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FOUNDATION

2022 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST



CONGRATULATIONS!

Newspapers of the Year

Net gain
Craig freshman Rya Arreazola wins two matches at WIAA state tournament to round of 16. **Page 1B**



Assessment OK'd
Rock County board authorizes a probe of county child welfare system after foster parents, others raise concerns over staff turnover, handling of cases. **Page 3A**



Weekend Gazette

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Bernie Baldwin is now working for GIFTS at its consignment shop and working on his sobriety. At age 62, Bernie has been on and off the streets and in and out of homeless shelters for years, but for the last 16 months, he has been sober.

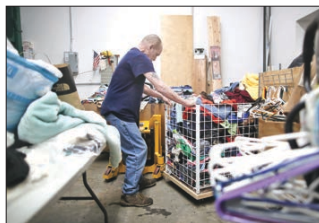
The gift of GIFTS

Opportunity to work at thrift store helped homeless man with sobriety, purpose

JANESVILLE

Today, Janesville resident Bernie Baldwin's eyes are clear, a shocking pale blue.

That in itself is a huge change compared to seven years ago, when Baldwin's eyes often appeared watery, bloodshot, his gaze bleary at best. Baldwin, 63, a chronically homeless man who has struggled with alcohol addiction much of his adult life, says he has now been sober for 17 months. You can see so by the clarity in his bright eyes.



Bernie Baldwin moves a cart filled with clothing while working for GIFTS Men's Shelter at its consignment shop.

He remembers the day about two years ago when he got serious about putting down the bottle. At the time, Baldwin was homeless and found himself alone in a dark parking lot behind a downtown Janesville church. He had just taken a bath in the ice cold water of a park fountain along the riverfront. Baldwin knelt on the dirty, wet pavement, praying for something to change.

Story by Neil Johnson
njohnson@gazettatimes.com

Photos by Anthony Wahl
wahl@gazettatimes.com

An employment opportunity
The secondhand GIFTS Thrift Store, at the former Black Bridge Bowl at 1141 Black Bridge Road, now has been open almost a year. The thrift shop, which had a soft opening last fall during the height of the pandemic, is hosting a belated grand opening celebration Saturday to show the community what a thrift store.

Former hospital executive pleads guilty to fraud

Bortner to be sentenced in February

By Neil Johnson
njohnson@gazettatimes.com

JANESVILLE Authorities haven't settled on how much former Mercyhealth marketing chief Barbara Bortner might have to pay back for her role in a \$3 million kickback scheme she is accused of orchestrating with an Illinois vendor. A federal judge in Madison on Thursday accepted Bortner's guilty plea to charges of fraud and tax evasion in a five-year-long kickback scheme. Federal prosecutors say Bortner and Illinois marketing firm operator Ryan Weckerly coordinated to bill Mercyhealth through overinflated billings for contracted marketing services. Bortner, 57, won't face sentencing until February, but on Thursday,

Pophal looking forward to putting focus on family

Janesville schools superintendent discusses retirement decision, plans

By Sara Myers
smyers@gazettatimes.com

JANESVILLE Janesville School District Superintendent Steve Pophal announced his retirement Wednesday, reasoning it's "time to begin the transition into the next stage for me and my family." Pophal's last day as superintendent will be June 30, 2022. "The decision to retire has been a difficult one, honestly," Pophal told The



Turn to **SCHOOLS** on Page 8A



THE LAKELAND TIMES

MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022
\$1.50 "THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWOODS SINCE 1891" WWW.LAKELANDTIMES.COM



WOLF TRACKS RENDEZVOUS SKI MARATHON PHOTOS INSIDE

Hartzhelm: Town can be more restrictive than state in shoreland zone

But a high court decision backing his position was narrow in scope

News analysis
By Richard Moore
moore@gazettatimes.com

While a debate continues over the validity of the town of Minocqua's moratorium on most shipping containers — whether it is a legitimate use of the town's general policing powers to regulate land use and whether it passes muster as a resolution rather than an ordinance — another, perhaps more important question has been raised about the town's regulatory powers within the shoreland zone. To wit, assuming the Minocqua moratorium is valid, does it apply within the shoreland zone, or within

Kevin Bolger makes Olympic debut

Brett LaBore
of the Lakeland Times

Lakeland native Kevin Bolger made his Olympic debut in the men's sprint free Tuesday at Zhangjiakou National Cross-Country Skiing Centre. In the qualification round, Bolger finished 22nd with a time of 2:32.5, advancing him to the quarterfinals.



Kevin Bolger, left, and teammates Luke Jager and JC Schoonmaker, prep for their Olympic race.

Lakeland comes **ALIVE**
What's happening in entertainment in the Northwoods

FEB. 12
Olderbudwiser
9 p.m.
Black Bear Bar, Minocqua

Print Run 5,400
Vol. 129 - Issue 102
1 Section, 56 Pages



DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

MUSHER MEET

Jonathan Sharp and his four-year-old son James meet members of Elyh Reese's six-dog sled team in the Musher's Village during the 3 Bear Sled Dog races on Sunday, Feb. 6, in Land O' Lakes.

Judge rules in favor of Presque Isle town board regarding hazardous wake MacLean: "... the law and how I understood it, it was echoed carefully by the judge who made a thoughtful interpretation."

By Trevor Greene
of the Lakeland Times

On Tuesday, Vilas County Circuit Court Judge Martha Milanowski ruled in favor of the Presque Isle town board regarding the highly contentious draft hazardous wake ordinance. In October, a group associated with the non-profit organization The Last Wilderness Alliance, and Jeff Meesmann who led the way, filed a writ of mandamus requesting the town board put in place a draft hazardous wake ordinance which

Smudde selected as LUHS superintendent

By Kelly Holm
of the Lakeland Times

Lakeland Union High School's permanent superintendent, as unanimously approved by the Board of Education Feb. 7, will be Robert J. Smudde. Presently, Smudde works for the Dodgeville School District as director of pupil services, and previously, he held district administrator positions for the Prairie du Chien and Ithaca school districts. He also has experience as a special education director and school psychologist, and is treasurer of the Wisconsin Rural School Alliance.

Smudde obtained his superintendent's license from Viterbo University in La Crosse. He has master's degrees in educational leadership and school psychology from Cardinal Stritch University and University of Wisconsin-Waterloo, respectively. He earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and business administration from Northland College. Currently, Smudde lives with his wife and three children in Prairie du Chien. Another fact of note? He is a certified ropes course facilitator. He will "take up the ropes" at LUHS beginning July 1. Kelly Holm may be reached at kellyholm@lakelandtimes.com.

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 7A
•Robert Allen "Bob" Bremer
•Brad Campbell
•Patrick J. Gurnsey
•Joseph D. Iken
•James E. "Jim" Jacobson
•Dwayne "Doc" Liesse
•Gary H. Hunt
•Barbara S. Nightingale
•Charles Nelson "Nicky" Peterson
•Jack Dreed
•Richard "Dick" Salmons
•Shirley J. Thorton
•Shirley A. Teet
•Richard J. "Dick" Vitz

TODAY'S WEATHER
High 60 | Low 41
Partly sunny
A shower, cooler
More on 8A

Classified 35-50 Letters 7A Puzzles 12C-14C
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GazetteXtra.com

Daily: The Gazette, Janesville

Daily: The Lakeland Times, Minocqua

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On the Cover

Photo credits clockwise from top left:

Artistic Photo (Division C) -

Honorable Mention: The effects of racing in single-digit temperatures show in Jim Fieck's face after finishing the Wolf Tracks Rendezvous Ski Marathon on Saturday, Feb. 5, at Minocqua Winter Park (Photo by Dean Hall | Lakeland Times, Minocqua)

Photo Essay (Division C) - Third

Place: A whitetail fawn stares down the intruding photographer. (Photo by Kurt Krueger | Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River)

Artistic Photo (Division A) - Second

Place: Sandhill cranes forage for food in a farm field along Tripp Road west of Janesville on Wednesday. The birds pictured were among a group of dozens of the birds. (Photo by Anthony Wahl | The Gazette, Janesville)

Artistic Photo (Division D) - Third

Place: Visitors to the Crawford County Fair take a spin on Round Up, one of the fair's midway offerings. It was all part of the experience at the family-friendly event at the Fairgrounds in Gays Mills. (Photo by Mark Hackett | The Boscobel Dial)

Best of Division

Division A
The Gazette, Janesville

Division B
Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

Division C
The Lakeland Times, Minocqua

Division D
Superior Telegram

Division E
Valley Sentinel, Spring Green

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LEGAL
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GODFREY KAHN



General Excellence

Daily Division

- First Place:** *The Gazette* - Staff.
- Second Place:** *Beloit Daily News* - Clint Wolf.
- Third Place:** *The Freeman* - Bill Yorth.
- Honorable Mention:** *The Post-Crescent* - Staff.

Division C

- First Place:** *Vilas County News-Review* - Staff.
- Second Place:** *The Lakeland Times* - Staff.
- Third Place:** *The Press Times* - Heather Graves, Cody Popp, Mike Hollihan, Rich Palzewic.

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse* - Staff.

Division D

- First Place:** *Star-Observer* - Staff.
- Second Place:** *Superior Telegram* - Staff.
- Third Place:** *Oconomowoc Enterprise* - Staff.

Division E

- First Place:** *Sun Prairie Star* - Staff.
- Second Place:** *The Stoughton Courier Hub* - Tara Jones, Scott De Laruelle, Mark Nesbitt, Brad Allen.
- Third Place:** *The Tribune-Phonograph* - Neal Hogden, Nathaniel Underwood, Ross Pattermann, Kevin O'Brien.

Best Front Page

Daily Division

- First Place:** *The Journal Times* - Staff.
- Judge's Comments: June 5: Lead package offers a lot of entry points for the reader, and the page has quite a few otherwise as well. That being said, there isn't much in the way of a lead photo to draw the eye in to a specific story or package to get the reader started. There's an awful lot of photo space used by the teasers in the masthead, and the overall result is a front page that is probably just a little too busy. Writing is good throughout. June 19: Lead package is really nice. The story is heartwarming, and the photos are

- both nice shots and played well on the page. The bottom story quote headline definitely gets my attention. The bottom story photo is a bit too small. It would have been better to have a more up-close picture if it had to run at this size. Good focus on local coverage. Aug. 23: Lead package is well put together and just a heart-breaking story. The photos and the info box really help to tell the story. The other story on the is a well-written piece of crime/courts news. Masthead teaser area is a bit too busy.
- Second Place:** *The Post-Crescent* - Staff.
- Judge's Comments: Sept. 5-6: Lots of good entry points on your page. Lead story is very well-designed, and

Gableman puts clerks on notice
Special counsel investigating election says he could issue subpoenas if clerks don't cooperate. Page 2A

Stocks take a hit
A variety of factors led the major US stock indexes to all register losses of around 2% Monday. Page 5B



Four by four
Aaron Rodgers and Aaron Jones each contributed four touchdowns—three together—to help the Packers beat the Lions 35-17. Page 1B

Hearing set in case of slain puppy
Mental competency investigation ordered for woman charged

Ponkauskas gets fire chief nod
Longtime employee replaces Rhodes after stint as interim

Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary prepares for its yearly fabric sale

Kleefisch tests positive for COVID-19, her gubernatorial campaign says

Proposed projects face opposition on Rustic Road 60

ATV/UTV trails open in Vilas, Oneida

End of an era
Beebe Building demolished for new development

Student climbs Mount Kilimanjaro

Balloons stay grounded
Festivities draw crowds to E.P. Rock

High winds create dangerous fire conditions

Two Presque Isle fire, power line victims identified

Businessman sentenced to 18 months for back taxes

Amazon project gets pushback from Village from Cottage Grove neighbors

Explore Children's Museum hosts grand opening ceremony

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Star-Observer
Friday, February 10, 2023 | 14th and Wisconsin Ave. | 715-438-4422 | www.starobserver.com

INSIDE
Hudson Not an Affair
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High winds create dangerous fire conditions

Your colonoscopy can't wait partner

LIFESTYLE
Sun Prairie based Katz's Saves and More hits all the right notes. A-6



SUN PRAIRIE STAR
Friday, February 10, 2023 | 14th and Wisconsin Ave. | 715-438-4422 | www.sunprairiestar.com

Plan commission backs Heyday development

Amazon project gets pushback from Village from Cottage Grove neighbors

Explore Children's Museum hosts grand opening ceremony

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Amazon project gets pushback from Village from Cottage Grove neighbors

BINGO
Prizes • Food • Drinks • Fun
Thursday, February 24 | Check-in 1:30pm | Play starts at 2pm
BUCK & HONEY'S 804 Liberty Blvd., Sun Prairie
RSVP by Wednesday 20 to SNOOK at 630-38-8600

General Excellence, First Place (Daily Division)
The Gazette, Janesville

General Excellence, First Place (Division C)
Vilas County News, Eagle River

General Excellence, First Place (Division D)
Star-Observer, River Falls

General Excellence, First Place (Division E)
Sun Prairie Star

it's a story that definitely makes the reader want to read it. Pairing the employee shortage story with a refer to your employment guide is a good choice. Bottom photo not really worth using at that size. A more up-close shot that could illustrate the story would have been better. May 22: Lead package is really well-done, both in terms of the story and how it is packaged and illustrated. Using old clippings as your lead art is very clever, and the headline treatment is also nice. The nuclear energy plant story is decent as well. Nov. 21: Lead package is nice design and done tastefully in proportion to the gut-wrenching story that it features. The headline definitely gets the idea across when coupled

with the photo illustration. The only downside is that it's not something that was produced locally, so that is unfortunate. The criminal justice system story is good, but the headline is probably one quote headline too many on the page. And the photo with that story is played so small that one can't make out any faces or expressions of the people pictured. If the photo is going to run this small, it really needs to be a more up-close shot. **Third Place:** *The Freeman* - Shana Duffy. Judge's Comments: July 1: Overall a nice page with lots of local news. Main package is interesting and looks really nice. The use of the smaller photos works well to showcase some of the business' work. Good on you to have some hard

news at the top of the page. For the Heinen photo, I think a closer crop might have worked better to show his face and the plaque better. You wouldn't lose much by cutting him off near the waist and filling your frame a little better. Bottom headline could afford to have that second line a little more filled in. As is, it doesn't match the look of the rest of the page with all that white space in just that one spot. July 16: Page looks pretty good. I wonder if the more statewide news at the top of the page would have been better below some of your local content. Local stories are well-written. Local centerpiece is nice given the art you are working with. Having a little better art on the page altogether would have been nice. The top photo is so small for a skyline shot that it isn't all that readable. July 23: Nice mix of hard news and feature news. Front looks nice, but some larger photo play for the lead picture wouldn't have hurt. Schedule with fair story is played well and is helpful to your reader. **Honorable Mention:** *The Gazette* - Tim Seeman, Shari Rampenthal. Judge's Comments: Sept. 3: Nice photos with lead package. Color choice on the screen isn't the greatest. Not sure what the point of the diamonds are other than to eat space. With the lead story, I'd like to see a mugshot of the murderer in addition to the victim. Good to see a nice mix of news that is all locally written. Nov. 29: Once again, a lot of well-written local news, so kudos on that. Lead package is very well designed using framing and white space in a way that draws in the reader but doesn't distract them. The photos are really good as well. A nice page all-around. Aug. 22: Lead

story headline is a great example of a quote headline. The treatment is nice as well. The photo with that story is pretty boring and could have probably been used on the jump page. The lead photo package is decent, and I think if those photos could have had some better play rather than use the building shot at 3 columns wide, then the page would look nicer overall. Good use of local content along with the state story. The stories are well-written. **Competition Comments:** A lot of good front page designs in this competition. A good rule of thumb for everyone would be to focus on locally produced content where possible. A little more hard news on some of these front pages would have been nice.

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review* - Michelle Drew. Judge's Comments: This has it all. Structure, yet an open feel. Concise, easy to navigate page leading people inside and visual content for everyone. An old school feel with a new school sensibility. **Second Place:** *Monroe County Herald* - Logan Everson, Pat Mulvaney, Rhonda Hess. Judge's Comments: A little something for everyone. These pages are easy to view and dig into. Great use of graphics and spacing to keep reader engaged. **Third Place:** *Peninsula Pulse* - Ryan Miller, Sharon Anderson, Andrew Kleidon. Judge's Comments: Really dynamic top half, but bottom half seems a bit disjointed. Wonderful use of main photo on pages to draw reader in.

SUNDAY
The Journal Times
Racine County's Daily Newspaper

Great graduates
Racine County seniors cross the stage LOCAL NEWS

Track and field
Waterford junior Carin Hoffman wins Division 110-meter hurdles SWANSEA, WISCONSIN

CLOUDY SKIES WITH RAIN SHOWERS 45-57 Forecast at 11:30 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022 journaltimes.com \$4.00

Breaking through
A local artist is making a name for herself in the world of contemporary art. Her work is a blend of traditional and modern techniques, creating a unique style that is both accessible and thought-provoking. She has recently exhibited her work at a local gallery, where it was well-received by the community.

Artist paints, prints vintage-inspired works
RACINE - Kelly White is a local artist who has been making a name for herself in the world of contemporary art. Her work is a blend of traditional and modern techniques, creating a unique style that is both accessible and thought-provoking. She has recently exhibited her work at a local gallery, where it was well-received by the community.

Thinking in ink
RACINE - Lisa Blythe was recognized for her work in the field of art. Her work is a blend of traditional and modern techniques, creating a unique style that is both accessible and thought-provoking. She has recently exhibited her work at a local gallery, where it was well-received by the community.

Dreaming reality
RACINE - John Smith is a local artist who has been making a name for himself in the world of contemporary art. His work is a blend of traditional and modern techniques, creating a unique style that is both accessible and thought-provoking. He has recently exhibited his work at a local gallery, where it was well-received by the community.

News membership
AT JOURNALTIMES.COM/GAME

PORK DINNER • WHITE ELEPHANT • CRAFTS • CZECH BOOTH
June 10 • 11
A TASTE OF BOHEMIA
Friday 5pm-8pm Saturday 9am-10pm Green St. & Yout St.
• Potlaches/Bake Sale • Crafts • White Elephant • Czech Booth
Saturday 5:30 - 6:30 • Bohemian Pork Dinner - Carry out only \$15
PORK DINNER • WHITE ELEPHANT • CRAFTS • CZECH BOOTH!

Best Front Page, First Place (Daily Division)
The Journal Times, Racine

VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW
EAGLE RIVER, WI 54821 • (715) 676-6427 • www.vilasnews.com DECEMBER 2021, APRIL 13, 2022

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INSIDE
Blazyns compete at indoor State centers
Will the winter weather be a challenge for the state's farmers?

Judge's Comments
Blazyns compete at indoor State centers

Winter Severity Index shows moderate season for wildlife
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has released its Winter Severity Index (WSI) for the state. The index shows that the winter season was moderate, with a WSI score of 1.5. This is a good sign for wildlife, as it indicates that the winter was not too harsh. The index is based on a variety of factors, including snow depth, ice cover, and wind speed.

Cranberry Island sale 'off the table'
Island remains on agenda
The sale of Cranberry Island, a 100-acre island in the Koshong area of Lake Michigan, has been put on hold. The sale was originally scheduled for this year, but it has been postponed until next year. The reason for the postponement is that the island is currently being used as a research site for the state's Department of Natural Resources.

Overbey defeats O'Marro for Judge 2 seat in Vilas
The Vilas County Board of Supervisors has elected David Overbey to the second seat on the board. Overbey defeated his opponent, John O'Marro, in a runoff election. Overbey has served on the board for several years and is a member of the Republican Party.

Best Front Page, First Place (Division C)
Vilas County News, Eagle River

Honorable Mention: *The Press Times* - Heather Graves, Cody Popp. Judge's Comments: Gives something for everyone to digest. A bit busy and a lot to take in all at once, visually.

Division D

First Place: *The Valders Journal* - Brian Thomsen. Judge's Comments: Sept. 30: A really nice front page. The photos in the photo package are great and draw in the reader's eye. The story about the school menus being impacted by supply chain issues is very timely and was no doubt an important read for area parents with children in the local school system. The bottom story was likewise very informative and some good news to boot. Jan. 13: Again, a great piece of lead art on this page, and you played it large, so kudos to you. The EMS story and the school district substitute story were both very well-written and informative. The story about the child dying was gut-wrenching. A great example of good writing about a horrible subject. Aug. 11: The bees package is very nicely done. You've got a solid photo coupled with a fun headline treatment. It works well to illustrate the story, which is put together very nicely as well. It's good to see you talking about beekeeping at large in your area and not just one person who keeps bees. I appreciate you didn't take the easy way out on that. The election story at the bottom of the page adds some needed hard news to your front and keeps readers up to date on statewide issues of importance. If I had a criticism at all about the page, it would be that

you might have had more luck with a more colorful screen behind your main package. Gray is very drab, and given the content, I think you could have gone with pale orange, yellow or brown and had something that looked even better. But that is nit-picking. This is a solid page. **Second Place:** *Superior Telegram* - Staff. Judge's Comments: Oct. 15: A good mix of local and state news on the page. Lead package photos are really nice, and the headline treatment is great. Solid writing on the locally prepared content. Jan. 7: Nice to see you scrambled to cover the warehouse fire and did so with an informative story and nice art. You've really told the story well. Candidate story is also interesting. The overall look of the page is good. Given the seriousness of what is being covered, I'm glad you didn't try to employ a bunch of design or typography tricks with the main package and it's headline treatment. Aug. 5: National Night Out coverage is decent, but the packaging could have been done better, maybe be working in a kicker, some pull quotes or an additional piece of art with those stories, just a few more things to draw in the reader's eye. There is some interesting news at the bottom of the page, though it all appears to be coming from other sources. **Third Place:** *Oconomowoc Enterprise* - Bill Yorth. Judge's Comments: Aug. 18: Centerpiece package is nice and uses the submitted illustrations well. The story is good, and it's rarely a bad idea to offer your readers some alternative story forms such as this Q&A format. Bottom rail section is also a helpful addition for your

readers, giving them some quick access to information about what kind of events are happening in the area. I appreciate the focus on local news and events throughout the page. June 16: Another page with a lot of good local content. It would have been nice to get some other content or context for the school board resignation story. It seems like this was basically a rewritten press release, and usually more than that can be done. The hail package is well-written and uses the photos nicely to help tell the story. April 28: Lead story is OK, but the deck head says it's a Q&A with the team, but it's really a Q&A with a team marketing official. The deck headline should have reflected that. Otherwise, readers might think they are getting into a story with comments from the team manager and players. Lead photo is OK for telling the story, but nothing special. Bottom headline is clever and the

take on the story is nice as well. The photos are OK, but just mugs so there's not much visually appealing about this page in either story. **Honorable Mention:** *Wauwapa County Post* - Robert Cloud, Cody Popp. **Competition Comments:** Some really nice entries were submitted. The best ones were those that put a heavy focus on local news coverage written by staff members or stringers and those that took great photos to illustrate their pages and played those photos large. One design pitfall to avoid would be doing design tricks like text on top of photos and drop shadows applied to various elements with no real purpose behind the treatment or when the treatment doesn't reflect the tone of the story. If a story is serious, the treatment on the page should be serious as well. When a story is more light-hearted or fun, that is the best time to flex

Best Front Page, First Place (Division D) *The Valders Journal*

Best Front Page, First Place (Division E) *Ripon Commonwealth Press*

those page design muscles and do something attention-grabbing with headline treatments and nontraditional photo displays. The focus on in-depth coverage of stories of local importance was a common thread among the winners of the contest. That is what your readers can only get from you, and it is a smart place to put your energy.

Division E

First Place: Ripon Commonwealth Press - Jonathan Bailey, Joe Schulz. Judge's Comments: Layout and design on this page were wonderful. I enjoyed the stories as well. Second Place: Sun Prairie Star - Staff. Judge's Comments: Very clean layout, easy to read and follow.

Third Place: Valley Sentinel - Staff. Judge's Comments: Photography was very nice on this page. Headlines were effective. Honorable Mention: Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout - Charley Preusser. Judge's Comments: Layout with the photos on this page were nice. Headlines were easy to read, overall clean page.

Best Opinion Pages

Division C

First Place: Vilas County News-Review - Staff. Second Place: The Lakeland Times - Staff. Third Place: Peninsula Pulse -

Debra Fitzgerald, Sharon Anderson.

Division DE

First Place: Sun Prairie Star - Christopher Mertes. Second Place: The Valders Journal - Mary Thomsen. Third Place: The Monroe Times - Adam Krebs. Honorable Mention: The Platteville Journal - Steve Prestegard.

Best Sports Pages

Daily Division

First Place: The Chippewa Herald - Brandon Berg. Second Place: The Post-Crescent - Staff. Third Place: The Freeman - Michael Grennell. Honorable Mention: The Gazette - John Barry, Art Kabelowsky, David Vantress.

Division C

First Place: Monroe County Herald - Nate Beier, Zach Rastall, Logan Everson. Second Place: The Lakeland Times - Brett LaBore. Third Place: The Press Times - Rich Palzewicz, Josh Staloch, Victoria Wittenbrock, Greg Bates.

Division D

First Place: Superior Telegram - Staff. Second Place: The Review - Dave Boehler. Third Place: NEW Media - Luke Reimer, Morgan Rode. Honorable Mention: Grant County Herald Independent - A.J. Gates.

Division E

First Place: The Verona Press - Brad Allen, Mark Nesbitt, Jack Miller. Second Place: Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise - Logan Everson, Zach Rastall, Nate Beier. Third Place: The Northwoods River News - Jeremy Mayo, Bob Mainhardt. Honorable Mention: Tribune Press Reporter - Carlton DeWitt, Shawn DeWitt, Carole Schurtz, Marlys Kruger.

Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages

Daily Division

First Place: Daily News - Dan Muckelbauer. Judge's Comments: April 28: Top story is well-written and the use of the breakout info sections looks nice, giving the package multiple entry points. The thumbnail-style photos across the top are a little small even in this digital format, so I imagine they must have been a bit hard to make out in print as well, especially the one on the far right. Bottom half of the page is very basic, and the bottom story appears to be a rewritten press release, so nothing much to comment on there. Sept. 9: Top package is nicely designed, and the photos are great. I would have appreciated the photos being played a little larger if possible, especially the vertical image. The top story headline and the headline for the book column are both clever, and each story is well-written. The remainder of the page is pretty basic and appears to be a collection of rewritten press

SPORTS Sports Editor • sports@monroecountyherald.com Thursday, February 17, 2022 • Page 9 THROUGH MY LENS Bangor girls draw top seed for WIAA tourney Can we just play anymore? B-NATE BEIER Bangor girls basketball team poses for a photo before their game against Ripon on Tuesday at the Ripon High School gymnasium. The girls are wearing blue and white uniforms. The photo is taken from a low angle, looking up at the players. The background is a plain wall.

SPORTS Live Music KEYPORT World champions Sweden to play Britain for men's curling gold PREFER BOYS HOCKEY Tigers compete at state It's the 3rd straight trip for the team MARCHING ON Soderholm stays focused; Spartans advance LOCAL WRESTLERS COMPETE AT SECTIONALS SATURDAY

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Best Sports Pages, First Place (Division C) Monroe County Herald, Sparta Best Sports Pages, First Place (Division D) Superior Telegram

releases. That being said, there is a lot of news about local events being presented, so I must imagine your readers appreciate that. Feb. 10: The most well-designed page of the bunch because you're not trying to get too many stories or separate elements onto a single page. The top package carries the page with a nice use of photos and multiple text entry points in the way of a pull quote, breakout info sections, a decent headline/deck headline combination and some subheads within the story text. And getting some historical and strategic context for a sport like curling. Some explanation of the rules of the game would have been nice, though. Book column at the bottom of the page is a nice touch and well-written.

Second Place: *The Freeman* - Dan Muckelbauer.

Judge's Comments: April 21: The top package is well-designed with plenty of good entry points for your reader. You've employed a nice use of pull quotes and a breakout info section for the package, and the headline gets the reader's attention. The submitted photos don't appear to be the best quality. It's a shame because one imagines they would have been really nice if shot with a better camera or by a better photographer. The list within the story is helpful to the reader, giving them a way to quickly glance at the bold text and get the description of that particular attraction. The stories on the bottom half of the page appear to be press release rewrites, but they are played well on the page, working with your ad stack nicely. May 12: I'm not sure why the photo framing is being done how it is. It looks like an error with all that

white space at the left side and bottom. I suppose it is intentional because they are all like that, but the question would be "why?" What is the purpose of that design technique being employed? What does it reflect about the story content? Not much, if anything, as far as I can tell. The story is well-written, and the subheads have a nice formula with the name of the place and then a quote pulled from the text. The breakout section at the bottom is very helpful to a reader wanting to get some quick information about the various attractions discussed in the story. The page design works well with your ad stack. June 30: Lifeguard story is

a relevant feature take on a news story in regards to the lifeguard shortage being experienced in the area. The two info box sections and the pull quote offer some different entry points for your readers. The photos are nice and played well on the page, especially the submitted photo of the girl jumping into the pool, which works well with your headline. The bottom half of the page does have a couple bumping headlines, but the amount of white space between them coupled with the divider line should be plenty to keep any reader from thinking they are related or "reading across." Animal photos are cute, but the seal photo is too small to be of much use.

Competition Comments: The

best entries here were the ones that provided readers the most local features and entertainment news. The designs were nice throughout, but taking the time and effort to tell people what kinds of fun and interesting attractions and events were happening in their areas is what was most impressive.

Weekly Division

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review* - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Great use of gorgeous local photography and interesting stories make this a winner!

Second Place: *Star-Observer* - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful section with intriguing stories. Nicely done!

Third Place: *The Monroe Times* - Adam Krebs.

Judge's Comments: Love the use of the historic photo - that definitely catches the eye!

Honorable Mention: *Sun Prairie Star* - Jeromey Hodsdon.

Judge's Comments: Nicely put together and effective!

Best Feature/Lifestyle Page, First Place
(Daily Division)
Daily News, West Bend

Best Feature/Lifestyle Page, First Place
(Weekly Division)
Vilas County News-Review,
Eagle River

Best Special Section (Editorial), First Place
(Daily Division)
Kenosha News

Best Special Section (Editorial)

Daily Division

First Place: *Kenosha News*, ‘Get Out and About’ - Elizabeth Snyder.

Second Place: *Daily Globe*, ‘A History Project’ - Staff.

Third Place: *Beloit Daily News*, ‘Stateline 2022’ - Clint Wolf, Jim Franz, Austin Montgomery, Hillary Gavan.

Division C

First Place: *The Press Times*, ‘Basketball Preview’ - Rich Palzewic, Greg Bates, Murray Gleffe.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Spring Sports Preview’ - Brett LaBore, Jeremy Mayo.

Third Place: *Monroe County Herald*, ‘2022 Football Preview’ - Nate Beier, Zach Rastall.

Honorable Mention: *Vilas County News-Review*, ‘Military Salute’ - Staff.

Division D

First Place: *The Chronotype*, ‘The history files: A view of Barron county’s past’ - Ruth Erickson, Michelle Jensen.

Judge’s Comments: Nicely done with an old time look in design. Enjoyed reading about the community.

Second Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, ‘United in the fight’ - David Timmerman, Kevin Kelly, Jessica Brownell.

Judge’s Comments: Good profile stories. Nice package and design.

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, ‘Saluting area cheesemakers’ - Adam Krebs, Sarah Sabatke, Jaimie Tran.

Judge’s Comments: As a lover of all things cheese this was an enjoyable section to read.

Division E

First Place: *Sun Prairie Star*, ‘We

shall not forget’ - Staff.

Judge’s Comments: Nice clean layout and design make this section an easy read. Great personal stories and pictures.

Second Place: *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, ‘A State dream come true’ - Logan Everson, Zach Rastall, Nate Beier.

Judge’s Comments: Nice keepsake edition for the team. Good pictures and recap of the season. I was not a fan of the reverse type and transparency of headlines that made reading difficult.

Third Place: *Valley Sentinel*, ‘Workforce resources’ - Taylor Scott. Judge’s Comments: Good feature on employment issues and opportunities. I like the bulletin board idea for the available jobs listing.

Honorable Mention: *The Northwoods River News*, ‘Hodag country festival preview’ - Trevor Greene & Staff.

Judge’s Comments: Section is a good resource for anyone planning to attend the event.

Best Headlines

Daily Division

First Place: *The Cap Times*, ‘Pixar’s ‘Turning Red’ refuses to panda to young audiences; When the moon hits the sky like a big pizza pie, that’s a ‘Moonfall’; This Madison’s florist’s dried flowers have real stamen-a’ - Rob Thomas.

Judge’s Comments: The Turning Red headline employs a great use of pun with “refuses to Panda to young audiences” but it falls a little flat after reading the story and not seeing much in the writing that suggests the film doesn’t pander to young audiences. It seems a bit like the headline writer had a good pun they wanted to work in and went a bit away from what was actually said in the column to make it work.

The Moonfall headline is great! It’s a solid reference to a well-known song, and I found myself singing it in my head as I read it and for a few minutes afterward. It is accurate in relation to the column and the plot of the movie, and gets the reader’s attention in a fun, light-hearted way. The dried flowers headline is another great entry! You’ve employed a solid pun in “stamen-a” and it is fitting because these dried flower bouquets will last a long while, giving them more “stamina” than a traditional bouquet. Well done.

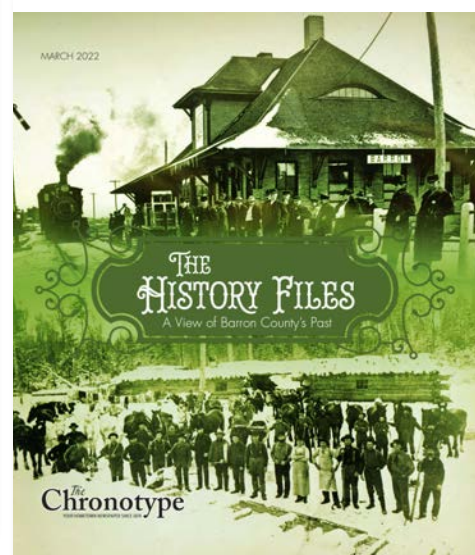
Second Place: *The Journal Times*, ‘An itsy bitsy solar-powered, phone-charging little library; Get your cluck on; Mr. Duncan’s Opus’ - Rachel Kubik, Adam Rogan, Alex Rodriguez, Brenda Wishau.

Judge’s Comments: Well, the “Get your cluck on” headline definitely



Best Special Section (Editorial), First Place (Division C)

The Press Times, Green Bay



Best Special Section (Editorial), First Place (Division D)

The Chronotype, Rice Lake



Best Special Section (Editorial), First Place (Division E)

Sun Prairie Star

got my attention! It might be a little too risqué of a reference for a lot of readers, though. Mr. Duncan's Opus headline is a great reference to a well-known movie, and it immediately puts the reader into a mindset of a music instructor and his impact on his students and community. A deck headline to give the reader a bit more of an idea of what the story was going to be about would have been helpful, though. The phone-charging little library headline is a good reference to a well-known song. It slightly misses the mark on the number of syllables in the song lyrics, so it's not one of those headlines that you can actually sing to the song, but it definitely is a fun way to get the idea across about this novel addition to a little free library.

Third Place: *The Freeman*, 'M-V-(re) P(eat); Pool's Gold; Unbreakable' - Michael Grennell.

Judge's Comments: M-V-(re) P(eat) is a clever pun, and the main headline and deck headline each reflect the column content well. It grabs the reader's attention and lets them know what to expect when they read the piece. Pool's Gold headline is a good pun. Deck headlines are simple, but let the reader know what to expect when reading the stories. Unbreakable headline is good, but lacks some punch as a power head given how small it is. It's also a little bland being just one word.

Honorable Mention: *Daily News*, 'Downhill thrills with no skills; Tap into your German side; Fresh, local, plentiful' - Dan Muckelbauer.

Judge's Comments: Downhill thrills with no skills is a great use of rhyme and in keeping with the fun theme of the story. The deck headline,

however, includes "participants of all ages" which isn't quite accurate because neither place allows people to ride together with really small children. A substitution for that line of the deck headline that would have been more accurate and would have filled basically the same space would have been "for young and old alike." On the Oktoberfest headline, the use of the phrase "Tap into your German side" is a very clever nod to the beer aspect of these celebrations. Fresh, local, plentiful is not a bad headline, but it doesn't particularly grab my attention. I get the idea between it and deck headline that I'm about to read about farmers markets, but other than that, I'm not given any reason to read the story if I didn't already want to read about farmers markets anyway.



ERIC A. JOHNSON, @JOHNSON@LAKEGENEVA.NEWS.NET
Jeff Mraak, pit master with Racine-based Mraak Premium BBQ Meats & Eats, fries up a griddle filled with house-cured, double-smoked maple bourbon bacon strips on Saturday at the 2022 Bacon Fest, held May 14-15 at Flat Iron Park in downtown Lake Geneva.

Bacon up a good time

Second annual Bacon Fest draws large, enthusiastic crowds to downtown

ERIC A. JOHNSON
@JOHNSON@LAKEGENEVA.NEWS.NET
The temperatures weren't the only thing that was sizzling in downtown Lake Geneva on Saturday, May 14, as the second annual Bacon Fest kicked off the summer tourism season at Flat Iron Park with a tasty, bacon-in-fused bang. Under sunny, cloud-flecked skies with a gentle breeze rolling in from scenic Geneva Lake, thousands of bacon-lovers followed their nose to the park May 14 for the two-day festival, which continued on Sunday, May 15. An ebullient celebration of all things bacon, Lake Geneva Bacon Fest was a hit with the community.

Please see BACON, Page A5
To read more: West end reporter Eric A. Johnson shares his take on Bacon Fest in his column Shooting the (lake) breeze, see B3.

Best Headlines, First Place (Division D)
Lake Geneva Regional News

Competition Comments:

Entries were good overall. A lot of interesting use of puns and pop culture references to illustrate local news, features and sports stories. One thing I'd recommend to all entrants is to remember that writing a catchy headline shouldn't be more important than being accurate about what the story says. A headline's main function is to give the reader a clear idea what they are about to read. When we falter in that goal, we run the risk of making our readers question our judgment or truthfulness.

Division C

First Place: *Monroe County Herald*, 'Marvel at the high flying, death defying array of aerial artistry presented by Cashton's jumping Jacks; Hungry like the Wolfe; Eli Brown just may be the fastest man in the 608' - Nate Beier, Logan Everson.

Judge's Comments: The track and field headline is a really fun headline design treatment, and the headline itself definitely gives that old-timey circus or ring announcer vibe, which is what I think you were going for. However, the word "defying" is pretty heavily covered up, giving the reader a little more guesswork than I'd prefer. Likewise, the last two lines of the bottom deck headline are much too obscured. The use of "Jumping Jacks" when talking about a couple of jumpers named Jack is very clever. Hungry like the Wolfe: A great reference that most people will understand in one way or another, and it works with what the story is about, not just a play on the wrestler's last name for the sake of making a pun. Well done. Fastest

man: Another interesting headline treatment that draws in the reader with a combination of headline-writing and design, and this time it's pulled off much better. Definitely gets the reader's attention and does a good job of explaining what the story is about.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Deer looking for 'treat' finally free of 'trick'; Snow place like home; With guns blazing' - Beckie Gaskill, Brett LaBore, Kelly Holm.

Judge's Comments: Deer looking for 'treat': A very clever headline that, coupled with the photos, had me very much wanting to read the story. Well done. Snow place like home: A cute headline, but one I think most newspaper readers have seen some variation on quite a few times. Guns blazing: A very clever play on words and it does reflect the story well when played with the deck headlines and photos.

Third Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Judge Doesn't Budge on \$250k Cash Bail; Insane Explosion of Real Estate Sales in 2021; Upward Trend in Lower Incomes.' - Debra Fitzgerald.

Judge's Comments: Insane explosion: A good attention-grabbing headline, but only the first page has been submitted and not the jump, so I can't be certain that the words "insane explosion" were pulled directly from a quote or not, and they certainly should be directly attributable to someone if we are putting quotes around them in the headline. If they aren't found in a direct quote, then the wording is probably a bit too much. Upward Trend in Lower Incomes: The wording is clever and accurate. Definitely made me want to read the story. Again, it would have been nice to have the jump page to read

as well. Judge doesn't budget: A decent headline employing rhyme and accurate.

Competition Comments: Some very creative headlines were employed in these entries. Great work!

Division D

First Place: *Lake Geneva Regional News*, 'Hot diggity dog! Oscar Mayer 'Hotdoggers' get frank about life in Walworth visit; Nightmare on Elm Street nears end: Linn supervisors approve razing of three blighted properties; Bacon up a good time: Second annual Bacon Fest draws large, enthusiastic...' - Eric Johnson.

Judge's Comments: Got to be frank - doggone good headline. Nightmare headline was scare good and who can resist bacon. Overall, good creative thinking.

Second Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, 'Laid up: Mellen gets creative as players fall to COVID; Vaughn trapped; Food truck Thai-ing itself down' - Peter Wasson.

Judge's Comments: Laid up is to Covid and Silver Medal is to Ashland Daily Press; all three entries were on target and very punny.

Third Place: *The Star News*, 'It is time to soil your undies; Roadside dining for Perkinstown bear family; 9 EVENTS, 6 MEDALS, 2 ALMOSTS' - Brian Wilson, Matt Frey.

Judge's Comments: The right headline was on top ... a true attention getter. Like the "almosts," but the bear headline was that a headline or a caption?

Honorable Mention: *The Chetek Alert*, 'Alleged dog thief collared by

police; Boaters all shook up after pontoon lands on island; 'Keezy' like a Sunday morning; delightful sunrise over New Auburn' - Kenton Troutman, Tyler Florczak, Carl Cooley.

Judge's Comments: "Boaters all shook up" great if the locals got the connection, like the bridging over troubled water.

"Dog collared" overused and "Keezy" more of a caption than a headline.

Competition Comments: Strong competition among five entries. Would have liked to have added another Honorable Mention.

Division E

First Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'The Energizer Bumby; In a Jam; The triumph ... and the heartbreak' - Jonathan Bailey.

Judge's Comments: Paraphrasing or keying off a slogan doesn't always work but it does with this basketball headline; The In A jam headline is a strong tie in to the story and lessen the blow of a bad situation; The last headline was a good split, showing the highs and lows...All around good use of colors and fonts.

Second Place: *The Stoughton Courier Hub*, 'Blades of Glory; Closing the Gap; Mai, oh, Mai!' - Tara Jones, Scott De Laruelle, Jack Miller, Brad Allen.

Judge's Comments: Mamma Mia! - That was one a spicy headline. The strongest of the lot. Blades of Glory good, but not strong enough to surpass the first place winner,

Third Place: *Courier Sentinel*, 'Storage boxes; Lake Holcombe soars; Nornets notch eighth place' - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Loved the use

of the word "notch" in archery hed; the other two heds were good, but nothing jump[ed out to grab me.

Honorable Mention: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Blackhawks thunder to a huge win as the fall sports season moves into full swing; Plain's Strassenfest a Bavarian good time, complete with polka and brats; Will No-Mow May mean more ticks? Experts say not to worry, ticks are probably already in your lawn' - Taylor Scott.

Judge's Comments: Thunder headline would have worked if the lightning was more visible in the pic. It wasn't and the headline lost some of its thunder. The other two were solid, but did not jump off the page.

Editorial Award

Daily Division

First Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Michael Gableman's train wreck derails Robin Vos; Ron Johnson is

a liar who chooses the NRA over children; Welcome to Wisconsin Dr. Mnookin, and apologies for our Assembly speaker' - John Nichols, Dave Zweifel, Steven Elbow.

Judge's Comments: These editorialists don't kidney punch. They aim for noses. Imagine an American editorial column that doesn't pull punches. Whereas so many other papers try not to offend, these folks say what they think, and that always pays off for the reader. Agree with them or not, you're not going to misunderstand their point.

Second Place: *Leader-Telegram*, 'When words fail; District's equity antics failed Eau Claire, City's secrecy explanations don't hold up' - Matt Milner.

Judge's Comments: Fine writing. Time well spent in the read.

Third Place: *Beloit Daily News*, 'America the beautiful, in 6,500-mile slow lane; To Khloe: I hope this world deserves you; Society's barriers exist to be broken' - William Barth.



THE J.M. SMUCKER Co. announced last week that it plans to close its Ripon facility at 1050 Stanton St. in 2022. The plant employs 92 people. Jonathan Bailey photo

By Joe Schulz
jschulz@ripypress.com

A little more than a decade ago, Ripon's J.M. Smucker Co. plant was spared when the company decided to cut roughly 700 personnel and shutter almost 20% of its plants nationwide.

This time around, it wasn't quite so lucky as the facility at 1050 Stanton St. is set to be shuttered in 2022.

The J.M. Smucker Co. announced last week Wednesday that it intends to close and pursue the sale of its Ripon manufacturing facility.

The announcement came in a corporate press release, which said the decision was made "to further optimize operations for the consumer foods business."

While the release mentioned the plan to close the Ripon plant, it primarily served as an announcement that the company intended to sell its natural and organic beverage and grains businesses to Nexus Capital Management LP.

"This transaction supports our strategy to direct investments and resources toward core brands positioned for growth," said Tina Floyd, senior vice president and general manager of Consumer Foods for The J.M. Smucker Co.

In a written statement, J.M. Smucker Co. Corporate Communications Manager Frank Cirillo described the decision as "difficult," but said it was made to "optimize operations."

See CLOSEback page

Best Headlines, First Place (Division E)
Ripon Commonwealth Press

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Another week, another disastrous attack on open records; More abuse of power; The justice system is asking the wrong question in sexual assault cases' - Richard Moore, Gregg Walker.

Judge's Comments: This editorial column is not afraid to get detailed, yet it somehow keeps readers engaged. The judges suspect that there are a lot of political "leaders" in this newspaper's part of the world who would like less of this kind of stuff. Which is why the community needs more of it.

Second Place: *Ladysmith News*, 'The cost to a nation defending democracy; Not the best time to give out school raises; Gas tax holiday a short sighted fix to big problem' - Luke Klink.

Division D

First Place: *Lake Geneva Regional News*, 'A needlessly sad ending; Legislature fails again; A doggone bad idea' - Stephanie Jones.

Judge's Comments: Significance of the topics is obvious, and the clarity of thought stands out. The quality of the writing is excellent and information is presented to support the strong opinions being expressed. Some readers may not agree with the opinions but they will understand the facts being noted in the editorials. I would continue to read the editorials whether I agreed with you or not because of them being strong and supported by facts. Certainly, I like the topics being covered.

Second Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'No Virginia, there

was not wide-spread election fraud; Story of Decorah Peak reveals rich history; Coompany 'speed dates' will match major firms, emerging businesses' - David Timmerman.

Judge's Comments: The writer is concerned about truth in multiple ways. And often provides information to show falsehoods. As an editor he should be aware of truths, as should his readers.

But, as he notes, what people often believe as truths are not really truths. His writing can be clearly understood, and his significance of topics is fine. In one editorial he shows a compassion that would be felt by many. No doubt, he is read by people who see truths in the editorials and by those who don't.

Third Place: *The Star News*, 'Do the crime, do the time; Planning commission made right call for homeless shelter; Rib Lake board should drop downtown camera plan' - Brian Wilson.

Judge's Comments: Yes, the editorials are effectively written and contain facts to support the positions presented. The topics have

significant worth. A weakness is in the clarity of thought when the strongest editorial has a headline that suggests a great decision was made but the editorial does not list the decision, though I assume the building was approved.

Honorable Mention: *The Valders Journal*, 'Overworked staffs deserve our grace; Performing arts at school showing life; Knowledge could ease rage over Roe' - Mary Thomsen.

Judge's Comments: While two topics are well worth noting the need for kindness and why businesses are short of help and why it is great to see the arts programs being revised, the third topic touches more readers and is one which should receive strong notice. It should receive both agreement and non-agreement. The editorials are well-written but more facts would make the clarity of thought stronger.

Competition Comments: Editorials often don't attract as many entries in the contests as other categories do, but in this case the lack of entries did not bother the quality of the editorials. They were

fun to read, and a variety of topics were presented. No doubt, some topics will attract both pro and non responses. Doing so is great to see. It was valuable to see a number of facts presented in the editorials instead of ranting opinions.

Impressive were comments on the version of truths being presented and ways of showing that not all those truths are real truths. It's nice to read real editorials.

Division E

First Place: *The Tribune-Phonograph*, 'Move Forward; The Best Shot; Good Intentions, Strange Process' - Neal Hogden, Kevin O'Brien.

Judge's Comments: An effort to recall for Republicans the will of voters, not of the party ... an attempt to put a COVID-19 quarantine in perspective ... Making sense of a police initiative seeking donations to save their jobs. These editorials are a matter of perspective, and the writer shouts them out with calm sense. Good narrative writing leading to measured conclusions and calls to act ... or at least a "calm" perspective.

Second Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Tobacco Days; Times to move on murals; Silverwood Park' - Diane Everson.

Judge's Comments: Tobacco: "Enjoy and be proud..." not necessarily of the subject, but of its community heritage. A well-focused explanation and support of community festival. Murals: A call to hoist this community's features and attractions to its historic walls - for tourists and for local residents to view and reflect on their significance. Silverwood: A salute to a woman of foresight who

EDITORIAL

A needlessly sad ending

Kenosha should have let Fellow Mortals help Carl the turkey

LAKE GENEVA REGIONAL NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

Over the last week, people all around Kenosha and beyond have been saddened by the death of Carl the Turkey, who was fatally hit by a car on Dec. 7.

While the story of Carl may sound like a funny tale, it's no laughing matter.

And the story didn't have to end on Dec. 7. There could have been a lot more life left for the turkey and it should be a lesson

for others going forward. While it may be a Kenosha story, it could happen anywhere.

For months, the turkey had been roaming around a neighborhood in Kenosha. People in the area had gotten to know the turkey and even named him Carl, looking out for him and trying to protect him from the traffic in the road. It's no question that Kenosha has had a tough year and a half after the riots there in late summer 2020. It's no wonder that residents there grasped onto something positive to give them a smile - Carl. If Carl had stayed a few days or even a few weeks, it



SEAN KRAJACIC, KENOSHA NEWS

A turkey, who has been lovingly dubbed "Carl," stands on Pershing Boulevard on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021.

Please see EDITORIAL, Page D2

Editorial Award, First Place (Division E)
Lake Geneva Regional News

made a significant land donation to her community. Good narrative writing brings these messages to readers. They are conversations, one to one. They tell stories and deliver a message to ponder.

Third Place: *Sun Prairie Star*, 'Council needs to correct irresponsible Kwik Trip vote; Public access the true litmus test of city council's transparency message; What we're thankful for in 2021' - Christopher Mertes.
 Judge's Comments: CUP: on target and written with direct action suggested. However, having the "legal" aspects attributed to a state source would support the edit's contentions and conclusion.
 Transparency: A bold, critical, scolding reaction to the municipality's closed-meeting vote; well written, though some elements repeated. Thankful: Lot's of thankfulness, but a rambling unlinked essay. Needed a conclusion before the wishfulness. Keenly focused, mostly, on community. First two samples had purpose and direction. Decent writing, but some

aggressiveness could have been "softened" to preserve the intent of the message.

Honorable Mention: *Courier Sentinel*, 'Community support needed for fireworks display; Use the right tool for the job; Balance needed on Lake Holcombe' - Brian Wilson.

Judge's Comments: Fireworks: Last 'graph should be at top, maybe the second 'graph. Took awhile to figure the targeted message. Tools: Again, the last 'graph should be up front, number 2 at least. Lake Holcombe: Still again, final 2 'graphs should be 3 and 4 in this edit. Now for the messages' evaluation: Excellent focus on issues critical and relevant to the local community and neighborhoods. Good writing, good analogies, good anecdotes. The "Editorial Board" message should be at end, not at top of edits. Get the message out first, then let readers know who to challenge.

Competition Comments: Each entry focused on community, with some exceptions tossed aside, Probably the most impressive

messages were narrations directed to readers. First-person accounts failed to lead readers to conclusions, and analytical essays would send readers on to other epistles. Leadership is essential in editorials, not just excoriating essays to satisfy an objection. Write for/to readers. Give them a message that leads to THEIR action/reaction. Leave storytelling to other sections of the newspaper.

Community Engagement Award

Daily Division

First Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, "Center Stage, with Milfred and Hands" podcast, featuring community editorial board members and other civic leaders' - Scott Milfred, Phil Hands.

Judge's Comments: Superbly done!
Second Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'More than 20 years and \$2 million in the making, see inside Manitowoc's new Boys & Girls Club Wednesday' - Brandon Reid.
 Judge's Comments: The newspaper took an active role in helping the community get a Boys and Girls Club, including highlighting the need one for one in print, serving on the board making decisions on

how to get one and even providing physical office space. Well done!!

Third Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 'Oshkosh Streetwise E-Newsletter' - Katy Macek.

Judge's Comments: Interesting approach to business reporting that paid off with overwhelming response.

Honorable Mention: *USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin*, 'Stock the Shelves campaign, 2021' - Staff.
 Judge's Comments: Helping address local food insecurity is an important cause.

Weekly Division

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'What You Can Learn From the Door County Budget Project' - Jackson Parr, Debra Fitzgerald.

Judge's Comments: This is clearly a ton of work. So much work the entrant had to find a creative way to get a freelancer to crunch the data. The result is information about a region's local governments and how they collect and spend money in a way that any reasonable reader can absorb.

Second Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Impulse Initiative' - Taylor Scott.
 Judge's Comments: Great use of 21st century media to address a long term problem. This is about making the Pulse a thought leader

Global trend spurs local expansion

BY NICK WOOD
ACTING EDITOR

GREEN BAY — After the dignitaries had set down their silver shovels and dispersed into the crowd gathered Monday for the groundbreaking of Carnivore Meat Company's new \$55 million world headquarters in the I-43 Industrial Park, Josie, a Basenji-mix rescue dog, hopped up on the ceremonial pile of dirt and started digging.

With an under-roof footprint of 235,000 square feet — roughly four football fields — expected to be producing dog food for local and international markets by Fall of 2023, Carnivore CEO Lanny Viegut's dog appeared eager to keep things moving.



Carnivore Meat Company CEO Lanny Viegut said the number one reason his company chose to build its world headquarters in Green Bay is the quality of the work force. **Nick Wood Photos**

In addition to the manufacturing space and 150 new jobs, the new building will include 27,000 square feet of office space built with sustainability and pets in mind.

The facility will have a dog run, dog wash stations and other pet amenities.

company includes creating an environment people want to work in," Viegut said. "We have always had a pet-friendly culture, and this new facility will enhance that offering, making work an accessible place not only for our team members but also their

Local roots
 Founded in 2012 by Viegut, Carnivore has grown from 30 employees working in a 6,000-square-foot warehouse space to an international exporter employing more than 200 people at four production sites around Green Bay.

not-so-traditional sources like duck, rabbit, whitefish — and even minnows.

All are processed by Carnivore's proprietary, in-house-designed and custom-built freeze dryers.

And unlike most commercial pet foods, Carnivore adds no fillers or grains.

"The chief difference between what we do and the grocery store food is really the (elimination of) carbohydrates. When you put together the meat, the organs and all the bone products and make a diet, it's virtually identical to what they would eat in their natural habitat," Viegut said.

The raw product is sourced from all over the country, including regional and local vendors, Viegut said.



Carnivore has been awarded the Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Award, the Governor's Export Achievement Award, and was recently named by Mayor Eric Genrich during his State of the City address as Green Bay's Business of the Year.

Both Viegut and Genrich attributed much of Carnivore's success — and the decision to build its world headquarters here rather than moving to Chicago or some larger metro — to the quality of the workforce in Green Bay and the region.

"We chose to stick around here in Green Bay for a couple reasons," Viegut said. "Number one, the work ethic of the people here in Wisconsin is unmatched. They care, they show up every day, and they're proud of what they do."

Football players removed from quarantine

By Kevin O'Brien

Four Colby football players were taken off of a COVID quarantine list just hours before last Friday's Homecoming game against the Edgar Wildcats.

The decision came after a firestorm erupted among parents who were upset about their students possibly missing the pivotal game even though the students were not sick. Questions were also raised about whether the school district itself — and not the health department — was issuing quarantines, which would have gone against the district's own policy.

Superintendent Steve Kolden confirmed on Friday morning that the four players were among 20-plus students

identified as being in "close contact" with one of three students who tested positive for COVID-19 earlier in the week.

"The names were given to the health department, and then they'll be quarantined by the health department," he said just before noon on Friday.

However, once the parents found out about the quarantines, they showed up at Kolden's office on Friday morning and discussed different ways of preempting any action taken by the health department. One of them was to have the school district recheck to make absolutely sure the students were, indeed, close contacts.

At 3:15 p.m. on Friday, Kolden emailed public health nurse Brittany Mews at the Clark County Health Department, ask-

ing her to remove the names of the four football players previously reported as close contacts.

"We were asked to 'revisit' the contact tracing for nine students this morning in a meeting with parents," Kolden wrote to Mews. He noted that he and high school principal Marcia Diederich reviewed the cases and determined that five of the students should stay on the close contact list. The four that were removed from the list were all starting football players who went on to play in Friday's win over the Wildcats.

The decision was announced by one of the students at Friday afternoon's Homecoming pep assembly, generating wild cheers from the study body.

According to Mews, the health department had already officially placed the students under quarantine when she was essentially asked to rescind the order.

Mews said she complied with the district's request, but this will not happen again.

"Moving forward, once the information is given to the health department and once we formally quarantine, we will not be rescinding," she said. "We've never had this situation before, so it's always a learning process."

Mews said she honored the district's request to remove the names from quarantine without knowing that she had the

See **QUARANTINE** Page 8

General News Story, First Place (Division C)
The Press Times, Green Bay

General News Story, First Place (Division E)
The Tribune-Phonograph, Abbottsford

and a change agent. In other words, relevant. Just what our industry needs.

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Warm The Children' - Toni Ruthven, Liz Schmidt.

Judge's Comments: A good example of a traditional community campaign. Clearly takes lots of work and coordination. Who would be in a better position to oversee a project like this if not the local newspaper? **Competition Comments:** All the entrants demonstrated concern for their communities, and they showed they are willing to work hard to make a difference. In my mind, the top entries went beyond promoting community charity with "earned media" and used digital assets, even TED talks, to educate the community and position themselves as thought leaders.

Spring Green again takes up Kane dog boarding request after declining to appeal

The board of the Spring Green Planning Commission is set to meet on Tuesday, January 24, to consider a request for Kane dog boarding at the Kane dog boarding facility. The board will also consider a request for Kane dog boarding at the Kane dog boarding facility. The board will also consider a request for Kane dog boarding at the Kane dog boarding facility.

After several inches of fresh snow this week, temperatures cooled later this week, leaving the Valley School District in a snow emergency during school hours.

The board also created new opportunities for winter activities. The board also created new opportunities for winter activities. The board also created new opportunities for winter activities.

Winter at night in the snow from the top of the mountain at the Spring Green Mountain Club Center on Wednesday.

For more and winter activities than to break the monotony of the winter season, see the Winter Wonderland special section online.

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Open Records/FOI Award

Daily Division

First Place: *La Crosse Tribune*, 'Campbell approves draft water agreement with La Crosse, assures residents annexation off the table' - Olivia Herken.

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'Don't hide bids to remake Alliant Energy Center' - Scott Milfred.

Third Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Manitowoc sheriff says officer 'responded appropriately' after inmate shot in face with stun gun' - Alisa Schafer, Brandon Reid.

Honorable Mention: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Greenville settles lawsuit against former supervisor Mike Woods for a fraction of what it sought' - Duke Behnke.

Weekly Division

First Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Arena Public Works superintendent resigns, rush to fill position internally leads to open meetings law complaints'; 'Complaints filed with DA against Arena officials, open meetings law violated - analysis' - Taylor Scott, Nicole Aimone, Gary Ernest Grass, esq..

Judge's Comments: This is an example of following up words with actions, which is sometimes an integral piece in the pursuit of transparency. Explaining the law and its benefits bring real value.

Second Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, 'Ashland paying superintendent more than \$150K to go away; Ashland school leader still silent on super's resignation; Public deserves

school explanation' - Peter Wasson, Tom Stankard.

Judge's Comments: Fascinating reporting using public records as a resource

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Notice of claim: Man tried to alert Minocqua officer to woman's need for help more than 68 times' - Richard Moore.

Judge's Comments: This lengthy presentation of facts shows the real value of open-records laws.

All-Around Newspaper Photography

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review* - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Lots of high energy photos bring the event coverage to life.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse* - Staff. Judge's Comments: Big photos played well.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times* - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Bright shots throughout from interesting angles.

Competition Comments: Very good photo packages that were cropped and designed very well. Great looking newspapers!

Division DE

First Place: *Valley Sentinel* - Staff. Judge's Comments: The use of strong horizontal photos across the top of the front page is a great way to attract readers and solid designs with good photo placements make every page interesting

Second Place: *Superior Telegram* -

Jed Carlson, Maria Lockwood. Judge's Comments: Very good people photos

Third Place: *The Valdres Journal* - Brian Thomsen.

Judge's Comments: Heart warming personality photos and moving stories are a good touch.

Honorable Mention: *The Monroe Times* - Adam Krebs, Angie Maag, Gary Mays, Thomas Gunnell.

Judge's Comments: A good job!

Competition Comments: The use of excellent photos of people in the community brings the news to life.

General News Story

Division A

First Place: *The Journal Times*, 'Custodian becomes a citizen' - Ryan Patterson.

Judge's Comments: A strong lede that grabs attention, has a story that explains the lede, and, unlike most stories, it has an ending that refers back to the lede and ties the story together. Instructions are to place a strong emphasis in sentences and the lede and this story does both. The sentences and the information they provide work well in tying the story together. You have no problem reading it and it has good quotes. Plus, this is a great story of how a man decided to gain citizenship and worked to achieve it. Definitely a winner.

Second Place: *The Journal Times*, 'Back to school without a cellphone' - Adam Rogan.

Judge's Comments: While cell phones in schools are problems, it's not so in this school. As the lede emphasizes, no cell phones can be used at the school as students entering each day put their phones

in a container they cannot open and use the locker to open the patches as they leave school. Complete story and strong with sentences and quotes to show how things work. Grades are running higher now, bullying is down, students talk to each other, a teacher says students talk to him, etc. As the writer reports, no phones make the school better. Clearly this is a significant story and clearly written.

Third Place: *Leader-Telegram*, 'Momentous day' - Eric Lindquist.

Judge's Comments: When you achieve what you never of doing, you have a lede that stands out. In reading how this came about, readers will find a story written with strong sentences and which tie together the story. Strong quotes are used and ample information is provided. Aside from the information, the significance of the story is evident - a \$70 million donation from one family. The coming development is mentioned in the story.

Honorable Mention: *Kenosha News*, 'Hard Rock returns: Menominee tribe to partner with international brand in casino effort' - Daniel Gaitan.

Judge's Comments: The reporter knows how to get information and how to relate it throughout the story. He is a good writer. His lede brings the reader into the story and reader can follow the information being provided. Quotes are solid and help the story. Sentences help hold the story together and they are constructed without being long or wordy. Obviously a significant story. If I still owned a newspaper, I would hire the writer.

Competition Comments: Before reading the entries, and checking

back to the instructions while during the reading, I had to keep in mind these instructions: strong emphasis placed on sentence structure and lede, excellence in reporting, and significance of subject, writing quality, and thoroughness. Some quality stories in the entries, but some lacked the level of the items to be judged. Sentences and lede in the winners as well as in others caught attention. Note that sentences and excellence in reporting went well together. Many stories had significance of subject, including citizenship and phones in schools in the winners. I was amazed by the sad and unusual stories and reacted to them. Picking winners required reading more than once and looking for small things. Thanks for the stories.

Division B

First Place: *The Chipewewa Herald*, 'Dunn County referendum asks federal government to nationalize health care' - Audrey Korte.

Judge's Comments: Good read. Good diversity of voices. Curious how the vote turned out.

Second Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Sheboygan detectives are still investigating the unsolved Jalopy Jungle murders of 1988. Family of the victims 'desperately want' closure.' - Maya Hilty.

Judge's Comments: I loved this story. Great read.

Third Place: *Antigo Daily Journal*, 'Family, residents pay final respects to Pearl Harbor victim' - Kevin Passon.

Judge's Comments: One of the bests ledes I've read in a while. Very good work at taking a simple funeral story and making it an interesting read.

Honorable Mention: *Baraboo News Republic*, 'Attempted homicide trial begins; North Freedom man accused of trying to kill parents' - Bridget Cooke.

Competition Comments: The entries in this category were very competitive. If this is an example of what these journalists are doing, these communities are being well-served.

Division C

First Place: *The Press Times*, 'Global trend spurs expansion' - Nick Wood.

Judge's Comments: Excellent writing and reporting skills.

Second Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Former Big Barn Shops looms large in memories, spurs food for thought' - Eric Johnson.

Judge's Comments: A great example of quality article writing with a combination of research and smooth writing style.

Third Place: *Wisconsin State Farmer*, 'Town of Palmyra neighbors fear unknown in avian flu composting operation' - Colleen Kottke, Amber Burke.

Judge's Comments: Excellent reporting.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'LUHS student disciplined following football game' - Brian Jopek.

Judge's Comments: Interesting piece on student conduct at a football game. Interview of several subjects to report a well rounded article.

Division E

First Place: *The Tribune-Phonograph*, 'Football players removed from quarantine' - Kevin O'Brien.

Judge's Comments: Well-rounded and complete story with solid writing. A clear winner.

Second Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Governor Evers visits Spring Green businesses that received 'We're All In' grants' - Taylor Scott.

Judge's Comments: Good job taking this beyond the 'governor visits' headline. Localizing state issues - especially when you have a state senator from your town - is key. Solid writing.

Third Place: *The Northwoods River News*, 'These were the acts of an assassin':? Anderson sentenced to life in prison for murder of Hannah Miller' - Heather Schaefer.



Rogelio Moreno became a U.S. citizen in May after passing the citizenship test.

'I GOT IT' Custodian becomes a citizen

After living in U.S. for 32 years, Moreno achieves his 'top' goal

RYAN PATTERSON
ryan.patterson@journaltimes.com

RACINE — Rogelio Moreno had a phrase he told himself while studying: I got it.

After 20 months of learning about the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence and many aspects of American history, that belief paid off. On May 2, Moreno passed the United States citizenship test.

After finding out he passed, he was filled with joy. "I jumped in my seat and said, 'Yeah!'" Moreno said.

Moreno, 61, was born in Mexico and said he came to the U.S. in 1990 in search of "a better life."

Moreno has lived in Racine for almost 20 years and said becoming a

citizen has long been a priority. "It's nice, because it's my dream," Moreno said. "Citizenship is, for me, the top (goal) in my life."

The road to citizenship started about five years ago.

"It's a long process," Rogelio said. "(I was) nervous every day, nervous, nervous."

Moreno said he hopes to "be an example for all who would like to go forward and become a citizen ... You can reach any dream or goal that you have in your life if you just apply yourself."

In addition to daily studying on his own, Moreno received help from colleagues at St. Catherine's High School, 1200 Park Ave., where he has worked as a custodian for a year.

Custodian Gerald Olley often quizzed Moreno for 15-20 minutes during breaks and occasionally offered tips. For example, one question was who the U.S. president was

during World War I. It was Woodrow Wilson, and Olley suggested Moreno remember that there were two Ws in the question and answer.

Olley said he "was happy to" help Moreno study, and he believed his coworker would pass the test.

Sandy Moreno, who married Rogelio in 2012, also felt confident her husband would succeed.

"I knew he was going to pass," Sandy said. "He was very dedicated."

Using audio recordings and flashcards, Moreno went over potential test questions every day. He listened to questions in his headphones while making meals at home and while working at the high school.

Once while at work, the question "What is the Constitution?" was asked in his headphones. Forgetting himself for a moment, Moreno said aloud, "The supreme law of the land."

Please see CITIZEN, Page A3

General News Story, First Place (Division A)
The Journal Times, Racine

Judge's Comments: A well-organized story that conveys emotion. A different take on a sentencing hearing.

Honorable Mention: *Oconto County Reporter*, 'Her ex-husband was accused of a murder-suicide. Her pressure prompted Oconto County to reopen the case nearly five years later' - Kent Tempus.

Judge's Comments: This is a solid story that I struggled to place, wanting it to be in top 3. The timeliness of the other entries weighed in their favor.



Feature Story (Non-profile), First Place (Division C)
Wisconsin State Farmer, Waupaca

Competition Comments: Typography in many instances made reading a challenge but I did not take that into consideration in choosing winners. However, I strongly encourage improvement in this area. I enjoyed the variety of entries and I feel confident your communities appreciate the effort that goes into your coverage.

Feature Story (Non-profile)

Division A

First Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Wisconsin Republicans race to reinvent state's election system - again' - Jessie Opoien, Jack Kelly. Judge's Comments: A comprehensive look at who wants to overthrow the state's election commission and why, as well as where it originated and why. Good use of documenting links. Strong sources, eloquent quotes. Top drawer civic education.

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'I have lost my everything': Afghans grapple with loss, hope as

they prepare to leave Fort McCoy' - Emily Hamer.

Judge's Comments: Scope and emotional toll are conveyed through the voices of young Afghan women who left loved ones behind to escape the Taliban and now wait for whatever comes next, refugees among many refugees at the mercy of "underfunded and understaffed" resettlement agents. These women's hopeful determination shines through this well organized, impressive account.

Third Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'Urban wood movement looks to capture value, carbon from city trees' - Chris Hubbuch.

Judge's Comments: This was very educational for me. I learned about real-world obstacles that complicate what to a non-forester sounds like win-win, no-brainer recycling. Trying to mill urban trees is not necessarily worth the trouble to scale up, as the reporter lets one city forester explain. But visionary craftsmen are trying to make it work, and the reporter lets them say why, too.

Honorable Mention: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Does Appleton or Milwaukee have the right to claim Houdini as its own?' - Duke Behnke.

Judge's Comments: Delightful. I laughed out loud. Kudos to the reporter for not hamming it up, instead allowing the charming absurdity of the debate to stand forth in all its minute glory: "We're proud to be Houdini's self-proclaimed hometown. We're proud to be the hometown of anybody who claims us as their hometown." ... "He never tried running away from Appleton, so that's another thing we have over Milwaukee" ...

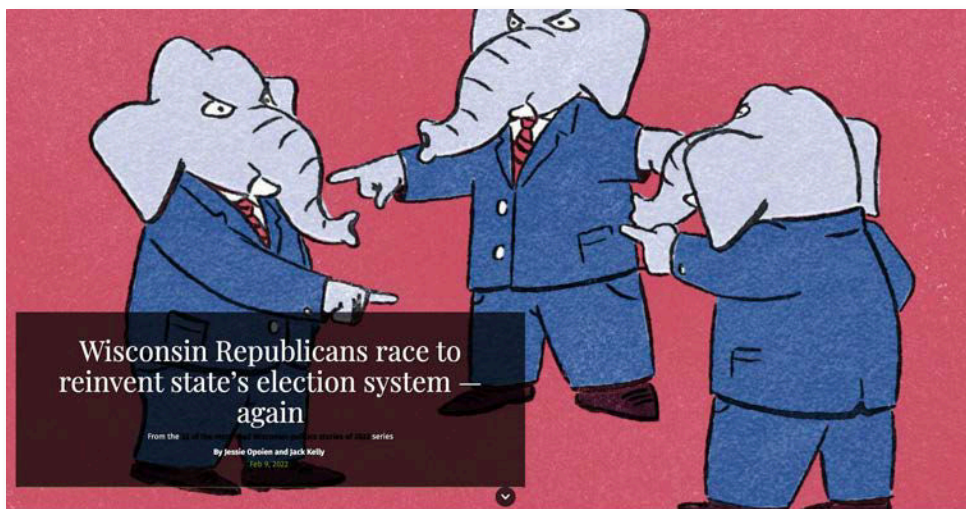
The reader learns little-known facts about the enigmatic superstar whose name remains a household word.

And the gallery is terrific, too.

Competition Comments: Wisconsin Press Association should be proud of the depth and breadth of submissions in this category. I have felt a bear breathing down my neck, learned how tricky it is to sing the national anthem for the Green Bay Packers, been moved by the private drama behind a teenage organ recipient's health and a son's gratitude to the nurse who died helping his dad survive World War II. I have been allowed to appreciate brave acts at a train wreck and a deadly pile-up. I have been required to think through why a Black gun rights advocate feels his life is ruined in a state without provisions to clear the names of citizens arrested by mistake. We could make a case for honoring every one of your entries, even the few that were somewhat undermined by poor copy editing. It has been a pleasure to read your work, Wisconsin journalists.

Division B

First Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'How do we do something we've never done before?': Meet the students behind Sheboygan North High School's barrier-breaking drumline.' - Maya Hilty. Judge's Comments: This feature is booming! I was hooked from the line, "Every single part of drumline is our favorite." The story captures the students' joy and exuberance, as well as their seriousness and dedication — anyone reading becomes an instant super-fan of their work, which is a great outcome



Feature Story (Non-profile), First Place (Division A)
The Cap Times, Madison

for a community spotlight. The colorful visuals and multimedia just heighten this burst of brightness and journalism joy.

Second Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 'It's getting tougher for volunteer fire departments in Wisconsin to find firefighters. That has an effect on the communities they serve' - Bremen Keasey, Roshaun Higgins, Renee Hickman. Judge's Comments: From individuals to institutions, this feature grapples with the heaviness of its topic at every necessary level of complexity without losing the reader in arcane detail. With emotive visuals, striking data and well-planned depth, the authors engage readers in understanding the crisis and its impacts on their community — a public service of great storytelling.

Third Place: *Daily Tribune*, 'I think we have it!': How two Wisconsin Rapids kayakers finally found the 'lost treasure' of Kayak Jack' - Keith Uhlig. Judge's Comments: Here we really have three stories in one — a dramatic kayak adventure, a lifelong pair of best friends achieving a dream and an author creating real-world experiences for his reading community. Somehow, the reporter ties it all together in a story that is a super-fun read and makes you want to get out on the water to find some hidden treasure.

Honorable Mention: *Stevens Point Journal*, 'What do all those new murals around Stevens Point mean?' For the artists, the work amplifies voices and celebrates women' - Melissa Siegler. Judge's Comments: This feature is a community tour, and it tells many short stories in great depth,

highlighting a diverse cross-section of the people and lives that make up the city. One thing that really sets this piece apart is the visuals, which are vibrant and compelling to pair with the nuanced writing.

Division C

First Place: *Wisconsin State Farmer*, 'Town of Palmyra neighbors fear unknown in avian flu composting operation' - Colleen Kottke, Amber Burke. Judge's Comments: This was an all-around well-reported, well-written piece. It was fair, balanced and objective, allowing the reader to make up his or her mind. It was a

lengthy piece, but never dragged or used jargon. It was solid journalism. Well done all around.

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Farmer*, 'Goat milk shortage spurs merger of state's largest dairy goat farms' - Colleen Kottke. Judge's Comments: I never thought I would care so much about goat milk. But now I do — piece was well-written, well-reported and very well executed. The State Farmer has some excellent journalists on its staff.

Third Place: *Lake Country Now*, 'Several Milwaukee area schools have education foundations. Here's what they do and why they're important' - Alec Johnson. Judge's Comments: We hear about foundations all the time. This story took the time to explain them without too much fanfare and

allowed the reader to see how the sausage gets made. Good reporting, well written.

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'A Classified Ad and An Observant Neighbor Reunite A Man and his Turtle' - Debra Fitzgerald. Judge's Comments: I am a sucker for lost turtle stories. It was never going to be more than it was and the reporter knew it — took the facts, made me care and created a piece that will stay with me for longer than composting the paper will. Good job.

Competition Comments: Overall, good efforts. Nice to see so many solid journalists are out there doing the job, day in and day out.

Division D

First Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, 'VFW to honor Ashland's 'Doolittle Raider' - Rick Olivo. Judge's Comments: These guys are heroes and this type of history needs to be told and told well...good job.

Second Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Social media helps get Douglas County dog home' - Maria Lockwood. Judge's Comments: Animal stories with happy endings are always a good feature. Solid writing.

Third Place: *Price County Review*, 'Oxbo kicks off summer with 41st Tick Races' - Tom LaVenture. Judge's Comments: Good story on a very unique festival. I've got some ticks here that might do well.

Honorable Mention: *The Monroe Times*, 'Tango, a good boy, checks off items on bucket list' - Adam Krebs. Judge's Comments: Good animal feature with great pic of Tango.

Competition Comments: A lot of

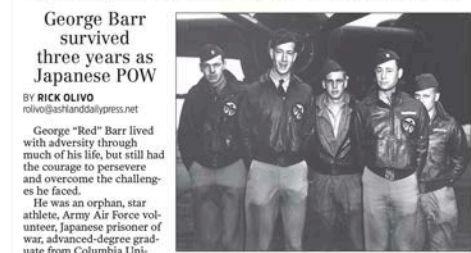
Feature Story (Non-profile), First Place (Division D) **Ashland Daily Press**

Feature Story (Profile), First Place (Division D) **Star-Observer, Hudson**

VFW to honor Ashland's 'Doolittle Raider'



Walter Gurske of the Sons of the American Legion (from left), Jackie Moore, Northland College director of alumni relations and annual giving, and Jason Janacek, commander of Chequamegon Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars, with a photo of George Barr in the Northland College yearbook. Barr participated in the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, and he will be remembered during an 80th anniversary memorial on April 18. (Rick Olivo/Staff photo)



Lt. George Barr, navigator (from left) Lt. William G. Farrow, pilot, Sgt. Harold A. Spatz, engineer-gunner, Lt. Robert L. Hite, co-pilot and Cpl. Jacob DeShazer, bombardier on the deck of the USS Hornet before their bomber took off to raid Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo)

home as an orphan, an upbringing that could have been the ruin of him, but instead, he wound up attending Northland College where he developed into a star athlete. He still is considered the finest basketball player the college has ever turned out. With a bright future still ahead of him, instead of

remaining in college, he left Northland while a senior and enlisted in the aviation cadet program of the U.S. Army Air Corps in February of 1941. He transferred to navigator training and received his wings on Dec. 6, 1941, one day before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

By RICK OLIVO
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'MY LIFE FLIPPED OVER'

Seventh grader rebuilds life after stroke



Maya Middle School seventh grader Ryan Dixon. "I would still love to play hockey," she says.

It was Dec. 30, 2020, that Ryan Dixon, 12, woke up in a hospital room. She had a stroke. She was paralyzed on the right side of her body. She couldn't move her right arm or leg. She couldn't speak. She couldn't see. She couldn't hear. She couldn't breathe. She couldn't think. She couldn't feel. She couldn't live. She couldn't survive.

She was in the hospital for three weeks. She was in the ICU for two weeks. She was in the rehab center for four weeks. She was in the home care center for six weeks. She was in the school for eight weeks. She was in the community for ten weeks. She was in the world for twelve weeks. She was in the life for fourteen weeks. She was in the love for sixteen weeks. She was in the hope for eighteen weeks. She was in the faith for twenty weeks. She was in the grace for twenty-two weeks. She was in the mercy for twenty-four weeks. She was in the kindness for twenty-six weeks. She was in the goodness for twenty-eight weeks. She was in the beauty for thirty weeks. She was in the joy for thirty-two weeks. She was in the peace for thirty-four weeks. She was in the love for thirty-six weeks. She was in the life for thirty-eight weeks. She was in the world for forty weeks. She was in the life for forty-two weeks. She was in the love for forty-four weeks. She was in the life for forty-six weeks. 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the “features” were more newsy than feature-ish, but the top Four were solid entries and definitely award winners.

Division E

First Place: *Oconto County Reporter*, ‘150 years ago, the deadliest wildfire in American history devastated

Peshtigo, northeast Wisconsin’ - Kent Tempus.

Second Place: *The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent*, ‘Pawsitive Impact: Therapy dog brings comfort at Deerfield schools’ - Lauren Henning.

Third Place: *The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent*, ‘Cambridge outdoor immersion program one of the first in state’ - Karyn Saemann.

Honorable Mention: *Courier Sentinel*, ‘Alwin sisters want Wisconsin hero to be remembered’ - Ginna Young.

world at Garden of Angels’ - Jonathan Shipley.

Judge’s Comments: Lovely writing elevates this article above all the others in this category. It was the clear winner. Congratulations.

Second Place: *Wausau Daily Herald*, ‘From Jamaica to northern Wisconsin: Sled-dog racer Newton Marshall’s epic journey’ - Keith Uhlig.

Third Place: *Marshfield News-Herald*, ‘Kyle Keding went to prison for supplying the heroin that killed a man. He’s out now, facing new challenges and sharing his story.’ - Keith Uhlig.

Feature Story (Profile)

Division A

First Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, ‘How Pippa Pepper, the ‘itty bitty flower shop kitty’ at Petal Pusher in Green Bay, went from a stray to a social media sweetheart’ - Kendra Meinert.

Second Place: *The Post-Crescent*, ‘You just won big on Draft Kings, what are you going to do? Appleton man started Locally Sauced food truck with a Facebook friend’ - Daniel Higgins.

Third Place: *The Cap Times*, ‘Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu legislates out of the limelight’ - Jack Kelly.

Honorable Mention: *Wisconsin State Journal*, ‘Dumpster diver dishes the dirt on fortunate finds’ - Samara Kalk.

Division B

First Place: *Baraboo News Republic*, ‘Planting seeds of hope in a troubled

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Town Clerk steps away after 25 years’ - Julie Huotari.

Judge’s Comments: Yay, a good, complete, interesting story, newsy and folksy at the same time. Great read, wonderful family! Excellent writing as well.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Lemmer establishes Monarch Butterfly Waystation in Hazelhurst’ - Julie Huotari.

Judge’s Comments: Great story, very personal, informative with great photos and layout! Just one person contributing to an important ecological solution.

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, ‘Man and machine: Veteran reunited with helicopter in Eagle River’ - Eric Johnson.

Judge’s Comments: Story that not only illuminates one man’s life, but at the same time teaches us history.

Honorable Mention: *Vilas County News-Review*, ‘Loon rescue is a combined effort’ - Stephanie Dye. Judge’s Comments: Great story, but

SUNDAYLIFE

The ‘itty bitty flower shop kitty’

How Petal Pusher’s Pippa Pepper went from a stray to a social media sweetheart



As the shop cat at Petal Pusher, Pippa Pepper gladly accepts belly rubs, photo requests and tips for the Wisconsin Humane Society-Green Bay Campus. She’s also happy to sit in on wedding consultations at the Broadway District floral studio. SARAH KLOEPPING/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Kendra Meinert Green Bay Press-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY — You’ll find Pippa Pepper working the front counter at Petal Pusher most every day, unless there are beams. • Then all bets are off. • The cat whose business card reads “itty bitty flower shop kitty” sees to it that her schedule revolves around, well, her — this is a cat story after all — but also the sun. • If there’s sunshine coming through the storefront entrance along downtown’s Broadway, she’s soaking it up from the comforts of a miniature swing chair decorated with a garland of handmade paper hearts and strategically positioned on the floor for maximum rays. The sunbathing is so blissful in that little cocoon of coziness she’s oblivious to the brisk February drafts that come along in the door with customers or the ringing phones as Valentine’s Day, the shop’s busiest day of the year, nears. See KITTY, Page 2D

Feature Story (Profile), First Place (Division A)
Green Bay Press-Gazette

you should have found out whether the loon reunited with its mate!
Competition Comments: The great writing in these four selections stands out among the rest.

Division D

First Place: *Star-Observer*, ‘MY LIFE FLIPPED OVER’/Seventh grader rebuilds life after stroke’ - Jim Johnson.

Judge’s Comments: Great interview about a life-changing experience.

The writer did a great job of bringing this story to life.

Second Place: *The Star News*, ‘The smallest changes make the biggest difference’ - Emily Gojmerac.

Judge’s Comments: A fantastic interview provides a glimpse into a world not many people can comprehend.

Third Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Not standing still: Local dancer documents her paralysis, recovery’ - Judge’s Comments: A well told story about a person who refused to give up on her dreams.

Honorable Mention: *Superior Telegram*, ‘A heartfelt handful: John “Doc” Lange remembered for his giving ways’ - Maria Lockwood.

Judge’s Comments: Great interviews and multiple sources made for an excellent read. A very well written piece.

Division E

First Place: *Washington Island Observer*, ‘Islander brings camaraderie and connection with Heroes’ Hunt’ - Emily Small.

Judge’s Comments: Great use of observation and description. Good use of individuals to profile an organization.

Second Place: *New London Press Star*, ‘Student profile transcends generations’ - John Faucher.

Judge’s Comments: Nice solid piece. Wanted to know even more about Phyllis. Why is she retiring?

Third Place: *Sun Prairie Star*, ‘Murphy honored with Lifetime Excellence Award after thriving through adversity’ - Jeromey Hodsdon.

Judge’s Comments: Solid piece about a graduate who had to change his lifestyle to cope with a medical condition.

Honorable Mention: *Courier Sentinel*, ‘Young claims the world deadlift record’ - Ginna Young.

Judge’s Comments: Good quotes, nicely focused piece about the woman’s accomplishments and how they came about.

Competition Comments: In all the winning entries, I wanted to keep reading - especially when they

quoted people....people are usually the key to any profile. Some entries provided lots of history, but with seldom any attributions and NO quotes. I want to hear what real people have to say.

Localized National Story

Division A

First Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, ‘Completely overwhelmed’: Fentanyl, pandemic fuel record opioid overdose deaths’ - David Wahlberg.

Second Place: *The Journal Times*, ‘The War in Ukraine, and it’s Racine connections’ - Dee Hölzel, Adam Rogan, Rachel Kubik.

Third Place: *USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin*, ‘If Roe is overturned, Wisconsin law would

allow abortion only ‘to save the life of the mother.’ Doctors say it’s not always so clear-cut.’ - Madeline Heim.

Honorable Mention: *The Post-Crescent*, ‘Child care providers scramble, take on new roles as infant formula shortage continues’ - Madison Lammert.

Division B

First Place: *Beloit Daily News*, ‘Closing ‘loophole’ in gun law may impact domestic violence’ - Sara Myers.

Judge’s Comments: Really great job of presenting the data in a way that is simple to understand.

This story was well researched and incredibly well written. Although guns being used in homicides more often than any other weapon seems obvious, the writer does a great job of including statistics to drive home the point. Using the local cases along with statewide data really localizes the national issue for the reader. This could be a textbook example for the category. Also, the compelling quote at the end resonates well. Excellent choice for the ending.

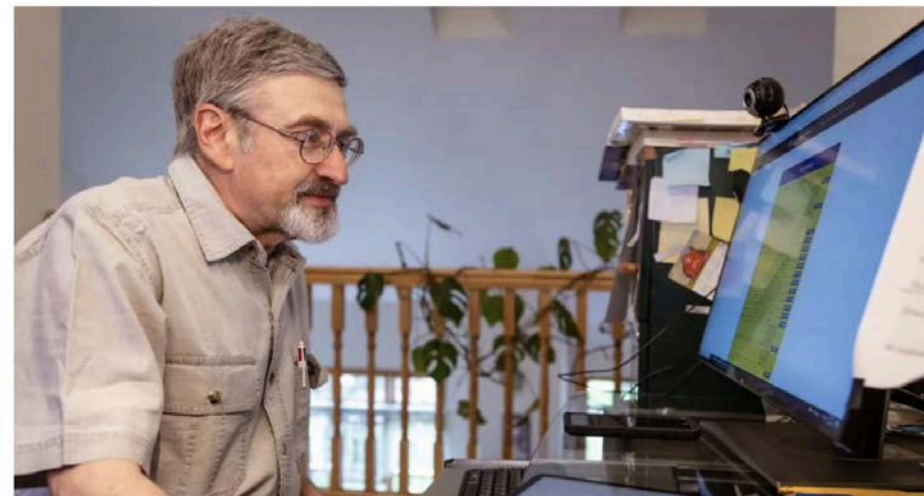
Second Place: *The Freeman*, ‘Roe v. Wade overturned: Wisconsin reacts to landmark court ruling’ - Hunter Turpin.

Judge’s Comments: Fantastic front-page coverage. Love the inclusion of the ‘Sound Off’ box garnering more reactions. Important issue, well covered.

Third Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, ‘What do you do when 3,000 hamburger patties don’t show up? School districts face COVID-19-related food shortages’ - Patti Zarling.

Making the connection: UWS professor launches tutoring platform for Ukrainian students

Tutoring Without Borders is available to any Ukrainian student, from those in elementary school to those in university.



Localized National Story, First Place (Division D)
 Superior Telegram

Judge's Comments: What a genius story idea! And I love the headline. The reporter does a good job keeping the reader engaged throughout the story.

Honorable Mention: *Wausau Daily Herald*, 'Wausau is facing an 'affordable housing crisis.' Here's what is being done to address it.' - Emalyn Muzzy.

Judge's Comments: I love addressing the larger issue through the telling of a local person's story. Really well done.

Competition Comments: There were so many great entries, it was incredibly tough to choose. I would have like to have awarded at least three more and Honorable Mention.

Division C

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Processing America's Withdrawal from Afghanistan' - Debra Fitzgerald.

Judge's Comments: This story shows strong research, storytelling, and brings a personal, local lens to a big national story: the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Excellent work.

Second Place: *Ladysmith News*, 'Family describes being taken hostage in Haiti; Hostage describes plan to escape gang in Haiti; Hostages slip past guards; with God their guide' - Luke Klink.

Judge's Comments: The sheer work associated with this story by Luke Klink demonstrates excellence in gaining trust of sources, and the

time and focus of telling a story that has an "edge of your seat" quality. Kidnapping in foreign countries isn't focused on very much. This story with local ties is incredible. Great job.

Third Place: *Wausau Pilot and Review*, 'Wausau ranks higher in income inequality compared to Wisconsin' - Shereen Siewert. Judge's Comments: Great job localizing a critical foundation to the issue of inequality in America: access to economic opportunity. (And by the way, it's related to Shereen Siewert's story on real estate inflation). Nice job.

Honorable Mention: *The Press Times*, 'Ukrainian crisis hits home for two NDA exchange students' - Nick Bumgardner.

Judge's Comments: Just a solid, well-done story about how war hits home, even when it's happening across the world. Nice work.

9/11 survivors to Manitowoc stage; Timeline ticks through a terrible morning' - Todd Bergmann.

Judge's Comments: Great collection of stories noting the 20th anniversary of the great national tragedy.

Honorable Mention: *The Herald-Independent and The McFarland Thistle*, 'Qualify to the dollar' - Lauren Henning.

Judge's Comments: Great conclusion reminding us of the stigma of being poor, and a good suggestion about eliminating that stigma as it comes to school lunch.

Competition Comments: Heartening to see the coverage of the Ukrainian war from a local perspective.

Division E

First Place: *The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent*, 'Living in a war zone' - Madeline Westberg.

Judge's Comments: An expansive coverage of a former exchange student who returned to his nation of Ukraine and became involved in the war there. He remembers being in the USA and is now heavily involved in raising contributions to assist Ukraine residents. Nice local stories on the Ukraine war. The stories have a local angle, are relevant and timeliness, and writing and clarity show through. Much thought and interviews went into these stories. A significant work effort to produce the stories.

Second Place: *The Northwoods River News*, 'Paying it forward: Olympic champion Baumgartner using victory tour to inspire next generation' - Jeremy Mayo. Judge's Comments: Excellent story. The writer caught my attention at

CAMBRIDGE Living in a war zone

A former Cambridge High School exchange student from Ukraine shares his experience with the ongoing war in Ukraine, fundraises with local support

By Madeline Westberg
mwestberg@tngnews.com

A former Cambridge High School exchange student from Ukraine has partnered with a fellow CHS alum to raise more than \$10,000 for medical supplies and ambulances in Ukraine during the ongoing Russian invasion.

Kyrylo Beskorovayny, "Ky," was one of four exchange students to live in Cambridge in 2011 for a year-long residency, as part of the Future Leaders Exchange Program.

Now, Ky is living in a war zone, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022.

After the start of the invasion, Ky began fundraising for medical supplies to support his hometown of Chernihiv, in the northern part of Ukraine. In addition to working with a group of alumni from his exchange program who studied in the U.S., Ky teamed up with former CHS classmate Augie McGinnity-Wake of Cambridge.

The group has fundraised for two ambulances, night vision scopes and countless medical supplies, totaling more than \$10,000.

The former exchange student has shared memories of his time in Wisconsin, and his experience with the early days of the invasion, with the Cambridge News/Deerfield



Kyrylo Beskorovayny, a Ukrainian man who spent an exchange year in Cambridge, was the first exchange student to participate in a Cambridge High School musical. Pictured above are members of the cast of the 2010-11 CHS musical.

Independent.

For more information on Ky's fundraising successes, see next week's edition of the Cambridge News/Deerfield Independent.

A year in Cambridge
During his year studying abroad in Cambridge, Ky

joined the Cambridge High School choir, went to school events, made friends with other students and even gave a graduation speech that left audiences laughing for a full minute.

"I was 15 back then, and I've never been away from home

so long, and I met a lot of very cool people."

"I grew very much during that year. (It) taught me responsibility and how to manage different situations, when you're sad, when you're happy, when you don't have friends at first," and living in a new

country," he continued.

He was the first exchange student to ever take part in the Cambridge High School musical.

And he tried baseball for the first time, a sport he hadn't played in Ukraine.

"I wasn't good but it was a lot of fun," Ky said.

"I couldn't take ceramics in Ukraine for instance in a curriculum, but I could in the United States. I had my locker...I had a dog, which I also didn't have before," Ky said. "I have great memories about teachers' like Larry Wilson, Joy Burchard and others.

During his year in Cambridge, Ky grew close with CHS alum Augie McGinnity-Wake. The pair kept in touch after Ky moved back to Ukraine, visiting each other in Cambridge, Washington D.C. and Kyiv.

After leaving Cambridge, Ky founded a Ukrainian popular science media company, *Kunshit*, accessible at kunshit.com. It began as a print magazine and migrated online in 2019.

When Russian forces invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Ky was living in Kyiv.

"We woke up on the 24th of February because we heard bombs," Ky said. "We heard some news that the war might break, but we didn't believe until the end that it (would). Just in case, we had our emergency backpacks ready."

See KY, Page A2

Division D

First Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Making the connection: UWS professor launches tutoring platform for Ukrainian students' - Maria Lockwood.

Judge's Comments: What a great story about helping Ukrainian schoolkids using online learning with local professors. Haven't see a story like this happening anywhere else. Great reporting.

Second Place: *The Boscobel Dial*, 'Worker and housing shortages' - Joe Hart.

Judge's Comments: Well written explanation of a national problem as it impacts the readers of this paper.

Third Place: *The Valdres Journal*, '9/11: Teddy Bears and Silver Linings; Actors bring words of

Localized National Story, First Place (Division E)

The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent

the beginning of the story and kept it throughout. The story of the 46-year old Olympic champion and what all he had to go through for several years was worthwhile and interesting. And now he is telling others what it took and how they should keep trying. Obviously the story meets the criteria outlined for the entry and shows some good questions and taking of notes for the reporter.

Third Place: *Tribune Press Reporter*, 'Son of WWII veteran visits Glenwood City to honor Ellen Ainsworth' - Carlton DeWitt, LeAnn Ralph.

Judge's Comments: A man doomed to die in World War II was saved by the action of a woman who was killed while helping him visited in Wisconsin to honor the woman. The man, whose side was ripped out and his insides damaged, survived due to Ellen Ainsworth and traveled over several states to visit the woman's hometown and tell his story.

An interesting local angle with community relevance, timeliness, quality of writing and clarity. The story became a major local news.

Honorable Mention: *Washington Island Observer*, 'Where are they now? Island upbringing inspires innovative policing strategy' - Emily Small.

Judge's Comments: Good story. Police and law enforcement are a national story, and in this case a policeman has come up with a solution that seems to work. Instead of being a warrior, be helpful and kind, and he outlines a program of doing this. It is receiving a national recommendation and been introduced elsewhere. Clearly, this story shows the criteria of community relevance, local angle,

timeliness, quality of writing and clarity. I like the information provided and was drawn to the story.

Competition Comments: Some excellent stories, and I had to read several again in choosing the winners. In some contests, the three or four winners automatically stand out. Not so in this contests. Several stood out, so congratulations to those stories. Interesting in the contest is the number of stories that involve a local person coming to town or living there briefly and leaving to become a part of a national story. Some writers did excellent work in questioning people and gathering information to make the local story something to read. Those are seen in the winners and also occurred in some other stories.

Sports News Story

Division A

First Place: *Kenosha News*, 'The comeback kids: Westosha Central advances to first state tournament since 2002' - Mike Ramczyk.

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'Derek Gray's death jolts Madison La Follette, UW-Whitewater communities' - Jon Masson.

Third Place: *La Crosse Tribune*, 'High school wrestling: Jaida Harshman rose to the occasion for the Vikings' - Todd Sommerfeldt.

Honorable Mention: *The Journal Times*, 'The Knock came in Mount Pleasant' - Mark Hertzberg.

Division B

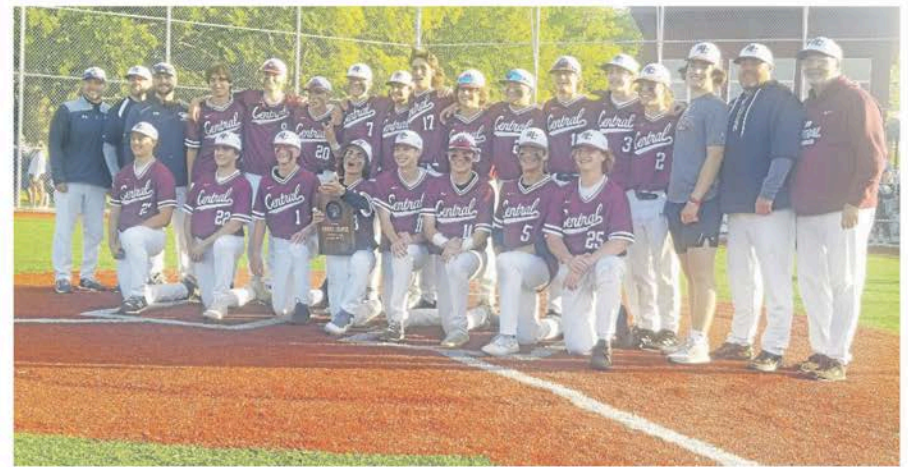
First Place: *The Freeman*, 'Best in state' - Dave Radcliffe.

Second Place: *The Freeman*,

'Northstars win in wild finish' - Michael Grennell.

Third Place: *Portage Daily Register*,

'Magic still remains: Oregon boys basketball rallies for all-time classic win over DeForest' - Sean Davis.



The Central baseball team poses with its WIAA Division 1 sectional championship trophy Tuesday after beating Franklin 5-4 in the sectional final at Bradford's Wavro Field. The Falcons became the sixth straight Southern Lakes Conference team to win the sectional and advance to state.

The comeback kids

Westosha Central advances to first state tournament since 2002

MIKE RAMCZYK
KENOSHA NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The comeback kids did it again. This time, it meant overcoming a 4-0 deficit thanks largely to a ball lost in the sun.

But when freak plays or unfortunate follies didn't malign Adam Switalski and the Westosha Central Falcons, they proved they're the best WIAA Division 1 baseball team in southeastern Wisconsin. The Falcons defeated Franklin 5-4 in a sectional championship Tuesday at Kenosha Bradford High School.

Switalski dazzled with 5²/₃ strong innings pitching, and his two-out, two-run single in a four-run fourth sent Westosha to its first state tournament since 2002.

The funny thing about that team 20 years ago is that Jeremy McGinn and the boys won it all.

Now, Jeremy's brother Nick, another Falcon baseball legend, and head coach Jacob Morman's bunch become the sixth consecutive Southern Lakes Conference squad to make it to state.

The two comeback wins in a matter of three hours is nothing new.

"It feels great, I love the competition," said Seth Brankey, who earned the victory pitching in the first game Tuesday then earned the save in the nightcap. "Coming from down 4-0 to win is big. A lot of adversity today."

Switalski, who will pitch for Indiana University next season, was emotional moments after the sectional final.

He was prepared during his game-winning at-bat.

"I've faced him before and I



Westosha Central senior shortstop Jack Rose, left, and head coach Jacob Morman celebrate after rallying to defeat Franklin 5-4 in a WIAA Division 1 sectional championship game Tuesday at Kenosha Bradford.

MIKE RAMCZYK, KENOSHA NEWS CORRESPONDENT

knew he was going to throw a fastball first pitch, he did, and I put a good swing on it."

"I'm really proud of this team, someone tweeted out 'NO QUIT' about our team in game one, and it's so true."

Morman said the team is gritty, and he knew the guys had the capability to come back from such a large hole.

He said guys continued to have key, quality at-bats when they could've hung their heads.

"It's fitting, because we've been doing it all season," Morman said about their sixth comeback victory of the season.

"Two in one day. This team believes they're always in a game, and they chipped away. It's a special group of guys."

Morman added Tuesday's sectional final was the best pitching performance of the season from Switalski, the staff ace.

"Phenomenal today," Mor-

man said. "He was dialed in. You could see the competitive fire in his eyes. This was the best he's pitched. He wanted the spotlight and did exactly what an ace is supposed to do."

Westosha will wait to see who and what time the Falcons will play in the state tournament, which opens Tuesday and lasts through Thursday at Fox Cities Stadium in Appleton, the home of the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers.

Morman feels confident the guys can keep their momentum going.

"Every guy on this team has a role, and when you're called upon, you do your job," he said. "We'll see, we just have to keep playing good baseball."

"The character of the group makes me think we can win. They don't quit, they're tight-knit, they do it for each other. Jack Rose could be up playing D1 basketball right now, but he's

here because this means something to him. They've been special all year in terms of character, and that's what separates this team from other teams."

Westosha Central 2, Oak Creek 1 (9 innings)

Nick Argersinger hit a walk-off game-winning hit by Keegan Kearby only a few minutes after throwing out a runner at home plate to preserve a one-run deficit in Tuesday's sectional semifinal against Oak Creek.

Please see CENTRAL, Page C3

WATCH: To see the game-winning hit by Central to win against Oak Creek in the WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinals, scan this QR code with your smartphone and follow the link [NEWSVU](#)

Sports News Story, First Place (Division A)
Kenosha News

Honorable Mention: *Daily Citizen*, 'Playing for a classmate' - Mark McMullen.

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Shootout superstars win two instant classics' - Brett LaBore.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Gibraltar Falls in Madison' - Myles Dannhausen Jr..

Third Place: *The Press Times*, 'Jorgenson field goal wins it for De Pere' - Greg Bates.

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'DCU Girls Swimmers Seek to Build on Past Successes' - Kevin Boneske.

Division D

First Place: *NEW Media*, 'Area athletes compete in state wrestling tournament' - Morgan Rode.

Judge's Comments: A lot of strong, consistent coverage of many facets from an event. Great writing and quotes. Well done!

Second Place: *The Valders Journal*, 'Valders runners storm Wisconsin Rapids with power (2 stories under common headline)' - Brian Thomsen.

Judge's Comments: Great quotes and nice flow to the story. Very good lede. Excellent coverage with several quote sources.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Prep softball: Revenge-minded Superior blanks Proctor for LSC title' - Jamey Malcomb.

Judge's Comments: Good quotes from many sources. Excellent insight into the team. Great writing flow.

Honorable Mention: *Star-Observer*, 'An international CHAMPION/ Somerset grad Goldstein wins gold

medal in Israel' - Dave Newman.
Judge's Comments: A unique angle on an interesting story. Good lede and quotes.

Competition Comments: I had such a difficult time narrowing it down to just four. Great stories with interesting events and different angles to what could be a standard story. Great job by all.

Division E

First Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'One last hurrah! Ernst announces he will step down at end of season after 32-year career at Ripon College' - Jonathan Bailey.

Second Place: *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, 'History made in Highland' - Zach Rastall.

Third Place: *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, 'Royally Upset' - Zach Rastall.

Honorable Mention: *Sun Prairie Star*, 'Sun Prairie East soars past West in rivalry opener' - Ryan Gregory.

Sports Feature Story

Division A

First Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'How Oregon senior Yordanos Zelinski's route to running excellence began in Ethiopia' - Jon Masson.

Judge's Comments: Great story! Love the quotes, the flow and the narrative. The lede and ending are spot on. Excellent work!

Second Place: *La Crosse Tribune*, 'WATCH NOW: Bone Twister looks to defend title in Tomah tractor pull' - Steve Rudio.

Judge's Comments: A nice unique story, that is short and sweet. Nice quotes with an interesting angle to a story.

Third Place: *La Crosse Tribune*, 'NBA: Family sendoff for Johnny Davi' - Todd Sommerfeldt.

Judge's Comments: Good story with great lede and an excellent ending. I

enjoyed reading this piece
Honorable Mention: *La Crosse Tribune*, 'UW-La Crosse football: Getting snaps on both sides of the ball, Brad Tobin is the 'heartbeat' of the Eagles' - Eric Lee.

Judge's Comments: Excellent lede. Nice job moving the narrative to give a good flow to the story. Fun piece.

Competition Comments: Great stories depicting individual accomplishments, events and unique stories. I enjoyed reading them, and it was difficult to narrow it down to just four.

Division B

First Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Nothing short of miraculous': Kiel's Kenzie Koppenhaver back on soccer team three months after coma' - Tom Dombeck.

Judge's Comments: Kenzie was knocked unconscious in a car wreck, was out two weeks with folks thinking she wouldn't revive, and then the doctor asked what sport she liked and her face lit up when soccer was mentioned. The coach was allowed to visit her and said she had great determination. Then, three months later, she was at spring practice. She could not play but enjoyed working with the team. The writer included several quotes to aid the feature. Obviously a feature of originality and has quality writing. No doubt this was a story that appealed to readers.

Second Place: *Portage Daily Register*, 'Pillar behind the plate: Portage native Steve Rohrbeck remains model of consistency in umpiring' - Sean Davis.

Judge's Comments: Strong lead for the story and the information



One last hurrah!

Ernst announces he will step down at end of season after 32-year career at Ripon College

By Jonathan Bailey
jbailey@ripontimes.com

In 1991, a young Ron Ernst noticed a head coaching vacancy for football at Wartburg College in Iowa.

He called Wartburg about the position, but was told that while he looks great on paper, the school already has somebody in mind in a guy who used to coach there and who's currently coaching at another college.

It was then that a light bulb went on for Ernst that if that coach was at another job and going to be leaving, another position would be opening up.

That position just happened to be Ripon College.

Ernst took over for Bob Nielson, who left for Wartburg College, in 1991 and the rest is history as Ernst has gone on to record the most victories (184) in Ripon College and Midwest Conference history.

Now, entering his 32nd year at the helm, Ernst announced this season will be his final season. He made that decision official Wednesday, after informing the returning players this past January and newcomers and parents Tuesday.

Ernst will be succeeded as head coach by former player Jake Marshall '10, who has been on the coaching staff since December 2016 and currently serves as the associate head coach and offensive coordinator. He was hired with the intent of eventually taking over when

Ernst decided it was time to retire.

"It was a very hard decision," Ernst said of his decision to step away. "It's something that has weighed on my mind since the end of last season. Why now? I can't tell you. I don't know why. It just feels like this is the right time. ... I'm going to leave the program a hell of a lot better than what it was when I found it."

During his head coaching career at Ripon, Ernst led the Red Hawks to a record of 184-113 (.64) winning percentage. His teams finished .500 or better in 26 of his seasons and captured three Midwest Conference North Division titles (1995, 1996 and 1997) and two Midwest Conference Championships (1996 and 2001).

He was named Midwest Conference Coach of the Year in 1996, when he led the team to a school-record nine-win season. He also has been named the NCAA Division III Region 5 Coach of the Year (1995) and the Wisconsin Football Private College Coach of the Year on three occasions (2001, 2008 and 2010).

In 2006, Ernst was inducted into the Ripon College Hall of Fame and in March 2009, he earned a spot in the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Ernst's early beginnings
Ernst grew up in Hastings, Neb. He graduated

See HURRAHback page

Sports Feature Story, First Place (Division E)
Ripon Commonwealth Press

provided shows why the lead enticed the reader into the feature. The umpire is an awesome worker, and quotes throughout the story show what all the man does. The umpire is liked, loves the kids, and is known for the amount of information he knows in sports. Plus, he is capable of bringing others when work is needed. Story written well, has an awesome subject, and treats the feature with care. You can't stop reading the feature.

Third Place: *The Freeman*, 'A trailblazer on the mat' - Dave Radcliffe.

Judge's Comments: She won the matches and is going to the state tournament. Not the girls state, the men's. She wrestled with the men's team and won her trip to state and she has decided to skip the girls tournament, which is run at the same time, to go to the men as the number 10 seed. Aside from the originality of this event-she is the first girls to qualify for the men's top event-she is winning notification from others. The story is well written and is sprinkled with quality quotes. The writer wins a pin on this story.

Honorable Mention: *Wausau Daily Herald*, 'It just lifts everybody up': Teen pushes her brother's wheelchair in cross-country races, and people are taking notice' - Keith Uhlig.

Judge's Comments: The girl pushing her brother in a wheelchair in cross country races admits she doesn't finish last in races, and this feature isn't last either. A great story on how these two teenagers became runners and the problem of getting into races. They start at the end of the starting runners but the girl says she sometimes passes runners anyway

and they don't finish last. Quality writing, some interesting quotes, and loads of information on people who run. An unusual treatment in the story, and it is put together so that the reader becomes interested in reading it.

Competition Comments: I found a variety of stories and many that I enjoyed reading. Among the interesting stories were several that had unusual situations or were the situation had an interesting or unusual outcome. The winners were among those. Hearing the word soccer awoke her, she joined the team later, though not playing, and the team won the national contest. The umpire, known for umpiring several sports, would often show up when an ump was needed. The girl wrestler chose the men's tournament, became the first girl in the state to make the tournament, and was ranked No. 10. The girl pushing her brother, who had a disease and could not talk to her, made sure she never finished last. Other stories had similar tales. How could you not like reading all these stories.

Division C

First Place: *News Graphic*, 'A most unlikely state appearance' - Aaron Carlson.

Judge's Comments: This one made me smile. Go Wiley! I don't know a lot about tennis, but this well-written piece made me cheer for this duo. Someone, please, turn this into a movie.

Second Place: *Wausau Pilot and Review*, 'Live to fight another day': Stratford native Mason Kauffman overcomes adversity in quest for return trip to NCAA Wrestling

Championships' - Mitchell Skurzewski, Shereen Siewert.

Judge's Comments: Wrestlers are a different breed - and the writer of this story brought out the grit, dedication and sheer toughness of this young man. Great job!

Third Place: *Monroe County Herald*, 'Tales of Redemption and Revenge' - Zach Rastall.

Judge's Comments: Never, ever give up. This is a story that had to be told. This young athlete learned a great lesson in perseverance and patience. An enjoyable read.

Honorable Mention: *The Press Times*, 'A season lost, and a life saved' - Greg Bates.

Division D

First Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Superior's only baseball Hall of Famer headlines new exhibit' - Shelley Nelson.

Judge's Comments: Excellent writing. Enjoyable read. Well done!

Second Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Prep football: Superior's Rick 'Stan' Kennelly to be inducted into Wisconsin coaching hall of fame' - Jon Nowacki.

Judge's Comments: This could've easily been first, also. Strong writing.

Third Place: *Amery Free Press*, 'Shocking' story of 45 year wait for Packers season tickets' - April Ziemer.

Judge's Comments: I absolutely love this story! What a wait for season tickets! Heartfelt. Thorough. Fun.

Honorable Mention: *Superior Telegram*, 'Inline skating: Superior's Cragin has skated every NorthShore Inline Marathon and isn't stopping now' - Jon Nowacki.

Judge's Comments: Another strong story. The topic caught my attention.

Division E

First Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, '50 years since Title IX: Coll, Landerman reflect on evolution of women's sports since law went into effect' - Jonathan Bailey.

Judge's Comments: Well done feature about the evolution of Title IX sports at a local college. Enticing lead and good flow throughout the story.

Second Place: *Sun Prairie Star*, 'Jeff Boos steps down as boys basketball coach' - Ryan Gregory.

Judge's Comments: Good balance in a story about a long-time basketball coach stepping down. What I really liked about it was the balance between his decision to step down and what it means and his history as a coach, with a larger focus on the former. Not bad at all.

Third Place: *The Northwoods River News*, 'A team and its rooster: Unusual mascot helps propel Hodag harriers to state meet' - Jeremy Mayo.

Judge's Comments: Quirky story about an unusual team mascot for a local cross country team: A rooster statue. The topic makes it stand out from the pack, or should I say flock?

Honorable Mention: *The Tribune-Phonograph*, 'Former rivals now teammates at UW-SP' - Ross Pattermann.

Judge's Comments: Pleasant story about high school football rivals playing together on a college football team after a long hiatus from football because of Covid. Stands out because of the unusual angle for the story.

Competition Comments: There were some well done stories about local teams making playoffs, but what stood out were stories from the unusual suspects. There

features about outstanding teams or outstanding performances are important and were interesting, but in a competition, it is the usual that tends to stand out. Continue the important stories about local successes, but continue to look hard at the unusual side of sports, too.

Breaking News Reporting

Division A

First Place: *The Journal Times*, 'A police shooting, and then a shooting at the cemetery' - Mark Hertzberg, Adam Rogan, Dee Hölzel, Ryan Patterson.

Judge's Comments: Fantastic, in-depth coverage of an incredibly unfortunate series of events. I applaud you for your use of sidebars and photo galleries.

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'They tried to kill him': Family says state officer shot Black man 5 times in the back in Madison; Suspect shot during arrest on Far East Side, authorities say; Day after man shot in 'critical incident,' police won't say if it was police who shot him' - Emily Hamer, Chris Rickert.

Judge's Comments: Good usage of quotes from the family.

Third Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Quadren Wilson shooting' - Allison Garfield.

Judge's Comments: Great accumulation of quotes, including from the former sheriff about the process.

Honorable Mention: *The Post-Crescent*, '14-year-old Chippewa Falls boy arrested in Lily Peters homicide, ordered held on \$1

million bail' - Chris Mueller.
Judge's Comments: This story shows the importance of local journalism to a community.

Division B

First Place: *The Freeman*, 'Heartbreaking: coverage of Waukesha parade tragedy' - Nikki Brahm, Jake Ekdahl, Derek Johnson & Staff.

Judge's Comments: It would be tough to have better coverage than this series of stories. Terrible event, but clearly a story with strong news value, and it was presented to the

readers with clarity of writing and style with ample coverage. Several stories, several sources, quotes, and much information for the reader. Would not have liked having this story but I would have been pleased if my staff covered as your did here. Good work.

Second Place: *Daily Citizen*, 'Baby Theresa case gets an update' - Terri Pederson.

Judge's Comments: Second story immediately follows the initial story, and both contain solid news value, writing clarity and style, and depth of reporting and immediacy.

In addition, a related story deals with the same topic. The depth of reporting includes information about DNA testing, following up on the data, and contacts included. Reporter did well with the story. Has reader interest.

Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Sheboygan Falls police say they're investigating mother's assault of her 8-year-old child, who they found unresponsive' - Maya Hilty, Brandon Reid, Kelli Arseneau, Gary Klein.

Judge's Comments: A news story that continued over several days.

It began as a story about a mother beating her 8-year-old son and then he died and she was charged in his death. Many elements in the story, which has local news value, has clarity and clear writing, and competent reporting and immediacy. Included are areas such as mental condition of the mother. Good sources and quotes. Good coverage of the fire. It notes that the start of the fire is clear but no reason is known for why the fire started. Interesting that one quote notes that the wind situation helped keep the fire becoming larger. No doubt, this is a story of local news value. It is with clarity and style and has ample reporting. Good reporting and ample information.


Honorable Mention: *EagleHerald*, 'Huge fire takes team effort' - Dan Kitkowski.

Judge's Comments: Good coverage of the fire. It notes that the start of the fire is clear but no reason is known for why the fire started. Interesting that one quote notes that the wind situation helped keep the fire becoming larger. No doubt, this is a story of local news value. It is with clarity and style and has

MAY 20 FATAL POLICE SHOOTING

100 protesters in Racine demand release of shooting footage, which likely won't be public for months

Dee Hölzel Jun 9, 2022 8



About 100 people, young and old, gathered to protest Thursday outside the Racine Police Department and, as shown here, on Wisconsin Avenue outside the Racine County Courthouse.
Alex Rodriguez

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Dee Hölzel

RACINE — About 100 family and friends of Da'Shontay King, as well as other community members and at least four elected officials, marched from the Racine Police Department to the Racine County Courthouse on Thursday to demand the release of the body camera footage of King's death.

Breaking News Reporting, First Place (Division A)
The Journal Times, Racine

ample reporting. Good reporting and ample information.

Competition Comments: In this category I would expect some interesting or unusual stories. And, indeed, I found some good stories. Of note would be finding the type of coverage provided, the sources used, some quality quotes, and ample evidence of seeding and providing information. With breaking news it is important to give the readers information and attempt to answer questions they may have. The best stories did this. I acknowledge that I read some of the stories more than once in deciding on the winners. The category had a good set of entries.

Division C

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘One Dead, One Missing in Butch’s Bar Fire; Second Body Recovered; Lighter Fluid Suspected Cause; Judge Doesn’t Budge; The Best of Butch’s’ - Debra Fitzgerald.
 Judge’s Comments: This series went above and beyond, and really evoked a sense of the place that was lost in an early morning fire: two lives, an iconic dive bar, and the affordable housing above the bar for tenants who were all “on the far downside of luck.”

Second Place: *Northwest Now*, ‘Waukesha Parade Tragedy Coverage’ - Cathy Kozlowicz, Alex Groth, Bob Dohr, Evan Casey.
 Judge’s Comments: Full of moving and memorable stories about the people affected by the mass shooting at the Waukesha parade.

Third Place: *Ladysmith News*, ‘Ladysmith school evacuated after bomb scare call’ - Luke Klink.
 Judge’s Comments: Interesting

story with good level of detail and with good perspective, including an examination of other recent threats to schools.

Honorable Mention: *Wisconsin State Farmer*, ‘Town of Palmyra neighbors fear unknown in avian flu composting operation’ - Colleen Kottke, Amber Burke.
 Judge’s Comments: Very well written.

Division D

First Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Fire destroys historic Bayfield building, damages another; Running toward the flames; Bayfield fire victims struggle to find homes’ - Rick Olivo, Peter Wasson.
 Judge’s Comments: Appreciated

the way that staff followed up on the original fire stories with feature stories on the first responder who alerted residents and on the difficulty displaced residents have had with finding other affordable housing options. Well written, with memorable details and without sentimentality.

Second Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Mushers rally after dog team run down’ - Peter Wasson.

Judge’s Comments: This story was well told, with economy of language and excellent pacing.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, ‘Warehouse fires’ - Staff.

Judge’s Comments: Fascinating stories about two historic buildings destroyed in a fire in the city of Superior. Excellent detail.

Wisconsin legislator Shae Sortwell was referred for felony child abuse in 2013 before elected, but was never charged

aid he used an object to punish his child, as the Bible instructed. He now sits on the final Justice and Public Safety Committee.

Natalie Eilbert and Chris Mueller Green Bay Press-Gazette
 Published 6:00 a.m. CT Nov. 2, 2021 | Updated 1:08 p.m. CT Feb. 2, 2022

GREEN BAY – Police sought a felony child abuse charge against a man who now serves as a Wisconsin legislator after he was accused of leaving 4-inch bruises on his child and told officers the Bible commanded him to strike his children as punishment, according to newly released records.

The Brown County District Attorney’s Office never charged the lawmaker, Shae Sortwell, and did not explain its decision until eight years later in response to a Green Bay Press-Gazette inquiry.

The police investigation took place in January 2013, before Sortwell was elected to the state Assembly, but by then he was active in state and national politics and had served on the Green Bay City Council.

Police were made aware of the alleged abuse after a relative discovered the five bruises while giving the child a bath. The relative took the child to a hospital in Two Rivers, according to 35 pages of documents obtained by the Press-Gazette through an open records request with the Green Bay Police Department.

Investigative Reporting, First Place (Division A)
Green Bay Press-Gazette

Honorable Mention: *Star-Observer*, ‘Suspect portrayed as assailant, victim in report’ - Tom Lindfors.
 Judge’s Comments: Very readable and well balanced.

Division E

First Place: *The Freedom Pursuit*, ‘Robbery suspect eludes police’ - Angie Griepentrog.

Second Place: *Sun-Argus*, ‘Sen. Tammy Baldwin tours Sailer’s’ - Paul J. Seeling.

Third Place: *The Freedom Pursuit*, ‘Storm results in days without power’ - Angie Griepentrog.

Investigative Reporting

Daily Division

First Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, ‘Wisconsin legislator referred for felony child abuse before elected, but ever charged’ - Natalie Eilbert, Chris Mueller.

Judge’s Comments: Sometimes the only punishment some people receive is exposure in the newspaper. Great job of exposing the hypocrisy, favoritism and irony associated with this public servant and his dealing with police. No doubt your readers asked themselves: “What if it had been me? Would I have been treated so kindly?” That answer, as your story so clearly pointed out, is a resounding no. This is a well-written, informative and educational series of stories. This sort of reporting demonstrates why newspapers continue to play an important role in the daily lives of their readers. Keep up the good work!

Amery Free Press

Second Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Third Place Sports Feature Story

Antigo Daily Journal

Third Place General News Story

Ashland Daily Press

First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 First Place..... Breaking News Reporting
 First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 First Place..... Local Outdoor Column
 Second Place Best Headlines
 Second Place Open Records/FOI Award
 Second Place Breaking News Reporting
 Second Place Environmental Reporting
 Second Place Local Column
 Third Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Third Place Local Sports Column

Baraboo News Republic, Portage

First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention General News Story

Barron News-Shield

Second Place Best Newspaper Promotion
 Third Place Local Column
 Honorable Mention Environmental Reporting

Beloit Daily News, Beloit

First Place..... Localized National Story
 First Place..... Best Niche Product
 Second Place General Excellence
 Third Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Third Place Editorial Award
 Third Place Local Sports Column

Courier Sentinel, Cornell

First Place..... General News Photo
 First Place..... Spot News Photo
 First Place..... Best Niche Product
 Third Place Best Headlines
 Third Place Business Coverage
 Third Place Photo Gallery
 Honorable Mention Editorial Award
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention Photo Gallery
 Honorable Mention Best Large Ad

Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills

First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place Reporting on Local Education
 Honorable Mention Best Front Page
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Education
 Honorable Mention Photo Essay

Daily Citizen, Beaver Dam

Second Place Breaking News Reporting
 Honorable Mention Sports News Story

Daily Globe, Ironwood

First Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 First Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion
 Second Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Second Place Bill Payne Award
 Second Place Best Restaurant Ad
 Second Place Best Real Estate Ad
 Second Place Best Large Ad
 Second Place Best Use of Color
 Second Place Best Niche Product
 Third Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Honorable Mention Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention Best Grocery Ad

Daily News, West Bend

First Place..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 Honorable Mention Best Headlines

Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids

First Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Second Place Feature Photo
 Third Place Feature Story (Non-profile)

Dodge County Pionier, Theresa

First Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Second Place Rookie Reporter of the Year

Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay

First Place..... Environmental Reporting

EagleHerald, Marinette

First Place..... Best Small Ad
 Second Place Best Grocery Ad
 Second Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second Place Best Use of Art Service
 Third Place Best Grocery Ad
 Third Place Best Restaurant Ad
 Third Place Best Small Ad
 Third Place Best Use of Color

Third Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Third Place Best Newspaper Promotion
 Honorable Mention Breaking News Reporting
 Honorable Mention Best Use of Art Service
 Honorable Mention Best Special Section (Adv)

Foto News, Merrill

First Place..... General News Photo
 First Place..... Photo Gallery
 Honorable Mention Investigative Reporting

Grant County Herald Independent, Lancaster

First Place..... Bill Payne Award
 First Place..... Best Small Ad
 First Place..... Best Use of Color
 First Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 First Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 First Place..... Best Use of Humor
 Second Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Second Place Editorial Award
 Second Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place Best Large Ad
 Third Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Honorable Mention Best Sports Pages
 Honorable Mention Best Small Ad
 Honorable Mention Best Use of Color
 Honorable Mention Best Special Section (Adv)

Green Bay Press-Gazette

First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 First Place..... Investigative Reporting
 First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First Place..... Business Coverage
 Second Place Sports Action Photo
 Second Place Visual Storytelling
 Third Place Business Coverage
 Third Place Sports Action Photo
 Third Place Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place Artistic Photo
 Third Place Visual Storytelling
 Honorable Mention Business Coverage
 Honorable Mention Artistic Photo

Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

First Place..... Sports Feature Story
 First Place..... Environmental Reporting
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 First Place..... Local Column
 First Place..... Artistic Photo
 Second Place Community Engagement Award
 Second Place Local Column
 Second Place General News Photo

Third Place Open Records/FOI Award
 Third Place Localized National Story
 Third Place Sports Action Photo
 Third Place Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention Local Column

Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise

First Place..... Overall Page Design
 Second Place Best Sports Pages
 Second Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Second Place Sports News Story
 Second Place Overall Page Design
 Third Place Sports News Story
 Third Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread

Kenosha News

First Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)
 First Place..... Sports News Story
 First Place..... Feature Photo
 Second Place Local Sports Column
 Third Place General News Photo
 Honorable Mention General News Story
 Honorable Mention Rookie Reporter of the Year

La Crosse Tribune

First Place..... Open Records/FOI Award
 First Place..... Local Sports Column
 Second Place Sports Feature Story
 Second Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place Sports News Story
 Third Place Sports Feature Story
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Story

Ladysmith News

Second Place Editorial Award
 Second Place Localized National Story
 Second Place Environmental Reporting
 Second Place Spot News Photo
 Third Place Breaking News Reporting

Lake Country Now, Milwaukee

Third Place Feature Story (Non-profile)

Lake Geneva Regional News

First Place..... Best Headlines
 First Place..... Editorial Award
 First Place..... General News Photo
 Second Place Business Coverage
 Second Place Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention .. Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention Business Coverage

Lake Mills Leader

First Place..... Feature Photo

Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire

First Place..... Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Second Place Editorial Award
 Second Place General News Photo
 Second Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Third Place General News Story
 Honorable Mention Local Column

Lodi Enterprise and Poynette Press

Second Place Local Column

Marshfield News-Herald

Third Place Feature Story (Profile)

Milton Courier

First Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place Feature Photo
 Second Place Photo Essay
 Third Place General News Photo
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Photo

Monroe County Herald, Sparta

First Place..... Best Sports Pages
 First Place..... Best Headlines
 First Place..... Overall Page Design
 First Place..... Visual Storytelling
 Second Place Best Front Page
 Second Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Third Place Sports Feature Story
 Third Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention Photo Essay
 Honorable Mention Visual Storytelling

New London Press Star

Second Place Feature Story (Profile)

NEW Media, Shawano

First Place..... Sports News Story
 Second Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place Best Sports Pages

News Graphic, Cedarburg

First Place..... Sports Feature Story

Northwest Now, Milwaukee

First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place Breaking News Reporting
 Second Place Business Coverage

Oconomowoc Enterprise

Third Place General Excellence
 Third Place Best Front Page

Oconto County Reporter

First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention General News Story

Oshkosh Northwestern

First Place..... Feature Photo
 First Place..... Photo Gallery
 Second Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Second Place Photo Essay
 Third Place Community Engagement Award
 Third Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention .. Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor

First Place..... Community Engagement Award
 First Place..... Localized National Story
 First Place..... Breaking News Reporting
 First Place..... Coronavirus Coverage
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 First Place..... Rookie Reporter of the Year
 First Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 First Place..... Best Real Estate Ad
 First Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second Place .All-Around Newspaper Photography
 Second Place Sports News Story
 Second Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Second Place Local Column
 Second Place Local Outdoor Column
 Second Place Sports Action Photo
 Second Place Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place Best Video
 Second Place Best Large Ad
 Second Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Third Place Best Front Page
 Third Place Best Opinion Pages
 Third Place Best Headlines
 Third Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Third Place Best Small Ad
 Honorable Mention General Excellence
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention Sports News Story
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Govt

Awards by Newspaper

Honorable Mention Local Column
 Honorable Mention Overall Page Design
 Honorable Mention Bill Payne Award
 Honorable Mention Ongoing Niche Publication

Portage Daily Register

Second Place Sports Feature Story
 Third Place Sports News Story

Price County Review, Phillips

Second Place General News Photo
 Third Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place Best Video
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Govt
 Honorable Mention Local Column

Ripon Commonwealth Press

First Place Best Front Page
 First Place Best Headlines
 First Place Sports News Story
 First Place Sports Feature Story
 Second Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place General News Photo
 Second Place Sports Action Photo
 Third Place Environmental Reporting
 Third Place Spot News Photo
 Third Place Photo Essay
 Honorable Mention General News Photo
 Honorable Mention Artistic Photo

Sawyer County Record, Hayward

First Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Second Place Investigative Reporting
 Honorable Mention Photo Essay

South Now, Milwaukee

Honorable Mention Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

Southwest Now, Milwaukee

Third Place Business Coverage

Spoooner Advocate

First Place Photo Gallery

Star-Observer, Hudson

First Place General Excellence
 First Place Feature Story (Profile)
 First Place Rookie Reporter of the Year
 First Place Overall Page Design
 Second Place Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 Third Place Rookie Reporter of the Year

Honorable Mention Sports News Story
 Honorable Mention Breaking News Reporting
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Education
 Honorable Mention General News Photo

Stevens Point Journal

Second Place Environmental Reporting
 Second Place Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place General News Photo
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Govt

Sun Prairie Star

First Place General Excellence
 First Place Best Opinion Pages
 First Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 First Place Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place Best Front Page
 Second Place Sports Feature Story
 Second Place Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place Editorial Award
 Third Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 Honorable Mention Sports News Story
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Government
 Honorable Mention Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo

Sun-Argus, Spring Valley

First Place Local Column
 Second Place Breaking News Reporting

Superior Telegram

First Place Best Sports Pages
 First Place Localized National Story
 First Place Sports Feature Story
 First Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First Place Business Coverage
 First Place Spot News Photo
 First Place Photo Gallery
 First Place Best Restaurant Ad
 Second Place General Excellence
 Second Place Best Front Page
 Second Place All-Around Newspaper Photography
 Second Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place Sports Feature Story
 Second Place Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place Artistic Photo
 Second Place Best Ad Idea (Series)
 Second Place Best Use of Local Photography

Third Place Sports News Story
 Third Place Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place General News Photo
 Third Place Spot News Photo
 Third Place Sports Action Photo
 Third Place Feature Photo
 Third Place Photo Essay
 Third Place Photo Gallery
 Third Place Best Newspaper Promotion
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Story
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention Bill Payne Award
 Honorable Mention Multiple Advertiser Spread

The Baldwin Bulletin

First Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 First Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Third Place Best Use of Art Service
 Honorable Mention Sports Action Photo

The Boscobel Dial

Second Place Localized National Story
 Second Place Best Use of Color
 Third Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place Environmental Reporting
 Third Place Artistic Photo
 Third Place Best Large Ad

The Cambridge News and Deerfield Independent

First Place Localized National Story
 Second Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place Feature Story (Non-profile)

The Cap Times, Madison

First Place Best Headlines
 First Place Editorial Award
 First Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 First Place Coronavirus Coverage
 First Place Local Column
 First Place Rookie Reporter of the Year
 First Place Spot News Photo
 First Place Visual Storytelling
 Second Place Business Coverage
 Second Place Local Column
 Second Place Photo Essay
 Third Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Third Place Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Third Place Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place Photo Essay
 Honorable Mention Coronavirus Coverage

The Chetek Alert

First Place.....Best Large Ad
 First Place..... Best Ad Idea (Series)
 Second Place Best Restaurant Ad
 Honorable Mention Best Headlines
 Honorable Mention Local Outdoor Column
 Honorable Mention Use of Local Photography

The Chippewa Herald, Chippewa Falls

First Place.....Best Sports Pages
 First Place.....General News Story
 First Place..... Photo Essay
 Second Place Sports Action Photo
 Second Place Photo Gallery
 Second Place Best Video

The Chronotype, Rice Lake

First Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Second Place Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place Best Special Section (Advertising)

The Edgerton Reporter

Second Place Editorial Award
 Second Place Photo Gallery
 Second Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second Place Best Niche Product
 Third Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place Best Small Ad
 Third Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Third Place Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Honorable Mention Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Honorable Mention Best Special Section (Adv)

The Freedom Pursuit

First Place.....Breaking News Reporting
 First Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Second Place Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place Breaking News Reporting

The Freeman, Waukesha

First Place..... Sports News Story
 First Place..... Breaking News Reporting
 First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Second Place Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 Second Place Localized National Story
 Second Place Sports News Story

Third Place General Excellence
 Third Place Best Front Page
 Third Place Best Sports Pages
 Third Place Best Headlines
 Third Place Sports Feature Story

The Gazette, Janesville

First Place..... General Excellence
 First Place..... Photo Gallery
 First Place..... Bill Payne Award
 First Place..... Best Grocery Ad
 First Place..... Best Restaurant Ad
 First Place..... Best Real Estate Ad
 First Place..... Best Large Ad
 First Place..... Best Ad Idea (Series)
 First Place..... Best Use of Color
 First Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 First Place..... Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Second Place Spot News Photo
 Second Place Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place Artistic Photo
 Second Place Best Small Ad
 Second Place Best Newspaper Promotion
 Third Place Spot News Photo
 Third Place Feature Photo
 Third Place Best Use of Art Service
 Third Place Best Niche Product
 Honorable Mention Best Front Page
 Honorable Mention Best Sports Pages
 Honorable Mention Photo Essay

The Herald-Independent and The McFarland Thistle, Cottage Grove

Honorable Mention Localized National Story

The Journal Times, Racine

First Place.....Best Front Page
 First Place.....General News Story
 First Place.....Breaking News Reporting
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 First Place..... General News Photo
 Second Place Best Headlines
 Second Place General News Story
 Second Place Localized National Story
 Second Place Environmental Reporting
 Second Place Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place Photo Gallery
 Third Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place Local Column
 Third Place Best Video
 Honorable Mention Sports News Story
 Honorable Mention Investigative Reporting

Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Govt
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Ed
 Honorable Mention Local Sports Column

The Lakeland Times, Minocqua

First Place..... Editorial Award
 First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 First Place..... Sports News Story
 First Place..... Investigative Reporting
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 First Place..... Sports Action Photo
 First Place..... Best Small Ad
 First Place..... Best Use of Color
 First Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 First Place..... Best Special Section (Advertising)
 First Place..... Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Second Place General Excellence
 Second Place Best Opinion Pages
 Second Place Best Sports Pages
 Second Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Second Place Best Headlines
 Second Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Second Place General News Photo
 Second Place Feature Photo
 Second Place Overall Page Design
 Second Place Visual Storytelling
 Second Place Bill Payne Award
 Second Place Best Real Estate Ad
 Second Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second Place Best Use of Art Service
 Second Place Best Use of Humor
 Second Place Best Niche Product
 Second Place Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Third Place Open Records/FOI Award
 Third Place All-Around Newspaper Photography
 Third Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place Local Column
 Third Place Spot News Photo
 Third Place Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place Artistic Photo
 Third Place Overall Page Design
 Third Place Visual Storytelling
 Third Place Bill Payne Award
 Third Place Best Large Ad
 Third Place Best Use of Color
 Third Place Best Use of Art Service
 Honorable Mention General News Story
 Honorable Mention Environmental Reporting

Awards by Newspaper

Honorable Mention General News Photo
 Honorable Mention Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention Best Grocery Ad
 Honorable Mention Best Small Ad
 Honorable Mention Best Ad Idea (Series)
 Honorable Mention Best Use of Color
 Honorable Mention Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Honorable Mention Best Use of Art Service
 Honorable Mention Best Use of Humor

The Monroe Times

First Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 First Place..... Artistic Photo
 First Place..... Best Use of Local Photography
 First Place..... Best Special Section (Advertising)
 First Place..... Best Niche Product
 Second Place Local Sports Column
 Third Place Best Opinion Pages
 Third Place Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 Third Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Third Place Bill Payne Award
 Third Place Best Restaurant Ad
 Third Place Best Real Estate Ad
 Third Place Best Small Ad
 Third Place Best Ad Idea (Series)
 Third Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Third Place Best Use of Humor
 Third Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Honorable Mention All-Around Newspaper
 Photography
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention Photo Gallery
 Honorable Mention Best Large Ad
 Honorable Mention Best Use of Art Service

The Northwoods River News, Rhinelander

First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 First Place..... Photo Essay
 Second Place Localized National Story
 Second Place Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place Spot News Photo
 Third Place Best Sports Pages
 Third Place General News Story
 Third Place Sports Feature Story
 Third Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention Best Special Section (Ed)
 Honorable Mention Environmental Reporting

The Oregon Observer, Oregon

Third Place Overall Page Design

The Pierce County Journal, Ellsworth

First Place..... Local Column
 First Place..... Best Grocery Ad
 First Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion
 Second Place Best Grocery Ad
 Third Place Best Grocery Ad
 Honorable Mention Enterprise/Interpretive
 Reporting
 Honorable Mention Coronavirus Coverage
 Honorable Mention Spot News Photo
 Honorable Mention Best Niche Product

The Platteville Journal

Second Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Third Place Overall Page Design
 Honorable Mention Best Opinion Pages

The Portage County Gazette, Stevens Point

Second Place Feature Photo
 Second Place Photo Gallery

The Post-Crescent, Appleton

First Place..... Sports Action Photo
 First Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 First Place..... Artistic Photo
 First Place..... Photo Essay
 First Place..... Best Video
 Second Place Best Front Page
 Second Place Best Sports Pages
 Second Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Second Place Feature Photo
 Third Place Environmental Reporting
 Third Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Third Place Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Third Place Photo Gallery
 Honorable Mention General Excellence
 Honorable Mention Open Records/FOI Award
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention Breaking News Reporting
 Honorable Mention General News Photo
 Honorable Mention Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Photo

The Press Times, Green Bay

First Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)
 First Place..... General News Story
 First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 First Place..... Local Column
 First Place..... Feature Photo
 First Place..... Best Video

Second Place Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place Artistic Photo
 Third Place General Excellence
 Third Place Best Sports Pages
 Third Place Sports News Story
 Third Place Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Third Place Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention Best Front Page
 Honorable Mention Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Story
 Honorable Mention .. Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention Business Coverage

The Record-Review, Abbotsford

Second Place Photo Essay
 Second Place Best Small Ad
 Third Place Best Use of Color
 Honorable Mention Sports Action Photo

The Reporter, Fond du Lac

First Place..... Coronavirus Coverage
 First Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Third Place Business Coverage
 Third Place Photo Essay

The Review, Plymouth

First Place..... Local Sports Column
 Second Place Best Sports Pages
 Second Place Overall Page Design

The Sheboygan Press

First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place General News Story
 Second Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place Artistic Photo
 Third Place Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place Investigative Reporting
 Third Place Environmental Reporting
 Third Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Third Place Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place Local Column
 Third Place Feature Photo
 Third Place Best Video
 Honorable Mention General News Photo
 Honorable Mention Artistic Photo

The Star News, Medford

First Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 First Place..... Photo Essay
 Second Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place Best Use of Art Service

Third Place Best Headlines
 Third Place Editorial Award
 Third Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place Best Niche Product
 Honorable Mention Local Sports Column
 Honorable Mention Overall Page Design

The Stoughton Courier Hub

Second Place General Excellence
 Second Place Best Headlines

The Tribune-Phonograph

First Place..... Editorial Award
 First Place..... General News Story
 Third Place General Excellence
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Story
 Honorable Mention Spot News Photo

The Valders Journal

First Place..... Best Front Page
 First Place..... Feature Photo
 Second Place Best Opinion Pages
 Second Place Sports News Story
 Second Place Spot News Photo
 Third Place All-Around Newspaper Photography
 Third Place Localized National Story
 Third Place Sports Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention Editorial Award

The Verona Press

First Place..... Best Sports Pages

The Woodville Leader, Spring Valley

Second Place Environmental Reporting

Trempealeau County Times, Whitehall

First Place..... Reporting on Local Education

Tribune Press Reporter, Glenwood City

Second Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Third Place Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention Best Sports Pages

Tribune Record Gleaner, Loyal

Third Place Best Large Ad

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention Community Engagement

Valley Sentinel, Spring Green

First Place..... Open Records/FOI Award
 First Place..... All-Around Newspaper Photography
 First Place..... Artistic Photo
 First Place..... Best Large Ad
 First Place..... Best Small Ad
 Second Place Community Engagement Award
 Second Place General News Story
 Second Place Artistic Photo
 Second Place Bill Payne Award
 Second Place Best Large Ad
 Second Place Best Small Ad
 Third Place Best Front Page
 Third Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Third Place Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place Local Column
 Third Place Feature Photo
 Third Place Artistic Photo
 Third Place Best Niche Product
 Honorable Mention Best Headlines
 Honorable Mention Local Column
 Honorable Mention Overall Page Design
 Honorable Mention Best Newspaper Promotion

Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River

First Place..... General Excellence
 First Place..... Best Front Page
 First Place..... Best Opinion Pages
 First Place..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 First Place..... All-Around Newspaper Photography
 First Place..... Business Coverage
 First Place..... Spot News Photo
 First Place..... Artistic Photo
 First Place..... Photo Essay
 First Place..... Bill Payne Award
 First Place..... Best Large Ad
 Second Place General News Story
 Second Place Photo Essay
 Second Place Best Small Ad
 Second Place Best Use of Color
 Third Place Community Engagement Award
 Third Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Third Place Investigative Reporting
 Third Place Environmental Reporting
 Third Place Local Outdoor Column
 Third Place General News Photo
 Third Place Feature Photo
 Third Place Photo Essay
 Third Place Best Use of Local Photography
 Honorable Mention Best Special Section (Ed)
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Profile)

Honorable Mention Sports Action Photo

Washington Island Observer

First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 First Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Honorable Mention Localized National Story

Watertown Daily Times

First Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place Business Coverage
 Honorable Mention Photo Essay

Waupaca County Post

Honorable Mention Best Front Page

Wausau Daily Herald

First Place..... Business Coverage
 First Place..... General News Photo
 First Place..... Best Video
 Second Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place Coronavirus Coverage
 Second Place Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place Photo Gallery
 Honorable Mention Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention Sports Feature Story

Wausau Pilot and Review

First Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Second Place Sports Feature Story
 Third Place Localized National Story

Wisconsin State Farmer, Waupaca

First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place General News Story
 Honorable Mention Breaking News Reporting

Wisconsin State Journal, Madison

First Place..... Community Engagement Award
 First Place..... Localized National Story
 First Place..... Sports Feature Story
 First Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Second Place Open Records/FOI Award
 Second Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place Sports News Story
 Second Place Breaking News Reporting
 Second Place Investigative Reporting
 Second Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place Best Video
 Third Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention .. Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention Best Video

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'I just want to leave':

Afghan refugees speak out about conditions at Fort McCoy' - Emily Hamer, Lucas Robinson.

Judge's Comments: Really well-written investigative story about the Afghan refugees' problems at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin. Multi-part, multi-sourced and multi-faceted stories detailing the problems the refugees face and the government's response. Captivating photographs.

Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Here's how Sheboygan Lutheran responded when a grad reported

that a teacher had sexually groomed, assaulted her' - Maya Hilty.

Judge's Comments: This is rock-solid reporting at its best. Great use of quotes. Very informative!

Honorable Mention: *The Journal Times*, 'Blackout' - Scott Williams.

Judge's Comments: Great story! Rock-solid reporting. Very informative and very educational. So much for talk of transparency. Who is the DA to determine what the public needs to know and not know? Readers should know if one of their neighbors was arrested and charged with sexual assault of

a child. They may not want to let their children stay overnight at the neighbor's house. Their children may be harmed during the yearlong court process. Shouldn't parents know their school bus driver was arrested and charged with DWI? Shouldn't citizens know that a specific liquor store has been robbed at gunpoint repeatedly? They may not want to shop there anymore. Great reporting. Keep at it.

Competition Comments: Really good stories. Lots of good reporting going on in Wisconsin. Wisconsin newspapers take their government watchdog roles seriously and it benefits their readers.

lawsuit against Lincoln County' - Tina L. Scott.

Judge's Comments: Article shows a lot of level of incompetence and cover up. Just wish the paper itself dug deeper into the situation.

Competition Comments: Very competitive category. All entries were strong, some just did a deeper dive into the matter than others.

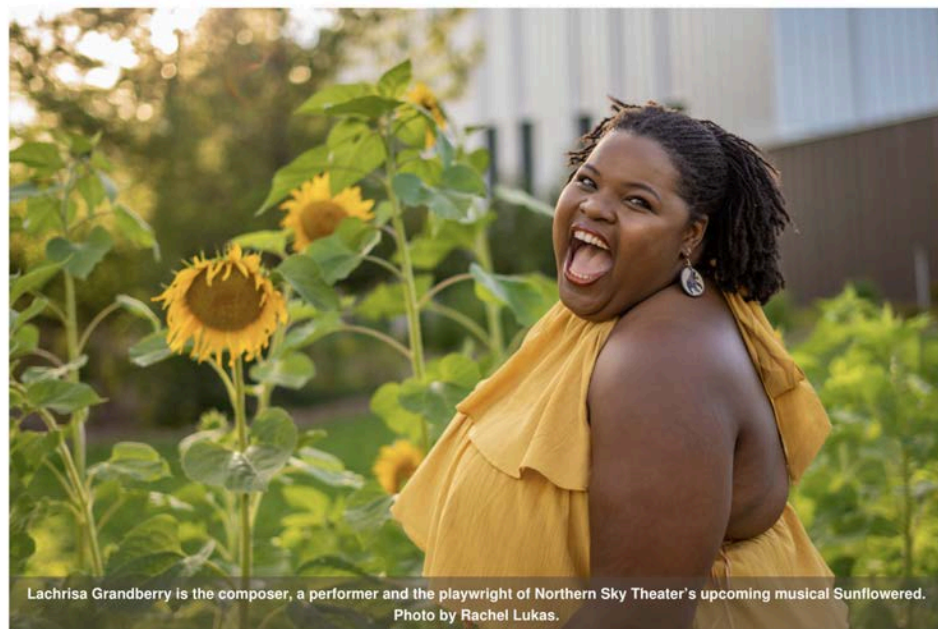
Enterprise/ Interpretive Reporting

Division A

Sunflowered Celebrates Sisterhood and Friendship

By Sam Watson, *Peninsula Pulse* - September 8th, 2022

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Lachrisa Grandberry is the composer, a performer and the playwright of Northern Sky Theater's upcoming musical *Sunflowered*. Photo by Rachel Lukas.

Working on a play in any capacity means immersing yourself in the onstage world. If you compose the music, you'll know every beat of every song by the time the rehearsals are done. If you act, you'll develop a deep connection with the character you're portraying. If you write, you'll gain a birds-eye view of the story as a whole. If you do all three, the story might become a part of you, even offstage.

Just ask Lachrisa Grandberry, the composer, a performer and the playwright of Northern Sky Theater's upcoming musical *Sunflowered*. It's a celebration of female relationships that has made Grandberry rethink how she treats the women in her real life.

Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting, First Place (Division C)
Northwest Now, Milwaukee

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Sexual assault and the criminal justice system' - Richard Moore. Judge's Comments: Excellent reporting and investigating showing multiple levels of coverup and an unbelievable keystone cop shop.

Second Place: *Sawyer County Record*, 'Did the system meant to protect children fail four-year-old Zoey Chafer?' - Frank Zufall. Judge's Comments: Death of a child is always hard to investigate and write about. Did a good job, showing levels of incompetence and yet staying compassionate.

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Defense attorney shortage undermining rights' - Sara Carias.

Judge's Comments: This is becoming more and more of a problem across the nation. Good research and follow through.

Would like to see an article on the individual they were tracking.

Honorable Mention: *Foto News*, 'Cordovas file wrongful death

First Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'Addressing the shortage: How Northeastern Wisconsin can solve its affordable housing crisis' - Jeff Bollier.

Judge's Comments: This multi-part project is an extremely well-written look at the lack of affordable housing in northeastern Wisconsin, its causes and possible solutions through the eyes of housing-cost burdened individuals. The work of the reporters, the art and graphics all stood out.

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'No time to lose: Finding rare diseases in infants' - David Wahlberg.

Judge's Comments: Like the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel nine years ago, this series shows the importance of rapid screening of newborns for genetic diseases and the consequences of delay. It also highlights efforts to improve analysis using genome sequencing. Powerful writing. Thoroughly reported.

Third Place: *The Journal Times*,

‘Ambulances: The calls keep coming’
- Rachel Kubik.

Judge’s Comments: Strong enterprise reporting about problems affecting EMT services, from staffing shortages to low reimbursement rates to growing senior population. Well-done analysis of an issue affecting everyone who needs emergency services.

Competition Comments: Five or six of the 26 entries were truly

competitive. Among those, two were so close in quality, breadth and depth that I had difficulty choosing which should be awarded first place and which should be second place. Both could claim to be the winner.

Division B

First Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, ‘Kohler Co. says it built Whistling Straits to host major tournaments, but its proposed new course isn’t designed for that purpose’ - Maya

Hilty.
Judge’s Comments: Nice work tracking, the difference between the Kohler Co. company line and behind the scenes dealings including the words of the deceased architect.

Second Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, ‘Census counts people incarcerated at Kettle Moraine prison as rural Sheboygan County constituents, even though at least 98% aren’t’ - Maya Hilty.

Third Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, ‘Safety concerns’ - Bremen Keasey.

Division C

First Place: *Northwest Now*, ‘Title IX passed 50 years ago to provide equality in sports. Here are some of the women who brought it to life in Milwaukee’ - Cathy Kozlowicz.

Judge’s Comments: This comprehensive coverage that included not only history but specific stories of individuals affected by legislation clearly took a lot of effort. It was well organized and written.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘Egg Harbor Campers Left in the Dark’ - Myles Dannhausen Jr..

Judge’s Comments: Not an easy subject but presented with a thorough examination of how a new business owner can change courses to the detriment of long-time customers. Had this reader rooting against the company.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Camp Manito-wish introduces COVID vaccine mandate’ - Kelly Holm.

Judge’s Comments: A struggle for all schools today and a good look at a community’s effort to find a solution to an issue where there are

no easy answers or guarantees of success.

Honorable Mention: *South Now*, ‘Many police departments are short-staffed while a few feel ‘very fortunate.’ Find out if your department is healthy or hurting.’ - Erik S. Hanley.

Judge’s Comments: Well done look at the subject that is a controversy throughout the nation. Nice inclusion of factor that could impede mandate in this particular community.

Division D

First Place: *Superior Telegram*, ‘How COVID-19 affected Northland tattoo industry’ - Melinda Lavine.

Judge’s Comments: An interesting story on a topic many probably don’t think about on a day-to-day business, and a topic that rarely gets covered. Tying tattooing issues into covid was a good idea that clearly falls into the enterprise realm.

Second Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, ‘Lancaster the clock has started; Focus on Childcare; Little Saints going strong; School-run Daycare sees success; Costs make Daycare move uncertain; Now is the time to act’ - David Timmerman.

Judge’s Comments: There is a lot of passion in this 3+2 series (the two are first-person explanation of why the project was undertaken). Only two of the stories really stand out, but the series definitely shows community leadership.

Third Place: *The Boscobel Dial*, ‘Cozy Acres’ - Joe Hart.

Judge’s Comments: Very well done story about life at a run-down mobile home park. Some good interviews and some good statistics

How COVID-19 affected Northland tattoo industry

“Is it essential? No, but is it highly in demand and something that people will continue to spend money on regardless of whatever else is going on,” Living Art owner Chris Owen said.



After surviving COVID-19, Dean Moore wanted something nontraditional. "I process the bad things in life with humor. I came up with the idea of a COVID molecule with full color, and I won, so I beat it up. I gave it a black eye. My tattoo shows it's on oxygen," he said. Moore poses with his tattoo April 12 in Duluth. Clint Austin / Duluth News Tribune

By Melinda Lavine
April 22, 2022 09:44 AM

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DULUTH — Dean Moore contracted COVID-19 in 2020. Since his nearly monthlong hospitalization, the 53-year-old Duluthian has had two heart attacks and suffers from ongoing neurological problems, which he attributes to the virus.

Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting, First Place (Division D)
Superior Telegram

in this interesting read.

Honorable Mention: *The Pierce County Journal*, 'On a mission to promote broadband expansion; Pandemic puts lack of broadband internet on the front page: How did we get here?; Local women left beloved career due to internet woes; Upcoming elections: Let's ask the candidates about broadband; Puzzling out' - Sarah Nigbor. Judge's Comments: Plenty of enterprise in this five-part series on using public monies to improve broadband service. This could have been a simple public affairs story, but the writer went the extra mile. Unfortunately, there are some deserts (dry reading) in the middle of the stories, but it was an important effort.

Competition Comments: Second and fourth place are, arguably, more important stories than first and third in this competition, but first and third are more interesting to read and show more enterprise.

Division E

First Place: *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, 'Sales of railroad right-of-way property raises questions' - Charley Preusser.

Judge's Comments: Good job explaining what could have been a tedious subject - the ownership and taxation of an abandoned (or is it) railroad track. Reporter took the extra step of visiting the site, taking photos and using them to explain the situation.

Second Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'We're losing a generation' - Joe Schulz.

Judge's Comments: The lede needs work. It takes several paragraphs to

get to the meat of the story. Drug abuse has impacted many families. Good job explaining the effect addiction has on loved ones.

Third Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Social Justice' - Tristan McGough. Judge's Comments: The reporter covered a meeting held at a local library. A subject as intense and important as racism surely deserves a few follow-up interviews from those in attendance. Perhaps would have scored higher in a general news category.

Competition Comments: Reporters who go the extra mile always score higher in the enterprise/interpretive story category. Those stories have more impact short-term and long-term. Ledes need work across the board. We cannot keep the reader's interest if we make them work to get to the

meat of the story.

Environmental Reporting

Division A

First Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'Where have all the walleye gone? Before long, anglers may have to make do with bluegills' - Chris Hubbuch.

Judge's Comments: This is how you write about climate change: make it real to people who care about wildlife habitat. Superb writing and crystal-clear explanations about the impact of warmer water on Wisconsin's cold-water fish populations highlight this excellent story about walleye, trout and bluegill. It comes complete with

warnings about dire consequences as well as all-too-human wildlife authorities who teeter between accepting the climate-induced habitat changes and fighting against them. The best of a competitive field.

Second Place: *The Journal Times*, 'The bees are back at Pritchard Park' - Adam Rogan.

Judge's Comments: It sometimes seems as though environmental issues are too big for a single person or community to tackle, but through the leadership of one volunteer, native plants gradually replaced invasive species and native wildlife returned, including a much-needed pollinator - the rusty-patched bumblebee. Rogan's stories and the accompanying photo essay deliver a mood altering experience and a positive lesson for readers weary of doom and gloom and feelings of impotence when it comes to the environment.

Third Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'As Wisconsin's climate gets warmer and wetter, beloved winter activities could be in jeopardy' - Madeline Heim.

Judge's Comments: A well-written story on another threat posed by climate change in a traditionally cold-weather state: the possible damage to winter outdoor activities from shorter periods of heavy snow and thick lake ice. It's not just fish that suffer.

Competition Comments: This was a competitive field of solid reporting on many aspects of the environment. I looked for strong enterprise, good narrative, solid science and clear statements of why the story mattered to a broad readership.

Under fire, Wausau DPW director denies misleading mayor on water, but minutes show discrepancy in statements

February 11, 2022

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Environmental Reporting, First Place (Division C)
Wausau Pilot and Review

Division B

First Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, ‘A changing climate could cost Great Lakes communities billions. Here’s what’s being done about it.’ - Alisa Schafer.

Judge’s Comments: Solid research coupled with good organization made this story the best. Good use of documents and experts. Wish the impact was more summarized at the beginning.

Second Place: *Stevens Point Journal*, ‘Portage County dairy farm could be forced to monitor wastewater quality; Who should pay for monitoring at Gordondale Farms; ‘All (we) want is clean drinking water’; 2 counties ‘new’ approach to address nitrate-polluted water; DNR orders monitoring plan’ - Renee Hickman, Alan Hovorka, Jamie Rokus.

Judge’s Comments: Good job covering events and meetings and getting the people affected into the stories. I thought some of the information needed attribution, and the “harm” of nitrates could have used some balancing by experts.

Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, ‘A normal river again.’ Once notoriously polluted, the Sheboygan river is again drawing paddlers, fishing and outdoors enthusiasts’ - Maya Hilty.

Judge’s Comments: The lead drew me in and carried through the story of a people-inspired movement. Good details on the financial impact as well.

Division C

First Place: *Wausau Pilot and Review*, ‘DHS warns Wausau water carries health risk, but new \$120M

treatment facility won’t remove PFAS’ - Shereen Siewert. Judge’s Comments: This series is an incredible public service – not only does it uncover local government noncompliance but also serves as a primer on PFAS and empowers the public with knowledge about their own water resources and protections. The newspaper put significant resources behind covering this complex story, and the payoff is in the service to the local community:

This is the kind of information readers deserve to know. **Second Place:** *Ladysmith News*, ‘Cost high to clean up 5R Processors waste; Assembly passes bill to clean up e-waste mess left by 5R Processors; Governor signs bill funding 5R cleanup; Last of 5R Processors leaders to plead guilty’ - Luke Klink.

Judge’s Comments: As far as translating technical detail into readable, accessible prose, this reporter is exceptional. The complexity of this situation is simplified into clear causes and consequences, laid out in plain detail without losing sight of the nuance. The story has many layers, and each is addressed with care and importance according to the needs of local readers.

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, ‘DNR requires more testing before issuing CWD plans’ - Michelle Drew.

Judge’s Comments: Every column inch of this story is accountable to the public good. The situation poses dangers to humans, wildlife and the local ecosystem, and the reporters have opted to cover the story in a way that centralizes the need for the public to become informed and to act on that knowledge. It’s no doubt

that this reporting helped make change in this community. **Honorable Mention:** *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Crescent allocates assistance to PFAS-affected family’ - Kelly Holm. Judge’s Comments: When it comes to water pollution, people tune out – but this story refuses to allow it. By focusing on a single local family and the impacts of PFAS contamination on their personal lives (including their dogs), readers get a snapshot of this environmental concern. In this story, PFAS becomes not just a far-off threat, so small you can’t see it, but a real and pragmatic challenge in people’s everyday lives. The writer makes pollution tangible and holds local authorities accountable.

Division D

First Place: *Door County Advocate*,

‘Swiss cheese caves, stalwart plants, snails: Eastern Wisconsinites live along this prehistoric landmark’ - Daphne Lemke.

Judge’s Comments: Wonderfully reported and writing sparkled. Made this reader want to explore the site as soon as possible.

Second Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Sediment-reduction efforts progressing’ - Rick Olivo.

Judge’s Comments: Fine reporting and writing made this entry worthy of recognition.

Third Place: *The Boscobel Dial*, ‘Water Cremation’ - Chandler Brindley.

Judge’s Comments: Absolutely fascinating that told us everything except the cost.

Honorable Mention: *Barron News-Shield*, ‘Barron County Forest plan looks forward 15 years; Colby to

Islanders learn how to help pollinators

By Winifred Bird

For anyone who doubts the power of pollinators, Island beekeeper Sue Dompke, owner of Sweet Mountain Farm, suggests a simple thought experiment: Imagine planting three watermelon seeds in a 10-square-foot area. Without pollination, you might harvest three or four melons. With pollination, you’ll get 10 or 12. The same goes for hundreds of the world’s most beloved and important food crops.

Recently, Islanders had a chance to learn practical strategies for supporting pollinators at a lecture by Donna Stine, eastern Wisconsin apiary inspector with the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Stine was on the Island to inspect Dompke’s hives, and Dompke partnered with the Art and Nature Center and Gathering Ground, an agriculture-focused nonprofit on the Island, to host Stine’s event on June 6.

Stine said both domesticated and wild bees are crucial pollinators in Wisconsin. The state has over 400 species of bees, many of which nest in the ground or in hollow stems and do not form large colonies like domesticated honeybees.

“Your yard may be a bee’s whole world,” she told an audience of about 15 at the Art and Nature

Center for Biological Diversity found that over half of native bee species in North America with enough data to assess were declining. In Wisconsin, declining species include the rusty-patched bumble bee, yellow-banded bumble bee, and American bumble bee.

“Bees dying reflects a flowerless landscape and a dysfunctional food system,” explained University of Minnesota entomologist Marla Spivak in a TED talk on pollinators. With fewer farmers planting flowering cover crops like clover and alfalfa and more applying large amounts of herbicides and pesticides, much of rural America has become an “agricultural food desert” for bees, she said.

Stine shared many strategies for Island residents to reverse that trend on their own land: leave things a little messy so pollinators have places to nest, plant native flowers, let herbs and even weeds burst into bloom, and choose less-toxic pesticides. Since many pollinators rely on specific host plants for food, she recommends checking the Great Lakes pollinator plant list created by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (available at xerces.org) as you plan your

habitat.

“A sign is sometimes all it takes to let people know you’re not neglecting the landscape, you’re making a choice,” she said.

That’s not to say pollinator gardens can’t be attractive. Dompke



State apiary inspector Donna Stine gave a talk on pollinators during a recent visit to the Island.

Environmental Reporting, First Place (Division E)
Washington Island Observer

speak at Tuscobia dedication; Cash incentives for erosion control' - Bob Zientara.

Judge's Comments: Excellent reporting and writing. Very thorough and interesting.

Competition Comments: This was a difficult category because there were so many fine entries that it was difficult to choose.

Division E

First Place: *Washington Island Observer*, 'Islanders Learn How to Help Pollinators' - Winifred Bird.

Judge's Comments: Great piece

Second Place: *The Woodville Leader*, 'Local Woodland Owner attends workshop' - Paul J. Seeling.

Third Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'Big Green in 'critical window' for restoration; GLA to take 'bold' action' - Joe Schulz.

Honorable Mention: *The Northwoods River News*, 'PFAS in Rhinelander water supply' - Heather Schaefer.

Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Division A

First Place: *USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin*, 'Home is Here: Stories behind the census' - Staff.

Judge's Comments: This is a tremendously thorough look at one region's changing demographics and the various impacts those changes have had. "Home Is Here" also highlights perspectives of minority populations that are often overlooked. The excellent writing, combined with plenty of graphics

and photos, makes this series a winner.

Second Place: *La Crosse Tribune*, 'Finding Home: A series exploring homelessness in La Crosse' - Olivia Herken.

Judge's Comments: While we all know homelessness is a problem, this series digs into the causes and some of the possible solutions. But beyond that, the series puts faces to the statistics, telling the stories of actual homeless people and explaining the various ways they've gotten to where they are. The videos accompanying the stories are a nice touch.

Third Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Abortion access in Wisconsin' - Jessie Opoien, Jack Kelly.

Judge's Comments: This series fearlessly takes on one of the most divisive topics ever, and the result is both balanced and insightful, providing valuable context and perspectives.

Honorable Mention: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'Wisconsin DNR's efforts to regulate forever chemicals' - Chris Hubbuch.

Judge's Comments: Great job staying on top of a topic of the utmost importance, the quality of our drinking water.

Division B

First Place: *The Freeman*, 'Waukesha Christmas parade tragedy' - Jake Ekdahl, Nikki Brahm, Derek Johnson & Staff.

Judge's Comments: Great response to the parade tragedy in what I'm sure was emotionally difficult times. Brought it home with so many individual angles. Writing was clear and impactful.

Second Place: *Daily Tribune*, 'See

headlines in comment box.' - Caitlin Shuda.

Judge's Comments: The paper did a good job of enterprise reporting on this topic, which is what this category allows. Impact was high in the stories as well.

Third Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 'Day By Day shelter plans hit obstacle; 'We just cannot keep going like this'; Shelter plans move forward; Taking it Day By Day' - Katy Macek.

Judge's Comments: Solid coverage of an all-too-often NIMBY fight. Stories were well organized and multiple sources added to the depth.

Honorable Mention: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 'Menominee Tribe members speak out after panel opts to rewrite plaque; Names 'have a story'; Updated statue signage approved' - Katy Macek, Frank Vaisvilas.

Division C

First Place: *The Press Times*, 'Homelessness' - Heather Graves, Janelle Fisher, Josh Staloch.

Judge's Comments: This compelling series should move the reader to action on one of the community's most-pressing social needs

Second Place: *Monroe County Herald*, 'SASD Superintendent investigation' - Kyle Evans.

Judge's Comments: Thorough beat reporting. The timeline and recaps were important to remind readers of the saga.

Third Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Candles for Ukraine; Candle Company Prepares First Donation of \$100k; Candle Sales Raise \$500k; Donations Approaching \$700k' - Debra Fitzgerald.

Judge's Comments: This reporting

\$5 million bail set for suspect in parade deaths

Man charged with five counts of first-degree intentional homicide

By Nikki Brahm and Jake Ekdahl
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — The man charged with five counts of first-degree intentional homicide after allegedly driving into crowds at the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday will have a sixth such count filed after District Attorney Susan Opper announced at his initial appearance Tuesday that a child injured in the incident has died.

At his initial appearance at 4 p.m. Tuesday, a \$5 million bail was set for Darrell E. Brooks Jr., 39. A criminal complaint filed prior to the hearing also revealed that 62 people had been injured Sunday night. Prior to that, the number was estimated to be 48.



Ongoing/Extended Coverage, First Place (Division B)

The Freeman, Waukesha

elevated a worthy cause and reminds readers of the benefits of local businesses (like newspapers)

Honorable Mention: *The Press Times*, ‘Special Education’ - Heather Graves, Lea Kopke.

Judge’s Comments: A good nuts-and-bolts series on an important issue.

Division D

First Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Ashland to consider homeless shelter permit; Ashland homeless shelter moves forward; Homeless shelter aims for Dec. opening; Homeless shelter seeks volunteers; Community shelter now available for homeless; Homeless shelter expanding; Ashland motel becomes’

- Tom Stankard.
Judge’s Comments: This was a very engaging series covering the city’s numerous efforts and pitfalls in providing housing for the homeless. I loved the way the writer began so many stories in the series with relatable subjects that brought the story to life. This series is a winner with great writing, fabulous quotes, and memorable storytelling.

Second Place: *NEW Media*, ‘Ann Retzlaff’s court battle’ - Lee Pulaski.
Judge’s Comments: This continuing coverage of Ann Retzlaff’s battle with the courts has got to be one of the most bizarre, interesting, and entertaining series of articles that I have ever read. The writer paid great attention to details, easily explaining the numerous legal situations

while highlighting Retzlaff’s most memorable quotes. This competition was a tough decision, but this entry was a strong second place.

Third Place: *The Star News*, ‘Sparks fly at county; County seeks solutions for veterans concerns; Veterans service officer files harassment complaint; Committee OKs veterans parking, waiting area; Call for answers; Tensions climbing; Veterans officer quits, claims harassment’ - Brian Wilson.

Judge’s Comments: This was a great series of articles full of plot twists, turns, and colorful quotes. I appreciated the great details, from the ornery yet fierce loyalty of the veterans to the unusual harassment complaints. I was always left wondering what would happen next.

Honorable Mention: *Lake Geneva Regional News*, ‘South Street trail expanding; Controversy over South Street trail continues; A plea to stop South Street trail; City moves to halt controversial trail’ - Dennis Hines.

Judge’s Comments: The expansion of a bike trail to a future YMCA site seems like a good idea in theory, but there are always two or more sides to a story. The writer quickly and thoroughly exposed the many concerns of the frustrated residents of South Street and the city’s plans to move full steam ahead to utilize the grant secured for the trail. The writer did an excellent job exploring this controversial community issue.

Division E

First Place: *The Northwoods River News*, ‘Hannah Miller homicide case’ - Heather Schaefer, Jamie Taylor.

Second Place: *Oconto County*

Reporter, ‘We are hoping to see her fired or put on leave’: Reaction to Suring superintendent charged with 6 counts of false imprisonment’ - Kent Tempus, Benita Mathew, Chris Speckhard.

Third Place: *The Northwoods River News*, ‘Tim Kingman wrongful termination lawsuit’ - Heather Schaefer.

Coronavirus Coverage

Division A

First Place: *The Cap Times*, ‘COVID in Dane County’ - Allison Garfield.

Judge’s Comments: Truly a nice piece of journalist effort in covering the topic. Comprehensive reporting in providing answers to questions which might be asked by readers. Excellence reporting covering the issues and showing angles on the coronavirus topic. Criteria included accuracy and completeness, clarity and insight, enterprise and creativity, and journalistic impact – all were there. Reporting included a variety of data, contacting many sources, and using quotes to make the stories. Also noted were complaints. Would have been happy to have this coverage in my newspaper.

Second Place: *The Post-Crescent*, ‘Here’s what it’s like inside ThedaCare’s COVID unit, where another virus wave feels like ‘Groundhog Day’ - Madeline Heim.

Judge’s Comments: Covering COVID-19 is more than noting that beds are not available at most hospitals; it’s also showing the unreported stories that need to



A tent occupied by a pair of unsheltered homeless individuals sits in a wooded area in Howard.

Josh Staloch Photo

Brown County’s state of homelessness

“The problem has gotten to a point where you cannot ignore it anymore.”

BY HEATHER GRAVES
EDITOR

Using a blue tarp as his roof, 49-year-old Madee did his best to protect himself from the elements.

Until recently, the college graduate called a bush near the railroad tracks in downtown Green Bay “home.”

Scouring the area for a place to “live” is nothing new for Madee, because he’s spent the better part of the past three years on the streets.

The drop in temperatures prompted Madee to seek shelter at St. John’s Homeless Shelter, and he’s been staying there on and

off since it opened at the beginning of November.

Madee is homeless.

He joins dozens, if not hundreds, of other individuals in Brown County who are or have experienced homelessness.

For many, homelessness may seem like a foreign concept – something that could never happen to them.

It can be easy to pretend not to see the guy sleeping in the park, or to ignore the woman standing at an intersection holding a handwritten plea for help.

Terri Refsguard, New Community Shelter chief executive officer, said there is no “typical” homeless person.

She said the reasons

someone is homeless vary drastically – but something all those experiencing homelessness have in common is, it doesn’t define who they are.

Refsguard said she uses the phrases “people finding themselves homeless” or “experiencing homelessness, because it’s not a permanent situation.”

See HOMELESS page 8

Ongoing/Extended Coverage, First Place (Division C)

The Press Times, Green Bay

be told. And these stories do that. They meet the criteria of accuracy, completeness, clarity, enterprise, and journalistic impact, but they also use a variety of sources and interviews to show how a day feels at work, how nurses are being trained, the inability to accept patients or transfers, and death of patients. These are stories of excellence in reporting. Good work.

Third Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Children under 5 can now be

vaccinated against COVID. Here's what it means to Wisconsin's child care and early education providers' - Madison Lammert.

Judge's Comments: The age of when to give the vaccine to small children is a COVID topic, but this story includes coverage of when to vaccinate, parental control, sources from keepers of children, and quotes for several sources. Excellent reporting with a much broader approach. I like the angles covered.

Clearly, the story shows accuracy, is complete, had clarity and enterprise, and journalistic impact. The impact includes opinion and some nice parental quotes. Good work.

Honorable Mention: *The Cap Times*, 'COVID and businesses in Dane County' - Natalie Yahr. Judge's Comments: An interesting combination of entries on some underreported stories and issues and new angles. Readers learned of ways businesses are affected, court cases, the surprise of more businesses applied for during the pandemic, use and non-use of masks. Good reporting with completeness, clarity, enterprise and creativity, and impact. If you wanted something different in stories or angles, you found it in these stories.

Competition Comments: Folks, you turned in some great stories in this category. The entry instructions called for some underreported stories and issues or exploring new angles on familiar topics. You understood the instructions, and your readers had such stories to read. I hope they enjoyed them as much as I did. The criteria outlines also were found throughout the stories. I found an ample number of facts with sources identified. I loved the quotes, and some included some complaints or comments by people. I was touched with some emotion in several stories and often felt sad. After reading and rereading, I made the winners but many others were of equal quality. You did some good reporting.

Division B

First Place: *The Reporter*, 'Fond du Lac County passes 14,000 COVID-19 cases; A stinky

situation; NFDL School District enforces 15-day mask mandate; Police officer dies of COVID complications; More students mask up as COVID surges' - Sharon Roznik, Daphne Lemke, Mark Treinen.

Second Place: *Wausau Daily Herald*, 'See headlines in comment box.' - Keith Uhlig, Melissa Siegler, Renee Hickman.

Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'In Sheboygan schools, COVID-19 omicron surge is compounding staff shortages. Here's how the district is responding.' - Maya Hilty.

Division C

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'How the COVID-19 Lockdown Unlocked Outdoor-Learning Lessons' - Craig Sterrett.

Judge's Comments: Terrific story that showed how not only they adapted for the moment, but also long-term for an improved and more engaging lesson plan.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'COVID-19's Impact on Craft Breweries' - Sophie Nelson.

Judge's Comments: Great job localizing a national trend and also looking for a different angle, one that was not being reported on nationally and also better serves the readership.

Third Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'They Didn't Have to Be Here' - Myles Dannhausen Jr..

Judge's Comments: Good glimpse at how the local hospital is reaching a breaking point.

Division DE

First Place: *Sawyer County Record*, 'Hometown heroes' - Kathy Hanson.

HAYWARD HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES TESTED BY PANDEMIC



BY RICH JACKSON

David Moberg, a medical lab technician, is one of many Hayward Area Memorial Hospital employees who continued to work through the pandemic as they fulfilled vital functions in the community.

BY KATHY HANSON
Staff Reporter

Editors note: This is Part 1 of "Local health care heroes share their stories." Part 2 and the conclusion of the article will appear in the June 1 edition of the Sawyer County Record.

There are 422 people on staff. There are 35 departments. There are 25 beds.

There is no such thing as any person or department working alone. There is only one rule that never changes: teamwork.

That is Hayward Area Memorial Hospital & Water's Edge.

On March 13, 2020, at 3 p.m. the hospital and senior living facility locked their doors. Most of America did, but few

businesses, organizations or groups of people faced what health care workers across the country had to: a pandemic that tested the professional and personal limits of every health care worker, no matter what their title, no matter what their experience, no matter what their job.

SEE HOSPITAL PAGE 8A

Coronavirus Coverage, First Place (Division DE)
Sawyer County Record, Hayward

Second Place: *Amery Free Press*, ‘Big numbers for small town pharmacy: Amery’s very own Chet Johnson Drug tackles vaccinations’ - April Ziemer.

Third Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, ‘District, Health Department work in tandem; Board rejects removing COVID order; School Board to vote on mask matrix; Truth vs Facts’ - David Timmerman.

Honorable Mention: *The Pierce County Journal*, ‘How does the Delta variant change the game?; As Covid cases rise, PCPH is overwhelmed; PHS will be host to state Covid testing site; Hospital bed shortage is no joke, PCPH says; Covid cases hit all-time high in Pierce County’ - Sarah Nigbor.

Reporting on Local Government

Division A

First Place: *The Journal Times*, ‘The City of Racine’s six-figure battle over a PowerPoint’ - Adam Rogan. Judge’s Comments: Fascinating story that is very well written by the reporter. Great writing and investigation.

Second Place: *The Journal Times*, ‘Revenue from Aurora falls short; Five days on the job, then gone; Making a comeback at 75 ’ - Scott Williams.

Judge’s Comments: Really well-written stories. The writing is just as intriguing as the subject matter. The ledes are excellent.

Third Place: *The Cap Times*, ‘Delays in Dane County’s emergency rental assistance program leave some residents in need; Madison

announces fire chief finalists, but says they can’t talk to media; Seeking shelter: Service gaps remain in Madison’s help for homeless’ - Allison Garfield.

Judge’s Comments: Excellent first story that gives really personal portrayals of interview subjects in addition to easy-to-understand explanations of government bureaucracy and processes. Really interesting second story that tackles questions of secrecy and lack of openness by local government. Great third story that puts a human face on an important issue.

Honorable Mention: *The Journal Times*, ‘You have to help us here; Racine voters reject referendum: Public doesn’t approve tax bump to hire more cops; More Racine employees getting vaccinated, but lowest vaccination rates are still among cops and firefighters’ - Dee Hölzel.

Judge’s Comments: Really interesting stories well-written and reported. I found the first story especially compelling.

Division B

First Place: *Watertown Daily Times*, ‘Coverage of Dodge County: Supervisor disagrees with letter of admonishment; Closed session irks some on board; Sheriff states his case’ - Ed Zagorski.

Judge’s Comments: Really well written. All three stories are compelling and interesting.

Second Place: *Wausau Daily Herald*, ‘Wausau mayor says Public Works director misled on PFAS contamination; he calls accusations ‘ridiculous’; Eliminating Marathon County’s Diversity Affairs Commission silences minority

populations, former members say; Wausau is facing an ‘affordable housing crisis.’ Here’s what is being done to address it.’ - Renee Hickman, Emalyn Muzzy.

Judge’s Comments: Really good investigative work by the reporter. Interesting stories about important topics.

Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, ‘In acclaimed Amsterdam Dunes project, Sheboygan County to restore a shoreline property and create a wetland ‘bank’ for future developments; Facing bus driver shortage, Sheboygan’s Shoreline Metro to reduce evening and Saturday service; Sheboygan County board to mull spending \$11 million on six projects including child care,

internet, police program and more.’ - Maya Hilty.

Judge’s Comments: Reporter explains a topic that could be complicated regarding wetland credits in a way that’s easy to understand and compelling. Well done.

Honorable Mention: *Stevens Point Journal*, ‘Fired Stevens Point firefighter-paramedic wants job back; Convent apartment project breaks ground as developer donates parkland to Stevens Point; Central Wisconsin counties hope ‘new’ approach to address nitrate-polluted water can serve as model’ - Karen Madden, Alan Hovorka.

Judge’s Comments: Well-written stories about a range of issues. Compelling.

How the COVID-19 Lockdown Unlocked Outdoor-Learning Lessons

By Craig Sterrett, October 8th, 2021

f SHARE TWEET PIN SHARE LINKEDIN REDDIT EMAIL



(From left) Environmental educator Sheryl Honig and environmental interpreter Anna Foster dramatically expanded outdoor programming to allow for social distancing when the pandemic began, and they’ve been pleasantly surprised by the results. Photo by Craig Sterrett.

Sheryl Honig and Anna Foster already believed that people often learn better outdoors than inside a classroom or auditorium, but the past year and a half have made these Ridges Sanctuary educators even more certain.

Coronavirus Coverage, First Place (Division C)
Peninsula Pulse, Door County

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Vilas County highway committee OKs ATV/UTV requests; Arbor Vitae plans moratorium to deal with storage containers; Vilas County board says no to ATV ordinance amendments' - Brian Jopek.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Public comment at Presque Isle town board meetings becomes an issue; State sponsored boat patrol program to be proposed again in St. Germain; Minocqua's pier ordinance likely to be challenged in court' - Trevor Greene.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Property owners file lawsuit against Town of St. Germain; Tax levy pledge forces St. Germain to cut back on spending; Spending dispute puts St. Germain town board, chamber of commerce at odds' - Fred Williston.

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'County Maps New Districts; Highway Safety in Door County; County, Hospital Partnership on 911 Transfers' - Debra Fitzgerald.

Division D

First Place: *The Star News*, 'Big Leap Forward; Tensions climbing; Veterans officer quits, claims harassment' - Brian Wilson. Judge's Comments: In a field of many outstanding stories this one displayed quality reporting and excellent writing on a tough issue. Well written. Sidebars of sheriff's report and letter of resignation helped the reader.

Second Place: *The Chronotype*, 'Barron County Restorative Justice transitions to county departments; Putting on the brakes; Public

weighs in on 'road diet';' - Michelle Jensen. Judge's Comments: The story on restorative justice is what bumped this entry to 2nd place - an issue of social importance. Good job making that easier for readers to understand. All stories were well done and weren't just meeting coverage.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Douglas County wrestles with labor shortage; City enters first phase to build broadband network; Superior to buy Carnegie Library' - Shelley Nelson.

Judge's Comments: Enjoyed the storytelling style and information that went beyond just meeting coverage. The 'county wrestles with pay' story went beyond simple budget story, making sure residents were fully aware of what the costs of raises were.

Honorable Mention: *Price County Review*, 'Worcester board works to avert crisis; County could sell Phillips fairgrounds; Fifield fire departments under bylaws review' - Regan Kohler, Tom LaVenture. Judge's Comments: Good job taking a topic like the fire bylaws story and making it easier to digest for readers. Also did excellent

job covering the other stories, particularly in 'averting crisis' story. **Competition Comments:** Several solid entries. I read and read again and still had trouble ranking the top three but simply had to make a call. On another day the order could easily be reversed.

Division E

First Place: *Oconto County Reporter*, 'You're wrecking my life': Solar farm opponents question plans in town of Morgan; 2 Brown County department heads are finalists for the Oconto County administrator position; An Oconto couple wants to use their property for outdoor weddings' - Kent Tempus.

Judge's Comments: Three excellent stories that were well written and easy to follow for someone getting first take of the issue. Ledes invited readers in, and once in they weren't disappointed. Well done.

Second Place: *The Northwoods River News*, 'Council repeals Delta 8 ordinance; Outcry over fire department staffing leads to frank discussion; Council 'reluctantly' authorizes recruitment of new city administrator' - Heather Schaefer.

Judge's Comments: Interesting stories, especially Delta 8 ordinance. All three contained good background. Liked the plug in the one story for readers to check out the recording of the meeting.

Third Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Spring Green again takes up Kane dog boarding request after declining to appeal'; 'Local EMS directors respond to Marklein's rural EMS bill as Evers issues a veto, expert weighs in'; 'No-Mow May adopted by Spring Green village board, experts weigh in' - Taylor Scott. Judge's Comments: Good reporting that went beyond meeting coverage. Getting that local reaction to government action is what important and you did that.

Honorable Mention: *Sun Prairie Star*, 'City will pay \$37,834 to attorney who resigned after alleged gun incident; Leonard resigns; Former city attorney pleads guilty to disorderly conduct' - Jennifer Fetterly, Christopher Mertes. Judge's Comments: Good reads, but would have liked to see another issue or topic reported on. All three were about same person/issue so some copy was repetitive. Still good stories, tho.

RACINE | LAWYER FEES

\$200,000 spent over a PowerPoint

Court of Appeals rules in favor of former Alderman Weidner

ADAM ROGAN
adam.rogan@journaltimes.com

RACINE — It all started with a PowerPoint.

Concerned about what could have been considered classified

communications being shared with members of the public, in August 2017, Racine City Attorney Scott Letteney led a behind-closed-doors meeting with the City Council. During that meeting, a PowerPoint slideshow was shown. It contained 70-plus slides depicting communications between city staff and three aldermen that were later shared by aldermen with members of the public.



Letteney

city officials that should not have been public knowledge.

Letteney asserted those messages should not have been shared with the public, and were confidential communications between elected city officials and appointed

That one meeting has sparked a series of court hearings in multiple courts, at least one gag order, a prolonged records request being fought by city administration, more than \$200,000 in taxpayer dollars being spent on attorney's fees and on Wednesday a Wisconsin Court of Appeals decision that's been applauded by open records advocates.

And what was that decision? That a former alderman and her

attorney should be allowed to have a copy of a PowerPoint they have already seen.

Please see **POWERPOINT**, Page A6



REVIEW: Scan this QR code to read the Wisconsin Court of Appeals Weidner v. City of Racine decision issued Wednesday **NEWSVU**

Reporting on Local Government, First Place (Division A)

The Journal Times, Racine County

Competition Comments: Second through honorable mentions were tough to place. Solid entries and enjoyed reading them.

Reporting on Local Education

Daily Division

First Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, ‘A man tried to approach the stage at the Manitowoc School Board meeting Tuesday. It’s one of several disruptions in the past year.; Manitowoc school district readies for new direction under ‘fully conservative board’ as superintendent plans to leave.; Manitowoc school board members voted to give themselves key fobs to all district buildings. Here’s what happens next.’ - Alisa Schafer. Judge’s Comments: Excellent coverage of a school board that seems to be flirting with FOIA violations. Using the quote from the Republican party man saying he would never comment for anything was a nice touch.

Second Place: *Stevens Point Journal*, ‘New diversity team has ‘empowered’ SPASH students; How Stevens Point schools addressed a substitute crisis; Half of Stevens Point junior high students were disciplined last year’ - Alan Hovorka.

Judge’s Comments: Great article choices. All interesting topics.

Third Place: *The Cap Times*, ‘Off the track: The future is unclear for Madison School District’s Pathways program; Learning to cope: COVID-19 exacerbates growing youth mental health challenges; ‘An impossible situation.’ Members leaving school boards amid

politicization, divisiveness’ - Scott Girard.

Judge’s Comments: Fantastic lede sentence (program stuck in neutral). Good, thorough reporting in all three stories.

Honorable Mention: *The Journal Times*, ‘Never did I think I would be a teacher; 6 Grads share their stories; Inadequate school lunches were a big problem at RUSD in 2021-22. Will they be better next year?’ - Ryan Patterson.

Division C

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘Upward Trend in Lower Incomes; Nut Free School?; Door County Schools Exceed Expectations’ - Craig Sterrett.

Judge’s Comments: Craig Sterrett’s coverage of schools is confident, clear, and comprehensive. The topics are varied, but the writing is engaging with great use of data to support and frame up each topic. Wonderful job.

Second Place: *The Press Times*, ‘Just as important: A secondary education odyssey; Just as important: Inside the classroom; Just as important: Funding conundrum’ - Heather Graves.

Judge’s Comments: Well done! A deep dive into special education, with each story taking a different entry point into a large challenge in education. A big bonus for personalizing the teachers’ stories in one of them.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Superintendent selection sparks controversy; LGBTQ club formally approved at LUHS; School climate and culture talks continue at LdF’ - Kelly Holm.

Judge’s Comments: These stories take on the issue of inclusion (especially First Americans) and its implications with the hiring of a new superintendent of schools. The writing is steady, comprehensive, and thought-provoking. Well done.

Division D

First Place: *Trempealeau County Times*, ‘See Something, Say Something’; Revote Ahead After Illegal School Board Vote Ups G- E-T School Meal Costs; Independence School Board Split On Gender/Sexuality Alliance’ - Benjamin Pierce.

Judge’s Comments: Timely issues covered from local angles. Good writing. Solid coverage. Important work.

Second Place: *Superior Telegram*, ‘Digging in: Solon Springs students try project-based learning; School bus safety prompts warning signs, discussion in Maple; Superior board votes to retain gender identity curriculum for fifth graders’ - Maria Lockwood.

EDUCATION

A man tried to approach the stage at the Manitowoc School Board meeting Tuesday. It's one of several disruptions in the past year.



Alisa M. Schafer

Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter

Published 1:25 p.m. CT Feb. 10, 2022 | Updated 9:15 a.m. CT Feb. 11, 2022

[View Comments](#)



MANITOWOC - A Manitowoc man approached the stage where the Manitowoc School Board was holding its meeting on Tuesday during public input, causing Superintendent Mark Holzman to get up and try to physically bar the man and School Board Vice President Lisa Johnston to adjourn the meeting momentarily.

The meeting was held in the auditorium at Wilson Middle School to accommodate the large number of people wanting to attend school board meetings. The board members were arranged on the auditorium stage while the audience was seated in the auditorium chairs with a podium facing the stage for public



Manitowoc Public Schools Superintendent Mark Holzman talks to a person, off camera, before a school board meeting at Manitowoc Lincoln High School, Tuesday, August 10, 2021, in Manitowoc, Wis. Gary C. Klein/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

Reporting on Local Education, First Place (Daily Division)
Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: Good coverage of some complicated subjects that require backgrounding. Well done.

Third Place: *The Star News*, 'Making the grade; Starting a dialogue; Seeking solutions' - Brian Wilson.

Judge's Comments: Very nice coverage of the bullying issue. Important for the community. DPI reports can be dry, but this was nicely done.

Honorable Mention: *Star-Observer*, 'It's survival mode' - Schools face extreme staff shortage; Elementary mom raises \$1,200 for book fair; Keeping trash from landfill' - Hannah Coyle.

Judge's Comments: Good variety of school issues represented here. Nice writing.

Competition Comments: Overall an excellent category of entries. This was by far the most difficult to judge. Local news coverage of education remains the heart of local journalism, as shown here.

Division E

First Place: *Sun Prairie Star*, 'Board apportionment fails; police to cite some for walkout; 198 homeless students' - Christopher Mertes.

Judge's Comments: A great reporting/writing performance with the apportionment story. Terrific quotes and an understanding narrative of the outcome. Sexual-assault-awareness demonstration story has limited sourcing, and no students comments or parental response. Homeless students story exceptional, though limited to mostly "official" sources; those directly involved, such as the students, are not represented here. The writing/reporting remains excellent considering the primary story focus.

Second Place: *Sun Prairie Star*, 'Sun Prairie teachers ask school board for pay increase; Sun Prairie School Board approves referendum question on November ballot; Federal court rejects Sun Prairie families' claims over Patrick Marsh slavery assignment' - Jeromey Hodsdon.

Judge's Comments: While "depth" is shallow in some areas of these stories, the reporting is clear and relevant. Especially noted is the story on court review of a classroom assignment on slavery: excellent writing leads to clear understanding of underlying issue and the court's decision. Not many comments from those affected by these stories, but the writing/reporting remains contextually solid.

Third Place: *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, 'North Crawford pursues referendum; Board discusses developing referenda for fall

election; Referendum survey presented to board' - Gillian Pomplun.

Judge's Comments: Detailed account of proposed maintenance and upgrade projects for looming school district referendum vote. Project details, but no comments from/by those affected. Another comprehensive account of school board discussion and review of proposed referenda; lots of quotes; none from community. Third story reveals results of community survey. Again lots of project detail and revealed survey results, but no direct community engagement or comments. These stories are packed with detail.

Honorable Mention: *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, 'Drone team competes in Milwaukee; Error is made on the ballot; Mask policies are changed' - Charley Preusser.

Judge's Comments: A refreshing,

casual account of a student drone-making competition. Heavy descriptions lightened by reporter's adjectives (subjective, but readably creative and on point). Student comments included. School board meeting story recounts mascot name selection and COVID-19 mask policy. Good writing/reporting. Masking issues packed this school board story. Anonymous comments were unattributed—reporter should have secured commentators' names. Lots of detail packed this story.

Competition Comments: In this judge's view, several entries focused on political/administrative stories rather than the accomplishments of students and the education process. Even stories focused on the latter missed opportunity to include related students', teachers', parents' and general community responses/comments. Writing/reporting ranged from exceptional to adequate. Generally, we looked for stories that engaged readers. These were mostly absent.

Business Coverage

Division A

First Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'Answering questions about the proposed Public Market; Farmers market offers launch pads for startups; Growth at a cost' - Alexandria Bursiek Kloehn.

Second Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Out of service: What will it take to bring back Madison's restaurant workers?, How Madison delivers: The rise of the ghost kitchen; Wisconsin invests in small-scale butchers as demand for local meat rises' - Lindsay Christians.

Third Place: *Green Bay Press-*

Report Cards: Door County Public Schools 'Exceed Expectations'

By Craig Sterrett, *Peninsula Pulse* - December 17th, 2021

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Educators use report-card data to modify teaching and learning strategies

During the bad old days of the No Child Left Behind Act, state and federal governments judged public schools almost entirely on standardized test scores.

That's no longer the case. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) issues school report cards as part of its accountability system for every publicly funded school and district in the state. Those reports weigh four categories - Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes and On-Track to Graduation - and based on those ratings, an overall score is calculated that places entities somewhere on a five-point spectrum ranging from "fails to meet expectations" to "significantly exceeds expectations."

On the recently released report cards, all five Door County districts received a rating of "exceeds expectations" based on the 2020-21 school year. Even if the DPI and federal government still focused almost entirely on standardized test scores, local districts all did better than state averages in the Achievement category on tests.

Reporting on Local Education, First Place (Division C)

The Freeman, Waukesha

Gazette, ‘Retail project in Allouez seen as ‘catalyst’ for village center; Wrightstown a boom town: Location and planning turn tiny village into a residential and business magnet; Addressing the shortage: How Northeastern Wisconsin can solve its affordable h...’ - Jeff Bollier.

Honorable Mention: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, ‘London game has cost; ‘Rust Belt’ name needs to be retired; Weathering the storm’ - Richard Ryman.

Competition Comments: This was the most competitive category I’ve seen in many years. So many of the entries were excellent work.

Division B

First Place: *Wausau Daily Herald*, ‘Catastrophic short staffing’ at Wausau area businesses forces closures, other adjustments; Duo behind buzzy bakeshop Cup & Cake are new owners of Wausau staple Kreger’s Bakery & Deli; Here’s what we know about redevelopment of the former Wausau Center mall’ - Jay Stahl, Renee Hickman.

Judge’s Comments: These stories were lively and quickly involved the reader with t the people involved in these businesses. Sparkling.

Second Place: *Watertown Daily Times*, ‘Turning to peace on a potter’s wheel; Family strives to provide superior quality meats; Familiar face is back behind the bar’ - Steve Sharp.

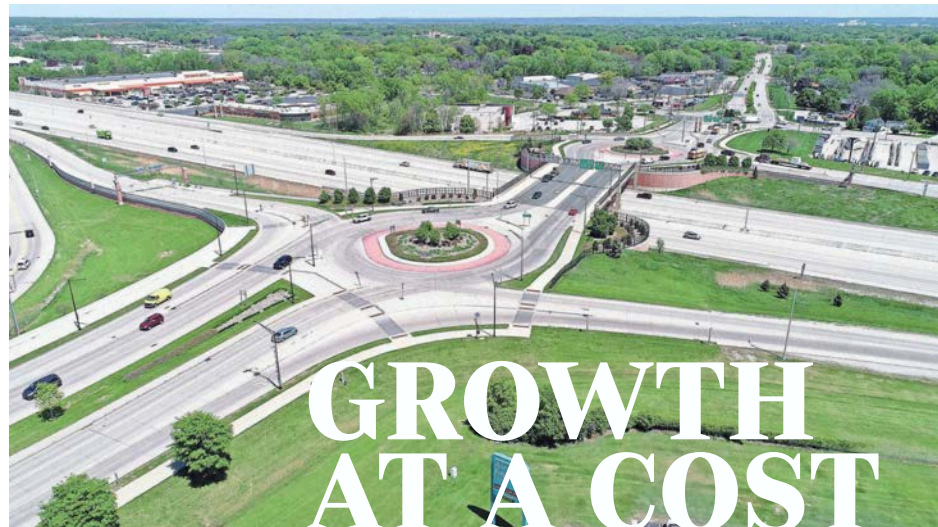
Judge’s Comments: Again, the stories captured the essence of the people involved and the writing was solid. Well done.

Third Place: *The Reporter*, ‘A takeout resurrection; Downtown events, new

businesses on 2022’s schedule; FDL twins to open Brothers Antiques’ - Daphne Lemke.

Judge’s Comments: Great job of capturing trends and not just a listing of businesses that in other hands often come off as advertisements rather than the well researched entries here.

Competition Comments: A number of entries dealt with similar subjects and in some cases, same businesses. But the winners here distinguished themselves with good reporting and writing skills.



Interstate 41, looking east across West Mason Street roundabouts in Green Bay on Tuesday. Highway access is a key consideration from business development by companies such as Home Depot, top left. MIKE DE SISTI AND CHELSEY LEWIS / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

The next phase in the highway’s evolution will take place south of De Pere, where the state Department of Transportation plans to expand the 23-mile segment between Scheuring Road in De Pere and State 96 in Appleton from four to six lanes, with three lanes moving in each direction.

Interstate 41 opened Green Bay to commercial development, but at the detriment to downtown

Alexandria Bursiek Kloehn Green Bay Press-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY - The Interstate 41 corridor is a lot of things to a lot of people. It’s a connection between communities that allows travelers to easily get from Green Bay to Appleton, to Oshkosh, to Fond du Lac and all the way down to Milwaukee. It’s easy access to local businesses and chain restaurants, or its advertising drawing people to motorcycle dealerships, casinos and diners.

In Green Bay, the interstate also means access to Lambeau Field, encouraging tourists to visit the city and support the green and gold.

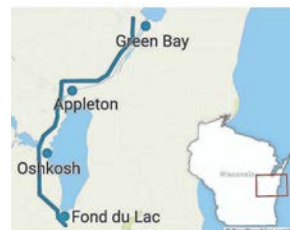
However, not everything the interstate represents is positive. Some see Interstate 41 as a combination of steel and concrete that pulls vital traffic away from the downtowns along its route.

Whatever Interstate 41 is to you, it’s clear that Green Bay wouldn’t be what it is today without the connection the roadway provides.

The road named ‘41’ shifted its path twice before settling in current arrangement

Interstate 41 began as U.S. 41 when the federal highway system was created in 1926. The original highway joined existing roadways to create a route with a unified sign system linking downtowns and community centers from Chicago, Illinois to Marinette.

See INTERSTATE 41, Page 8A



Interstate 41 from Green Bay to Fond du Lac CREATED WITH DATAWRAPPER

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, ‘New Year brings retirement farewell for local mechanic; Old body shop hits the road; Pandemic relief grants awarded to local theaters, summer camps’ - Eric Johnson.

Judge’s Comments: Nice job!

Second Place: *Northwest Now*, ‘Menomonee Falls-based Window Select investigated for alleged fraud; Cogent Analytics takes over management of Window Select; Window Select customers file class-

action lawsuit over unfinished work’ - Alex Groth, Corri Hess.

Third Place: *Southwest Now*, ‘How employees found a way to save Greenfield’s Exclusive Company; Benno’s Bar & Grill in West Allis, a pioneer in the craft beer movement, closes after 41 years; Tackling the worker shortage in Milwaukee’s suburbs’ - Bob Dohr.

Honorable Mention: *The Press Times*, ‘A look to the skies: Nearly a century of flight in Brown County; SNC’s Center for Business and Economic Analysis called a win-win for students, community; Soda Sense brings commerce, jobs to Seymour’ - Rick Cohler.

Division DE

First Place: *Superior Telegram*, ‘Eyes on the skies: Poplar man unveils patent-pending jetpack design; Lake Nebagamon tavern celebrates 75 years with summer of music; Poplar business creates custom furniture’ - Maria Lockwood.

Judge’s Comments: Good features about local folks who stuck their necks out to start a new business.

Second Place: *Lake Geneva Regional News*, ‘Daniels Foods to host centennial celebration; Fontana resident advances in business contest; Say ‘Cheese!’” - Eric Johnson.

Judge’s Comments: Supermarket story is a good story about local business and local history.

Third Place: *Courier Sentinel*, ‘Stale beer makes for spicy mustard; CVEC powering the community; Freed’s Bavarian hounds’ - Ginna Young.

Judge’s Comments: Lots of local history and local color in the stale beer story. Makes me want to check it out.

Honorable Mention: *Lake Geneva Regional News*, 'Worker shortage continues; Village Supper Club sold; New Darien TIF approved' - Dennis Hines.

Judge's Comments: TIF was a strong story that lays out the pros and cons of tax breaks to new businesses. This is often glossed over. Worker shortage story has lots of sources.

Competition Comments: Lots of good stuff here. Lots of local color and local history told through the ebbs and flows of local businesses. What makes really a really good business story is reporting that adds context to what the business means to the community and how the business fits into the larger business world.

Local Column

Division A

First Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Wisconsin's Orwellian high court; Mandela Barnes is in touch with Wisconsin's history - and the values that animate it; Pete Seeger outlasted the bastards' - John Nichols.

Judge's Comments: Mr. Nichols'

doesn't pull punches, do he? It does a J-school heart good to see that wrasslin' matches still exist in American newspaper columns. This stuff is must-read. Biting. Historical. Educating. In short, journalism at its finest.

Second Place: *The Cap Times*, 'White people ask the wrong questions after Buffalo, Swing-district Democrat Ron Kind on why he's leaving, Rebecca Blank's exit a huge loss - and poses an even bigger challenge' - Paul Fanlund.

Judge's Comments: The Alex Gee piece was fantastic. Opinion sections need more stand-up columns like this.

Third Place: *The Journal Times*, 'Grandpa Time: Six going on thirteen; Grandpa Time: Phases in life of Ojibwe people; Grandpa Time: There's no retirement for grandpas' - David Maack.

Judge's Comments: Grandpa time! For those of us outside the native American world, this captivated us. Please continue this column!

Honorable Mention: *Leader-Telegram*, 'Tis the season for 'Freezing Man'; Lost and found in Lake Hallie; Southside rules' - Patti See.

Judge's Comments: Fine writing. Quirky topics. We imagine folks look forward to reading this columnist.

Division B

First Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Half-way house' on Lake Michigan between Manitowoc and Two Rivers was finest in the county; Manitowoc fire in 1962 was so bright people in Ludington, Michigan, saw light coming from the city; This photographer and his trusty horse captured Manitowoc County in photos unlike anyone else at turn of the 20th century' - Amy Meyer.

Judge's Comments: Highly readable and informative with interesting art. Essentially the same column as the runner-up but after a day of deliberation I decided these three columns comprised the most compelling entry, by the slightest of margins.

Second Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Manitowoc County brewery was largest operation found in Wisconsin during Prohibition; Jens Jensen, internationally renowned landscape architect, designed the original landscape plan for Manitowoc Lincoln High School; This Egyptian mausoleum at Pioneers Rest Cemetery in Two Rivers was built in 1914 and remains a focus of curiosity today.' - Bob Fay.

Judge's Comments: You'll get her next time, Bob. I love both of the top two entries.

Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Cedar Grove's 75th annual Holland Fest is this month, plus more news in your weekly dose; Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan

focus of upcoming forum, plus more news in weekly dose; Portion of North Avenue closes in Sheboygan as construction begins' - Brandon Reid.

Judge's Comments: A useful and probably very popular feature but it seems slightly miscast as a 'column'.

Honorable Mention: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Savor Manitowoc heads to Two Rivers for pizza at Waverly Inn, touted as 'the best thin crust on the shores of Lake Michigan'; Manitowoc Coffee has opened its new location on York Street. Savor Manitowoc tries its new extended menu.; Craving Italian pasta, pizza or sandwiches in Manitowoc? This restaurant has been a local favorite for three decades.' - Alisa Schafer, Patti Zarling.

Judge's Comments: I decided to award a HM in this catalogue because it's not the fault of the writer that she found herself competing against such different species of work. Restaurant reviewing and food writing is to be encouraged, and the writer has a lively voice and the appropriate enthusiasm.

Competition Comments: A tough category to judge because the entries, with the exception of the two top winners were extremely diverse (and the top winners were extremely similar). While I imagine all these columns (I'm actually not sure they are all columns, exactly, but I get it, they're regular features that deal with aspects of the way we live now) are useful and probably popular with readers. I ultimately just went with my instinct. I eventually went with Amy Meyer as the winner and Bob Fay as the runner-up simply because the subject matter of her entires seemed

Rehabilitation animal of the month: Barred owl

BY FREDDY MOYANO
CORRESPONDENT

BROWN COUNTY - Known for its classic, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" hooting call, this hefty, territorial barred owl is this month's Rehabilitation Animal of the Month.

In partnership with the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary (BBWS), The Press Times launched a monthly series focused on highlighting the many animals of the sanctuary and its efforts to rehabilitate its fluffy patients and release them back into the wild.

Custodian Lori Bankson said as a general rule, injured animals admitted to the sanctuary aren't given names, so as not to create emotional attachments.



Correspondent Freddy Moyano with February's Rehabilitation Animal of the Month, a barred owl, who is recovering from an injured wing at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.

"We are very lucky with the community support we have," she said. Bankson said many of the owls admitted to the sanctuary



This curious barred owl was the first animal the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary received this year. Freddy Moyano Photos

injury downtime for birds of prey is four to six months. Yet, she said hopes are that he will be released around mid-April. "We try to release them to

til they're about 12 weeks old.

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

For 86 years, Bankson said the BBWS, located on Green Bay's east side, has strived to protect, shelter, heal, rehabilitate and release back into nature many injured animals.

She said as many as 6,000 species per year are rushed to the sanctuary in need of rescue and rehabilitation.

Bankson said typically, the BBWS receives about 90 birds of prey per year - about half of them owls.

However in 2021, she said the sanctuary admitted around 200 birds of prey.

Supported by hundreds of volunteers and 4-10 paid staff depending on time of year, BBWS takes all kinds of na-

narrowly more compelling. I wish I could have named them 1 A and 1B.

Division C

First Place: *The Press Times*, ‘Rehabilitation animal of the month: Barred owl; Rehabilitation animal of the month: Baby raccoons and red foxes; Rehabilitation animal of the month: Opossum’ - Freddy Moyano.

Judge’s Comments: I love this column. Wonderful idea, nicely executed with enough personality to make it highly pleasurable to read. Maybe we’ll steal this idea.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘The Problematic Shift from ‘We’ to ‘I’; Cari’s Holiday Store; What Door County Can Teach the Country.’ - Bret Bicoy.

Judge’s Comments: I really like the columnist’s style and tone, and the respect for readers it conveys. This is a really good way to address an important but rarely addressed part of civic life.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Northwoods Film Festival 2022; Freedom from sea to shining sea; Belfast - a fork in the road’ - Jake Schexnaydre.

Judge’s Comments: What can I say? There is every chance that Eric Johnson is getting hosed his work fits the very definition of the category, well-written old school, reader service stuff that any newspaper should be proud to run. But when you’re competing with baby owls and foxes? (One note: I did have to work hard to find the jumps for these pieces.)

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘Wisconsin’s Law on Abortion and What Comes Next; Dying with Their Rights On: Mental Health

and the Law; Election Lawsuits and Our Democracy.’ - Joan Korb. Judge’s Comments: Solid, clear writing about important matters. Some really valuable work here.

Competition Comments: This was a surprisingly strong category. I’ve judge similar contests and can say that Wisconsin has a lot of good local columnists compared to most places. The tradition of having local voices expressing their opinions on

local subjects seems very much alive. That said, there’s very little daylight between the four winners and the unmentioned columns. Not that you could have pulled the winners out of a hat, but there were no clunkers here. That made it a pleasure to judge this category.

Division D

First Place: *The Pierce County*

FROM THE
Editor’s Desk BY SARAH NIGBOR
A little faith



In the wee hours of Thursday, Feb. 10, the worst kind of phone call came that no one ever wants to get. My husband’s grandpa, “Pa,” had had a heart attack and it looked like the end was near. My husband’s grandma, “Nan,” and his cousins Christopher and Roger raced through the dark night to get to the hospice facility. The vigil began.

My husband was able to call Pa and say his final goodbyes while Christopher held the phone to his ear. Pa couldn’t respond, but he could still hear. He died about an hour later, gently and quietly, with family surrounding him.

As we gathered around Nan’s old kitchen table Friday night reminiscing and grieving, Christopher and Nan had an amazing tale to tell. It will give you chills, and hopefully a bit of comfort.

First off, you need to know that Pa was an avid trout fisherman. He grew up in Shawano County where you trip over a trout stream every five feet. Sometimes they’re tiny and barely visible from the road, but Pa knew where all the good spots were, whether it was standing on a culvert near the road as icy water poured through into a deep hole, or back through the brush to a secret, hidden pool. The streams there tumble and churn over millions of stones. He passed his love of trout fishing onto my husband and his cousins. If you’ve never seen anyone fish a trout stream, it’s truly a delicate and visual art. The movements are distinct and precise, knowing exactly when to jig, the line flowing through fingers, the casting and reeling. Somehow they all know how to do this in the tightest, brushiest quarters with precision. When we go to Shawano County, I just watch my husband fish because it’s beautiful to me.

As Nan, Roger and Christopher sat in Pa’s room toward the end, Pa, barely able to speak, told Nan just exactly where his ice fishing tip-ups are so the boys could find them. Many he crafted himself. Soon, his speaking ceased and he stopped responding. His chest rose gently with each breath, but they became shallower each time. Soon, they noticed his arms moving in what seemed an erratic fashion. Was this something that happens when death is about to pounce? But as Christopher watched, the movements Pa’s arms were making took on a familiar rhythm. He was tying a line, casting, letting the fishing line flow through his fingers, his right arm extended. Soon the jigging started. His fingers and arms moved through the familiar dance, without a tremble, through the precise dance of trout fishing. He was trout fishing. Oh, he hit a snag! Dang it, the line broke. He had to retie the lure. Pop the line into the mouth, tie the line, good as new, the dance begins again. This went on for quite some time.

As Christopher told this story around the old kitchen table, tears streamed down our faces. While we hated that we’d lost Pa, there was comfort in knowing he was doing what he loved best as he passed from this world to the next. He was trout fishing.

My husband teaches psychology and told me later that most likely, the movements were due to buried memories in a part of the brain called the hippocampus. That may well be, or maybe it was because he was already in the next life, with his foot lingering in this one, doing the one thing he loved most as he transitioned to his heavenly reward. Sometimes, you just got to have a little faith. I believe Pa was really and truly trout fishing.

Journal, ‘The asphalt ribbon; A little faith; War on blue jays’ - Sarah Nigbor.

Judge’s Comments: A consultant I worked with years ago always said a great newspaper makes the reader feel something. All three of these columns succeed on that score. The writing was concise yet clear and descriptive. I felt like I was sitting with the writer in the moment. These columns are also proof that you don’t need 1,500 words to make a point. Very nicely done. Lots of great competition here.

Second Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Public deserves school explanation; COVID claims an Ashland gem; Bayfield County endangers its residents’ - Peter Wasson.

Judge’s Comments: A very close second. Telling truth to power can be tough in our industry’s current environment. And few things are more powerful in a small town that law enforcement agencies and school boards. Congratulations on holding both accountable with strong, persuasive prose.

Third Place: *Barron News-Shield*, ‘Wedge issue: Should one cheese stand above the rest?; Cat scares: Where did they go?; Monkey business: Setting the record straight.’ - Ryan Urban.

Judge’s Comments: A strong 3rd place. Outstanding writing. Funny, clever, interesting. I never even thought of stopping until the end of each. I’m still laughing about “whizzing” down the road in the cheese column.

Honorable Mention: *Price County Review*, ‘Karen’s Korner - Another Windsday; Read on...; Picture this’ - Karen Dums.

Judge’s Comments: I wish I could give more than 3 places here. I loved

Local Column, First Place (Division D)
The Pierce County Journal, Ellsworth

your writing style. It was “breezy” and “fresh.” Not bad for someone who loves wind.

Competition Comments: Really great work here. I wish I could have recognized more. I especially liked Rich Jackson’s takes on the First Amendment. Just not enough places. Readers in Wisconsin are lucky to have such fine columnists.

Division E

First Place: *Sun-Argus*, ‘Cruising with Cari’ - Cari Cornelius.

Second Place: *Lodi Enterprise and Poynette Press*, ‘The occasional conditions on our love of law enforcement’ - Jonathan Stefonek.

Third Place: *Valley Sentinel*, ‘Reflections from Lost Horizon Farm – Introduction; Reflections from Lost Horizon Farm – Dogs on the Farm (Part 1); Reflections from Lost Horizon Farm – Dogs on the Farm (Part 2)’ - Barb Garvoille.

Honorable Mention: *Valley Sentinel*, ‘The Human Spirit - Soon’; ‘How did we get here?’; ‘The Voters’ - Beverly Pestel.

Competition Comments: A lot of great talent, I enjoyed their entries.

Local Sports Column

Daily Division

First Place: *La Crosse Tribune*, ‘WIAA state baseball commentary: Cropp’s winning catch lifts weight from shoulders; Commentary: Logan’s Steve Hole made mark on school and community; WIAA Division 5 state football: Jackson Flottmeyer shines on big stage as Blugolds win title;’ - Todd Sommerfeldt.

Judge’s Comments: The Cropp piece

put this entry over the top in a very tight competition. It was simply the best-written, most compelling single column in the contest.

Second Place: *Kenosha News*, ‘Hi, my name is Mike Ramczyk; Falcons training partnership pays off; 3 things we learned from Friday football’ - Mike Ramczyk.

Judge’s Comments: Mike Ramczyk displayed more personality than any of the other entries. That’s not always a good thing in a vacuum but he backs it up with solid, detailed reportage.

Third Place: *Beloit Daily News*, ‘New job won’t prevent Douglas from advocacy; Beloit youth hockey doesn’t deserve thin ice; State champion Bandits met their potential’ - Jim Franz.

Judge’s Comments: Old school sports guy. Makes me smile.

Honorable Mention: *The Journal Times*, ‘Shining a light; The big time at last; Breaking barriers’ - Peter Jackel.

Judge’s Comments: More features than columns, but good features.

Competition Comments: On one

hand, it is refreshing to find, in this world of hot takes and dumbed down hot takes, well reported and reasonable sports commentary. On the other hand, more than once while reading these entries I found myself wondering if they were really columns or just reported sports features. Some more analysis would be welcome but I’m not complaining.

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Review*, ‘All fan, part owner; The picture is up, and it’s good; Here’s the pitch’ - Dave Boehler.

Judge’s Comments: This guy, bless him, writes about others rather than himself. How about the teacher who threw out the first ball at a Brewers game? Great stuff.

Second Place: *The Monroe Times*, ‘The big picture as B1G expands to the Pacific coast; A conversation most sports fans aren’t ready for; Down year for Super Bowl ads, but overall great postseason’ - Adam Krebs.

Judge’s Comments: The column about switching spring and summer sports for high schools was a winner. I was (almost) convinced. On, Wisconsin weather.

Third Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Bay Area jewel must be preserved; Be true to your school; End private schools’ sports advantage’ - Paul Barnes.

Judge’s Comments: Each column a good read.

Honorable Mention: *The Star News*, ‘Plenty to touch on while waiting out long transition to spring; Tinkering with the hoops tourney; get ready for wrestling Super Regionals; As torch gets passed, Wellman looks back on excellent nine-year run’ - Matt Frey. Judge’s Comments: Strong focus on local sports.

Competition Comments: An overall solid category. In some places, boosterism replaces journalism.

Local Outdoor Column

Overall Division

First Place: *Ashland Daily Press*, ‘Finding justice with a colorful quacker; It’s a ladybug picnic; Another rarity spotted by the bay’ - Sarah Morris.

Judge’s Comments: Superior writing. Clear, compelling, almost lyrical. A pleasure to read. Also an expanded definition of outdoors column writing.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘Kewaunee Fish Tops Record; DNR Updating Wolf Management Plan; One Cold Night Not Nearly Enough.’ - Kevin Naze.

Judge’s Comments: Column about

All fan, part owner

■ Like so many, Howards Grove graduate Bohman buys Packers’ stock

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best Packers’ fan in the world, Marcus Bohman gives himself an 11.

The 2015 Howards Grove graduate who lives near Cocoa Beach in Florida says he’s been a fan his whole life and his favorite color is green.

“I even remember in high school I had some coaches that called me Mr. Green,” he said.

So of course Bohman jumped at the opportunity to purchase stock, at \$300 a share, when the Green Bay franchise offered it for the sixth time in team history.

“When I heard about it, I was at work,” he said. “So I was telling people I’m definitely buying this and got some crazy looks. It’s fine, they don’t understand. They don’t have to.”

After waiting some three hours online the first day it was offered because demand was so high – the team sold more than \$41 million worth of stock the

Dave Boehler
THE REVIEW
SPORTS EDITOR



“I’m not going to get rid of it anytime soon - or ever. ... I take pride in owning the stock.”

– Marcus Bohman

first week – Bohman bought one to replace his previous most prized sports possession: a football signed by Randall Cobb and William Henderson.

Two weeks later, he got a notification on his phone the stock was about to be delivered.

“I was basically refreshing it every second to see when it came so I could just grab it when it got here,” Bohman said. He opened his mailbox to find a Packer folder with the words “Legacy is yours” on the front. All that was needed was



MARCUS BOHMAN recently became part owner of the Green Bay Packers. - Submitted photo

Local Sports Column, First Place (Weekly Division)

The Review – Entry, Plymouth

the trout tournament practically put me right in the boat. Informative series of columns.

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Deer camp is better with a buck; A long, unique era comes to an end; Better equipment means better photos' - Kurt Krueger.
Judge's Comments: Concise, warm, often funny. Something for readers to look forward to each week.

Honorable Mention: *The Chetek Alert*, 'Two-year quest for 'Moose' ends successfully for Ebner; Local deer attractant business explodes in three years; Wisconsin offers early archery season hot spots' - Tyler Florczak.

Judge's Comments: Classic outdoors writing - what a buck!

Competition Comments: Very competitive category. A colorful sample of outdoors coverage in small towns across Wisconsin.

Rookie Reporter of the Year

Daily Division

First Place: *The Cap Times* - Jack Kelly.

Second Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern* - Bremen Keasey.

Third Place: *The Post-Crescent* - Kelli Arseneau.

Honorable Mention: *Kenosha News* - Joe States.

Division C

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse* - Sam Watson.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times* - Trevor Greene.

Third Place: *The Press Times* - Janelle Fisher.

Division DE

First Place: *Star-Observer* - Hannah Coyle.

Second Place: *Dodge County Pionier* - Clarice Case.

Third Place: *Star-Observer* - Sam Fristed.

Honorable Mention: *Sun Prairie Star* - Jeromey Hodsdon.

General News Photo

Division A

First Place: *The Journal Times*, 'Da'Karrion King weeps' - Mark Hertzberg.

Judge's Comments: Crisp, moving photo that perfectly captures the moment.

Second Place: *Leader-Telegram*, 'Blue Angels' - Dan Reiland.

Judge's Comments: Fantastic photo! I also like the prominence on the page. Well done.

Third Place: *Kenosha News*, 'Rittenhouse testifies' - Sean Krajacic.
Judge's Comments: Great photo of national importance.

Honorable Mention: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Silhouette of a nurse helping a patient in the COVID unit at ThedaCare' - Bill Glasheen.
Judge's Comments: Getting the nurse while concealing the patient was not an easy task. This was done well.

Division B

First Place: *Wausau Daily Herald*, 'Sled dogs show their delight in preparation to run' - Tork Mason.

Second Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'MaKayla Green points out area of burned home' - Gary Klein.



Rookie Reporter of the Year, First Place (Daily Division)
Jack Kelly, The Cap Times, Madison

Fighting the stigma

Food pantries work to get food to those in need

BY HANNAH COYLE AND SAM FRISTED
Staff Writers

There is not one face to food insecurity. Those experiencing it come from all walks of life. Economic difficulty results in choices no one should have to make.

Does one buy groceries for the family or pay rent? Does one heat in the winter?



HANNAH COYLE/STAR OBSERVER.

In addition to volunteering time to an organization that serves others, one of the draws for St. Croix Valley Food Bank volunteer Bev Lightfoot is the exercise. A bag of onions like this one isn't light.



Rookie Reporter of the Year, First Place (Weekly Division)
Hannah Coyle, Hudson Star-Observer

Third Place: *Stevens Point Journal*, 'Man with Alzheimer's bursts out dancing during interview about daily swims' - Tork Mason.

Honorable Mention: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Knoll greets resident' - Gary Klein.

Division C

First Place: *Foto News*, 'Front page image - One of the Good Ones' - Tina L. Scott.

Judge's Comments: This shows the true power of photojournalism. A moment of heartbreak, this photographer captures the intimacy of grieving parents and the community coming together to support them, and their child's sacrifice. Excellent.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Festive Fourth Fun' - Dean Hall. Judge's Comments: Excellent composition and visual interest. The image captures the motion, the energy of a great moment at a

community parade.

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Shotski Record Attempt' - Michelle Drew.

Judge's Comments: Nice composition in this strong feature P1 photo. What squeaks this into an award is the guy getting a selfie of himself as they all take a shot (haha) at a world record. Nice job.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Explosive training exercise at RHI' - Trevor Greene.

Judge's Comments: From a technical POV this shot is truly wonderful. The composition, the color, balance of elements (right now to the dummy). So nice.

Division D

First Place: *Lake Geneva Regional News*, 'Williams Bay Homecoming 2021' - Stephanie Jones.

Second Place: *Price County Review*, 'Butternut Historical Society and Museum 10th Anniversary

Celebration' - Tom LaVenture.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Honoring the fallen' - Jed Carlson.

Honorable Mention: *Star-Observer*, 'Meet Queen Ava Prissel' - Hannah Coyle.

Division E

First Place: *Courier Sentinel*, 'Capt. Jim Anderson' - Ginna Young.

Judge's Comments: Stopped here and took a long look at the photo. If the photographer wanted that to happen, it did. Catching the sun in the background, getting the writing to be readable, and seeing someone reading the object were excellent ideas to show was happening.

Picture in focus and the light was used well. Excellent content, technical quality, and reader impact.

Second Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'Ripon comes to life with Dickens of a Christmas' - Jonathan Bailey.

Judge's Comments: The photographer decided on a good angle to get the picture. Showing someone inside and seeing faces with various reactions tells a story. I like the reader impact and the ways it draws me to the picture. Good technical quality and content. It helps the reader want to read the story. Great when photographer does that.

Third Place: *Milton Courier*, 'Flying free' - Anthony Wahl.

Judge's Comments: Picture goes well with the story and the photographer caught the eagle in flight as it soars away. Good location to catch the flight of the eagle. Has reader impact, technical quality is fine, and content fits well with the story. The flight picture stands out on the page and draws reader to the story.

Honorable Mention: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'Last day of school brings summer fun to Ripon's elementary schools' - Jonathan Bailey.

Judge's Comments: Good way to see the fun the students were having. The photographer saw the fun and captured in the picture. Am confident the picture has reader impact and helped the entire page. Technical quality is there as well as the content. Good idea to show the students reaction. That helps the picture.

Competition Comments: Enjoyed the variety of pictures and saw interested reactions. Of particular note to me were some nice angles I saw where the photographer took. The first two photos took some work to think out the picture and get good quality in showing the entire photo. The third shot caught an interesting angle of the flight and the HM picture had reactions showing on the kids. The picture entry stressed showing planning a picture and the winners demonstrated that. Others tried, but not quite as well. Would have been pleased to have had pictures of this type in my paper.

Spot News Photo

Daily Division

First Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Protesters gather in support of Quadren Wilson' - Ruthie Hauge. Judge's Comments: Comprehensive coverage of a spot news event with photos that illustrated the emotion of the event.

Second Place: *The Gazette*, 'House Fire in Janesville's Fourth Ward neighborhood' - Anthony Wahl.



General News Photo, First Place (Division B)

Wausau Daily Herald

Judge's Comments: Nice photo in tough lighting conditions with good composition.

Third Place: *The Gazette*, 'Residents displaced by fire in Janesville' - Anthony Wahl.

Judge's Comments: Nice photo of something beyond the action of putting out the fire.

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Friday Crash' - Gary Ridderbusch.

Judge's Comments: Photo showed the scene and urgency of emergency personnel working at the scene.

Second Place: *Ladysmith News*, 'Driver safe' - Luke Klink.

Judge's Comments: Getting on the scene quickly made the difference for this photo.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Lake Tomahawk boat fire' - Dean Hall.

Judge's Comments: Showing a bit more of the scene in addition

to the fire made this image more interesting.

Division D

First Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Warehouses burn' - Jed Carlson.

Judge's Comments: Extreme heat and extreme cold – one can really feel both at the same time through this photo. The firefighters in the foreground remind us of the unpleasant situations firefighters occasionally must confront. There's a sense of hopelessness as they trudge toward the blaze. All together, a stunning photo.

Second Place: *The Valders Journal*, 'Canine Rescue' - Brian Thomsen.

Judge's Comments: Firefighters really do take care of all of us – including our pets. This is something most people don't see every day, and I congratulate the photographer for spotting a scene that's both heartwarming and attention-grabbing. The expression on the firefighter's face is one of –

disbelief? Pain? Amusement? I'm not sure, but it's fun to speculate.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, '2-month old infant dies after crash' - Jed Carlson.

Judge's Comments: The damaged car, the debris scattered across the road and that blue tent are fascinating visuals. You captured the action of the patrolman in the middle of his investigative work, and ... whatever that guy behind the fence is doing. It's an intriguing photo that definitely draws me in, making me want to read the story.

Honorable Mention: *The Pierce County Journal*, 'Vehicle fire photo' - Reagan Hoverman.

Judge's Comments: That's probably the most intense car-be-que I've ever seen. It's hard to look away. I know I couldn't.

Division E

First Place: *Courier Sentinel*, 'Hanging out high in a tree' - Ginna Young.

Judge's Comments: The photographer was really on the spot for a very interesting, and hard to get, news photo. Very good shot and excellent cutline. Too bad the photo wasn't run more prominently

Second Place: *The Northwoods River News*, 'Circle of compassion' -

Judge's Comments: Great news photo. Excellent composition and lighting. This single photo captures the entire moment very well. The photo would have been even better had it been accompanied by a better cutline. Great photographers are also great reporters.

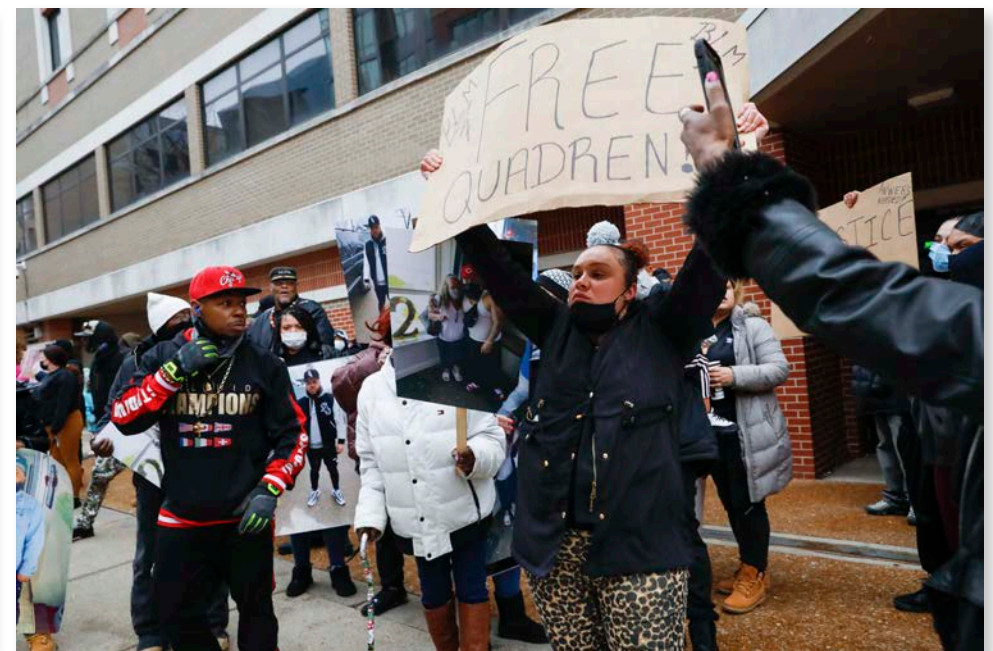
Third Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'Vehicle loses control, ends up in Silver Creek' - Jonathan Bailey.

Judge's Comments: Photographer made sure to get plenty of angles on a good news photo. The combination of these photos tells a good story, but no single photo jumps off the page and screams for the reader's attention.

Honorable Mention: *The Tribune-*



General News Photo, First Place (Division C)
Foto News, Merrill



Spot News Photo, First Place (Daily Division)
The Cap Times, Madison

Phonograph, 'Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!' - Ross Pattermann.

Judge's Comments: Great shot. This is an excellent example of quality small town news.

Sports Action Photo

Division A

First Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'A coming-together during the Winneconne vs. Appleton West soccer game' - Dan Powers.

Judge's Comments: Great faces, peak action and composition made this the winner.

Second Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'Young boxers spar at Junior's Boxing Club' - Sarah Kloeping.

Judge's Comments: Nice use of composition made photo stand out.

Third Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'Davante Adams keeps his eye on the ball as the Packers take on the Browns' - Samantha Madar.



Sports Action Photo, First Place (Division B)
Fond du Lac Reporter

Judge's Comments: Nice action photo.

Honorable Mention: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Soccer collision in Appleton West vs. Green Bay East game' - Bill Glasheen.

Judge's Comments: You can feel the pain in this photo.

Division B

First Place: *The Reporter*, 'Photo of a Fond du Lac hurdler in mid-leap' - Bill Glasheen.

Judge's Comments: A lot of luck to get the perfect picture. Great color, form and expression.

Second Place: *The Chippewa Herald*, 'Chi-Hi senior Riley Hinke performs a flip during her balance beam routine on Monday evening at Chi-Hi.' - Brandon Berg.

Judge's Comments: It was a tough decision between this and the first place winner as to which was the best. Excellent timing. But takes a second to zone in to what is happening.

Third Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Dvorachek flies high' - Gary Klein.

Judge's Comments: Love flying football players. Again, some luck with the timing, but a photo this player will keep in his scrapbook for a long time.

Honorable Mention: *Daily Globe*, 'Tigers upend Northstars' - Jason Juno.

Judge's Comments: Celebration pictures usually have too much going on of depth of field issues, but this was a solid capture of the win.

Competition Comments: This was a very tough category. Wisconsin is loaded with superb sports photographers. It was very tough decision between first, second and third.

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'WKSRA comes to Minocqua' - Brian Jopek.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Over the Top' - Kevin Boneske.

Third Place: *The Press Times*, 'The Notre Dame Academy girls' basketball team celebrates its second consecutive WIAA Division 2 state title' - Josh Staloch.

Honorable Mention: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Volleyball Celebration' - Doug Etten.

Division D

First Place: *Dodge County Pionier*, 'Mayville's Brad Bushke, #88, pulled in this juggling catch for a massive Cardinals gain. The junior tight end had 46-yards receiving during the homecoming game victory.' - Mitchell Keller.

Judge's Comments: Perfect position, perfect timing for an outstanding football photo. The drama of the moment is intensified by capturing the expressions on the player's faces.

Second Place: *Lake Geneva Regional News*, 'Defense First; Big Foot boys basketball wins regional opener' - Travis Devlin.

Judge's Comments: Everyone gave their all by stretching to make this play count, including the photographer who took the shot.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Taking a tumble' - Jed Carlson.

Judge's Comments: Incredible effort by both players!

Honorable Mention: *The Record-Review*, 'Home safe' - Casey Krautkramer.

Judge's Comments: The hands up pose makes this a classic softball shot.

Competition Comments: The best sports photos capture the intensity and emotion on the player's faces as they compete. This year's WNA competition includes several incredible examples of superior sports photography.

Division E

First Place: *The Freedom Pursuit*, 'Varsity girls basketball steal' - Angie Griepentrog.

Judge's Comments: Even tighter crop would help, though the facial expressions tell the "story" of this moment. A team effort by both teams and the photographer!

Second Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'Tigers walk off Westfield on Makarewicz's homer' - Jonathan Bailey.

Judge's Comments: Very good action shot: emotion erupts in faces of leaping player and coach. Tight cropping would have produced a World Series photo trophy.

Third Place: *The Northwoods River News*, 'Dashing through the snow' - Jamie Taylor.

Judge's Comments: This good photo needs a very tight side-crop. The emotion and action is focused with the dogs. Yet it's a very nice action image!

Honorable Mention: *The Baldwin Bulletin*, 'A win to savor' - Sam Niebeling.

Judge's Comments: A tight crop on the emotional center group would produce a more relevant photo for this moment.

Competition Comments: A good variety of photos to represent their sporting moments. Most of these entries would benefit from tighter cropping. Facial emotions in sports photos help tell a more

dramatic story. And several had just that, though surrounded by the unemotional elements.

Sports Feature Photo

Division A

First Place: *The Post-Crescent*, ‘The joy of victory and agony of defeat in WIAA Division 1 boys hockey sectional semifinal’ - Dan Powers.

Judge’s Comments: Nice moment that tells the story in one image.

Second Place: *The Gazette*, ‘Walking off to state’ - Anthony Wahl.

Judge’s Comments: Nice emotion on the players face made this image stand out.

Third Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, ‘Packers player takes a ride on bike from little girl’ - Sarah Klopping.

Judge’s Comments: The juxtaposition of player and child

makes this image work.

Honorable Mention: *The Post-Crescent*, ‘Thomas Burns of Hortonville stands tall as our baseball player of the year’ - Bill Glasheen.

Judge’s Comments: Nicely lit and composed portrait.

Division B

First Place: *Daily Tribune*, ‘Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln players find solace after loss’ - Tork Mason. Judge’s Comments: Nice moment instantly recognizable as the emotions of both winning and losing the big game.

Second Place: *Stevens Point Journal*, ‘Neenah High School’s pre-game basketball ritual’ - Tork Mason.

Judge’s Comments: Nice composition sets this image apart.

Third Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, ‘Kerhin hugs Novotny’ - Gary Klein. Judge’s Comments: Good emotion made this image stand out.

Division C

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘Down the Line’ - Rachel Lukas.

Judge’s Comments: Good job capturing the moment. Her expression makes the photo fun. Nice job exposing for shadows on her face. Nice photo.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, ‘Wing Foiling’ - Rachel Lukas. Judge’s Comments: Good framing of the subject. Interesting photo of a sport most don’t see. Good job with the horizon line and capturing his expression.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, ‘Stampede!’ - Dean Hall. Judge’s Comments: Nice sharp, crisp focus on the photo. Good job framing the subject between the background “cows.”

Division D

First Place: *The Monroe Times*, ‘Heartbroken’ - Adam Krebs.



Sports Feature Photo, First Place (Division C)
Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor



Feature Photo, First Place (Division A)
Kenosha News

Second Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Night of champions - sports feature' - Jed Carlson.

Third Place: *The Valders Journal*, 'Catching Air' - Brian Thomsen.

Honorable Mention: *Superior Telegram*, 'Banner entrance' - Jed Carlson.

Division E

First Place: *Milton Courier*, 'Walk-off winners' - Anthony Wahl.

Second Place: *The Freedom Pursuit*, 'State Champions' - Brian Fischer.

Third Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Football coach on tackling sled' - Jeff Brown.

Honorable Mention: *Milton Courier*, 'Milton welcomes home state champion baseball team' - Anthony Wahl.

Feature Photo

Division A

First Place: *Kenosha News*, 'All about the mud' - Sean Krajacic.

Judge's Comments: Good expressions and action made this photo stand out.

Second Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Photographing the photographer in downtown Appleton' - Dan Powers.

Judge's Comments: Nice moment instantly recognizable to the reader.

Third Place: *The Gazette*, 'Happy girl, lucky dog and a mound of leaves' - Anthony Wahl.

Judge's Comments: Composition and color separated this entry from the rest.

Division B

First Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 'Cute photo of a grateful dog kissing

Oshkosh's retiring humane society executive director' - Dan Powers.

Judge's Comments: Nice emotion and expression in this image.

Second Place: *Daily Tribune*, 'Dogs have their day at Witter Park Aquatics Center Dog Day' - Tork Mason.

Judge's Comments: Good use of color and composition made this photo stand out.

Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Ryder Cup: Team USA' - Gary Klein.

Judge's Comments: Expressions on the faces of the spectators made this and interesting photo.

Division C

First Place: *The Press Times*, 'Paul VanHandel, of Newcap, gives handwarmers to an unsheltered homeless individual in St. John's Park' - Josh Staloch.

Judge's Comments: The epitome of what a feature photo is supposed

to be. The compassion found in the volunteer is evident in the photo.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Unabashedly bashful' - Brett LaBore.

Judge's Comments: I love this photo. It's hard to vote against a kid having fun!

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Summer Show' - Kurt Krueger.

Judge's Comments: Great nature in motion photo. I long to get a photo like this.

Honorable Mention: *Monroe County Herald*, 'Eli Brown feature' - Nate Beier.

Judge's Comments: Great feature photo. I just am hung up on the fact that it was altered. Works great for the subject matter though.

Competition Comments: Nice variety of subject matter. The nature photos were hard to judge one over another. Ultimately the human interest found in the street outreach photo rose to the top in my opinion.

Division D

First Place: *The Valders Journal*, 'In Living Color' - Brian Thomsen.

Second Place: *The Portage County Gazette*, 'Annalee Forever Fit' - Katelyn Voorhies.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Curious squirrel' - Jed Carlson.

Honorable Mention: *Superior Telegram*, 'Festive decor' - Jed Carlson.

Division E

First Place: *Lake Mills Leader*, 'A Lake Mills student participates in a summer school activity' - Lauren Henning.

Judge's Comments: Fabulous shot in perfect focus. Love the look of concentration that was captured!

Second Place: *Milton Courier*, 'Taking the plunge' - Anthony Wahl.

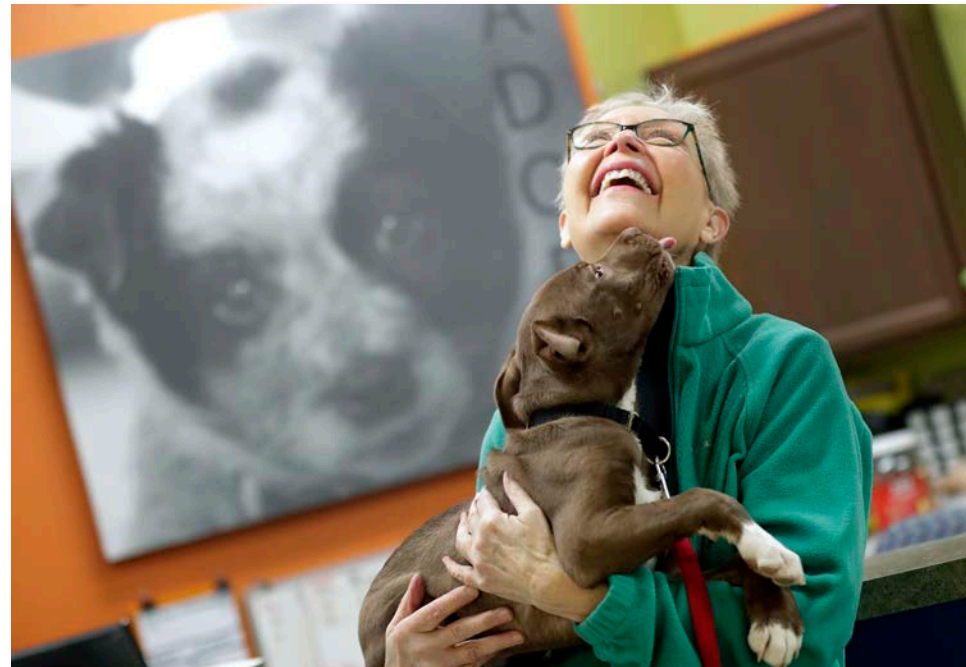
Judge's Comments: This was snapped at exactly the right moment! Excellent shot!

Third Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Arcadia Books in snow' - Taylor Scott.

Judge's Comments: Deceptively simple, this photo really sets an entire mood. Beautiful!

Honorable Mention: *Sun Prairie Star*, 'Sun Prairie Farmers Market Goes to the Dogs' - Christopher Mertes.

Judge's Comments: Full disclosure here... My mom was a Chessie breeder and had the only OTCH Chessies in the country, as of the time of her death about 7 years ago. I have a special affinity for this breed! Love this picture - dressed up dogs make me smile!



Feature Photo, First Place (Division B)
Oshkosh Northwestern

Artistic Photo

Division A

First Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Closeup shot of a performer at Mile of Music' - Bill Glasheen. Judge's Comments: Great shot. The color and detail really captures a mood!

Second Place: *The Gazette*, 'Cranes flock in western Rock County' - Anthony Wahl.

Judge's Comments: Stunning
Third Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'Portrait of Mark Patel, co-owner of one of the Press-Gazette readers' favorite coffee spots' - Samantha Madar.

Honorable Mention: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'Lambeau Field in a holiday decoration' - Sarah Kloepping.

Division B

First Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Jace Seavers takes in ice-crusts lakefront' - Gary Klein.

Second Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Ryder Cup silhouettes' - Gary Klein.

Third Place: *Herald Times Reporter*, 'Ice fissure' - Gary Klein.

Honorable Mention: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Rocky lunar scene' - Gary Klein.

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Winter Wonderland' - Julie Wegner.

Second Place: *The Press Times*, 'Geese by the pond at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary' - Josh Staloch.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Sleds' - Jamie Taylor.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'An icy look' - Dean Hall.

Division D

First Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'The Monroe Cheesemakers Are Eyeing Big Things' - Adam Krebs.

Judge's Comments: Incredible composition! This is an artistic photograph masquerading as a fun sports shot. And it's used to its full advantage on the page layout. (Thank your editor!)

Second Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Stillness in the Air' - Jed Carlson. Judge's Comments: A great capture of a "darty" squirrel in serene surroundings (which is the point). Also, not that it's relevant, but what a counterpoint to the story below on a local man's 48-year murder sentence(!).

Third Place: *The Boscobel Dial*, 'Round Up transports visitors' - Mark Hackett.

Judge's Comments: This shot has so much color and energy with the full aperture of this midway staple throwback, the "Round Up." Great job.

Division E

First Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Fresh Snow' - Taylor Scott.

Judge's Comments: Nice balance, great photo!

Second Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Iowa County Fair' - Taylor Scott.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful photo!

Third Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Bakken's Pond in Fall' - Jolean Louis.

Judge's Comments: Great composition!

Honorable Mention: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'Mrs. P's final swan song' - Jonathan Bailey.

Judge's Comments: Very moving photo.

Photo Essay

Division A

First Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Three days at the Mile of Music festival in Appleton' - Dan Powers, Bill Glasheen.

Judge's Comments: A lot of hard work went into this project. Captivating photos. Lots of names and faces. The Post-Crescent should be commended for allocating the time, space and resources to such a project. These sorts of stories and photo essays remind your readers why newspapers continue to play an important role in their daily lives. Keep up the good work.

Second Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Homeless family receives free birthday camping weekend' - Ruthie Hauge.

Judge's Comments: Story-telling at

its best. Captivating photos. Great eye for detail. Had a hard time deciding whether this should be No. 1 or No. 2 in my ranking. Keep up the good work!

Third Place: *The Cap Times*, 'Learning to slay: A photo essay about Wisconsin's teen drag queens' - Ruthie Hauge.

Judge's Comments: Great art. Great page design. The Cap Times photography department did a great job of presenting a unique story and culture to its readers.

Honorable Mention: *The Gazette*, 'The Year in Photos' - Anthony Wahl.

Judge's Comments: Really amazing photos. I wanted to move this one up in my ranking but I wanted to see many, many more photos perhaps four or five pages worth. After all, it was a year in review.

These were the only captivating photos you took all year? Doubtful.

Competition Comments: Tough judging assignment. The top three



Feature Photo, First Place (Division C)
The Press Times, Green Bay

in my book were practically tied for first. All the photographs that entered were award-winners. Wisconsin has some great photographers on their newspaper staffs. I was forced to go beyond just the photo essay and to judging time, space and resources allocated to each project. Amazing work by all the competitors.

Division B

First Place: *The Chippewa Herald*, 'Photos from a title' - Brandon Berg.
Judge's Comments: Nice clear photos of a championship volleyball match. The best shot was buried at bottom left.

Second Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 'A homeowner's close encounter with Lake Winnebago ice shoves' - Bill Glasheen.
Judge's Comments: A good "glad it wasn't my house" photo essay. Three

or four of your best photos would have worked.

Third Place: *The Reporter*, 'North Fond du Lac boy Mason Jerman working to walk again' - Bill Glasheen.

Judge's Comments: The feeling conveyed is a loving family trying their best to help their child. Good work handling a difficult subject.

Honorable Mention: *Watertown Daily Times*, 'Fair fun' - Ed Zagorski.

Judge's Comments: The county fair is a favorite subject. Top photo is posed (except for the excellent jersey calf).

Competition Comments: This was a tough contest to judge as the entries were from varied categories. The photographers or copy editors should be aware that 2-3 good or great photos are preferred over 5-6 so-so entries.

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Vilas County Fair' - Michelle Drew.

Judge's Comments: The action photos make this the clear-cut winner. Vibrant colors! Love the dominant photo. Layout works well. I think readers would be drawn in (and head to the fair!)

Second Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Faces of the Derby' - Kurt Krueger, Doug Etten, Gary Ridderbusch.

Judge's Comments: At first glance, a reader might think, 'Oh, it's just pics of people.' But that's the point! Love the different expressions. The sunglasses photo may be cliché, but something about this photo pops! Layout - I'd find a common color and use that for the title. Those colors don't seem to fit with the layout.

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Spring Show' - Kurt Krueger.

Judge's Comments: Amazing nature photography!

Honorable Mention: *Monroe County Herald*, 'Bangor takes second at state' - Nate Beier, Logan Everson.

Judge's Comments: Good use of cutouts! Great sports action shots. Captions need some work - they all sound alike.

Competition Comments: Wow, what a great group of photo essays! Tough to judge. Unique entries that you don't always see in other parts of the country. I'm impressed!

Division D

First Place: *The Star News*, 'Rib Lake Ice Age Days' - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Excellent layout, great use of graphics. Your entry was by far heads above the rest,



Artistic Photo, First Place (Division D)
The Monroe Times



Artistic Photo, First Place (Division A)
The Post-Crescent, Appleton

which were primarily just a group of photos with cutlines. As a graphic designer who wins awards for layout, I can appreciate the work put into this. Awesome

Second Place: *The Record-Review*, 'Athens Christmas concert' - Casey Krautkramer.

Judge's Comments: Great photos and way to capture the human emotion in the event.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Busy day on the Brule' - Jed Carlson.

Judge's Comments: Great layout and manner of capturing people in action in the great outdoors.

Honorable Mention: *Sawyer County Record*, 'Lumberjack World Championships' - Terrell Boettcher. Judge's Comments: Great work for a very unique event. Good layout.

Division E

First Place: *The Northwoods River News*, 'Heal Creek Dog Dash' - Jamie Taylor.

Second Place: *Milton Courier*, 'A salute to Schroeder' - Anthony Wahl.

Third Place: *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 'Dickens brings living windows, holiday cheer to downtown' - Jonathan Bailey, Joe Schulz.

Honorable Mention: *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, '2021 Apple Festival' - Emily Schendel.

Photo Gallery

Division A

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Anthony Wahl's Favorite Photos of 2021' - Anthony Wahl.

Judge's Comments: Lots of good

photos in this entry as you would expect from a best of gallery. If you want to know the variety of events covered by newspaper photographers and the skills needed to do it, just look at this gallery.

Second Place: *The Journal Times*, 'More than 100 gather at memorial for Da'Shontay King, in photos' - Mark Hertzberg.

Judge's Comments: An emotional event well covered by the photographer.

Third Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'A look at drag show performers on/off stage at The ReMixx' - Dan Powers.

Judge's Comments: A nice group of pictures that captured the event both on stage and off.

PHOTOS FROM A TITLE

The McDonnell volleyball team earned its second Division 4 state championship by defeating Wabeno/Laona on Saturday in Green Bay.



Photo Essay, First Place (Division B)
The Chippewa Herald

Division B

First Place: *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 'Sights from Day 4 of EAA AirVenture 2022' - Bill Glasheen.

Judge's Comments: Good variety of photos well composed made for an interesting gallery.

Second Place: *The Chippewa Herald*, 'McDonnell volleyball team hoists championship trophy' - Brandon Berg.

Judge's Comments: Lots of good action and reaction photos set this entry apart.



Fun at the fair — The Vilas County Fair offered something for everyone at the fairgrounds in Eagle River last weekend despite rain Saturday and cool temperatures Sunday. Rides, children's games, live entertainment and more were part of the four-day event, along with food offerings including ears of sweet corn, deep fried everything and giant lemonades. Although the children's games were rained out Saturday, they went off Sunday with youths competing in watermelon-eating contests, gummy sack races and more. —Staff Photos by MICHELLE DREY

Photo Essay, First Place (Division C)
The Star News, Medford

Third Place: *Wausau Daily Herald*, 'Photo gallery of Newton Marshall, a Jamaica native now pursuing his passion of sled-dog racing' - Tork Mason.

Judge's Comments: Nicely edited and photographed series of photos for this gallery.

Division C

First Place: *Foto News*, 'Gathering to celebrate the life of "One of the Good Ones"' - Tina L. Scott.

Judge's Comments: This is a fantastic display of photos showcasing such an emotional moment. The photos easily give a play-by-play of the entire memorial. Her last photo of the parents holding the flag is by far the best in this package – makes one teary-eyed and pulls this entire package together to bring home the impact of this moment. Well done covering this in a tasteful way.

Division D

First Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Tenacious and strong': Superior High School's Class of 2022 overcomes four years of uncertainty' - Jed Carlson.

Judge's Comments: Strong photos all clearly identified and captioned properly. Wonderful emotions captured!

Second Place: *The Portage County Gazette*, 'A Fair Experience' - Katelyn Voorhies, Tamara Mortenson, Kris Leonhardt.

Judge's Comments: A fun time captured by the photographer. Well done getting different areas of the fair.

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Photos: Stillness settles over

Billings Park between rain showers' - Jed Carlson.

Judge's Comments: Quality photos. **Honorable Mention:** *The Monroe Times*, '1158th Transportation Co.' - Adam Krebs.

Division E

First Place: *Spooner Advocate*, 'October color' - Bill Thornley. Judge's Comments: Absolutely gorgeous photos! No reader could pass this page up!

Second Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'EHS Graduation' - Jeff Brown.

Judge's Comments: Great pictures of a momentous occasion! Nicely done!

Third Place: *Courier Sentinel*,

'Haunted Trail' - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Spooky is NOT my thing, but this photo panel makes it quite intriguing! Well done!

Honorable Mention: *Courier Sentinel*, 'National Night Out' - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Nice use of local photography to engage readers.

Overall Page Design

Division C

First Place: *Monroe County Herald* - Nate Beier, Logan Everson.

Judge's Comments: Unique use of real estate on submitted pages. The visual appeal of "To the Victors, the Spoils" is eye-catching as is the 'Feels like Home' color layout. On the third page, the 'One Final Outing

LIFESTYLE

RIVER FALLS



A MERMAID'S TALE

River Falls woman dives into mermaiding in Wisconsin

BY SAM WETSD
RIVER FALLS - When people think of Wisconsin, they often think of cheese, maple syrup, and the state's natural beauty. But in the town of River Falls, a woman is making a name for herself in a new way: mermaiding. She is the first woman in Wisconsin to have a mermaid costume made specifically for her, and she is using it to promote local businesses and tourism.

She is the first woman in Wisconsin to have a mermaid costume made specifically for her, and she is using it to promote local businesses and tourism. She is the first woman in Wisconsin to have a mermaid costume made specifically for her, and she is using it to promote local businesses and tourism. She is the first woman in Wisconsin to have a mermaid costume made specifically for her, and she is using it to promote local businesses and tourism.



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SPORTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 • PAGE 9

Feels Like Home

Sparta tops Mauston; earns first victory at Memorial Field since Week 7 of 2019 campaign

By Nick Leonelli
SPARTA FOOTBALL
Coming off a high with up a good win against Mauston, the Spartans returned home to take on the Maustons on Thursday night. The Spartans were looking to make it back to Memorial Field, where they last won in 2019.

The Spartans were looking to make it back to Memorial Field, where they last won in 2019. The Spartans were looking to make it back to Memorial Field, where they last won in 2019.

Together' article designated in gray gives a positive visual distinction on the page.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times* - Brett LaBore.

Judge's Comments: Good, clean page layout and use of photos.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times* - Heather Holmes.

Judge's Comments: The large photos implementing great photography make a creative impression.

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse* - Ryan Miller, Andrew Kleidon, Sharon Anderson.

Judge's Comments: Good use of color and space. The colorful top sections are eye-catching. The small photos down on the page could be larger for readers' visual enjoyment.

Division D

First Place: *Star-Observer* - Cindy Duffee.

Judge's Comments: Excellent use of space. The mermaid article implemented the rule of an odd number of photos and was visually pleasing. The photo and layout of the Feb. 17 page was excellent. Of particular interest was the layout of the mayoral article. Whether intentional or not, the black and white images on the medical examiner photos was compelling.

Second Place: *The Review* - Dave Boehler.

Judge's Comments: Good use of space for sports articles. Photos were meaningful.

Third Place: *The Platteville Journal* - Steve Prestegard.

Judge's Comments: Good photography used on the pages. Less is more in providing an impact.

Too many color photos on a page divert the eye in all directions.

For instance in greyhound racing the topic photo could have been more powerful if zoomed in and larger and eliminate the last photo on the page. The photos are more interesting with subjects or people, the photo of the Iowa Greyhound Park wasn't as compelling.

Honorable Mention: *The Star News* - Lydia Erickson.

Judge's Comments: Unique page layout. Reminiscent of a scrapbook-type layout. Less is more with photos. Those containing several people needing to be larger to view.

Division E

First Place: *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise* - Logan Everson, Nate Beier.

Judge's Comments: Use of photos in wraps is excellent and the stories are not disrupted, only enhanced by structure of the pages. Easy to navigate, easy to read, makes reader eager to get deeper into copy. Dare I say, these pages are 'fun.'

Second Place: *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise* - Logan Everson, Nate Beier, Zach Rastall.

Judge's Comments: Very magazine 'artsy' quality. Good use of color to draw out photos and story.

Third Place: *The Oregon Observer* - Brad Allen.

Judge's Comments: Dynamic, diverse and eye-catching. A little disjointed trying to incorporate everything into a page but excellent pages.

Honorable Mention: *Valley Sentinel* - Anna Stocks-Hess, Whitney Kurdziel, Julianna Williams.

Judge's Comments: Well organized. Great use of graphics to pull reader in and keep things in order.

Overall Page Design, First Place (Division D)
Hudson Star-Observer

Overall Page Design, First Place (Division C)
Monroe County Herald

Visual Storytelling

Daily Division

First Place: *The Cap Times*, 'The Cap Times Machine - State Street' - Ruthie Hauge.

Judge's Comments: Impressive use of visuals and interactivity! This clearly required preplanning and I'm sure was greatly appreciated by readers.

Second Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'A night before Christmas at Lambeau Field' - Sarah Kloepping.

Judge's Comments: This was incredibly creative and kept me captivated the entire time.

Third Place: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 'With soccer coming to Lambeau, here's a look at memorable field goals vs. memorable soccer goals' - Sarah Kloepping.

Judge's Comments: A very creative concept, though executive was lacking in some areas.

Weekly Division

First Place: *Monroe County Herald*, 'Reader's four of a kind mock up' - Nate Beier, Logan Everson.

Judge's Comments: This really tells the whole story in just one look. Clever. Very clever visual.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'The power of lemonade' - Gregg Walker.

Judge's Comments: The photos and simple wording really take you through the piece with ease, making the copy all that more important.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Bob Heck: A life well-lived' - Heather Holmes.

Judge's Comments: The layout gives you a sense of the subject matter

immediately. Excellent use of graphics and photos to put it all together.

Honorable Mention: *Monroe County Herald*, 'Rolling Along; photos and infographic' - Logan Everson.

Judge's Comments: Clever idea.

Good lead in visually to keep reader engaged.

Best Video

Division A

First Place: *The Post-Crescent*, 'Courage Award video profiling Roncalli High School athlete' - Bill Glasheen.

Judge's Comments: Very impressed how much planning went into the video, evidenced by the amount of B-roll footage obtained. Well done at highlighting the strength - and courage - of this warrior.

Second Place: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'Watch now: Smelling the corpse flower' - Chris Hubbuch.

Judge's Comments: Nice job getting an abundance of reactions, some cute and funny, to this interesting phenomenon.

Third Place: *The Journal Times*, 'Burlington civic band reunites for a return to public performances' - Scott Williams.

Judge's Comments: This was a tremendous preview to the first concert back for this band. Well done capturing the color of a practice session.

Honorable Mention: *Wisconsin State Journal*, 'Get a kid's-eye view of the new Wonderground at Madison Children's Museum' - Gayle Worland.

Judge's Comments: I really enjoyed the creativity that went into this video, though some of the

background that was addressed in the print version also could have been spliced into the video. Still worthy of an honorable mention because of its creativity!

Division B

First Place: *Wausau Daily Herald*, 'Video feature profile on Newton Marshall, dog sledder from Jamaica' - Tork Mason.

Judge's Comments: Pretty good video overall, good elements with the profiled individual. Though more background could have been added to flush the video out more, like done to the print version.

Second Place: *The Chippewa Herald*, 'Making cheese curds six days a week is a labor of love in Cadott' - Audrey Korte.

Judge's Comments: A good business story, though oddly more use of

photos from within the business than video b-roll, which was disappointing.

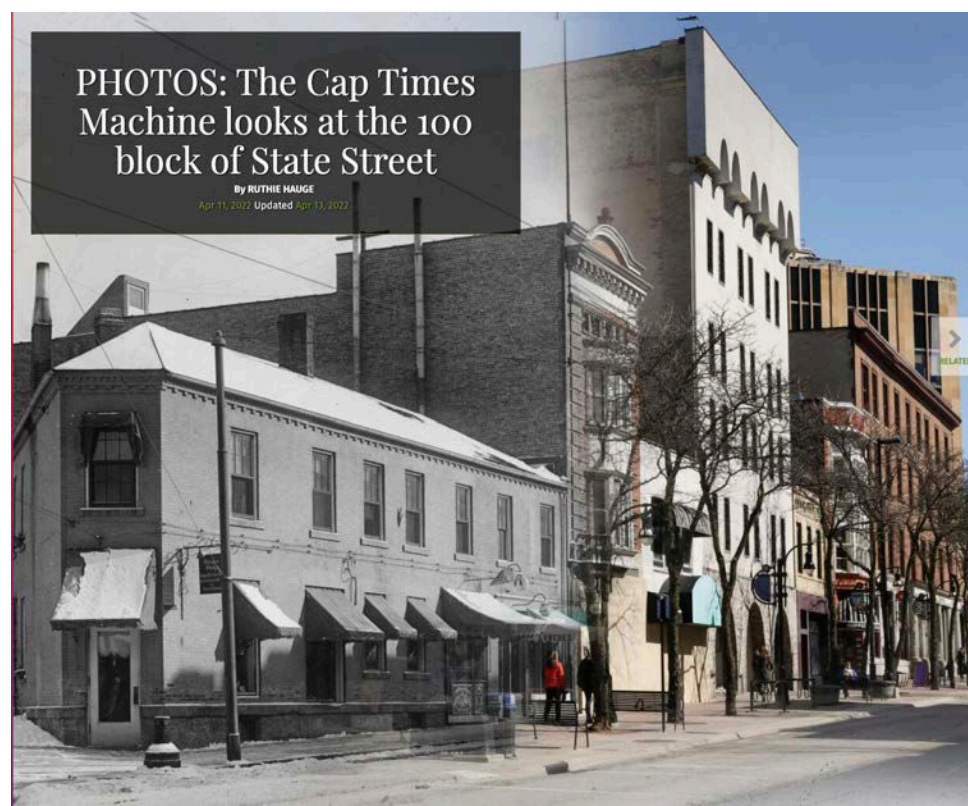
Third Place: *The Sheboygan Press*, 'Sparky's Hot Dog stand in Sheboygan is a niche in a brat town' - Gary Klein.

Judge's Comments: A very cool video on this niche business, though commentary from customers would have greatly improved this video (and vaulted it higher in the awards).

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Press Times*, 'Disregarded: Homelessness in Brown County' - Heather Graves, Josh Staloch, Justin Kavlie.

Judge's Comments: This was such a heart-breaking story that was incredibly well told and well executed.



Visual Storytelling, First Place (Daily Division)
The Cap Times, Madison

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'The Door County Granary Project' - Rachel Lukas.

Judge's Comments: Good video that complemented the print version but also told all that needed to be told so it could stand on its own.

Third Place: *Price County Review*, 'Butternut Historical Society and Museum 10th Anniversary Celebration' - Tom LaVenture. Judge's Comments: Great job capturing b-roll.

Bill Payne Award

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Citrus Cafe' - Brandon Perez, Donna Felland.

Judge's Comments: Nice use of color and imagery.

Second Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Aili Custom Concrete' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Derby celebrated 59 years' - Al West, Clayton Lindbom.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Eagle Country RV' - Heather Holmes.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Go places you've never been R&R Motorsports' - Heather Walschinski.

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Seaquist Orchards' - Steve Grutzmacher, Renee Puccini.

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Pierce County Journal*, 'Ptacek's meat sale' - Nancy Price, Jack McLoone, Jeff Bjork.

Judge's Comments: Very consistent look for this advertiser.

Second Place: *The Pierce County Journal*, 'Nilssen's ad Nov. 17, 2021' - Nancy Price.

Third Place: *The Pierce County Journal*, 'Ptacek's Christmas greeting' - Nancy Price, Jack McLoone, Jeff Bjork.

Judge's Comments: Nice departure from traditional grocery list of items.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'TJ's Butcher Block & Market' - Tony Loomis.

Division DE

First Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Must Try UTV Destinations' - Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly, Jodi White, Emily Koch.

Second Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Jennifer Angus Exhibition' - Julianna Williams.

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'Walmart' - Laura Hughes.

Honorable Mention: *Superior Telegram*, 'Tap on Tower' - Staff.

Best Restaurant Ad

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Citrus Cafe - Dining Guide' - Brandon Perez, Donna Felland.

Judge's Comments: Very creative and inviting ad.

Second Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Suffolk Street Eatery' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Judge's Comments: Loved that the ad was loaded with tons of information about the restaurant.

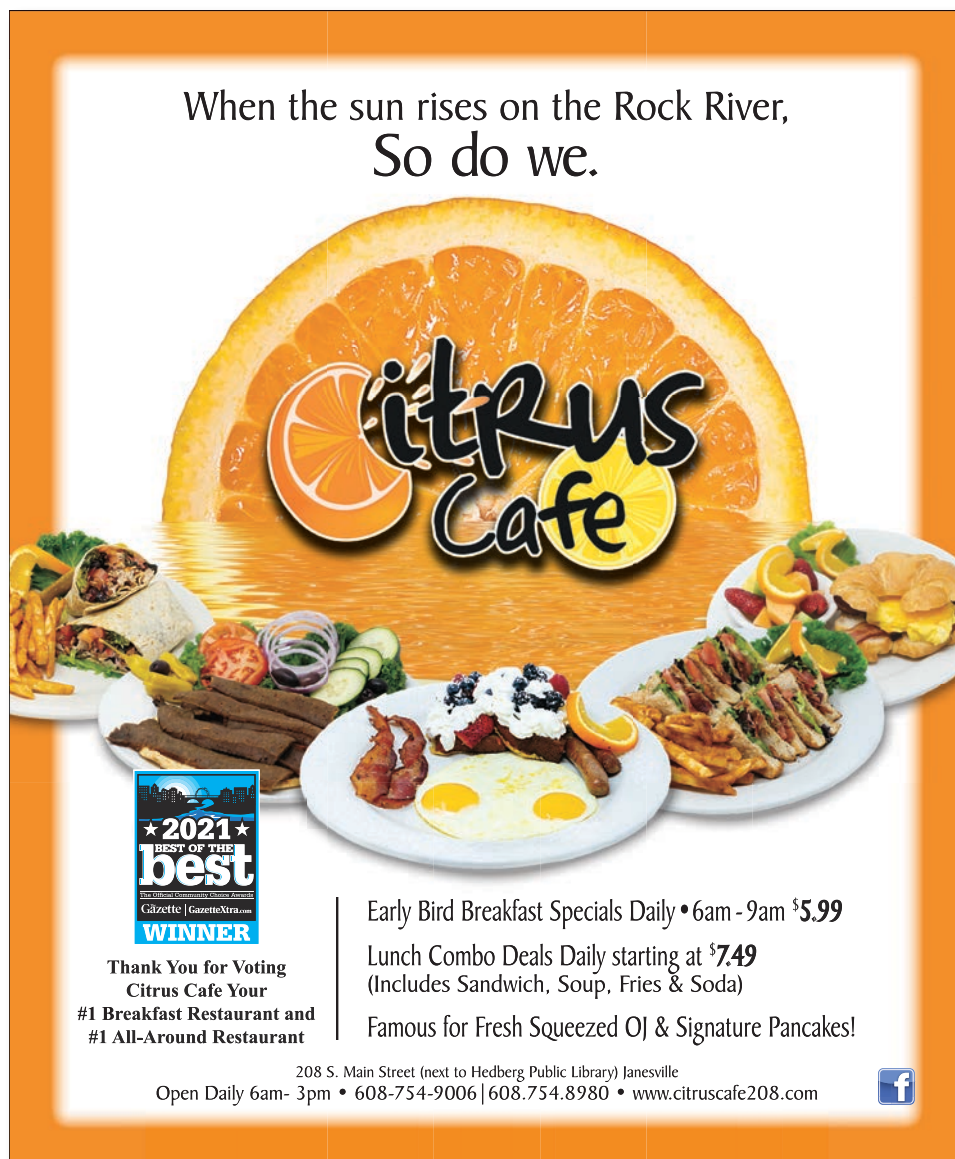
Third Place: *EagleHerald*, 'Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Us!' - Ross Menor, Graphic Designer.

Judge's Comments: Well designed and colorful ad.

Weekly Division

First Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Keyport Liquor and Lounge' - Scott Blatchford, Creative Team.

When the sun rises on the Rock River,
So do we.




2021 BEST OF THE BEST WINNER
Gazette | GazetteXtra.com

Thank You for Voting
Citrus Cafe Your
#1 Breakfast Restaurant and
#1 All-Around Restaurant

Early Bird Breakfast Specials Daily • 6am - 9am \$5.99
Lunch Combo Deals Daily starting at \$7.49
(Includes Sandwich, Soup, Fries & Soda)
Famous for Fresh Squeezed OJ & Signature Pancakes!

208 S. Main Street (next to Hedberg Public Library) Janesville
Open Daily 6am- 3pm • 608-754-9006 | 608.754.8980 • www.citruscafe208.com



Bill Payne Award, First Place (Daily Division)
The Janesville Gazette

Best Grocery Ad

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Frank's Piggly Wiggly Wins Best Again! Thank You!' - Jody Wintheiser.

Judge's Comments: Very colorful and eye-catching.

Second Place: *EagleHerald*, 'Happy Thanksgiving' - Tricia Hurley, Designer.

Third Place: *EagleHerald*, 'Meat Bag Sale' - Sara Guenther, Designer.

Honorable Mention: *Daily Globe*, 'Sunday Lake Supermarket' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Judge's Comments: Nice design with great placement.

Second Place: *The Chetek Alert*, 'Fire Away' - James Moran.

Judge's Comments: Good job on food photos and clean design

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'The Ol Grizzly Food and Spirits' - Diane Albright.

Judge's Comments: Plenty of information but good layout.

Best Real Estate Ad

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Century 21 New Subdivisions - Parade of Homes' - Steve Lauber.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful ad.

Second Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Remax Action North' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Judge's Comments: Nice informative ad.

Weekly Division

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Action Realty' - Deanna Nelson, Renee Puccini.

Judge's Comments: Good series of ads and message to potential clients

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Redman Realty Group' - Tony Loomis.

Judge's Comments: Common design. Split the ad into several series instead of cramming so much into one ad.

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'C21 Advantage Team Century 21' - Diane Albright.

Judge's Comments: Clean design but lacks appeal.

Best Large Ad

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Culver's Christmas in July' - Donna Baez, Donna Felland.

Judge's Comments: Great promotion and graphic!

Second Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Canvas Products of Eagle River' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Division C

First Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Ice Fishing Extravaganza' - Al West, Clayton Lindbom.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Peninsula Music Festival' - Steve Grutzmacher, Sharon Anderson.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Area 31 UTV Park' - Gregg Walker.

Division D

First Place: *The Chetek Alert*, 'Chetek Lanes Event Center ad' - James Moran.

Judge's Comments: Nice easy to read ad, great use of space and original photographs.

Second Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Grant Regional Health Center Doctors' Day' - Jessica Brownell.

Judge's Comments: Very good use of space. Ad is well thought out and easy to read.

Third Place: *The Boscobel Dial*, 'Storybook Christmas' - Barb Puckett.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful ad, layout is very easy to read.

Honorable Mention: *The Monroe Times*, 'Happy 80th Birthday Dad and Grandpa' - Lance Ray.

SUMMER PROMOTION

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



BUY \$30 IN GIFT CARDS,
GET A FREE REGULAR VALUE BASKET.

In-Store Only July 18th - 31st.

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE • NOT AVAILABLE AT ANY OTHER LOCATION



Come on in to your Locally Owned and Operated Culver's restaurant:

Only at Culver's of Janesville
2633 Milton Ave.
2421 W. Court St.
645 Midland Rd.



Best Large Ad, First Place (Daily Division)
The Janesville Gazette

Judge's Comments: What a wonderful birthday ad. One of the best I have seen in 14 years.

Division E

First Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Jennifer Angus Exhibition' - Julianna Williams.

Judge's Comments: Excellent ad, great!

Second Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Irish Fest' - Nicole Aimone.

Judge's Comments: Great placement of content and photos.

Third Place: *Tribune Record Gleaner*, 'Grassland KZ St. Patrick' - Karie Schmidt.

Judge's Comments: With so much going on in this ad, great job with content placement.

Honorable Mention: *Courier Sentinel*, 'Join Us for Worship' - Joy Dain.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful ad.

Best Small Ad

Daily Division

First Place: *EagleHerald*, 'American Legion' - Ross Menor, Graphic Designer.

Judge's Comments: Very nice

composition.

Second Place: *The Gazette*, 'Golden Corral - Free Breakfast!' - Donna Baez, Donna Felland.

Judge's Comments: Ad is clean and eye catching

Third Place: *EagleHerald*, 'Mark's Custom Framing' - Tricia Hurley.

Judge's Comments: Nice ad!

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Tis' the Season Craft Show' - Heather Holmes.

Second Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Car, Boat and Motorcycle Show' - Clayton Lindbom.

Third Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Belgian Heritage Center' - Kait Shanks, Renee Puccini.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'CS Thompson Excavating & Demolition' - Tony Loomis.

Division D

First Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Happy 60th Birthday' - Jessica Brownell.

Second Place: *The Record-Review*, 'Congratulations Haylee Schreiber' - Kati Schoelzel.

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*,

'Remembering those who have served - Colony Brands' - Diane Albright.

Honorable Mention: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Hermsen's Plumber Help Wanted' - Jessica Brownell.

Division E

First Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Irish Fest' - Nicole Aimone.

Judge's Comments: Very nice ad.

Second Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Whippoorwills and Words' - Julianna Williams.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful ad.

Third Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Coachman's Inn 60s Party' - Diane Everson, Susan Siemens.

Judge's Comments: Colorful and quirky—very cute.

Best Ad Idea (Series)

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Cabinet Country Gets Jiggy with It' - Steve Lauber, Krystle Kooiman, Donna Felland.

Judge's Comments: What a great collection of ads for this client. Well done.

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Chetek Alert*, 'Bell Press Trail Cam Contest' - James Moran.

Judge's Comments: Great original idea, brings your community together and a little healthy competition.

Second Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Branding campaign' - Scott Blatchford, Creative Team.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful ads and great use of space.

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'Walmart' - Laura Hughes.

Judge's Comments: Wonderful community pages.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Dr. Mindy Wolf' - Heather Holmes.

Judge's Comments: Great use of space.

Best Use of Color

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Come for the View, Stay for the Fun!' - Krystle Kooiman, Donna Felland.

Second Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Ironwood Snowmobile Olympus' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Third Place: *EagleHerald*, 'Lawn & Garden Guide' - Tricia Hurley, Designer.

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Lakeland Powersports' - Gregg Walker.

Second Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Kick up your feet this winter' - Al West, Clayton Lindbom.

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Pick Your Own Pumpkin' - Buzzy Mode.



Best Small Ad, First Place (Division D)
Grant County Herald Independent



Best Small Ad, First Place (Division E)
Valley Sentinel, Spring Green

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Redman Realty Group' - Heather Holmes.

Division DE

First Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Night on the Square' - Emily Koch.

Second Place: *The Boscobel Dial*, 'Boscobel Firemen's 4th of July Celebration' - Emily Koch, Jessica Brownell.

Third Place: *The Record-Review*, 'Come join us in our efforts to support Ashlynn Baeseman' - Kati Schoelzel.

Honorable Mention: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Catholic Schools Week' - Emily Koch.

Best Multiple Advertiser Spread

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Prime Time Spotlight' - Steve Lauber, Ben Childers.

Judge's Comments: Each ad was well designed making for an overall winning page.

Second Place: *EagleHerald*, 'June Dairy Month' - Ross Menor, Graphic Designer.

Judge's Comments: Love the graphic and each ad that followed the theme.

Third Place: *EagleHerald*, 'Mother's Day Dining & Gifts' - Ross Menor, Graphic Designer.

Judge's Comments: Nice clean and easy to read.

Division C

First Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Carlsville Business Association' -

Jess Farley, Renee Puccini.
Judge's Comments: Great color and clarity.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Come to the Pumpkin Run' - Gregg Walker.

Judge's Comments: Wonderful event ad with good use of space.

Third Place: *Monroe County Herald*, 'Congratulations, Cashton Baseball' - Logan Everson, Kristi Schwartzel, Mya Speelman, Ben Heiden.

Judge's Comments: Wonderful local photos and uniform ad spaces.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Redikulus Dae' - Buzzy Mode.

Division D

First Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Must Try UTV Destinations' - Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly, Jodi White, Emily Koch.

Judge's Comments: A creatively designed map that serves the advertisers, tourists and local residents. Cleverly combining logos and landmarks was brilliant!

Second Place: *The Platteville Journal*, 'Veterans Day' - Ann Rupp, Carol Tyson.

Judge's Comments: This Veterans Day message is dignified, respectful, and well balanced.

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, '2022 Fall Sports Preview' - Laura Hughes, Lance Ray, Diane Albright, Tai Ruegsegger.

Judge's Comments: A solid package with a good cover photo is a great way to kick-off the season.

Honorable Mention: *Superior Telegram*, 'Congratulations Superior Softball' - Scott Blatchford, Rachel Poser, Jed Carlson.

Judge's Comments: A nicely done

tribute to this team's successful season.

Competition Comments: Multi-sponsor ads are a great example of how publishers can efficiently and effectively serve their community. They are one of the important pillars of successful local print media.

Division E

First Place: *The Baldwin Bulletin*, 'Veterans Day 2021' - Laura Alvarez, Becki LaMar.

Judge's Comments: Great overall theme with information and ads.

Second Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Back to School Safety' - Diane Everson.

Judge's Comments: A nice way to list businesses rather than box ads. Love the photos too.

Third Place: *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, 'Regional Champs' -

Logan Everson, Kristi Schwartzel, Mya Speelman.

Judge's Comments: Good job with common design.

Honorable Mention: *The Edgerton Reporter*, '2021 Shop Edgerton First' - Diane Everson.

Judge's Comments: Who doesn't love a coupon!

Best Use of Art Service

Daily Division

First Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Spring Home Improvement Front Cover' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Second Place: *EagleHerald*, 'Climate Change & Global Warming' - Ross Menor, Graphic Designer.

Third Place: *The Gazette*, 'Readers

Carlsville DOOR COUNTY Wisconsin
Spring Open House Thursday, May 5, 2022

Door County Coffee and Tea
 7:30am-4pm
 BUY TWO - GET 3RD FREE
 Bulk or Packaged Coffee
 (equal or lesser value)
 doorcountycoffee.com • 920.743.8930

Door Peninsula Winery
 9am-6pm
 BUY 2 - GET 3RD FREE ON
 ANY WINES / OLIVE OILS / BALSAMIC VINEGARS
 (equal or lesser value)
 dcwine.com • 920.743.7431

Door County Distillery
 9am to 6pm
 BUY ANY 2 SPIRITS
 GET 3RD FREE
 (equal or lesser value)
 doorcountydilillery.com • 920.743.7431

Door County Candle Company
 9:30am - 4:30pm
 BUY TWO - GET 3RD FREE
 (ON 16oz and 26oz JAR CANDLES,
 MAX. 12 CANDLES PER PERSON)
 *Ukraine candles not included in offer.
 doorcountycandle.com • 920.746.2125

Red Oak
 10:30am-4:00pm
 BUY ANY 2 - GET 3RD FREE
 (equal or lesser value)
 redoakwinery.com • 920.743.7729

JP Express/Little Caesars Pizza
 Store Open 24 hours
 Little Caesars Open 6am-9pm
 BUY ANY 2 PIZZAS
 GET 3RD FREE
 (equal or lesser value)
 jandupetroleum.com • 920.743.1700

LOCATED JUST 7 MILES NORTH OF STURGEON BAY ON HWY. 42 CarlsvilleDoorCounty.com

Best Multiple Advertiser Spread, First Place (Division C)

Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor

could win free gas promo' - Mark Robertson, Victoria Boggs.

Honorable Mention: *EagleHerald*, 'Lawn & Garden Guide' - Tricia Hurley, Designer.

Division C

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Lakeland Hawks Hockey Booster Club' - Yvonne Immel.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful ad - great use of an ad service to make this quick and easy to put together! Very effective.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Murphy's Furniture and Bedding' - Heather Holmes.

Judge's Comments: Excellent use of graphics and fun text - well done!

Third Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Red Pine Camp' - Heather Walschinski.

Judge's Comments: This shows that a small ad can have big impact, and that ad services can make it cost effective to put together a less expensive ad.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Town of Minocqua Employment Opportunities' - Buzzy Mode.

Judge's Comments: Cute! Eye-catching ad.

Division DE

First Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Grant Regional Health Center Counting This Year's Blessings' - Jessica Brownell.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful use of art, and manipulating it to fit your concept really made it work!

Second Place: *The Star News*, '20 Years' - Staff.

Judge's Comments: Love that graphic - we used it in our paper as

well. Nice idea to put the boosters all around it.

Third Place: *The Baldwin Bulletin*, '2022 Spring Sports Preview' - Laura Alvarez, Becki LaMar.

Judge's Comments: Great use of really adorable art!

Honorable Mention: *The Monroe Times*, 'Holiday Specials - Luecke's Diamond Center' - Diane Albright.

Judge's Comments: Nicely done, with the page making a real impact.

Best Use of Local Photography

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'Lafayette County Fair Sponsorship Photo Page' - Laura Hughes, Lance Ray.

Judge's Comments: Love these photos - clear, clean and descriptive. Love the idea of selling an ad to support the page, so that a full page of pics can be used! Well done!

Second Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'All Area Team' - Marcy Nickel, Scott Blatchford, Jed Carlson, Jen Zettel-Vandenhouten.

Judge's Comments: Very cool use of photos. I'm sure the kids and families loved seeing this page!

Third Place: *Vilas County News-Review*, 'Labatt Pond Hockey' - Al West, Clayton Lindbom.

Judge's Comments: Great local shots that led to a really effective, sharp looking page!

Honorable Mention: *The Chetek Alert*, 'Glam Spa Salon' - James Moran, Brandi Gesler.

Judge's Comments: Nice use of photography to create an effective ad for a local business.

Best Use of Humor

Weekly Division

First Place: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Working Elves At Hermesen's ACE' - Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Murphy's Furniture and Bedding' - Heather Holmes.

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'Proud to Support - Luecke's Diamond Center' - Diane Albright.

Honorable Mention: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Kurts Island Sportshop - Minnow Mike' - Tony Loomis.

Best Newspaper Promotion

Daily Division

First Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Daily Globe Bingo Promotion' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Judge's Comments: Great way to

engage your readers and increase your circulation.

Second Place: *The Gazette*, 'New Look - Stay Tuned' - Orestes Baez, Donna Felland.

Judge's Comments: Great way to keep your readership on the edge of their seat.

Third Place: *EagleHerald*, 'EagleHerald WNA 2021 Newspaper of the Year' - Sara Guenther, Designer.

Judge's Comments: Great house ad to promote local.

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Pierce County Journal*, 'Don't let it happen again' - John McLoone, Nancy Price.

Judge's Comments: Love this concept, and I love how specifics are given about what happens when a newspaper goes away.

Second Place: *Barron News-Shield*, 'The Broadsheet' - Ryan Urban.

Judge's Comments: Great way to let the readers learn more about the person behind the scenes at the

SHOP NOW FOR THE TOP GIFT PICKS FROM THE
Working Elves At
Hermesen's ACE
HARDWARE & HOME CENTER

GRILLS | SOLO STOVE FIRE PITS
YETI PRODUCTS | POWER TOOLS & ACCESSORIES
CHAINSAWS & SNOWBLOWERS

Hardware Store Hours: M-F 7:30AM-5PM; Sat. 7:30AM-1:30PM
Home Center Hours: M-F 8AM-5PM; Sat. 8AM-Noon
608.994.2707 447 CANAL STREET BLOOMINGTON, W
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1942

Best Use of Humor, First Place (Weekly Division)

Grant County Herald Independent, Lancaster

paper, and gaining that familiarity would likely drive newsletter readers to subscribe to the paper. Very clever!

Third Place: *Superior Telegram*, 'Meet Your Team' - Megan Keller, Creative Team.

Judge's Comments: I like this idea enough to steal it. I think it's always a great idea to let the readers know more about the people bringing the news to them.

Honorable Mention: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Donation Drive' - Taylor Scott.

Judge's Comments: Simple but effective! I'm curious as to how much \$\$ this brought in. I would have donated!

Best Special Section (Advertising)

Daily Division

First Place: *Leader-Telegram*, 'Northwoods Spirits' - Staff.

Second Place: *Leader-Telegram*, 'Wisconsin Made' - Staff.



Best Niche Product, First Place (Division CD)
The Monroe Times

Third Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Readers' Choice Publication' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Honorable Mention: *EagleHerald*, 'EagleHerald 2022 Graduation Special Section' - Sara Guenther, Designer.

Division C

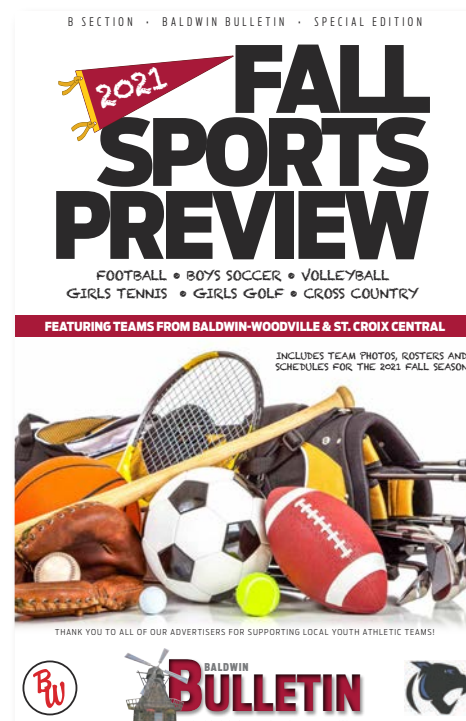
First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Beef-A-Rama' - Staff.

Second Place: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Summer Music Preview' - Grace Johnson, Andrew Kleidon.

Division D

First Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'Shop and Eat Local' - Laura Hughes, Lance Ray, Diane Albright, Tai Ruegsegger.

Second Place: *The Chronotype*, 'The History Files: A View of Barron County's Past' - Deb Fosberg-Wheeler.



Best Special Section (Adv.), First Place (Division E)
Baldwin Bulletin

Third Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'Letters to Santa' - Laura Hughes, Lance Ray, Diane Albright, Tai Ruegsegger.

Honorable Mention: *Grant County Herald Independent*, 'Cancer Awareness Special Section' - Staff.

Division E

First Place: *The Baldwin Bulletin*, '2021 Fall Sports Preview' - Laura Alvarez, Becki LaMar.

Second Place: *Tribune Press Reporter*, 'Graduation Section' - Carlton DeWitt, Shawn DeWitt, Carole Schurtz.

Third Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Ryder Cup Hometown Salute' - Diane Everson, Sam Martino, Dave Wedeward, Jeff Brown.

Honorable Mention: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Tobacco Days Special issue' - Diane Everson, Sam Martino, Tristan McGough, Jeff Brown.

Best Niche Product

Daily Division

First Place: *Beloit Daily News*, 'Stateline 2022' - Kim Boreen, Malinda Obershaw, Adia Cecil.

Second Place: *Daily Globe*, 'Creative Kids Design and Ad' - Daily Globe Advertising.

Third Place: *The Gazette*, 'Book of Jobs Q3' - Steve Lauber, Kim Boreen, Donna Felland.

Division CD

First Place: *The Monroe Times*, 'Source' - Laura Hughes, Lance Ray, Diane Albright, Tai Ruegsegger.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Northern Highland-American

Legion State Forest Visitor's Guide 2022' - Staff.

Third Place: *The Star News*, 'Fingertip Directory' - Staff.

Honorable Mention: *The Pierce County Journal*, 'Pierce County Fair' - Staff.

Division E

First Place: *Courier Sentinel*, 'Special Event and Wedding Guide 2022' - Staff.

Second Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Ryder Cup Hometown Salute' - Diane Everson, Sam Martino, Dave Wedeward, Jeff Brown.

Third Place: *Valley Sentinel*, 'Winter Wonderland' - Taylor Scott.

Competition Comments: Not sure if the 4 page special section belong in a niche pub category. The winner was hands down the best product.

Best Ongoing Niche Publication

Daily Division

First Place: *The Gazette*, 'Book of Jobs - Quarterly Publication' - Steve Lauber, Kim Boreen, Donna Felland.

Weekly Division

First Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Summer Times' - Staff.

Second Place: *The Lakeland Times*, 'Logging & Forestry' - Staff.

Third Place: *The Edgerton Reporter*, 'Annual Tobacco Days' - Diane Everson, Sam Martino, Tristan McGough, Jeff Brown.

Honorable Mention: *Peninsula Pulse*, 'Gibraltar School News & Pioneer Times' - Andrew Kleidon.

