

Oct. 28, 2022

Dear contest judges:

Hannah Coyle started working for O'Rourke Media Group in June 2021 at the River Falls Journal, an online only newspaper. Due to her quality work in River Falls, she was promoted to a reporter position at the Star-Observer in Hudson in February 2022.

Hannah graduated from DePaul University's journalism program in spring 2021.

As you can see from Hannah's entries in this contest, she writes well and can cover a wide variety of topics. She does this while turning out a high number of stories each week. Our reporters average 10 or more bylined stories weekly. Most important, Hannah has a commitment to community journalism, covering and being part of the community where she works.

One of the stories submitted as part of her portfolio was co-written with Sam Fristed, another Star-Observer writer we are submitting as rookie reporter of the year. We debated including this story in both of their portfolios, but each worked equally on the story, and the story is a good example of the quality of journalism we produce weekly in Hudson.

A story she wrote too late for this year's contest generated this comment from a reader: "Articles like this are just one of the many benefits of local journalism in providing a valuable communication link between our local units of government and us residents. The school district and the citizens owe Hannah a big thank you."

That's the kind of journalist Hannah is, and we are proud to have her on our staff.

Thanks for your consideration.

JIM JOHNSON

MANAGING EDITOR

651-347-0478

jjohnson@orourkemediagroup.com

orourkemediagroup.com

