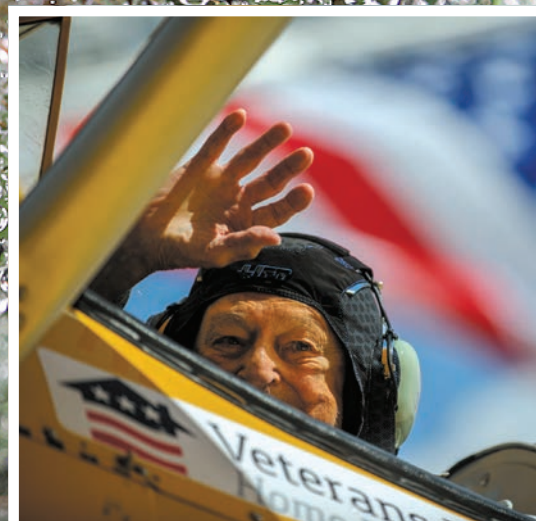


# 2023 Better Newspaper AWARDS



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## Newspapers of the Year

### WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

**Superintendent speaks out**  
Carlton Jenkins brings up long-term plans for facilities, COVID's impact on staffing in address at East High

**STAYING IN STATE**  
Late-blooming tight end Rob Booker of Waunakee commits to UW for 2024



**Tyre Nichols**  
Advocates ask again: Why didn't anyone intervene?  
**NATION, A2**

**Tax time**  
Some things to keep in mind to avoid stress and drama  
**NATION, A3**

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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ICE SAFETY | 'THERE WERE ANGELS AROUND ME'



Pat Klingelhoets, right, receives a much-deserved hug from Lisa Keenan, whom he saved after she fell through the ice on Lake Mendota's Spring Harbor last week, fearing they would have died had Klingelhoets not heard her cries for help.

**Chance meeting led to woman's rescue at lake**

Fisherman had just the right tool at time

Lisa Keenan was hoping to drain more of the energy out of Gracie, her 4-month-old yellow lab.

Pat Klingelhoets was in the hunt for panfish.

Their paths crossed when Keenan extended her Thursday morning stroll with Gracie by walking down the boat ramp onto the ice at Spring Harbor where Klingelhoets had drilled a few holes with his 6-inch hand auger and was jigging for blue gill and crappie. The bites were slow to nonexistent, so Klingelhoets, a seasoned ice angler and expert tennis coach, moved to a new spot that gave him a better view of the harbor and its outlet into the white, snow-covered vastness of Lake Mendota.

That's when he spotted the puppy but no Keenan and, with the wind at his back, finally hegan to hear Keenan's screams as she thrashed in the 8-foot-deep water, 100 yards or so away.

Even though Klingelhoets had been fishing on 6 to 8 inches of ice, the outlet of the harbor had



Keenan, who grabbed hold, and then, at the urging of Klingelhoets, began kicking her feet as Klingelhoets pulled, his boots planted in the snow to give him leverage. Working together, Keenan was finally able to slide on her belly onto thicker ice, then crawl and ultimately walk away from the open water.

"It was just a matter of getting her started," said Klingelhoets. "She was having a little trouble holding onto the auger because she was cold and weak, but I screamed at her to get ahold of that thing and hang on. It was the perfect tool, really. I don't know what else I would have had that would have been able to get her out of there. You've got to have something to hold onto!"

Gracie had not initially fallen through, but at some point jumped in the water before getting out on her own at about the same time Keenan was pulled to safety.

Klingelhoets, 72, a former UW-Madison tennis coach, grabbed his auger and made a quick dash to the exhausted and panicked Keenan, who was fighting for her life. While holding the blade end of the cork-screw auger, Klingelhoets extended the handle end to

**Weather**  
Partly sunny  
High 25 • Low 13  
Forecast - AHS

**Inside**  
Wisconsin  
State Journal  
Reporter Barry Adams  
demonstrates how he drew on very, very, very smart phone camera of the code and top the link. NEWSWU

**MEDICAID | COVID-19 ALERT TO END**  
49,000 could be left behind

Not all of the 309,000 losing BadgerCare will find new coverage

With federal COVID-19 emergency ending in May, Wisconsin health officials and advocates are preparing for upheaval in the state's main Medicaid program, which has grown 49% since the pandemic started but is expected to lose more than 100,000 people after extended coverage ends.

Many of the people likely to be kicked off Medicaid over the coming year should also get insurance through their jobs, on the federal marketplace or by aging into Medicare, experts say. But the end of boosted Medicaid coverage nationwide, starting in April, could mean 40,000 newly uninsured people in the state by June 2024, a report says.

**BOEING**  
Workers pay respects to the final 747

SEATTLE — Boeing bid farewell to an icon on Tuesday, delivering its final 747 jumbo jet as thousands of workers who helped build the planes over the past 55 years looked on.

Since its first flight in 1970, the giant jet graceful 747 has served as a cargo plane, a commercial jet, a passenger carrier, nearly 500 passengers, a transport for NASA's space shuttles and the Air Force One presidential aircraft. It revolutionized travel, connecting international cities that had never before had direct routes and helping democratize passenger flight.

But over about the past 15 years, Boeing and its European rival Airbus have introduced more profitable and fuel-efficient wide-body planes, with only two engines to maintain



### THE LAKELAND TIMES

MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN • FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023

\$1.50

"THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWOODS SINCE 1891"

**LET THE SUN SHINE IN**  
The Lakeland Times grades officials on government openness

Page 12

### Lac du Flambeau road barricades come down, for now

90-day agreement reached with town and tribe

The Lac du Flambeau town board and the tribal council of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians formally agreed in the past several days to re-open four roads the tribe had barricaded on Jan. 31.

The reason for the closure was because easements on tribal land portions of the roads have expired for a decade.

Last Saturday, the Lac du Flambeau town board, after meeting in closed session for nearly an hour, accepted a proposal from the tribe to re-open Annie Sunn Lane, Center Sugarbush Lane, East Ross Allen Lane and Elsie Lake Lane for 90 days.

The motion to accept the proposal from the tribe "with modifications" to re-open the roads for 90 days for \$80,000 came from town chairman Matt Gaulke, the 90-day period expected to be utilized for meetings between tribal officials, town officials and others involved in the situation, including possibly property owners, to come to a long-term agreement.



**Swearingen helps lead effort on major open records bill**  
Legislation would upend Supreme Court decision on collecting legal fees

At first blush that might sound reasonable, but prior to the court ruling, requesters who went to court after a records request was denied or delayed only had to



### A ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

Volunteers, from left, Al Strasburg, DJ Lindsey, Ron Magan and Father Maria Joseph Kodjiganti serve corned beef, potatoes, carrots and cabbage to patrons during an early St. Patrick's Day celebration on Sunday, March 12, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Lac du Flambeau.

Print Run 5,200  
Vol. 132 • Issue 08  
1 Section, 48 Pages



### Vilas County: Land & Water Conservation Committee violated open meetings law

Quorum gathered at hazardous waste regulation workshop without proper notice

The Vilas County corporation counsel acknowledged this week that the county's land and water conservation committee violated the state's open meetings laws when a quorum of its members gathered at a March 8 workshop on hazardous waste regulation that was not properly notified to the public. That workshop — designed to assist municipalities in crafting ordinances to regulate the use of wake boats — has raised other questions, including why wake boat manufacturers and boat dealers who might oppose regulations or have ideas about what those regulations might be were intentionally not invited to participate in the workshop.

Corporation counsel Jack Albert made the open meetings determination after finding that the department had prepared a notice but never posted or distributed it.

### Late winter snowfall could affect deer herd numbers

The Winter Severity Index is one of the metrics used by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and County Deer Advisory Committees (CDACs) to help determine the likely health of the deer herd. This is one of the metrics and, in the northern parts of the state, one of the most important.

## Table of Contents

Editorial..... Page 4  
 Awards by Newspaper .....Page 26  
 Advertising ..... Page 50

## On the Cover

Photo credit background image:

**Artistic Photo (Division D)** - Third Place: Mist beads up on blades of grass along with a ground level spider web on a yard in Superior on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023. (Photo by Jed Carlson | *Superior Telegram*)

Photo credits from left to right:

**Sports Feature Photo (Division E)** - First Place: The Royall boys basketball team swarms around the Division 5 sectional championship plaque after qualifying for state with a 58-40 win over Wauzeka Steuben. (Photo by Nate Beier | *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*)

**General News Photo (Division A)** - Third Place: Artist Chris Silva, right, is assisted by Erik C. Harris on a mural located in the outdoor dining area of Genisa Wine Bar in downtown Janesville. (Photo by Anthony Wahl | *The Gazette, Janesville*)

**Feature Photo (Division B)** - Third Place: Waukesha area veteran Harry Richards waves to the crowd just before being cleared to taxi down the tarmac. Richards was one of eight Waukesha area veterans that participated in the Dream Flights event. (Photo by Phil Kidd | *The Freeman, Waukesha*)

# Best of Division

Division A  
*Wisconsin State Journal, Madison*

Division C  
*The Lakeland Times, Minocqua*

Division B  
*EagleHerald, Marinette*

Division D  
*Superior Telegram*

Division E  
*The Northwoods River News, Rhinelander*

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# General Excellence

## Daily Division

**First Place:** Staff, *The Gazette*, Janesville.  
**Judge's Comments:** Really nice layout, good local news coverage, strong photos. Very well done.  
**Second Place:** Staff, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.  
**Judge's Comments:** Paper has lots of good local content along with state and national news.  
**Third Place:** Dan Kitkowski, Erin Noha, Matt Lehmann & Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.  
**Judge's Comments:** Paper is nicely laid out with lots of good photos. Not a fan of the sports page jumping backwards.  
**Honorable Mention:** Staff, *Green*



**Ship celebration**  
City officials and representatives from the U.S. military joined a commemoration of the USS *Essex*, a small littoral combat ship named after the city. **Page 3A**



**Parker-Craig week**  
Parker-Craig week kicked off with a baseball game between the Janesville Cubs and the Janesville Pirates. **Page 1B**

# The Gazette

Thursday, September 8, 2022 • \$1.50

## JANESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT Pandemic funds could go to facility upgrades

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**JANESVILLE** — The Janesville School District is looking at using federal pandemic relief funds to upgrade school facilities. The district is currently in the process of evaluating the use of these funds for various projects, including classroom renovations, technology upgrades, and improvements to school infrastructure. The district is also exploring the possibility of using these funds for other educational purposes, such as teacher training and student support services.



**Gov. Evers visits city school**  
Gov. Tony Evers visits Janesville School District students and staff. **Page 1B**

## Evers tours city school

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**JANESVILLE** — Gov. Tony Evers visited Janesville School District students and staff on Tuesday. The governor spent time with students in the classroom and met with school officials. He praised the district's efforts to provide a high-quality education and expressed his support for the district's plans to improve school facilities. The visit was part of the governor's ongoing tour of Wisconsin schools.

## Report: Rock County supervisor listed as Oath Keepers member

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — A report has surfaced listing a Rock County supervisor as a member of the Oath Keepers, a far-right extremist group. The report, which was obtained through a public records request, lists the supervisor's name and contact information. The Oath Keepers is a group that advocates for the strict enforcement of the U.S. Constitution and opposes federal government overreach. The supervisor has denied the report and stated that he is not a member of the group.

**WEATHER**

Today	High 81, Low 54
Friday	High 78, Low 51
Saturday	High 75, Low 48
Sunday	High 72, Low 45

*Bay Press-Gazette.*  
**Judge's Comments:** Nice paper. But looking at it and the Post-Crescent were like looking at the same papers with all the USA Today content.

## Division C

**First Place:** Lisa Curtis, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg.  
**Judge's Comments:** Nice clean layout, lots of local news and sports. What you want from a local newspaper.  
**Competition Comments:** Wow, really tough to pick a winner in this competition. It all came down to who had better coverage of local news and sports.  
**Second Place:** Staff, *Oshkosh Herald*.  
**Judge's Comments:** Another strong entry with lots of local news and sports.  
**Third Place:** Staff, *Vilas County*

# OZAUKEE COUNTY NEWS GRAPHIC

Thursday, September 29, 2022

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## Cedarburg gets a taste of autumn



**PHOTO BY KYLE WILSON**  
A large crowd gathered for the Cedarburg Fall Festival. **Page 1A**

## The debate over debates

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — The Republican Assembly candidates are not interested in LWV forum. The candidates are focused on their own campaigns and do not see the value in participating in a third-party forum. The LWV forum is a platform for candidates to discuss their views on various issues and to answer questions from voters. The candidates' refusal to participate is seen as a lack of transparency and accountability.

## Tenant revealed for new building in downtown Cedarburg

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — A new building in downtown Cedarburg is set to be completed. The building will be a mix of residential and commercial space. The tenants for the building have been identified and include several local businesses and residential units. The building is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will provide a significant boost to the downtown area.

**INDEX**

Open	100.00
Close	100.00
High	100.00
Low	100.00

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*News-Review*, Eagle River.  
**Judge's Comments:** Strong entry that made this competition tough. The difference between first and third was razor-thin.

## Division D

**First Place:** Staff, *Oconomowoc Enterprise*.  
**Second Place:** Casey Krautkramer, Kris O'Leary, Hannah Alden & Kevin O'Brien, *The Record-Review*, Abbotsford.  
**Third Place:** Staff, *The Star News*, Medford.  
**Honorable Mention:** Staff, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.

## Division E

**First Place:** Staff, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhineland.



**Bear crosses I-94 near Hwy. 67**  
A black bear was spotted crossing Interstate 94 near Highway 67. **Page 1A**

# OCONOMOWOC ENTERPRISE

Thursday, July 28, 2023

www.oconomowocenterprise.com

## Council delays vote on historic preservation ordinance

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — The Oconomowoc Town Council has delayed a vote on a historic preservation ordinance. The council is still in the process of reviewing the ordinance and will hold a public hearing before making a final decision. The ordinance is intended to protect historic buildings and landmarks in the town. The delay is due to concerns about the impact of the ordinance on property owners.

## Girl and baggaman share special friendship

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — A young girl and a baggaman have formed a special friendship. The girl, who is blind, has been visiting the baggaman regularly and has become very close to him. The baggaman has been helping the girl with her schoolwork and has become a source of support and encouragement for her. The friendship is a heartwarming example of the power of compassion and kindness.

## Fun Things To Do

- Movie:** "The Sandlot" at the local theater.
- Event:** "Summer Concert Series" at the community center.
- Activity:** "Golf Tournament" at the local golf course.
- Workshop:** "Pottery Class" at the art studio.
- Game:** "Board Game Night" at the library.

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**Second Place:** Scott DeLaruelle, Brad Allen, Mark Nesbitt & Jack Miller, *The Oregon Observer*.  
**Third Place:** Neal Hogden & Nathaniel Underwood, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford.  
**Honorable Mention:** Scott DeLaruelle, Brad Allen, Mark Nesbitt & Jack Miller, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*.

# Best Front Page

## Daily Division

**First Place:** Melissa Kowalczyk, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.  
**Judge's Comments:** Great images and photo placement. I like how you mix up the format of the front page and don't necessarily use the same template every day. The photo illustration for the opera house story is really cool.

# THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

Thursday, November 18, 2022

www.northwoodsrivernews.com

Four charged in alleged meth conspiracy

## Judge upholds child neglect determination in toddler death case

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — A judge has upheld a child neglect determination in a toddler death case. The judge found that the parents of the child who died were negligent in their care of the child. The judge's decision is based on evidence that the parents failed to provide adequate supervision and care for the child. The judge's decision is a warning to other parents to take their children's safety seriously.

## HONORING VETERANS

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — A group of veterans is being honored for their service to the country. The veterans are being recognized for their bravery and sacrifice during their time in the military. The honor is a testament to the courage and dedication of these men and women.

## Evers, Tiffany, Swearingen, Johnson win as GOP falters overall

**By Kimberly Nield**  
**REPORT** — Gov. Tony Evers, Rep. Tiffany Swearingen, and Sen. Johnson have won re-election. The Democratic candidates have defeated their Republican opponents in the November election. The results are a significant victory for the Democratic Party in Wisconsin. The Republican Party's performance in the election was disappointing, particularly in the gubernatorial race.

**WEATHER**

Today	High 65, Low 45
Friday	High 60, Low 40
Saturday	High 55, Low 35
Sunday	High 50, Low 30

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

General Excellence, First Place (Division C)  
**News Graphic, Cedarburg**

General Excellence, First Place (Division D)  
**Oconomowoc Enterprise**

General Excellence, First Place (Division E)  
**The Northwoods River News, Rhineland**

Second Place: Bill Yorth, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: Great front page. Good photo selection. I also like how you balanced that story at the top of the page with events on the bottom.

Third Place: Shari Rampenthal & Karyn Saemann, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Fantastic photos. Good story selection and placement.

Division C

First Place: Michelle Drew & Al West, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Very nice eye-catching photos. Various photos to draw readers of all ages in.

Second Place: Cody Popp & Staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: Well thought front pages. Kudos!

Third Place: Staff, *Oshkosh Herald*.

Judge's Comments: Nice job throughout! Keep up the good work.

Division D

First Place: Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*.

Competition Comments: There were some standouts in this category but quality all the way around.

Second Place: Melissa Kowalczyk, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Third Place: Staff, *Superior Telegram*.

Honorable Mention: Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford.

Division E

First Place: Valley Sentinel, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Judge's Comments: LOVE how y'all are mixing up what a front page looks like. I am fascinated at the half newspaper/half magazine look of the front page, and even more so with how good it looks. Nice work!

Second Place: Scott DeLaruelle, Brad Allen, Maddie Bergstrom & Mark Nesbitt, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*.

Judge's Comments: Really like the photo illustration and creativity on front page design. Good headlines, story selection and placement.

Third Place: Staff, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: Good story selection and placement. Nice mix of photos.

Honorable Mention: Scott DeLaruelle & Brad Allen, *The Oregon Observer*.

Judge's Comments: Nice headlines and creative story placement.

Best Opinion Pages

Division C

First Place: Press Times subscribers & staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Second Place: Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Third Place: Staff, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Division DE

First Place: Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: Peter Wasson is the star of this entry. By using his personal experience as a jump-off point he really engages the reader. Tying that personal experience to the issues of the day makes his columns relatable which helps the reader empathize and care. Well done.

Second Place: Mary Thomsen, *The Valders Journal*.

Third Place: Valley Sentinel, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Best Sports Pages

Daily Division

First Place: Brandon Berg, *The*

*Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls.

Judge's Comments: First place: Good variety, good use of graphics.

The "First Team Offense, Special and Honorable Mentions" in Part 3 is especially notable and well done.

Minor suggestion: Would encourage more images.

Competition Comments: Some solid entries here.

Second Place: Michael Grennell, *Daily News*, West Bend.

Judge's Comments: Local, MLB, Big Ten all on front page of Part 1; Part 2 devoted to wrestling, with scoreboard on inside; Part 3 to women's basketball. I like this entry.

Good layout. Overall nicely done.

Third Place: Jim Franz & Jimmy Oswald, *Beloit Daily News*.

Judge's Comments: Front pages are great, especially Parts 2 and 3. A bit heavy on group photos—more action shots would punch it up and make it more dynamic. Variety of presentation styles. Overall, solid.



Best Front Page, First Place (Daily Division) *EagleHerald, Marinette*



Best Front Page, First Place (Division E) *Valley Sentinel, Spring Green*



First Place: Brandon Berg, *The*



Best Sports Pages, First Place (Daily Division) *The Chippewa Herald*

Division C

**First Place:** Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Competition Comments:** Another tight category to judge. Good work by all.  
**Second Place:** Nate Beier, Zach Rastall & Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.  
**Third Place:** Sports staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.  
**Honorable Mention:** Doug Etten, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Division D

**First Place:** A.J. Gates, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.  
 Judge's Comments: Chockful of varied presentation styles (schedule,

scores), creative graphics integrated into text, sports schedule on every front page useful. The Feb. 26 and March 9 issues are especially dynamic. I think this entry is the clear winner in this category. Well done overall.  
**Competition Comments:** The top three really stand out. Some of the lower-scoring entries are staid, and evoke a high school newspaper vibe. Photos are especially important with sports reporting, and some entrants could use some help in the photo department.  
**Second Place:** Jason Nihles, *The Platteville Journal*.  
 Judge's Comments: Information heavy. Each front page was laid out almost identically (is this purposefully done that way?)—could use more creativity.

Information variety—scoreboard and baseball card-like individual team member photos make this entry stand out among the others.  
**Third Place:** Staff, *Superior Telegram*.  
 Judge's Comments: Layout mostly horizontal but good photo work throughout. Some terrific action shots in Parts 1 and 2.

Division E

**First Place:** Nate Beier, Zach Rastall & Logan Everson, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.  
 Judge's Comments: Impressive. Eye-catching graphics. Great action photos. Fun reads. Great local coverage.  
**Competition Comments:** For fans of high school sports, for readers who want to keep up with local sports, these entries prove that local newspapers are essential. What a wonder representation as a whole of what local sports pages should look like and sound like. I'm a fan.  
**Second Place:** Robert Reischel, *Middleton Times-Tribune*.  
 Judge's Comments: Solid. Well written. Bonus points for taking a stand for when administration becomes the bullies on bullying.  
**Third Place:** Mark Nesbitt, Jack Miller, Brad Allen & Scott DeLaruelle, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*.

Judge's Comments: Some impressive graphics. I like the break-outs, like players to watch. Decent writing.  
**Honorable Mention:** Rob Reischel, *Mount Horeb Mail*.  
 Judge's Comments: Not as well designed as some of the other entries, but still lots of great, well-played action photos. The writing simply invites you in.

Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages

Daily Division

**First Place:** Dan Muckelbauer, *Daily News*, West Bend.  
**Second Place:** Elizabeth Snyder, *Kenosha News*.  
**Third Place:** Dan Muckelbauer, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.  
**Honorable Mention:** Lindsey Witter, Karyn Saemann & Rachel Brands, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Weekly Division

**First Place:** Janelle Fisher, Sue Schroeder & staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.  
**Competition Comments:** This was challenging to judge as they were all different. There is some really good work here.  
**Second Place:** Stephanie Dye &



Best Sports Pages, First Place (Division D)  
*Grant County Herald Independent*



Best Sports Pages, First Place (Division E)  
*Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*



Best Feature/Lifestyle Page,  
 First Place (Weekly Division)  
*The Press Times, Green Bay*

Michelle Drew, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

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

## Best Special Section (Editorial)

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Northwoods Spirits - Staff, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire.

Judge's Comments: Very nice design and layout. Very appealing to the eye! Nicely Done!

**Second Place:** Summer Fun Guide - Elizabeth Snyder & Loreen Mohr, *Kenosha News*.

Judge's Comments: Great layout and design making it very hard to choose between this and the first place winner. Great job!

**Third Place:** Stateline Magazine - Staff, *Beloit Daily News*.

Judge's Comments: Great layout.

### Division C

**First Place:** We Are The Champions - State Track and Field - Nate Beier, Zach Rastall & Logan Everson,



Best Special Section (Editorial)

First Place (Daily Division)

*Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire*

*Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

**Second Place:** Vacation Week Special Section - Stephanie Dye & Michelle Drew, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

**Third Place:** 100 years of Wesco - Kyle Evans, Logan Everson & Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

**Honorable Mention:** Basketball Preview - Rich Palzewic, Greg Bates & staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

### Division D

**First Place:** Monroe Football Keepsake - Adam Krebs, Natalie Dillon & Jaimie Tran, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Great section commemorating a great accomplishment. Nicely put together, lots of photos. Just a good overall section.

**Second Place:** Best Special Section Editorial - Summer Scene - Tyler Florczak, Kenton Troutman & James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*.

Judge's Comments: Lot of work went into this section but hey, it had a lot of information.

**Third Place:** All About River Falls - Staff, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.

Judge's Comments: All About River Falls. Yup, this told me all about River Falls. Nice section.

**Honorable Mention:** Business Progress - Staff, *The Globe*, Ironwood. Judge's Comments: Could have easily been in the top three if the competition wasn't so strong.

### Division E

**First Place:** Royall basketball - Nate Beier, Zach Rastall & Logan Everson, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Wow. This should be the template for all newspapers when it comes to special sections. First-rate job.

**Second Place:** Fall Sports Preview

- Jeremy Mayo & Brett LaBore, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: This section is a handy guide for fans of the upcoming season.

**Third Place:** June Dairy Month - Angie Griepentrog, *The Freedom Pursuit*.

Judge's Comments: This told me everything I wanted to know about dairy. Nice layout, nice information. **Honorable Mention:** We Shall Not Forget - Staff, *Sun Prairie Star*.

Judge's Comments: Good historical information.

## Best Headlines

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Tapping into area beer gardens; Sliding into the heat of summer; Winter weather or not - Dan Muckelbauer, *Daily News*, West Bend.

Judge's Comments: Three strong feature headlines, or more precisely 1-2 punches, as compelling visuals

## Tapping into area beer gardens

Outdoor brew spots sprout during the summer

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt  
Special to Conley Media

Gather with friends in the garden and enjoy a beer or two this summer. Beer gardens are a popular tradition in southeast Wisconsin and there are many places to enjoy them, from sites with an official German feel to casual pop-up locations. In Germantown, Von Rothenburg Bier Stube has been in operation for around 30 years, according to Chaz Hastings, who co-owns the business with Scott Carleton.

Hastings said the location is "probably the most authentic German beer garden" in the area. It features 14 German beers on tap, a German food menu as well as traditional decor at the Main Street location. "It's beautifully landscaped," said Hastings, adding that the location opens daily at 11 a.m. and there is live music on Friday and Saturday nights as well as Sunday afternoons.

"In Germany the beer garden (owners) are very prideful and take it seriously. We've been over there a number of times to do some market research," Hastings said.

The staff at Von Rothenburg Bier Stube wear some traditional clothing and music is piped in from German radio stations, according to Hastings.

"You literally feel like you're in Germany," he said.

Domestically, Von Rothenburg is one of the biggest pourers of Benediktiner Weissbrau, brewed at a monastery in Germany, according to Hastings.

"And I think we're in the top three as far as Weihenstephan," he said, noting it is one of the oldest breweries in the world before



A recent photo of an entrance to Von Rothenburg Bier Stube in Germantown. The owners and operators of the location have been to Germany several times to research how to offer an authentic German beer garden experience, according to Chaz Hastings, co-owner.

Best Headlines, First Place (Daily Division)

*Daily News, West Bend*

Therein lies the danger of a double-take. Nonetheless, we admire the effort! It's always better to rein in a headline writer than beg for creativity.

**Third Place:** Shine of the times; Step out in the style of the Emerald Isle; Don't monkey around on taking winter trip to zoo - Dan Muckelbauer, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: The big winner was "Shine of the times," a nice twist of a cliché that speaks to car washes on the rise. O' how we wished there was only one o' in the St. Pat's headline. Maybe "with the Irish" was a better third line for the readout. Seems like the story's lede

and one photo were begging for a "Wake up with the Irish" or some other play on "Flanagan's Wake." For the zoo story, it was a nice touch to connect the big type to the secondary photo of the monkeys. The phrase "Don't monkey around" takes a "with," not so much an "on." Maybe a dash could have helped, something like: "Don't monkey/around — take a/winter trip to zoo." All around good work! Our best to your headline writers!

### Division C

**First Place:** Unbowlievable' finish to the season; Cow T-boned by LUHS track team bus; LUHS WINGS:

Rising from the ashes - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: This was my favorite headline in this category. Clever. I enjoyed the story as well.

**Competition Comments:** This was a really tight competition. In a different year, each could win. Keep up the good work.

**Second Place:** Improv-ing with age; If you could turn back time; It's the climb - William Kopp, Janelle Fisher & Kevin Naze, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: I enjoyed this one, though I feel like I have seen it or similar before.

**Third Place:** A Course To Be Reckoned With; Bill Hundt is Enjoying a Life Sentence on Cashton's Chain Gang; Mad 4 Medals - Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: I really liked the words, though I am not a fan of the graphic.

**Honorable Mention:** Do the meth, get sentenced; Woman suffers from Kasch scratch fever; Thefts alleged at Walmart as suspects ditch girlfriend at Ladysmith store - Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*.

### Division D

**First Place:** Pretenders to the throne: Queen tribute band coming to Big Top; Better latte than never: Hudson Square settles on new location; Escaping from Russia, with love: Washburn family welcomes war refugees - Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: Pun Game: Level 1,000! Great word play draw in your readers to want to read more. And they definitely will be reading more!

**Competition Comments:** You all have some very witty headline writers! Very inspiring use of puns, witty play on words and pop history references that left me wanting to up our own headline game!

**Second Place:** Damm, he's smart; All day, 5-day, Pre K on the way; Here we go again - Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford.

Judge's Comments: Witty headlines get me every time! Excellent!

**Third Place:** Rock'em Sock'em; Toddler's modern art pays off; It's delivery, not DiGiorno - Adam Krebs & Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Love the references to pop history phrases to grab the reader's attention.



## PRETENDERS TO THE THRONE: Queen tribute band coming to Big Top

PETER J. WASSON  
pwasson@ashlanddailypress.net

In the years since Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury died more than 20 years ago, several tribute bands — including one endorsed by surviving band members — have sprung up around the world.

But the first was Killer Queen, a group of four mates from college who bonded over their love of the band.

Since then, the band has performed

on some of the same stages and filled the same arenas as their namesakes. They'll bring that show to Bayfield's Big Top Chautauqua on July 22, where they hope the audience leaves convinced that the two bands are indistinguishable.

The Daily Press spoke with lead singer Patrick Myers, who takes on the monumental task of replicating Mercury's voice and persona, from his home in the U.K.:

### MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the band or see video of them performing, visit [killerqueenonline.com](http://killerqueenonline.com). For tickets to the show, visit [bigtop.org](http://bigtop.org).

**Question:** How did you and this band get together? How did you decide to become Queen?

More QUEEN | A5



Oregon Middle School students pose with the rakes they used to clean up neighbors' lawns as part of their eighth grade community service project. "We're raising some very thoughtful kids," Board of Education Vice President Tim LeBrun said, recounting the experience of waking up to a clear yard-says.

Best Headlines, First Place (Division D)  
**Ashland Daily Press**

Best Headlines, First Place (Division E)  
**The Oregon Observer**



**Honorable Mention:** Horror at the opera: Phantoms rout Wildcats 38-6; Karma buries MN car thief in pile of deep manure; ‘Cardinal killer’ Saints defeat Prescott in D3 regional title game - Reagan Hoverman & Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.  
**Judge’s Comments:** This was a tight category, but these headlines were phrased in a way that definitely left me wanting to read more!

Division E

**First Place:** Leaf a good impression; Dig this; Panthers shine at state - Scott DeLaruelle & Brad Allen, *The Oregon Observer*.  
**Judge’s Comments:** One and three are extremely good in my opinion. Combining the headline with a photo catches the eye and gives just enough context to get reading while not enough for the reader to skip. 2nd has some nice alliteration as well. Overall an extremely strong submission.

**Competition Comments:** An enjoyable series of headlines but I would say that the first place pick really does stand out. The other options, both 2nd, 3rd and the honorable mention, all also show a lot of skill in well worded and eye-catching headlines.

**Second Place:** Hornets take the howl right out of the Wolves; Move over Jimmie Johnson; Coffee shop helps patrons Rise and Shone - Staff, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

**Judge’s Comments:** Solid and eye catching headlines. Good positioning and like most of the high scoring entries it gives just the right amount of information grab the reader’s interest as well. I am also a sucker for puns in sports headlines.

**Third Place:** Earning Stripes; 3 Wins For Th3 Wolv3s; A Friend in Knee-D - Logan Everson, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

**Judge’s Comments:** More than solid 1st submission, the headline being worked into what looks like a kind of sidebar attracts the eye. The other two are solid but perhaps a bit forced, I wasn’t the biggest fan of the “3 Wins For Th3 Wolv3s” as it may confuse the reader but I can not deny that it sparks interest in the article itself.

**Honorable Mention:** We’re suing Lone Rock over public records, here’s why; Arena board hears tenure of current Arena clerk audited in Monticello, discrepancies found in water bills; Lake Louie Brewing announces ‘major water relocation project’ with the move of Lake Louie - Valley Sentinel, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

**Judge’s Comments:** I was pleasantly surprised by the 1st submission. While the more informal style can certainly be overused, I thought it worked really well in this case, especially since the paper itself is a part of this story and made me want to read it.

Editorial Award

Division A

**First Place:** Steven Elbow, John Nichols & Dave Zweifel, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

**Judge’s Comments:** Excellent use of the papers’ voice and platform to take a stand on the issues readers care about for the good of the state. Well done.

**Second Place:** Same sex marriage wins again — this time for good; Legalizing marijuana in Wisconsin will bring in millions, increase freedom, recognize reality; Root for Rudi the pig — and a faster Madison City Council - Scott Milfred, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

**Third Place:** Karyn Saemann, *The*

*Gazette*, Janesville.

Division C

**First Place:** Ground zero in the fight; To solve the inflation crisis; Giving thanks for our opponents - Richard Moore & Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Judge’s Comments:** Well-written editorials, laying out your position clearly and in detail. You not only offer criticism, but also possible solutions. And the third entry should be run in every newspaper in every state.

**Competition Comments:** I would like to have made this a tie, as the two entries were quite different but both well-done and important. If you can do that, please do so with my blessing.

**Second Place:** City doing the telling, not the listening; Too much history not always a good thing; Unstoppable force runs into immovable object - Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*.

**Judge’s Comments:** An important series of editorials that both shone light on the actions of elected officials, and then caused those

Editorial | The need for paid family leave in Wisconsin isn't partisan

Cap Times editorial  
Feb 22, 2023



Gov. Tony Evers delivers the biennial budget address at the Wisconsin state Capitol in Madison on Feb. 15.  
RUTHIE HAUGE

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Gov. Tony Evers delivered a robust budget address last week in which he offered an outline for renewing progress in a state that has drifted from the historic vision of the Wisconsin Idea.

Editorial Award, First Place (Division A)  
**The Cap Times, Madison**

actions to change. An excellent example of the importance of local journalism. Well done.

## Division D

**First Place:** It was a rough job, but somebody had to do it - April Ziemer, *Amery Free Press*.

Judge's Comments: April Ziemer told a story that all editors have faced at one time or another and let the public know the hoops that sometimes have to be jumped through to report the entire story. Well done.

**Competition Comments:** This was a very tough category to judge as any of the entrants could have easily took top spot.

**Second Place:** Mark Sherry, *Tri-County News*, Kiel.

Judge's Comments: Mark Sherry's editorials were well-written and very informative on some major issues.

**Third Place:** Mary Thomsen, *The*

*Valders Journal*.

Judge's Comments: Mary Thomson's editorials were informative and concise.

**Honorable Mention:** Ballot measure is more about playing politics than seeking solutions; Don't play cute with the public's right to know; Vos is off base with impeachment threats - Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford. Judge's Comments: Well written editorials.

## Division E

**First Place:** Neal Hogden, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Strong voice willing to stand up to various political agencies. Enjoyed the nitty-gritty of the township drama.

**Second Place:** Cornell must invest; Remarkable things happen; Support Cadott road referendum - Brian Wilson, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

# We didn't start the 54001 fire

To say it has been a week with a rollercoaster of emotions would be an understatement. As many of you know by now, for the past six months I have been gathering information concerning the debilitated environment at Amery's City Hall.

I poured myself into conversations where I wrote down every word, with the time and date. I



Editor  
April Ziemer

noted when someone told me a story and it was different than what they had told me the previous time. I noticed behaviors, made countless open records requests and spoke with attorneys to stay on top of our rights as a newspaper.

On top of this, it has been my year as Amery Community Club President. I have barely seen my family, I have gone on very little sleep and shed many tears of frustration, but I kept on while watching a community I loved grow more concerned

There is no doubt it can be a really hard thing to take accountability. While over my years here I have grown thicker skin than I had in the beginning, I can't say it is ever easy. I also know it hasn't been easy to be in the shoes of people in the police department, city council, other city staff, the Mayor, ex-Chief Hainzl or his wife.

I would like to make it clear though, I have a job to do and I certainly do have an agenda. My agenda is to seek the truth and print the news. My agenda is to provide real transparency for the community and not various versions of transparency based who is reading the publication.

If your actions provide me with material, then your self-written script will play out on these pages. It has always been that way since the newspaper was founded in 1892. Sometimes the script handed to me is full of amazing and wonderful things and other times it isn't. Sometimes it is a fire storm- but like a wise rock n' roller once said, "We didn't start the fire. It was always

ron James and Tiger Woods; and "Catcher in the Rye" has given way to "Harry Potter" and "Twilight."

"I thought about Joel's song a lot when I was younger," Fall Out Boy bassist Peter Wentz said in a statement attached to the official lyric video on YouTube. "All these important people and events — some that disappeared into the sands of time — others that changed the world forever. So much has happened in the span of the last 34 years — we felt like a little system update might be fun."

After I heard about the remake of the tune, it really resonated with me that the lyrics were so much like being a journalist. During my time here at the Amery Free Press, I have covered swell things, sad times, epic events and gut-wrenching moments for Amery, WI. 54001.

So, move over Fall Out Boy. I am hoping readers can start to cue up an arrangement of piano, Hammond organ, clavinet, synthesizer, harpsichord, accordion and percussion in the key of G Major in their minds and sing along to my version

Judge's Comments: Great voice on local subjects.

**Third Place:** Lone Rock has some explaining to do, potential violations of open meetings law; UW-Richland will not be saved outside the courtroom, action is needed now; Open government report card: Arena improves, Lone Rock sued, other local public bodies receive - Valley Sentinel, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Judge's Comments: Good voice on local subject, but some entries are too long. Keep it to 600-800 words to keep reader's interest.

**Honorable Mention:** Unquestioned Faith, Welcome to Delicious, Child 1, Dad 0 - Jason Schulte, *The Baldwin Bulletin*.

Judge's Comments: Really great writing style and personal charm.

# Community Engagement Award

## Daily Division

**First Place:** Manitowoc newspaper reunites man with lifeguard, veterans' family with watch and honors People of the Year - Brandon Reid, Patti Zarling, Alisa Schafer & Tom Dombeck, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

Judge's Comments: Story engages community in a unique way. Well-written and engaging.

**Second Place:** Stock the Shelves campaign - Staff, *USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin*.

Judge's Comments: Story focuses on strong community member, well-written.

**Third Place:** Sheboygan Press engages readers and connects with underserved communities - Brandon Reid, Alex Garner, Maya Hilty & Tom Dombeck, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: Story engages community by promoting assistance

to other community members, well-written.

**Honorable Mention:** Connecting with readers - Staff, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Story connects community.

## Division C

**First Place:** Northwoods Youth Deer Hunt Challenge - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

## Division DE

**First Place:** Naming the peregrines - Staff, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: Unique topic. Great use of news in the classroom and community engagement.

Composition was consistently eye-catching and enhanced with well laid out graphics.

**Second Place:** District answering referendum questions, Referendum tax impacts updated and lessened, Citizens gather to learn about school referendums, Board moves forward with Plan of Finance, Board approves bids for priority work - Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: Great extensive and comprehensive coverage. Bullets

## Ashland falcons banded, named

PETER J. WASSON  
peterj.wasson@dailyjournal.com

To scientists who track his health, movement and nesting habits, he will forever be known as 2TU 1266-07999. But his friends will call him Dash. Dash was the first of four peregrine falcons whose health was assessed Thursday atop the Kent Energy power plant in downtown Ashland.

After withdrawing the chicks from their nesting hole overlooking Chequamegon Bay, ornithologists John Howe and Amy Ray gave them surgery examinations, drew blood and saliva samples to check for signs of exposure to avian flu. Next, they clamped aluminum bands



with an ultrasonic meter secures bands to the chick's leg. The bands will be added to a database that will allow scientists anywhere to track the birds around their legs bearing the numbers that will allow raptor experts to track them.

Finally, the chicks were assigned their names, suggested by Ashland School District students and voted on by Daily Press readers. The top vote-getters were Dash and Jet, assigned to two males, and Poppy and Lightning, given to two females.

Three of those four names are particularly appropriate to chicks that were born above the whirling generators of a power plant and that one day will grow to be the fastest animals on the planet.

More FALCONS | A5

Community Engagement Award, First Place  
(Division DE)

**Ashland Daily Press**

Editorial Award, First Place (Division D)

**Amery Free Press**

points great to help summarize and simplify for readers.

**Third Place:** Pursuit Poll - Angie Griepentrog, *The Freedom Pursuit*.

Judge's Comments: Great use of integrating online and print resources creating questions online but leading readers to pick up print edition for poll results. Great variety of engaging poll questions.

**Honorable Mention:** Community Engagement - Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*.

Judge's Comments: Although tragic circumstances, great way of uniting community thoughts, feelings, and memories.

## Open Records/ FOI Award

### Division A

**First Place:** Madison School District must turn around its awful record on transparency - Scott Milfred, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

### Weekly Division

**First Place:** Let the Sun Shine In - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua. Judge's Comments: Very well written and put together with a no holds barred approach. Great way to commemorate Sunshine Week.

**Second Place:** Daily Press fights for open records - Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: The editorials are very well written with a call to action. I like the way the writer held those violating the open records laws accountable as well as continued to follow up.

**Third Place:** Court sides with Sleek in open records case - Tom LaVenture, *Price County Review*, Phillips.

Judge's Comments: Very interesting story. Good writing and attention to detail.

## All-Around Newspaper Photography

### Division C

**First Place:** Mark Justesen, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg.

Judge's Comments: The undeniable highlight of this newspaper is found on its sports pages where photographer Mark Justesen's talent shines. Well-composed images taken at peak moments are a delight for readers and likely adorn refrigerator doors across the county. The six-column hurdle jumper was among the judge's favorites and the page layout would have benefited from being only such sized image on the page with a cropped version of the top photo. More is not always better and that was the case with "Christmas comes to Cedarburg." The secondary photo of awestruck children was one of the photographer's best images in the package and should have been the dominant photo. One image with Santa is sufficient. Front page feature packages "Dog days of spring" and "A taste of autumn" seemed rushed. Wished the photographer had taken more time to capture what made these events special.

**Competition Comments:** Photographers in this category are capable of capturing well-composed, technically sound, journalist images but in many cases, the page designs are not kind. This division showed too many pages with similar photos, shot from the same POV, cropped the same, and given the same weight on the page. Good photo packages

need a hierarchy and usually include a scene setter, a close-up of the subject, and details to tell the story. Be encouraged to take a variety of images from telephotos to wide shots. Shoot standing on a chair and from a squatting position. Then find good photo page examples to inspire the page designer.

**Second Place:** Staff, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Good selection of general news, society and sports photography. Layouts are attractive and showcase images well.

**Third Place:** Staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: Sports pages are the best in show in this newspaper in both the image selection and design. Are there two separate people laying out the news and sports sections? There's a noticeable difference in philosophy.

### Division DE

**First Place:** Staff, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Photographers Jed Carlson and Maria Lockwood do a wonderful job making everyday news visually interesting, drawing readers into stories about restaurants and trade schools. "Spotlight Surprise" is a beautiful treat for the reader from the 6-column dominant photo to the expert layout and rounded out with the photographer's first person account. This paper is blessed with talented photojournalists. Well done. This entry was the clear winner.

**Second Place:** Staff, *Oconomowoc Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: The photo spread "A Wave of Patriotism" was the star of this entry. Kudos to Phil Kidd for such well-composed and beautiful images, particularly those at the top and bottom of the page. Other beautifully designed pages include "A Place to Call Home" and "Going Out in Style" comprised entirely of submitted photos.

Photographer Sue Boyer's main feature in "Trying to stay afloat" captured the fun and playful peril of a cardboard regatta. Rounding out this entry are notable sports images by Allison Stoneberg, Sue Boyer and Terry Holahan. Would have liked to see more peak action in sports photography, but photogs did a good job of keeping the ball in the frame and stopping action. Overall, a well-rounded visual newspaper.

**Third Place:** Brian Thomsen, *The Valders Journal*.

Judge's Comments: This tabloid packs a bunch of quality images in its pages. From feature photos to general news to sports, there is a good selection of well-composed, interesting images. The problem is many of the photos are just too darn small, particularly when packaged together as a photo story. If space



All-Around Newspaper Photography,  
First Place (Division C)  
**News Graphic, Cedarburg**

is an issue and ads can't be moved, pick the best one and let it go. The photo package "Walking into the future" was designed well and had good emotion. Nice peak action in the volleyball and in the arm-to-the-nose basketball shot. Wish the photog could be praised for his or her good work, but this paper doesn't list photo credits with the cutlines.

## General News Story

### Division A

**First Place:** Madison-area nursing homes under fire after 'immediate jeopardy' citations - David Wahlberg, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: The topic of nursing home abuse and violations is painfully important and will only increase in impact as Baby Boomers age into the morass. This three-part entry — a well-crafted main bar and two insightful sidebars — speaks mostly to one key question: Are fines and regulations enough to fix the problems? The excruciating answer is no. This award-winning team is encouraged to stay on the topic and focus their energies on reporting meaningful solutions wherever they lie. The main story opens and closes with the circumstances around the sad death of a 90-year-old man and his distraught daughter ("I had warned them"), then provides this depressing closer: "His death resulted in no regulatory action." One sidebar details nursing home violations, the other adds, "Nearly 2 dozen nursing homes have closed in Wisconsin since 2020." What to do? Readers are left with feelings of outrage and hopelessness. William Randolph Hearst said every good story has a victim, a villain and a

hero. Here's hoping your next tale can highlight a hero.

**Second Place:** Tom Monfils died 30 years ago at a paper mill in Green Bay. His death still casts a shadow over the city - Kelli Arseneau, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: Sherlock Holmes is 140 years older than this amazing 30-year retrospective on a papermill death. But this award-winning whodunit shares all the twists and turns of a good murder mystery — even if it was truly a suicide, as suspected by the victim's brother. A main character in this tale is the community-that-won't-forget of Green Bay, where six men were convicted in the death of a co-worker with only one — the prime suspect — remaining alive and in prison. Another character is the criminal justice system itself and why it cannot be totally trusted. This is a remarkable piece of writing and editing that pulls the reader along mostly in a chronology that helps to make the complicated case less complicated to understand. One buried gem is the family was awarded a \$2 million settlement against the police department in 1997 for a death that occurred in 1992. Kudos to the photo, research and multimedia staff, too. Keep hunting for the truth! This is a gift that can keep on giving.

**Third Place:** Bird not seen in Wisconsin for 178 years spotted in Green Bay nature area - Jeff Bollier, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: This is a timely, well-written and -reported brightener that touches on a topic that has become ever more important since the pandemic — birdwatching. The focus of attention was a roseate spoonbill, a live one, not the dead one last seen in Wisconsin in 1845 for goodness' sake. An editor skipped over revising the wise attempt to

provide pronunciation of roseate (ROW-zee-uht, or something like that). Remember the cardinal (not the bird) rule of capitalizing one syllable for emphasis. This was an excellent way to find the local angle on Hurricane Idalia, though I guess no one was willing to say exactly what was the cause of this "huge" event. The story provided a much-needed dose of humor in these dark times, as it was fun to see how crazy people can get about a bird. Well-done! A salute to your writing, editing and photo team.

### Division B

**First Place:** Sheboygan Falls school board decisively rejects anti-LGBTQ policies proposed by one board member - Maya Hilty, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: Good coverage

of an important local event. Good use of quotes to give context and bring the reader into the room. Even-handed journalism by the reporter.

**Competition Comments:** Many of the entries were more feature than news.

**Second Place:** Future USS Cleveland christened, launched at FMM - Dan Kitkowski, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: Good use of details about the ship, about side-launching vs using a lift, and about the event. Liked the photos; they added to the story.

**Third Place:** Oshkosh Area Humane Society 'desperately' seeking help after exceeding cat capacity, 300% increase in impounded animals - Bremen Keasey, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Good lede, but

## Sheboygan Falls school board decisively rejects anti-LGBTQ policies proposed by one board member

*"Tonight was a clear signal that it is only a fringe minority attempting to enact harm against the local LGBTQ+ community," Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance ChairCarolynn Lee said.*



**Maya Hilty**  
Sheboygan Press

Published 5:05 a.m. CT April 6, 2023



SHEBOYGAN FALLS - A standing-room-only crowd at a school board meeting Monday affirmed support for gay and transgender students in Sheboygan Falls.

The board was scheduled to discuss several resolutions proposed by board member Edward Brey that targeted the high school Gender and Sexuality Alliance, a student club, among other things.

However, the meeting ended quickly — following public comments almost unanimously against the resolutions — when no other board members seconded Brey's motions.

General News Story, First Place (Division B)

**The Sheboygan Press**

perhaps could have focused more on the overcrowding issue noted in the headline. (How many animals in a single cage, for example?)

**Honorable Mention:** The battle for birds continues in Waukesha - Isabella Kostolni, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: Enjoyable piece and a good head. Perhaps more background on what other cities are doing, but still a good job.

### Division C

**First Place:** Former Horizon West condo owners in Waukesha struggle as their lawsuit drags on - Jim Riccioli, *West Now*.

Judge's Comments: I could not find much wrong with this; even the headline nailed it. What is particularly great about this story as even as it communicates all of the specifics, it builds and builds and builds...just as the looming deadline for razing is building and building. The story feels important the moment you look at it and feels even more important after you've read the story because it has been proven. Proof that laying out the details does not have to be dry.

**Competition Comments:** It is heartening to see the wide range of important issues that Wisconsin journalists tackle with proficiency. Local communities are still being well-served by these reporters.

**Second Place:** Exclusive report: Marathon County supervisors violated First Amendment protections in library fight - Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*.

Judge's Comments: Such an important case as it relates to the First Amendment. What the story really puts across is that the Marathon County Supervisors were not subtle in their reasons for threatening funding. The reader has

a clear perspective of why the Board of Trustees sought a legal report on this matter.

**Third Place:** Jail visits altered - Kaitlyn Scoville, *Oshkosh Herald*.  
Judge's Comments: People do not usually give enough attention to the issues of the incarcerated but not only does this detail an important one, it benefits from a strong hook. That being: how is an already isolated population impacted logistically by the technological changes of those who are not? It also captures not only the

perspective of the imprisoned but the families, who are as affected by these ongoing developments in how visits are constructed.

**Honorable Mention:** Labor Day twister offered little warning; Storm effects still endure for some - Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*.  
Judge's Comments: While not as current, the level of depth of recollection is the story here. This is clearly a memorable event for the Ladysmith community as evidenced by the ease and readiness of several sources are able to recount the

“what,” the “when” and the “how” of that weekend.

### Division D

**First Place:** Superior High School's new periodic tables will feature element named by graduate - Maria Lockwood, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: This story was interesting, informative and engaging from beginning to end. Constructed in a great story-telling yet entertaining manner. Great way to approach it.

**Second Place:** Shooter's mental state increasingly combative - Ryan Urban, *Barron News-Shield*.

Judge's Comments: Well organized and extremely thorough. Explores not just the incident but the shooter's history. Well done!

**Third Place:** Indigenous remains found during Twin Ports Interchange construction - Jimmy Lovrien, *Superior Telegram*.  
Judge's Comments: Great organization and presentation of the facts. Well written.

### Division E

**First Place:** Don't give up - Cheyenne Thomas, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: What an inspirational story! Everyone should hear his message. It's not often that a story lifts you up, but this one did it for me.

**Second Place:** An Extra Few Steps Saves Life Of Union Center Resident - Nicolette Nauman, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Great story of everyday heroism. Good news to read.

**Third Place:** A real Christmas gift - Cheyenne Thomas, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford.

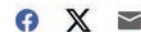
Judge's Comments: Inspirational story about a community coming together to help this family and

## Former Horizon West condo owners in Waukesha struggle as their lawsuit drags on and a city raze order looms



**Jim Riccioli**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Published 9:17 a.m. CT March 29, 2023



The Horizon West Condominiums building stands vacant and partially boarded up in late March 2023. The building's owners remain in limbo, with their assets tied up in the structurally compromised building, as they continue to seek relief from their insurance company in court. Jim Riccioli / Now News Group

WAUKESHA - As the snow begins to thaw again at the end of their second winter in circumstantial exile, the displaced owners of the dilapidated Horizon West

General News Story, First Place (Division C)  
**West Now, Milwaukee**

their poor birds, and just in time for Christmas.

**Honorable Mention:** ‘I never saw this coming’ Father sentenced to 15 years for causing brain injury to infant son - Heather Schaefer, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge’s Comments: A stark reminder of the banality of evil. This man seemingly shrugs off his crime as something unplanned. “I never saw this coming” will stick with me.

## Feature Story (Non-profile)

### Division A

**First Place:** ‘It’s about who we are, my heritage, my culture’: Indigenous tribes in Wisconsin grapple with blood quantum dilemma amid declining enrollment - Frank Vaisvilas, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

## ‘It’s about who we are, my heritage, my culture’: Indigenous tribes in Wisconsin grapple with blood quantum dilemma amid declining enrollment



**Frank Vaisvilas**

Green Bay Press-Gazette

Published 5:04 a.m. CT Nov. 2, 2022 | Updated 7:32 p.m. CT Nov. 2, 2022



GREEN BAY – Chris Staples knows he is Ojibwe in blood and culture, but because of separate U.S. treaties with the Northwoods tribes, he cannot be recognized as a tribal citizen on paper.

His parents and grandparents are enrolled citizens with different bands of Ojibwe, meaning Staples apparently doesn’t have enough ancestors in only one band to be considered eligible for tribal citizenship, he said.

The [Ojibwe territory](#) once spanned millions of acres across northern Wisconsin, northern Minnesota, northern Michigan and southern Canada.

Feature Story (Non-profile), First Place (Division A)  
*Green Bay Press-Gazette*

Judge’s Comments: Topic was impactful and well-written. Topic was relevant.

**Second Place:** Madison’s mental health crisis team can’t keep up with its own success - Allison Garfield, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge’s Comments: Topic was impactful and well-written.

**Third Place:** Black women artists in Madison say they don’t feel supported in arts community - Melissa Perry, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge’s Comments: Topic was impactful and well-written.

**Honorable Mention:** Cancer took this former Wisconsin men’s basketball player’s leg. His fight isn’t over - Michael McCleary, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge’s Comments: Topic was heartfelt and well-written.

### Division B

**First Place:** What Wisconsin Rapids restaurants do people miss the most? Here’s what readers told us. - Caitlin Shuda, *Daily Tribune*, Wisconsin Rapids.

Judge’s Comments: Good use of research, pics, and reader comments to make this a must-read-to-the-end story. Loved the details, and the first-person comments about the restaurants.

**Second Place:** To Infinity and Beyond - Dan Kitkowski, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge’s Comments: Good combination of description of the event and interviews. The front-page picture is exceptional.

**Third Place:** Take Back the Sun glows bright, rocks out - Carly Davis, *Daily Jefferson County Union*, Fort Atkinson.

Judge’s Comments: Excellent piece of you-are-there writing; the descriptions really helped me imagine the scene.

**Honorable Mention:** Random Lake High School students go hunting as part of unique class. For many, it’s their first time holding a gun. - Maya Hilty, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge’s Comments: Enjoyed this article, but I think you missed the real lede, which is the teacher herself.

I’d do a follow-up just on her.

### Division C

**First Place:** Fernau’s Garden a family business with deep roots - Randy Domer, *Oshkosh Herald*.

Judge’s Comments: The lede really brings you in and sticks with you throughout this piece. You can feel the passion through the write up.

**Second Place:** Big things expected to come from 70th Anniversary Million Penny Parade - Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** The Union Hotel: Generations in the making - Rick Cohler, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

**Honorable Mention:** Fickle December weather may impede ‘23 ice castle - Michelle Drew, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

### Division D

**First Place:** The legend lives on - Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge’s Comments: I loved this entry. The writer did a really fine job of showing the model ship’s journey as told through men’s search for meaning and legacy.

**Second Place:** Taking a road trip down Highway 10 - Todd

## THE LEGEND LIVES ON

World-class model of Edmund Fitzgerald drops anchor in Ashland

**PETER J. WASSON**  
pwasson@ashlanddailypress.net

Paul Wickman heard plenty about the Edmund Fitzgerald as he was growing up in Ashland. His godmother was Mary Louko, the daughter of John Simmons, one of the famous ship’s wheelmen — the guys who steer Great Lakes ore haulers. Louko’s mother’s walls were covered with photos of life on the water; her coffee table laden with books memorializing one of the world’s most famous shipwrecks and her husband, one of five Bay-Area men who died aboard her.

“I’d hear (family members) talk about it when I was young because it had only sunk a few years before then,” Wickman, 48, said. “I was aware of the family connection, but I had nothing to do with shipping. The closest I ever got was when my dad and I were fishing on the bay and we’d go alongside

one of the ore boats. I was always afraid one would tip over on us, they were so big.”  
Fast forward 30-some years as Wickman, now living near Madison, was scrolling through social media classified ads when he stumbled upon something truly remarkable — an 8-foot-long, meticulously detailed scale model of the Fitzgerald being offered for sale by a craftsman in Ohio. He immediately was struck by its intricacy — and an idea: Could the model be used as memorial to the local people who died and help the entire city of Ashland in the process?

That was the beginning of an eight-year journey for Wickman, during which he learned even more about the ship, got to know the family that created the model and dedicated himself to bringing it to Ashland as both a local historical artifact and a tourist attraction.

More FITZGERALD | A18



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY ED MONROE

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

Bergmann, *The Valdres Journal*.  
 Judge's Comments: What great research went into the fascinating story. I took a time capsule journey through history on Route 10.

**Third Place:** Northlandia: How a few feet of Wisconsin ended up on Minnesota side of St. Louis River - Jimmy Lovrien, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Not many writers would tackle this and make it so interesting. Nicely done.

**Honorable Mention:** Northlandia: St. Louis River's island of misfit toys - Jimmy Lovrien, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: What an interesting story that gave me a great sense of place. After reading, I wanted to visit.

### Division E

**First Place:** Sun Prairie resident turns yard into Frankenstein's Laboratory - Hayley Hodson, *Sun Prairie Star*.

Judge's Comments: Great use of art and storytelling.

**Second Place:** From Ukraine to Unity: Escaping the war on Ukraine - Neal Hogden, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Humanizes a dehumanizing war in Europe.

**Third Place:** North Crawford: 4K students visit Frank's Hill - Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: Great descriptive story about a visit to a landmark.

**Honorable Mention:** At Wyalusing: Everything you wanted to know about hummingbirds and then some - Ambrosia Wojahn, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: I learned a lot about hummingbirds, and liked the story.

## Feature Story (Profile)

### Division A

**First Place:** The murder of Union Star Cheese Factory's owners rocked these Winnebago County communities. Jon Metzsig is keeping the family business going - Rebecca Loroff & Katy Macek, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: An awe-inspiring tale of a son loyal to his murdered parents who keeps a century-old family cheesemaking company in business, thanks to the love and support of a small town. Makes you want to buy the company's cheese (Union Star) just as a hug for the story's hero, Jon Metzsig, whose younger brother has been charged with killing their parents. Compelling use of



Feature Story, First Place (Division A)  
**The Post-Crescent, Appleton**

quotations, such as this one from a family friend: “It was like someone killed my own parents.” Then the quote kicker to end the story, this one from Jon about his ability to “keep going” at work: “It gives you something to focus on and be positive about. There’s a future.”

Bravo to the reporters and writers, editors, photo staff and designers — you have produced a memorable piece of journalism that can take its place in Wisconsin history.

**Second Place:** Scotty Rorek is a real-life Ghostbuster, and he has the car to prove it - Gayle Worland, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: This is a hilarious tale, tailor-made for its Halloween publishing date, about a real-life Ghostbuster, whose loving wife gave him the go-ahead to buy and rig up a car modeled after one in the 1984 movie, “Ghostbusters.” Neighbors ask, “Who Ya Gonna Call?” and the answer is Scotty Rorek. “It’s like magic,” the tale begins, setting up a scene of onlookers taking pictures of Rorek and his car. This medium, who first saw ghosts when he was 5 years old, attracts an extra large crowd. The lede finds an excellent echo to end the piece with this quote from Rorek: “The cops have pulled me over in the Ecto. They want to take pictures.” An excellent personality profile with a holiday feature story twist. Even the ghosts will like this one.

**Third Place:** ‘Running Man’ a constant in Downtown Madison; once 440 pounds, he’s now down to 180 - Samara Kalk, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: They say, “There are eight million stories in the naked city,” and “The Running Man” is a great one — an inspirational and even educational tale that can appeal to just about any one of us making a New Year’s resolution

to lose weight. Dropping from 440 pounds to 180, however, puts Chris Line in a special weight class. Over five years he changed his diet, started walking, then jogging, and soon became a familiar figure shuffling along the center of town in Madison, Wisconsin. After detailing the ill effects of being overweight, the article hits this money line: “About 40% of American adults are overweight.” The message is clear: If Chris can do it, you can, too — with the right attitude. The ending provides quite the kicker quote: “Any time that I don’t have something going on, I just run instead. It’s sort of my version of sitting on the couch watching TV.” A well-written and researched piece with telling photos and design. Bravo!

### Division B

**First Place:** ‘Never say never’ - Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: I loved every word of this piece. Nick is an inspiration to all and the writer did a fantastic job with this feature! This was by far the hardest to judge. Many really, great pieces!

**Second Place:** Founder of Beloit Black Women in Business Expo remembered by friends, family - Rachel Brands, *Beloit Daily News*.  
 Judge's Comments: Such a telling and heartfelt piece. Great job!

**Third Place:** Life changing - Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.  
 Judge's Comments: I experienced every emotion with this one. Heartbreak, tears forming, and overall elation. Very nice!

### Division C

**First Place:** An Act of Kindness in a hostile land - John Gessner, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.  
**Second Place:** Bullet holes in water

jugs at Chu Lai - Brian Jopek, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** AV-W custodian creates carpet art and classroom smiles - Jake Schexnaydre, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Honorable Mention:** Three Lakes custom cars receive national recognition - Stephanie Dye, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

## Division D

**First Place:** Local nonprofit aims to save rare Ojibwe horse - Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.

Judge's Comments: This is an extremely well written piece on an extremely interesting topic, weaving together the story of Loerzel and the situation of the horse population currently and over the past 50 years. While weighing the other winners against one another, it occurred to me that there is a certain level of uniqueness in the situation covered by the article as compared to the others, something I honestly am having trouble putting my finger



The Humble Horse is home to seven Ojibwe horses like this one, who are curious, sweet and playful. There are only 180 of them left in the world, but the number is slowly growing. Photo by Sarah Nigbor.

## Local nonprofit aims to save rare Ojibwe horse

Goal is to reconnect with horse ancestors

By Sarah Nigbor

TOWN OF GILMAN - For Em Loerzel, the Lac La Croix Indian ponies she's caring for aren't just animals or tools: They are her family members, family to the entire Ojibwe nation. And when she adopted six of the remaining 180 left in the world, it was like being reunited with long-lost relatives.

"In my early 20s, one of my uncles would tell stories about how when he was a kid, there were small horses who would live in the woods," Loerzel said. "One day they all disappeared."

In the 1970s, the Canadian and United States governments collected the remaining

See HUMBLE HORSE Page 12

Feature Story (Profile), First Place (Division D)  
*The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth

on, that really made it a 10/10 for me. All I can really say is that the story captured my attention quickly, held it throughout and has stuck with me since. The writer also has the right flow for a feature so that the paragraphs move smoothly from one to the next, and also has a strong lead. The only thing I did not like was the format of the section headers, it really should have been larger or made use of a different font to better stick out and help the reader organize their thoughts, but I did not feel it detracted enough to move the article from a well deserved 1st place spot.

**Second Place:** Clerks - Mitchell Keller, *Dodge County Pioneer*, Theresa.

Judge's Comments: A much needed effort to humanize an important cornerstone of American society that tends to be flattened in the discourse. Going the extra mile to really get at the heart of the thoughts and feelings of its three subjects, the article takes a smart approach to the job of poll workers and does a good job of presenting the thoughts of the subjects on their job while also providing enough information for the reader to understand the context of those thoughts. In terms of style, I think getting three primary subjects helped the article a good deal in covering the multiple facets of the issue and the author does a good job pacing the story. The strong lead and the right amount of personable tone (in my experience a tricky skill to get right) in places also gives the article a certain verve that keeps the reader invested through to the end. I never felt bored reading it.

**Third Place:** At 105, Superior woman recounts history she lived through - Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: A well focused profile on the life of a single

individual. The author pulls from a good number of sources for quotes and made good use of (what I assume) are local landmarks to really drive home for the reader what getting to that age means and the changes that have happened across that time. The article also does not overstay its welcome, focusing on painting vivid pictures of moments and not dwelling too long on any one part of Isabell's life. In the writing switching between Isabell herself and her children. Making use of the landmarks as mentioned above, the opening of the article really captured my attention and the ending quote was a good choice.

**Honorable Mention:** Rose-y outlook: Wisconsin native heads up 2023 Rose Parade, Rose Bowl - Eric Johnson, *Lake Geneva Regional News*, Lake Geneva.

Judge's Comments: The decision to begin the article with a quote certainly caught my attention and the early focus on Wainscott's

childhood connection to the Rose Parade, Rose Bowl locked me in for the rest of the article. The section dealing with her background and journey to where she is now is handled well and talking about her influence on the event was a good place to finish on. Overall just an extremely solid and engaging article.

## Division E

**First Place:** Answering the call of the wild - Scott DeLaruelle, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*.

Judge's Comments: This story was engaging from the beginning to the end. Informative as well as entertaining. Great job.

**Second Place:** Art show celebrates the work of Rhinelander nonagenarian - Jake Schexnaydre, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: I really enjoyed this feature. The lead was especially nice.

**Third Place:** Guardians of Stogalaxy - Scott DeLaruelle, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*.

Judge's Comments: This is a great in-depth story, although I was slightly confused with the lede ... I caught on the more I read. Very entertaining.

## Localized National Story

### Division A

**First Place:** Transgender treatments - David Wahlberg, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Courageous reporting, compelling storytelling and a powerful examination of a deeply personal transgender journey. This is one of the best localizations

## Answering the call of the wild



Stoughton native Kapler co-authors book on state amphibians and reptiles

SCOTT DE LARUELLE

Staff Reporter

Stoughton native Josh Kapler ends up writing the seasonal 31st century textbook on Wisconsin's unique amphibians and reptiles. He'll have dozens of people to thank. And an iguana named Coma.

Last month, UW Press published "Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin," co-authored and edited by Kapler and his colleague Donald Brown. The massive work that took nine years to complete contains nearly 1,200 pages, more than 300 color figures and photographs, and includes the work of more than 50 contributors.

The process was perhaps unexpectedly similar to bringing a child to birth, considering the book's weight of nine pounds. Kapler, a 1993 Stoughton High School graduate, sold the 140-page guide for him in a very early age with a keen interest in dinosaurs that later transitioned into reptiles.

"Many years passed, the dinosaur thing still alive to a dinosaur was a lizard, so

Turn to Kapler Page 2

Josh Kapler, a 1993 Stoughton High School graduate and current UW-Whitewater professor of wildlife biology, holds an Ornate Box Turtle (a state endangered species) in Sauk County as part of a recent research project.

Feature Story (Profile), First Place (Division E)  
*The Stoughton Courier Hub*



of a national story I've read in years. Bravo!

**Competition Comments:** This was an excellent category, defined by thoughtful, courageous, compelling, powerful and revelatory reporting. GREAT to see such stirring work at some smaller/medium-sized newsrooms. It was hard to choose between the two transgender-focused entries. Thanks for the opportunity to judge this one!

**Second Place:** Transgender rights - Allison Garfield, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Comprehensive and sophisticated coverage of local politics and the intersection of personal lives and public votes. This was outstanding work.

**Third Place:** Political polarization. Culture wars. Road rage. We're an angrier society. What can be done? - Natalie Eilbert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: A thoughtful and in-depth look at what we all have encountered: Why is everyone so mad? In an era of so little civility, this reporter peeled back the angry surface to explain what's at the core of it all. Sophisticated writing!

**Honorable Mention:** Reflections on Jan. 6 - Kylie Balk-Yaatenen, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Jan. 6 is a divisive topic in so many communities...including this one. An excellent deep dive into that traumatic day and the palpable consequences we still feel today.

Division B

**First Place:** Local MSU students describe on-campus shooting - Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: This is a tragedy that newsrooms across the nation must cover. The lede drew me in and made it personal. Great take on this

tough subject.

**Competition Comments:** Lots of great entries made this one hard to narrow to just the winners.

**Second Place:** Remembering the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy one year later - Faith Rae, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: This news story was so startling when it broke, and seeing the community come together a year later gave me hope. Great article and great photos.

**Third Place:** A year post-Roe: Abortion rights groups strategize, pro-life supporters want end to out-of-state referrals - Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: A great look at a year after Roe, and the archaic laws that apply in its stead.

**Honorable Mention:** Sheboygan's Holocaust survivors will be remembered in a sold-out concert at Congregation Beth El for Holocaust Remembrance Day - Maya Hilty, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Division C

**First Place:** Agencies, police team up against human trafficking - Bethanie Gengler, *Oshkosh Herald*.

Judge's Comments: Author grasped attention immediately and directly linked the topic to their area.

**Second Place:** DA, defender ranks depleted; Public defender shortage can derail court cases - Bethanie Gengler, *Oshkosh Herald*.

Judge's Comments: Author grasped attention, but took a while to

mention the localization part. **Third Place:** Rough road ahead due to milk hauler shortage - Colleen Kottke, *Wisconsin State Farmer*, Waupaca.

Judge's Comments: Author wrote well, localized well. Did not grasp attention and keep it.

**Honorable Mention:** Confession in cold case 1990 murder of former Ladysmith school student - Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*.

Judge's Comments: Author's lead was long, did not make an impact due to amount of detail. Written well otherwise.

Division D

**First Place:** No home for returning to - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: This story shows that the horrors of war are not so far away. I'm not sure about the headline, but the story is great!

**Second Place:** Lawyers Sense Payday on Lejeune - Todd Bergmann, *The Valdres Journal*.

Judge's Comments: Interviewing a local veteran was a great way to make this national story localized. It is tragic that they had to fight so hard to get compensation and further tragic that attorneys take advantage.

**Third Place:** School loan forgiveness divides U.S. - Todd Bergmann, *The Valdres Journal*.

Judge's Comments: Good story showing the arguments made by either side in the student loan forgiveness debate. I would have preferred everyday people interviewed from either side.

**Honorable Mention:** Omnibus bill offers funding for Douglas County bridge projects - Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Great news writing. The crumbling infrastructure is a national issue.

Local MSU students describe on-campus shooting

ERIN NOHA  
EagleHerald Staff Writer

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Freshman Anna Nerat was on FaceTime with her parents in the dining hall when her mom got a safety alert text from

Text from public safety said 'Run, Hide, Fight'

Michigan State University. "It had at the end 'Run, Hide, Fight,' and she was like, 'Have

you heard of this?' and I was like, 'No.' We thought maybe it was a joke," Nerat said.

Things sounded different when she left the complex to go back to her dorm at Armstrong Hall. "I just heard so many sirens," she said. "They weren't close,

More SHOOTING | A3

Localized National Story, First Place (Division B)  
*EagleHerald, Marinette*

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

OSHKOSHHERALD.COM | Page 5

Agencies, police team up against human trafficking

By Bethanie Gengler  
OSHKOSH HERALD

Situated along the Interstate 41 corridor, the Fox Valley is considered a hot spot for human trafficking.

With motels and hotels lining the interstate and many large events that can draw thousands of visitors from all over the country, the span between Milwaukee and Green Bay is considered especially attractive for sex trafficking.

Human trafficking involves the exploitation of a person through force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex or forced labor, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In 2021, 111 survivors of human trafficking contacted the Wisconsin Trafficking Hotline. From those calls, 95 human trafficking cases were identified with 166 victims.

Nora Gonzalez Carvajal is an anti-human trafficking victims advocate at Reach Counseling in Neenah.

Reach helped 58 survivors of trafficking in 2021 and about 70 survivors in 2022. Most of the cases involve people living in the Fox Valley.

Gonzalez Carvajal said the human trafficking survivors come from all back-

A common misconception is that human trafficking victims are snatched off the street. Gonzalez Carvajal said traffickers are more subtle in their approach and will groom their victims.

"Traffickers will look for a need they can fill," she said. "This may simply be buying the victim something new like a phone, jewelry, clothes; or giving them cash, drugs or alcohol."

She added there is a correlation between addiction and sex trafficking because once victims are hooked on drugs or alcohol, the trafficker becomes a source of supply, making it harder to leave.

"Anything to hook them," Gonzalez Carvajal said. "Sometimes traffickers demand sex as a repayment and will use fraud, force or coercion to exert control over the victim."

Grooming also involves showing the victim affection, attention and false promises or providing support to a young person who isn't getting it at home.

Human trafficking generates \$150.2 bil-

ions being exploited.

Some common indicators of human trafficking include a person who isn't allowed to speak for themselves, appears disconnected or refuses to make eye contact, shows signs of physical abuse or sexualized behaviors.

A person who is being trafficked is often in the company of someone who seems to control where they go and who they talk to.

Gonzalez Carvajal said human traffickers are extremely dangerous.

"If you're worried a friend or loved one is actively being trafficked, it is critical that you reach out to local law enforcement for support," she said.

For survivors of human trafficking, several local resources are available.

• Damascus Road is a nonprofit in Oshkosh that began in 2009 dedicated to raising awareness and assisting victims of human trafficking in the Fox Valley and statewide. Since 2017, Damascus Road said it has assisted more than 550 survivors of trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. More information is available at [damascusroadproject.org](http://damascusroadproject.org).

• 5-Stones is a nonprofit organization started in 2010 in the Fox Valley that works to increase awareness of human trafficking,

prevent victimization and network with other organizations that fight against human trafficking. More information is available at [www.5-stones.org](http://www.5-stones.org).

• Reach Counseling at 1509 S. Commercial St. in Neenah offers support for survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking including medical advocacy, legal advocacy, personal advocacy, basic needs assistance and licensed therapists. It also offers a 24-hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line at 920-722-8150.

In correlation with January's Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Attorney General Josh Kaul announced the creation of a Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to support survivors and ensure justice is served to those who commit a crime.

"The task force is a partnership of federal, state and tribal law enforcement, and victim service providers.

"This task force will enhance efforts in Wisconsin to combat human trafficking and provide support for survivors," Kaul said. "By bringing law enforcement and victim service providers together, we can help ensure that Wisconsin is taking a comprehensive approach to fighting this crime."

Localized National Story, First Place (Division C)  
*Oshkosh Herald*

## Division E

**First Place:** Fate of the missing - Ginna Young, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

**Judge's Comments:** This is news worthy in every community across the nation. Nice use of photos that connect the community to the story,

and nice use of quotes from the interviews that were conducted, This is story that obviously took many hours of research and interviewing. Insightful and impactful.

**Competition Comments:** It is interesting to see how often and in what capacity local news ties into nationwide initiatives.

I did find that some of these stories need work on sentence structure and punctuation (that's the retired English teacher in me), but overall the writers have done a nice job of tying local and national initiatives together.

**Second Place:** It's not the Jetsons car - Ginna Young, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

**Judge's Comments:** The story of this EV is interesting and certainly ties in with the EV initiative across the nation. The lede is a little confusing at first but a second read made clearer the intent of the story.

**Third Place:** Edgerton recognized at White House event - Sam Martino & Diane Everson, *The Edgerton Reporter*.

**Judge's Comments:** Nice story that tie not just a national story but a world wide program to the local community. Well written and nice transitions from local interest to a national event.

**Competition Comments:** It is interesting to see how often and in what capacity local news ties into nationwide initiatives. I did find that some of these stories need work on sentence structure and punctuation (that's the retired English teacher in me), but overall the writers have done a nice job of tying local and national initiatives together.

alone publication.

**Competition Comments:** A good number of entries were recaps of individual games. Some had good, punchy writing, some were rather pedestrian. The quality of the winning entries were far and away higher in quality.

**Second Place:** UWGB fires Will Ryan as its men's basketball head coach - Scott Venci, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

**Judge's Comments:** Good digging and exposition of the facts. Classic construction of behind-the-scenes college sports and how administration works.

**Third Place:** Sticking points: Varsity lacrosse unlikely in Janesville in sport's WIAA debut season - Tim Seeman, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

**Judge's Comments:** Well written. Nice work on providing context. Enjoyed reading this.

**Honorable Mention:** A second helping: Central girls win back-to-back state titles; Walker twins have supporting cast - Mike Ramczyk, *Kenosha News*.

**Judge's Comments:** Nice writing. Nice coverage with human interest angle and quotes from players.

## Division B

**First Place:** Sports News Stories - Jimmy Oswald, *Beloit Daily News*.

**Judge's Comments:** Fantastic job!  
**Second Place:** Two Rivers football coverage - Tom Dombeck, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

**Third Place:** Girls state soccer coverage - Tom Dombeck, *The Sheboygan Press*.

**Honorable Mention:** Maroons slay Copper Kings behind Bardowski's late-game heroics - Matt Lehmann, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

## Division C

**First Place:** Mach Brown - Zach

2023 DIVISION 1 100 METER DASH STATE CHAMPION ELIJAH BROWN, TOMAH



**MACH BROWN**

Final step puts Tomah's top speedster atop the state podium

One one-hundredth of a second. That tiny fraction of time can seem so insignificant. Think of how many of them passed just reading these past few sentences. But for Tomah junior Elijah Brown, that minuscule moment is all the difference it took to make him a state champion.

Brown placed first in the Division 1 boys' 100-meter dash at this year's state track meet, his winning time of 10.77 seconds just barely edging out Green Bay Southwest senior Lyndon Hemmrich-Hartman's second-place mark of 10.78 seconds. Hemmrich-Hartman was the defending state champion in the event, winning it in 2022 while representing Oshkosh North.

As one would expect given the razor-thin margin of victory, it wasn't immediately clear who had won when the pack of competitors hit the finish line. After a few seconds, Brown's name popped up in first on the board at Roger Harring Stadium.

However, Brown recovered well enough to place first in the 100-meter dash and second in the 200-meter dash at both regionals and sectionals.

"For him to kinda bounce back throughout regionals and sectionals and to continue to get faster was really impressive to watch," said Tomah head coach Collin Eswein. "The times that he was posting with a hamstring that I know, and I think he knows, isn't 100 percent was tremendous."

That set the stage for Brown to compete at the 2023 WIAA State Track & Field Championships, held Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 at Veterans Memorial Stadium Complex in La Crosse.

Due to a pair of weather delays on Friday, Brown had to wait until about 9:45 p.m. to run in the 100-meter prelims and around midnight for the 200-meter prelims. Under the cover of darkness, he won both his heats and was second overall in each event's prelims with times of 10.84 and 21.57 seconds.

Story By ZACH RASTALL  
Photos and Layout By NATE BEIER

However, simply being at state and experiencing

Sports News Story, First Place (Division C)  
**Monroe County Herald, Sparta**

## Sports News Story

## Division A

**First Place:** It's expensive to be a Packers fan. A day at Lambeau is pricier than most other stadiums. - Richard Ryman, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

**Judge's Comments:** Comprehensive, multi-angled coverage. Well written. A lot of work went into this and it shows. Enough here for a stand-

Rastall, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: Incredible story that is matched by its layout and photos.

**Second Place:** Tournament of Turbulence; McDonald, Bangor Push Ahead Late for Regional Win Against Aquinas - Zach Rastall, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: Stellar photography sets this entry apart along with great writing.

**Third Place:** Shared goal achieved - Aaron Carlson, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg.

Judge's Comments: Great photos, great story

**Honorable Mention:** Freshman free throws send Lady Thunderbirds to state, Rebuilding all the way up to undefeated conference champions - Brett LaBore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division D

**First Place:** Monroe Football - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: A well written series of articles covering a season that will be staying in the local community's consciousness for decades. The reporter strikes a good balance between stats and more general information and overall has some strong eye-catching leads. The use of quotes in the article leading up to the State Final (both player and coach) was a particularly good choice. Also shows a willingness to provide a bit of humor to keep the reader's interest during the drier bits or. Not 100% on if I am supposed to take photos into account but the large number in the later articles are all pretty good and their presence helps a reader understand what a big event that final game was for Monroe.

**Second Place:** Prescott Girls Golf - Reagan Hoverman, *The Pierce*

*County Journal*, Ellsworth.

Judge's Comments: As mentioned in the submission comment, the reporter takes a detailed and thorough approach to covering the Prescott girls golf team. Really going the extra mile to showcase a strong season from the program, the articles weave together the coaches and players own thoughts with what I feel are the right amount of stats to enhance the events the article covers without bogging it down in too many details. Looking at the articles as a whole, the reporter does a good job of showing their growth over the season. Striking word choices also work to catch the reader's attention, especially in the 4th submission.

**Third Place:** Potosi takes down T-Wolves - A.J. Gates, *Grant*

*County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: A well written example of a memorable single game story. The reporter pulls from both sides of the court to help put the reader into the scene and does a good job in balancing between showcasing individual player contributions and important moments. Introduction is strong and did a good job in drawing me into the article

**Honorable Mention:** Coverage of Northwestern football - Jamey Malcomb, *Superior Telegram*.  
Judge's Comments: The two articles really work well together. The reporter does a good job in his pre-game questions and in laying out the team's goals and what they will need to overcome to a casual

audience. In the second article makes a good case for where the team went wrong (leading to their loss) while keeping the article's pace tight.

### Division E

**First Place:** Deserving points - Mark Nesbitt, *The Verona Press*.  
Judge's Comments: The lede caught my eye...I am not that familiar with this sport but found to be a good read.

**Second Place:** Bringing the gold home: Lions win state title; Lions beat Lakeside Lutheran to reach state final; Lorenz puts 'cherry on top' of Brillion career; Shimek earns first state title as head coach; Behnke makes history as state champion player, coach; Other - David Nordby, *The Brillion News*.  
Judge's Comments: Nice to read about this team.

**Third Place:** Big Finish - Zach Rastall, *Cashton Record*.

**Honorable Mention:** Moline's winner sends Verona to state final - Jack Miller, *The Verona Press*.

## Sports Feature Story

### Division A

**First Place:** How a traumatic wood shop accident didn't stop DeForest's Carter Morrison from making history - Mark McMullen, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.  
Judge's Comments: There's something about symbolism that makes for a great sports story, especially when there's a hint that some higher power is at work to create inspiration. And so when Carter Morrison raised four fingers to highlight his fourth record-setting interception in a high school

# Deserving points

VA/ME captures first state championship, Rufenacht repeats in all-around

MARK NESBITT  
Sports editor

The only problem for Verona Area/Madison Edgewood coach Rachael Hauser seemed to be hoisting a large gold trophy above her head for photo ops after the program won its first-ever WIAA Division 1 state championship.

The Wildcat/Crusaders racked up 146.1167 points to edge Franklin/Muskego by 0.8 points for the Division 1 state title on Friday, March 3, at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School. It marks the closest state meet since 2014 when the Franklin co-op clipped Burlington/Badger/Catholic Central by 0.52 of a point for the title.

"This is a crazy team that is really good," said Verona junior Annika Rufenacht. "We get along so well and I think that helps push each other more. It's so much more fun being on a team that you're friends with and you can push each other. It just makes you better."

It's only the 14th time in the history of the 53-year



Photo by Mark Nesbitt

Sports News Story, First Place (Division E)  
**The Verona Press**

football game, it was impossible to forget that he lost four fingers in a woodshop class accident when he was 16. Only two months later he was back on his basketball team, then the football coach asked him to switch from wide receiver to be a defensive back. "I think that's the greatest message that he's showing us," coach Mack said. "He's not telling us. He's showing us how you overcome things." Thanks for this profile of a remarkable young athlete. Bravo for bringing his story to light. You have given others a gift — hope.

**Second Place:** Al Deang's family responsibilities have shaped him into a leader for Edgewood - Nile McNair, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: With so much focus on immigration in the news, this profile of a star athlete from

a family of stars from Sudan is a refreshing twist. Al Deang took his turn in the "family business" of caring for an older sister who suffered brain damage at birth in the North African nation before the family immigrated to Wisconsin. His juggling act with home, school and sports challenges is an inspirational tale. It's just not the kind of sports story you see every day. Thanks to the reporting, writing, editing and photo team for bringing this story to light.

**Third Place:** Appleton's Cline one of few female college football coaches - Ricardo Arguello, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton. Judge's Comments: How does a 22-year-old theater kid who didn't play organized sports rise to draft a base defense for a college football team? Even she's not sure. "I'm shocked at myself," says Kelly Cline,

now a coaching star in the UW-La Crosse football program. This award-winning piece takes a unique path to explaining what happens behind the scenes to advance women in sports. The NFL's Women's Forum and a coach's clinic at Brown University, for example. This is an interesting read that could inspire middle school and high school girls who are dreaming the impossible dream. Nice work!

### Division B

**First Place:** Backus beats the odds - Michael Grennell, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: One of the most heartwarming features I have read in quite some time. Bravo!

**Second Place:** The unstoppable Cadence Xiong - Michael Grennell, *Daily News*, West Bend.

**Third Place:** Rayko at 50 - Brandon Berg, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls.

**Honorable Mention:** Beating the Odds: Menominee's Villas Named recipient of Gil Heard Courage Athlete Award - Matt Lehmann, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

### Division C

**First Place:** The bigger battle - Rich Palzewic, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: Let's give props to contributing writers! The presentation and philosophical lead sets this one apart from the others.

**Competition Comments:** Tough category as sports features are not always easy to write without using lots of cliches.

**Second Place:** Return of the Queen, Back for More, Bjorkman Ready to Vault into Sparta History at State - Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: Gotta love that intro! Good, conversational style draws the reader in.

**Third Place:** She survived the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing unharmed. A decade later, she's back in the race — for a cause. - Cathy Kozlowicz, *Northwest Now*.

Judge's Comments: This is a really good writer who puts information together well, and has good leads.

**Honorable Mention:** Play On; Peyton Foster - Zach Rastall, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta. Judge's Comments: REALLY like the presentation of this one, but kinda got lost a little at the beginning. Still good work, though.

### Division D

**First Place:** Born to run - Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: Well done piece...not just because of the topic but because of what happened to the dogs in the past...had to read it again.

**Competition Comments:** Good great stories..

**Second Place:** Local man saddles up, grabs life by the horns - Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*.

Judge's Comments: Enjoyed the lede...and the way the writer focused on the kid's perseverance.

**Third Place:** Rock'em Sock'em; Taking the mat by storm - Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Great topic... and the writer was able to weave it into a great story.

**Honorable Mention:** Ihm appears on par to making dream come true - A.J. Gates, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: How could I not give a shout out to a story with a picture of the 13th hole at Valhalla in Louisville — site of the 2024 PGA. I played there last summer.

## Backus beats the odds

After emergency brain surgery, Hamilton grad is getting back on track to attend college

By Dave Radcliffe  
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Nick Backus had done it hundreds of times in the past. Ten minutes into the second half of club soccer match in Naperville, Ill. on Sunday, April 16, the U18B Elmbrook United defender did it again, heading away a corner kick before pursuing the play upfield. But in that moment, Backus' life forever changed. "I just started getting profusely a really bad headache," Backus said. "I was playing right back on defense so I was right next to the sideline with all the parents. I turned to my dad and said, 'My head's going to explode. My head's going to explode.'"

Senior year was winding down for Backus at Hamilton, and it had already been a successful final year of high school. In the fall, he was chosen by his peers as one of two captains and voted a second-team all-conference defender for the Chargers, helping them reach the WIAA State Boys Soccer Tournament for the second time in program history. He was also a member of the homecoming court, and in the spring, he was a sprinter for the track and field team, balancing that commitment with club soccer. With less than two months until graduation, Backus was enjoying Senior Ball with his classmates before heading home the night of Saturday April 15. "I had to leave early to go to Chicago so I went home to get a good night's sleep," Backus said. "I



Nick Backus stands in the middle of his front yard on Sunday, May 7 amongst the decor welcoming him home from a three-week stay at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago following emergency brain surgery.



Nick Backus holds his detached external ventricular drain (EVD), which was removed before he was discharged from Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago on Saturday, May 6.

excited to play. But I got to the game and felt great." His Elmbrook United teammates did as well, taking a 1-0 lead into halftime.

"In the second half I had no symptoms of a bad headache or anything," Backus said. "That would tragically change moments later following the header. Per the advice of his father, John, he went down to a knee and then waited for the referee to whistle the play dead so he could be substituted out of the match. "He tried to get off the field but he couldn't quite make it off," said Nick's mother, Christina Backus. As Backus tried to get back up, his legs folded out from under him, and chaos ensued.

screaming at me to stay awake," Nick said. "That was a really scary moment because I didn't know what was going on. "I thought it was just a concussion. I could barely talk or move, so they called an ambulance. "Soon, Backus would find out it was much worse than a concussion. He was in and out of consciousness and vomiting in the ambulance as his head pounded during the seven-minute ride to Edward Hospital in Naperville. Following one CT scan, doctors determined there wasn't a full brain bleed, so they took a second computed tomography angiography. "I was waiting in the hospital room waiting to hear that I have a really bad concussion," Nick said.



Nick Backus, second from right, is greeted upon his return home from Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago on Saturday, May 6.

Sports Feature Story, First Place (Division B)

*The Freeman, Waukesha*

Division E

**First Place:** One Grand Season - Jack Miller, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*.

Judge's Comments: This is a well written piece that draws the reader in from the first sentence. The writer has used quotes well to support the story and takes the reader into the sport and the work ethic of this young athlete.

**Competition Comments:** 17 entries-WOW. This was a tough category to judge because each submission was unique, interesting and well written. There were a couple of entries that did not have the jump page included, but even those drew me in and I was disappointed that I couldn't reach the conclusion. These entries also gave me insight to sports that are played in other areas of the county. IN reality, every entry had "winning"

characteristic and the top four could have placed in any order—they were that well written and the hard to judge. Congratulations to all 17 entries for writing about people and events that are important to your respective communities. These entries were enjoyable to read, and there wasn't a single one that I wished had been shorter, less wordy or better written.

**Second Place:** The bat of Blomberg - Mark Nesbitt, *The Verona Press*.

Judge's Comments: This is a powerful piece that shows the dedication of the athlete to the sport and an insight into their commitment to the game. Great use of quotes.

**Third Place:** Student Becomes Master - Jack Miller, *The Verona Press*.

Judge's Comments: This is a nice story of two young men who share a common goal both on and off

the ice. Excellently written with supporting quotes from the subjects

**Honorable Mention:** Slettes take part in national ski event - Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: Insightful, interesting and well written piece.

## Breaking News Reporting

### Division A

**First Place:** Interstate pileup - Karyn Saemann, Neil Johnson, Kylie Balk-Yaatenen & Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: An exceptional example of breaking news coverage. You used all your channels to cover and update the story as it unfolded. Kudos to your staff for getting there and getting the pix and the story. Really, really excellent work. It is one of the finest examples of what a local paper / media outlet can do

that I have ever seen.

**Second Place:** 'These kids were on fire': Current, former Pulaski students among 'many' injured at bonfire, reports say - Benita Mathew, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.  
Judge's Comments: Good coverage in a very short turn-around.

Obviously a lot of leg-work to get all the details and personal insights. Impressed that you got it done in only two days.

**Third Place:** Police, schools investigating Muskego racism charges - Ryan Patterson, *The Journal Times*, Racine.

Judge's Comments: In-depth coverage of an important local story, with updated info as it happened. Good work.

### Division B

**First Place:** Collection of stories related to fatal Port Edwards motorcycle crash and court cases that followed - Karen Madden, *Daily Tribune*, Wisconsin Rapids.  
Judge's Comments: Extraordinary



COURTESY PHOTO BY ALAN REDINGTON

Redington, in his signature lime green coat, on the first day of the race. He would cross the finish line in first place eight days, 21 hours, 12 minutes and 58 seconds later.

© Julia Redington  
2023 Yentna River Day 1  
northernwondersphotography.com

## BORN TO RUN: Brule musher conquers Iditarod a year after crash

PETER J. WASSON  
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Ryan Redington described it as just a brief trip with 14 of his closest friends.

What it really was a

1,000-mile trek across glaciers and frozen rivers, down the sides of mountains and through blinding ground blizzards with temperatures of 25 below zero.

More IDITAROD | A5



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY HEATHER HADLEY  
Veterinary surgeon Heather Hadley, who operated on Wildfire when his leg was shattered, gets a smooch from her patient at the Iditarod finish line.

### NEWS

## Officials identify motorcycle driver killed in Friday morning crash in Port Edwards



**Karen Madden**

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

Published 9:28 a.m. CT Sept. 16, 2022 | Updated 6:00 p.m. CT Sept. 16, 2022



PORT EDWARDS – A 47-year-old Port Edwards man is dead after a vehicle hit his motorcycle on State 54 early Friday morning.

At 2:26 a.m. Friday, a caller reported a motorcycle was going west on State 54 when it approached Green Grove Lane, according to the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Deputies determined a vehicle traveling behind the motorcycle hit the back of it as they approached the intersection.

Casey L. Wulf, 47, of Port Edwards, was thrown from the motorcycle, according to

Sports Feature Story, First Place (Division D)  
**Ashland Daily Press**

Breaking News Reporting, First Place (Division B)  
**Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids**

breaking news reporting. Thank you for going the extra mile and really digging in and unfolding what happened. KUDOS!

**Second Place:** Plane with 53 dogs and 3 people crash-lands on local golf course - Faith Rae, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: Great value, style and clarity. So thankful no serious injuries.

**Third Place:** Fatal shooting justified - Dan Kitkowski, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: Covering, the good, bad, and sometimes ugly has no limits. Great use of informative breaking news reporting.

### Division C

**First Place:** The Waukesha teacher who criticized the school district's 'Rainbowland' ban has been fired; What led up to firing of Waukesha elementary school teacher Melissa Tempel and how did 'Rainbowland' controversy begin? - Alec Johnson, *West Now*.

Judge's Comments: Thorough coverage, broken down in to digestible pieces for the readers. The writer kept the voice interesting, showed all sides and made it easy to get invested in what was happening in that school district. Top notch.

**Second Place:** Attacked at school Family pushes for new law - Benny Mailman & Jennifer Moran, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: This story is every parent's nightmare, which I'm sure hit this community hard, but you did a great job covering what had happened and what the family is hoping to accomplish by coming forward. There were some minor typos/grammatical errors and I would have liked to hear from a higher up authority, such as the local legislators, the governing entity over public schools in the state, etc.,

and maybe even from a PTA-like group in the community.

### Division D

**First Place:** Shooting of police officers Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel - Staff, *Barron News-Shield*.

Judge's Comments: Excellent job at putting human faces on what could have been a routine reporting job. Profiles on both of the fallen officers and the shooter, and the spouse of a previous officer killed in the line of duty explaining how to care and support the grieving families are wonderful touches. Quite a few angles were pulled together. The main bar at points felt a touch static to me, but the sidebars allowed the tragedy to really touch the heart.

**Competition Comments:** Stories break and newspapers are there to tell them. When writers can give

you the cold facts, the so-what AND the heart, the storytelling excels. These entries are a testament to that.

**Second Place:** Safe and Sound - Jason Juno, *The Globe*, Ironwood. Judge's Comments: Well-written, gripping, "real people" story. The quotes, the descriptions, the details - solid. That main photo is great, too.

**Third Place:** River flooding - David Timmerman, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: Clear writing. Good mix of official sources and "real people." Telling photos. Story and sidebars show both tragedy and triumph.

**Honorable Mention:** Communities mourn loss of officers; Fallen officers honored heroes at funeral ceremony - Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*.

Judge's Comments: The standout

to me is the piece with numerous people giving first-person accounts of their relationships with the victims. I would have preferred that that story been highlighted even more. Good use of just the facts and poignant sidebars.

### Division E

**First Place:** Three Arrests Made In Connection to Hillsboro Break-In - Nicolette Nauman, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Good timeline. Thorough reporting.

**Second Place:** Dinky Diner 'a total loss' - Heather Schaefer, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: Paints a picture of the scene. Good use of quotes.

**Third Place:** Winter Storm - Valorie Brecht, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Good detail. Prep tips for readers good inclusion.

*What always happens somewhere else, happened here*

## Officers down! Communities shocked

By Ryan Urban

A traffic stop that burst into shoot-out Saturday, April 8, has left the community grieving the deaths of two young police officers who were killed in the line of duty.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice has identified Emily Breidenbach, 32, of the Chetek Police Department and Hunter Scheel, 23, of the Cameron Police Department as the officers killed during a traffic stop on the outskirts of Cameron.

The officers were allegedly shot and killed by Glenn Douglas Perry, 50, of New Auburn, who also died. The officers were conducting the traffic stop on Hwy. 55 just south of Hwy. 8 based on a warrant and to check on the welfare of the driver following notification of concerning behavior, according to the DOJ.

Perry's warrant pertained to divorce proceedings that he was contesting. Four criminal cases indicate that Perry harbored malice toward police, but he was never charged or convicted of anything more than misdemeanor offenses.

During the traffic stop, gunfire was exchanged, according to the DOJ. The two officers were pronounced deceased at the scene. Perry later died after being airlifted to a hospital. Local and state police officials have said little about what led up to the traffic stop and what occurred during the stop.

According to Barron County Dispatch records, Breidenbach reported at 3:37 p.m. that she was behind a subject, known to her to be Perry, driving northbound on Hwy. 55, with one car between them. She reported Scheel would be assisting her with a traffic stop.

A Barron County sheriff's deputy was also nearby, in the area of Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 53 at the time of the traffic stop.

At 3:38 p.m. the officers reported the subject had a gun, and seconds later Scheel stated "shots fired" and "officer down."

At 3:39 p.m. the Barron County officer advised that the suspect was set up with a rifle and that both officers were down.

At 3:40 p.m. the Barron County officer advised that they were going to get traffic out of the area. They also reported that they could not see the shooter.

A minute later the county officer advised three people were down. One passerby, who wished to remain anonymous, told the News-Shield that they drove southbound past the scene of the traffic stop on Hwy. 55 shortly after shots were fired. They stated, "My initial thought was they were holding a drill. That happens, but I was confused why a drill was taking place on a busy highway with no sign posted. Then we saw more and realized what was going on."

They continued, "We made it out, but there were many cars attempting to go northbound. We stopped them all and told them it was an active shooting and they had to turn around."

During a press conference Monday afternoon, Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald said the loss of two police officers in one day is weighing heavy on the local law enforcement community.

"We've had tragic events here in Barron County—nothing like this," said Fitzgerald.

Cameron Police Chief Adam Sterfina and Chetek Police Chief Ron Ambrorazio also spoke during the press conference.

"In addition to changing the lives of their families and friends forever, this event has touched me, my de-

(See Officers Killed page 2A)



Emily Breidenbach

Hunter Scheel



Officers and firefighters in blue and white greeted a van Monday afternoon on Hwy. 8 bearing the bodies of slain police officers Hunter Scheel and Emily Breidenbach to the Rausch-Stiel Funeral Home in Barron. Ladder trucks from the Rice Lake and Barron-Macle Grove fire departments draped an American

Breaking News Reporting, First Place (Division D)

The Stoughton Courier Hub

## Investigative Reporting

### Division A

**First Place:** A teacher, a sexual abuse allegation and a botched investigation: '4 lives altered forever' by David Villareal in Green Bay School District - Danielle DuClos, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: Topic was well-investigated and brought light to topic often overlooked. Relative and well-written.

**Competition Comments:** Overall, great entries. Tough decisions.

**Second Place:** Treatment limited for jail inmates struggling with mental health, but they have access to a therapist, telehealth -

Kelli Arseneau, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: Topic was well investigated and brought light to a subject not often discussed. Well-written.

**Third Place:** Woman dies in SUV after doors won't unlock - Lucas Robinson, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Topic was well-investigated. Subject brought light to vehicle safety.

**Honorable Mention:** Polygamous sect leader buys land in Dunn County - Matt Milner, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire.

Judge's Comments: Well-researched, provides background.

Division B

**First Place:** Sexual harassment scandal roils Sheboygan Police

Department - Maya Hilty & Phoebe Petrovic, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: A great use of records to shine light on an issue that plagues most work forces.

**Second Place:** Stun guns were used on Manitowoc County Jail inmates 18 times between January 2021 and September 2022. Here's what we know about the incidents. - Alisa Schafer, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

**Third Place:** Winnebago County official hired despite workplace misconduct history, then was accused of telling county employee he would 'pee' on her - Bremen Keasey, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Division C

**First Place:** U.S. Vaccine Court 5 part series - Richard Moore, *The*

*Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Did great job explaining difficult topic and why it mattered, how it impacts lots of different parties. Complicated system summed up well. Lots of excellent statistics to add context for readers.

**Second Place:** Breaking the Cycle - Kris Leonhardt, Josephine Hinderman & Kaity Coisman, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: Issues important to families in region. Love that it's a collaborative effort by a lot of local news groups. Gives voice to voiceless, something we all strive for in journalism. Wish every story in series had found people to put faces to the numbers. Lots of talking to officials, but not average people who might be impacted.

**Third Place:** Lac du Flambeau members convicted of illegally

spearing 126 walleyes May 4 - Doug Etten, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Spearing story had good reporting and interviewing. Clear quotes, important story to this community.

**Honorable Mention:** Bombshell: DNR sat on resolutions opposing Pelican River Forest purchase - Richard Moore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Loved use of open records. Did great job explaining difficult topic.

Division DE

**First Place:** Is this the face of justice? - Peter Weinschenk, *The Record-Review*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Excellent reporting of an important problem. Absolutely perfect and I hope the

## Trial of former Baird Elementary teacher charged with 5 counts of child sexual assault starts Monday



Danielle DuClos

Published 5:00 a.m. CT April 24, 2023 | Updated 9:42 a.m. CT Jan. 8, 2024



This story was made free for all readers Jan. 8, 2024.

GREEN BAY – Former Green Bay School District teacher David Villareal has been sitting in jail for two years awaiting trial.

Prosecutors allege he inappropriately touched three of his second-grade students and a third-grader at Baird Elementary School between 2015 and 2017, charging him with four counts of



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

PART ONE OF A TWO-PART SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

## Is this the face of justice?

County inmates wait weeks, even months for legal representation

**U.S. Constitution Sixth Amendment**  
"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall...have the assistance of counsel for his defense."

**Wisconsin Constitution Section Seven of Article One**  
"In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to be heard by himself and counsel...."

All Americans have the right to a lawyer if arrested for a crime. In *Gideon vs. Wainwright*, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1963 ruled that Clarence Earl Gideon, too poor to hire an attorney, had to be retried with the benefit of counsel in a case where he was accused of breaking into a bar in Panama City, Fla. Gideon, finally represented by an attorney, was acquitted of the alleged crime in the new trial.

The right to counsel is a basic American freedom. But this right is not necessarily extended to all Marathon County inmates. Adam Plotkin, legislative liaison for the Wisconsin State Public Defenders Office, reports that on any given day there are approximately eight people sitting in Marathon County Jail who qualify for a state appointed lawyer but who are not provided one. The reason is simple. Law enforce-



Nhia Lee  
1,173 days in jail pre-sentence

ment arrests more low income people in Marathon County than there are lawyers to represent them.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice reports that all law enforcement departments in Marathon County ar-

rested 3,859 people in 2020. Among those arrested, the Marathon County District Attorney's Office prosecuted 2,645 individuals for non-traffic crimes: 1,372 people for felonies, another 1,273 for misdemeanors. Among those prosecuted, according to Plotkin, 75 percent were "indigent" or poor enough to qualify for a state-supplied attorney (earning less than \$15,629 a year as a single person without assets). Eighty-five percent of those charged with felonies were "indigent."

The Wisconsin Public Defenders Office in Wausau has a staff of eight attorneys. They are responsible for competently representing these hundreds of clients.

The result is predictable. The Marathon County justice system is overwhelmed. There is a waiting list for lawyers. As a consequence, the constitutional right to counsel is recognized, but often delayed to the point of denial. The Wisconsin Supreme Court looks the other way.

Take, for example, the case of Nhia Lee, a 46-year-old Green Bay man. The Marathon County Sheriff's Department arrested Lee on Sept. 1, 2018, and charged him with two felony drug counts and a single count of identity theft.

He had an initial appearance on the day of his arrest. Judge LaMont Jacobson found probable cause to hold Lee in the county jail and set cash bail at \$25,000. It was determined Lee qualified for a public defender.

Wisconsin law requires anyone held in jail on a felony charge with \$500 bail or more must get a prelimi-

Investigative Reporting, First Place (Division DE)  
*The Record-Review, Abbotsford*

powers that he saw this and took it to heart. Something needs to be done at many levels.

**Competition Comments:** There were so many excellent entries in this category showing why we all work in this field! What really stood out to me were the topic choices for these deep dives. These reporters took their time and got every side of the story possible before reporting and no doubt made a difference in their communities. Narrowing these entries down to first, second, third and honorable mention was very tough since easily three more deserved a top spot, too, but these had more relatability to their readers and the community, hitting a larger target audience. Very impressed by many of these writers, not just the winners.

**Second Place:** Getting into childcare issue - David Timmerman, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: Top notch ongoing coverage, not only starting the conversation, but also making sure it kept going until something could be done.

**Third Place:** Six months of reporter pressure leads to resignations - April Ziemer, *Amery Free Press*.

Judge's Comments: This is why we do what we do! What would this community be without this newspaper staff keeping an eye out for them? Great ongoing coverage, opinions pieces and investigative features, to highlight not only why the readers should care, but also all sides of the story.

**Honorable Mention:** Local Senate Candidate Accused Of Misconduct While Working As Police Officer - Andrew Dannehy, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall.

Judge's Comments: I know this wasn't easy and any information wasn't given up without a fight, but you stood your ground and made a

difference in that race. These reports are too often brushed under the rug, but the voters had a right to know that a pattern had followed this candidate.

## Enterprise/ Interpretive Reporting

### Division A

**First Place:** State of Intoxication: Drunken Driving on the Rise - Barry Adams, Joe States, Terri Pederson & Alexander Shur, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison. Judge's Comments: I expected a familiar approach to a familiar issue: Wisconsin has a drinking problem. But this was exemplary reporting, going beyond statistics and peeling

back the longstanding challenges and legislative stalemates to reverse this dangerous trend. Outstanding job in a terribly competitive category. Well done!

**Competition Comments:** This was an OUTSTANDING collection of enterprising work — well-told, well-researched, compelling writing, sophisticated approaches beyond statistics and from-the-heart storytelling. This was a tough category to judge; there could've been 6-7 top-shelf winners. Keep at it, Wisconsin! Readers across your state need this kind of work. — RAG

**Second Place:** The new Wisconsin family? 1.7 kids, no picket fence and child care costs more than college - Madison Lammert & Jeff Bollier, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton. Judge's Comments: A fabulous job of making Wisconsin's changing (and challenging) economy come

to life. The reporting roared past statistics and data and told the story through the eyes of those most affected: Everyday Wisconsin families. Very sophisticated storytelling.

**Third Place:** Emma was 17, autistic and unable to balance her inner, outer worlds. What her death by suicide tells us. - Natalie Eilbert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: This was a painfully evocative story that breaks the heart. The reporter won the confidence of sources to tell a memorable story that sadly resonates and is being repeated across the country.

**Honorable Mention:** More Wisconsin workers are organizing. How much leverage do they have? - Natalie Yahr, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Another well-reported enterprise package that captured the fascinating economic trends and the empowerment of a new generation of workers and those shaping the labor movement statewide.

### Division B

**First Place:** Vets & Pets - Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette. Judge's Comments: An important, likely untold story across the country. Told exceptionally well using the stories of the actual people involved and members of the community impacted.

**Second Place:** Cities are rarely liable for damage from potholes. That can be a harsh reality for people injured, like this Sheboygan woman. - Maya Hilty, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: Strong reporting and story telling with an excellent personal story drawing readers into a bigger story about their cities.

**Third Place:** 70 years in, this fly-

# Vet shortage hits tri-cities

No new clients  
accepted amid  
growing need

ERIN NOHA  
EagleHerald Staff Writer

PESHTIGO — COVID grabbed hold of the veterinary industry — and it hasn't let go.

"As the pandemic hit, the toll of costs, hours and stress really hit the veterinary profession," said Dr. Kaytee Firnett Devroy, owner of Peshtigo Veterinary. "The number of appointments in a day decreased while the demand for services went up."

The lack of veterinary care in the tri-cities could be leaving people without easily accessible services for their animals. Even though veterinarians are trying as hard as they can, the endless wheel of pet care keeps turning, leaving people wondering why they can't find a vet in the area. It's a vicious circle.

Currently, the area has three vets, Bayshore Veterinary Clinic in Menominee, Town



& Country Veterinary Clinic in Marinette and the Peshtigo Veterinary Clinic. None are accepting new clients.

"I would say right now the demand is definitely higher than the current availability," Firnett Devroy said.

Some people adopted cats and dogs during lockdown to pass the time. Those who already had pets were maybe noticing them like never before, trying to address their concerns. She believes this may have caused the extra

pressure on services.

As the vets adapted to curbside appointments and no-contact, they also noticed that the appointments took longer, she said. Extra sanitizing was a big part of that.

They saw their schedules piling up.

Early on, they paused non-essential services, Firnett Devroy said. They didn't do elective surgeries like spays, neuters and routine dental work for months.

"State officials were concerned about a lack of supplies

(masks/gloves) and asked for our profession to cut back in order to ensure human medicine had access," she said. "This further stressed pet owners and veterinary professionals."

Vets were restricted to only seeing very sick animals and not getting revenue from their elective procedures. At the same time, they watched supply costs skyrocket, she said.

And the appointments kept coming.

"During that time, many people left the field," Firnett Devroy said. "Veterinarians close to retirement retired early. Some younger veterinarians and support staff left for other careers because of the toll mentally and physically everything was taking on them."

More CLIENTS | A2

Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting, First Place (Division B)

*EagleHerald*, Marinette



in is officially 'AirVenture,' but most just call it 'Oshkosh.' Here's why. - Bremen Keasey, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Good history, good use of quotes made this a fun read about a topic likely not discussed as much. Who knew it was the "mecca" for aviation? I love learning something when I read good journalism; I learned a lot from this.

**Honorable Mention:** Water in Howards Grove may stymie larger development, but changing that would be expensive and challenging - Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: A well-told, well-explained piece that involves several topics of deep importance to the city. Great work.

Division C

**First Place:** WBAY 70 - Kris Leonhardt, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: I love the history and seeing the photos and in depth clarity on how it was then vs now. Very nice job!

**Second Place:** Bellin Run Coverage - Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: I love that you featured locals that are passionate about running. Great coverage.

**Third Place:** Only 7% of commercial pilots are women. These Milwaukee-area female pilots are working to change that. - Cathy Kozlowicz, *Northwest Now*.

Judge's Comments: Thank you for highlighting these female pilots. Nice story, and analysis.

**Honorable Mention:** These Black business owners share the inspiration and challenges of being in the suburbs - Cathy Kozlowicz, *Northwest Now*.

Judge's Comments: I love that these business owners didn't let others

change the fate of their dream! They held their ground and make it happen! Congratulations and well done!

Division D

**First Place:** Domestic violence homicides on the rise in Wisconsin - Ryan Urban, *Barron News-Shield*.

**Second Place:** Getting sober the hard way - Tom Stankard, *Ashland Daily Press*.

**Third Place:** Slime time - Tom Stankard, *Ashland Daily Press*.

**Honorable Mention:** Chetek Police Department puts Therapy K-9 Program on hold - Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*.

Division E

**First Place:** Off the Beaten Path - Cheyenne Thomas, *Tribune Record*



# Off the Beaten Path...

Each week in July, read about our series of adventures in Clark County to little-known or forgotten places, explored by Valorie Brecht or Cheyenne Thomas.



## A memorial made from love: The Marie Louise Chapel



By Cheyenne Thomas

On most days, the atmosphere at the Marie Louise Cemetery in Christie is quiet, calm and peaceful. Nestled at the top of a hill at a bend in Wildwood Road, the small cemetery has long been a draw for both locals and those passing through, as a sign on Highway 73 directs them to the small sanctuary — known as the Marie Louise Chapel — on the grounds.

The Marie Louise Chapel has been in the cemetery since the early 1960s, being dedicated on Dec. 13, 1964, by Rev. Wolfgang C. Koehler. It was built by Herman and Hannah Hediger, who constructed the chapel in memory of their granddaughter, Marie Louise, daughter of Bernard and Hanna Opelt, who died on Aug. 27, 1962, after being struck by a car while riding her bicycle. She had just turned 15 a month before.

"Marie Louise Opelt was born July 25, 1947," reads an undated article by Dennis McCann that hangs on one of the walls inside the chapel. "She was

"The bell was cast in Switzerland," she said. "I remember when they went over and put in the order, but I don't remember how long it took before it was done. But it had to be shipped and that took time. It shipped from Switzerland on a grain ship into Hudson Bay. He had a truck pick it up and brought it back to Christie."

After it was installed, the bell was dedicated in honor of another granddaughter, Beverly Knoop, who was born with cerebral palsy. Her photograph hangs at the front of the chapel, along with photographs of Herman and Hannah, as well as a painting of Marie Louise that was completed by a family friend shortly after the chapel was built.

Also inside the chapel, visitors can see the woodworking skills of both Morgenthaler and Herman. The pews are all handmade, as is the small altar/baptismal font at the front of the chapel. That altar, Charlotte said, was Herman's handiwork, a replica of a similar altar he had back home in Switzerland.



Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting, First Place (Division E)  
*Tribune Record Gleaner, Abbotsford*

*Gleaner, Abbotsford.*

Judge's Comments: This story was well written, and told a touching tale of a labor of love and giving back to a community to keep a loved one's memory alive. A masterclass in feature writing and preserving local history.

**Second Place:** Multi-million-dollar scheme crushes Kendall's dreams - Karen Parker, *County Line*, Ontario.

Judge's Comments: This was an engaging read and very well written, remaining entertaining and informative while respecting the reader's time. A bit more attribution would have helped to solidify the sourcing for the information, but one has to assume it was well-vetted.

**Third Place:** It's nearly game time for spring planting, and how will it go? - Charley Preusser, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo*

*Scout, Gays Mills.*

Judge's Comments: This story was a great look into the importance of relevance, in a farming community, no doubt much of the local economy revolves around the health of the crops and this story was well written and adhered to its theme while offering tons of useful information in a compact format.

**Honorable Mention:** Marietta Town Board hears four tax appeals - Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: This sort of coverage is extremely important to drive the conversation in a community and this was just properly executed reporting on such a topic, covered with as much detail as necessary and in a way that put the reader in the meeting. Well done.

## Awards by Newspaper

### Amery Free Press

First Place..... Editorial Award  
Third Place ..... Investigative Reporting

### Ashland Daily Press

First Place..... Best Headlines  
First Place..... Best Opinion Pages  
First Place..... Community Engagement Award  
First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
First Place..... Reporting on Local Government  
First Place..... Sports Feature Story  
Second Place ..... Best Front Page  
Second Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
Second Place ..... Local Column  
Second Place ..... Open Records/FOI Award  
Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
Third Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
Third Place ..... Local Sports Column  
Third Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
Honorable Mention ..... Environmental Reporting

### Barron News-Shield

First Place..... Breaking News Reporting  
First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
Second Place ..... General News Story  
Second Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage

### Beloit Daily News

First Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
First Place..... Best Niche Product  
First Place..... Best Special Section (Advertising)  
First Place..... Sports News Story  
Second Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
Third Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
Third Place ..... Best Sports Pages

### Cashton Record

First Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
First Place..... Overall Page Design  
First Place..... Sports Action Photo  
Second Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
Third Place ..... Sports News Story

### County Line, Ontario

Second Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
Second Place ..... General News Photo

### Courier Press, Prairie du Chien

First Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
First Place..... Best Use of Color  
Second Place ..... Best Ongoing Niche Publication

Third Place ..... Best Restaurant Ad  
Third Place ..... Bill Payne Award  
Honorable Mention Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
Honorable Mention ..... Bill Payne Award

### Courier Sentinel, Cornell

First Place..... Best Use of Art Service  
First Place..... Local Column  
First Place..... Localized National Story  
Second Place ..... Best Headlines  
Second Place ..... Editorial Award  
Second Place ..... Localized National Story  
Third Place ..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
Third Place ..... Best Small Ad  
Third Place ..... Best Use of Art Service

### Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills

First Place..... Best Use of Color  
First Place..... Feature Photo  
First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
First Place..... Photo Essay  
Second Place ..... Community Engagement Award  
Second Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
Second Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
Third Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
Third Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
Third Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
Third Place ..... Spot News Photo  
Honorable Mention ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
Honorable Mention ..... Environmental Reporting  
Honorable Mention ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
Honorable Mention ..... Local Outdoor Column

### Daily Jefferson County Union, Fort Atkinson

Second Place ..... Best Niche Product  
Third Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)

### Daily News, West Bend

First Place..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages  
First Place..... Best Headlines  
Second Place ..... Best Sports Pages  
Second Place ..... Sports Feature Story

### Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids

First Place..... Breaking News Reporting  
First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
Second Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage

### Dodge County Pionier, Theresa

Second Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)

### Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay

First Place..... Business Coverage

### EagleHerald, Marinette

First Place..... Artistic Photo  
First Place..... Best Front Page  
First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
First Place..... Feature Photo  
First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)  
First Place..... Localized National Story  
First Place..... Photo Essay  
Second Place ..... Feature Photo  
Second Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
Second Place ..... General News Story  
Third Place ..... Artistic Photo  
Third Place ..... Breaking News Reporting  
Third Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
Third Place ..... General Excellence  
Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
Honorable Mention ..... Environmental Reporting  
Honorable Mention ..... General News Photo  
Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Story  
Honorable Mention ..... Sports News Story

### Fennimore Times

First Place..... Best Special Section (Advertising)  
Second Place ..... Best Use of Local Photography  
Third Place ..... Best Use of Color

### Grant County Herald Independent, Lancaster

First Place..... Best Large Ad  
First Place..... Best Sports Pages  
First Place..... Reporting on Local Education  
Second Place ..... Best Use of Color  
Second Place ..... Bill Payne Award  
Second Place ..... Investigative Reporting  
Third Place ..... Best Use of Color  
Third Place ..... Breaking News Reporting  
Third Place ..... Feature Photo  
Third Place ..... Overall Page Design  
Third Place ..... Sports News Story  
Honorable Mention ..... Best Large Ad  
Honorable Mention ..... Best Use of Art Service  
Honorable Mention ..... Best Use of Local Photography  
Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Story

### Green Bay Press-Gazette

First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
First Place..... Investigative Reporting  
First Place..... Local Sports Column

First Place..... Reporting on Local Education  
 First Place..... Rookie Reporter of the Year  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Photo  
 First Place..... Sports News Story  
 First Place..... Visual Storytelling  
 Second Place ..... Breaking News Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Second Place ..... General News Story  
 Second Place ..... Health Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Second Place ..... Sports News Story  
 Third Place ..... Best Video  
 Third Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 Third Place ..... General News Story  
 Third Place ..... Local Column  
 Third Place ..... Localized National Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Honorable Mention ..... General Excellence  
 Honorable Mention ..... Health Coverage  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Visual Storytelling

## Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

First Place..... Community Engagement Award  
 First Place..... Local Column  
 First Place..... Local Outdoor Column  
 Honorable Mention ..... Business Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Second Place ..... General News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Investigative Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Second Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Second Place ..... Sports News Story  
 Third Place ..... Local Column

## Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise

First Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 First Place..... Best Sports Pages  
 First Place..... Breaking News Reporting  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Photo  
 First Place..... Visual Storytelling  
 Second Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Second Place ..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 Second Place ..... General News Story  
 Second Place ..... Overall Page Design  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Third Place ..... Best Headlines  
 Third Place ..... Overall Page Design

## Kenosha News

First Place..... Feature Photo

Honorable Mention ..... Sports News Story  
 Second Place ..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages  
 Second Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Second Place ..... Local Column  
 Third Place ..... Rookie Reporter of the Year

## La Crosse Tribune

Second Place ..... Local Sports Column

## Ladysmith News

Second Place ..... Editorial Award  
 Second Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Spot News Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Headlines  
 Honorable Mention ..... General News Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Localized National Story

## Lake Country Now, Milwaukee

Second Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Action Photo

## Lake Geneva Regional News

Honorable Mention ..... Artistic Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Honorable Mention .. Ongoing/Extended Coverage

## Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire

First Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Second Place ..... Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Honorable Mention ..... General News Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Investigative Reporting

## Lodi Enterprise and Poynette Press

First Place..... Reporting on Local Education

## Marshfield News-Herald

First Place..... Business Coverage

## Middleton Times-Tribune

Second Place ..... Best Sports Pages  
 Second Place ..... Local Sports Column

## Monroe County Herald, Sparta

First Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 First Place..... Bill Payne Award  
 First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 First Place..... Local Sports Column  
 First Place..... Sports News Story  
 First Place..... Spot News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Best Sports Pages  
 Second Place ..... Breaking News Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Overall Page Design

Second Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Second Place ..... Sports News Story  
 Second Place ..... Visual Storytelling  
 Third Place ..... Best Headlines  
 Third Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Third Place ..... Visual Storytelling  
 Honorable Mention ..... Local Column  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Story

## Mount Horeb Mail

Honorable Mention ..... Best Sports Pages

## News Graphic, Cedarburg

First Place..... All-Around Newspaper Photography  
 First Place..... General Excellence  
 Second Place ..... Rookie Reporter of the Year  
 Third Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports News Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Photo

## North Shore Now, Milwaukee

First Place..... Sports Action Photo  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Photo

## Northwest Now, Milwaukee

Third Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

## Oconomowoc Enterprise

First Place..... General Excellence  
 First Place..... Local Sports Column  
 Second Place ... All-Around Newspaper Photography

## Oconto County Reporter

Third Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Honorable Mention ..... Reporting on Local Government

## Oshkosh Herald

First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 First Place..... Localized National Story  
 Second Place ..... General Excellence  
 Second Place ..... Health Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Localized National Story  
 Third Place ..... Best Front Page  
 Third Place ..... General News Story  
 Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
 Honorable Mention ..... Reporting on Local Government

**Oshkosh Northwestern**

First Place..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Second Place .....Local Column  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
 Second Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Third Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 Third Place ..... General News Photo  
 Third Place .....General News Story  
 Third Place .....Investigative Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Visual Storytelling  
 Honorable Mention...Reporting on Local Education  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Photo

**Price County Review, Phillips**

Second Place ..... Best Video  
 Third Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Open Records/FOI Award

**South Now, Milwaukee**

Third Place ..... Business Coverage

**Southwest Now, Milwaukee**

Third Place ..... Business Coverage

**Spooner Advocate**

Third Place ..... Visual Storytelling

**Stevens Point Journal**

First Place..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Second Place ..... Business Coverage

**Sun Prairie Star**

First Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Honorable Mention..... Best Special Section (Editorial)

**Sun-Argus, Spring Valley**

Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Education

**Superior Telegram**

First Place..... All-Around Newspaper Photography  
 First Place..... Audio Storytelling  
 First Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 First Place..... Environmental Reporting  
 First Place..... General News Story  
 First Place..... Sports Action Photo  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Photo  
 First Place..... Spot News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Second Place .....Best Large Ad  
 Second Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Second Place .....Health Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Photo Essay

Second Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Third Place .....Best Front Page  
 Third Place .....Best Sports Pages  
 Third Place ..... Best Use of Local Photography  
 Third Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Third Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Third Place .....General News Story  
 Third Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Honorable Mention .....Best Use of Color  
 Honorable Mention ..... Business Coverage  
 Honorable Mention ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Honorable Mention .....Localized National Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports News Story

**The Baldwin Bulletin**

First Place..... Business Coverage  
 First Place..... General News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Best Niche Product  
 Third Place .....Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Honorable Mention ..... Editorial Award

**The Boscobel Dial**

First Place..... Best Small Ad  
 First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Honorable Mention ..... Visual Storytelling

**The Brillion News**

Second Place ..... Sports News Story

**The Cap Times, Madison**

First Place..... Artistic Photo  
 First Place..... Editorial Award  
 First Place..... Environmental Reporting  
 First Place..... Health Coverage  
 First Place..... Local Column  
 First Place..... Photo Essay  
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Second Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Second Place ..... Best Headlines  
 Second Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Second Place ..... Localized National Story  
 Third Place ..... Photo Essay  
 Honorable Mention ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

**The Chetek Alert**

First Place..... Best Front Page  
 First Place..... Best Restaurant Ad  
 First Place..... Best Use of Art Service  
 Second Place ..... Best Newspaper Promotion

Second Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Second Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Third Place ..... Best Large Ad  
 Third Place ..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 Third Place ..... Best Small Ad  
 Third Place ..... Rookie Reporter of the Year  
 Honorable Mention ..... Breaking News Reporting  
 Honorable Mention Community Engagement Award  
 Honorable Mention ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

**The Chippewa Herald, Chippewa Falls**

First Place..... Best Sports Pages  
 Second Place ..... Best Video  
 Second Place ..... Photo Essay  
 Third Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Local Sports Column

**The Chronotype, Rice Lake**

First Place..... Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Second Place ..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 Third Place ..... Best Niche Product

**The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee**

First Place..... Environmental Reporting

**The Edgerton Reporter**

Third Place ..... Localized National Story

**The Freedom Pursuit**

First Place..... Spot News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Third Place ..... Community Engagement Award  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Action Photo

**The Freeman, Waukesha**

First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Education  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Story  
 Second Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Second Place ..... Best Front Page  
 Second Place ..... Breaking News Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Localized National Story  
 Third Place ..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages  
 Third Place ..... Best Headlines  
 Third Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Photo Essay

Honorable Mention ..... General News Story  
 Honorable Mention .. Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 Honorable Mention ..... Photo Essay

## The Gazette, Janesville

First Place.....Best Large Ad  
 First Place.....Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 First Place.....Best Small Ad  
 First Place.....Best Use of Art Service  
 First Place.....Best Use of Color  
 First Place.....Best Use of Humor  
 First Place.....Bill Payne Award  
 First Place.....Breaking News Reporting  
 First Place.....General Excellence  
 Second Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Second Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Third Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Third Place .....Best Front Page  
 Third Place ..... Editorial Award  
 Third Place ..... General News Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports News Story  
 Third Place ..... Spot News Photo  
 Honorable Mention .... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages  
 Honorable Mention ..... Localized National Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Reporting on Local Government

## The Globe

Second Place .....Best Small Ad  
 Second Place .....Breaking News Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Best Use of Humor  
 Honorable Mention .... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 Honorable Mention .....Best Restaurant Ad  
 Honorable Mention ... Best Special Section (Editorial)

## The Journal Times, Racine

Third Place .....Breaking News Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Local Sports Column  
 Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Education

## The Lakeland Times, Minocqua

First Place..... Artistic Photo  
 First Place.....Best Headlines  
 First Place.....Best Large Ad  
 First Place.....Best Niche Product  
 First Place.....Best Restaurant Ad  
 First Place.....Best Small Ad  
 First Place.....Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 First Place.....Best Sports Pages  
 First Place.....Best Use of Art Service  
 First Place.....Best Use of Color  
 First Place.....Best Use of Humor

First Place..... Community Engagement Award  
 First Place..... Editorial Award  
 First Place..... Feature Photo  
 First Place..... Investigative Reporting  
 First Place..... Open Records/FOI Award  
 First Place..... Photo Essay  
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Education  
 First Place..... Reporting on Local Government  
 First Place..... Visual Storytelling  
 Second Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Second Place ..... Best Ad Idea (Series)  
 Second Place .....Best Large Ad  
 Second Place .....Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 Second Place ..... Best Niche Product  
 Second Place .....Best Opinion Pages  
 Second Place ..... Best Small Ad  
 Second Place ..... Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Second Place ..... Best Use of Art Service  
 Second Place .....Best Use of Color  
 Second Place ..... Best Use of Humor  
 Second Place ..... Best Use of Local Photography  
 Second Place ..... Bill Payne Award  
 Second Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Second Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Second Place ..... Local Column  
 Second Place ..... Local Outdoor Column  
 Second Place ..... Local Sports Column  
 Second Place ..... Photo Essay  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
 Second Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Best Ad Idea (Series)  
 Third Place ..... Best Large Ad  
 Third Place .....Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 Third Place ..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 Third Place ..... Best Niche Product  
 Third Place ..... Best Restaurant Ad  
 Third Place ..... Best Small Ad  
 Third Place .....Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Third Place ..... Best Use of Art Service  
 Third Place .....Best Use of Color  
 Third Place ..... Best Use of Humor  
 Third Place ..... Best Use of Local Photography  
 Third Place ..... Bill Payne Award  
 Third Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Third Place ..... General News Photo  
 Third Place ..... Overall Page Design  
 Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Third Place ..... Salesperson of the Year  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Ad Idea (Series)  
 Honorable Mention .....Best Large Ad  
 Honorable Mention .... Best Newspaper Promotion

Honorable Mention .....Best Niche Product  
 Honorable Mention .....Best Use of Art Service  
 Honorable Mention Best Use of Local Photography  
 Honorable Mention ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Honorable Mention ..... Feature Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Health Coverage  
 Honorable Mention ..... Investigative Reporting  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports News Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Visual Storytelling

## The Monroe Times

First Place..... Best Ad Idea (Series)  
 First Place..... Best Niche Product  
 First Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 First Place..... Best Video  
 First Place..... General News Photo  
 First Place..... Localized National Story  
 First Place..... Sports News Story  
 Second Place ..... Best Ad Idea (Series)  
 Second Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Second Place ..... Visual Storytelling  
 Third Place ..... Best Ad Idea (Series)  
 Third Place ..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages  
 Third Place ..... Best Headlines  
 Third Place ..... Best Use of Art Service  
 Third Place ..... Best Video  
 Third Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Photo Essay  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Third Place ..... Spot News Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Small Ad  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Use of Humor  
 Honorable Mention ..... Local Column  
 Honorable Mention ..... Local Sports Column  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Photo

## The Northwoods River News, Rhinelander

First Place..... Best Niche Product  
 First Place..... Best Use of Humor  
 First Place..... Environmental Reporting  
 First Place..... General Excellence  
 Second Place .....Best Large Ad  
 Second Place ..... Best Restaurant Ad  
 Second Place .....Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Second Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Second Place .....Breaking News Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Second Place ..... Photo Essay  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
 Second Place ..... Spot News Photo  
 Third Place ..... Best Front Page

Third Place ..... Best Large Ad  
 Third Place ..... Best Ongoing Niche Publication  
 Third Place ..... Bill Payne Award  
 Third Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... General News Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Artistic Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... General News Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Photo Essay  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Feature Story

**The Oregon Observer**

First Place..... Best Headlines  
 Second Place ..... General Excellence  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Front Page

**The Pierce County Journal, Ellsworth**

First Place..... Bill Payne Award  
 First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Second Place ..... Best Special Section (Advertising)  
 Second Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Second Place ..... Sports News Story  
 Third Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Third Place ..... Local Column  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Headlines  
 Honorable Mention ..... General Excellence  
 Honorable Mention ..... Photo Essay

**The Platteville Journal**

Second Place ..... Best Niche Product  
 Second Place ..... Best Sports Pages  
 Second Place ..... Best Use of Art Service  
 Second Place ..... Overall Page Design  
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Government  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Action Photo

**The Post-Crescent, Appleton**

First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 First Place..... Sports Action Photo  
 Second Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 Second Place ..... General News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Investigative Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Photo Essay  
 Second Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Second Place ..... Spot News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Visual Storytelling  
 Third Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Government

Third Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Local Column  
 Honorable Mention .. Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 Honorable Mention ..... Photo Essay  
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Education  
 Honorable Mention .... Rookie Reporter of the Year

**The Press Times, Green Bay**

First Place..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages  
 First Place..... Best Ongoing Niche Publication  
 First Place..... Best Opinion Pages  
 First Place..... Business Coverage  
 First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 First Place..... Overall Page Design  
 First Place..... Rookie Reporter of the Year  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Story  
 Second Place ..... Best Front Page  
 Second Place ..... Best Headlines  
 Second Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 Second Place ..... General News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Investigative Reporting  
 Third Place .... All-Around Newspaper Photography  
 Third Place ..... Best Sports Pages  
 Third Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Honorable Mention Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Honorable Mention Reporting on Local Education

**The Record-Review, Abbotsford**

First Place..... Investigative Reporting  
 Second Place ..... General Excellence  
 Honorable Mention ..... General News Photo

**The Reporter, Fond du Lac**

First Place..... Sports Action Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Local Column

**The Review, Plymouth**

First Place..... Overall Page Design

**The Richland Observer, Richland Center**

First Place..... Best Large Ad  
 First Place..... Best Small Ad  
 Third Place ..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 Honorable Mention .... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Use of Art Service

**The Sheboygan Press**

First Place..... Best Video

First Place..... General News Photo  
 First Place..... General News Story  
 First Place..... Investigative Reporting  
 Second Place ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Community Engagement Award  
 Third Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Localized National Story  
 Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Sports News Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 Honorable Mention .... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Honorable Mention ..... Localized National Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports Action Photo

**The Star News, Medford**

First Place..... Artistic Photo  
 First Place..... Best Use of Local Photography  
 First Place..... Health Coverage  
 First Place..... Photo Essay  
 First Place..... Salesperson of the Year  
 Second Place ..... Best Headlines  
 Second Place ..... Best Use of Humor  
 Third Place ..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 Third Place ..... General Excellence  
 Third Place ..... General News Photo  
 Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
 Third Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Front Page  
 Honorable Mention ..... Editorial Award

**The Stoughton Courier Hub**

First Place..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Story  
 Second Place ..... Best Front Page  
 Second Place ..... Business Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Best Sports Pages  
 Third Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Honorable Mention ..... General Excellence

**The Tribune-Phonograph**

First Place..... Editorial Award  
 Second Place ..... Best Small Ad  
 Second Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Third Place ..... General Excellence  
 Third Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Photo Essay

## The Valders Journal

First Place..... Feature Photo  
 Second Place .....Best Opinion Pages  
 Second Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Second Place ..... Localized National Story  
 Third Place .... All-Around Newspaper Photography  
 Third Place ..... Editorial Award  
 Third Place ..... Localized National Story

## The Verona Press

First Place..... Reporting on Local Government  
 First Place..... Sports News Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Spot News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Third Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Honorable Mention .... Rookie Reporter of the Year  
 Honorable Mention ..... Sports News Story

## The Waunakee Tribune

Honorable Mention ..... Spot News Photo

## Trempealeau County Times, Whitehall

First Place..... Local Column  
 Second Place ..... Spot News Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Investigative Reporting

## Tri-County News

Second Place ..... Editorial Award  
 Second Place ..... General News Photo

## Tri-County Press

Second Place ..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 Second Place ..... Best Use of Art Service  
 Second Place ..... Best Use of Color

## Tribune Record Gleaner, Loyal

First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 First Place..... General News Story  
 Second Place ..... Feature Photo  
 Third Place ..... Breaking News Reporting  
 Third Place ..... General News Story  
 Honorable Mention ..... Overall Page Design

## USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

First Place..... Business Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Community Engagement Award  
 Third Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage

## Valley Sentinel, Spring Green

First Place..... Artistic Photo  
 First Place..... Best Front Page  
 First Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 First Place..... Bill Payne Award  
 Second Place ..... Bill Payne Award  
 Second Place ..... Local Column  
 Second Place ..... Salesperson of the Year  
 Third Place ..... Artistic Photo  
 Third Place ..... Best Niche Product  
 Third Place ..... Best Opinion Pages  
 Third Place ..... Editorial Award  
 Third Place ..... Health Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Local Column  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Headlines  
 Honorable Mention .... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Use of Color  
 Honorable Mention ..... Bill Payne Award

## Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River

First Place..... Best Ad Idea (Series)  
 First Place..... Best Front Page  
 First Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread  
 First Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 First Place..... Best Use of Local Photography  
 First Place..... Environmental Reporting  
 First Place..... General News Photo  
 Second Place .All-Around Newspaper Photography  
 Second Place ..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages  
 Second Place ..... Best Restaurant Ad  
 Second Place ..... Best Special Section (Editorial)  
 Second Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Second Place ..... Spot News Photo  
 Third Place ..... Best Opinion Pages  
 Third Place ..... Environmental Reporting  
 Third Place ..... General Excellence  
 Third Place ..... Investigative Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Local Column  
 Third Place ..... Local Outdoor Column  
 Third Place ..... Photo Essay  
 Honorable Mention ..... Artistic Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Small Ad  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Sports Pages  
 Honorable Mention ..... Bill Payne Award  
 Honorable Mention .... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Honorable Mention ..... Feature Story (Profile)

Honorable Mention ..... Photo Essay

## Wausau Daily Herald

Honorable Mention ..... Artistic Photo

## Wausau Pilot and Review

First Place..... Local Column  
 Second Place ..... Best Newspaper Promotion  
 Second Place ..... General News Story  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Government  
 Third Place ..... Sports Action Photo

## West Now

First Place..... Breaking News Reporting  
 First Place..... General News Story  
 First Place..... Health Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Health Coverage

## Wisconsin State Farmer

Third Place ..... Localized National Story

## Wisconsin State Journal, Madison

First Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting  
 First Place..... General News Photo  
 First Place..... General News Story  
 First Place..... Localized National Story  
 First Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 First Place..... Open Records/FOI Award  
 First Place..... Sports Feature Story  
 First Place..... Spot News Photo  
 Second Place ..... Editorial Award  
 Second Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Second Place ..... General Excellence  
 Second Place ..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage  
 Second Place ..... Reporting on Local Education  
 Second Place ..... Rookie Reporter of the Year  
 Second Place ..... Sports Feature Story  
 Third Place ..... Feature Story (Non-profile)  
 Third Place ..... Feature Story (Profile)  
 Third Place ..... Health Coverage  
 Third Place ..... Investigative Reporting  
 Third Place ..... Sports Action Photo  
 Honorable Mention ..... Best Video  
 Honorable Mention ..... Business Coverage  
 Honorable MentionCommunity Engagement Award  
 Honorable Mention ..... Feature Photo  
 Honorable Mention .... Feature Story (Non-profile)

## Environmental Reporting

### Division A

**First Place:** Madison-area businesses tackle climate change - Natalie Yahr, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: This was a solid entry, with detailed stories on three aspects of innovative recycling. Well done.

**Second Place:** Oneida Nation's environmental restoration project to receive funding in proposed state

budget - Frank Vaisvilas, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: This entry had a great sense of place. I loved reading about the Menominee Tribe.

**Third Place:** Goats with a big appetite are fighting Wisconsin's invasive plants one bite at a time - Sophia Voight, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: Goats eating weeds isn't a new story, but this one was full of interesting details and kept me hooked.

**Honorable Mention:** Here's how a Green Bay composting company is helping people and companies meet sustainability goals - Ariel Perez,

*Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: The story made me feel like I knew Mr. Groshek and also cared about his enterprise.

### Division B

**First Place:** Kohler golf course in legal limbo after human remains found, environmental impact concerns raised - Steve Schuster, *The Daily Reporter*, Milwaukee.

Judge's Comments: Love that investigative work led to the information obtained in this report. The reader also has a good idea of what is happening and what the impact of the story is high up, which is great. Not only that, but the story is written in an interesting way that pulls the reader through to the end.

**Second Place:** Here's what happens to greasy pizza boxes and other items in recycling bins after they're collected in Manitowoc County - Patti Zarling, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

Judge's Comments: The headline and lede are very accessible to the average reader. I also think that the media attempts to tell stories about what can and can't be recycled often, but those stories aren't usually accompanied with why you can't recycle certain things and what the environmental impacts are. Also great work on visuals.

**Third Place:** As Sheboygan sees first snowstorm of winter, here's why drivers may see less salt being used on area roads - Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: Good timely environmental topic. Is kind of a cliché topic, but Alex does a good job of bringing in a unique angle.

**Honorable Mention:** Study confirms PFAS in the bay - Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

### Division C

**First Place:** Wake boat advisories on spring survey - Michelle Drew, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: This could be considered the winner of the "wake boat coverage" in your state. Just kinda had a better flow (no pun intended) and more pleasant presentation.

**Competition Comments:** These are sometimes tough reads because of the subject matter, but the writers seemed to handle it well.

**Second Place:** Dam discharges hydraulic fluid in Flambeau River; Oily sheen on river persists after spill - Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*. Judge's Comments: Kinda thorough and straight to the point. Didn't weigh the reader down too much.

**Third Place:** Lead contamination prevalent in eagles, avian wildlife: DNR - Jon Eichman, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Interesting situation, and possibly could have benefited from better placement.

**Honorable Mention:** Until proven in a court of law, Natural Resource Board members..., - Beckie Gaskill, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Certainly detailed, and perhaps slightly diminished with the lead-even though that's a pretty accurate statement nowadays.

### Division D

**First Place:** Goats graze in Brule River State Forest to thwart invasive - John Myers, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Great exploration and explanation of a pesticide alternative. Interesting enough to keep non agriculturists attention all the way through.

**Second Place:** Chetek Lakes Protection Association update series

### Kohler golf course in legal limbo after human remains found, environmental impact concerns raised

By: [Steve Schuster](#), [sschuster@dailyreporter.com](mailto:sschuster@dailyreporter.com) // July 7, 2023 // 20 Minute Read

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Published July 7, 2023 at 1:41 p.m. CDT.



Signs protesting the construction of Kohler Co.'s sixth golf course in Sheboygan County line the street leading up to the entrance of the proposed development. Kohler owns undeveloped land adjacent to Kohler-Andrae State Park. (Staff photo by Steve Schuster)

By **Steve Schuster**  
[sschuster@dailyreporter.com](mailto:sschuster@dailyreporter.com)

Kohler Co.'s plans to build its sixth golf course have run into a number of legal challenges after human remains were recovered from seven locations during a 2018 field investigation, [according to a letter and report](#) obtained by The Daily Reporter. The latest legal matter is only days/weeks away from a Wisconsin Court of Appeals decision.

Environmental Reporting, First Place (Division B)  
**The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee**



- Staff, *The Chetek Alert*.

**Third Place:** Unhealthy haze causing problems - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

**Honorable Mention:** Speed demons soar over Ashland - Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

### Division E

**First Place:** PFAS coverage in town of Stella - Heather Schaefer, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander. Judge's Comments: Excellent ongoing coverage! This writer made the easily confusing content more digestible and relatable and made sure the readers were able to stay up to date on this issue. Great mix of data and practical application of the information. Very well done and this writer is no doubt an asset to this community.

**Second Place:** DNR begins rulemaking for PFAS in groundwater, CSP releases water quality report, NRB approves

PFAS in groundwater standard, DAWS testing results released, Citizens express outrage over DNR's approach - Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: If I lived in this area, this is the writer I would want covering the water quality. Very thorough understanding of the technical aspects of water quality and what goes into testing it. It gets a little confusing with the ongoing initials and lingo, and numbers can be a bit boring and hard to keep the reader's attention, but if I were concerned about my water quality living there, I would find comfort in being able to pour over all of this ongoing information about what's actually going on with the water. Well done.

**Third Place:** FLOW board hears water quality report, FLOW membership hears water quality report, FLOW board discusses legal remedies for nitrate pollution -

Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: Same level of coverage this writer showed in the second place entry, but a little more niche as far as who will pick up the paper to read these articles. Still important reporting, though!

**Honorable Mention:** Vernon County Energy District Plan is judged to be 'particularly innovative' - Ambrosia Wojahn, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: Solid information from an important meeting.

## Ongoing/Extended Coverage

### Division A

**First Place:** Reducing racial disparities - Melissa Perry, Emilie

Heidemann, David Wahlberg & Olivia Herken, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: This series is a great example of how to break down a big issue into small parts to make them digestible for the reader and drive home the focus of the series. Each individual story stands on it's own but together creates a comprehensive look at racial equity issues facing the community.

**Second Place:** Rudi the pig has to go - Samara Kalk & Lucas Robinson, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

**Third Place:** Families Matter - Staff, *USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin*.

**Honorable Mention:** Outagamie County Board member sparks protests with transphobic comments - Sophia Voight, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

### Division B

**First Place:** Darrell Brooks trial - Brian Huber, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: Fantastic coverage of a trial that made national news but was presented in a way only local reporters could do.

**Second Place:** Coverage of the John Sarver trial in the 38-year-old Eleanore Roberts cold case - Karen Madden, *Daily Tribune*, Wisconsin Rapids.

Judge's Comments: Excellent job working through a cold case trial and the people involved nearly 40 years later.

**Third Place:** Chippewa Falls Fire and Emergency Services upgrades - Audrey Korte, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls.

Judge's Comments: Great job following a referendum to the funding that would enable hiring more public safety employees.

**Honorable Mention:** Rainbowland

# Wake boat advisories on spring survey

## Public input sought April 10-13

By MICHELLE DREW  
Editor

For the first time ever, a state entity is asking the public to weigh in on the use and regulations of wake boats on waterways in the state during the annual Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings which will take place virtually April 10-13.

Put on each year by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the survey focuses on natural resource-related questions, proposed rule changes, and advisory questions.

Wake boats, also called ballast boats, are designed to generate a large, magnified wake that people can wake surf on by taking in thousands

of gallons of water then displacing it to create the wake.

The use of wake boats for the sport of wake surfing has been on the rise on Wisconsin lakes. This has led to concern from lake groups, water recreation enthusiasts and anglers, as well as environmental advocates, who say these new boats create safety hazards to others using the lake, damage the environment and local wildlife habitats, destroy personal property and erode the shoreline.

On the other side, wake boat advocates say the issues presented are overblown, and when the rules that are currently considered the "industry standard" are followed, these wake boats do not do the kinds of damage alleged.

Jeff Meessmann, a retired professional engineer and director of the Last Wilderness Alliance (LWA) conservation group based in Presque Isle, has pressed the WCC to have these advisory questions added to the survey in the interest of protect-

ing area lakes, which he calls the "backbone of our tourist economy."

The text included in WCC's survey describes wake surfing as requiring the generation of a "large hazardous wake." A hazardous wake is defined as "a boat wake that is intentionally magnified through the use of ballast, design features or operational procedures to amplify the wake's height and consequently generates a large, dangerous wave."

It goes on to say that unregulated wake surfing has the potential to churn lakebeds with downward prop wash, create murky, turbid water and destroy aquatic plants; destroy spawning beds; swamp loon nests; and transfer invasives via residual ballast water.

These boats also can fertilize algae blooms, erode shorelines, endanger others through poor forward visibility, and endanger others through generation of hazardous wakes incompatible with

other lake users, and damage the local economy, according to the DNR.

The advisory questions ask for public input on limiting wake boats causing hazardous wakes to be more than 700 feet from shore or other water users; prohibiting wake boats from causing hazardous wakes on lakes less than 1,500 acres; and the WCC amending existing statutes that prohibit operation of a boat that intentionally creates a hazardous wake within 700 feet of any dock raft, pier, buoyed or restricted area, shoreline, or any other watercraft.

Also queried on the survey will be the creation or amendment of state statutes regarding operation of boats that create hazardous wakes on lakes of specific size, depth, length or width; or intentionally magnifying wakes for wake surfing on lakes less than 1,500 acres.

Meessmann said a number of current studies exist

To WAKE BOATS, Pg. 6A



Public input is requested on six advisory questions regarding the use of wake boats on Wisconsin lakes this April. —Contributed Photo

controversy - Karen Pilarski, *The Freeman, Waukesha*.  
 Judge's Comments: Good balance covering a community torn by the school system banning a Dolly Parton song.

### Division D

**First Place:** Cozy Acres - Joe Hart, *The Boscobel Dial*.

Judge's Comments: Interesting take on a very poignant human interest story.

**Second Place:** Shooting of police officers Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel - Staff, *Barron News-Shield*.

Judge's Comments: Informative and eye-opening article.

**Third Place:** Zupke's tumultuous first days - Tom Stankard & Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: Effective informative piece that shows both sides.

**Honorable Mention:** Goats grazing at Hilmoor; Ideas presented for Hilmoor - Dennis Hines, *Lake Geneva Regional News, Lake Geneva*.

Judge's Comments: Creative and such an interesting subject.

### Division E

**First Place:** Watershed Councils gather at joint meeting in Viroqua; Watershed Alliance Considered: Bad Axe Watershed Council enjoys meeting; Coon Creek: Citizens discuss life without dams; Bad Axe Watershed Council: Group makes plans for 2023 funding; Bad Axe Watershe - Ambrosia Wojahn, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills*.

Judge's Comments: After reading through the entries for this on going coverage I must say I feel as if I have been there every step of the way. The writer not only kept their readers

well informed but did so without much repetition. Great job on this ongoing coverage!

**Second Place:** Watershed Council celebrates one-year anniversary, Group learns about carbon opportunities, Watershed Council issues first annual report, Watershed Council learns of future initiatives, Watershed Council to discuss decommissioning of dams, Meetings to dis - Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills*.

Judge's Comments: Again great coverage on this topic. The writer provides plenty of facts and is sure to report on every step of the process. Great job.

**Third Place:** Wind Turbine Continuous Coverage - Neal Hogden, *The Tribune-Phonograph, Abbotsford*.

Judge's Comments: Reading about

wind turbines is not something that most would find interesting but I found this to be well written and engaging. It honestly kept my attention and I felt that I had learned a great deal about wind turbines.

## Health Coverage

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Ketamine clinics - Natalie Yahr & Kayla Huynh, *The Cap Times, Madison*.

Judge's Comments: A fascinating read with a compelling narrative that grabs the reader's attention from the very beginning.

**Second Place:** Joined by a mom who lost her son, Brown County officials announce plan to fight 'scourge' of fentanyl - Doug

Schneider, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.  
**Third Place:** Patients report 'alarming' long waits for some medical care in Madison - David Wahlberg, *Wisconsin State Journal, Madison*.

**Honorable Mention:** Minors in Wisconsin need approval for physical, mental care. What if their parents refuse? - Natalie Eilbert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

### Division C

**First Place:** 99.1 The Mix host Elizabeth Kay has a near 60% chance of developing breast cancer. She's taking 'proactive' measures to prevent it. - Cathy Kozlowicz, *West Now*.

Judge's Comments: This story is very well written, well organized, and is an easy read. Using a local celebrity to highlight the issues of breast cancer and providing great health information for readers makes this an excellent public service story as well.

**Competition Comments:** The Cudahy Health Department story was informative and quite good, but it didn't take the deep dive on topics like the other entrants in this category did.

**Second Place:** Couple warns of potential birth injury dangers - Cheryl Hentz, *Oshkosh Herald*.  
 Judge's Comments: This story is poignant and well-written. It provides valuable information readers can use to, perhaps, save another child and family from this preventable situation.

**Third Place:** Family of a Muskego 3-year-old with a terminal illness is raising \$1 million for a chance to save her life - Cathy Kozlowicz, *West Now*.

Judge's Comments: This is a heart-breaking story that still is so hopeful. Using this family's tragedy to help others is the definition

## Parents testify about injuries kids suffered at parade

### Brooks tries to subpoena the state; is denied

By Brian Huber  
 bhuber@conley.net  
 262-513-2674

WAUKESHA — A military veteran who had a child injured in the Waukesha Christmas Parade last November said he's never seen anything like the scene that unfolded as Darrell Brooks Jr. allegedly drove his sport utility vehicle through the parade route.

"Just mass chaos," Matt Harris said. "I am a combat veteran. I've been around mass hysteria most of my career. I've never seen anything like this in such a safe environment where it was just hysteria."

Harris testified during the eighth day of the trial Wednesday. Brooks, 40, is charged with 76 crimes including six counts of homicide by the use of a dangerous weapon, 61 counts of recklessly endangering safety, six counts of hit-and-run causing death, two felony ball jumping charges and one more of misdemeanor battery.

Harris said he was in front of the Steaming Cup with a large group of friends and family when he saw the SUV allegedly driven by Brooks come barreling toward his position before it veered to the left and down Main Street, into the Dancing Grannies group. He said his 7-year-old daughter Brinley had her left foot run over; she suffered four broken toes and two broken bones in her leg. Her shoes had also come off; the one they found the next day had a tread mark on it, he testified.

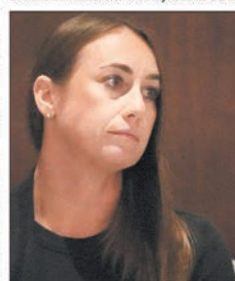
See BROOKS, PAGE 6A



Ebony Cox/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
 Stefanie Bonesteel, a witness, testifies Wednesday during the trial of Darrell Brooks in Waukesha County Circuit Court.



Ebony Cox/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
 Assistant Waukesha District Attorney Lesli Boese in court Wednesday during the trial of Darrell Brooks.



Ebony Cox/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
 Heather Ricciotti looks at Darrell Brooks as he cross-examines her during Brooks' trial Wednesday.



Ebony Cox/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
 Adam Bonesteel, a witness who was driving the Citizens Bank float on Nov. 21, 2021, testifies Wednesday.

Ongoing/Extended Coverage, First Place (Division B)

**The Freeman, Waukesha**

of grace. The story is very well-organized and contains information people can use for themselves.

**Honorable Mention:** PFAS a growing concern - Beckie Gaskill, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Judge's Comments:** This series of stories is very good, tons of research went into this, making the reporter an expert on the topic of PSAS. That being said, the story, while extremely informative, was a bit too textbook-y. I'd prefer to have seen maybe a bit more on the local fauna, more interviews with hunters, that type of thing.

### Division DE

**First Place:** Ambulance service facing rough road; Critical condition; Critical of coverage; County cool to contract change to increase ambulance cost - Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford.  
**Judge's Comments:** Great work reporting on what could happen if the ambulance service gets cut.  
**Second Place:** Local nurses strike coverage - Laura Butterbrodt & Peter Passi, *Superior Telegram*.  
**Judge's Comments:** Wonderful job following a nurses strike all the way through.  
**Third Place:** COVID Dashboard - Julianna Williams & Taylor Scott, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.  
**Judge's Comments:** While this is not traditional, I found it really informative and know the readers appreciated the work that went into the dashboard especially.

## Reporting on Local Government

### Division A

**First Place:** Allison Garfield, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

**Judge's Comments:** Great, interesting ledes. Helps you really understand how the issue impacts a regular person, and Allison's stories don't make you feel like you're reading a typical local government story. Great photos. I also like the applicable suicide hotline info at the top of the mental health crisis story.  
**Second Place:** Doug Schneider, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.  
**Third Place:** Sophia Voight, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.  
**Honorable Mention:** Ryan Spoehr, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

### Division B

**First Place:** Bremen Keasey, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.  
**Judge's Comments:** Breman did an excellent job of not only covering city government, but doing it in a way that is interesting and accessible to readers who don't already have skin in the game. These stories were interesting, and that's not an easy feat when covering city government.  
**Second Place:** Alisa Schafer, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.  
**Judge's Comments:** Alisa did a great job of showing how the things that are happening at the local government level impact everyday people.  
**Third Place:** Maya Hilty, *The Sheboygan Press*.  
**Judge's Comments:** Maya did a great job of giving context to what is happening in city government so that readers could understand the topic's impact on their lives.

### Division C

**First Place:** Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Judge's Comments:** Great work! Buoy-gate is not a word I expected to learn prior to my review of these stories. And the EMS official saying he'd take his time is shocking.

**Second Place:** Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*.  
**Judge's Comments:** Great to see a reporter taking a watchdog role to hold government accountable.  
**Third Place:** Fred Williston, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Judge's Comments:** Comprehensive and informative writing.  
**Honorable Mention:** Bethanie Gengler, *Oshkosh Herald*.  
**Judge's Comments:** I enjoyed the drama of the diversity council stories. It's a sign of the times.

### Division D

**First Place:** Tom Stankard, *Ashland Daily Press*.  
**Judge's Comments:** With 20 entries in this category, it was tough to decide between all the quality entries. But this one stuck out as the best. These obviously experienced reporters translated a complex

tax issue into a concise series that explains the impact of the issue's history and court rulings on citizens' wallets today. All the stories in this entry are well written, strongly organized and expertly researched. The follow-up stories are in-depth without being repetitive. It's not said often about tax stories, but these are actually interesting.  
**Competition Comments:** In a category with 20 high-quality entries, it was really tough to decide winners. Thank you ALL for the excellent work and for showing me an interesting bit of Wisconsin.  
**Second Place:** Tom Stankard & Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.  
**Judge's Comments:** This package highlights the fiscal conflict between two municipalities and, in doing so, shows readers how this conflict affects them and their neighbors. The explanation of the funding cut for the La Pointe police (and the

# Two Bay-Area towns hit with massive tax hikes

BY RICK OLIVO AND TOM STANKARD  
 pressnews@ashlanddailypress.net

James Fuhry was stunned when he opened the property tax bill on his undeveloped tract of 40 acres in the Bayfield County town of Russell in January and found his town taxes had leapt with no warning by more than 20%.

"I am amazed that the government can do this," he said. "I am feeling unhappy and unequal, I guess."

Fuhry, who lives in Port Washington, said he got no benefit from the increased taxes, and was troubled by the lack of uniformity in new local tax rates. "I just don't understand it," he said.

Fuhry is not alone. Residents in two Bay-Area towns have seen their property taxes skyrocket by as much as 218% this year following a controversial court ruling about tribal lands in Wisconsin.

The two primary areas affected are the town of Russell, adjacent to the Red Cliff Reservation, where taxes were hiked about 30%, and the Ashland County town of Sanborn, which borders Bad River lands, where taxes in some cases more than doubled. "The hikes are the result of



Sanborn residents were walloped with property tax bills that jumped more than 200% over last year following a court ruling that taxes cannot be collected on land owned by tribal members. (Tom Stankard/staff photo)

#### Tax case timeline

- 1854: The Treaty of La Pointe establishes Ojibwe Indian

"The potential for taxpayers to pay even more is even higher because people are using fewer

Reporting on Local Government, First Place (Division D)

**Ashland Daily Press**

ensuing lawsuit) is clear, the writing is strong, and the organization is solid. The style is so consistent, the reader has to read the bylines to know different reporters wrote different acts of this drama.

**Third Place:** Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford.

Judge's Comments: These deeply reported stories are more than just daily stories. They are that, yes, but each one is set in firm, detailed context to relay the importance of local government decisions on a range of subjects, from forest management to municipal employees' health insurance. The writing is clear and concise, and all three stories are very well organized.

**Honorable Mention:** Steve Prestegard, *The Platteville Journal*.

Judge's Comments: The three stories presented here are interesting and important, each in its own way. The topics aren't necessarily showy or dramatic, but they are important to the community. The stories highlight of the nuanced issues local government officials have to deal with, and they reveal a reporter with a watchful eye for detail.

### Division E

**First Place:** Maddie Bergstrom, *The Verona Press*.

Judge's Comments: What a wonderful celebration of a school system and students achieving great things. Excellent storytelling and finding interesting stories that intersect with the daily cadence of education. Very inviting writing.

**Competition Comments:** A fascinating blend of close-to-home stories that reflect the commitment of each news organization to provide relevant and fact-filled coverage of the issues that resonate among readers. Elected officials, public agencies and the functionality of government — all are critical

topics in every community.

These newspapers showed a deep commitment to those topics and the biggest winners were their readers.

**Second Place:** Nicolette Nauman, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Very solid reporting and precision on important — and often complex — aspects of local government.

**Third Place:** Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: This is the source for strong community news. Clean, crisp writing and a good pulse of what's happening on the government beat.

**Honorable Mention:** Kevin Dittman, *Oconto County Reporter*.

Judge's Comments: This was an important community issue and the reporter owned every angle. Solid beat work that informed readers.

## Reporting on Local Education

### Division A

**First Place:** Danielle DuClos, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: Danielle DuClos went deep into her subject material in this very strong entry. She provided detail that made me care. And her final piece was riveting.

**Second Place:** Kimberly Wethal, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: This entry was a very close second. I felt that I knew the struggles of these students. And understood better what put them there.

**Third Place:** Ryan Patterson, *The Journal Times*, Racine.

Judge's Comments: Ryan Paterson's entry showed clearly that it's individuals, not the system, that

matters. His passion for the subjects came through.

**Honorable Mention:** AnnMarie Hilton, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton. Judge's Comments: This was a good solid entry. When I finished the teacher story, I wanted more. I wanted to know what her next four hours were like. The writer made me care.

### Division B

**First Place:** Isabella Kostolni, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: Loved diversity of schools, topics covered by writer. Didn't just stick to mainstay stories (school boards, etc.) on beat. I learned some history, some vocational, some nursing, some elementary education topics all under education reporting header. Well done.

**Second Place:** Bremen Keasey, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Good reporting,

strong writing. Great ledes that tell the story but make readers want to keep reading. If I'm a parent in this district, I like the way I'm getting my education news.

**Third Place:** Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: Complicated, difficult topics told well. Made it easy to understand issues within this district. Good mix of real families and officials quoted in stories instead of relying on officials alone to explain the impacts.

**Honorable Mention:** Brandon Reid, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Simple, basic information presented clearly and concisely, which is a big plus in education reporting.

### Division C

**First Place:** Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Informative article about a relevant and newsworthy topic. Writer went a step further by providing currently relevant information pertaining to topic.

**Second Place:** Jake Schexnaydre, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Informative, feel-good piece.

**Third Place:** Kaitlyn Scoville, *Oshkosh Herald*.

Judge's Comments: Excellent organization of a topic that can be very difficult for readers to understand.

**Honorable Mention:** Josephine Hinderman, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: Excellent use of sub-headings for further understanding.

### Division D

**First Place:** David Timmerman, *Grant County Herald Independent*,

**As 1 in 8 kids go hungry and schools struggle to feed kids, Wisconsin has a chance to turn the tables.**

**Danielle DuClos**

Published 8:05 a.m. CT April 6, 2023 | Updated 2:00 p.m. CT July 27, 2023



Kindergarten students at Suamico Elementary School go through the hot lunch line on March 8, 2023, in Suamico, Wis. Sarah Klopping/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

This story was produced as part of the NEW (Northeast Wisconsin) News Lab, a consortium of six news outlets covering northeastern Wisconsin.

**GREEN BAY** — Every week, Angela Price goes to the grocery store with a strict plan.

With her list, she strategically shops the aisles at Walmart and Pick 'n Save, trying to make sure she's getting the best deal on food for herself and her 11-year-old son, Oliver.

And every week, the price of food keeps going up.

"Grocery money, I think, is probably my biggest financial stress that I have right now," Price said.

Reporting on Local Education, First Place (Division A)  
**Green Bay Press-Gazette**

Lancaster.  
**Judge's Comments:** Well written story showing the good going on within a school district, highlighting the collaboration of a community to help those who often go unnoticed and providing a spotlight that encourages the program to continue.  
**Second Place:** Tom Stankard & Peter Wasson, *Asbland Daily Press*.  
**Judge's Comments:** Well written and covering a sensitive subject while hearing out both sides and allowing those affected to use their own voice without editorializing.  
**Third Place:** Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford.

**Judge's Comments:** The importance of showing where and how tax dollars are spent and the ways in which the elected decision makers and benefactors of those funds interface cannot be understated. Important story that was very well written and researched.

Division E

**First Place:** Jonathan Stefonek, *Lodi Enterprise and Poynette Press*.  
**Judge's Comments:** Good details

and background on Lodi district. Great effort in reporting this information.

**Second Place:** Heather Schaefer, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

**Judge's Comments:** Thorough reporting on a range of subjects. Demonstrates understanding of topics. On-target coverage of a tough topic.

**Third Place:** Paul J. Seeling, *Sun-Argus*, Spring Valley.

**Judge's Comments:** Stories are easy to read. Creates interest through telling the story.

## Business Coverage

### Division A

**First Place:** Becky Jacobs, *USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin*.

**Judge's Comments:** Stories a strong insight into the issues faced by loggers and made them relatable to the reader either they had a connection to the industry or not.

**Second Place:** Natalie Yahr, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

**Third Place:** Jelissa Burns, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

**Honorable Mention:** Barry Adams, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

### Division B

**First Place:** Jamie Rokus & Melissa Siegler, *Marshfield News-Herald*.

**Second Place:** Caitlin Shuda, *Stevens Point Journal*.

**Third Place:** Katherine Beck, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

**Honorable Mention:** Patti Zarling, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

### Division C

**First Place:** Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

**Judge's Comments:** Great job.

In-depth stories with fantastic accompanying photos. Well done.

**Competition Comments:** The first place and runner-up submissions were both fantastic. Third place was solid. No Honorable Mention, as the remaining two entries were a collection of movie reviews, which I don't really consider to be "business writing," and an entry that included only one story.

**Second Place:** Josh Staloch, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

**Judge's Comments:** Three solid business stories that highlight local impact. Well done.

**Third Place:** Erik S. Hanley, *South Now*.

**Judge's Comments:** Follow-up added a new dimension to the overall story. I can appreciate the effort here.

### Division D

**First Place:** Christopher Clough, *Door County Advocate*.

**Judge's Comments:** Three interesting deep dives into

businesses, exploring every aspect of what makes each noteworthy. I came away wanting to visit each place after reading.

**Competition Comments:** A very difficult competition to judge, as there were many strong entries in this particular category. A lot of positive business reports, some tragic, but pretty much all of them were interesting in one way or another. Congratulations to the award winners!

**Second Place:** Maria Lockwood, *Superior Telegram*.

**Judge's Comments:** I appreciated the story telling in each submission. Also, the attempt to take a different approach to writing about business.

**Third Place:** Tom LaVenture, *Price County Review*, Phillips.

**Judge's Comments:** I personally enjoyed the feature on the mall the most, but I felt like all of these submissions show a strong desire

# LUHS student repeatedly punches another; video of it posted publicly

Smudde: 'Students will be disciplined to the fullest extent of our ability'

By Trevor Greene  
 OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

One female student was captured on video punching another female student in the face repeatedly just outside one of the bathrooms at Lakeland Union High School (LUHS) dur-

ing school last Wednesday, May 17. The video was subsequently posted to Facebook for all to see.

After the attack, the girl who repeatedly punched the other girl in the face can be seen being greeted by four other students in

the bathroom — one even giving her a high-five.


During the attack, the student filming can be heard encouraging the girl who was attacking the other one. The student who was filming also ac-

See **Violence**. . . page 63

Reporting on Local Education, First Place (Division C)  
**The Lakeland Times, Minocqua**

**MONEY**  
**Marshfield's mall opened in 1979 with 36 stores. Look back at its heyday, struggles and what's to come.**

Melissa Siegler  
 Marshfield News-Herald  
 Published 5:04 a.m. CT Oct. 11, 2022 | Updated 5:33 p.m. CT Oct. 13, 2022



Empty storefronts are seen on Sept. 7 at the Marshfield Mall, Torv Mason, USA Today NETWORK-Wisconsin

**MARSHFIELD** — For 43 years the Marshfield Mall has been a staple in the community.

While Central Wisconsin malls in Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids and Wausau have been shuttered and demolished or redeveloped over the last decade, the Marshfield shopping center has remained a focal point of the city.

But that doesn't mean it hasn't seen its share of struggles and changes. The loss of anchor stores such as Kmart, J.C. Penney's and Younkers have highlighted those challenges, and discussions of redevelopment for the mall have been underway since 2018.

Business Coverage, First Place (Division B)  
**Marshfield News-Herald**

to get out into the community and find interesting behind-the-scenes stories as it relates to local business. **Honorable Mention:** Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*. Judge's Comments: Three interesting stories that offer readers something just a little outside of the norm when it comes to reading about business. A good illustration of how business is more than just dollars and cents.

### Division E

**First Place:** Jason Schulte, *The Baldwin Bulletin*.

Judge's Comments: I liked the mix of stories, and the writing is great. Really liked the story about the high school business leaders association.

**Second Place:** Scott DeLaruelle, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*.

**Third Place:** Kevin Dittman, *Oconto County Reporter*.

## Local Column

### Division A

**First Place:** John Nichols, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: These columns tackle important issues while focusing on local impact. Very well-written, and obviously well-researched. Everything a local column should be.

**Competition Comments:** A wide range of columns were presented here. Some were more serious in tone, while others took a lighter route. Either way, most did a great job of giving local readers good reasons to care about what was being addressed.

There were a couple of instances of entries reading more like feature stories than columns, but overall there was a lot of good writing to be found here.

**Second Place:** Elizabeth Snyder, *Kenosha News*.

Judge's Comments: Touching, creative and informative. These columns were a joy to read.

**Third Place:** Kendra Meinert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: Passion for the subject matter really shines through. It was nice to see how positive response dictated future column related to the topic. Keep up the good work!

**Honorable Mention:** Duke Behnke, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: I love the concept of these columns. Great way to engage the community and keep readers informed.

### Division B

**First Place:** Alisa Schafer & Patti Zarling, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

Judge's Comments: Really well written column. The writer really makes me want to go visit these places. Excellent photography as well.

**Second Place:** Mara Wegner, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Great use of this column to cover important local news. The photography is really eye catching especially for the first entry. I would be proud to live in a community that put out quality news such as this. Well Done!

**Third Place:** Bob Fay, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

Judge's Comments: I really enjoyed the glimpse into history that this columnist provided. It was full of facts and kept me interested.

**Honorable Mention:** Tracy Qualmann, *The Reporter*, Fond du Lac.

Judge's Comments: Good job providing important local news. Well written.

### Division C

**First Place:** Keene Winters & staff, *Wausau Pilot and Review*.

Judge's Comments: This was the only column in the contest to address local issues, and the willingness to stare down city hall is a winner.

**Second Place:** Beckie Gaskill, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: This columnist has a strong voice, and writes in a style that is both informative and personal. I really liked the column about the hunting lodge. Great work.

**Third Place:** Eric Johnson, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: You had me at a Rollins quote, and kept me with the touching column about a lost friend.

I may have shed a tiny tear reading about grandma's letters too.

**Honorable Mention:** Benny Mailman, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

### Division D

**First Place:** Andrew Dannehy, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall.

Judge's Comments: Andrew uses his space to educate the readers and his writings are the classic example of what community newspapers should be.

**Competition Comments:** While this was a very complex category, I enjoyed reading all the points of view. I had to pick four, which I did. Personal tragedy, loss of friends, cars stuck on the side of the road, advice on not getting scammed all good

## - Time For A Tiara: Column by Ginna Young - Who needs a camera anyway?

As I talked about in my last column, my beloved camera bit the dust, or rather, the spring. When I sadly decided it was too expensive to fix and since there were no places around here to do so, I put my darling camera into retirement.

Thus began my search for a new one. I mean, I have to have one for work, and I absolutely can't live without one for landscape and wildlife photography on my own time... it's unthinkable.

So, I turned to online reviews for what would fit my needs and consulted with my photography buddy. I had one model in mind (Canon R7), while she had another (Canon T8i). So, I bowed to her wisdom and ordered it through Walmart. They had the best price and I know the items come quickly.

Take 1.

I placed my order online and now, I could just sit back and wait. Walmart promised it would be delivered *before* the end of the week. I've written extensively about my bad luck that follows me everywhere, right?

Two days later, I received notification that it would be delivered *by* the end of the week. The day after that, I was notified that my order had been canceled, because the account was flagged as fraud. Which account? Mine or the shippers?

Take 2.

OK, new plan. Since I wasn't sold on the T8i, I decided to go to Best Buy and get the one I originally planned on. I withdrew money from my savings and headed to Eau Claire. Of course, when I got there, I asked for help on the sales floor and was informed it would be a 15-minute wait.

That should have been my first clue to just walk out the door. But, I said no problem and patiently waited until the nice young salesman

came to help me. While I waited, I looked at the cameras on display. They didn't have the R7, but they had the Nikon D850 that caught my eye.

I wandered around, but kept coming back to that Nikon. Finally, I picked it up and tested it out, and fell instantly in love with it. By the time the salesman arrived, I'd made up my mind to purchase the Nikon, who I named Francine, even though it was more than I wanted to spend.

Seems cut and dried, right? Hah! First off, they didn't have the camera or lens I wanted in stock, and would have to order and ship it (why am I not surprised?). Well, OK, I guess I can wait a few more days. Then the nice young man accidentally hit the wrong thing on the register, so we had to wait for an equally nice young manager to come override the transaction and then start the process all over again.

Finally, I walked out the door, sans a camera, but with a new external flash and much lighter pockets. My email informed me that I would receive my package *before* the end of the week. Another email came, saying it would arrive *by* the end of the week. Still another came, saying it was arriving *before* the end of the week, but required a signature, since it was an expensive item(s).

I took that day off of work to wait for the delivery, running to the door every time I heard a car. Several emails later and multiple, "now arriving between such and such a time," and the UPS delivery man pulled in. I signed and Francine was here. Only, this wasn't Francine.

The camera that came said it was a D850, right on the body, as did the display one, but were nothing alike, so there must be various models. The control buttons were completely different, and the one I received was much larger and heavier. Still, how bad could it be?

Well, for starters, the lens wasn't compat-

ible, even though the salesman had assured me it was. *Of course not.* So, I immediately ordered one from a company in New York. The next day, said company called. The transaction didn't go through.

I contacted my bank, who said my account had been flagged for fraud (it was me after all!) and while they tried to reach me (I got no call or email), they didn't have any luck and suspended the card attached to the account.

Turns out, if you purchase something online back-to-back from the same place, within minutes of each other, that is a fraud red flag. *Who knew?* I got that straightened out and got the lens ordered, after it was made clear that the one I wanted to purchase was actually an international model. *Did I want the U.S. model instead?* Heck yes!

I paid for next-day shipping, because I just wanted a camera, but turns out, since I ordered it on a Friday, they don't deliver until Monday. Still paid for the shipping though. Rip-off much?

After the four-day wait, I would be back in business. The lens did come when specified and it was a beauty; it fit the camera perfectly and now I could try it out. Only...why were all my photos blurry and over-exposed? I fought with the camera for hours, trying every single thing I could do get them to actually turn out.

Sometimes, a distance shot in enough light worked well, sometimes, it didn't. Close-ups you had to forget about. I watched multiple online tutorials, read the trouble shooting manual several times, talked with my photography buddy and read online testimonials about that very same issue. Nothing worked.

I finally just decided I couldn't deal with it and didn't want to. Even if I could have figured it out, the controls were hard to use and my hands were killing me from the weight of that thing.

It's going back, as are the lenses.

Take 3.



Local Column, First Place (Division E)  
**Courier Sentinel, Cornell**

content and vital for a community newspaper. I really enjoyed all the submissions.

**Second Place:** Peter Wasson, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: Pete does a great job of enlightening the readers to the inevitable in social situations.

Explaining about addiction and masturbation was brave.

**Third Place:** Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.

Judge's Comments: Sarah, tells it like it is. If I'm ever in her area, I will not hack her off. Good work calling out the keyboard creeps.

**Honorable Mention:** Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: good points of view and admitting his views on God is brave and most likely never work in the Bible belt. I found interesting that he used "honest-to-God" in the second column.

### Division E

**First Place:** Ginna Young, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

Judge's Comments: I really enjoyed reading this series of columns. The writer described their journey of finding the perfect camera with great description and touch of humor... which I loved because I know how frustrating this process can be. Well done!

**Second Place:** Nicole Aimone, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Judge's Comments: Very well written column and I great choice of topics to write about. The way in which it was written is very easy to understand and I feel like many people will find the information in this column useful.

**Third Place:** Beverly Pestel, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Judge's Comments: I applaud the writer of this column for their topic choices. Some of the topics discussed are what many might

consider "hot button topics" but this writer was able to get their point across in a clear and concise manner. Great Job!

## Local Sports Column

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Pete Dougherty, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: Not afraid to take a stand even when it's a hard one that might upset fans. Understands audience and expectations. Clearly written, comfortable language that uses stats to explain issues, etc. Good, conversational language.

**Competition Comments:** Really strong entries in top four places. Columns brought wide range of emotions, which the best columns always do. Well done.

**Second Place:** Todd Sommerfeldt, *La Crosse Tribune*.

Judge's Comments: Great story on lineman. Not sure it felt as much column as feature. Loved use of good, strong quotes, wish they'd been higher in first entry to add emotion and interest. Took a while to get to the point in some of these. Painted picture a little too much instead of telling reader why he/she should keep reading. Loved the lede on the father and daughter especially. All sell written, held interest throughout.

**Third Place:** Peter Jackel, *The Journal Times*, Racine.

Judge's Comments: Wonderful use of quotes and anecdotes to tell compelling stories that connect readers to columns. Wish I'd seen more range in column writing and topic areas. Two obit-style columns felt like one too many. Liked the diversity in topics and people written about.

**Honorable Mention:** Brandon

Berg, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls.

Judge's Comments: Felt less like columns and more like previews and gamers. Good quotes show strong reporting and deep connections with sources of the columns.

### Division C

**First Place:** Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: I like how the writer is willing to take on controversial topics ...

**Second Place:** Brett LaBore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division DE

**First Place:** Mark Hutchinson, *Oconomowoc Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Especially fond of the Rennie column that gave all of us someone to root for. Sometimes it felt more about writer than an incredible story of human resilience, though.

**Second Place:** Rob Reischel, *Middleton Times-Tribune*.

Judge's Comments: Tough to

take on leaders in your own communities, but this columnist does just that with receipts. The lack of true sourcing (not just "another source" used too often) holds it back.

**Third Place:** Paul Barnes, *Ashland Daily Press*.

Judge's Comments: Not afraid to take a stand, make a statement and tackle issues of importance on sports page. Found myself wishing for less preachiness and more examples, especially in race column.

**Honorable Mention:** Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Nice conversational tone. Connected with readers and subjects well.

## Local Outdoor Column

### Overall Division

**First Place:** Bob Schuh, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

Judge's Comments: Bob has a great conversational style in conveying his stories. His passion for the outdoors

## Sportsmanship team puts class in session



MARK HUTCHINSON

### Program builds legacy in district

From this vantage point, one of the best and most important events of the 2022-23 Oconomowoc Area School District sports season was among the last.

Under the direction of Oconomowoc High School girls basketball coach Kim Mueske, a team of 16 OHS student-athletes visited the district's two middle schools.

They addressed the students about the importance of good sportsmanship and representing their school and community in a positive manner.

The initiative's roots date back to last fall.

"Back in October, 12 of us represented Oconomowoc at the Classic 8 sportsmanship summit, where all nine schools in the conference brought a group of student-ath-



Members of the Oconomowoc High School sportsmanship team gather outside of Nature Hill Intermediate School following their May visit there. The season-long initiative promoted good sportsmanship across the Oconomowoc Area School District.

letes together and dove deeper into what sportsmanship is, and how the conference as a whole can better its sportsmanship," said team member Chloe Nimmann of the OHS class of 2024. "Coming out of

that summit, meeting with the middle schoolers has been one of our projects to spread the message we learned at the summit. "We took a few of the activities we did at the summit and led them

with the eighth-graders. One of our favorites was making PSAs (public service announcements). Our overall key points were: What is the deeper meaning of sportsmanship? Why is sportsmanship

"When you wear 'Oconomowoc' on the front of your jersey, you not only represent this community, but your family, coaches and even friends."

Logan Arndt  
Oconomowoc sportsmanship team member

important? What actions/steps can we take to have better sportsmanship?"

The program ventured beyond what takes place within the sports arena.

"We had a presentation that highlighted the importance of sportsmanship not only on the field playing sports, but also as it applies to life skills in general," class of 2024 member Nickel Kraemer said.

Several of the team members outlined what the middle school visits entailed.

"We incorporated games into the presentation to keep them engaged at all times. At the end, we let them create skits to demonstrate the

importance of sportsmanship. We had a presentation that highlighted the importance of sportsmanship not only on the field playing sports, but also as it applies to life skills in general," class of 2024 member Nickel Kraemer said.

See SPORTSMANSHIP, PAGE 23

Local Sports Column, First Place (Division DE)

**Oconomowoc Enterprise**

is evident.

**Competition Comments:** All great entries. This category's submissions have been a pleasure to review.

**Second Place:** Beckie Gaskill, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Beckie has a distinct writing style and her reporting reveals great detail in her subjects.

**Third Place:** Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Kurt's style paints pictures for his readers. Good research and knowledge of his subjects complete the package.

**Honorable Mention:** Len Harris, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: Len covers all the bases as he shares his love of the outdoors.

## Rookie Reporter of the Year

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Danielle DuClos, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: This reporter did an excellent job using records and sources to tell a complete story without it being sensationalized. Great job!

**Competition Comments:** This was a tight category. All of the reporters did great work in their first year.

**Second Place:** Melissa Perry, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Perry does great work immersing the reader in her reporting.

**Third Place:** Jillian Craig, *Kenosha News*.

Judge's Comments: Craig did a fine job covering the newspaper's community.

**Honorable Mention:** Madison Lammert, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: Great work on a specialized beat.

### Weekly Division

**First Place:** Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: Good use of quotes. Flow builds interest. Impressive work on sections.

**Competition Comments:** The future of news reporting is in good hands.

**Second Place:** Charley Hanney, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg.

Judge's Comments: Good coverage of a wide range of stories. Explanation of budget and background on a war hero.

**Third Place:** Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*.

Judge's Comments: Good flow. Thoroughly tells a story.

**Honorable Mention:** Maddie Bergstrom, *The Verona Press*.

Judge's Comments: Good organization. Good reporting on a range of topics.

## General News Photo

### Division A

**First Place:** Berry picking - Samantha Madar, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

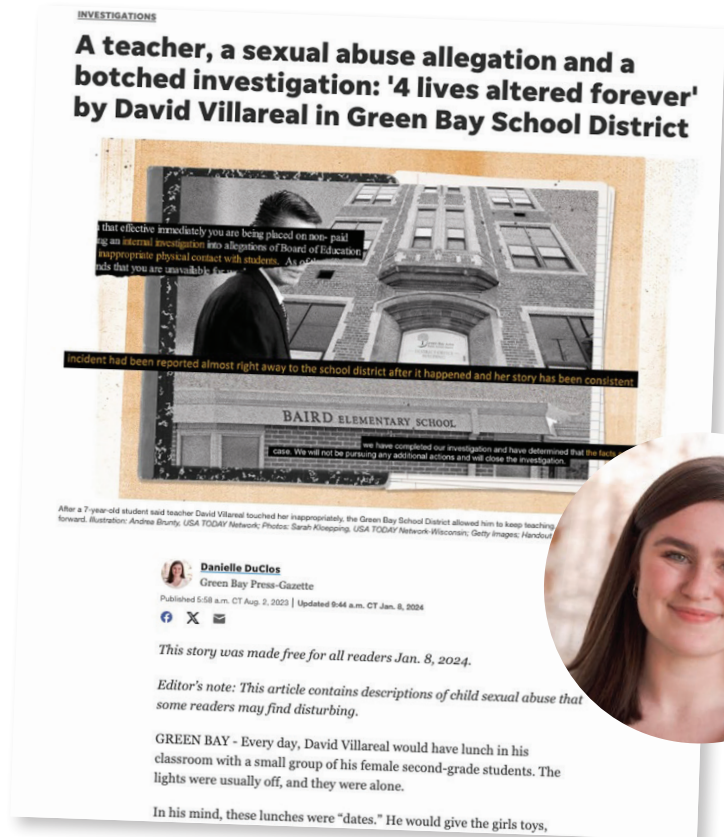
**Second Place:** Photo of Rosemary Lloyd, 88, who just graduated from Marian University - Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

**Third Place:** A mural menagerie - Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

**Honorable Mention:** Leap Long - Matt Milner, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire.

### Division B

**First Place:** Stock the Shelves: This



Rookie Reporter of the Year, First Place (Daily Division)  
**Danielle DuClos, Green Bay Press-Gazette**

## HLPD adds two new canine coworkers

New police dog and therapy dog coming in April

BY JANELLE FISHER  
CITY PAGES EDITOR

HOBART - Following K-9 Officer Bax's recent retirement, the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department (HLPD) will add two dogs to its ranks this month — its next K-9 officer, Jax, and the department's first therapy dog.

Jax spent some time in Hobart in December to bond with Hobart/Lawrence Officer Chris Tremel, who was Bax's handler and will also be Jax's handler.

Current HLPD handler Chris Tremel are the

The first dog of that program, Australian labradoodle puppy Jax, will be picked up by Blueberry Cottage Kennels, which is scheduled to arrive at the department April 9.

The puppy is paired with department handler — a post-



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The puppy is paired with department handler — a post-

HLPD Chief Michael Renkas said has received significant interest — it will begin its training.

"Our imagination is going to be our limit," he said. "Our initial, low-level goal as we really want to get them trained to what's called

Canine Good Citizen through the AKC (American Kennel Club). Start there and then kind of expand and build upon that so we're able to use the animal for interviews with victims or witnesses

See K-9 page 7



Rookie Reporter of the Year, First Place (Weekly Division)  
**Janelle Fisher, The Press Times, Green Bay**



Plymouth farm gave 75,000 pounds of produce to support hunger relief. Here's how you can support too. - Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: The technical quality of this photo is great, while also showing all the hard work and energy these workers had given to the cause. You can see the sacrifice and it makes the reader care more about the story.

**Competition Comments:** These were all very strong photos. What really set the top three winners apart for me is how each were able to draw out an emotion from the readers.

**Second Place:** Volunteers clean Civil War veterans' tombstones at Evergreen Cemetery - Gary Klein, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.

Judge's Comments: Great photo and love the usage of the Gaussian Blur for impact. Photo stands on its own to evoke an emotion, while working well with the rest of the photos.

**Third Place:** Fuhrman verdict - William Glasheen, *Oshkosh*

*Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Such a simple photo, but taken at the perfect time to make you immediately feel for the people on both sides of this story. It's hard to capture emotion this well.

**Honorable Mention:** Class and Splash - Josh Lacy, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: The technical aspect of this photo is absolutely superb, but the other three just had stronger reader impacts.

### Division C

**First Place:** Frigid flying - Rachel Wood, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: The photographer had a great subject but also caught this shot at the apex of flight.

**Second Place:** Beyond Van Gogh - Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: The Van Gogh

experience was perfectly portrayed in what could be a tricky setting with a combination of bright colors and dim lighting.

**Third Place:** On a Wild Goose Chase - Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Love the black and white image of these three hunters embarking on their outing.

### Division D

**First Place:** Finally at home, finally at peace - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Beautifully framed between the flags, sharp focus and lighting, and an emotional moment captured well. Powerful.

**Competition Comments:** Often in photography, timing is everything. These photos capture moments and emotions. If I could name a second honorable mention, I enjoyed the EHS Homecoming photo from Pierce County. The photographer caught a fun, joyful moment. The various expressions are fun to study.

**Second Place:** Upside down drummer - Rachael Siehs, *Tri-County News*, Kiel.

Judge's Comments: This photo makes me want to be there to witness the performance. At first, the blurring of the sticks bothered me, but then I realized that action contributes to the overall effect of a delicious scene.

**Third Place:** Rainy 4th - Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford.

Judge's Comments: Not only is this a wonderful photo of fireworks — which can be difficult to shoot well — this picture tells a story. I see fire and I see rain.

**Honorable Mention:** Sheriff is sworn in - Hannah Alden, *The Record-Review*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: A quick finger on the button captures a great moment. I love the laughter.

### Division E

**First Place:** A tragic tribute - Sam Niebeling, *The Baldwin Bulletin*.

Judge's Comments: This photo has impact. It creates emotion and tells the story of the event being covered, but also leaves a desire to know more about the tragic event.

**Second Place:** Ontario packed for benefit - Sarah Parker, *County Line*, Ontario.

Judge's Comments: The energy of the auctioneer surrounded by a crowd of onlookers portrays an scene of obvious community interest.

**Third Place:** Clara and the Nutcracker - Bob Mainhardt, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: This crisp, artistic action photo captures an event that words could not adequately describe.

## Spot News Photo

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Winter Storm - John Hart, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: A cutline isn't even necessary for this photograph. Kudos to the photographer who was in the right place at the right time for this telling photo.

**Second Place:** A man runs from police during a standoff in Kaukauna - Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: Clearly Bill Glasheen deserves credit for chasing down this photo in what must have been a tense situation.

**Third Place:** Major vehicle pileup, multiple crashes reported - Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: The impact is



General News Photo, First Place (Division B)

**The Sheboygan Press**

evident on traffic flow as well as the photographer's effort to get to the scene to capture the magnitude of this multi-vehicle pile-up.

### Division C

**First Place:** Fires - Kyle Evans, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: Great photos that show both the work of the firefighters and the aftermath and its impact on a community. Excellent photo coverage of this event—the photo of the men standing in the aftermath is especially impactful.

**Competition Comments:** This category had many exceptional entries—in the end, it came down to the story they told and the quality of the photos submitted.

**Second Place:** Plane down - Michael Anderson, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Nice visual of a horrific incident.

**Third Place:** Rescue effort - Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*.

Judge's Comments: This photo shows the public that firefighters take seriously the work they do and whether it's a human life or that of a pet—all measures are used to make the save. High quality photo with a great end story.

### Division D

**First Place:** Wasabi restaurant fire - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Excellent angle and a perfect way to capture the moment!

**Second Place:** Air at the Fair - Andrew Dannehy, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall.

Judge's Comments: The timing is perfect!

**Third Place:** Fire destroys home - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: 2 a.m.!! This photographer went beyond the call of duty to capture this great photo!

**Honorable Mention:** Waunakee Plane Crash - Jonathan Stefonek, *The Waunakee Tribune*.

Judge's Comments: Great photo!

Wish it would have been bigger on the page.

### Division E

**First Place:** School crosswalk accident - Angie Griepentrog, *The Freedom Pursuit*.

Judge's Comments: This is what you classify as spot news coverage! Excellent work!

**Competition Comments:** A category full of worthy spot news photos!

**Second Place:** Dinky Diner Fire - Bob Mainhardt, Heather Schaefer & Renee Draszkiwicz, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: In a very close race this finished second, but it is excellent work!

**Third Place:** A Wisconsin DOT employee investigates - Charley Preusser, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: I assume the photographer was driving by and

captured this. Great work!  
**Honorable Mention:** Stop the threat, save the injured - Maddie Bergstrom, *The Verona Press*.

## Sports Action Photo

### Division A

**First Place:** A clashing of heads during the Plymouth vs. New Berlin girls soccer game - Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: I viscerally reacted to this! While not necessarily as crisp as others, I had to rank it first based solely on how it evokes immediate reaction and tells the story so quickly. The ball eluding both of them by a ruler length as they take each other out. Ouch!

**Competition Comments:** Great work!

**Second Place:** Aurora handles UW-Whitewater in first-round NCAA Division III playoff game - Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Football games



Spot News Photo, First Place (Division A)  
**Wisconsin State Journal, Madison**



Spot News Photo, First Place (Division D)  
**Superior Telegram**

in the snow always present fantastic photo opportunities. What's interesting here is how clean the players look: almost like a studio shot despite the weather. Looks like this play occurred very early in the game.

**Third Place:** Basketball hands - Samantha Madar, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: The middle finger almost touching the player's nose is what really makes this for me.

**Honorable Mention:** AJ Dillon leaps through the Patriots defense - Bill Glasheen, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: I like the depth on this one, Dillon looking ahead to his opening while waiting to get onto his feet.

### Division B

**First Place:** State baseball - William Glasheen, *The Reporter*, Fond du Lac.

Judge's Comments: Getting a great photo has a lot to do with putting yourself in what will hopefully be the right place and time to capture a truly unique moment. While I certainly feel for this player, and sincerely hope that he is okay, this is definitely one of those unique moments. Well done.

**Competition Comments:** There were many top-tier photos in this competition. While one stood out above the others to me personally, I think that a strong argument could be made for 5-6 entries to take the overall top spot. With that being said, congratulations to the winner, as well as second-and-third place, and Honorable Mention.

**Second Place:** Pitcher's eye - William Glasheen, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: A unique shot that you don't see everyday as far as softball is concerned. Plenty of

photos out there of windups and/or deliveries from the pitching circle, but the timing of this one definitely sets it apart.

**Third Place:** McDonell third baseman Keagan Winger makes a diving catch against Athens on Tuesday afternoon at Casper Park. - Brandon Berg, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls.

Judge's Comments: A big part of sports photography is capturing the "struggle." Whether it's a runner sprinting for the finish line, a jumper stretching his/her body to clear a bar, or in this case, a softball player giving it her all to make a catch. Really good shot.

**Honorable Mention:** WIAA Division 1 girls state swimming and diving championship - Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: Swimming photos can be difficult to get just

right, but when you do they can also be some of the most interesting, and cool, shots to look at. This is a good example of getting one right. Well done.

### Division C

**First Place:** Gymnastics - Scott Ash, *North Shore Now*.

Judge's Comments: This entry displays mid-flight focus and determination.

**Second Place:** Quarterback tackle - William Zuelke, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: This entry showcases determination and power by the ball-carrier.

**Third Place:** WIAA State Track and Field Championships - Dave Junion & Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*.

Judge's Comments: This entry

### Division D

**First Place:** Coverage of SHS wrestling - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Almost looks like a Renaissance painting! Pretty incredible use of lighting. Just... different...in a good way.

**Competition Comments:** Good variety of sports covered in all these newspapers!

**Second Place:** Monroe dominates WBE 35-0 - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: A case where the picture tells the story. Kinda has a "classic" look.

**Third Place:** Coverage of NSS baseball - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Would maybe benefit from cropping on the right side, but one can certainly see what's going on here. Tight like a tiger!

**Honorable Mention:** McClain snags clutch 4th and 15 pass - Jason Nihles, *The Platteville Journal*.

Judge's Comments: Nice. Good use of text, too.

### Division E

**First Place:** Emmanuel Harter Long Jump - Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*.

Judge's Comments: Excellent shot with an angle that really enhances the photo! Love this pic!

**Second Place:** Westby Ski Jump - Kyle Evans, *Cashton Record*.

Judge's Comments: The photographer climbed numerous steps to capture the perfect angle and timing for this outstanding photo!

**Third Place:** Rhinelander's Karis



Sports Action Photo, First Place (Division A)  
**The Post-Crescent, Appleton**

Francis swims a leg - Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: Great work captured at just the right time!

**Honorable Mention:** In Your Face (basketball) - Brian Fischer, *The Freedom Pursuit*.

Judge's Comments: Excellent work!

## Sports Feature Photo

### Division A

**First Place:** Rodgers, Cobb walk off Lambeau Field together for the last time - Bill Glasheen, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: This image really indicates what a lot of football fans already knew: the end of an era in Green Bay.

**Second Place:** After winning the Division 3 state wrestling title, Gunner Hoffman hugs his dad - Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*,

Appleton.

Judge's Comments: An emotional moment between father and son. Only they knew the amount of hard work and dedication that it took to get here.

**Third Place:** Brodhead's WIAA Division 3 state softball championship win - Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: A moment that captures all the countless hours of preparation that went into making this happen.

**Honorable Mention:** Packers running back Aaron Jones bikes with kids on the way to training camp - Sarah Kloepping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

### Division B

**First Place:** Kimberly vs. Mukwonago high school WIAA Division 1 football state final photos - Tork Mason, *Stevens Point Journal*.  
Judge's Comments: The agony of defeat and the thrill of victory all in

one clear, clean, crisp shot. This is the story and you've captured it well. The viewer can focus on the loss in the foreground or the celebration in the background, but this photo clearly depicts both—it is a great shot.

**Competition Comments:** This was a hard category to judge. There was a large number of entries, and every photo told a great story. Very nice selections were submitted.

**Second Place:** Tennis: Kohler at Roncalli/Two Rivers - Gary Klein, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc.  
Judge's Comments: Is disappointment, disgust or a 'what have I done' moment—the picture tells the story—no words are needed. Nice job.

**Third Place:** Road America 180: Sam Mayer takes the checkered flag - Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*.

Judge's Comments: The joy of victory is clear in this picture. The photographer did a nice job of capturing the excitement of the victory.

**Honorable Mention:** State track victory - William Glasheen, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Power and intensity are both displayed in this finish line photo.

### Division C

**First Place:** Pitch - Scott Ash, *North Shore Now*.

Judge's Comments: An up close and personal look from behind the plate. Great shot that shows the intensity of the pitcher and what the catcher sees. Good contrast, sharp.

**Competition Comments:** This was a tough class to judge. It included many excellent photos from talented photographers. In the end it came down to a judgment call on which photos told the best story and which were exceptionally executed.

**Second Place:** Racer leaves

competition in the dust - Brett LaBore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Love this pictures and how, despite the flying dust, the rider remains in focus in a nice clean shot.

**Third Place:** Bulldogs clean the glass in win - Mark Justesen, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg.

Judge's Comments: This photo demonstrates both teamwork and fan support. The facial expressions tell the story.

**Honorable Mention:** Undisputed Woodland Champs - Mark Justesen, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg.

Judge's Comments: Excitement! That's what this sharp, clear photo shows. Nice.

### Division D

**First Place:** Coverage of SHS softball - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Expertly captured the moment. Perfect composition.



Sports Feature Photo, First Place (Division A)  
*Green Bay Press-Gazette*



Sports Feature Photo, First Place (Division C)  
*North Shore Now, Milwaukee*

**Second Place:** Coverage of 3-on-3 - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.  
 Judge's Comments: Not your typical perspective. Good to give reader a different view. A crystal clear shot of a playful moment.

**Third Place:** WIAA Division 3 State Preview - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Photog captured a moment in their lives they will never forget.

**Honorable Mention:** Cardinals State Bound - Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Good crop made this a contender.

Division E

**First Place:** Royall boys basketball returns to state - Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.  
 Judge's Comments: A great shot that shows the excitement of being a champion. The facial expressions captured show that hard work and dedication pay off—it is a sharp, clear photo highlighting the entire team.

**Competition Comments:** A great group of entries in the category.



Feature Photo, First Place (Division A)  
**Kenosha News**

**Second Place:** Soccer Sizes - Angie Griepentrog, *The Freedom Pursuit*.  
 Judge's Comments: This photo shows the intensity of the sport. It is a sharp, clear, crisp action photo.

**Third Place:** Championship Exhilaration - Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: This picture captures the joy and payoff of the hours student athletes spend perfecting their sport. Great shot that highlights the team.

Feature Photo

Division A

**First Place:** Down and Dirty Fun - Sean Krajacic, *Kenosha News*.  
 Judge's Comments: Excellent shot. The eyes are immediately drawn to the child's expression and then follows it out from there. A "clean" shot of a messy scenario.

**Competition Comments:** Great assortment of photos and I particularly enjoyed that there was a wide array of the \*type\* of feature photos one can run.

**Second Place:** Behind the booms - Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville.  
 Judge's Comments: Very crisp. The odd symmetry between the tree and the fireworks adds a nice touch.

**Third Place:** A joyful moment at the Appleton East commencement ceremony - Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: What makes this work is the contrast. All of the other students either taking it "seriously" or in some cases being outright annoyed and the student in the center of the frame bursting out with joy.

**Honorable Mention:** A Chilly Thrill - John Hart, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Good photo.



Feature Photo, First Place (Division B)  
**EagleHerald, Marinette**

Missing a certain something, not sure what, but it captures the joy of jet skiing.

Division B

**First Place:** Rocket outhouse - Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.  
 Judge's Comments: Love the creativity with the rocket. God Bless the USA! Great feature photo!

**Second Place:** Here's Looking at You - Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: Piggy is ready for his closeup Mr. Deville. Love it!

**Third Place:** A wave of patriotism - Phil Kidd, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.  
 Judge's Comments: Such a moving photo of a local Veteran. Thank you for your service, HERO.

## Division C

**First Place:** When the Fur Flies - Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: A fierce look at nature that forces you to take a second look. The detail and crispness are like watching the scene in 4K. Photographer shows readers something they may never see in real life, but without making them nauseous.

**Second Place:** Winter wonderland - Scott Ash, *Lake Country Now*.

Judge's Comments: A haunting and beautiful composition that could have only been better with a lonely bundled-up human walking through the scene.

**Third Place:** Bingo Magnifico - Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: People are fascinating to watch and this composition would be higher had the expression on her face been joy or frustration or more intense concentration.

**Honorable Mention:** Moose on the Loose in Minocqua - Braeden Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Beautiful color and interesting square composition but had to wonder if it could have been better to see how humans were affected. Where's the comedy? The inconvenience? The juxtaposition?

## Division D

**First Place:** Showing a Little Love - Brian Thomsen, *The Valders Journal*.

Judge's Comments: This winning

photo is selected based on the spontaneous and unexpected.

**Second Place:** Rollin' on the Kinni: River Falls Days - Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.

Judge's Comments: Love the emotion following a unique contest.

**Third Place:** Cooling down - David Timmerman, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: This photo captures the thrill of a of the chill on hot summer day.

## Division E

**First Place:** Bullrider bucked off bull - Charley Preusser, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: This photo successfully makes me wince!

**Second Place:** Easter parade - Valorie Brecht, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Excitement is evident in these young boys' faces.

**Third Place:** Welcome Home Ceremony - Jake Schexnaydre, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: It likely took a while to get all the flags waving. Likely lots of patience involved.

## Artistic Photo

## Division A

**First Place:** Immersive Van Gogh - Ruthie Hauge, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Subject is framed exceptionally well. I thought this was just a photo of a painting at first. Great work.

**Second Place:** First day of school - Ruthie Hauge, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

**Third Place:** DRIP, DRIP, DROP

- Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

## Division B

**First Place:** Early morning light - Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: The position of the street lights draws your attention.

**Second Place:** Mukwonago Father's Day parade - Phil Kidd, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: The photo captures human emotion and expression.

**Third Place:** Spectacular ending - Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: The color and detail displayed is extraordinary.

**Honorable Mention:** Guests can spend the night in a World War II cargo plane at this Airbnb created by an Antigo businessman - Tork Mason, *Wausau Daily Herald*.

Judge's Comments: This photo tells a story and creates interest in the individual.

## Division C

**First Place:** It's Snowtime - Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Photographer took an ordinary scene and transformed it into art with a zoom lens. works brilliantly in this situation

**Competition Comments:** Entries comprised mostly of feature photos rather than artistic images.

**Second Place:** Dr. Seuss Days - Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: A perfect application of a gimmicky technique. Well done. Photographer turned a group shot into something unexpected.



Feature Photo, First Place (Division E)

**Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills**

**Third Place:** Poor air quality halts Chinooks game, closes pool - Mark Justesen, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg. Judge's Comments: Interesting way to illustrate pollution with nature's delicate side. More of a feature than artistic.

**Honorable Mention:** Busy bee - Michelle Drew, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: A delightful photo of a bumblebee going about its business. Nice composition. Vivid color. Not really artistic, but lovely all the same.

### Division D

**First Place:** Race day dawn - Brian Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford. Judge's Comments: Nice silhouette

against a beautiful sky.

**Competition Comments:** Entries were mainly feature photos and not artistic in the truest sense.

**Second Place:** 4th of July fireworks - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Good composition. Would have liked to see more detail in the bridge to give the scene balance.

**Third Place:** Mist on grass - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: No real focal point, but interesting.

**Honorable Mention:** Dropping a line - Eric Johnson, *Lake Geneva Regional News*, Lake Geneva.

Judge's Comments: Perhaps better if the boat was not dead center.



Artistic Photo, First Place (Division A)  
**The Cap Times, Madison**

### Division E

**First Place:** Northern lights at the Octagon Barn - Lauren Dochnahl, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Judge's Comments: Good capturing of the mood of the moment, which is tough to do when you're working outside of people.

**Second Place:** Hillsboro's Ryan McCoic slow shutter sprint - Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Not framed quite as good as it could have been but I really like the photo and the idea of its use on the cover. Speed on this level really is a blur!

**Third Place:** Spring Green Preserve State Natural Area - Don Greenwood, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Judge's Comments: This is 100% crispness. The moment itself is not incredibly unique but this photo has such incredible clarity, particularly capturing the sun being 90% in view.

**Honorable Mention:** A splash of color - Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: Wasn't quite as emotional as I was hoping but it definitely captures a crucial moment of crossing the line in a colorful setting.

## Photo Essay

### Division A

**First Place:** Election Day in the Madison area - Ruthie Hauge, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Pretty good, overall coverage.

**Competition Comments:** Good "documentary" style work in these entries. Wish the one entry didn't go straight to a paywall because the description seemed interesting!

**Second Place:** Photos from the

home opener for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers - Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: Very comprehensive.

**Third Place:** UW students protest Matt Walsh campus visit - Ruthie Hauge, *The Cap Times*, Madison.

Judge's Comments: Lots of feels in this one! Seems like there was great access to subjects.

**Honorable Mention:** Appleton's Mile of Music festival - Dan Powers & Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.

Judge's Comments: Nice, feel-good, good time photo essay.

### Division B

**First Place:** Breakfast on the Farm - Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette.

Judge's Comments: These great photos tell the story from multiple angles, eliciting excitement and interest among readers.

**Second Place:** Division 5 boys basketball state championship: McDonell vs Wausau Newman - Brandon Berg, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls.

Judge's Comments: These amazing sports photos tell the story despite the absence of color.

**Third Place:** Pewaukee makes history - Dave Radcliffe, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: Great emotions captured in this photo essay.

**Honorable Mention:** Jumping frogs galore and more - Phil Kidd, *The Freeman*, Waukesha.

Judge's Comments: Capturing fun for the family, along with the intrigue of a frog competition, leads to honorable mention.

### Division C

**First Place:** Minocqua Dragon Boat Festival - Trevor Greene, *The*

*Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Great display and excellent photos! Fantastic work!

**Second Place:** AV-W Color Run - Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Truly 'colorful' and excellent work!

**Third Place:** County fair fun - Michelle Drew, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Local flavor is hard to beat in a photo essay!

**Honorable Mention:** Faces of the Derby - Kurt Krueger, Doug Etten & Gary Ridderbusch, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Love the work and design!

## Division D

**First Place:** Lublin Days - Lydia Erickson & Alex Wilson, *The Star News*, Medford.

Judge's Comments: Excellent artwork and display! Eye-catching!  
**Second Place:** Photos: Spotlight provides new view of Spartan wrestlers - Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: Love this! Excellent work!

**Third Place:** Undeclared D3 State Champs - Adam Krebs & Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Great work!

**Honorable Mention:** Dep. Kaitie Leising: End of Watch - Reagan Hoverman, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.

Judge's Comments: Great photos!

## Division E

**First Place:** Crawford County Fair - Charley Preusser, Gillian Pomplun, Mark Hackett & Emily Schendel, *Crawford County Independent* & *The Kickapoo Scout*,

Gays Mills.

Judge's Comments: I enjoyed this because it captured a wide array of fair activity! And an excellent choice for the featured photo.

**Second Place:** State Championship - Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: I liked this better of the two swimming essays as it captured action in the pool and emotion outside of it.

**Third Place:** Dorchester Days Photo Spread - Samantha Yocius & Nathaniel Underwood, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Mixed feelings about the layout as it's a bit clunky.

\*But\* it is easily the most ambitious of the entries, which I appreciate. You really get the sense that this was a whole day/week of events, not just one.

**Honorable Mention:** Rhinelander Fourth of July Parade - Bob Mainhardt & Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

Judge's Comments: Good array of colorful photos.

## Overall Page Design

### Division C

**First Place:** Cody Popp, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.

Judge's Comments: Well-played, colorful art that is vivid and full of emotion. I enjoyed the basketball player dunking right through the page. Consistently good stuff.

**Competition Comments:** I love the use of large and colorful action photos that transport the reader to the field, court, lake or gym.

**Second Place:** Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: The golf cover is beautiful, but my favorite is the wrestling page — great action shots,

well played, and arms and legs flying through the copy to give the reader a feel for the action.

**Third Place:** Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: The Musky Moon double-truck is just awesome. The one photo stretching across both pages, the action shots, the boat coming at the reader...Very nice.

### Division D

**First Place:** Dave Boehler, *The Review*, Plymouth.

Judge's Comments: Photo in Part 1 is stunning. Nice overall design. Layouts in Part 1 and 2 are excellent. I would make those your signature layout.

**Competition Comments:** Some entries really stood out. There seems to be a lot of stacking of images in some entries. This judge's first

### Division E

**First Place:** Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*.

Judge's Comments: Dynamic graphic design, focal points exude energy. I'd be careful about getting too clever and complicated with headline art like Part 1, as it can become unreadable. Otherwise, this entry really stands out from the others

**Competition Comments:** When community calendar page entries compete with sports page layout, design, and art, there is an uneven comparison. Perhaps there should be a separate competition for community calendar pages?

**Second Place:** Logan Everson, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Not sure about the angled copy. Otherwise, dynamic layout and art.

**Third Place:** Logan Everson & Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: Dynamic use of art, layout. This is one of two entries from same newspaper. Not sure about angled copy.

**Honorable Mention:** Karie Schmidt, Valorie Brecht & Cheyenne Thomas, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Layout is nice with variety.



Overall Page Design, First Place (Division E)

**Cashton Record**



## Visual Storytelling

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Looking back on Tom Monfils case 30 years later - Sarah Kloeping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.  
 Judge's Comments: Great video editing, utilizing audio, video, photos, newspaper snippets, to tell the story. Treats a very serious subject with respect.

**Competition Comments:** Multi-media is the future in newspapers. I was happy to get to take a look at different methods to tackle different subjects.

**Second Place:** Here are the Terrific 10 girls volleyball players - Ricardo Arguello, Jim Rosandick, Mike Sherry & photography staff, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton.  
 Judge's Comments: I think that the community would have had to love this. The girls looked like they had fun and I liked the way the information was presented.

**Third Place:** EAA AirVenture

Oshkosh - William Glasheen, Seeger Gray & Tork Mason, *Oshkosh Northwestern*.

Judge's Comments: Amazing photos that helped tell the story of the air show. I especially liked the last photo of the Mustangs with the F22.

**Honorable Mention:** Green Bay Packers fan reaction video series - Sarah Kloeping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

Judge's Comments: Good use of a slideshow. Maybe more photos of the fans' reactions would have been appropriate with their comments.

### Division C

**First Place:** Walleyes for Tomorrow stocking - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Beautifully done. You can almost "read" the whole story without any words.

Placing these descriptive photos atop of a lake back ground is a great touch.

**Competition Comments:** What a fun category. I made my career with words, but this category proves that pictures are worth a thousand (or more) words.

**Second Place:** Thriller in OT; Sparta opens renovated Memorial Field - Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: This is a two-fer — Two stories being told visually. Great game photos that are played well and tell the story. Then the way the facts and figure snapshots for the new field, showing where and how much, are very informative.

**Third Place:** Brookwood's Powell ends with top 20 finish; state race map - Nate Beier & Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: Nice emotional photos of the runs. The standout is the race route superimposed over the runner, with markers that show his times at the mile

**Honorable Mention:** Justin's Footsteps: Continental Divide Trail - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: I love the use of large and full-page art. I'm not sure how well the visuals tell the story without the words.

### Division DE

**First Place:** Dual Sport Power Play - Logan Everson, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: I like the flow and the black and white look of this page.

**Second Place:** Undefeated D3 State Champs - Adam Krebs & Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Very colorful and definitely tells the "photo" story of the winning team.

**Third Place:** Our Town - Bill Thornley, *Spooner Advocate*.

Judge's Comments: Nice simple page design to show the change of

the season.

**Honorable Mention:** Boscobel's Birthday - Barb Puckett, *The Boscobel Dial*.

## Audio Storytelling

### Division D

**First Place:** Superior Telegram's Archive Dive podcast - Maria Lockwood, Dan Williamson & Wyatt Buckner, *Superior Telegram*.  
 Judge's Comments: An interesting way to bring local history to your listeners. The guests bring a nice level of expertise.

## Best Video

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Remains of the Phoenix, one of Lake Michigan's deadliest shipwrecks, discovered 175 years after sinking off Sheboygan's shore - Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*.

**Second Place:** YMCA care packages ship out - Audrey Korte, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls.

**Third Place:** 20th anniversary of Lambeau Field renovation - Sarah Kloeping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

**Honorable Mention:** The story of a street busker's marimba in downtown Madison - Barry Adams, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison.

### Division D

**First Place:** Monroe Football - Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Great mix of stills and video throughout the piece to really tell the championship story.

**Second Place:** Park Falls Christmas Tree Lighting - Tom LaVenture, *Price County Review*, Phillips.

Judge's Comments: While it looked



### Looking back on Tom Monfils case 30 years later

Green Bay paper mill worker Tom Monfils was found dead 30 years ago on Nov. 22, 1992.

**Sarah Kloeping** Sarah Kloeping, Green Bay Press-Gazette  
 Published 3:34 p.m. CT Nov. 21, 2022 | Updated 9:21 a.m. CT Nov. 30, 2022

Visual Storytelling, First Place (Daily Division)  
**Green Bay Press-Gazette**

freezing, the video captured a great local tradition.

**Third Place:** Monroe house fire - Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Great camera work on the stages of a house fire and great idea to refer it back to the story that will be in the local newspaper.

## Bill Payne Award

### Division A

**First Place:** Rock County 4H Fair - Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Very eye-catching. Well designed throughout.

### Division C

**First Place:** 100 years of Wesco - Kyle Evans, Logan Everson & Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta.

Judge's Comments: Love the design of this ad. This is talent.

**Competition Comments:** Many wonderful entries.

**Second Place:** Lakeland Star Golf Outing - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Great job on layout and design of this ad.

**Third Place:** Area 31 - Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Very impressive ad. Good design work.

**Honorable Mention:** Derby Ad - Clayton Lindbom & Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: AMAZING ad. Love the font usage and color.

### Division D

**First Place:** Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival - Staff, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.

Judge's Comments: Great use of color that ties in with event logo. Just enough event teaser info that would make me want to attend. A fun ad.

**Second Place:** Ferry to Adventures - Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly, Jodi White & Emily Koch, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: Nice promotional ad. I like the tie-in between the icons at the top to each individual advertiser.

**Third Place:** PdC Main Street Shop Hop Into Spring - Kim Corpian, *Courier Press*, Prairie Du Chien.

Judge's Comments: Pretty spring colors, eye catching header and elements to make eye flow down through the ad.

**Honorable Mention:** Novares - Fall Into A New Job - Kim Corpian, *Courier Press*, Prairie Du Chien.

Judge's Comments: Consistent use of fall colors, helps the multi-color logo stand out and not get lost in the foliage.

### Division E

**First Place:** Negative political ad - Taylor Scott, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

**Second Place:** Thank you - Julianna Williams, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

**Third Place:** Klinner Insurance - Renee Draszekewicz & Madeleine De Fore, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

**Honorable Mention:** No ATV/UTV Road Tax - Taylor Scott, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

## Salesperson of the Year

Weekly Division

**First Place:** Salesperson of the year - Kelly Schmidt, *The Star News*, Medford.

**Second Place:** Taylor Scott - Taylor Scott, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

**Third Place:** Salesperson of the Year - Renee Draszekewicz - Renee Draszekewicz, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

## Best Restaurant Ad

### Division C

**First Place:** Black Bear Bar - Tony Loomis, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Good use of black/white/gray tones. The graphics are very fitting. This a lot of information but the way the layout was done, it's not overwhelming.

**Second Place:** Spiritview - Clayton Lindbom & Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Nice ad. It would have been easier on the eyes if you could have increased font size on the listing of nightly specials. Maybe not show so much of sky in picture to give you space to increase the size.

Overall, that's one good looking ad!

**Third Place:** Forestry Tap and Axe - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: I think if you would have made the font smaller a tad on "Experience a Premier Taproom and Axe Throwing" you would have been able to increase the font or maybe just put on two lines for Bring ADVENTURE to your day. Great ad. Good use of pics!

### Division DE

**First Place:** Chetek Lanes Event Center & Pizzeria - James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*.

**Second Place:** Casa Mexicana - Renee Draszekewicz & Buzzy



## Phoenix tragedy of 1847 in Lake Michigan cut short the lives of Dutch immigrants

In 1847, the Phoenix was traveling from Manitowoc to Sheboygan when a fire struck, ending the lives of many Dutch immigrants onboard.

Best Video, First Place (Division AB)  
*The Sheboygan Press*

Mode, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

**Third Place:** Old Man River Mother's Day Kabobs Galore - Tyra Saddoris, *Courier Press*, Prairie Du Chien.

**Honorable Mention:** Suffolk Street Eatery - Daily Globe Advertising, *The Globe*, Ironwood.

## Best Large Ad

### Division A

**First Place:** Rock County 4H Fair - Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Very nice design. Creative and eye-catching. Well done.

### Division C

**First Place:** Notice Load Limits - Tony Loomis, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Second Place:** Quick Lane - Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** Hazelhurst Lions - Renee Draszkievicz, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Honorable Mention:** Northwoods Realty - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division D

**First Place:** Grant Regional Community Health Fair - Jessica Brownell, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: This ad is designed well, great color, easy to navigate the event options. I don't love the fact that another color ad was on top of this, but as a stand alone the ad is well done.

**Second Place:** Douglas County Beef Association - Scott Blatchford & Greg Beltz, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: The showcase of the buyers and the animals is terrific. Great layout and it speaks to the efforts of the community to support the auction.

**Third Place:** Best Large Ad — Walter the Walleye - James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*.

Judge's Comments: Placing this ad 3rd, because it drew me in, but I had no way of knowing where these places were other than their names. Next time, I would include an address. But looks like a really neat promotion.

**Honorable Mention:** Potosi Catfish Festival - Jessica Brownell & Jodi White, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: This ad is colorful and the only challenge I had was that it was full of information and seemed too much emphasis on the sponsors not the event. Suggest the ad for the event to be separate next time, and a sponsor thank you ad done separate from the event. Overall well done.

### Division E

**First Place:** State Farm Julie Cairns Party - Tyra Saddoris & Dave McGowan, *The Richland Observer*, Richland Center.



Best Restaurant Ad, First Place (Division C)  
*The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

**Second Place:** Kliner Insurance - Madeleine De Fore & Renee Draszkievicz, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

**Third Place:** Mel's Trading Post - Renee Draszkievicz & Heather Holmes, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.

## Best Small Ad

### Division A

**First Place:** Velocity Sports Cycling Bottom Banner - Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Love the layout and design of this. You organized nicely. It is very reader friendly with all the pertinent information. The colors work well on the black.

### Division C

**First Place:** Bassett - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Second Place:** Oneida Roofing - Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** Tree removal - Tony Loomis, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Honorable Mention:** Three Lakes Car Show - Clayton Lindbom & Chris Boone, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

### Division D

**First Place:** Smoke in the Valley - Jessica Brownell, *The Boscobel Dial*.

**Second Place:** Wolverine Ski Trails - Daily Globe Advertising, *The Globe*, Ironwood.

**Third Place:** Best Small Ad — Mushrooms Study - James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*.

**Honorable Mention:** O1 Grizzly - Diane Albright, *The Monroe Times*.

### Division E

**First Place:** Jewell Card Shower - Tyra Saddoris, *The Richland Observer*, Richland Center.

Judge's Comments: WOW! This is an AMAZING ad! I love the design, colors, layout and the way that it POPS off the page! Awesome job!

**Second Place:** Magnolia Trails Carnival Ad - Kati Schoelzel, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford.

Judge's Comments: Such a fun design! Great Job!

**Third Place:** Breezy Knoll Greenhouse - Joy Dain, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

Judge's Comments: Good design!

## Best Ad Idea (Series)

### Division C

**First Place:** Ace Hardware - Clayton Lindbom & Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

**Second Place:** Area 31 - Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** Dr. Mindy Wolf Achilles Foot and Ankle Clinic - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Honorable Mention:** Lakeland Power Sports - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division DE

**First Place:** FFA Week - Diane Albright, Lance Ray, Tai Ruegsegger & Laura Hughes, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Great ad series with a great layout to follow. Nicely done!

**Second Place:** Veterans' Salute - Diane Albright, Lance Ray, Tai Ruegsegger & Laura Hughes, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Love the ads and

the layout. Great Job!

**Third Place:** Cheese Days Recap - Diane Albright, Lance Ray, Tai Ruegsegger & Laura Hughes, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Love these! Nice job!

## Best Use of Color

Division C

**First Place:** Lakeside Dock and Lift - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Rock County Fairgrounds 1301 Craig Avenue, Janesville

July 25-30, 2023 7 am - 10 pm

### FAIRGOER'S GUIDE

#### TICKET SPECIALS

Single admission for any one day of the fair (Age 13+) \$10 (Age 7-12) \$5 (under 6) free

TUESDAY 2-for-1 TWO TICKETS FOR \$10	WEDNESDAY FIRST RESPONDERS free with ID	THURSDAY VETERANS free with ID	THURSDAY SENIOR CITIZEN DAY 62 & UP \$7	SATURDAY ADMISSION & UNLIMITED RIDES \$30 ONLINE ONLY
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#### GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT

All grandstand shows are free with admission to the fair

UW MARCHING BAND 7/25 at 8pm	TOP GUN MAVERICK 7/26 at dusk	DYLAN SCOTT 7/27 at 8pm	GRANGER SMITH FEAT EARL DIBBLES JR. 7/28 at 8pm	BULL RIDING 7/29 at 6pm	MONSTER TRUCKS 7/30 at 2pm
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#### DAILY ENTERTAINMENT

Pig races, Lumberjack Show, Jump Pad, Cowtown USA and Bingo

#### FAIR FUN & GAMES

CARNIVAL WRIST BANDS \$33 THUR, FRI, SUN	ALL 6 DAYS \$115 Mega Pass UNLIMITED RIDES & ADMISSION ALL 6 DAYS ONLINE ONLY	SEASON PASS \$35 ADULTS \$15 KIDS
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Sponsored by PRENT THERMOFORMING

ROCKCOUNTY4HFAIR.COM  
(608) 755-1470  
1301 CRAIG AVENUE  
JANESVILLE, WI 53545

Full Event Schedule

Best Large Ad, First Place (Division A)  
*The Gazette, Janesville*

Judge's Comments: Very eye catching and the logo flows with the dock background.

**Second Place:** Murphy's Furniture & Bedding - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Very colorful, draws the eye to the ad and it jumps out at you.

**Third Place:** The Pointe Hotel & Suites - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Good use of color to break up the ad and keep it easy to read.

Division D

**First Place:** Santa Shops Small - Kim Corpian, *Courier Press*, Prairie Du Chien.

Judge's Comments: Great use of color to separate and for each

individual ad to stand out.

**Second Place:** Thunder in the Valley - Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly, Jodi White & Emily Koch, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: The curve of the ad at the top helps this ad to stand out on the page and the colors are great!

**Third Place:** St. Clement Catholic Schools Week - Emily Koch, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: Very cute design and color use.

**Honorable Mention:** Missinne Greenhouse - Opening Day - Scott Blatchford & Greg Beltz, *Superior Telegram*.

Division E

**First Place:** 12th Annual Stump

# LAKESIDE

## DOCK & LIFT

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Best Use of Color, First Place (Division C)  
*The Lakeland Times, Minocqua*

Dodger Bash - Tyra A. Saddoris, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills.

**Second Place:** CC Boys Baseball & Girls Softball; CC Track & Field; Benton Track & Field - Jessica Brownell, *Tri-County Press*, Cuba City.

**Third Place:** Taste of Fennimore - Jessica Brownell & Jodi White, *Fennimore Times*.

**Honorable Mention:** Leah Spicer - Julianna Williams, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Division A

**First Place:** Walworth County Fair - Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Love the colors. This ad would grab the attention of anyone looking at the newspaper.

## Best Multiple Advertiser Spread

Division A

**First Place:** Gemuetlichkeit Days - Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: Nice organization of information on this page.

Division C

**First Place:** Derby sig ad - Clayton Lindbom & Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

Judge's Comments: Very nicely done! I love the design and layout! All around great job.

**Second Place:** Father's Day Specials - Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Nice ads and layout! Great job.

**Third Place:** Bridal Planning Guide - Renee Draszkiwicz, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Judge's Comments: Great layout.

Division D

**First Place:** Congrats Prairie du Chien Blackhawks - Kim Corpian, *Courier Press*, Prairie Du Chien.

Judge's Comments: Great page

**Second Place:** Join today 4-H Barron County - Deb Fosberg & Charlene Raley, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake.

Judge's Comments: Good look page

**Third Place:** Golfer Ad - Small - Janna Johnson, *The Star News*, Medford.

Judge's Comments: page looks good

**Honorable Mention:** Congrats Seneca and Wauzeka - Kim Corpian, *Courier Press*, Prairie Du Chien.

Judge's Comments: Congrats

Division E

**First Place:** Cashton Track & Field - Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*.

Judge's Comments: Love the layout of this page.

Best Multiple Advertiser Spread,  
First Place (Division D)

*Courier Press, Prairie Du Chien*

**Competition Comments:** There were several great entries. It was hard to pick a winner. All design work was well done.

**Second Place:** Royall and Hillsboro: Regional Champs - Logan Everson, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*.

Judge's Comments: I like the advertiser's spaces on this page.

**Third Place:** Richland Center Agriculture Calendar - Tyra Saddoris, *The Richland Observer*, Richland Center.

Judge's Comments: This is a clean layout.

**Honorable Mention:** Ithaca Baseball Congratulations - Tyra Saddoris, Erik Olson & Dave McGowan, *The Richland Observer*, Richland Center.

Judge's Comments: Very artsy. Great job on layout.

## Best Use of Art Service

Division C

**First Place:** Lakeplace.com Vacationland Properties - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Second Place:** Massage Therapist - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** Nimsgern Funeral & Cremation Services - Madeleine De Fore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Honorable Mention:** Town of Minocqua Employment Opportunities - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

Division D

**First Place:** Pub Crawl - James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*.

**Competition Comments:** Really good work here.

**Second Place:** Gift Certificates for

the Holidays - Ann Rupp & Carol Tyson, *The Platteville Journal*.

**Third Place:** FFA Week - Diane Albright, Lance Ray, Tai Ruegsegger & Laura Hughes, *The Monroe Times*.

**Honorable Mention:** Lancaster Night on the Square - Emily Koch, Jessica Brownell & Jodi White, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Division E

**First Place:** Warren - Joy Dain, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

**Second Place:** Cuba City Candyland Christmas - Jessica Brownell, *Tri-County Press*, Cuba City.

**Third Place:** Cadott Travel Plaza is Hiring Cashiers - Lydia Erickson, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

**Honorable Mention:** Discovery Playschool Open House - Tyra Saddoris & Dave McGowan, *The Richland Observer*, Richland Center.

Division A

**First Place:** Parade of Homes - Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville.

Judge's Comments: This ad is very professional. I absolutely love the layout and design. You have a lot of information in this ad, yet everything is separated nicely. Your use of fonts and colors is exceptional.

## Best Use of Local Photography

Division C

**First Place:** Derby ad - Clayton Lindbom & Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

**Second Place:** Wake responsibly - Dean Hall & Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** Trapp Brothers - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Honorable Mention:** Kelk - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division DE

**First Place:** Gymnastics - Janna Johnson, *The Star News*, Medford. Judge's Comments: WOW! The creativity in this ad with the photos is outstanding. I like the advertisers being b/w and it doesn't take away from the athletes.

**Competition Comments:** This competition had a lot of great entries.

AW C'MON - PWEASE

**BITE**

WE NO ITS WEDIKALOUS... BUTT WON'T U PWEASE, PWEASE BI SUM OF THIS STUFF!

**MEL'S! TRADING POST**

Monday-Saturday 8:30-5:00; Sunday 10-3  
105 South Brown St. • 715-362-5800 • mels@newnorth.net

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THIS REDIKULUS DAE!**

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SALES TENTS WILL BE UP AT BROWN AND KING STREET AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

Mel's TRADING POST

Best Use of Humor, First Place (Division DE)  
**The Northwoods River News,**  
*Rhineland*

Some really stuck out with the use of the photos. We only could award four. Nice job to all.

**Second Place:** Fennimore Wrestling - Jessica Brownell, *Fennimore Times*.

Judge's Comments: Creativity is at its finest. These were awesome photos you can tell the designer had to work with.

**Third Place:** Congratulations Superior Softball - Jed Carlson, Jen Zettel-Vandenhouten, Scott Blatchford & Creative Team, *Superior Telegram*.

Judge's Comments: I like the combination of good photos and graphic usage.

**Honorable Mention:** Lancaster State Wrestling - Jessica Brownell & AJ Gates, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster.

Judge's Comments: Nice design work with the photos.

## Best Use of Humor

### Division A

**First Place:** Fresh Local News - Josh Anselmi, *The Gazette*, Janesville. Judge's Comments: Great use of humor and easy access to promotion with QR codes.

### Division C

**First Place:** Kurts Island Sportshop - Tony Loomis, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Second Place:** Tender Touch - Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Third Place:** Plane Parts, Inc. - Renee Draszkiwicz, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division DE

**First Place:** Mel's Trading Post - Renee Draszkiwicz & Madeleine De Fore, *The Northwoods River*

*News*, Rhineland.

Judge's Comments: Hilarious! Love the creativity. The misspelled words are a huge attention grabber. Very creative.

**Competition Comments:** Love this category. Lots of great entries.

**Second Place:** Jensen - Lydia Erickson, *The Star News*, Medford. Judge's Comments: So cute. Puts a twist on Santa and his jolliness. Too funny!

**Third Place:** C&M Oil - Daily Globe Advertising, *The Globe*, Ironwood.

Judge's Comments: Mother's know best and drive best. Funny and cute.

**Honorable Mention:** Luecke's - Diane Albright, *The Monroe Times*.

Judge's Comments: Who doesn't love bling. Very nice use of creativity and humor.

## Best Newspaper Promotion

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Memorial Day Section - Advertising staff, *Beloit Daily News*. Judge's Comments: Fitting, well-designed tribute to Veterans. Composition flows well and advertising well suited to the special.

### Division C

**First Place:** Newspaper promotion - Clayton Lindbom, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River.

**Second Place:** Letters to Santa - Shereen Siewert, Christina Kimball & Darren Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*.

**Third Place:** Summer Times - Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

**Honorable Mention:** Deer Camp - Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division D

**First Place:** Superior Telegram 6 Weeks of Giving - Megan Keller, Scott Blatchford, Julie Schulz & Tasha Kenyon, *Superior Telegram*. Judge's Comments: Love this idea! Great design work.

**Second Place:** Fishing Lure Promotion/Harvest Fest Scavenger Hunt - James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*.

**Third Place:** City Wide Garage Sale - James Moran & Jaci Davis, *The Chetek Alert*.

**Honorable Mention:** Bingo Promotion - Daily Globe Advertising, *The Globe*, Ironwood.

### Division E

**First Place:** Best of the River Valley reader poll bundles - Valley Sentinel, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

Judge's Comments: Neat newspaper promotion. Great work!

**Second Place:** Baby's First Christmas Promo - Emily Koch, *Tri-County Press*, Cuba City. Judge's Comments: Cute ad.

**Third Place:** New Year New Look - Joy Dain, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell.

**Honorable Mention:** Business Insider - Valley Sentinel, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.

## Best Special Section (Advertising)

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Design an Ad - Advertising staff, *Beloit Daily News*. Judge's Comments: I love the use of students designing the ads. Very talented young individuals throughout the section.

**Second Place:** Northwoods Spirits - Staff, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire.

Judge's Comments: Great vivid pages and colors. Fabulous photos and art throughout.

### Division C

**First Place:** Veterans Salute - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
 Judge's Comments: Great supplement for your newspaper and an honor to our veterans. Beautiful Cover!  
**Second Place:** Winter Sports Preview - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Third Place:** Fallen Heroes - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division D

**First Place:** Barron County Fair - Deb Fosberg & Charlene Raley, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake.  
 Judge's Comments: This is an all around great piece! The layout is super and very easy to read and navigate. Colors are vivid and the ads are well put together. Great Job!  
**Competition Comments:** Great work by all making this a difficult category to judge! GREAT JOB!  
**Second Place:** Journal Jingle - Staff, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth.  
 Judge's Comments: I love the layout and overall idea behind this piece. Nice job!  
**Third Place:** Hometown Heroes Boscobel - Tyra Sadoris, Jessica Brownell & Barb Puckett, *The Boscobel Dial*.  
 Judge's Comments: I love the layout that you used for the photos. They're not your usual boxed in pictures. Nice job!

### Division E

**First Place:** Sweet Perfection Fennimore Wrestling - Jessica Brownell & Jason Nihles, *Fennimore Times*.  
 Judge's Comments: This piece certainly has the WOW FACTOR!

This is an all about GREAT PIECE! Nice layout, easy to ready. Nicely Done!

**Second Place:** Hodag Country Festival Preview - Staff, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.  
 Judge's Comments: Nice piece! Great layout and easy to navigate!  
**Third Place:** Spring Sports Preview - Laura Alvarez & Rebecca LaMar, *The Baldwin Bulletin*.  
 Judge's Comments: Nice work! Simple yet full of info.

## Best Niche Product

### Daily Division

**First Place:** Stateline Magazine - Advertising staff, *Beloit Daily News*.  
 Judge's Comments: Obviously a lot of work put into 80 pages of recognizing the community. Loved the color coordinating index. Great layout design and balance of advertising to copy.  
**Second Place:** National FFA Week - Lindsey Witter, *Daily Jefferson County Union*, Fort Atkinson.  
 Judge's Comments: Colorful layout, with great localized copy.

### Division C

**First Place:** Deer Camp Memories - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Second Place:** NHAL Visitor's Guide - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Third Place:** Heroes on the Homefront - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.  
**Honorable Mention:** Logging and Forestry - Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua.

### Division D

**First Place:** Source - Lance Ray, Diane Albright, Tai Ruegsegger &

Laura Hughes, *The Monroe Times*.  
 Judge's Comments: WOW!  
 The layout and graphics of this publication are top notch! Very nicely done!  
**Second Place:** Exploring The Tri States - Ann Rupp & Carol Tyson, *The Platteville Journal*.  
 Judge's Comments: The cover has a WOW factor to it! It grabs your attention making you want to pick it up to see what is inside. Great job!  
**Third Place:** Rice Lake Visitor's Guide - Deb Fosberg & Charlene Raley, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake.  
 Judge's Comments: Nicely done! I love the idea behind this section and it too was nicely put together. Nice work.

### Division E

**First Place:** Waterfront - Staff, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.  
 Judge's Comments: This publication caught my attention from the cover and kept it throughout. Nicely done from the front cover, to inside graphics and overall layout.  
**Second Place:** Spring Home Guide - Laura Alvarez & Rebecca LaMar, *The Baldwin Bulletin*.  
 Judge's Comments: Once again, a very attractive cover. Nice choice of colors used throughout. Good job!  
**Third Place:** Best of the River Valley Reader Poll - Taylor Scott, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green.  
 Judge's Comments: This didn't grab my attention like the others but the layout was nice and I like what you did with the "Best of" winners on the inside pages.

## Best Ongoing Niche Publication

### Weekly Division

**First Place:** Packerland - Greg Bates, Rich Palzewic, Kevin Damask & Josh Staloch, *The Press Times*, Green Bay.  
 Judge's Comments: These are great publications! I love the team excitement that it shows throughout but the layout is excellent! Great job!  
**Second Place:** Attractions - Staff, *Courier Press*, Prairie Du Chien.  
 Judge's Comments: Very, very hard to put this second... Another great publication and the colors and layout on your covers are very nice. Nicely done!  
**Third Place:** Winter Times - Staff, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander.  
 Judge's Comments: A very nice layout and very good information throughout. Nice job!



Best Special Section (Advertising),  
 First Place (Division E)  
**Fennimore Times**

