



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## **Michael Kramer Best Public Notice Journalism Award *sponsored by the PNAF***

*Named in honor of Mike Kramer, president of Law Bulletin Media in Chicago, longtime defender of the public's right to know, who left us too soon in 2020.*

### **Daily & Non-daily Division**

#### **First Place**

The Taos News, Taos, NM

Rick Romancito, *Cloud seeding operation meets opposition*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent example of a public notice breaking important news. That the story generated so much public comment is great proof of the need of public notice.*

#### **Second Place**

Standard-Speaker, Hazleton, PA

Sam Galski, *PNA Foundation's 2022 Keystone Media Awards Public Notice Award winner*

**Judge's comments:** *Good shoe-leather coverage of basic municipal issues like zoning plans and infrastructure projects that consistently cites public notice as an important source for the reporting.*

#### **THIRD PLACE - TIE**

Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck, ND

Bilal Suleiman, *ND COVID-19 vaccination committee meets publicly*

The Journal, Crosby, ND

Brad Nygaard, *No notice given for hearings on eyesore properties*

**Judge's comments:** *Both stories demonstrate how local officials in North Dakota sometimes fail even to meet that state's already-lax meeting notice requirements.*



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## Civic - Community Service Award

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*  
Brian PJ Cronin, *Hunger in the Highlands*

**Judge's comments:** *This is true community-service coverage -- using the tools of our trade for public education, support, and awareness. The publication staff produced a series of rich, beautifully told stories that dig deep into the local nuances of not only the community's problem with food insecurity but also the efforts to find solutions and the people at the forefront of those solutions. The emphasis of this coverage is firmly on making a difference, and the series shows how newspapers can use our roles in our communities to support real results.*

#### Second Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*  
Moonshine Ink Staff, *You Asked. They Answered.*

**Judge's comments:** *This is a clever and well-executed feature that brings reader questions to the forefront of the newspaper while bringing new voices onto the page. This publication is using its precious real estate to give readers direct responses to their burning questions, and the content is thorough, interesting, and straight from the experts -- really creative outreach.*

#### Third Place

Stanton Register, *Stanton, NE*  
Carrie Pitzer & Lisa Wilke, *Unity In Community*

**Judge's comments:** *This is a genuine and generous demonstration of cooperation between a publication and its community, at a time when that cooperation is most needed. This passionate, engaged publisher is going above and beyond to redirect the narrative about her community.*

#### Honorable Mention (TIE)

Park Cities People, *Dallas, TX*  
Rachel Snyder, Bethany Erickson, *Civic Service Award-PCP*

**Judge's comments:** *This publication stepped in where the local government and elected officials failed to serve the community's needs. The sheer number of engaged citizens who watched their livestreams clearly demonstrates that their efforts were necessary and have been appreciated.*

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*  
The St. Louis American Staff, *Community Service Initiatives*

**Judge's comments:** *This is a multi-faceted, longstanding effort to support education across the community with an emphasis on historically underserved populations. The sheer numbers of students supported and dollars raised by this newspaper's Foundation are inspirational -- keep up the amazing work!*



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## Column - Best Humorous Column

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Advertiser-News North, *Chester, NY*

Beth Quinn, *Pandemic Nuts*

**Judge's comments:** *The writer suggests you sent an email if you want more information, but I think I'll forget that (she might answer) and just offer a comment on her column: a wonderful column and worth a laugh. What she presents as a problem and other things she suggests make a nice presentation and will make you chuckle. One item she presents fits my wife, so I won't show her the column in case it would give her Pandemic Nuts*

#### Second Place

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*

Scott Reese Willey, *My 50 first dates, Tom the Turkey*

**Judge's comments:** *What a tale to tell. You were outsmarted by Tom the turkey. You were told by your father to kill Tom to have a turkey for Thanksgiving. With a hatchet in hand behind your back, you began your quest. But Tom out ran you, moved through the yard and through the barn, and got you so worn out you moved the hatchet to the front and threaten him more. You dropped the hatchet, caught him, and feathers flew as you two wrestled. He won. You went shamefaced to your father and confessed not killing Tom the turkey, He laughed and you went to town to buy a turkey. Nice Thanksgiving.*

#### Third Place

Preston Hollow People, *Dallas, TX*

Preston Hollow People, Michele Valdez, *Best Humorous Column-PHP\_June\_Pg15*

**Judge's comments:** *Yes, she ordered a corset. All because her husband took the Wall Street Journal as his sex drive and left her copies of the paper. This sex drive was for a woman of multiple writing skills, job success, and four children—maybe not someone to be giving sex advice to. She followed some advice and then got the corset suggestion. She told her husband to drop the newspaper. Then, she read about corsets and discovered when corsets were worn regularly they made the bad parts look better and the small parts bigger. She ordered a corset. Certainly a column of originality and well written.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Oberlin Herald, *Oberlin, KS*

Steve Haynes, *Best Humorous Column*

**Judge's comments:** *Ever stop to wonder if your phone or your car or both are telling you what to do? Turn on your phone and get all kinds of things. Where to turn, how far it is, folks you didn't call, where the church is (maybe not the right one), and traffic is light. Your car never stops giving you information. It tells you where to go, keeps your hands on the wheel, time for a rest. Interesting writing, an ordinary event to wonder about. Take the next highway, the traffic is light.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## Column - Best Serious Column

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

#### First Place

Farm and Dairy, *Salem, OH*

Rebecca Miller, *Are you OK? Because we're not.*

**Judge's comments:** *This is simply a great column. Everyone can relate to the pandemic-fueled feelings of being overwhelmed yet the column share personal details that bring the points to life. Beyond that, readers walk away learning something about the "primal scream," farming and the newspaper's staff. It also wove in some valuable words concerning the importance of local news. Terrific work.*

#### Second Place

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

John Nagy, *Why George Washington Chose a Vaccine Mandate*

**Judge's comments:** *Important history shared in an accessible style of writing. Nice job.*

#### Third Place

Philadelphia Gay News, *Philadelphia, PA*

Mark Segal, *Mark My Words*

**Judge's comments:** *This column helps readers see how numerous recent events tie together, and, from that, form a narrative that the columnist does a good job of telling.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Column - Best Serious Column

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

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Jennifer Simon, *Toxic masculinity a big reason for spread of COVID*

**Judge's comments:** *Very interesting and revealing column connecting the relationship between toxic masculinity, religion and politics to explain a dangerous health phenomenon.*

#### Second Place

Hyattsville Life & Times, *Hyattsville, MD*

Paul Ruffins, *The science of the city: skate parks, the paradoxical safety in danger*

**Judge's comments:** *Fascinating column on the legalities behind the skateboard park. Answered a lot of questions about safety vs. liability. Solid reporting to go with clear writing.*

#### Third Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Jennifer M. Simon, *Equity State column*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent advocacy column on an important and clearly overlooked issue. Well written and organized. And the accompanying action box aptly summarized what readers can do to help alleviate this problem.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## Column - Best Serious Column

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

#### First Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Bill Tubbs, *Our oath must be to principles, not personalities*

**Judge's comments:** *A good reminder of the basic principles to which most of us have sworn our timeless allegiance—and to which we all owe our renewed faith and fervent attention. Bet this column had your readers nodding and saying amen as they remembered the promises they, too, had made, and kept.*

#### Second Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Brian PJ Cronin, *A Park By Any Other Name*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent work researching the Trumpian business dealings that led to his "generous donation" of park land for yet another Trump-named piece of real estate and multi-million dollar tax write-off. "Like his park, Mr. Trump seeks to divide." The Assemblywoman nailed it, and so did this columnist with the suggested new name: "The Donald J. Trump Invasive Species Refuges."*

#### Third Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Chip Rowe, *Editor's Notebook: The Meeting Before the Meeting*

**Judge's comments:** *Ah, the infamous pre-meeting. Unnoticed, unannounced, in most cases unreported and illegal as hell. What better way to demonstrate the important role journalists play in this now fraught democracy, and its increasing fragility. Even-handed, well-reasoned.*

#### Honorable Mention

Port Aransas South Jetty, *Port Aransas, TX*

Mary Henkel Judson, *Tourists not a news flash*

**Judge's comments:** *The words of an editor who has obviously earned not only the ear of her readers, but their respect, if sometimes grudging. Ignore her advice at your peril.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## Column - Best Serious Column

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

#### First Place

Stanton Register, *Stanton, NE*

Carrie Pitzer, *Visit inside nursing facility puts COVID into perspective*

**Judge's comments:** *Her 10-minute interview lasted 90 minutes and she can't stop thinking about it. The woman in the assisted living facility was alone and loved the visit. It have been a year since anyone but staff had been with her. Her daughter had almost died without her seeing her and her husband did die in the facility and the 80-year had more to tell. Her family would be coming to get her soon. Nothing more timely and local than this and what the reporter felt. Well written*

#### Second Place

Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, *Iowa Falls, IA*

Sara Konrad Baranowski, *Town's support of Zee shows power of community*

**Judge's comments:** *Zee is an immigrant who is known all around town and loved and respected. A few years ago he was an interpreter, but threats finally forced him to come to the US. Now, this easy-going, friendly person faces being sent home. He is an immigrant with a hometown feeling and really feeling the love for him. The column makes this clear and people are donating funds to get a stay to keep him a hometown, community person. A national story with a local touch. Nice.*

#### Third Place

The Eagle, *Chadron, NE*

Velvet Jessen, *Power doesn't exempt you from the law*

**Judge's comments:** *If you want to read a serious column, this is one you might read. The columnist make a clear point: the folks with power and a way of using it should also be subject to have that same power used with them. The attorney claims he did not commit a crime but driving "distracted" is one. He would charge others and he should be treated in the same way. Clearly, a timely and local topic and the point is clear.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Ozona Stockman, *Ozona, TX*

Melissa Perner, *Like Biles, we all get the 'twisties'*

**Judge's comments:** *A gymnast named "twisties" as the reason she backed away from performances during a time mental illness. The writer used "twisties," an inability to perform a normal move, as a way to discuss her own illness and to show the means of dealing with star athletes and others in managing mental illnesses. Her topic was timely and she did a fine job of explaining it in an original way. Compliments to her.*



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## Column - Best Sports Column

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. over 3,000

#### First Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Zach James, *Nilsen creates special path*

**Judge's comments:** *This is a great story and a very well written piece. I now feel like I've known this guy all my life. Great job.*

#### Second Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Scott Campbell, *Adversity drives former Lancer*

**Judge's comments:** *Great interview. The writer really got his subject to open up, which made for an excellent piece.*

#### Third Place

The Daily Universe, *Provo, UT*

Jackson Payne, *These are the glory days for BYU athletics*

**Judge's comments:** *This could have easily been a rah, rah public relations piece. The writer did a good job of telling this impressive story, though.*





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## Column - Best Sports Column

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

### First Place

The Eagle, *Chadron, NE*

Mackenzie Dahlberg, *Ignorance doesn't equal loyalty*

**Judge's comments:** *Delightful reading. Enjoyable and made me smile.*

### Second Place

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, *Fallon, NV*

Thomas Ranson, *Behind the Plate: Beach thrived as an official*

**Judge's comments:** *A fun look back.*

### Third Place

News Letter Journal, *Newcastle, WY*

Sonja Karp, *Ball is life*

**Judge's comments:** *Fun common sense article*

### Honorable Mention

The Ozona Stockman, *Ozona, TX*

Melissa Perner, *Four days of high school football with my dad, priceless*



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## **Editions - Best Headline Writing**

### **Daily & Non-daily Division**

#### **First Place**

Cedar County News, *Hartington, NE*

Staff, *Headline writing - April 7, Oct 27*

**Judge's comments:** *Good, solid headlines in all sections, refreshingly free of "A meeting happened" or "A game was played" structure.*

#### **Second Place**

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

John Miller, Will Hooper, *Should I stay or should I go?*

**Judge's comments:** *Turning a fun pop culture reference into a serious question about a serious and possibly underreported issue*

#### **Third Place**

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*

Scott Reese Willey, *Won't serve time in joint; say howdy to rowdy*

**Judge's comments:** *Howdy Rowdy fits for both the subject of the story and the character he created. The play on the word joint is a vile pun, but don't we all strive for that sometimes?*

#### **Honorable Mention**

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Staff, *Hogs & Kisses*

**Judge's comments:** *Goes with the story and the photo, and I'm wagering every reader loved it.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## **Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

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

#### **First Place**

Hyattsville Life & Times, *Hyattsville, MD*

Kit Slack, Heather Wright, Sophie Gorman Oriani, Maristela Romero, Paul Ruffins, Brandon Fastman, Melena Dinenna, Winter Hawk, *Hyattsville Life & Times: Best Local News Coverage*

**Judge's comments:** *If I lived here this would be a must-read. Not a huge paper, but full of a great variety of locally produced content about local issues, including schools, kids, gardening, including a page in Spanish, a very interesting column called 2nd Hand News, and of course good arts coverage, more than the requisite review of a school play.*

#### **Second Place**

College Park Here & Now, *College Park, MD*

Mark Goodson, Nancy Welch, Ashley Perks, *College Park Here & Now*

**Judge's comments:** *All locally produced content, including easy-to-understand stories about local development, interesting local personalities, diverse news coverage, enjoy the Science of the City page, the issue I saw had a comprehensive guide to the local elections, and a tempting restaurant review.*

#### **Third Place**

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

Staff, *The Pilot, Best Local News Coverage*

**Judge's comments:** *What stands out in this paper is the number of interesting, stimulating and well-written opinion pieces written exclusively for this paper by local residents.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

Idaho Mountain Express, *Ketchum, ID*

Staff of the Idaho Mountain Express, *Idaho Mountain Express*

**Judge's comments:** *Everything a good local paper should have. All locally produced.*



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## **Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

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

#### **First Place**

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Staff, *Best Local News Coverage*

**Judge's comments:** *I thought this was the most complete package of local news. Especially good considering conditions today!*

#### **Second Place**

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Staff, *Best local news - Buffalo Bulletin*

**Judge's comments:** *All-around good coverage, including some stories unique to their area*

#### **Third Place**

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

Staff, *Editions - Best Local News Coverage*

**Judge's comments:** *Many, many good local stories, with photos and art.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

Westfield Leader, *Westfield, NJ*

Lauren S. Barr, Suzette Stalker, David B. Corbin, Kim Prata & Staff, *Best Local News*

**Judge's comments:** *Good local stories, just fewer than some of the papers that finished higher.*



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## **Editions - Best Local News Coverage**

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

#### **First Place**

The Tioga Tribune, *Tioga, ND*

Tioga Tribune Staff, *Tioga Tribune, Tioga, ND*

**Judge's comments:** *Overall, the best local coverage. We were all looking for good local news during the pandemic. You found that in a quirky story about triplet calves. Another great story was buried on page 10 - the med student playing violin at a long-term care center would have been a perfect fit for front page. Good local editorial page - especially columnist Steve Andrist. Question of the Week is a great way to get faces and opinions in the paper. Solid sports coverage. Jacob Orledge is a hard-working journalist, judging by the number of bylines.*

#### **Second Place**

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, *Fallon, NV*

Adam Trumble, group editor, *Lahontan Valley News news coverage*

**Judge's comments:** *Strong lead story (March issue). Very informative and easy to read. The October issue buried its best story on 11A. That story and photo package should have been on the front page. Strong editorial page written by local staff.*

#### **Third Place**

News Letter Journal, *Newcastle, WY*

Staff, *News Letter Journal*

**Judge's comments:** *The newspaper submitted a letter of introduction. It made a difference! The top story was eye-catching, but outrage should begin on page 1. Secret votes! I want to be fired up before turning the page. Would have been higher except for the glaring typo on page 3. Overall great job with local sports. Loved the story about the retiring postmaster.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

Wright County Journal, *Mountain Grove, MO*

Ron Schott, *Best Local News Coverage WCJ*

**Judge's comments:** *Great front page features and sports news. Very little hard news.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## **Editions - Best Use of Photographs**

### **Daily & Non-daily Division**

#### **First Place**

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Jessi Dodge, Stacy Bronson, *Best use of photographs: Buffalo Bulletin*

**Judge's comments:** *Jessi Dodge's up-close portraits of participants in sports and community events are outstanding. They are used well in various layouts to bring the stories alive.*

#### **Second Place**

Douglas Budget, *Douglas, WY*

Matt Adelman, Trey Stewart, staff, *Best use of photos*

**Judge's comments:** *Well-composed photos of rodeo and other events are placed effectively on pages.*

#### **Third Place**

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

Abbi Overfelt, Ted Fitzgerald, John Nagy, David Woronoff, *The Pilot, Best Use of Photographs*

**Judge's comments:** *Impressive photo collages present people and their stories with impact.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

Walsh County Record, *Grafton, ND*

Staff, *June 30 and July 7 issues*

**Judge's comments:** *The photo collages are a good way to cover the Feasts, celebrations and Parades. They should have tried to make more of them fall on color pages.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## Editorial - Best Editorial

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Brian Martin and the WTE Editorial Board, *Step right up, folks! The legislative circus is coming to town*

**Judge's comments:** *Energetic, entertaining and most importantly, offers a series of solid critiques about the special session that should give lawmakers plenty to be embarrassed about and readers plenty to think about.*

#### Second Place

The Daily Times, *Farmington, NM*

John R. Moses, *AG must review CYFD's practice of destroying chats, records*

**Judge's comments:** *Solid editorial with a lot of good analysis and detail to give readers a clear picture of why this action is so wrong.*

#### Third Place

The Daily Times, *Farmington, NM*

John R. Moses, *CYFD needs public oversight. An ombudsman may be the solution*

**Judge's comments:** *The editorial board makes a clear and valid argument for a new independent layer of oversight. The writing is clear and energetic.*

#### Honorable Mention

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Brian Martin and WTE Editorial Board, *It's time for all of us to reject the politics of division*

**Judge's comments:** *Clear case made to back up the thesis. Timely and well written.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## **Editorial - Best Editorial**

### **Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000**

#### **First Place**

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Don Dodd, *Who is spending our money?*

**Judge's comments:** *Very good editorial. Describes the issue and gives the facts then draws the proper conclusion. Very informative and well written*

#### **Second Place**

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

John Nagy, David Woronoff, *The Pilot, Best Editorial*

**Judge's comments:** *One of the basic freedoms was under attack here and the editorial board spells out the problem and urges it to be solved. People should be glad they are cared about*

#### **Third Place**

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Don Dodd, *Politics over people*

**Judge's comments:** *some investigative journalism at work here when it comes to pointing out a real problem. The reader can see how unfair the decision to terminate really was.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

Philadelphia Gay News, *Philadelphia, PA*

Jason Villemez, *252 articles, 14 writers and 19 years of Nizah Morris*

**Judge's comments:** *After reading this I can only hope that someday justice will be served. Great job of telling a very sad story*





## **Editorial - Best Editorial**

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

#### **First Place**

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

John Miller, *Why public officials don't get a pass with this paper*

**Judge's comments:** *Newspaper editors often walk a tightrope between what's right and what's easy. This writer had no problem explaining why public officials need to be held accountable. Great work.*

#### **Second Place**

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Eric Carlson, *Do as we say*

**Judge's comments:** *Great piece. These folks definitely needed to be taken to task. We loved the close - to the point and very effective.*

#### **Third Place**

The News-Gazette, *Lexington, VA*

Ed Smith, *Death Penalty Editorial*

**Judge's comments:** *It's nice to see a newspaper take a strong stand on such an emotional issue. Well-written, straightforward writing.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

John Miller, *Sheriff's office showed how to handle a mental health crisis*

**Judge's comments:** *A great way to give a well-deserved pat on the back using an incident that could have easily turned out differently*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## **Editorial - Best Editorial**

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

#### **First Place**

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

Tom Lawrence, *Best Editorial*

**Judge's comments:** *Northwest Iowa Review*

*The lead brings readers into the story. The editorial goes beyond talking about restoring a man's reputation and works to that end, which is important to the man and to the community. The writing is forceful, clear and lays out the facts. This is a meaningful editorial – meaningful for a community, meaningful for an individual.*

#### **Second Place**

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*

Mary (Galer) Herschelman, *Support Your Local Newspaper*

**Judge's comments:** *The Journal News*

*The sentiment is one newspapers should have learned at the outset of online publishing – news gathering costs money and cannot be given away.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## Editorial - Best Editorial

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

#### First Place

Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA

Sara Smith, *Best Editorials (My Shots)*

**Judge's comments:** *Bravo! Excellent editorial showcasing the power of the arts and its impact on people and where we live. Well written, well substantiated, well done.*

#### Second Place

The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI

Diane Everson, *Keep public notices in newspapers*

**Judge's comments:** *Write on! The importance of public notices being printed in newspapers, not on a government website, cannot be discussed enough. Without oversight, how can government stay in check? Thank you for sharing this vital information with your readers.*

#### Third Place

The Madison Eagle, Bernardsville, NJ

Alex Parker-Magyar, *Equity is not poison*

**Judge's comments:** *Thank you for tackling a topic that seems to cause a division. Strong voice, strong material.*

#### Honorable Mention

Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA

Cheri Sugal, *Tahoe is Broken*

**Judge's comments:** *Well written. I've often wondered about the impact of VRBO and AirBnB on the housing market. There aren't many where we live, so this editorial outlined why limits may be necessary.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
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## Editorial - Best Editorial

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

#### First Place

The Journal, Crosby, ND

Cecile Wehrman, *Transparency lacking in city process*

**Judge's comments:** *This editorial fully explains one of the main reasons we all exist - to give the public an opportunity to know what is going on in the world around them. When public entities (or anyone, for that matter) try to avoid scrutiny and bar the press, that a good sign that something is amiss, or using the terminology in the lede here "a red flag." Here is a great quote from the editorial: "Add it all together and you have a city government that purports to be complying with the law, but doing nothing to engender public trust. These people are paid to serve the public, not to find ways to avoid answering questions or provide public information."*

#### Second Place

News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY

Alexis Barker, *The public deserves to know*

**Judge's comments:** *Almost a tie for first, this editorial also lets the readers frankly know what we are up against sometimes.*

#### Third Place

Cedar County News, Hartington, NE

Rob Dump, *Best editorial - Redistricting: Please don't snub us again*

**Judge's comments:** *I love the use of "the old days," which changes with each generation. But politics has become much more of a sport since this writer's old days (and this judge's as well).*

#### Honorable Mention

Archbold Buckeye, Archbold, OH

Staff, *Steve Kauffman is Within His Rights*

**Judge's comments:** *Short and to the point*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

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

#### First Place

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

John Nagy, David Woronoff, *The Pilot, Best Editorial Page*

**Judge's comments:** *Newspaper: The Pilot, North Carolina*

*Editorial: Terrific, community-based and meaningful editorial that warns about a "blue sky" development plan, giving solid reasons for caution – this is community leadership on a grassroots level. Taking on gun violence scares a lot of editorial boards, and The Pilot does not offer solutions, but does point out how gun violence has affected Moore County.*

*Columns: Lots of space is given to columns that address important issues to North Carolinians.*

*Letters: Solid letters section in each issue.*

*Cartoons: A community photo rather than a cartoon, but the sunflowers photo subtly conveys the editorial opinions. The splash pad photo is good, though not necessarily fit for an opinion page.*

*Quality of writing: Nicely done editorials.*

*Quality of design: Two full opinions pages in each issue give readers plenty to consider.*

*Evaluation: Solid, local editorials and columns make The Pilot stand out as a newspaper that works hard to provide good guidance and a variety of opinions to community members.*

#### Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Brian Martin, *Wyoming Tribune Eagle Opinion Pages – Jan. 9-10, 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Newspaper: Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

*Editorial: The insurrection, supports Fairness Doctrine... Solid reasoning. Pace of COVID vaccine is too slow... The paper is right to criticize the state's slow work to get needles into arms.*

*Columns: Local columns are always a plus.*

*Letters: A poll for readers, and a vigorous letters section in each issue.*

*Cartoons: Excellent local cartoon.*

*Quality of writing: Editorials are written well.*

*Quality of design: Not an "old gray lady." Good use of color, headlines, images.*

*Evaluation: These are opinion pages, with an editorial in each issue, that guide the community and invite the public to help guide the newspaper.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Editorial - Best Editorial Page(s)

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

#### Third Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Bruce Miller, Dave Dreeszen, *Sioux City Journal* editorial pages

**Judge's comments:** *Newspaper: Sioux City Journal*

*Editorial: The editorial in one issue is written locally and deals with issues of importance, considering reservations are nearby. Regarding how to address the issue of deaths not being investigated... "Talk about the problem" is not much in terms of guidance, and the editorial would have been more impactful if written in a closer time proximity to the news story. There is only one editorial for two issues.*

*Columns: Wharton's column is entertaining. Murphy's column is well-reasoned, timely and addresses an enemy the military for years has had trouble defeating – sexual assault.*

*Letters: Solid section for letters in one issue, no letters in the next.*

*Cartoons: No local toons in either issue.*

*Quality of writing: Murphy's columns is a good read.*

*Quality of design: Standard design, though presentation of Wharton's column adds a bit of flair.*

*Evaluation: A newspaper should help guide the community, and having an editorial in every issue would be helpful.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

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

#### **First Place**

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, *Sheldon, IA*  
Staff, *Editions - Best Editorial Page(s)*

**Judge's comments:** *Easily the winner in this group. Besides a clean layout, editorials were local and obviously engaged readers judging by the letters to the editor. Content mostly local or impacted the area.*

#### **Second Place**

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*  
Bill Tubbs, *Best Editorial Pages*

**Judge's comments:** *Layout was clean and one of the easiest to read. Variety of content was good and prompts letters to the editor, which is better. Enjoyed the Impressions commentary.*

#### **Third Place**

The Alamance News, *Graham, NC*  
Tom Boney, Jr., *Best Editorial Pages - March 11 & 18, 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *A lot of editorial copy on the pages but commentaries were good reads. An editorial cartoon to break up the page would help. Still, this paper isn't afraid to stand for something. "Council needs to be cleaned up" and Sunshine Week were well done*

#### **Honorable Mention**

Vilas County News-Review, *Eagle River, WI*  
Gary Ridderbusch, Kurt Krueger, *Editorial Pages Dec. 1 and 8, 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Not all editorial pages have to be just hard-hitting commentaries. This page presents a good mix of opinions and columns. Page design could use some attention but still good pages.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Editorial - Best Original Editorial Cartoon

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Richmond News, *Richmond, MO*

Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *New School Year*

**Judge's comments:** *The power of this cartoon illustration is in its subtlety. Instead of an apple, there's a coronavirus vaccine on the teacher's desk. The messaging is clear and sharp. Nice work.*

#### Second Place

Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, *Omak, WA*

Brad Skiff, *Invasive Species*

**Judge's comments:** *There may not be a better commentary on the jeopardy facing our communities if local news operations aren't supported. Good job.*

#### Third Place

Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, *Omak, WA*

Brad Skiff, *Electric Sleigh*

**Judge's comments:** *Oh, no! Santa! The notion of thinking through the unintended consequences of the evolution away from traditional fuels is clear in this cartoon. Well done.*

#### Honorable Mention

Cedar County News, *Hartington, NE*

Wayne Stroot, *Best editorial cartoon - Redistricting*

**Judge's comments:** *This cartoon captures an important issue for local readers. Shifting districts can leave voters confused and disaffected. Important topic.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## FOI - Freedom of Information

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Carroll County News, *Berryville, AR*

Scott Loftis, *CAPC series*

**Judge's comments:** *Extremely well done! Fascinating read. Use of the call-out quotes made us want to continue to read*

#### Second Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Deirdre McCrohan, *Town rejects \$2 mil payout demand*

**Judge's comments:** *Fascinating Scenario, very detailed account of what went of during the encounter the outcome and what steps were being taken to ensure a similar event might be avoided. well done.*

#### Third Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Chip Rowe, *Editor's Notebook: The Meeting Before the Meeting*

**Judge's comments:** *I really liked this. It gave context to the Open Meeting Law, why they are important and what happens when State and Local government try to avoid them*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## General Excellence sponsored by Modulist

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

WTE staff, *Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

**Judge's comments:** *It was a bit of a challenge to filter out all the non-local content from these three entries. The Tribune Eagle did the best job overall of keeping focus not only on local news, but lifestyle features as well.*

#### Second Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Staff, *Sioux City Journal*

**Judge's comments:** *Very good newspaper with strength in news writing, layout, and photography.*

#### Third Place

The Daily Times, *Farmington, NM*

The Staff of the Farmington Daily Times, *The Farmington Daily Times of Farmington, New Mexico*

**Judge's comments:** *Also a very good newspaper. A close third.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## General Excellence sponsored by Modulist

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

#### First Place

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*

The St. Louis American Staff, *General Excellence*

**Judge's comments:** *This weekly newspaper has exhaustive coverage of its St. Louis Community including national commentary and local politics, government, sports and a complete classified section.*

#### Second Place

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

John Nagy, Abbi Overfelt, David Woronoff, Staff, *The Pilot, General Excellence*

**Judge's comments:** *This 3-times a week newspaper has traditional and comprehensive coverage of community events and issues as they grapple with mask mandates, critical race theory, transgender students. It seems to be surviving and thriving based on the engagement and advertising.*

#### Third Place

Park Cities People, *Dallas, TX*

Park Cities People, *General Excellence-PCP 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Stylish monthly for upscale Texas Community has a style of its own with comprehensive feature, real estate and lifestyle coverage, great use of branded content, special sections and well-designed ads.*

#### Honorable Mention

Philadelphia Gay News, *Philadelphia, PA*

PGN Staff, *Philadelphia Gay News*

**Judge's comments:** *This historical and powerful newspaper has been one of America's most successful gay -- even special interest of any kind -- news publications. Formal format, columns, entertainment and sports coverage*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## General Excellence sponsored by Modulist

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

#### First Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM  
Staff, General Excellence

**Judge's comments:** *The front page graphics certainly grabs a reader's attention (and I suspect anyone passing by a newspaper rack). Great reporting and great photos throughout. You've got some great photographers who know their way around a camera, and some great editors who know how to use photos properly. Advertisements are equally outstanding. Great job selling the ads and designing them to make them pleasing to the eye. It's obvious your sports editors/writers are immersed in local sports, and I'm betting readers (especially parents and grandparents) are appreciative of the in-depth coverage. Keep up the good work. This paper shines in every category. Lots and lots of locally produced stories and state, national and international stories. Your readers certainly get their money's worth! Content like you produce — photos, stories, advertisements, all published in an attractive, eye-pleasing layout — reminds readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.*

#### Second Place

Casa Grande Dispatch, Casa Grande, AZ  
Staff, Casa Grande Dispatch

**Judge's comments:** *Really a great publication. Lots of hard work went into publishing these three issues, and it shows. Your readers really get their money's worth each issue. Newspapers like yours reminds readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.*

#### Third Place

Lake Oswego Review, Lake Oswego, OR  
Staff, Lake Oswego Review

**Judge's comments:** *The Lake Oswego Review is an incredible bargain. Readers get a lot of useful information for their buck. Lots of great, LOCAL, LOCAL, LOCAL stories and photos, which is what your readers want, no doubt. Attractive layout. Eye-catching ads. And a police blotter that must bring smiles to your readers' faces each issue. I mean, "suspicious vehicles" had me laughing out loud! Keep up the good work.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## General Excellence sponsored by Modulist

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

#### First Place

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, *Sheldon, IA*  
Staff, *General Excellence*  
**Judge's comments:** *Lots and Lots of Local News in this newspaper.*

#### Second Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*  
Staff, *General Excellence*  
**Judge's comments:** *very close. Best writing in the group*

#### Third Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*  
Staff, *Three Issues of the Highlands Current*  
**Judge's comments:** *Very nice looking, easy-to-read newspaper*

#### Honorable Mention

Vilas County News-Review, *Eagle River, WI*  
Gary Ridderbusch, Kurt Krueger, Doug Etten, Michelle Drew, Eric Johnson, *General Excellence*  
**Judge's comments:** *scored well in most of the judging categories*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## General Excellence sponsored by Modulist

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

#### First Place

Steele County Times, *Blooming Prairie, MN*  
Staff, *Steele County Times*

**Judge's comments:** *First, 40 pages of stunning community news, features, and a merry Christmas appeal through "personal Journalism!" Huge sports coverage/section staff-written. Good photos throughout. Second, more of same: quality local stories engaging readers, engaging community! And third (there are three editions for this entry), even more personal, more engaging! Excellent ad variety, from commercial, to service, to institutional. The senators column on newspaper preservation was a fine tribute,. However, if our community newspapers followed or mirrored this entry, our newspapers would be well preserved!*

#### Second Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*  
Ark Staff, *May 5, May 12 & Dec. 8*

**Judge's comments:** *Exceptional, front to back, top to bottom: layout, headlines, photos, professional/personal Journalism practiced; beautiful ads. Limited staff opinion pieces. Everything written LOCAL! Public issues: LOCAL and PERSONAL! ABSENT: EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP! Youth/family activities stories missing.*

#### Third Place

The Imperial Republican, *Imperial, NE*  
Staff, *May 17, May 26 and Dec. 15, 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Very good community news coverage: all ages, all events. Excellent editorial/opinion page! Good classifieds, legals. Sports spotlights youth: big, bold, colorful! Overall design is basic, good headlines; few letters to editor; ad mix seems to reflect the area. Some stories have lede buried. Good classifieds, legals. Politicians get good space; gather them together on Op-Ed page (just a suggestion).*

#### Honorable Mention

Henderson Independent, *Henderson, MN*  
Rachel Miller, Beth Cornish, *Henderson Independent - General Excellence*

**Judge's comments:** *Fresh, personal reporting/writing. These stories, from a limited staff, engage readers. Exceptional photos, very good layout/presentation! Small ads and great variety reflect the community's commercial appeal.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## General Excellence, College Division sponsored by Modulist

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

The Southwestern College Sun, Chula Vista, CA

The Sun staff, *The Southwestern College Sun*

**Judge's comments:** *I wish I could give this entry First Place for general excellence and then submit it to the general newspaper category because it is that good. The number of in-depth stories about not just college issues but community issues is incredible. So well done. Excellent! Simply excellent.*

#### Second Place

The Eagle, Chadron, NE

Staff, *General Excellence, College Division*

**Judge's comments:** *This is a really wonderful college newspaper. Well written, well designed, along a spectrum of issues and topics for the community. Great job.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Legacy.com's Best Obituary Tribute

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

Charles D. Perry, *Conway mourns man who offered waves, smiles and kindness*

**Judge's comments:** *This is an absolute best-in-class piece of obituary journalism: powerful narrative, detailed reporting, evocative prose, broadly sourced. Paints a clear picture of who Herman Days was and why his life was so important to the people in his community.*

#### Second Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Mark Huffman, *Koedt, 106, faced down Nazis*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent work recognizing an amazing life history. Strong storytelling that brings the reader from Koedt's young life during WWII through her later life in Wyoming. Well-rounded sourcing ranging from multiple family members to colleagues, friends, and the subject herself.*

#### Third Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Niki Kottmann, *Colleagues remember Mike Enzi as passionate leader, family man*

**Judge's comments:** *A thorough, effectively told remembrance of a major public figure. While Enzi had a big resume to cover, Kottmann here hones in on the key moments and themes that defined his life of service.*

#### Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Mark Huffman, *Clover dies after long second act*

**Judge's comments:** *Powerfully told story of an emotionally resonant life and death. Very good writing that clearly articulates the subject's impact and legacy.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

### Daily & Non-daily Division, over 15,000

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Michael Cummo, *Stop the tyranny*

**Judge's comments:** *Good rule of thirds and composition. Good technical photo with focus, color balance, etc. Nice show of emotion.*

#### Second Place

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

Ted Fitzgerald, *Trench Rescue*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice show of emotions in a difficult situation.*

#### Third Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Michael Cummo, *Snowed in*

**Judge's comments:** *Interesting photo of a fairly unique event. Good rule of thirds, composition.*

#### Honorable Mention

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Santee Return*

**Judge's comments:** *Good show of emotion, good composition exposure and color balance.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

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

#### First Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Nathan Burton, *County declares state of emergency following severe windstorm,*

**Judge's comments:** *Taos News, Nathan Burton*

*Intelligent framing and a quick flick of the shutter capture this image of a snowstorm's devastating impact on a house. For readers, great lighting, nice cropping and terrific framing of the subject define this tragedy for readers.*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Nathan Burton, *Man arrested in fatal crash,*

**Judge's comments:** *Taos News*

*Nathan Burton*

*This is a solid breaking news presentation. Would have liked to have seen a closer shot of the wreck, but law enforcers are tough, often, to get around. The photo of the suspect in custody is clear and should serve to implant in readers' minds the wages of crime. The arrest photo is a mess, hectic, with distracting elements – not ideal, but exactly what occurs at most crime scenes. The arrest photo should have been on the front page.*

#### Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Eric Carlson, *Windstorm*

**Judge's comments:** *Leelanau Enterprise*

*Eric Carlson*

*Windstorm*

*This photo contains a lot of action, with the surf being churned, sand kicking up and a child struggling to maintain balance against the wind coming off Lake Michigan. The image is sharp, especially considering the conditions, and cropped smartly.*

#### Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Bradly J. Boner, *House fire*

**Judge's comments:** *This image shows the aftermath of a fire, with an adult comforting a child. The image is moving, sharp, with good contrast and cropping.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

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

#### First Place

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

Eric Johnson, *Semi Crash*

**Judge's comments:** *This photo conveys action and emergency, the key parts of a Breaking News photo.*

#### Second Place

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

Gary Ridderbusch, *Barn Destroyed*

**Judge's comments:** *Firefighters doing their job.*

#### Third Place

Hi-Desert Star, *Yucca Valley, CA*

Stacy Moore, *School district mask protest*

**Judge's comments:** *The best part of this photo is the little girl's stance.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

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

#### First Place

Brentwood Press, *Brentwood, CA*

Melissa van Ruiten, *Dog rescue*

**Judge's comments:** *Good photo to bring out emotion in the viewer, nice rule of thirds and composition, proper exposure and color. Overall nice photo.*

#### Second Place

Port Aransas South Jetty, *Port Aransas, TX*

Dan Parker, *Waterspout spotted*

**Judge's comments:** *Good composition. The situation looks difficult to get the proper exposure, and the photographer did a great job with it. Good job with keeping the horizon line straight. Overall nice photo.*

#### Third Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Sawyer Mahoney, *Tragic Plane Crash*

**Judge's comments:** *pretty powerful photo. Good composition and technical aspects including shutter speed, etc.*

#### Honorable Mention

Walsh County Record, *Grafton, ND*

Larry Biri, *Rick Beyer holding ceiling tile*

**Judge's comments:** *Good cropping and composition, Good choice by the photographer to frame the photo. The smoke detector on the piece of ceiling make the photo interesting.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Breaking News Photo

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

#### First Place

Lamesa Press-Reporter, *Lamesa, TX*

Russel Skiles, *EMOTIONAL PULL*

**Judge's comments:** *Tells an emotional story, all in one photo.*

#### Second Place

Archbold Buckeye, *Archbold, OH*

David Pugh, *Firefighters attack burning rubble*

**Judge's comments:** *Good use of rule of thirds with top photo, demonstrative of situation with the second. Good storytelling.*

#### Third Place

Lamesa Press-Reporter, *Lamesa, TX*

Russel Skiles, *Four die in fiery crash*

**Judge's comments:** *Flames, water, mangled wreckage, everything in all one photo. Tells good story.*

#### Honorable Mention

Gazebo Gazette, *Pass Christian, MS*

Hunter Dawkins, *September 3, 2021 - Ida Crashes Katrina Sweet 16*

**Judge's comments:** *Good use of lighting/color, tells good story.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Feature Photo

### Daily Division & Non-dailies circ. over 6,000

#### First Place

The Standard Banner, *Jefferson City, TN*

Dale Gentry, *Play time at Barnaby's*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent mix of action, sharp focus, sense of place. Congratulations, Dale Gentry. Great work!*

#### Second Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Ryan Dorgan, *Grizzly 399 and cubs*

**Judge's comments:** *When it so vividly captures an unrehearsed moment in the natural environment -- that's an effective "human interest" Feature Photo.*

#### Third Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Nathan Burton, *What to do with a bumper crop?*

**Judge's comments:** *It's not flashy. It's not played super large on the front page. It's simply a family picking crops. And it's perfect.*

*Fantastic Feature Photo, Nathan Burton!*

#### Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Bradly J. Boner, *Truck arrestor test*

**Judge's comments:** *Could be Feature Photo. Could be News Photo, Either way, this photo deserves recognition because it's a rarely publicized DOT moment. The handshake makes the photo.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Feature Photo

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

#### First Place

Vilas County News-Review, *Eagle River, WI*  
Michelle Drew, *SCHOOL SPIRIT*

**Judge's comments:** *Sometimes (most times) timing is everything when it comes to photojournalism. In this case, timing was everything and the photographer was at the right time and the right place to capture a prize-winning photo that will be passed down for generations. The boy's expression is awesome! Great job on being ready to press the shutter when you needed to. A tough category to judge when all other photographers were equally skilled. Photos like this remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.*

#### Second Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*  
Ross Corsair, *Watch Out!*

**Judge's comments:** *Loved the little brother's reaction. It made for a captivating photograph. Good job! Keep up the good work! Photos like this remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.*

#### Third Place

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*  
Mary (Galer) Herschelman, *Snow Much Fun On The Hills*

**Judge's comments:** *Had the faces been more visible, better lighted, I'd have moved up this photo in the ranking. Unfortunately, the photographer was on the wrong side of the action. I suspect the photographer had no choice as sledgers were zooming by on either side. Nevertheless, it's a great photo! It certainly brought smiles to many of your readers' faces. I know it did to mine. Great job and keep up the good work. Photos like this remind readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives.*

#### Honorable Mention

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*  
Jessi Dodge, *Kicking Up Dust*

**Judge's comments:** *This photo is almost artwork. Good job. Keep it up!*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Feature Photo

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

#### First Place

The Journal, *Crosby, ND*

Brad Nygaard, *Fair roper*

**Judge's comments:** *Love the action and the dust flying!*

#### Second Place

The Tioga Tribune, *Tioga, ND*

Dave Tengesdal, *Hanging on for dear life*

**Judge's comments:** *Should have been above the fold, great shot!*

#### Third Place (TIE)

Archbold Buckeye, *Archbold, OH*

David Pugh, *Little Girl, Big Ice Cream Cone*

**Judge's comments:** *Cuteness overload!*

Oakland Independent, *Oakland, IL*

Janice Hunt, *Winter wonderland*

**Judge's comments:** *Wish it had been above the fold*

#### Honorable Mention

Oakland Independent, *Oakland, IL*

Janice Hunt, *Water fun*

**Judge's comments:** *Great water fun action. smile on girl unforgettable.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Feature Photo

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

#### First Place

The Edgerton Reporter, *Edgerton, WI*  
Jeff Brown, *Raccoon Rescue*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent, random (right place, right time) feature photo. In more than 30 years as a photo judge, never saw a contest photo such as this. Great shot, Jeff Brown!*

#### Second Place

The Edgerton Reporter, *Edgerton, WI*  
Jeff Brown, *Reflection of vets in marble monument*

**Judge's comments:** *A photographer needs to see all angles, and this photo "reflects" that skill.*

#### Third Place

Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard, *Fallon, NV*  
Thomas Ranson, *Classmates encouraged to TAKE CHANCES*

**Judge's comments:** *A photo often taken but not often taken so well; the sky seals the deal.*

#### Honorable Mention

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*  
Scott Reese Willey, *Last day of school*

**Judge's comments:** *A fun photo that captures the "love" between teachers and students.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Photo Essay

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

#### First Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Chad Cooper, *The Nutcracker*

**Judge's comments:** *These photos and the lighting and the make-up of the page all combined for an excellent example. Kudos.*

#### Second Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Chad Cooper, *Country concert*

**Judge's comments:** *Great angles and nice approach with a non-traditional layout. Nice composition.*

#### Third Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Tim Hynds, *Tim Hynds' favorite photos of 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Beautiful photos with unique stories.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Photo Essay

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

#### First Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY

Bradly J. Boner, *Final Salute*

**Judge's comments:** *Clear winner in this group of submissions. The depth and breadth of images, from plane landing, coffin unloading, procession through town, law enforcement vehicles on highway - photographer really captured this moment. But what made this special were images of the family of the fallen soldier, their teary expressions, hugs and solemn looks on attendees' faces. Photographic skill was evident in capturing the tear in widow's eyes; the glint of Marine's belt buckle and buttons; and the facial expressions of many in photos. Very powerful, skill clearly shown and hard work was evident. Great stuff.*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM

Morgan Timms, *Loss and life*

**Judge's comments:** *This was a very nicely done photo essay which paired with an interesting story that was included in the PDFs of entry. Felt that there was a special closeness allowed to the photographer that comes from trust with the subjects. An emotional topic, too, and the varied images of couple, their child - including a home birth - were really well done. Especially liked the image of mom leaning against dad with the IV. also the birth in hottub. Well done; very astute photo skills & hard work over time.*

#### Third Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY

Meg Potter, *JH Pride party*

**Judge's comments:** *This was a difficult category as were many great entries. I did not see this as a top two place essay because it was more of a one-night "scene-ster" type gallery. The main reason I gave this third place was the photographer's ability to catch colorful images in a dark nightclub setting. Dark environs are notoriously difficult for photographers of all skills; this gets third on technical merit, not content or story told. Good work.*

#### Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY

Kayla Renie, *Born into a Pandemic*

**Judge's comments:** *This was an interesting essay topic, but I did not see these photos going above and beyond in comparison to other entries. This seemed to be a basic baby gallery, which I felt could've been more if were some variety of images - especially since topic was "baby in pandemic." Good for 4th place. Well done; thank you.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Photo Essay

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

#### First Place

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

Janet Morgan, *Harvesting History*

**Judge's comments:** *An easy choice for first-place. This photo essay is dense with history, richly illustrated by beautiful photos, intertwined with nicely edited videos. The images, voices and stories all created a compelling tapestry of tobacco farming and the lives that have been rooted in it.*

#### Second Place

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

Kurt Krueger, *SCENIC BEAUTY*

**Judge's comments:** *I kept returning to these photos, fascinated by the wildlife and natural beauty the photographer captured. Felt like he had shared a secret with me. That osprey lifting from the water...that was the money shot.*

#### Third Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Mark Ridolfi, *On Pointe for the holidays*

**Judge's comments:** *Just a beautiful layout and presentation that does these lovely photos justice. Conveys the magic perfectly.*

#### Honorable Mention

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Jessi Dodge, *Three times the love*

**Judge's comments:** *The intimacy of these photos, offering a glimpse into this growing family's life, was compelling. Loved that they were black and white. It just seemed so much more personal, less commercial. Well done.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Photo Essay

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

#### First Place

Wright County Journal, *Mountain Grove, MO*

Ron Schott, *Fire on the Square Package 08-04-01*

**Judge's comments:** *Phenomenal photos. The photos are clear and depict the severity of the fire. The telephone pole "cross" photo is great.*

#### Second Place

Walsh County Record, *Grafton, ND*

Larry Biri, Steph Cronje, *Harvest*

**Judge's comments:** *Great composition on these photos — especially on the wheat and sunflower photos.*

#### Third Place

The Imperial Republican, *Imperial, NE*

Staff, *Smokin' On Broadway photo page*

**Judge's comments:** *There's lots of action in these photos and nicely illustrates the fun that was had at the event.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Edgerton Reporter, *Edgerton, WI*

Jeff Brown, *Sport photo - baseball slides home limbo-style Jeff Brown*

**Judge's comments:** *Action shots in sports are hard to capture, yet the photographer did a great job with these.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Sports Photo

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Tim Hynds, *Camanche vs Centerville state baseball*

**Judge's comments:** *Love the baserunner's hand-to-cap position framed with the pitcher's mound frenzy. Great work, Tim Hynds. Your other photos on this State Baseball package were also wonderful.*

#### Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Michael Cummo, *Streaking by*

**Judge's comments:** *Blur works in your favor! Excellent Feature photo.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Sports Photo

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

#### First Place

Washington Missourian, *Washington, MO*

Bill Battle, *Cloud Cover*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice job of concentrating on the match and picking the right moment to take the photo. Exciting to see this work*

#### Second Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Chad Cooper, *Mutton bustin'*

**Judge's comments:** *liked the story this picture told. It is what the event is all about and is captured very well here*

#### Third Place

Washington Missourian, *Washington, MO*

Arron Husted, *Dunk City*

**Judge's comments:** *photographer was placed well to get this shot. well done*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Sports Photo

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

#### First Place

The News-Gazette, *Lexington, VA*

Stephanie Mikels Blevins, *'Catys in the Snow*

**Judge's comments:** *This photo isn't your typical high school sports pic. It says so much. Great focus and photo makeup.*

#### Second Place

College Park Here & Now, *College Park, MD*

Kaylee Maeda, *Northwestern wins state championship*

**Judge's comments:** *Great photo of emotion of the moment. Nice focus.*

#### Third Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Nathan Burton, *Tigers find their focus*

**Judge's comments:** *This brings the feels and captures this one moment in time. Great sense of placement.*

#### Honorable Mention

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

Scott Byers, *MOC-Floyd Valley baseball celebration*

**Judge's comments:** *Great shot. Good job on being in the right place at the right time.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Sports Photo

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

#### First Place

Douglas Budget, *Douglas, WY*

Matt Adelman, *Wild Ride Jumps to Fair Week*

**Judge's comments:** *A good case can be made that the top three entries in this category could easily be interchangeable as far as placement is concerned. A good sports photo consists of both motion and emotion, and freezes a moment in time. The emotion doesn't necessarily need to be "the joy of victory" or the "agony of defeat." It can be determination, as shown in this excellent entry that combines the two necessary ingredients.*

#### Second Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Skip Pearlman, *Out at Third*

**Judge's comments:** *Like the first entry, we see grit and determination and action - a great sports photo!*

#### Third Place

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Jessi Dodge, *Kicking up dust*

**Judge's comments:** *The contrast of dark and light, along with the adrenaline rush the rider was most likely feeling makes this entry not only a great sports photo, but a work of art as well.*

#### Honorable Mention

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*

Ryan Dunsmore, *Heading to state semis*

**Judge's comments:** *A great "joy of victory" moment captured by the photographer.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Sports Photo

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

#### First Place

Hanover Eagle, *Bernardsville, NJ*

Lisa Mita, *Happy Days*

**Judge's comments:** *Wonderful action, reaction and emotion. Great job of seeing.*

#### Second Place

Richmond News, *Richmond, MO*

Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *DURING A DOWNPOUR*

**Judge's comments:** *The downpour gives this image an added visual enjoyment.*

#### Third Place

Uinta County Herald, *Evanston, WY*

Don Cogger, *Swimming photo*

**Judge's comments:** *It's a good moment with the water splashing up and the intrigue brought on by the visuals on the goggles.*

#### Honorable Mention

Cedar County News, *Hartington, NE*

Rob Dump, *Best Sports photo Cedar boys celebrate win on floor and bench*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice celebration moment as it looks like a dance.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Review - Best Review

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Manchester Cricket, *Manchester, MA*

Erika Brown, *Step By Step: Farmhouse Fixer*

**Judge's comments:** *First Place: Erika Brown's review of a new HGTV show, Farmhouse Fixer, hits all the right notes. Brown includes plenty of back story on how a couple of local businesspeople partnered to both renovate old farmhouses and to produce a show that would take viewers along to watch it happen. At the same time, readers get you-are-there glimpses into the first segment as well as insight gleaned from interviews with the duo into what makes the show and the partnership work. Tightly paced and lively writing with the barest hint of fangirl enthusiasm—one of the duo began as a member of a well-known boy band—make this a compelling and winning review.*

#### Second Place

Virginia Lawyers Weekly, *Richmond, VA*

Paul Fletcher, *Lawyer's first novel gives Mine Wars lesson*

**Judge's comments:** *Second Place: Paul Fletcher knows the audience of the Virginia Lawyers Weekly well, so it makes sense that he begins his review of Jeff Barnes' debut historical novel "Mingo" with just the facts: the when, where, who, and what of the story, set during the West Virginia Mine Wars of the early 20th century. Fletcher succinctly relates the plot basics then highlights Barnes's storytelling skill evidenced in detailed "word pictures," his "fine ear" for dialogue, and his knowledge of the region and its history. Fletcher's own fluid and evocative writing clinches the case for ruling this review a winner.*

#### Third Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Erin M. Gentz, *Newsies*

**Judge's comments:** *Third Place: Erin Gentz's exuberant review of a community theatre production of Disney's "Newsies!" does more than highlight the singing, dancing, and acting chops of the local, mostly high-school and college-age cast. Gentz contextualizes the story, based on actual early 20th century events, and makes it relevant to today's audiences while also spotlighting the behind-the-scenes work of the set designer, lighting designer, costumer, choreographer, and director. Vibrantly voiced and snappily paced, Gentz's review commands attention.*

#### Honorable Mention

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Bruce Miller, *Real News*

**Judge's comments:** *Fourth Place: There's irony in a former journalist reviewing a newspaper review of a couple of journalists' documentary film about the work of a Pulitzer-winning editor and his staff of small-town journalists. The common thread, as Bruce R. Miller clearly conveys in his review of "Storm Lake," is the deep conviction that journalism matters and community journalism may matter most. With occasional heartfelt asides, Miller gives readers glimpses into the film's depiction of one small-town newspaper staff as they fight to keep a community informed and connected.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Section - Best Family Life Living Section Pages

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

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

Gary Ridderbusch, Michelle Drew, Eric Johnson, *Best Lifestyle Section*

**Judge's comments:** *Loved the photos and the flow. Nice stories with lots of information. Bravo.*

#### Second Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Ark staff, *ArkBeat*

**Judge's comments:** *Great sections with lots of family-centered content. Nice use of graphics and fun photos.*

#### Third Place

News Letter Journal, *Newcastle, WY*

Staff, *Lifestyles*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice mix of stories about the community that also leave room for events for the family and things in the community.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

### Daily & Non-daily Division, circ. 10,000 or more

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

WTE Staff, *Cheyenne Frontier Days 125th Anniversary Preview*

**Judge's comments:** *Wow, that cover photo pulls you in. Good layout, clean look, easy to read.*

#### Second Place

Park Cities People, *Dallas, TX*

Park Cities People, Rachel Snyder, *Best Special Feature Section-STEAM-PCP April 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Great concept. Really easy to navigate, fun layout, insightful news.*

#### Third Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Staff, *Fall Football Preview*

**Judge's comments:** *Magazine style gives it a special feel. A lot of good information and slick presentation.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Don Dodd, Sharon Brooks, *Labor Day*

**Judge's comments:** *Great concept and wonderful blending of ads and copy. Really tight.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

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

#### First Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM

Paul Gutches, *Land Water People Time*

**Judge's comments:** *A captivating publication covering the history and culture of northern New Mexico. The features are many and varied, the design is clean and eye-catching and the photography is nothing short of tremendous. This was by far the cream of the crop.*

#### Second Place

Myrtle Beach Herald, Myrtle Beach, SC

Staff, *Back to work: 2021 Horry County Fall Football Preview*

**Judge's comments:** *A few different publishers submitted their special football sections for this contest category, and this one was the standout. The studio photographs of the star student-athletes is a great touch, and the layout provides a good balance between news copy and advertising on each page. Other newspapers should look at this for inspiration.*

#### Third Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, Jackson, WY

Staff, *Nowhere to Live*

**Judge's comments:** *I read this special report on Jackson Hole's housing shortage with great interest. Having seen national outlets try to cover this from far away and not always succeed, it was very refreshing to see the local paper tackle the story from all angles, and to hear from homeowners, renters and others dealing with the crisis. Very good idea and very well-executed.*

#### Honorable Mention

Lake Oswego Review, Lake Oswego, OR

Staff, *Amazing Kids*

**Judge's comments:** *I love the effort to shine a spotlight on local young people and connect them with the newspaper. The layout was particularly good and well-organized, too. Some potential areas for improvement would be to have a wider variety of photos of the subjects, and to move the filler content, like the generic quotes by famous people, from the front of the section to the back.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

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

#### First Place

Walsh County Record, *Grafton, ND*  
Staff, *AG Section*

**Judge's comments:** *Great use of in-house material. Also makes use of useful extension service type content. Informative on a topic that really matters in rural communities where farming is often the primary economic driver. Photography is sharp and attractive, as is the design and use of graphics.*

#### Second Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*  
Ark staff, *The Year in Review*

**Judge's comments:** *Detailed reviews of the past year in three communities the newspaper covers. Sharp design.*

#### Third Place

Steele County Times, *Blooming Prairie, MN*  
Staff, *Holiday Good News Extra*

**Judge's comments:** *Impressive body of work. Calling it a Holiday Good News Extra undersells the depth of the coverage contained in this special section.*

#### Honorable Mention

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*  
Carrie Pitzer, *150th Anniversary of County*

**Judge's comments:** *Exhaustive history of Antelope County for 150th anniversary.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Section - Best Sports Section/Page

### Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

#### First Place

Walsh County Record, *Grafton, ND*

Chelsea Wysocki, *February 24*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice big headlines. Great photos. I like the score boxes in the story, just might have put them between paragraphs. separate text with drop shadow in some headlines is interesting.*

#### Second Place

Stanton Register, *Stanton, NE*

Carrie Pitzer, *Getting Better*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice job with the headline, cutout photo to put the story on and the text wrap around the wrestler. I like the schedule at bottom of page.*

#### Third Place

Wright County Journal, *Mountain Grove, MO*

Ron Schott, *Best Sports Section/Page*

**Judge's comments:** *I like the full-sized photo of the team at the top with the large headline. The page breathes easier with wider leading. Great first pages. The other pages seem a bit heavy to the right side with photos. Subheads are a bit small. I like using team logos to fill in the space between ads and columns when they don't align.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Edgerton Reporter, *Edgerton, WI*

Diane Everson, Sam Martino, Dave Wedeward, *Ryder Cup Hometown Salute*

**Judge's comments:** *Interesting cover page with color and a pencil drawing. Nice photos, but a bit too many on the right side and some could be placed more center and left side. A bit text heavy, but that's not a bad thing.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Section - Best Sports Section/Page

### Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 3000

#### First Place

The N'West Iowa REVIEW, *Sheldon, IA*  
Scott Byers, Charlie Hildebrand, staff, *Section - Best Sports Section*  
**Judge's comments:** *Excellent sports section from top to bottom; well done.*

#### Second Place

Vilas County News-Review, *Eagle River, WI*  
Doug Etten, Gary Ridderbusch, *Best Sports Section*  
**Judge's comments:** *This is what I look for when I open a sports section. Great job!*

#### Third Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*  
Scott Campbell, *Best Sports Section*

#### Honorable Mention

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*  
Staff, *Sioux City Journal*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

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

#### First Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Alan Campbell, *Cherry Acreage*

**Judge's comments:** *Everything a reader needs to know about the tart cherry business. Family first with lots of business facts and figures. The best "business story" is one from which others may learn - this fits! Well done, Alan Campbell.*

#### Second Place

Warwick Advertiser, *Chester, NY*

Becca Tucker, *Backyard Poultry*

**Judge's comments:** *Engaging story, even for people without a passion for raising fowl. Because it's a people story and we love to read about people. Great job, Becca Tucker.*

#### Third Place

Farm and Dairy, *Salem, OH*

Rachel Wagoner, *The buy local boom of the pandemic bottoms out in 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Good spread of info in this story. It reflects a point in time & answers questions for full-time & hobby farmers. Excellent work, Rachel Wagoner.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Wil Hooper, *What to do with a bumper crop?*

**Judge's comments:** *Plenty of things to chew on in this story, if I were a Farmers Market producer. An effort to perhaps bring growers together toward a sensible goal of reducing food waste. Ag journalism at its best. Great job, Will Hooper.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Agricultural Story

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

#### First Place

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

Hannah Strong Oskin, *'It's in our blood': Aynor tobacco farm predates Civil War*

**Judge's comments:** *This story has it all: minority farmers struggle, shifting from an unpopular product to diversified crops, difficulty of getting younger generations to continue the tradition. A beautifully written essay with striking photos captures the history of generations of a family black tobacco farmers enduring the struggles and triumphs to harvest their crop over a year. An important and extremely well-done story. Excellent!*

#### Second Place

The Sidell Reporter, *Sidell, IL*

Suzanne Woodard and Rinda Maddox, *From one Generation to the next*

**Judge's comments:** *A warm and well-researched look at family farming through the generations and the changes and prospects through the eyes of four local farm families. Beautiful pictures and well researched and well written. Nice job!*

#### Third Place

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Jen Sieve-Hicks, *Trapping the hunters*

**Judge's comments:** *A fascinating and well-researched and well-balanced story about how protecting eagles is wreaking havoc on the animals they prey on -- particularly sheep -- and what can be done about it. Well done*

#### Honorable Mention

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

Charles D. Perry, *Minnie's magic: Horry County award-winning mule keeps history alive*

**Judge's comments:** *A heartwarming and enthralling story about a mule finally recognized as "outstanding in her field" and the families who loved her. Excellent job*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Nick Hytrek, *Onawa teen found guilty of second-degree murder*

**Judge's comments:** *Good lede drew me in from the first sentence. The author did a good job providing comprehensive, fair and balanced coverage to tell the complete story, with just the right balance of emotion.*

#### Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Hannah Black, Niki Kottmann, Margaret Austin, Tom Coulter, *Snowed in: Record-breaking storm shuts down SE Wyoming*

**Judge's comments:** *Great treatment of historic snowfall. I liked how the stories focused on the people who came together to keep the community and in particular the medical center running. That transformed it from just a regular story about heavy snowfall into something special.*

#### Third Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Santee Siouc return story*

**Judge's comments:** *There were some really good entries in this category. The story was well written, and serves as a good reminder of past atrocities and the ripples that persist today.*

#### Honorable Mention

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *VFW Sentencing*

**Judge's comments:** *Well-written story; there is no doubt the community will continue to feel the impact for years to come.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

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

#### First Place

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*  
Dana Rieck, *Inmates smash windows, set fire in protest of St. Louis jail conditions.*  
**Judge's comments:** *Great story with photo and placement. Nice details.*

#### Second Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*  
Jennifer Johnson, *Fight on*  
**Judge's comments:** *Solid story with great graphics and content from people on the scene via social media.*

#### Third Place

Park Cities People, *Dallas, TX*  
Rachel Snyder, *Best Breaking News Story, "Bishop: Wear Masks Out of Charity, May PCP, Page 12*  
**Judge's comments:** *Brought a story to the forefront with good details and background.*

#### Honorable Mention

Philadelphia Gay News, *Philadelphia, PA*  
Michele Zipkin, *Community reacts to Philly Pride Presents disbandment*  
**Judge's comments:** *Good read. Nice flow.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

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

#### First Place

Warwick Advertiser, *Chester, NY*

Becca Tucker, *Oathkeepers in our Midst*

**Judge's comments:** *Well-balanced, fair story looking into connections between Orange County Oath Keepers and the Orange County Sheriff's Office.*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Michael Tashji, John Miller, *Man charged in 1988 homicide*

**Judge's comments:** *Well-written, readable, and thorough story about an unexpected confession in a cold case.*

#### Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Brian Freiburger, *Swimmers Rescued*

**Judge's comments:** *Very clear and well told.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

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

#### First Place

Hi-Desert Star, *Yucca Valley, CA*

Stacy Moore, *Parents demonstrate against masks at Morongo Unified meeting*

**Judge's comments:** *Good fact-checking, and the photo of that defiant child is extremely compelling!*

#### Second Place

The Standard Banner, *Jefferson City, TN*

Steve Marion, *Suspect takes his own life*

**Judge's comments:** *Good writing that took me into the hunt.*

#### Third Place

The Alamance News, *Graham, NC*

Tomas Murawski, *County attorney fired by county commissioners; unorthodox, possibly illegal, procedure used*

**Judge's comments:** *A well-written account of a story for which few details were available.*

#### Honorable Mention

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*

SCOTT REESE WILLEY, *Chief: Cops kill man who pointed gun at police*

**Judge's comments:** *Straightforward writing about a topic that's bound to raise controversy.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Breaking News Story

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

#### First Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Jenny Higgins & Carrie Pitzer, *Tragedy Strikes Amish Family*

**Judge's comments:** *Great reporting! No doubt many readers were eagerly awaiting a thorough report of the tragic accident, and likely snatched up The Antelope County News the second it hit the newsstands and their mailboxes! Great photos that show the damage also accompanied the story. Great team effort. Keep up the good work!*

#### Second Place

The Oberlin Herald, *Oberlin, KS*

Steve Haynes, *Stolen Police car*

**Judge's comments:** *Good reporting! Lots of interesting details!*

#### Third Place

Carroll County News, *Berryville, AR*

Robert Cox, *Two brothers die in accident on local farm*

**Judge's comments:** *Good reporting. Keep up the good work.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Ozona Stockman, *Ozona, TX*

Melissa Perner, *Black bear wanders through Ozona*

**Judge's comments:** *Good reporting. Lots of useful information that can help residents the next time a bear comes wandering into town.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Whynot Pizza*

**Judge's comments:** *Good story with lots of voices, both adults and students.*

#### Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Will Carpenter, *Behind Noam's Table is a man who persevered*

**Judge's comments:** *Interesting tale of perseverance and the "American dream."*

#### Third Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Grocers*

**Judge's comments:** *Well put together. I wish the grocer had put the writer in touch with a customer. That voice would have made the story much stronger.*

#### Honorable Mention

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Mason Dockter, *Stimulus sparks demand*

**Judge's comments:** *Classic localization of a national story.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

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

#### First Place

Warwick Advertiser, Chester, NY

Becca Tucker, *Urgent Care*

**Judge's comments:** *Very, very interesting story that went in deep on metrics, details, context. It touched on exploding demand for COVID testing and how urgent care was the right idea/format for a pandemic, and this story was written before the larger trend of malls redeploying as consumer health service centers, which we're seeing today. Excellent piece.*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM

Will Hooper, *Taoseños delivering winter warmth*

**Judge's comments:** *Truly interesting, in-depth look into a longstanding tradition in local enterprise: chopping and selling wood in the Taos region. As a reader, I feel like I got to know these people. It's the opposite of the energy innovation story, and it felt like an important story to tell. Good metrics offered (necessary for a business story). And the layout/photography made it. Great job.*

#### Third Place

Beaumont Business Journal, Beaumont, TX

Sharon Brooks, *Indorama Ventures surprises local teachers with STEM Innovation Grants*

**Judge's comments:** *Great job picking this topic to cover. This could have been just a puff piece on corporate PR efforts, but instead this story dives into the challenges that good science teachers at the secondary level face with dwindling resources. With this program, grants go to purchase "dream" kits/materials for truly advanced STEM education programs (like 3D printers and genomics kits. Wow.). Nice story, nice reporting.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Daily Universe, Provo, UT

Cassidy Wixom, *Many Utah grocers unwilling to talk about workers' COVID-19 vaccination status*

**Judge's comments:** *Both Wixom's pieces are solid business stories. This one edged out the other because the min'm wage story, while valid and interesting and shows a devastating local impact of a doubled minimum wage from Washington DC, it felt political. This story addresses a really interesting/critical issue amid COVID/frontline workers and the complexities that supermarkets have to navigate as they struggle with employees, transparency and compliance in a pandemic. Really nice job.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Feature Story

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

#### First Place

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

Charles D. Perry, *'Just the place to go': After more than 50 years in business, The Parts Store in Myrtle Beach closes*

**Judge's comments:** *Beautifully crafted story; details capture the flavor. Good writing kept me reading. Props to any writer not afraid to describe a "sometimes cranky" man as a "sometimes cranky" man.*

#### Second Place

The Standard Banner, *Jefferson City, TN*

Steve Marion, Steven Lloyd, *Bringing the Mossback*

**Judge's comments:** *Good storytelling makes a good read of an economic development story. My favorite detail: "As a teen he and his buddies caught wild hogs and tamed them to sell as pets." Details and anecdotes throughout, and bookending it with the "Mossbacks. all" theme brings it all home.*

#### Third Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Deirdre McCrohan, *A new era for R&S*

**Judge's comments:** *Well written, anecdote-filled. quote-laden and more interesting than I expected an account of an auto dealer's history would be.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Story

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Nick Hytrek, *Uncertain road ahead*

**Judge's comments:** *Explains many of the options of this construction, and their effects.*

#### Second Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Rickets Visit*

**Judge's comments:** *Would have been good to know what customers can expect to pay for the new service. In other words, how is the benefit of the Federal funding shared among the community.*

## Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Jasmine Hall, *Wit and Wisdom: Cheyenne reflects after first month*

**Judge's comments:** *Very good discussion of a controversial topic.*

#### Second Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *consumed by storm*

**Judge's comments:** *Wonderfully written!*

#### Third Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Menno Play*

**Judge's comments:** *What a great idea! I would like to have read more detail.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

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

#### First Place

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*

Sophie Hurwitz, *MO's merit scholarships close door on Black, rural students*

**Judge's comments:** *Great story. An important and often times difficult topic to understand, yet it was easily explained. Number stories are typically hard to follow but you did an excellent job of helping readers understand them and their importance. Hopefully, this story will open eyes and get more scholarships in the hands of students who need them. These sorts of stories remind your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. Kudos!*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Sol Traverso, *Keeping mariachi alive*

**Judge's comments:** *Wow, what an interesting story! I learned a lot about mariachi music and efforts to keep the music alive — and I'm certain your readers did, too!*

#### Third Place

Sparta Independent, *Chester, NY*

Becca Tucker, *How to Talk to Your Kids About Weed*

**Judge's comments:** *Parents will find this story very useful (I know I did). I would have liked to have read something from the kids (users) themselves. You couldn't find one teen to interview? Did you ask any of these five experts if they knew of a teen you could interview? Having the viewpoint of a kid in the story would have great.*

#### Honorable Mention

Lake Oswego Review, *Lake Oswego, OR*

Asia Alvarez Zeller, *"That Friday is burned in my brain"*

**Judge's comments:** *Lots of sources, lots of viewpoints. Good job!*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Education/Literacy Story

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

#### First Place

The Alamance News, *Graham, NC*

Kristy Bailey, *School board meeting ends early in shouting match*

**Judge's comments:** *There were many excellent entries in this category. Among the factors that brought this entry to the top was an important look at how the political divide in the country has infected a school district where two sides couldn't listen to one another. Excellent coverage.*

#### Second Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Mark Ridolfi, *Divided by Diversity*

**Judge's comments:** *Not all exchanges end in better understanding between divergent points of view. But this story exposes the divide and reflects the difficulties of a nation divided and its affect for one school district. Nice work.*

#### Third Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Emily Lavin, *Teachers, students adapt to increasing return to classrooms*

**Judge's comments:** *Many stories have been written about the difficulties of adapting to the pandemic, but what made this special besides fine writing was the rare look at what it took to adapt to returning to the classroom after a year or more of virtual learning. Not as easy as it might sound. Good job.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*

Mary (Galer) Herschelmann, *Restraining Order Keeps Students From Services*

**Judge's comments:** *Everyone was affected in various ways by the pandemic, but this account offers a look at what many students with special needs lacked in vital services and the toll it took on those students and their families. An important subject well presented.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

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

#### First Place

The Sun, *Santa Maria, CA*

Malea Martin, *From the depths*

**Judge's comments:** *Fascinating story, well-reported -- and well written. So engaging, I'd look for additional coverage as the story develops. This is a story that piqued my interest -- and made me care (what journalism is all about). Kudos.*

#### Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Alan Campbell, *Whitefish*

**Judge's comments:** *A really good read. Writer does an excellent job in explaining the ecosystem of lakes. I've read lots of stories before about depleted fishing stock, but now I really understand the causes. Well done.*

#### Third Place

The Maine Monitor, *Hallowell, ME*

Kate Cough, *Staggering \$1.5 billion lithium deposit discovered near Newry; excavating it poses a challenge*

**Judge's comments:** *Interesting story, kept my attention -- to a degree. Tighter editing and filling in some information holes would have moved it up in my judging.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Environmental Story

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

#### First Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Brian PJ Cronin, *Sundown at Indian Point*

**Judge's comments:** *First Place / The Highlands Current: Brian PJ Cronin's two-part series, "Sundown at Indian Point," marks the shut-down of the final reactor in a local nuclear energy plant with a comprehensive recounting of the plant's almost 70-year history. Part Two discusses present implications of the nuclear waste remaining on site and explains that energy sources for the future are not without controversies of their own. Cronin's clearly-organized, extensively researched, and smoothly written narrative is augmented with a detailed timeline of events, graphic comparisons of energy sources, maps, and images.*

#### Second Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Laura Read, *Best Environmental Stories*

**Judge's comments:** *Second Place / Moonshine Ink: Recent earthquakes near Lake Tahoe sparked Lauren Read's "Shake, Rattle & Roar: Will a Lake Tahoe earthquake cause a tsunami?" which examines the potential for a major quake and possible resultant catastrophic damage. Read presents geological evidence of a similar quake having occurred in the distant past, then describes current activity along the fault running under the lake. Read's balanced sourcing, clear writing, and conversational tone make this a highly readable article. USGS maps and graphics help readers visualize the information.*

#### Third Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Brian PJ Cronin, *The Return of the Tree Army*

**Judge's comments:** *Third Place / The Highlands Current: Brian PJ Cronin's "The Return of the Tree Army" traces local environmental work from FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s to current NPOs and volunteer efforts then focuses on the potential for and current status of a proposed Civilian Climate Corps. Cronin's in-depth research, community reach, and clear writing keep environmental concerns before the public eye.*

#### Honorable Mention

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Bill Hatfield, *Blazin' Trails*

**Judge's comments:** *Fourth Place / Buffalo Bulletin: Alex Hargrave's two-part series on ecotourism in the Bighorn area of Wyoming explains how local commercial guides augment government agencies' enforcing of public environmental policies by modeling responsible outdoor recreation. Hargrave's straightforward reporting interweaves tourism data and interviews with local officials and researchers into a look at the ways a local outfitter shows guests how to both respect and enjoy the natural world.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*  
Bruce Miller, *Nomandland*

**Judge's comments:** *Marvelous job capturing the unique characteristics of the individuals, how the movie benefitted them personally and keeping the plot of the movie a surprise in such a teasing way. Making me want to find the movie means you did your job as a reporter and did it well.*

#### Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*  
Niki Kottmann, *Fractured, but not fragile*

**Judge's comments:** *Absolutely great job telling this story!! The usage of quotes throughout the story to complement the words of the reporter were fantastic.*

#### Third Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*  
Randy Dockendorf, *Redwing story*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice story on a man who didn't want to be recognized but truly needed to be.*

#### Honorable Mention

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*  
Randy Dockendorf, *Magera*

**Judge's comments:** *A good story overall with good insight about his life.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

### Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000

#### First Place

Farm and Dairy, *Salem, OH*

Sarah Donaldson, *Rootstown Reindeer Farm spreads holiday joy, peace*

**Judge's comments:** *A nicely worded article, quick to read but told a great story. Perfect on timing.*

#### Second Place

The Charleston Mercury, *Charleston, SC*

Ford Walpole, *Charleston's Original Captain Harry*

**Judge's comments:** *Great profile of selfless individual.*

#### Third Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

B. Scott McLendon, *A perennial leader empowering others*

**Judge's comments:** *Great content and layout.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Lynne Robinson, *Mark Maggiori gives back*

**Judge's comments:** *Very in-depth look and a very interesting story. The writer leaves nothing to the imagination when he introduces Mark Maggiori and takes the reader through his life. Very captivating piece*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Will Hooper, *Mind over matter*

**Judge's comments:** *The writer brings out all the ups and downs the accident caused and tells a great story about how it is being both handled and overcome. You can feel the pain and also be happy for the progress being made. Very good piece of work*

#### Third Place

College Park Here & Now, *College Park, MD*

Alexandra Radovic, *Artist brings it home to College Park*

**Judge's comments:** *Just a very good job of telling a very good story. Not a typical occupation by a former football player but a very interesting one. Nice job of telling the choice the artist made.*

#### Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Timothy J. Woods, *Read all about it! An 11-year-old produces his own newspaper*

**Judge's comments:** *Nothing like a newspaper person finding a story about another newspaper person and telling it well. Best of luck to both of you.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

Hi-Desert Star, *Yucca Valley, CA*

Jene Estrada, *'I'm not done'*

**Judge's comments:** *What an inspiration to all of us. The headline captures it all: "I'm not done." This Marine vet's story captures many valuable life lessons that we can all take something from. The writer does an amazing job of sharing the plight of this veteran and how he has become an inspiration to others for them to understand their lives are important.*

#### Second Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Scott Campbell, *Still planting at 90*

**Judge's comments:** *This long-time farmer should be a true inspiration to everyone. The writer has great storytelling skills in sharing the 90-year-old farmer's love for what he does. Nice job with using quotes throughout to provide a great human angle to this remarkable man.*

#### Third Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Michael Turton, *Dutchess Woman Survived Hiroshima*

**Judge's comments:** *This story was captivating and takes the reader back in time to learn about what happened at Hiroshima. This is a harrowing story of a woman who defied odds and lived to tell her story decades later.*

#### Honorable Mention

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

Charles D. Perry, *King of Kings? Conway area man vying to become world's top Elvis tribute artist*

**Judge's comments:** *I've read many Elvis stories over the years, but this is by far one of the best. The writer utilized exceptional storytelling skills to bring this story into the limelight.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

Manchester Cricket, *Manchester, MA*

Olivia Turner, *Bob Brophy: Master Decoy Carver*

**Judge's comments:** *Beautifully written and intricately detailed, this is a classic profile that describes a single person's passion in service to larger themes -- in this case, craftsmanship and tradition, which are traits also demonstrated in the writer's craft.*

#### Second Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Becca Loux, *Changing Lives From the Ground Up*

**Judge's comments:** *Expanding from a single point of view to an entire community, this profile captures the power of organizing and the passion of a group of women making a real difference in their community. The story traces a variety of angles (across multiple languages) to illustrate the wide-ranging work of this support team, demonstrating the reporter's hard work, expertise, and dedication.*

#### Third Place

Manchester Cricket, *Manchester, MA*

Kris McGinn, *Beautiful Chaos Of Thaddeus Beal*

**Judge's comments:** *This artist's profile invites the reader into an intimate circle of friendship. The creative, personal narrative and lively visual storytelling make for a powerful tribute to a significant local figure.*

#### Honorable Mention (TIE)

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*

Marquita Griffin, *At 9, a fiddling champ*

**Judge's comments:** *This nine-year-old prodigy springs to life on the page in fiery quotes and funny quips -- the reporter tells her story and gives us a reason to remember her.*

Douglas Budget, *Douglas, WY*

Cynthia Stimson, *'Es Muy Loco'*

**Judge's comments:** *This reporter has captured a unique, fascinating, and purpose-driven journey, bringing the reader along for every step.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

Oakland Independent, *Oakland, IL*

Janice Hunt, *'My goal is just to make everybody's day a great day'*

**Judge's comments:** *This shows that good features are all around us, if we stop to look. Lots of personality in the quotes. I'm not a fan of the quote lede, but it works here.*

#### Second Place

Carroll County News, *Berryville, AR*

Robert Cox, *Medford reflects on nearly 60-year career*

**Judge's comments:** *This one crackles with personality and attitude, and is quite topical. What a fun interview this must have been, and a very good read.*

#### Third Place

The Oberlin Herald, *Oberlin, KS*

Dayna Mannebach, *OH! Addleman*

**Judge's comments:** *A life well lived, a profile well told.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Eagle, *Chadron, NE*

Aubrie Lawrence, *Afghan journalist, with ties to CSC, escape Kabul*

**Judge's comments:** *Very interesting localization of a national story. I would have liked to see the reporter probe a bit deeper into what the family went through.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Feature Series

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

#### First Place

The Maine Monitor, *Hallowell, ME*

Barbara A. Walsh, *Deaths of Despair*

**Judge's comments:** *This series about deaths from suicide and overdoses in an underserved county in Maine was very well told. The stories of the deaths themselves and also of the lack of counseling available for the families and other loved ones were compelling and sad. It was inspiring to learn about some of the creative efforts individuals and organizations were making to fill in the gaps and offer services to the vulnerable.*

#### Second Place

Farm and Dairy, *Salem, OH*

Rachel Wagoner, Sarah Donaldson, Rebecca Miller, Aimee Tenzek, David Hartong, Lucy Schaly, Sara Welch, *Growing Farmers*

**Judge's comments:** *Very informative, well researched, and well written, this series took a close look at challenges facing people who want to work as farmers, and steps being taken to address them.*

#### Third Place

The Maine Monitor, *Hallowell, ME*

Barbara A. Walsh, *Unsafe Homes: Children in Peril*

**Judge's comments:** *These stories looking at the rate of child abuse and neglect in Maine were compelling and memorable. The series highlighted some of the warning signs of abuse and neglect and questioned whether Child Protective Services in the state was doing enough.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Feature Series

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

#### First Place

Archbold Buckeye, *Archbold, OH*

Staff, *'Girl Named Tom' Wins 'The Voice'*

**Judge's comments:** *Great ongoing coverage of locals' rise to the top. The author does a great job exploring multiple angles of the singers which makes it more engaging than a simple weekly show wrap-up.*

#### Second Place

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*

Hannah Strong Oskin, *Harvesting History*

**Judge's comments:** *Great feature series that takes into account the past and present of tobacco farming. It was very thorough but also engaging. I really enjoyed the feature on the Dixon family.*

#### Third Place

Manchester Cricket, *Manchester, MA*

Kory Curcuru, Erika Brown, *Cape Ann Timeline: Features In Local History*

**Judge's comments:** *This series offers an intriguing look back at local history. All were enjoyable but the feature on Abby Trask was very interesting - she was a pioneer among pioneers!*

#### Honorable Mention

The Edgerton Reporter, *Edgerton, WI*

Tristan McGough, *Fire District Expansion*

**Judge's comments:** *Great coverage of a local regional issue.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Health Story

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

#### First Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

B. Scott McLendon, *Highlighting heroes embattled in a labor of love -- and life*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent lede and the good reporting didn't stop there. Great account of the toll the pandemic took on healthcare workers, not only on the job but noting that "recuperation in their home lives" was also difficult. Well done.*

#### Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Hannah Black, *Health officials fighting "two pandemics"*

**Judge's comments:** *Several entries were covid-related but this one stood out because it was an excellent account of the work done by public health officials to battle the pandemic and the misinformation. Well written and interesting.*

#### Third Place

The Sun, *Santa Maria, CA*

Malea Martin, *Renewed Trauma*

**Judge's comments:** *Another well-done story relating the toll the pandemic took on healthcare workers. This one shared more than other stories about the compassion they tried to show while they fought to save lives. Interesting and kept me reading.*

#### Honorable Mention

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Dolly Butz, *A struggle to get signed up*

**Judge's comments:** *Well-written account showing the roadblocks people faced during the early rollout of the covid vaccine. Story didn't point fingers, just shared experiences of those wanting to get vaccinated but couldn't.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Health Story

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

#### First Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, SD  
Randy Dockendorf, *Wagner Facilities*

**Judge's comments:** *A really impressive story that speaks to the challenges of providing high-quality COVID-19 care while highlighting the human elements on both sides of the healthcare profession -- especially the image of a hospital worker in a hazmat suit trudging through 7 inches of snow with an IV pole. Great reporting, writing, and information gathering to deepen the knowledge of the reading public.*

#### Second Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, Eldridge, IA  
Scott Campbell, *Compassionate Course*

**Judge's comments:** *What a powerful package! This story has great visuals, a great sidebar, great quotes, and a great story to tell overall. Readers not only will be excited about this educational opportunity for local students but also will be likely to gain a deeper understanding of and respect for the important work of CNAs.*

#### Third Place

The Ark, Tiburon, CA  
Shayne Jones, *Belvedere takes up debate on playground surface amid growing worry*

**Judge's comments:** *Playgrounds are not the central sites of most health stories, and this one isn't about bumps, bruises, or broken bones. With responsible, in-depth reporting and nuanced consideration of a heated debate from multiple sides, this story demonstrates the interplay of science, community advocacy, finances, government, and emotions when children's health is a point of concern.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Journal, Crosby, ND  
Cecile Wehrman, *COVID complicates transfers*

**Judge's comments:** *Communities across the country are facing challenges caused or complicated by COVID-19, and this story illustrates one of these challenges in both vivid detail and sober clarity. The story is crisp, clear, and straightforward, while delivering meaningful information to readers who deserve to understand these circumstances.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Dolly Butz, *Stolen lives: The epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women*

**Judge's comments:** *This series was clearly the best of the two entries in this category/class. Tip o' the cap to Dolly for some intense research & interviewing on tragic deaths of indigenous women. There was a lot of public records, too, but the stories were mainly recollections of the troubled lives of the various women. While this was a very well-done series, it did lack in several areas. There was clearly a sense of activism in the articles, evidenced by claiming women were "murdered" when no charges were ever filed for two of the four. The claims of the plague of domestic and sexual violence being a result of "European colonization," had no source or expert interview/comments to back up this claim - a popular one with activists and progressive reporters in these times. The articles were also extremely long, filled with hearsay and lacked law enforcement corroboration. That said, the tales are sad and the issue is no doubt real. In a more competitive division, these deficiencies may have led to a lower placement. This year, great work and a clear first place. I hope in the future, these important stories can be supplemented with more facts, sources and go beyond sympathy-seeking tales of their lives. Thank you.*

### Daily Division

#### Second Place

The Daily Times, *Farmington, NM*

Mike Easterling, Hannah Grover, *San Juan Rebuilds: Recovering from the pandemic*

**Judge's comments:** *This three-part series was a great idea but a bit dis-jointed, notably with the third story which seemed completely out of place in relation to the first two articles. The 1st and 2nd articles were by a reporter who sought out a wealth of sources - notably the arts piece - and focused on how the community was reviving key elements of the Farmington economy and experience (tourism, diverse art scene). The third story by Hannah was basically a press release retyped with some quotes from nursing home director. It was a one source, short story that had nothing close to depth of first two. Not sure what happened there, but the stark contrast in high quality in stories 1 & 2 and story 3 was a major ding. Good stuff, but think about finishing the series with equal reporting to beginning phases. Thank you.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

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

#### First Place

The Maine Monitor, *Hallowell, ME*

Samantha Hogan, Agnel Philip, *Maine lawyers were given thousands of cases they were ineligible to handle*

**Judge's comments:** *With all eyes on the Supreme Court, the reporter expertly highlighted the mishandling of justice on a state and local level. The level of work put into this story is remarkable and succeeds in putting vital information into the hands of readers (and voters).*

#### Second Place

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*

Karen Robinson-Jacobs, *Barren Mile - COVID-19 and the fight against food apartheid series*

**Judge's comments:** *The reporter went through obvious pains to produce a story worthy of national attention. And they executed it skillfully.*

#### Third Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Jennifer Johnson, *Eight in eight*

**Judge's comments:** *When asked what journalism is, this story would make my shortlist for examples. The subject is becoming all too common and it's top-notch reporting like this which is vital to bringing attention to the issue.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

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

#### First Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*  
Staff, *Operation Infrastructure*

**Judge's comments:** *An amazing amount of work went into this series and it was work well spent. Great details on problems in the area, and it was broken out in easy to digest formats. The authors do a good job telling readers about infrastructure problems as well as what could be done to get them fixed. It's great and informative journalism all around.*

#### Second Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*  
Alexander Shur, *24-7 sobriety program*

**Judge's comments:** *Well done following the story and gathering data to include in each section.*

#### Third Place

Lake Oswego Review, *Lake Oswego, OR*  
Clara Howell, *"Lake Oswego officer lands in St. Helens after investigation"*

**Judge's comments:** *Publication does a good job gathering information for the story and making sure a problem like the one highlighted in the story doesn't get forgotten by readers.*

#### Honorable Mention

Myrtle Beach Herald, *Myrtle Beach, SC*  
Christian Boschult, *Why HCS gave school builder \$1.5 million in tax cuts before gutting facilities department*

**Judge's comments:** *A lot of background information - almost too much - to show how the tax cut was granted to the designer after years of withholding it. Another good example of keeping readers informed in the community.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

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

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

#### First Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Hannah Weikel, Shayne Jones, *Policing and diversity*

**Judge's comments:** *A thorough exploration of the difficulty of the racial divide balancing profiling with efforts at diversification. Well-researched and written*

#### Second Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Jenny Higgins, *Sign From Sydney*

**Judge's comments:** *Had this stood alone, it would be a family's loving tribute to their daughter. But the companion piece of the sentencing of the girl's killer made it outstanding and the two pieces gave depth to this beautifully written story.*

#### Third Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Alex Hoeft, *Short Circuit at TDPUD*

**Judge's comments:** *This took a great deal of leg work to look at a broken system, identify the problems and focus on solutions. Congratulations on a job well done.*

#### Honorable Mention

Carroll County News, *Berryville, AR*

Scott Loftis, *CAPC series*

**Judge's comments:** *A somewhat complex story to tell but in the hands of this competent writer, it was clear and compelling. Job well done.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

### Daily

#### First Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Brokaw Retires*

**Judge's comments:** *An interesting piece on Brokaw with many tidbits of information about his life and connections to Yankton. The nuggets about moments like nearly drowning, his father coming to speech across state & him following high school team to 1st state title in 40 years were nice. Well done. thanks.*

#### Second Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Afghanistan*

**Judge's comments:** *This was another interesting article about a local from Yankton who'd been involved in a big world event. However, it was a tad bit too long and drawn out to nab 1st place. Good work. Thank you.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Performing Arts Story

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Alexander Shur, *Bar J Wranglers say bye — for now*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent lede. Great story on a Jackson Hole institution. This was a difficult category. Lots of good work here.*

#### Second Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Bruce Miller, *Virtually there*

**Judge's comments:** *Interesting, well-written take on how TV -- and, frankly, all our interactions -- had to change as a result of COVID.*

#### Third Place

The Pilot, *Southern Pines, NC*

Deborah Salomon, *Stick Around*

**Judge's comments:** *Not your typical arts and entertainment review. Interesting and different. Very nice lede.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Lynne Robinson, *Patch Rubin's Wide Sky Guitars*

**Judge's comments:** *Good personality profile.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

### Daily & Non-daily Division circ. less than 3000

#### First Place

The Tioga Tribune, *Tioga, ND*

Jacob Orledge, *Blind, in pain and isolated; a local athlete's struggles*

**Judge's comments:** *Great local story that covers all the angles. Nice writing. Wondering now how the athlete is dealing. Great quotes and good story flow.*

#### Second Place

Oakland Independent, *Oakland, IL*

Janice Hunt, *'We're treating every game like a big deal'*

**Judge's comments:** *Great story about how a team is playing each game like its the last. A great way to live life. Nice quotes. Good flow.*

#### Third Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Shayne Jones, *From sails to speedways, Tiburon man born to race*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice story and photos. Great placement and flow. Good read from start to finish.*

#### Honorable Mention

Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, *Iowa Falls, IA*

Marissa VanWingen, *Safe Haven*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice photos and great story.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

### Daily & Non-daily Division circ. 3000-9000

#### First Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Scott Campbell, *A second comeback*

**Judge's comments:** *Such a fantastic story that told, in great detail, both of the hardships this young man faced. Well done capturing everything that needed to be told.*

#### Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Joe Gilroy, *Sophomores*

**Judge's comments:** *Such a fantastic story, great work showcasing the heartbreak these sophomores went through when COVID canceled their monumental championship game.*

#### Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Joe Gilroy, *Coaches*

**Judge's comments:** *Great job capturing the brotherhood of these alums and showcasing the pride they each hold for their alma mater!*

#### Honorable Mention

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Scott Campbell, *Lancers have girl power*

**Judge's comments:** *Such a wonderful story! The first few introductory paragraphs could have been stronger, and less scattered.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Sports Feature Story or Series

### Daily & Non-daily Division circ. more than 10000

#### First Place

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*

JoAnn Weaver, *A Christmas gift of life*

**Judge's comments:** *The story of man and his journey told well. The necessary technical information was informative and clearly explained without getting caught up in jargon or dumbed down.*

#### Second Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Jeremiah Johnke, *7 for 7?: South 4x400 team pursues perfection*

**Judge's comments:** *Good writing and good storytelling about a team that probably should not have happened, but did, and did so spectacularly.*

#### Third Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Robert Munoz, *Hurdle cleared*

**Judge's comments:** *Tells readers what every athlete already knows — as important as healthy arms and knees is a heart that won't quit.*

#### Honorable Mention

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Zach James, *Staying persistent*

**Judge's comments:** *Everyone who has ever run a race or picked up a ball can admire what is possible when to refuse to give up. The mention of other local athletes may not have been missed had it been left out; but it was a nice added touch.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Website - Best Newspaper Website

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Staff, *Taos News website*

**Judge's comments:** *Clean, attractive and easily accessible pages and articles. Great depth in news coverage. Wish there was more highlight on multi-media.*

#### Second Place

Idaho Mountain Express, *Ketchum, ID*

Staff of the Idaho Mountain Express, *Idaho Mountain Express*

**Judge's comments:** *Clear access to articles and news with no confusion with advertising. Nice nameplate and sections. All the boxes make it feel a bit cluttered, but news coverage is solid.*

#### Third Place

The Daily Times, *Farmington, NM*

The Staff of the Farmington Daily Times, *The Farmington Daily Times website*

**Judge's comments:** *Clean sections allow readers to get to the news. Nice, clear signs to which stories are for subscribers. Good news coverage. Nameplate somewhat understated.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Social Media Journalism

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Casa Grande Dispatch, *Casa Grande, AZ*

Staff, *PinalCentral.com Social Media coverage*

**Judge's comments:** *I loved the variety in presentation here and the clear interaction with the subject being covered. I got a sense of community and can understand why these pieces elevated your audience engagement. Congratulations on a job well done.*

#### Second Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Carrie Pitzer & Jenny Higgins, *TikTok*

**Judge's comments:** *The use of TikTok for breaking news is fairly new to me, but I admire the way you have embraced it to tell immediate stories. The more methods we use, the more we can grow audience. It was a little hard to get the full impact with mostly only screenshots, but good job!*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Video Journalism

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Nathan Burton, *Making Guitars on Taos Mesa*

**Judge's comments:** *The opening sequence was so excellent I watched it three times. Cinematic, beautiful color and flowing editing. Great to see newspaper visual journalists not copying the TV folks. The entire piece was extremely well crafted, much like the guitars. I often don't want videos to be longer but I wanted to know more about the luthier. The a-roll audio seems like it could have been gathered a bit better. Loved this piece!*

#### Second Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Ross Corsair, *A Fun Afternoon at Winter Hill*

**Judge's comments:** *My eyes are wet right now from laughter and joy. A lovely montage from a winter day. The young persons first time down the hill and the scream had me laughing out loud - that clip alone should be viral. Once again, like the first place winner, you have proved that you don't have to follow a cookie cutter news format to tell a story. I'm sure the community absolutely loved this.*

#### Third Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Brian Beach & Carrie Pitzer, *First Responders Train On Extraction Scenarios*

**Judge's comments:** *A solid news package with an enthusiastic reporter on the job. Remember to edit a story as tight as possible to keep the viewer engaged.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## **NIE - Educational Support & Civic Literacy**

### **Daily & Non-daily Division**

#### **First Place**

Tampa Bay Times, *Tampa, FL*

Jodi Pushkin, Patricia Langgle, *Democracy Reignited*

**Judge's comments:** *Extremely well-done project on an issue of vital importance. Keep up the good work.*

#### **Second Place**

The Eldon Advertiser, *Eldon, MO*

Tammy Witherspoon, *Veterans Project*

**Judge's comments:** *Wonderful profiles. I especially appreciated the student input.*

## **NIE - Partnerships**

### **Daily & Non-daily Division**

#### **First Place**

Tampa Bay Times, *Tampa, FL*

Sue Bedry, Jodi Pushkin, Patricia Langgle, *Journeys in Journalism: An Exploration of Photography*

**Judge's comments:** *What a wonderful section, informative for everyone and well-coordinated with school standards. The teacher guide is well done.*

#### **Second Place**

Tampa Bay Times, *Tampa, FL*

Sue Bedry, Jodi Pushkin, Patricia Tatum-Evans, *Healthy Habits*

**Judge's comments:** *Bright, informative, and useful for readers of all ages as well as students. Good job.*

#### **Third Place**

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*

Cathy Sewell, *St. Louis American holds STEM camp for 4-6th graders*

**Judge's comments:** *Great idea.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

### Daily Division

#### First Place

The Daily Times, *Farmington, NM*

Mike Easterling, *Fossil discovery helps unlock ancient mystery*

**Judge's comments:** *The reporter showed a tremendous ability to tell the story and paint vivid pictures in the minds of readers. From historical notes to modern day facts, no stone was left unturned -- literally. Incredible job.*

#### Second Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Dolly Butz, *Epidemic of violence*

**Judge's comments:** *Such a heartbreaking story told in a careful and caring manner. I applaud the reporter for digging into this story, and it looks like this is a fantastic overall series.*

#### Third Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Helping Hands*

**Judge's comments:** *A very well done story and important insight that is a fresh, new take on a topic at the forefront of everyone's minds.*

#### Honorable Mention

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Hannah Black, *Still no answers*

**Judge's comments:** *Such a tough story to tell, but the reporter did a pretty good job of telling the story by getting quotes from all the relevant people: son, detectives, chief. That is to be commended.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

**Non-daily Division, circ. over 10,000**

### First Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

B. Scott McLendon, *Families forged*

**Judge's comments:** *The level of detail brought this story to life.*

### Second Place

The Daily Universe, *Provo, UT*

Lindsey Reese, *Domestic violence affects Utah women in long-lasting ways*

**Judge's comments:** *This was an important story with a local focus.*

### Third Place

The Daily Universe, *Provo, UT*

Cassidy Wixom, *Vatican pronouncement highlights clash between gay marriage, religious freedom*

**Judge's comments:** *This in-depth look at the stance taken by two conservative religions – the Catholic Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints -- toward gay marriage raised many interesting points.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

The News-Gazette, *Lexington, VA*

Emma Coleman, *Saving Sampson*

**Judge's comments:** *At first I thought it would be just another dog story. But I became engrossed because it was so well written, excitement building and not only a happy ending, but a little praise and news about the local emergency responders. Great writing!*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Rick Romancito, *The spark that changed Taos Pueblo forever*

**Judge's comments:** *An important piece of history retold.*

#### Third Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Mark Huffman, *Long-lost Kerswill mural is back home, in a crate*

**Judge's comments:** *A story that needs to be told about this lost piece of art that deserves to be placed back in public view. Very well written.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

The Bernardsville News, *Bernardsville, NJ*

W. Jacob Perry, *Teacher sex change shocked community*

**Judge's comments:** *A look 50 years later at an unprecedented situation, in which a very popular elementary school teacher was fired for transitioning from a man to a woman. This timely story provides a glimpse into how much, and how little, has changed in this country over the past half-century.*

#### Second Place

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Alex Hargrave, *'Lead by example,' More conservation, more recreation*

**Judge's comments:** *This was a well-written and thought-provoking story about Wyoming guides who help tourists enjoy new experiences and also teach them to interact responsibly with nature. The photos were also excellent.*

#### Third Place

The Standard Banner, *Jefferson City, TN*

Mark Brown, *Uncle John Peck's unique calling*

**Judge's comments:** *An intriguing story about a Black enslaved man chosen as the first preacher of a church established in Tennessee in the 18th century, including interviews with a descendant and with the church's current pastor.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

The Madison Eagle, *Bernardsville, NJ*

Alex Parker-Magyar, *Two years after son's abduction, mother seeks his return*

**Judge's comments:** *Heartbreaking story, extremely well told and with a little hope at the end. But this story happens all the time and needs to be told more...*

#### Second Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Hannah Weikel, *Tiburon Peninsula hit by 'cat' burglars*

**Judge's comments:** *Well written, important information for car owners....*

#### Third Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Gretchen Lang, *To delight and disgust, jellies invade lagoon*

**Judge's comments:** *They are not dangerous, just yucky. And they have gonads!!!*

#### Honorable Mention

Steele County Times, *Blooming Prairie, MN*

Rick Bussler, *Thankful for Ivan*

**Judge's comments:** *Heartwrenching.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Non-Profile Feature Story

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

#### First Place

The Journal, Crosby, ND

Cecile Wehrman, *New research may bring closure for Zahl area family*

**Judge's comments:** *Very interesting and insightful story of something that happened in the past and finding a local twist to it. The writer did a great job outlining what happened and spreading quotes throughout to give wonderful insight. Fabulously done!*

#### Second Place

Archbold Buckeye, Archbold, OH

David Pugh, Mary Huber, *Community Shows Its Support After Basement Cave-In*

**Judge's comments:** *Wonderful work in showcasing on the community rallied behind a couple dealing with a big problem with their house. The writer has a knack for great storytelling and weaving quotes where appropriate. The photos also helped tell the story.*

#### Third Place

Southwest Ledger, Elgin, OK

Tim Farley, *Lawton's first Black firefighter looks back on his hiring*

**Judge's comments:** *Great way to celebrate Black History Month by profiling a Black firefighter and his path to serving on the department. I think this is an important story to tell with the racial problems we continue to face in America.*

#### Honorable Mention

News Letter Journal, Newcastle, WY

KateLynn Slaamot, *A 'bone'-a-fide legacy*

**Judge's comments:** *From the top, a catchy headline pulls the reader right into the story. Nice job in detailing the importance of this type of research.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, *Iowa Falls, IA*

Times Citizen Staff, *Social Media Coverage of Iowa Falls Drowning*

**Judge's comments:** *Good use of same media to follow story and keep people updated. Concise, informative.*

#### Second Place

Preston Hollow People, *Dallas, TX*

Preston Hollow People, Bethany Erickson, *Best Use of Social Media for Breaking News-PH*

**Judge's comments:** *Thorough, interactive, dynamic. Knew material, knew market, knew how to get it out best to the people*

#### Third Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Jenny Higgins & Carrie Pitzer, *Amish Tragedy*

**Judge's comments:** *Well handled, good use of media that the public used most often.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Reporting on Local Government

### Daily & Non-daily Division circ. over 15,000

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Jasmine Hall, *The harsh economic landscape of Wyoming's education system*

**Judge's comments:** *Really well-reported story that presents each problem with the response from public officials.*

#### Second Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Dolly Butz, Dave Dreeszen, *Sioux City residential assessments*

**Judge's comments:** *Good reporting, well organized, lots of sources for comment.*

#### Third Place

The St Louis American, *Saint Louis, MO*

Sophie Hurwitz, *ArchCity Defenders report names 80 killer officers in St. Louis region*

**Judge's comments:** *A good summary of an important report.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Reader-Generated Campaign

### Non-daily Division

#### First Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Teresa Lagerman, *Halloween Costume Contest*

**Judge's comments:** *Gorgeous pages, with a colorful background that makes the pictures pop! Lots of happy faces here. Love it!*

#### Second Place

The Chronicle, *Elgin, OK*

The Chronicle Staff, *2021 Snow*

**Judge's comments:** *Great idea to have readers send in their photos in the snow. The pictures are fun and will make lots of families happy!*

#### Third Place

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*

Scott Reese Willey, *Recognition Long Overdue*

**Judge's comments:** *Loved this story. Mr. Thomas certainly deserved the honor!*

#### Honorable Mention

Fort Bend Herald & Texas Coaster, *Rosenberg, TX*

Scott Reese Willey, *Like peas and carrots*

**Judge's comments:** *Another fun feature profiling residents doing interesting things!*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Online Album or Slide Show

### Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Jessi Dodge, *Fun at the fair*

**Judge's comments:** *Many of these photos are artistic, well-composed and balanced but all of them tell the story of the County Fair and Rural America. Outstanding work.*

#### Second Place

Casa Grande Dispatch, *Casa Grande, AZ*

Oscar Perez, Joey Chenoweth, Maria Vasquez, *4A State Championship CG Union vs. Poston Butte*

**Judge's comments:** *While not all of the 162 photos are amazing, it is absolutely wonderful that you chose to put them all online. Many of them are outstanding but if you are the player or a parent and your photo was uploaded it is a big deal to you. I wish more outlets offered uploads like you did.*

#### Third Place

The Observer, *Dundee, NY*

Brandon Lawson, *SPORTS RECAP: Week of 10-20-21*

**Judge's comments:** *This is an outstanding display of community journalism.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Nathan Burton, *Taos County declares state of emergency following severe winter storm*

**Judge's comments:** *This was an extremely tough choice. The skills exhibited were outstanding. I wish there were a few more photos.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Rookie Reporter of the Year

### Daily Division

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Jasmine Hall, *Jasmine Hall*

**Judge's comments:** *Great "rookie" reporting on a variety of topics!*

## Rookie Reporter of the Year

### Non-daily Division

#### First Place

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

Elijah Helton, *Rookie Reporter of the Year: Elijah Helton*

**Judge's comments:** *Helton seems ambitious, capable and unafraid to tackle any story. He clearly has earned the confidence and trust of his editor. Keep learning, and keep teaching, Mr. Helton.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Pandemic Photo or Series

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Bradly J. Boner, *Covid-19 vaccines for kids*

**Judge's comments:** *Fist bump after a shot? Doc must have done a good job! Nice job catching the moment.*

#### Second Place

Cody Enterprise, *Cody, WY*

Lauren Modler, *Plexiglass Lunchroom*

**Judge's comments:** *Photo captures the plexiglass distortion we all enjoyed.*

#### Third Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Michael Cummo, *Quickest draws in the West*

**Judge's comments:** *Photo captures concentration of the technicians.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Eagle, *Chadron, NE*

Mackenzie Dahlberg, *Student gets COVID vaccination*

**Judge's comments:** *still got facial expression, despite mask.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story/Series - Best Coverage of Military Affairs

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Sioux City Journal, *Sioux City, IA*

Nick Hytrek, *A long journey's end*

**Judge's comments:** *Reporting on the return home of the remains of a sailor lost at Pearl Harbor in 1941, this story represents the hands of history reaching out from the past into today and the arms of a community wrapping around the sailor's family.*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Michael Tashji, *Retired military working dog receives memorial in Carson*

**Judge's comments:** *Making a case for the recognition of Army dogs as veterans rather than retired military equipment, this profile of a local veteran and animal activist is equal parts heartwarming, educational, and thought-provoking. It paints a vivid image of the work that dogs and humans do together in combat zones, while fostering compassion for the retired pups who live with those memories.*

#### Third Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Sharon Brooks, *Remembering the fallen*

**Judge's comments:** *In an unusual Memorial Day story, this profile carves out the position of the Blue Angels in the military constellation by sharing the story of its only female member -- yes, not merely the first, but the only woman ever to have served in this Navy squadron -- as she spoke at the local holiday event.*

#### Honorable Mention

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Bradly J. Boner, Alexander Shur, Kathryn Ziesig, Mark Huffman, *Losing Rylee McCollum*

**Judge's comments:** *This powerful tribute to a lost marine is a sorrowful story but also a reminder that war's victims are not only those in uniform. By narrating the community's engagement with this young man's life and death, the reporter illustrates the preciousness and pain of both the individual loss and the global catastrophe of the war in Afghanistan and its recent conclusion.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Communication in Crisis

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Lamesa Press-Reporter, *Lamesa, TX*

Russel Skiles, Mary Elizabeth Davis, *Storm pounds Lamesa*

**Judge's comments:** *Exceptional -- and extensive -- coverage. Extremely well written with great storytelling. Chock-full of information. I got chills when I read about the photographer's son rescuing five dogs from the flooding. This is a community newspaper truly serving its community*

#### Second Place

Advertiser-News North, *Chester, NY*

Molly Colgan, Hannah Wickes, Christina Scotti, Staff, *Wild West And Getting Good Info*

**Judge's comments:** *The "Tips for securing a COVID-19 Vaccine appointment" made this entry the clear second-place winner. Great design, enabling readers to easily access relevant information.*

#### Third Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Becca Loux, Alex Hoeft, Kara Fox, *Housing Crisis*

**Judge's comments:** *Very strong entry. Great storytelling focused on people not statistics, putting a very human face on the problem.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Informational Graphic

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place (TIE)

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Karin Eberhardt, *Plastic Bag Ban*

**Judge's comments:** *Accessible. Easy to understand. Good work.*

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Stacy Bronson, *By the numbers*

**Judge's comments:** *Easy to understand. Easy to read. Clean message. Nice job, even with the reverse type. (Wow, a whole county with just 8,268 population?)*

#### Second Place (TIE)

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Karin Eberhardt, *Suicide Rates*

**Judge's comments:** *Difficult information shared in a visual way always helps readers' understanding of a topic.*

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Pierce Strudler, *Here Are Your Choices*

**Judge's comments:** *There is a lot of information packed into this infographic and that can be deadly. But care in clean layout and effective use of shading helps a lot.*

#### Third Place

Preston Hollow People, *Dallas, TX*

Preston Hollow People, Melanie Thornton, *Best Information Graphic-REQ Schools Map-August PHP,*

**Judge's comments:** *Great idea for an infographic, but a little too busy.*

#### Honorable Mention

Advertiser-News North, *Chester, NY*

Christina Scotti, *Cost of Living*

**Judge's comments:** *Is this a grocery ad or an infographic. I know because I've seen the title of the file, but the reader may not understand this at first glance. The graphic needs a headline/title to help the reader know what this is. Include something like this and it is the category winner. There MAY have been something else in the paper that helps the reader, but the judge does not have access to it if there is. Great idea for a graphic, though.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Front Page Design

### Daily Division

#### First Place

The Daily Times, *Farmington, NM*

Sydney Clark, *Farmington Daily Times A1 Nov. 12, 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Strong photo. Clean design*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Front Page Design

### Non-daily Division, circ. over 6,000

#### First Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM

Staff, *Tigers find their Focus*

**Judge's comments:** *Clean, well-designed page. Nice foto, with subtle homecoming game drama. My only quibble is that there's no story with the dominant art. Even if it's just a short sending readers to the sports page. Page leads readers around the news well.*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, Taos, NM

Staff, *How the Snow is Made*

**Judge's comments:** *Great foto, makes the page. It's displayed well. Design is clean and organized rather than gimmicky. Call me old-fashioned, but I think there should always be a hed between the cutline and story, even if there's a kicker above the art. And that 4 deck cut could have been a sidebar to break up the gray. 4 deck cut across 4 cols is too much.*

#### Third Place

The Examiner, Beaumont, TX

Brittany Chaney, *Let the good times roll*

**Judge's comments:** *Beautiful cover. Script font a little hard to read. I saw Marti not Yardi on first pass.*

#### Honorable Mention

Hyattsville Life & Times, Hyattsville, MD

Ashley Perks, Kyle Heflinger, Kit Slack, *Best cover: December Hyattsville Life & Times*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice page. Nothing fancy, but solid, clean design. Foto from behind with lighted truck driving away provides a nice, emotional feel to this holiday page. Paragraph indents — none on first graf, not wide enuf on others — is annoying. makes the text look denser on the page. I suppose that's offset by what appears to be pretty loose leading on the body text, aggravated by the justified text stretched too wide as well.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Front Page Design

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

#### First Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Mark Ridolfi, *Best Front Page - July 14*

**Judge's comments:** *A balanced mix of stories; photos and layout convey excitement well.*

#### Second Place

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

Bri Harrell, *Best Front Page Design*

**Judge's comments:** *Terrific concept but at the expense of readability. Otherwise an information packed page.*

#### Third Place

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

Gary Ridderbusch, *Best Front Page Design*

**Judge's comments:** *Well designed - everything sits in the right place. Corn-eater photo at bottom is a gem.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Front Page Design

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

#### First Place

Douglas Budget, *Douglas, WY*

Matt Adelman, *front page Douglas Budget July 21, 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Very eye-catching! Clean design, easy to read! Love the touch of white space. Makes the paper appealing!*

#### Second Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Mike English, *July 2021 Issue*

**Judge's comments:** *Very creative and artistic! Makes me want to see what is in the rest of the newspaper. Doesn't look like a newspaper, but that's not a bad thing. Great thinking outside the box.*

#### Third Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Carrie Pitzer, *Here's The Scoop*

**Judge's comments:** *Great design on the "Scoop" story. Very colorful and creative! Drew me in immediately! Rest of the page is too much text. Needs a little space to help the eyes.*

#### Honorable Mention

Steele County Times, *Blooming Prairie, MN*

Staff, *Steele County Times Front Page*

**Judge's comments:** *Very creative and eye-catching. Cute photo on top. Nice layout.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Front Page Design

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

#### First Place

News Letter Journal, *Newcastle, WY*

Amy Menerey, *News Letter Journal*

**Judge's comments:** *Feb. 18, 2021 front page - very nice, clean front with dominant graphic, good use of negative space and chunking item for the public.*

#### Second Place

Mid Hudson Times, *Newburgh, NY*

Carl Aiello, *Best Fron Page Design 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *The way to do a small front if you're not going with only a magazine cover; this has lovely use of color, a dominant image, clear modular units. Eye-catching.*

#### Third Place

Southwest Ledger, *Elgin, OK*

Bryan Richter, *December 30, 2021*

**Judge's comments:** *Another small front takes honors. This front catches attention with the magazine-like treatment on it's dominant image. Nice work.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Use of a Double-Truck

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Carrie Pitzer & Jenny Higgins, *Memories That Stick*

**Judge's comments:** *Great combination of coverage and layout.*

#### Second Place

Steele County Times, *Blooming Prairie, MN*

Staff, *4 Lanes, At Last*

**Judge's comments:** *Very informative and wonderfully put together.*

#### Third Place

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Jessi Dodge, *Good fun at the fair*

**Judge's comments:** *Fun photos with creative layout.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Eagle, *Chadron, NE*

Kamryn Kozisek, *Drought Double-Truck*

**Judge's comments:** *It doesn't get much more important than water, and you've done a very good job at making that clear with the story, photos and design.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Story

### Non-daily Division, circ. over 6,000

#### First Place

Warwick Advertiser, *Chester, NY*

Becca Tucker, *Help Wanted Badly and I Don't Want to Pump Gas*

**Judge's comments:** *Comprehensive story about changes in the workplace as a result of the pandemic. Thoroughly sourced with local stories throughout the story*

#### Second Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*

Will Hooper, *Women now nearly half of all new gun owners*

**Judge's comments:** *Somewhat surprising to this judge, and very informative.*

#### Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Amy Hubbell, *Solon Rezoning*

**Judge's comments:** *Short piece that explains the importance of a local vote.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Story

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

#### First Place

The Standard Banner, *Jefferson City, TN*

Steve Marion, *Sales tax surprise*

**Judge's comments:** *The level of detail in this story was surprising. This kind of story telling otherwise boring, but essential numbers need to make a comeback.*

#### Second Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Michael Turton, Brian PJ Cronin, *Future Homes*

**Judge's comments:** *The diversity represented in these articles was refreshing.*

#### Third Place

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*

Seth Taylor, *A perfect storm*

**Judge's comments:** *A good example of localizing a national story.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Story

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

#### First Place

The Ark, *Tiburon, CA*

Deirdre McCrohan, Kevin Hessel, *Downtown landlord seeks \$300K for late-night ferry*

**Judge's comments:** *Covered history, politics and economics of an important issue for this area. Lots of voices helped.*

#### Second Place

Douglas Budget, *Douglas, WY*

Cynthia Stimson, *Jobs for Sale*

**Judge's comments:** *This story covered the issue early and featured lots of voices.*

#### Third Place

The Edgerton Reporter, *Edgerton, WI*

Janice Redford, *Koshkonong Solar*

**Judge's comments:** *It's good to get news like this in the public record. An outside voice on community impact would have made it stronger.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Alamance News, *Graham, NC*

Tomas Murawski & Tom Boney, Jr., *Commissioners, city council differ on merits of company's third try for incentive payments*

**Judge's comments:** *Good coverage of the issue, but the explanation of the return was dense.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Business Story

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

#### First Place

The Tioga Tribune, *Tioga, ND*

Jacob Orledge, *Hydrogen*

**Judge's comments:** *Well researched, well-written piece on energy's possible next chapter in South Dakota. Would love to have read "part ii." Excellent reporting on something that a potentially transformative development in environmental and geopolitical challenges associated with fossil fuels.*

#### Second Place

The Journal, *Crosby, ND*

Cecile Wehrman, Brad Nygaard, *Nursing home closure*

**Judge's comments:** *Local take on the sad trend of nursing home closures, triggered by COVID and the pandemic's fallout with staffing challenges that have hit businesses. Great job.*

#### Third Place

Southwest Ledger, *Elgin, OK*

Curtis Awbrey, *Medicine Park 'open for business'*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice piece on an uptick in local businesses opening locally in Medicine Park. I especially like the idea of supporting each business with a small promotion on the who/what/where of each one. Especially now, post COVID and facing the "Amazon effect," doing a piece like this is important to the community. Nice job.*

#### Honorable Mention

Stanton Register, *Stanton, NE*

Carrie Pitzer, *Data center wants 'flagship' near Stanton*

**Judge's comments:** *While this reads a bit like a Planning Board/zoning piece (and not a business story) it is a nice, solid hard news piece on the possibilities that come when a new, innovative employer comes to a region. Nice job.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

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

#### First Place

The Daily Universe, Provo, UT

Cassidy Wixom, Emma Gadeski, *Lies, American carnage and the way forward to truth*

**Judge's comments:** *Interesting approach to events of past few years that looks at news literacy and how readers can evaluate the many sources providing information. Many sources were offered and the coverage was very comprehensive.*

#### Second Place

Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA

Tim Cwiek, Jason Villemez, *COVID vaccines and the LGBTQ community*

**Judge's comments:** *Thorough examination of how COVID vaccines were denied to AIDS patients in this market and how stories turned the tide and changed the policy. Well done.*

#### Third Place

The Examiner, Beaumont, TX

Jennifer Johnson, *Prison payouts*

**Judge's comments:** *This coverage may have shocked readers to learn prisoners were able to get unemployment benefits. It was well documented. Good job.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Daily Universe, Provo, UT

Ingrid Sagers, *Negativity, hate speech on social media at a level never seen before*

**Judge's comments:** *Able handling of how this sect was attacked for favoring COVID vaccines and way in which it became a target of hate from some sources. Nice job in telling one of the important stories of the pandemic.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

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

#### First Place

Warwick Advertiser, *Chester, NY*

Becca Tucker, *Oathkeepers*

**Judge's comments:** *The depth of this reporting is exceptional and is a grand example to all of our Journalists how depth, personification, multiple sources and especially gaining source confidence to expose and relate somewhat negative waves in a positive stream. This is just plain good!*

#### Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Alan Campbell, *Afghanistan Coverage*

**Judge's comments:** *This story takes the reader beyond the basic political and militarily tactical issues related to "the people we leave behind" as we exit war zones. This story is personal with personality and experiences. Exceptional!*

#### Third Place

Jackson Hole News&Guide, *Jackson, WY*

Alexander Shur, *Man jailed for voting under tough Wyo. law*

**Judge's comments:** *Almost a single source, but this story uses the central figure to point out the tragedy and the challenges of limiting voting rights, in this instance, those of prior felons. Excellent writing, and story-telling.*

#### Honorable Mention

Lake Oswego Review, *Lake Oswego, OR*

Clara Howell, *"Lake Oswego councilor Aaron Rapf renounces Republican party affiliation"*

**Judge's comments:** *A challenging one-source (mostly) feature tackling an exception to the political rule: follow-the-party-line uber alles." Good writing; reader-friendly; tells the story directly. Would like to have read a partisan reaction.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

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

#### First Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*  
Staff, *Operation Infrastructure*

#### Second Place

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*  
Tori O'Dell, *Teacher Takes On 'Lunch Shaming'*

#### Third Place

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*  
Mara Abbott, *Paycheck protection loans return*

#### Honorable Mention

Buffalo Bulletin, *Buffalo, WY*  
Mara Abbott, *Local leaders react to executive orders*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

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

#### First Place

Moonshine Ink, Truckee, CA

Melissa Siig, *Timber!*

**Judge's comments:** *Compelling layout and excellent writing place this entry at the top. The reporter did a fine job of not only explaining the problem, but of relating it to the local construction economy. Well done!*

#### Second Place

The Ark, Tiburon, CA

Gretchen Lang, *Study: Moon 'wobble' could worsen flooding in 2030s*

**Judge's comments:** *This is a great entry describing how a combination of sea-level rise and the earth's relation to the moon can potentially cause future problems for the city.*

#### Third Place

The Alamance News, Graham, NC

Kristy Bailey, *Fallout from remote learning*

**Judge's comments:** *The COVID-related impact of school closures and remote learning has definitely had an impact on school districts across the country. This article is a great example of bringing the national story home.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Edgerton Reporter, Edgerton, WI

Sam Martino, *Localized National story - Ryder Cup*

**Judge's comments:** *This was a good, positive story related to a local person having success at a national event. Good job.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Localized National Story

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

#### First Place

Stanton Register, *Stanton, NE*

Carrie Pitzer, *Reopening Nursing Home To Visitors After Covid*

**Judge's comments:** *Very good lede. Nice spin on a story that probably every newspaper in the nation told or should have told.*

#### Second Place

Southwest Ledger, *Elgin, OK*

Mike W. Ray, *'Burned out' Mainline pastors consider quitting the ministry*

**Judge's comments:** *You need to explain early on who Barna is. You attribute Barna five times on the front page alone, and I had to Google it. Beyond that, a well-written piece on this national trend.*

#### Third Place

News Letter Journal, *Newcastle, WY*

Alexis Barker, *Jording ousted as public health officer*

**Judge's comments:** *This is an important story, your version of what played out in local governments across the country. What would have placed this higher is a lede that spoke to the bigger picture in some fashion. Your first four grafs read like straightforward meeting coverage.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Reporting on Local Government

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

#### First Place

Photo News, *Chester, NY*

Becca Tucker, *Do We Want A Bud Shop in Our Town?*

**Judge's comments:** *Good series about an important topic and how local governments were responding to the changes. Well written. Despite having read much on this topic prior to judging, the author's words kept me interested in reading more. Well done.*

#### Second Place

The Daily Universe, *Provo, UT*

Cassidy Wixom, *What will this election mean for the future of Provo?*

**Judge's comments:** *Interesting details about an upcoming election and candidates.*

#### Third Place

The Examiner, *Beaumont, TX*

Jennifer Johnson, *Ousted leader elected again*

**Judge's comments:** *Lots of details about the past history of the board president to remind readers about prior problems.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Reporting on Local Government

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

#### First Place

The Taos News, *Taos, NM*  
Will Hooper, *CARES concerns*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent data-driven journalism putting people at the center of the story. The journalist expertly grasped and displayed issues difficult to cover.*

#### Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*  
Eric Carlson, *Commissioners Clash*

**Judge's comments:** *Ah, the good old board/committee/council meeting story. The journalist capitalized on an important local issue with the rare, but good blow-by-blow. As with most such meetings, nothing ever happens, but the reporter doesn't fall into the trap of issuing a simple minutes-style story and actually digs in, holding up a mirror to their local politicians.*

#### Third Place

Hyattsville Life & Times, *Hyattsville, MD*  
Heather Wright, Kit Slack, *Police mental health stories*

**Judge's comments:** *Great capitalization on national attention and excellent follow-up on a super important topic.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Reporting on Local Government

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

#### First Place

The Standard Banner, *Jefferson City, TN*

Mark Brown, *Cherokee Bay developers, neighbors at odds*

**Judge's comments:** *A good description of current residents' concerns about a new development. I would like to have seen a map!*

#### Second Place

The Highlands Current, *Cold Spring, NY*

Michael Turton, *POOF! A Village Could Disappear*

**Judge's comments:** *Clear explanation of a complex situation.*

#### Third Place

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*

Mike Plunkett, *Hillsboro School Board*

**Judge's comments:** *Well-written, objective account of a discussion that has occurred in school districts across the nation.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*

Kyle Herschelman, *Litchfield City Council*

**Judge's comments:** *A densely written story that helps readers understand the issues and players.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Reporting on Local Government

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

**Judge's note to all entrants in this category:** *Most of the stories in this competition were well-done summaries of something happening at government meetings, with good blow-by-blow. The stories that stood out often went into depth beyond the meeting: how does the story impact the reader of those involved. Public affairs reporting is bread-and-butter reporting, but we sometimes forget to take the story beyond to confines of the meeting because it takes extra time and effort.*

#### First Place

Virginia Lawyers Weekly, Richmond, VA  
Peter Vieth, *Special powers*

**Judge's comments:** *Ten quasi-opinion/quasi-investigative story about a Virginia practice allowing lawyer legislators to pick judges who decide their cases and to control calendars. Nicely done.*

#### Second Place

The Ark, Tiburon, CA  
Deirdre McCrohan, Hannah Weikel, Shayne Jones, *Policing and diversity*

**Judge's comments:** *This entry is a collection of independent articles about local policing that share the concern of local police interacting with its diverse population. The individual stories do not stand against some of the other entries in this competition, but the collection does. While long and filled with details that show that the reporters are good at quotes and data, where the stories fail to stand up is with more personal connections with the subjects. They tell the stories they are intended to tell, but don't dig deeply into how the information affects the individual reader. (Feature stories?)*

#### Third Place

The Chronicle, Elgin, OK  
Carl Lewis, *CCDC captain arrested, released after Saturday DUI incident*

**Judge's comments:** *Excellent lead. But I think you relied on the deputy's report jargon too much after that; put it in everyday language for the reader. I like your second paragraph that this "arrest" was different than most, but then you get too tied up with chronology that you bury what was different. I like this story, but struggle with the over-reliance on verbiage from the police report.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Alamance News, Graham, NC  
Tom Boney, Jr. & Kristy Bailey, *Elderly heirs facing potential condemnation from city*

**Judge's comments:** *This is an easy-to-follow story about the city's efforts to acquire property for a local project that may end up in an unplanned eminent domain action. Since the project was meant to be a three-pronged effort and this is about the first prong, a sidebar about the whole project and its potential impact on the community might be in order. Of course, it is assumed that there are follow-ups to this continuing story that fell outside the contest eligibility period.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Best Reporting on Local Government

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

#### First Place

The Journal, *Crosby, ND*

Brad Nygaard, *Building inspection process goes awry*

**Judge's comments:** *Keep asking those questions and pushing for answers. City dropped the ball on this one - forcing entry into privately-owned buildings. Lots of red faces ensued. What were they thinking? Great job covering this mess.*

#### Second Place

Glenrock Independent, *Douglas, WY*

Cynthia Stimson, with Zachary Miners and staff, *Town Investigates Its Own Police Chief*

**Judge's comments:** *Balanced reporting on a touchy subject. What, if anything, is the police chief guilty of? Being unlikeable or something more nefarious? Especially liked the description of the city attorney's booming voice. Keep looking for the answers.*

#### Third Place

Carroll County News, *Berryville, AR*

Scott Loftis, *CAPC series*

**Judge's comments:** *Good job sifting through the emails.*

#### Honorable Mention

Southwest Ledger, *Elgin, OK*

Tim Farley, *Far-right candidates double-down at Duncan rally*

**Judge's comments:** *Thank you for tackling a story that answers a lot of questions.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Sports Story

### Daily

#### First Place

Wyoming Tribune Eagle, *Cheyenne, WY*

Jeremiah Johnke and Robert Munoz, *Title Town*

**Judge's comments:** *Great treatment of dual champion teams. The authors did a good job hooking the reader from start to finish, and it was beautifully packaged with photos, pull quote and stats, and subheads and clean layout made it easy to read.*

#### Second Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *MMU Football*

**Judge's comments:** *Great lede, it got a laugh out of me; the author also does a good job of looking at the impact and importance this new program will have on the local community.*

#### Third Place

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, *Yankton, SD*

Randy Dockendorf, *Transgender Athletes*

**Judge's comments:** *Clear, concise reporting on a hot button issue.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Sports Story

### Non-daily Division, circ. over 6,000

#### First Place

Casa Grande Dispatch, *Casa Grande, AZ*

Joey Chenoweth, *In a game dreams are made of, 1 play brings Cougars glory*

**Judge's comments:** *Some hardcore sports editors might say the writing in this was a little over the top, but it not only sketched a vivid picture for me, it also painted feelings of triumph and loss. The balance of those two feelings is what made this story so well done. Nice job.*

#### Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Brian Freiberger, *Norsemen Fall*

**Judge's comments:** *This is such a classically written but very solid sports story. There was enough description to put me there, but it also was restrained and tightly written. A pleasure to read.*

#### Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise, *Lake Leelanau, MI*

Brian Freiberger, *Schettek*

**Judge's comments:** *This was such an inspiring people story. Whenever writers can tell stories that could inspire others to try out their dreams, it's a good thing. Nicely put together piece.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Daily Universe, *Provo, UT*

Cameron Muh, *Inside the best locker room in America*

**Judge's comments:** *This story had so much potential but I felt like you missed your mark here. It seemed as though most of the quotes said the same thing. The format was interesting, but the whole thing would have been more successful with some diversity of quotes.*



## Story-Series - Best Sports Story

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

#### First Place

Cody Enterprise, *Cody, WY*

Amber Steinmetz, Zac Taylor, Leo Wolfson, *Cowboy Christmas busy time*

**Judge's comments:** *Out of all the very long entries in this category, this was the one piece that deserved to be that long. It's a wonderful and well-written look inside one of the biggest rodeos in the country, with personal anecdotes from nearly a dozen competitors that kept me hooked to the very end.*

#### Second Place

Eldridge North Scott Press, *Eldridge, IA*

Scott Campbell, *This is heartbreaking*

**Judge's comments:** *This entry gets bonus points for a tremendous lede that perfectly conveys the emotion of the game's outcome, the unexpected early playoff loss for the top-ranked team in the state. I would love to see this broken into two parts, with some tighter-edited postgame reactions as a sidebar to the main game recap, so that the 2,000 words aren't slogging for the casual reader.*

#### Third Place

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*

Kyle Herschelman, *Making A Statement*

**Judge's comments:** *This entry checks all the boxes you need to check when reporting on a state championship, including the significance of the achievement for the athlete personally and in the context of the school's history. The selected quotes from the athlete and coaches were also very good.*

#### Honorable Mention

The Journal-News, *Hillsboro, IL*

Kyle Herschelman, *Redskins Win Big, Ready For Raider Rematch*

**Judge's comments:** *This is above-average game recap writing despite the game just being a relatively ordinary regular-season one. The writer shows good judgment by elevating the important point of a star player returning from injury, though it's too bad we don't have some quotes from that player in the piece.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Sports Story

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

#### First Place

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*

Bill Hatfield, *Going the Distance*

**Judge's comments:** *Great imagery. Excellent interview of a man who has a fascinating story to tell. Very well written.*

#### Second Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*

Carrie Pitzer, *Riding In The Passenger Seat*

**Judge's comments:** *The lead grabs the reader right from the start, and great writing carries the narrative on through the final graph. Very solid work*

#### Third Place

Brentwood Press, *Brentwood, CA*

Kyle Szymanski, *Liberty vs. Heritage game*

**Judge's comments:** *Game stories don't often win in this category, but this was a very well written piece deserving of credit. It's almost like the reader was right there on the 50 yard-line.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Story-Series - Best Sports Story

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

#### First Place

News Letter Journal, *Newcastle, WY*

Sonja Karp, *Battle scars*

**Judge's comments:** *Great story with stats and approach. Superb effort. Photos a bonus.*

#### Second Place

Stanton Register, *Stanton, NE*

Carrie Pitzer, *It Just Felt Right*

**Judge's comments:** *Well told story with nice photos. Great quotes. Solid writing.*

#### Third Place

Henderson Independent, *Henderson, MN*

Rachel Miller, *STATE CHAMPIONS*

**Judge's comments:** *Super story with solid photos. Great delivery that draws the reader in with photos and quotes.*

#### Honorable Mention

Uinta County Herald, *Evanston, WY*

Don Cogger, *Red Devils outlast Ben Lomond 14-13*

**Judge's comments:** *Nice story. Great photos.*



2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## News and Opinion on Public Corruption

### Daily & Non-daily Division

#### First Place

News Letter Journal, *Newcastle, WY*

Alexis Barker, *Commissioners keep vote secret*

**Judge's comments:** *Newcastle readers were well-served by this story calling attention to secret ballots by local officials in an important House election. The writer probed the reasons for secrecy and the problems with allowing it. The progression of the story was easy to understand. This reporter struck a blow for sunshine in government with her reporting.*





2022 NNAF BNC Editorial Contest  
**List of Winners**

## Photo - Best Sports Photo

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

#### First Place

Antelope County News, *Neligh, NE*  
Carrie Pitzer, *Mud, Sweat & Tears*

**Judge's comments:** *Photo has crucial action photo elements: facial expression, off the ground action, hair in motion, and mud. Splashing mud. Nearly half of the 21 category entrants were in competition for a Top 4 finish. This judge liked this photo best. Great work, Carrie Pitzer.*

#### Second Place

Beeville Bee-Picayune, *Beeville, TX*  
Kevin J. Keller, *Kevin J. Keller - Historic season revived*

**Judge's comments:** *Kevin J. Keller scored a perfect soccer goalie action photo. Excellent equipment helps; timing & positioning are still up to the photographer. Nearly half of the 21 entries in this competition drew Top 4 consideration. (Several of Kevin's other photos were Top 4 contenders.) This judge rated this the best of the routine sports entered: football, basketball, baseball, soccer entries.*

#### Third Place

Wright County Journal, *Mountain Grove, MO*  
Buzzer Beater to win title 12-15-21, *Ron Schott*

**Judge's comments:** *Wow. The sporting moment caught on camera is amazing; more often we see rim shots or celebratory shots. Photographer captures the ball player in true form & concentration with the gym atmosphere. Great position & timing, Ron Schott. Tough competition in this category; this is my choice as being a unique basketball moment.*

#### Honorable Mention

Moonshine Ink, *Truckee, CA*  
Wade Snider, *Natural Born Shredder*

**Judge's comments:** *Natural Born Shredder captured by a seemingly Natural Born Photographer (whose name, unfortunately, is not attached to the entry). Perfect publication cover shot, foreground & background. Tough competition in this Sports Photo category & this judge didn't score this higher one because the photographer probably had multiple chances at this shot as opposed to a one-off photo opportunity. Great work!*