By: Mike O'Brien, Ashley Gaghan, Blair Design Team
Judge's Comments: Very nice centerpiece design and use of photos.

2nd Place
Lexington Clipper-Herald
Lexington Clipper-Herald 1-11-2023 front page

Division C

By: Debbie Connelly
Judge's Comments: Balanced, clean and newsy page. Good use of headline sizes.

3rd Place
Sardy County Times
May 31
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Bright, colorful photos draw me in to this clean design.

Front Page

Division D

1st Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
Pilot-Tribune 1/24/23 front page
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Interesting centerpiece, clean design. Not too crowded.

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
P-H Front Page 7-12-23
By: MICHAEL HAPP & MICHAEL ROTHER
Judge's Comments: Clear top news story, clear dominant art. Clean, neat.

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Front page
By: Kurt Johnson
Judge's Comments: Once again, clear top news story, clear dominant/centerpiece art.



Division E

1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph Front Page
By: Joan von Kampen, Andrew Bottrell, staff
Judge's Comments: Great design utilizing quality graphics, photos, headlines, sidebar and color with solid reporting/writing.

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Front page from April 4, 2023
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Effective use of fonts, headlines, photos. Sports image above the masthead looks great.

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Nice use of a graphic on the front page. Overall, interesting and effective design.



General Excellence

THE MILFORD Times



Division A

1st Place
Milford Times
Milford Times
By: staff
Judge's Comments: Tough category to judge, but Milford rises to the top on an all-around solid effort. Content has overall range, and I like how paper finds individuals and tells their stories, not just those of institutions. Well-cropped photos. Good cancer supplement. One of the smartest things is the local map next to the garage sale ad - just clip it all and go.

2nd Place
Petersburg Press
May 3, October 25 and November 1
By: Staff

Judge's Comments: Even without an editorial section, paper projects its voice to the community through its mix of news and content as well as writing that gets to the point and is clear. Heds show some care and craft And there is a clear effort to be creative with ads and to make notices and classifieds easy to navigate.

3rd Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
SAM general excellence
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Content is timely and there are good special sections.

Division B

1st Place
Nance County Journal
NCJ General Excellence
By: Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: What an incredible community paper! So many faces and names. It feels like a citizen, living among its readers.

2nd Place
Arnold Sentinel
General excellence - May 25, June 1, October 25
By: Janet Larreau and Debbie Connelly
Judge's Comments: Great

storytelling on the front pages. Loved the true community columnists, sharing the happenings with lots of names.

3rd Place
Kimball Western Nebraska Observer
Western Nebraska Observer
General Excellence 1st Paper
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: This is clearly a well edited paper with a nice mix of hard news, nostalgia and sense of place / community news.



LEXINGTON Clipper-Herald



Division C

1st Place
Lexington Clipper-Herald
general excellence entry
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Clean layout. Great community focus. Clear winner.

2nd Place
Tekamah Burt Co. Plaindealer
General Excellence

By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Lots of great local content. An asset to the community.

3rd Place
West Point News
WPN General Excellence
By: West Point News Staff, Blair Design Team
Judge's Comments: Good variety of coverage.

SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT



Division D

1st Place
Seward County Independent
Seward County Independent
By: staff
Judge's Comments: Very compelling content.

2nd Place
Crete News
Crete News
By: staff
Judge's Comments: So great to see so many photos of people from the community.

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
General Excellence
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Strong effort all around.

NORFOLK DAILY NEWS



Division E

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Love the layout and placement of articles and ads. Front page is very clean and pleasing to look at.

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph general excellence
By: staff
Judge's Comments: Clean layout and good use of article placement

3rd Place
Fremont Tribune
Fremont Tribune General Excellence
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Clean layout style

Special Single Section



Division A

1st Place
Cozad LOCAL
Letters to Santa
By: Mark Lewis
Judge's Comments: What a cute section! The layout was very good and drew my attention. I love the ads designed by the kids. Very fun! I think I might adopt this idea.

2nd Place
Stromsburg Polk County News
Senior Sketches (Celebrating the Class of 2023)

By: Beth Sparrow and Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: What a neat twist on the traditional high school graduation section! Love how this gives more info on each graduate.

3rd Place
Springview Herald
County Fair Highlights
By: Amy Johnson
Judge's Comments: Great comprehensive coverage of an important community event.

Division B

1st Place
Gothenburg Leader
Salute to Beef
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: This section has it all. Great design, great articles and great photos. It has something for everybody.

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
The Dynasty Continues
By: Nathan Arneal

Judge's Comments: Great photos, design and stories on North Bend state championship team. Outstanding work.

3rd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Salute to Harvest
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: A good, strong section with solid stories and photos about crops and harvest in Nebraska.

LEADER CALLAWAY courier



BEEF TAB

Division C

1st Place
South Sioux City Dakota Co. Star
SSC Girls Wrestlers win second NSAA title, third overall
By: Michael Carnes, Jason Sturek, Mary Vanderbeek
Judge's Comments: An article that pulls you in from the lede and dynamic full-color photos of the athletes send this section to the top of the pack. A nice keepsake for the team.

2nd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief
Salute to Harvest, Oct. 26, 2023
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Nice cover design highlights all that you will find inside. Informative editorial content pairs well with interesting photos clean ads.

3rd Place
Wayne Herald
Reaching Elite Status

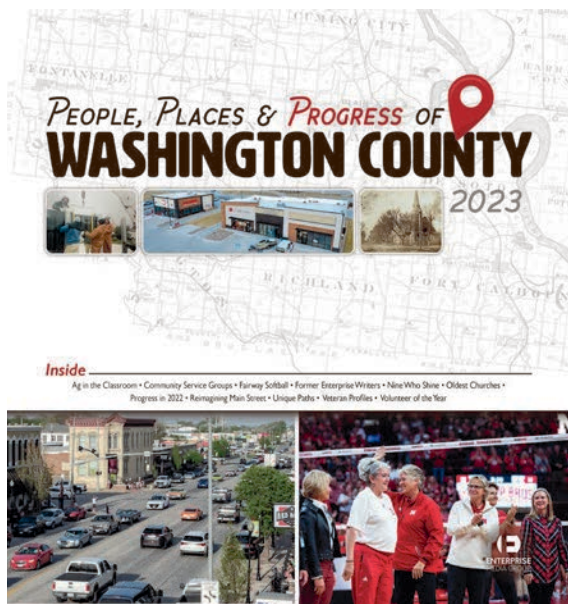


Take Two (Plus 1)

SSC girls claim third straight title, 2nd in NSAA



By: Diana Smith
Judge's Comments: A picture is worth a thousand words, and this section said a lot. Article about the season is told with feeling and photo pages capture wide range of subjects from the band to the fans to the action.



Division D

1st Place
Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune
People, Places & Progress of Washington County
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Even though it happens just once a year, this section must be an enormous undertaking. The content is high quality and quite diverse. The entire section is well-designed.

2nd Place

Falls City Journal
Graduation Section
By: Chelsie Alexander
Judge's Comments: There are a lot of these graduation sections, but this one is just extremely well designed and put together.

3rd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Neligh's 150th Birthday
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: A lot of history in 32 pages.

1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Business and Education Outlook edition 2023
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Business and education are two important topics for any newspaper to cover because they both matter to every community. This section was very informative and was packed with unique stories to inform your community. It was also designed in an easy-to-read format. Great work!

2nd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Veterans Day 2023
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: What a wonderful and informative

Division E

section about true heroes! The cover drew me in and I then found some great, informative stories about men and women who served our country. I also loved the photos of the veterans. This is a section my paper wants to bring back, so I appreciate some great ideas.

3rd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Discover Us
By: Maunette Loeks
Judge's Comments: Very informative section about your communities! The layout and design made it easy to follow and also made me want to keep reading, even though I don't live there.



Special Section (Multiple Publication Days)

Division BCD

1st Place
Blair Washington Co. Enterprise
Retirement Lifestyles (Quarterly)
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Attractive layouts and informative articles make this quarterly publication a valuable resource.

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Sports preview editions

By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Informative, in-depth coverage of local youth sports teams

3rd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief
Progress 2023 Moving Forward
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Nice community sections



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Division E

1st Place
Fremont Tribune
Fremont Freedom of Information
By: Jeff Forward
Judge's Comments: A strong, wide-ranging effort to use the FOI to obtain public information of importance to the community and to explain the behind-the-scenes workings.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Transparency Needed In Stanton County
By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Like the clarity in explaining how the paper is advocating for taxpayers. Would have loved to see a reference to the FOI efforts too.

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Keystone, Jansen, Asbestos, Toxic, More, Identified, Timeline
By: Gordon Hopkins
Judge's Comments: Hopkins does an amazing job reporting oil-contaminated dirt coming into Nebraska and transparency issues.

Requests for Hansen records denied

AG admits investigative file exists

JEFF FORWARD
Fremont Tribune

Efforts by the Fremont Tribune to obtain documents from the City of Fremont and the Nebraska Attorney General Office about former police Sgt. Bradley Hansen have been rejected by both entities.

The Tribune made numerous public records requests for documents related to accusations of alleged sexual assault made against Hansen.

Hansen retired from the Fremont Police Department effective Dec. 1, 2020, after being on a leave of absence from June 4 through Nov. 30, 2020. Fremont Police Department officials refused to respond to questions about whether the Hansen was paid or not while on leave.

Records requests costs jump

A Tribune analysis of Fremont's public records request costs

JEFF FORWARD
Fremont Tribune

The City of Fremont saw a dramatic increase in legal costs to process public records requests from 2021 to 2022, with a nearly 18% increase in legal fees to deal with requests from the public.

In 2021, the city spent \$70,890 in legal fees for public records request reviews to the law firm Adams & Sullivan of Papillion. In 2022, the costs for that work on public records rose to \$83,450.

The total number of public records requests made to the city in 2021 was 111 while in 2022, the number of public records requests increased to 148.

The highest monetary cost for public records requests in 2021 was the month of August, with \$14,240 spent on the work. A total of 10 public records requests were made that month, which was the fourth highest total of any month that year behind December (16), September (13) and November (12).

In 2022, the highest cost month was November, with \$14,950 spent on the records legal work. There were 29 total public records requests made in November 2022, the highest of any month that year. December 2022 came in second place last year with 17 public records requests.

BEST NIE PROGRAM



1st Place
Arnold Sentinel
"The Avonlea Advocate"
By: Janet Larreau and Debbie Connelly
Judge's Comments: This is a standout NIE example that showcases the cooperative effort between newspapers and schools to promote literacy and learning. The Arnold Sentinel's Janet Larreau and Debbie Connelly demonstrated considerable ingenuity through the "Avonlea

Advocate," researching, creating and delivering a fictional 1901 edition based on "Anne of Green Gables." Working with the one-act play's coaches, The Arnold Sentinel surprised students with a keepsake edition to commemorate the play. So much heart and creativity was put into this effort! A shining example of the way newspapers should serve their communities, and how newspapers deliver today and throughout time.

Well done!

2nd Place
Stanton Register
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19KoXcS2idQLtWTJf2BMk8KIYuGgLIjB?usp=sharing
By: Lisa Wilke
Judge's Comments: Solid effort working with the students to promote literacy and newspapers. The fundraiser is a win-win!

Division B

Youth Coverage

Specialty/Lifestyles Sections

'LIFE WORTHY OF LIFE'

Students aren't afraid of 'tough topic' of Holocaust

By Carrie Pitzer, Lisa Wilke, Traci Vauble

Students in a classroom setting, some looking at a screen. The article discusses how students are not afraid to learn about the Holocaust, a 'tough topic'.

Division A

1st Place
Stanton Register
Youth Coverage
By: Carrie Pitzer, Lisa Wilke, Traci Vauble
Judge's Comments: A mix of very interesting stories that gives the community a full range of what children are doing. I imagine the one about the Nazi play really opened eyes. Well done.

2nd Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
FFA, SkillsUSA, letters to

Santa with artwork
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Nice job brining in a lot of voices from the youth community including those notes to Santa.

3rd Place
Milford Times
Milford Times
By: staff
Judge's Comments: A nice variety of stories. I appreciate getting the thoughts of the 2nd grader on the artwork.

Division B

1st Place
Arnold Sentinel
Arnold Junior Gives
Testimony; Student-Led Updates ; Set Sights on Arnold Lake
By: Janet Larreau and Debbie Connelly
Judge's Comments: Good news about children doing good things. Nicely put together with context on why it matters to everyone.

2nd Place

8-Year-Old Bound to Be a Writer

This Coleman was ready for work last week, creating a comic for The Sentinel.

Judge's Comments: I bet the community appreciates all the photos of their children.

Humboldt Standard
Youth Coverage
By: Staff

Judge's Comments: I bet the community appreciates all the photos of their children.

Division C

1st Place
Ord Quiz
Kids in Community
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: This is a neat idea to spotlight children doing things that aren't typical or scheduled and in a bright, easy to digest format with a photo.

2nd Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Youth Coverage - Top of Class - Student Awards - Youth at Fair
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Very through coverage that touches every part of the community.

3rd Place
Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief
Youth Coverage 2023
By: Mona Weatherly, Donnis Hueftle-Bullock
Judge's Comments: A good variety of stories that likely made people in the community see the good kids can do.

KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Judge's Comments: This is a neat idea to spotlight children doing things that aren't typical or scheduled and in a bright, easy to digest format with a photo.

Division AC

1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Special Sections - Ag Update
March 22 - May 31 - Oct. 18
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: From the front page mastheads to the feature and news content to the advertising, each section does a great job of following its designated theme. The area-specific photography and profile articles help familiarize readers with an agricultural lifestyle while providing an entertaining and useful resource to those living it.

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
OHS Senior Book
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: A beautifully-designed section that would make a great souvenir for the seniors. Ads are neatly organized throughout.

3rd Place
Oshkosh Garden Co. News

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA AG UPDATE

NATIONAL AG MONTH

Girls seek titles in an effort to 'ag-vocate'

Judge's Comments: A few of my favorite things
By: Buddy Paulsen, Tessa Paulsen, Katie Ashmore

Judge's Comments: A great Christmas gift for advertisers and nice feature for readers.

National Ag Week is a time that should be celebrated

Judge's Comments: A great Christmas gift for advertisers and nice feature for readers.

Division D

1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Ag, business, senior sections
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Each of the special sections contains informative content for the target audience. Companion feature articles in the Prime Time section provide unique perspectives of shared experiences. Page design is clean and easily readable throughout all sections.

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
Highlights
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Love the concept of providing a section dedicated to the "good news" in the community. Layout is clean and colorful.

3rd Place

News-Register living50plus

Prime Time

INSIDE SECTION C
News Time C-1, 5-8
Sports C-2, 3
Specialty C-4

Kicking off retirement with trip of a lifetime to Australia

Judge's Comments: Love the concept of providing a section dedicated to the "good news" in the community. Layout is clean and colorful.

Fairbury Journal-News
44
By: Jennifer Lewis
Judge's Comments: Job well done combining relevant content and advertising for each special section.

Web Sites

Judge's Comments: Very nice front page. Headlines pop off the gradient color very well and image size/orientation works fantastic.

1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph website
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Very nice front page. Headlines pop off the gradient color very well and image size/orientation works fantastic.

Division AB

2nd Place
Stromsburg Polk County News
Polk County News website
By: Beth Sparrow & Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: Really like the clean black and white front page with the top story of the day acting as a centerpiece of sorts. Headlines pop off the screen really well.

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Fairbury Journal News
By: Jennifer Lewis
Judge's Comments: Masthead is great. Orientation of front page stories and photos works well and is easy to follow.

Online Video - Advertising

Train lovers in awe of iconic UP 'Big Boy' steam locomotive

Judge's Comments: Liked all the shots. Camera was a little shaky a times, but captured the massive train and great crowd. Loved the angles of the train, the conductors pulling the horn cord. Great train sound! Maybe more narration needed, but overall well done. Made the article stand out to me.

1st Place
Fremont Tribune
Train lovers in awe of iconic UP 'Big Boy' steam locomotive
By: Jeff Forward
Judge's Comments: Liked all the shots. Camera was a little shaky a times, but captured the massive train and great crowd. Loved the angles of the train, the conductors pulling the horn cord. Great train sound! Maybe more narration needed, but overall well done. Made the article stand out to me.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Larches Night
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Not really sure how this was going to go. Hard to hear at times. Don't know what background. Not much to it.

Division D

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
ACN Youth Entry
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Antelope County News goes far beyond the usual sports coverage and honor roll lists, giving readers compelling stories about young people and a sense the newspaper cares about their lives and activities. Where else would one find a five-part series on the

2nd Place
Crete News
Crete News
By: Amy Hausman, Keaton Burgess
Judge's Comments: Nice story selection with good photos

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Youth Coverage
By: Fairbury Journal News Staff
Judge's Comments: The sort of coverage many parents would clip and display on the fridge.

SHOWCASING TALENT

Fifth-grader shows off stadium during Nebraska's Statehood Day

Judge's Comments: Great way to highlight educational programs.

Division E

1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Youth features and coverage
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Covers a wide range of activities that kids care about.

2nd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Youth Coverage: Esports to technical programs
By: Fletcher Halfaker
Judge's Comments: Great way to highlight educational programs.

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Let's dance/It's a superpower/World qualifiers
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Great spotlight on high achieving kids.

Whiz kids

Judge's Comments: Great way to highlight educational programs.

Online Video - Editorial



Sights and sounds from the 2023 Arrows to Aerospace Parade

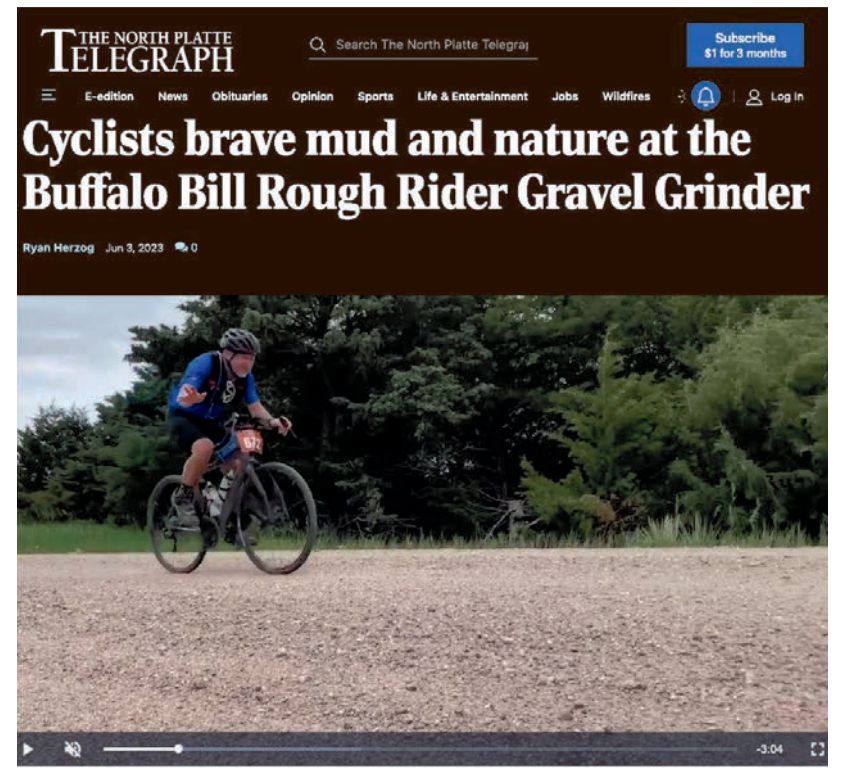
The Daily Nonpareil 189 subscribers

Division A

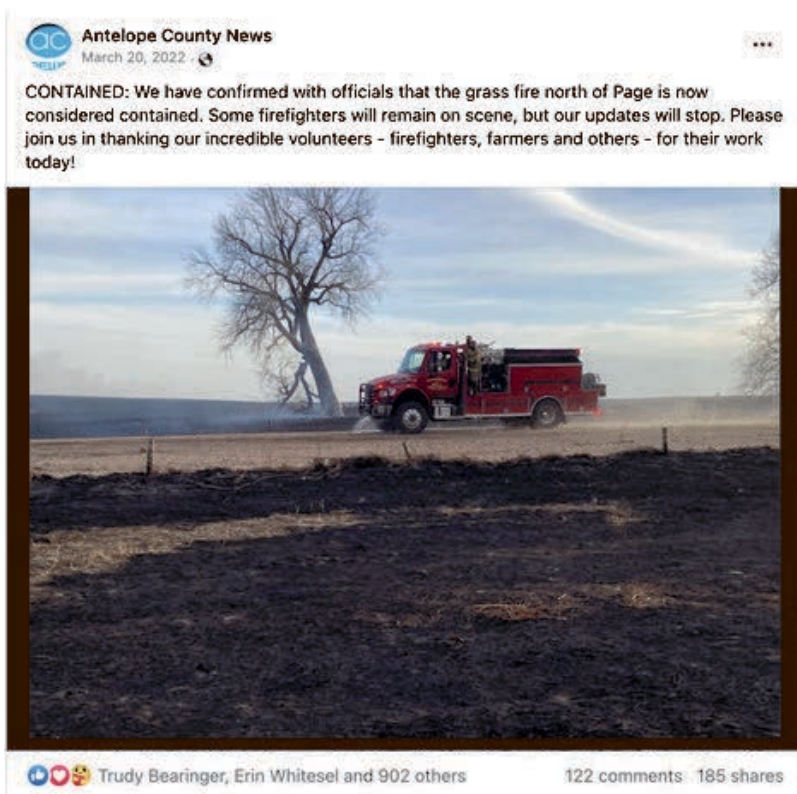
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1st Place
Sarpy County Times
Sights and sounds from the 2023 Arrows to Aerospace Parade
By: Joe Shearer
Judge's Comments: What a fun video that made me feel | like I was there.
2nd Place
Sarpy County Times
Bellevue Kiwanis 9/11 Memorial Ceremony Sights & Sounds
By: Scott Stewart
Judge's Comments: Nice | editing.
3rd Place
Sarpy County Times
Dog Day at the Bay a splashing success
By: Joe Shearer
Judge's Comments: It was playful. |
|--|--|---|

Division B

- 1st Place**
North Platte Telegraph
Buffalo Bill Rough Rider Gravel Grinder
By: Ryan Herzog
Judge's Comments: Engaging video. Good camera work and sound -- feel like I'm riding with them. The shots from the car interviewing the cyclist through the driver's side window and keeping her in frame is nice.
- 2nd Place**
North Platte Telegraph
Big Boy Pulls Up
By: Ryan Herzog
Judge's Comments: Taking us into the cab of an old steam locomotive while some children and their parents get the ride of their lives -- nice.
- 3rd Place**
North Platte Telegraph
Fancy cars and contraptions come out at the Platte River Cruise
By: Ryan Herzog
Judge's Comments: Fascinating to watch.



Online Coverage of Breaking News



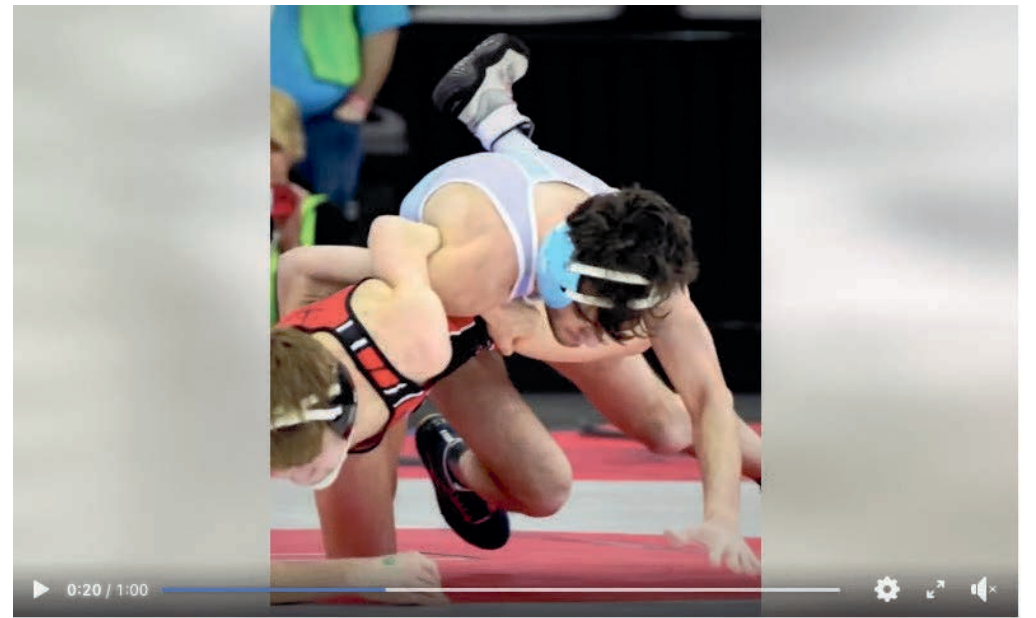
Division AB

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Tragedy Strikes
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Some real hustle shown here to keep readers updated in real time about a dangerous fire. Love that lots of photos with extended captions were included in the coverage, | so readers could see for themselves the fire's movement and impact.
2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Bailey Yard explosion
By: Todd von Kampen, Ryan Herzog and staff
Judge's Comments: Great team work on this story, including a comprehensive story with | several voices, a video and photos. Readers were well served even though it was a breaking news situation.
3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
November Fire
By: Fairbury Journal News Staff
Judge's Comments: Nice use of video posted to social media to keep readers updated. |
|---|--|---|

Best Use of Social Media

Division A

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1st Place
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Year in Review
By: Staff
Judge's Comments: Awesome Facebook posts | Judge's Comments: awesome format, love #weseeyou idea |
| 2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
#WeSeeYou
By: Staff | 3rd Place
Stromsburg Polk County News
Polk County News, social media
By: Beth Sparrow
Judge's Comments: Great sports coverage |



Goodbye 2023. Hello 2024. #yearinpictures

Best Digital Ad Idea



Division A

- 1st Place**
Aurora News-Register
Aurora Mall
By: Karla Senff
Judge's Comments: Who doesn't love an animated ad with a leprechaun?
- 2nd Place**
Nance County Journal
Coldwell Banker ad
By: Rick Holtz
Judge's Comments: The layering on this is interesting and well done.
- 3rd Place**
Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Michael's Cantina - Margaritas and More
By: LuAnn Schindler
Judge's Comments: Well laid out ad with a clear message for the customer.

Division B

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| 1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
MJ's Gelato & Boba
By: Vickie Hrabanek, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Color and art pops in this campaign! Great use of space and copy to | convey message. | 3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Avenue Bridal
By: Suzie Wachter, Kelli Ganskow
Judge's Comments: Classy font choices. Shares basic details for Wedding Expo. |
| 2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Flooring Solutions
By: Lizz Kemling, Brenda Mather
Judge's Comments: Pertinent info is conveyed in these colorful ads. | | |



NEWS PHOTO OF THE YEAR



Sisters Emily and Alexa Brodd embrace in the peacefulness following the violent storm that destroyed their house and farm. The tornado left a path of overturned pivots and broken power poles as it cut through Dodge County Friday.

1st Place
 North Bend Eagle
 Comfort amid destruction
 By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: Wonderful photo. A moment, light, detail in the background giving context so I know what happened right off the bat, yeah this is a winner. Stood out right away and was a no-contest.

2nd Place
 Bloomfield Knox Co. News Monitor
 Organized Chaos
 By: Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Unsure if this is a planned event or the photographer stumbled upon the situation. The "explanation" tab is strange, but this is a great set of photos still. Good moments and access sell this set and it shares compelling information.

3rd Place
 Crete News
 Rescued horses
 By: Doug Carroll
Judge's Comments: This is a good single image that tells the story. Nice use of a creative angle and you can tell that the horses are in bad shape or recovering. Could have used human interaction but still great!

SPORTS PHOTO OF THE YEAR



1st Place
 Aurora News-Register
 The golden Staehr
 By: Richard Rhoden
Judge's Comments: Absolutely awesome shot. The sand/dirt flying up is a fantastic touch and the colors in this photo are so vibrant.

2nd Place
 Imperial Republican
 Under the bright lights
 By: Diane Stamm
Judge's Comments: Fantastic use of subpar lighting. Really captures the anticipation of the wrestler waiting for his next match.

3rd Place
 Norfolk Daily News
 Mya Zohner pole vault
 By: Dennis Meyer
Judge's Comments: Great timing on this shot, a very unique capture.

**DELIVERING LOADS
 OF GOOD NEWS DAILY
 ALL OVER NEBRASKA**



Best Sports Video

Division AB

1st Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
Buzzer Beater
By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: The right place at the right time. Good emotion, great reaction. Nice job getting the ref out of the way. Liked the zoom shot to the bench with the smiling coach. You can't beat that.

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Opening night of Buffalo Bill Rodeo features reigning champions
By: Jake Dreilinger, Ryan Herzog

Judge's Comments: Good interview, nice jump cuts between live action and the interviews. Good quotes from the competitors. A little loud at times, but well done. Didn't need the horses at the end, but that's ok.

3rd Place
Stromsburg Polk County News
All Star Basketball
By: Rick Holtz

Judge's Comments: Good highlight clip for the highlighted player. We could see his skill. Maybe needed a little more. Might have worked well with audio of player describing his play or time at the All-Star game.

Buzzer Shot Sends Game Into Overtime

Dec 27, 2023 Updated Jan 31, 2024



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56 - FEATURE PHOTO OF THE YEAR



1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Feature photo of the Year - bottom of the swimming pool
By: Jeremy Buss

Judge's Comments: This category was extremely competitive, but this photo stands out for a variety of reasons -- the set-up and uniqueness of the image itself, but the emotions on the children's faces and their stances sell it. Great work.

2nd Place
Orchard Antelope Co. News
No Way Santa
By: Carrie Pitzer

Judge's Comments: The timing of this photo is everything. The emotions on the faces of Santa Claus and the crying kid are priceless.

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
The Future of Water in Nebraska
By: David Chlupacek

Judge's Comments: A very well-composed photo. It made something that could've been a generic, landscape shot interesting by incorporating the wildlife.



Jeremy Buss | Cedar County News

With temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s, area kids knew right where to go to cool off — the Hartington swimming pool. Cedar County News photographer Jeremy Buss wasn't afraid to get wet as he got these underwater shots last Wednesday morning at the pool — and he had plenty of kids ready to ham it up for him, too. (left) Briar Backer sits on the bottom of the pool, while (above) Wyatt Pinkelman reaches for the bottom.

EDITORIAL OF THE YEAR

1st Place
Hartington Cedar County News
Editorial of the Year
By: Rob Dump
Judge's Comments: A feisty, well-articulated apology for a free press from a newspaper that gained national attention and support after local law enforcement brazenly interfered with their First Amendment function. Well done.

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Consumption tax: Watch the

fine print
By: Todd von Kampen
Judge's Comments: Well-argued criticism of bill that would upend state tax system.

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Nuisance concerns
By: Kurt Johnson
Judge's Comments: Calls for citizens to complain to city council and insist on enforcement of existing laws pertaining to junk cars, trash in yards, etc. Could have been a little harder-hitting

EDITORIAL

The newspaper business is like any other business — it needs local support to survive

In this business, like any small-town business, we have to make some tough decisions on a daily and weekly basis.

Those decisions can be as simple as, "Should we run that photo on Page One or Page Three?" or as difficult as, "Should we call that Board out for violating the public meetings laws by discussing pertinent issues outside of a public meeting?"

We make these decisions based on a few guiding principles to help us pick the right path.

Truth, accuracy and objectivity are the cornerstones of what we do — the cornerstones of journalism ethics.

When putting together the paper each week, we also ask ourselves, "Is this the right thing to do for our readers and for the community?"

Being a journalist has always been a balancing act between getting the facts right and keeping the readers happy and informed. In a perfect world, these would go together hand-in-hand.

Unfortunately, our role as a government watchdog, combined with the misinformation campaigns and propaganda disguised as news, has made our mission tougher than ever these days.

Thankfully, the misinformation campaigns have generally taken aim at national politics and national issues. Unfortunately, these campaigns are making a mark here, too. I can't begin to count the number of times we've been labeled as "fake news."

The common thought these days that newspapers are a thing of the past and an unnecessary part of modern day life has also been pretty disconcerting.

I have to tell you, it's awfully frustrating to hear folks say they don't read a newspaper, then hear them quote something straight out of the newspaper.

And, just because you might read it on your phone, from a web page or a social media post doesn't mean it didn't come from a newspaper.

Yes, over the years, our industry and our jobs have had

to evolve. One thing remains constant, though — our desire to educate and inform the public.

Our industry has done a great job of adapting to today's changing world.

We have web pages, apps, E-Editions, Facebook pages, Twitter (X) pages, YouTube and Instagram. We haven't, however, done as great a job of telling folks just how much we've changed and adapted, and everything we have to offer.

In the last few years, the landscape has begun to change. Not everyone can keep up with all of the changes and the amount of time required to stay ahead of the technology curve, and several newspapers have been forced to close their doors.

When we first came to Nebraska 32 years ago, there were 167 newspapers in the state. Today, we have 145 newspapers. That same story is true across the country, as well.

According to Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications' October 2022 State of Local News report, "Newspapers are continuing to vanish at a rapid rate. An average of more than two a week are disappearing."

Since 2005, the country has lost more than 2,500 newspapers. The country lost more than 360 newspapers between the pre-pandemic months of late 2019 and the end of May 2022. That's 360 communities that have lost their historian, their watchdog, and essentially, their voice.

Our business is like any other Main Street business. We need community support to survive.

If you want to help make sure this voice of the community stays strong and vibrant, buy a subscription. If you already have a subscription, buy one for a friend or family member. We've even seen people buy subscriptions just to donate them to the local nursing home or senior citizen center.

The reason we're here is to tell your story. The decision to do that is still the easiest one we make each week.



ROB DUMP
CEDAR COUNTY NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE YEAR



1st Place
Ord Quiz
Carl's Tavern
By: Alexis Hagstrom
Judge's Comments: A balanced composition with a deliberate color palette and type treatment.

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
Love to see you smile
By: Nathan Arneal
Judge's Comments: The emotion conveyed by this image is so

compelling it stopped me in my tracks. The concept demonstrates the client's investment in the community while the headline ties back to their business.

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Jigowatts Takes Stanton County Into The Future
By: Angelique Boyer & Carrie Pitzer
Judge's Comments: Compelling concept with complementary image and type treatment.

Nebraska Press Association Special Awards



PRINT SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

Weekly Class Awards

Division A

Winner: Stanton Register
Second Place: Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Third Place: Milford Times

Division B

Winner: North Bend Eagle
Second Place: Greeley Citizen
Third Place: Elgin Review

Division C

Winner: Hartington Cedar County News
Second Place: Ord Quiz
Third Place: Broken Bow Custer Co. Chief

Division D

Winner: Orchard Antelope Co. News
Second Place: Aurora News-Register
TIE: Third Place: Crete News
TIE: Third Place: Blair Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune

Weekly Sweepstakes Award

Winner: Stanton Register
Second Place: North Bend Eagle
Third Place: Hartington Cedar County News

Daily Sweepstakes Award

Winner: Norfolk Daily News
Second Place: Hastings Tribune
Third Place: North Platte Telegraph

DIGITAL SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

Division A

Winner: Orchard Antelope Co. News
Second Place: Sarpy County Times
Third Place: Fairbury Journal-News

Division B

Winner: North Platte Telegraph
Second Place: Norfolk Daily News
Third Place: Fremont Tribune

2024 ALLEN & LINDA BEERMANN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

1st Place
Stanton Register

2024 NEBRASKA DAILY PUBLISHERS SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

1st Place
Norfolk Daily News

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Freedom of Information Award (all classes together)

- Winner: Fremont Tribune
- Second Place: Stanton Register
- Third Place: Fairbury Journal-News

Best NIE Program

- Winner: Arnold Sentinel
- Second Place: Stanton Register

SPECIAL ALL-CLASS AWARDS

NEWS PHOTO OF THE YEAR

- Winner: North Bend Eagle
- Second Place: Bloomfield Knox Co. News Monitor
- Third Place: Crete News

SPORTS PHOTO OF THE YEAR

- Winner: Aurora News-Register
- Second Place: Imperial Republican
- Third Place: Norfolk Daily News

FEATURE PHOTO OF THE YEAR

- Winner: Hartington Cedar County News
- Second Place: Orchard Antelope Co. News
- Third: Fairbury Journal-News

EDITORIAL OF THE YEAR

- Winner: Hartington Cedar County News
- Second Place: North Platte Telegraph
- Third Place: Aurora News-Register

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE YEAR

- Winner: Ord Quiz
- Second: North Bend Eagle
- Third Place: Stanton Register



Sisters Emily and Alexa Brodd embrace in the peacefulness following the violent storm that destroyed their house and farm. The tornado left a path of overturned pivots and broken power poles as it cut through Dodge County Friday.



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Requests for Hansen records denied

AG admits investigative file exists

JEFF FORWARD
Fremont Tribune

The City of Fremont saw a dramatic increase in legal costs to process public records requests from 2021 to 2022, with a nearly 18% increase in legal fees to deal with requests from the public.

In 2021, the city spent \$70,890 in legal fees for public records request reviews to the law firm Adams & Sullivan of Papillion. In 2022, the costs for that work on public records rose to \$83,450.

The total number of public records requests made to the city in 2021 was 111 while in 2022, the number of public records requests increased to 148.

The highest monetary cost for public records requests in 2021 was the month of August, with \$14,950 spent on the records work. There were 29 total public records requests made in November 2022, the highest of any month that year. December 2022 came in second place last year with 17 public records requests.

Records requests costs jump

A Tribune analysis of Fremont's public records request costs

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KARAOKE night

07.01.23
9:00 PM

Kyle Sawyer

at CARL'S TAVERN

FRIDAY JUNE 30 8:00 PM

THE AVONLEA ADVOCATE

[VOLUME XV, NO. 28]
MAY/JUNE, 1901

AVONLEA VILLAGE
6¢ A COPY

Containing a variety of useful, entertaining matter.

WORD IS, CUTHBERTS ADOPTING A BOY

Awful Anderson's house late Saturday night. Ah, ohh (let go to ensemble position on stage — news papers snap open. Sound Effect: Hooves/horse and buggy! Ensemble: motion with newspapers, follow imaginary buggy across stage (from left to right) Each: On! Look! It's Matthew Cuthbert, driving a buggy dressed like he was going to a horse!

All: Matthew Cuthbert! Malcom: Driving a buggy! Miss Phillips: ...in his Sun.

A Big Mix-Up at the Train Station

SCENE 1 - Train Station that I'm going to live with you. I've never belonged to anybody — not really. Anne [enters, excited but nervous] Hello, Anon! Hello, my name is Anne Shirley, but please call me Cordelia. I am busy because — well (holds out one of her braids to him) what color would you call his? Hello, my name is Anne Shirley, but please call me Cordelia —

Matthew: It's red, isn't it? Anne: (glomby) Yes, red. I can imagine away my braids, and green

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NPA Contest Committee:
 Dennis Morgan, The Elgin Review
 Nathan Arneal, North Bend Eagle
 Nikki McKim, Falls City Journal
 Donniss Hueftler-Bullock, Custer Co. Chief, Broken Bow
 Marcia Hora, Stapleton Enterprise
 Rob Dump, Cedar Co. News, Hartington

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