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2024 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

Congratulations, Newspapers of the Year!

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Know your Madisonian
 Several WSJ-TV news anchors reflect on the career in Madison and changes in broadcast journalism
LOCAL STATE A3

SETTLED UNDER CENTER
 Packers have had a 30-plus-year run with stadium quarterback play — but how did they do it?
SPORTS B1

War in Gaza
 Netanyahu rethinks Cabinet member for unambitious plan to end the war
NATIONA WORLD, A8

Civil rights
 Vice President Harris leads diversity Sunday memorial in Alabama
NATIONA WORLD, A8

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CONGRESS | BUDGET
Six bills to avert shutdown unveiled

BY SHARON WATSON
 WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders on Tuesday unveiled six bills to avert a potential government shutdown, including one that would allow the federal government to continue operating until at least July 15. The bills were unveiled as the House and Senate continue to negotiate a funding package to keep the government open through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

The House unveiled six bills on Tuesday, including one that would allow the federal government to continue operating until at least July 15. The bills were unveiled as the House and Senate continue to negotiate a funding package to keep the government open through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

HEALTH
Vaccination hesitancy is fueling surge in measles

BY MARIA LOCKWOOD
 Superior
 Measles cases are on the rise in Superior, and vaccination hesitancy is a major factor. The city health department reports that there have been 15 cases of measles in Superior since January, a significant increase from the previous year. Health officials are urging parents to get their children vaccinated to prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus.

VILLAGE OF DANIEL THE REV. ALFRED KUNZ
Priest's 1998 murder still unsolved

BY MARIA LOCKWOOD
 Superior
 The murder of Rev. Alfred Kunz, a priest in the Village of Daniel, remains unsolved 26 years after the crime. The priest was shot and killed on the grounds of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Superior in 1998. The case has remained a mystery for decades, with investigators continuing to search for clues and witnesses.

Weather
 Storm and 1 storm
 High 57 - Low 37
 Precip: 0.00

Inside
 Superior State University
 Superior State University is set to open its new \$100 million building, which will house the university's business and economics departments. The building is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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Daily: Wisconsin State Journal

Peak of the Season at the Superior Farmers' Markets
 Superior Downtown Farmers Market
 2215 Bank St.
 Every Wednesday 10:45-2:00
OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER

Embracing change
 Libero 'best fit' for Liberos in Sports
 Page B1

SUPERIOR
Telegram

Covering Northwest Wisconsin since 1890 Friday, September 1, 2023

City landscape grants blossom

BY SHELLEY NELSON
 Superior Telegram
 Superior — The Superior and Lake Superior Urban Planning Program is taking root in four parks in the city. The program, which is a partnership between the Superior and Lake Superior Urban Planning Program and the Superior and Lake Superior Urban Planning Program, is providing grants to help fund landscape improvements in four parks in the city.

2 sentenced for roles in murder case
 South Range man gets max prison term; Duluth woman granted probation

BY TOM OLSEN
 Duluth Times Tribune
 GRAND MARAIS — It's been more than two years since Ricky Dubois Jr. was shot and killed in a parking lot in Duluth. The man was sentenced to a maximum prison term of 10 years, while the woman was granted probation.

'WHEN THE FUN BEGINS'
 Open house brings hugs, smiles at Lake Superior Elementary

BY MARIA LOCKWOOD
 Superior Telegram
 Superior — An open house at Lake Superior Elementary School on Tuesday brought a sense of community and joy to the school. Parents and children gathered for an open house, where they enjoyed food, games, and activities. The event was a success, and it was a great day for everyone involved.

Specialty clinic to open in Superior

BY MARIA LOCKWOOD
 Superior Telegram
 Superior — A new specialty clinic is set to open in Superior, providing a comprehensive range of services for patients. The clinic, which is part of the Superior and Lake Superior Urban Planning Program, will offer a variety of services, including medical, dental, and behavioral health services. The clinic is expected to open in the near future.

CLINIC on A8 **SENTENCE on A3**

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On the Cover

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WNA
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**2024 Better Newspaper
Contest Awards**

Artistic Photo (Division B) - Second Place:
Sheboygan County Fair (Photo by:
Gary Klein | The Sheboygan Press)

Feature Photo (Division C) - Second Place :
Ice fishing during a warmer-than-
normal winter was limited to
walkers with sleds and ATVs on
Lake Winnebago. (Photo by Michael
Cooney | Oshkosh Herald)

Artistic Photo (Division A) - Third Place:
Up close and personal with a bee
and a sunflower. (Photo by Sarah
Klopping | Green Bay Press-Gazette)

**Sports Action Photo (Division E) -
Honorable Mention:** A unique family
farm cross country course (Photo
by Nate Beier | Hillsboro Sentry-
Enterprise)

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Best of Division

Division A
**Wisconsin State Journal,
Madison**

Division B
**Herald Times Reporter,
Manitowoc**

Division C
Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor

Division D
Superior Telegram

Division E
The Northwoods River News, Rhinelander

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General Excellence

Division A

First Place: Staff, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse
Second Place: Staff, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
Third Place: Staff, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
Honorable Mention: Gazette Staff, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Division B

First Place: Staff, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls
 Judge's Comments: Of all the submissions, *The Chippewa Herald* presented the most complete newspaper—from hard news and features, to comprehensive sports

and a great “Lively” section. Yes, there was wire copy, but what struck me was the excellent presentation of that news; not relegated to simple story layout, wire reports were given the full weight of solid headlines, artwork and layouts. A special shout out to Audrey Korte: I wish she had submitted several of the articles in these editions; they were excellent.
Second Place: Staff, *The Freeman*, Waukesha
 Judge's Comments: Visually appealing throughout, *The Freeman* does a great job presenting the news throughout its pages, backed by locally sourced news before all else. This focus on community was obvious throughout the pages, backed by graphically appealing layouts and artwork. I particularly

liked the “Updates” graphic presentation of local stories being covered by the newspaper but I couldn't tell how often this feature is used. What a great way to provide readers with developments without another lengthy story. Well done.
Third Place: Staff, *Daily News*, West Bend
 Judge's Comments: The editors of the Washington County *Daily News* love photos, using them effectively to draw the reader into the story. No, the writing didn't always rise to the level of the layout, but for the most part, the staff delivered. Overall, the paper is an appealing product that just needs some stronger editing.
Honorable Mention: Dan Kitkowski, Erin Noha, Matt Lehmann, Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
 Judge's Comments: Solid effort all the way around.

Division C

First Place: Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
Second Place: Bill Schanen IV, Staff, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
Third Place: Press Times Staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
Honorable Mention: Staff, *Oshkosh Herald*, Oshkosh

Division D

First Place: Staff, *Oconomowoc Enterprise*, Waukesha
 Judge's Comments: I love the layout of the newspaper. The white space really lends itself to easy reading and I prefer serif to non-serif type—the headlines all look clean. Great use of



General Excellence, First Place (Division A)
La Crosse Tribune

General Excellence, First Place (Division B)
The Chippewa Herald, Chippewa Falls

General Excellence, First Place (Division C)
The Lakeland Times, Minoqua

General Excellence, First Place (Division D)
Oconomowoc Enterprise

photos, too, and your special sections are wonderful. The only thing I didn't like was the placement of the sports column on the front of the sports page. I think maybe it belongs on the top left of the second page. If the columnist is going to write a story, he should do that under a separate byline. Your sports pages do look really good, though. This is a really lovely publication. I thought the website looked good, too, but as a die-hard veteran of newspapers for 40 years, I hate that we have to do a website!

Second Place: Staff, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Love the layout and the use of white space. It looks clean and is easy to read. I love the use of a serif typeface, it just looks classy. The website looked good, too.

Third Place: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
Judge's Comments: There is so much to love about this paper. The farm column was really good and there is a ton of local coverage inside. Clearly the staff loves their community.

Honorable Mention: Staff, *Tri-County News*, Kiel
Judge's Comments: A great deal of news and lots of color. Sports coverage was really good, too. Great work covering your community!

Division E

First Place: Staff, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander

Judge's Comments: A lot of work and care goes into this newspaper. Layout and photography are very well done. Strong, well written content. A paper I am sure people look forward to receiving each week

Second Place: Scott De Laruelle, Maddie Bergstrom, Jack Miller, Mark Nesbitt, *The Oregon Observer*, Oregon

Judge's Comments: Just a nice community paper covering every aspect. Good content, layout and photography. A nice treat to receive each week

Third Place: Sentinel Staff, *Burnett County Sentinel*, Grantsburg
Judge's Comments: Content is strong as is everything else about this paper. It seems to cover the area well and takes care in making the product look good too

Best Front Page

Division A

First Place: Staff, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
Second Place: Staff, *La Crosse*

Tribune, La Crosse
Third Place: Staff, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire

Honorable Mention: Karyn Saemann, Shari Rampenthal, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Division B

First Place: John Evans, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Second Place: Dan Kitkowski, Erin Noha, Paul Williams, Melissa Kowalczyk, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
Third Place: Staff, *Daily News*, West Bend

Honorable Mention: Amanda McBride, Juanita Lagrone, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc

Division C

First Place: Cody Popp, Mike



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



Best Front Page, First Place (Division B)
Herald Times Reporter,
Manitowoc

Hollihan, Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Hands down the best across the board for everything I was looking for in this competition.

Second Place: Peshtigo Times Staff, *Peshtigo Times*, Peshtigo
Judge's Comments: Fierce competition to others in the class; content is fantastic, and the layout is nearly perfect!

Third Place: Peninsula Pulse Staff, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Judge's Comments: The most non-traditional entry from the ones I viewed, and it left its mark.

Honorable Mention: Lakeland Times Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Great job on the front pages—just make sure to include the jumps next year!



Best Front Page, First Place (Division D)
Waupaca County Post

Division D

First Place: Robert Cloud, Cody Popp, *Waupaca County Post*, Waupaca Judge's Comments: Tight competition, but overall, Waupaca gets my vote for breadth of coverage and design.

Second Place: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe Judge's Comments: This was tough, as the photos and variety of content was great, but the design was a little "loud" for me.

Third Place: Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek Judge's Comments: The variety of topics and photographs are really strong and definitely a reason this publication has won previous awards.

Honorable Mention: Bill Yorth,

Oconomowoc Enterprise, Waukesha Judge's Comments: Great use of typography, photos, and layout knowledge. Also great variety of content. Would have been my number one but I didn't get to see the jump pages!

Division E

First Place: Staff, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander
Second Place: Scott De Laruelle, Brad Allen, Maddie Bergstrom, *The Verona Press*, Verona
Third Place: Maddie Bergstrom, Jack Miller, Scott De Laruelle, Brad Allen, *The Oregon Observer*, Oregon
Honorable Mention: Staff, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green

Best Opinion Pages

Division C

First Place: Lakeland Times Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
Second Place: Bill Schanen III, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
Third Place: Debra Fitzgerald, Sharon Anderson, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Honorable Mention: Press Times Subscribers, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Division D

First Place: Adam Krebs, Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
Second Place: Steve Prestegard, *The Platteville Journal*, Platteville
Third Place: Staff, *Tri-County News*, Kiel

Division E

First Place: Brad Allen, Scott De Laruelle, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*, Verona
Second Place: Brad Allen, Scott De Laruelle, *The Verona Press*, Verona

Best Sports Pages

Division ABC

First Place: Mitch Maersch, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
Second Place: Nate Beier, Zach Rastall, Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta
Third Place: Brett LaBore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
Honorable Mention: Tori Wittenbrock, Rich Palzewic, Kevin Naze, Cody Popp, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Division D

First Place: Staff, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
Second Place: Jason Nihles, *The Platteville Journal*, Platteville
Third Place: Bob Burrows, *Star-Observer*, Hudson
Honorable Mention: Natalie Dillon, Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe



Best Sports Pages, First Place (Division ABC)
Ozaukee Press, Port Washington

Division E

First Place: Jeremy Mayo, Bob Mainhardt, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander
Second Place: Logan Everson, Nate Beier, *Cashton Record*, Cashton
Third Place: Brad Allen, Jack Miller, Mark Nesbitt, *The Oregon Observer*, Oregon

Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages

Overall Divisions

First Place: Katie Hohmann, & Peninsula Pulse staff, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Second Place: Lindsey Witter, Zack Goodrow, Karyn Saemann, *The Gazette*, Janesville
Third Place: Janelle Fisher, Sue Schroeder, Josephine Hinderman,



Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages, First Place (Overall)
Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor

Opinion StoughtonCourierHub.com

Guest column

Survey allows people to get involved in riverfront project

360 HOMES, LLC is working with long-time area developer Curt Brink to bring to life an exciting new condo project in Stoughton's redevelopment district along the Yahara River and just a short walk from downtown Stoughton.

The Stoughton Riverfront Condominiums look to help ease the housing demand and will become one of the first of many steps planned to kick off the revitalization of this part of the community.

It is no secret that there has been a growing housing shortage across Dane County and beyond. Population growth has been exceeding estimates at the same time housing availability has declined to record lows. Stoughton is no exception. This project will provide much-needed inventory with the potential to deliver additional phases in the future.

Phase I will consist of 78 units total between two buildings. The buildings will be aptly named "The Blacksmith" and "The Sawmill," which are a nod to the site's industrial roots dating back to the 1800s.

The well-planned design in a stunning, modern take on the former buildings, showcasing their architectural silhouettes. They will be made of solid construction by a very reputable local builder using quality materials and craftsmanship. The units will be a mix of one, two and three bedrooms, including some 2.5-bed units and will have underground parking.

Aside from providing housing relief, the future condo owners intend to make a real impact on the local economy as well. With 78 units comes along with their family members, roommates and visitors that translates a lot of walks to local restaurants, taking in shows at the nearby Stoughton Opera House and many visits to all of the unique shops, galleries and abundance of activities that Stoughton brings to the table.

Small businesses will undoubtedly feel the beneficial impact.

We decided to take the creative step of canvassing buyers interested to demonstrate to lenders that there is enough demand for this project. We have already received some good interest and feedback but the more interest that is shown, the better our chances are of bringing this project to fruition.

If you are someone who would consider a unit in this lovely new development, please use the QR code or go to stoughtonriverfrontcondos.com to visit the website, check out all of the details and most importantly, take the survey that lets us know you're interested as soon as possible since we are nearing the end of our canvassing efforts. Providing contact information is optional and any that we receive will be protected.

Please feel free to share the link with someone you know that might be interested as well. If the interest is sufficient, we might all look forward to some much-needed housing and a vibrant kick start to the redevelopment district and local economy, a win-win.

We're very proud of this project and know that it will be a wonderful new addition to the area, while thoughtfully preserving a bit of the rich history that helps make Stoughton, Stoughton!

Erin Prokaski is a Broker-Associate at 360 Homes, LLC

Best Opinions Pages, First Place (Division E)
The Stoughton Courier Hub

Mickey Schommer, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Honorable Mention: Adam Krebs, Sarah Sabatke, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Best Special Section (Editorial)

Daily Division

First Place: Gazette Staff, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Judge's Comments: Nice selection of stories. This is the kind of publication readers will want to read.

Second Place: Elizabeth Snyder, *Kenosha News*, Kenosha
Judge's Comments: Great eye-catching cover! Well organized, easy to navigate through.

Third Place: Matt Milner, Angela Reidess, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire

Judge's Comments: Timely topic



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

used as a jumping point for the publication. Well done response to a community concern.

Honorable Mention: Beloit Daily News Staff, *Beloit Daily News*, Beloit
Judge's Comments: Good topics, well organized.

Division C

First Place: Nate Beier, Zach Rastall, Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

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

Third Place: Debra Fitzgerald, Katie Hohmann, & Peninsula Pulse Staff, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor



Best Special Section (Editorial), First Place (Division C)
Monroe County Herald, Sparta

Honorable Mention: Debra Fitzgerald, Katie Hohmann, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Division D

First Place: Pierce County Journal staff, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth

Second Place: Brian Thomsen, Todd Bergmann, Mary Thomsen, Gregg Novachek, *The Valders Journal*, Valders

Third Place: Staff, *Tri-County News*, Kiel

Honorable Mention: Ruth Erickson, Travis Nyhus, Michelle Jensen, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Division E

First Place: Nate Beier, Zach Rastall, Logan Everson, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro

Second Place: Casey Lindecrantz, Alexis Lucey, Adam Ploessl, Adam Krebs, *Republican Journal*, Darlington

Third Place: Milton Courier Staff, *Milton Courier*, Milton
Honorable Mention: Bill Thornley, Janis Redman, Regan Kohler, Michelle Carlson, *Spooner Advocate*, Spooner

Best Headlines

Daily Division

First Place: Staff, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls
Judge's Comments: Excellent wordplay in all submissions. Really thought the "I abandoned my car for Kamala" headline was the best of the whole competition.

Second Place: Lindsay Christians, Chris Murphy, Rob Thomas, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Great work here! The Wienermobile and Willie Nelson headlines were super clever.

Third Place: Matt Milner, Aidan Sanfelippo, Eric Lindquist, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire

Judge's Comments: Nice job! Love the alliteration in the porta-potty story headline.

Honorable Mention: Staff, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Division C

First Place: Trevor Greene, Dean Hall, Richard Moore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Second Place: Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Third Place: Mitch Maersch, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington

Honorable Mention: Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*, Ladysmith

Division D

First Place: Staff, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Overall the best of the best.

Second Place: Dave Boehler, *The Review*, Plymouth

Judge's Comments: This was a tough decision between first and second place. I have a feeling next year it may switch.

Third Place: Jim Bell, *Barron News-Shield*, Barron

Judge's Comments: Loved that this publication didn't use all of their top headlines as the submissions.

Honorable Mention: Adam Krebs, Sarah Sabatke, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: Great headlines, but could have been more impactful with a simpler visual look.

Division E

First Place: Brad Allen, Scott De Laruelle, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*, Stoughton

Judge's Comments: Can't be better than the selection here. Short yet fun, informational yet sassy. It's no wonder they've won awards!

Second Place: Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro

Judge's Comments: Sports! They should always have great headlines as it is one of the few areas of journalism that doesn't have to keep on its sometimes stuffy wrappings.

Third Place: Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Judge's Comments: Well on their way to a first place finish. These are great examples of headlines and stories I'll be sharing with my own staff.

Editorial Award

Daily Division

First Place: Karyn Saemann, *The*

Gazette, Janesville

Judge's Comments: Many newspapers can create compelling editorials based on national headlines, relying on the zeitgeist to help contextualize their points. Few newspapers can use the same amount of space to write compelling editorials that explain local issues just as well. The Gazette Editorial Board is setting the bar, and high.

Second Place: John Nichols, Dave Zweifel, Steven Elbow, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Bright, approachable language and a quick cadence makes these editorials compelling. Readers will head into any dinner party feeling like they understand a topic better -- and as though they're empowered to have an opinion on it.

Third Place: Matt Milner, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire

Judge's Comments: These editorials get directly to the point, and make good use of a small space. Approachable language and

clear opinions on local topics—all tenets of a strong editorial team.

Honorable Mention: Scott Milfred, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Strong editorials that become stronger the more local they get, such as the piece "Tailgate the state spelling bee."

Division C

First Place: Bill Schanen III, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington

Judge's Comments: Compelling editorials with a local focus.

Second Place: Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*, Ladysmith

Judge's Comments: Strong arguments backed by details.

Third Place: Patrick Wood, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Liked the pieces ... maybe include more characters or anecdotes.

Honorable Mention: Richard Moore, Gregg Walker, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division D

First Place: Steve Prestegard, *The Platteville Journal*, Platteville

Judge's Comments: Great use of an editorial to educate the public about what really matters. Good work.

Second Place: Bob Zientara, *Barron News-Shield*, Barron

Judge's Comments: Well stated opinion about an important issue in the community.

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

Division E

First Place: Brian Wilson, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell

Judge's Comments: Great editorial explaining the reasoning for an

'Hole' lot of fun

Library hosts mini golf event for families



Best Headlines, First Place (Division E)
The Stoughton Curior Hub

- Editorial -

Stop postage rate increases from punishing newspapers

By Editorial Board

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy doesn't want you to read this.

He would just as soon you not have access to news that directly impacts your life and livelihood at all. Through his continued actions in setting national post office policies and imposing punitive rate increases on newspapers, DeJoy is single-handedly working to drive community newspapers out of business, in order to achieve the political goal of silencing local news and local voices.

According to a Northwestern University report, the United States, is losing newspapers at a rate of two, per week, through closure or merger. Since 2005, the country has lost more than one-fourth of its newspapers, and is on track to lose a third of all newspapers by 2025.

In fairness, there are a number of demographic, technological and economic factors at play that have contributed to the decline in the number of newspapers over that time period. However, DeJoy's tenure has seen those processes accelerated by policy decisions that reduce timely delivery, undermine the economic health of community newspapers, and force

newspapers into a spiral of reduced staff and increased costs to consumers.

Last week, the USPS announced a 7.3 percent increase in rates for the "within county" mailing rate for newspapers. The new rates are scheduled to begin in January. By comparison, the USPS is only proposing a 1.9 percent rate increase for other types of direct advertising mailings and first class mail.

The justification for the rate the USPS gives, is that the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) now requires the USPS to share more of the savings created when publishers do some of the work that postal workers would otherwise have to do, such as presorting the mail and transporting it to destination post offices. Traditionally, the USPS has given a token discount for those savings, but because the PRC is pushing the postal system to be more generous in sharing the savings, the USPS is simply raising the basic rate, so it can show a more acceptable discount.

Since the founding of this country, community newspapers have relied on the USPS for the distribution of newspapers to subscribers. It is no accident that Ben Franklin, a newspaper publisher, was the first postmaster general

of the fledgling United States.

In recent years, under the leadership of DeJoy, the focus has been for the postal service to chase after the package and parcel business under DeJoy's "Delivering for America" plan. The plan allows for twice-yearly postage increases, which allows the USPS to raise rates to the fullest extent allowed above inflation.

Here in rural America, newspapers and subscribers rely on the postal service for timely distribution. Other options would only raise costs even higher or see greatly diminished service.

It is time to stop DeJoy from using the power to set postage rates to pick economic winners and losers, and to halt his punitive attacks on community newspapers.

Contact Congressman Tom Tiffany, and U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, and demand they take action to keep rate increases fair to all, reasonable in regard to inflation and only when necessary.

Members of the *Courier Sentinel* editorial board include publisher Carol O'Leary, general manager Kris O'Leary and *Star News* editor Brian Wilson.

Best Special Section (Editorial), First Place (Division E)
Courior Sentinel, Cornell

increase in the cost of the local newspaper.

Second Place: Tim Lyke, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon

Judge's Comments: Tough to make this the second place winner in a crowded category of worthy submissions. Praise of local citizens who do unheralded work is critical to the fabric of any great newspaper. Good work!

Third Place: Barb Puckett, *Muscoda Progressive*, Muscoda

Community Engagement Award

Daily Division

First Place: Staff, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judges Comments: I love the variety of these projects, the different groups served, free and charged opportunities. It seems like a good cross-section of readers could be engaged and involved. The election guide is always a good idea, and hard work, but so few do it anymore. The Power Hour is a nice mix way to educate and get involved at the same time. Love the idea fest especially if it is locally sourced and productive for the community. A lot of creative work here.

Second Place: Staff, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Whenever readers feel they are being heard and appreciated, you have a winner. It is wonderful to have this kind of partnership. If people need something from their newspaper,

they can ask for it instead of being bothered by "the press". This is a great way to help readers see the workings of a story, an idea, or a problem through professional eyes and words. The Focus group is another one of the time-honored ideas that gets downplayed. It is essential to invite and hear those voices. It is worth it for awareness and building respect. Thanks

Weekly Division

First Place: Debra Fitzgerald, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Judge's Comments: Both "sides" were winners here, the press for proving its care and consideration of the community and the community being assured it was getting accurate, impactful information. That's what the press is all about, the freedom of thoughtful, reported information.

The idea of engaging a worthy, time-honored organization, and providing coverage for so many counties through this partnership. Brilliant. Everyone got an education here, too, from the newspaper working with citizens, the citizen observers working with the press, and the community getting information that might not otherwise have been or could have been obtained.

Second Place: Kenton Troutman, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek
Judge's Comments: Any effort to show that the press is here to present factual, objective and helpful information is a fine way of engaging and educating readers.

This reporting went above and beyond in its duty to bring these issues to the forefront and give readers the opportunity to engage as well. Keep it up. Issues big and small

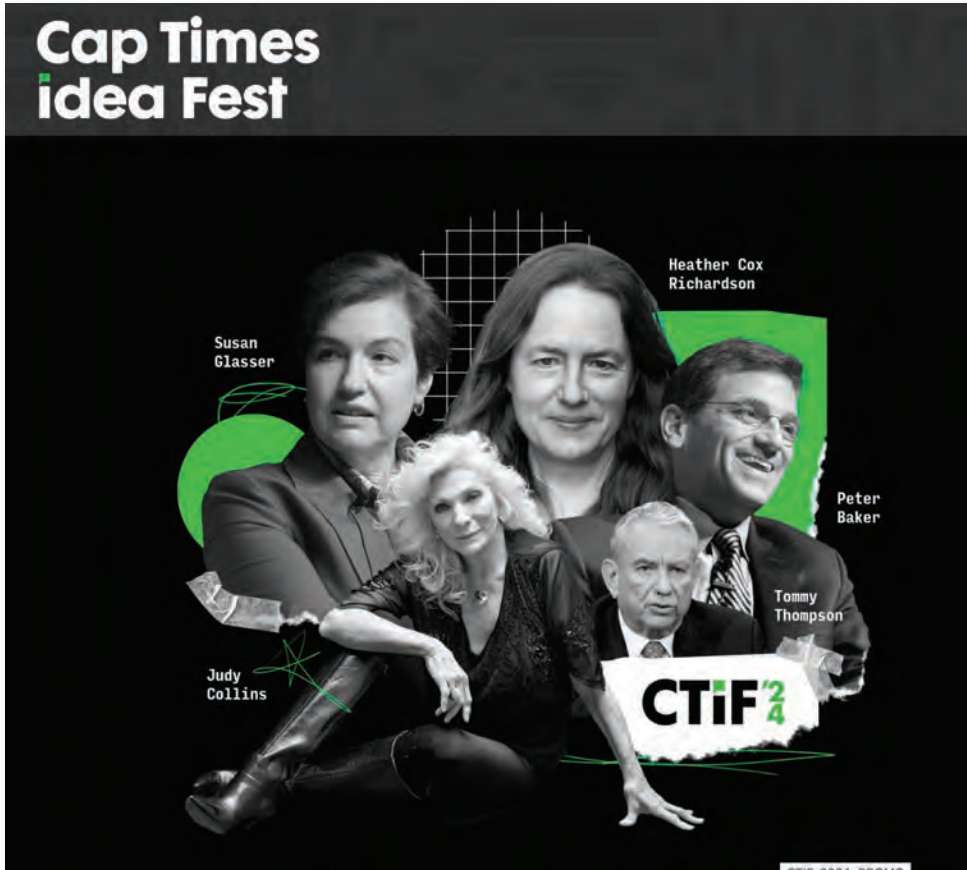
are all big in small communities and ways to show the professionalism and need for the press.

Third Place: Angie Griepentrog, *The Freedom Pursuit*, Freedom

Open Records/FOI Award

Overall Divisions

First Place: Kevin Boneske, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Judge's Comments: Reporter Boneske's account is an interesting and inspiring procedural manual on wrangling documents that city officials tried to withhold from the public and, by doing so, foolishly elevated a relatively non-eventful review of an apparently unliked municipal administrator into proof that government officials are willing to hide information from the public.
Second Place: Alex Garner, *The*



Community Engagement Award, First Place (Daily Division)
The Cap Times, Madison



Open Records/FOI Award, First Place (Overall)
Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor

Sheboygan Press, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: This clearly sourced account of a civil case was written from complaints filed by the opposing parties. It is a lucid chronicle based on public documents freely obtained, as there is no indication of anyone trying to hide anything. This story, therefore, also seems suited to the general news category, not just the one in which the linchpin is rooting out documents not readily available.

All-Around Newspaper Photography

Weekly Division

First Place: Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*, Cashton



All-Around Newspaper Photography, First Place
 (Weekly Division)
Cashton Record

Judge's Comments: Just very stunning and high quality imagery. Impressive! You are very talented!

Second Place: Staff, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Visually appealing and high quality and candid shots that are interesting not just the typical posed news shots.

Third Place: Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Very good stuff! Visually appealing and colorful.

Honorable Mention: Shane Fitzsimmons, Press Times Staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Nice work.

General News Story

Division A

First Place: Andrew Bahl, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: The reporter found people most affected by the F-35 fighter jets to tell the story of

what noise pollution at the airport could mean. The reporting was thorough, with solid backgrounding and context.

Second Place: Natalie Eilbert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Powerful writing at the top sets the scene for the Hello Girls. The provides both the human and historical angles in a well-written piece.

Third Place: Anna Hansen, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Honorable Mention: Lucas Robinson, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Division B

First Place: Justin Marville, *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: At first blush, the casual reader might think this is a sports story; it's not. It's a business story — and it's exceptionally well-structured. The first few graphs spell out the problem and by the fifth graph you get the underscore: The

owners of the arena have filed for bankruptcy "while facing litigation." The details that follow simply flesh out the "rest of the story." Sports story? Not at all. Great work.

Second Place: Karen Madden, *Daily Tribune*, Wisconsin Rapids
 Judge's Comments: This is how to start a story: in the first five graphs you get the people, the problem, the context and the resolution — and then the "rest of the story." Had me hooked. And for this same reporter to have been there at the beginning and at the end is a rarity indeed. Congratulations.

Third Place: Dan Kitkowski, *EagleHerald*, Marinette

Judge's Comments: This is a classic news lede: all the facts in the first graph, including insight into the officer ("once trusted and respected sheriff's deputy and school resource officer"). I would've moved info about the sentencing date and potential penalty to the third graph.
Honorable Mention: Dan Kitkowski, *EagleHerald*, Marinette

State judicial ethics panel rarely acts on complaints

Winnebago misconduct claims from 2023 pending

By Bethanie Gengler
 OSHKOSH HERALD

When an attorney put a "LaKeisha Haase for Judge" campaign sign on his land in Omro last year, newly re-elected Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt allegedly threatened to retaliate for supporting Woldt's opponent, according to a complaint to the Wisconsin Judicial Ethics Commission (WJC).

Woldt was appointed to the Branch 2 bench in 2004 and subsequently elected to six-year terms in 2005, 2011, 2017 and most recently defeating Haase to retain

dismiss with expression of concern or warning, or file a complaint with the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court uses civil procedure to evaluate judicial misconduct and issue a final decision. Sanctions include reprimand, censure, suspension and removal from office.

A judicial misconduct suspension is uncommon, with only 15 judges suspended in the state in the past 45 years. Woldt is the only judge in Wisconsin suspended in the past three years.

Past misconduct

The Supreme Court sanctioned Woldt in 2021 for crude, sarcastic and undignified comments, intemperate remarks and twice displaying a handgun in the courtroom as a "prop."

Among the incidents: calling a 13-year-old sexual assault survivor a "so-called victim," while referring to her assailant as

two weeks later during a social event at an Oshkosh establishment and was witnessed by two other attorneys, including one who confirmed to media she was first accosted by Woldt before he accosted Goldin.

Goldin wrote that during the event Woldt pulled him over and said the attorney was "dead to him" for putting a Haase campaign sign on his property and threatened to use his judicial power to punish the attorney, his clients and practice "for some sort of perceived entitlement to loyalty" unless Goldin paid him \$28,000 for the contested election.

Campaign finance records show Woldt's re-election committee dispersed \$27,218 in last year's spring election. Under Wisconsin law, a judicial candidate may not personally solicit or accept campaign contributions and judges are prohibited from accepting gifts, favors or loans from attorneys if they have come or are likely to

tra-judicial activity, improper political or campaign activity and misuse of prestige of judicial office, among others.

WJC concluded its eight investigations last year without filing any complaints with the Supreme Court. Two cases were dismissed with no action and six were dismissed with expression of concern or warning.

While it's uncertain whether the complaint against Woldt was one of those dismissed with concern or warning, his conduct matches some of the behavior that the commission wrote was exhibited by judicial officials who were the subjects of dismissal.

WJC dismissed, with concern or warning, complaints including improper courtroom demeanor, bias, improper campaign activity and improper political activity.

Over the past five years, about 1% of the 4,211 initial misconduct inquiries WJC received were authorized for investiga-



Woldt

General News Story, First Place (Division C)
Oshkosh Herald

Judge's Comments: It wasn't the cleanest lede, but by the time you get to the third graph, you get the emotion — which is a cornerstone of this piece. I'm going to assume you know your community well, since you didn't go into any details about the "rebound" until much later in the story. (The sixth graph only says: (Since that time "thanks to sweat and tears". Resolute Forest Products has been on a steady road to recovery.) The extensive quotes were great, albeit a bit exhausting; I might've summarized some of the factual stuff and concentrated on the human stuff. I also would have moved the section about "What caused the fire?" further up in the story. But this is ALL nitpicking. Great job about an important story in town.

Division C

First Place: Bethanie Gengler, *Oshkosh Herald*, Oshkosh
Judge's Comments: Bethanie Gengler offers a riveting report on what happened when a complaint about a Winnebago Circuit judge was filed, and of the judge's past alleged misconduct. After reading this report, one must ask: How could voters possibly keep this judge in office? Excellent reporting! Story didn't get front page placement but deserved it
Second Place: Christina Luick, *News Graphic*, Cedarburg
Judge's Comments: It's not uncommon for volunteers to complain of poor conditions at animal sanctuaries and shelter, but clearly the problems at this farm in Cedarburg were atrocious. Luick describes a heart-wrenching situation with excellent context and sourcing.

Third Place: Bethanie Gengler, *Neenah News*, Neenah
Judge's Comments: This excellent in-depth report graphically describes the abuse of victims of domestic violence, and how those victims, under pressure from their partners, often recant their allegations. Readers benefit from knowing this pattern, and the trouble it causes victims and prosecutors.
Honorable Mention: Myles Dannhausen Jr., *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Judge's Comments: Alcohol consumption and sales have long been an obsessive issue in Wisconsin. Reporter Dannhausen does a great job explaining the complexities of the state's new alcohol sales regulations, and what they mean Door County. Great insights from local sources.

Division D

First Place: Maria Lockwood, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
Judge's Comments: A really strong story about an incredibly difficult topic. You did a good job of getting sources to open up
Second Place: Ian Johanson, *The Review*, Plymouth
Judge's Comments: Well done. You did a great job of taking a regular court story and turning it into something that was easy to read and made the people involved feel very real.
Third Place: Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
Judge's Comments: The reporter did a nice job digging into a difficult topic. They included many perspectives, which was important for readers to come to a well-informed opinion
Honorable Mention: Tom

LaVenture, Price County Review, Phillips
Judge's Comments: I enjoyed this story a lot. It was well-constructed and made me want to read more about the topic. Nicely done!

Division E

First Place: Kevin Dittman, *Oconto County Reporter*, Appleton
Judge's Comments: This story had my undivided attention from start to finish. It was well-written and flowed very nicely. It explained a variance process without being boring . .

.which I know from experience is not easy! With this kind of story it can be all too easy to take a side and ether pull at the emotions of hold someone up for seeking forgiveness rather than permission. The reporter did outstanding work in gathering information and telling both sides of the story. Great job!
Second Place: Roger Mathews, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon
Judge's Comments: This is a very nicely done tribute to a community member. There's lots of great information and it flowed well.



A personal memorial waterfall, dubbed Trisha Ruth Falls, created at a cottage owned by David and Lori Magnin in Townsend along Reservoir Pond, has been ordered to be removed by Nov. 3. The waterfall honors their daughter and sister, who died in 2021. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Family told to knock down their memorial waterfall

Project created in 2021 honors sister/daughter who died unexpectedly

Kevin Dittman
 Oconto County Reporter
 USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

TOWNSEND - A personal memorial waterfall created two years ago to ease a period of grief could be near its end.

The project, which a family dubbed Trisha Ruth Falls, pumps water from Reservoir Pond, and flows it back down over a series of rocks along the shoreline



Collin Magnin, left, presents his parents, Lori and David Magnin, a sign that will mark Trisha Ruth Falls on a memorial waterfalls project they built,

ning, Zoning and Solid Waste Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources notified the Magnins in July that it would have to be removed by Nov. 3 due to its not being in compliance with regulations. One issue the county has is a 75-foot shoreline setback requirement.

"When we started this process, I really thought that they would come and ask to inspect it and say, like, all right, this project is not gonna work, but we can modify it in this way or we could modify it in that in that way," Collin said. "I was really surprised and taken off guard with how black and white

General News Story, First Place (Division E)
Oconto County Reporter, Appleton

These stories can be hard to organize when someone has a multi-faceted life but the reporter handled this story well. I really liked the use of quotes. Organization is strong. Fine work!
Third Place: Valorie Brecht, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford
 Judge's Comments: I really liked the lead! I really like how the story is told, of the quest for funding and the various setbacks along the way. The story flowed well and was fun to read. Readers have no idea how many hoops these kinds of projects' planners must jump through.

Do watch run-on sentences. I also liked that you explained the need for more than one groundbreaking photo. Good work!

Honorable Mention: Anne Trautner, *Kewaskum Statesman*, Kewaskum

Judge's Comments: This is a very nicely done story. I liked the organization the use of quotes and how the story flowed. This was fun to read and really brought the event alive for the readers. Pictures added a lot.

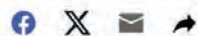
Waste not, want not: Joannes Park's community fridge feeds those in need, reduces waste



Natalie Eilbert

Green Bay Press-Gazette

Published 4:55 a.m. CT Nov. 21, 2023



Alyssa Proffitt, former co-president of the Joannes Park Neighborhood Association, restocks the community fridge on Oct. 17 outside the Green Bay Community Police Center in Joannes Park, 315 S. Baird St. in Green Bay. Sarah Kloepping/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

GREEN BAY - On a stroll in downtown Charlotte, North Carolina, for a leadership conference, the last thing Alyssa Proffitt thought she'd see on the streets was a mini-fridge.

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

Feature Story (Non-profile)

Division A

First Place: Natalie Eilbert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: This has well-rounded reporting that is useful to readers while maintaining depth. It is an impactful look at a food desert/insecurity, it tells how a local community fridge was created and is helping people. Great context, photos and graphic visualization of the issue. It also directly draws conclusions based on how people without vehicles are impacted. It does a great job of showing the layers of hunger issues/intersectionality as well as the other entities involved, food waste and teamwork. Another perfect touch was the contagious element and how it inspired other areas to look into similar approaches.

Second Place: Kelli Arseneau, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Third Place: Natalie Yahr, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Honorable Mention: Samara Kalk, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Division B

First Place: Daniel Spatchek, *Antigo Daily Journal*, Antigo

Second Place: Isabella Kostolni, *The Freeman*, Waukesha

Third Place: Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc

Division C

First Place: Colleen Kottke, *Wisconsin State Farmer*, Waupaca

Second Place: Brian Jopek, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Third Place: Bethanie Gengler, *Neenah News*, Neenah

Honorable Mention: Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Division D

First Place: Christopher Clough, *Door County Advocate*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: WOW! Loved this story. Great balance of quotes and narrative which really paints a picture of how AI gets integrated where we least expect! Your other two entries also were excellent, but this seems to be quite timely as we all adjust to a new AI reality. Nicely done!

Second Place: Sarah Sabatke, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: This was a wonderful, well-written story. Clearly a lot of research went into it and a ton of interviews. Excellent reporting!

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

Judge's Comments: This was a sweet story! You did a wonderful job with balancing quotes and building your narrative. Well written and fun to read.

Honorable Mention: Joe Hart, *The Boscobel Dial*, Boscobel

Judge's Comments: What a great story! I enjoyed reading about something that has so much impact on our young people. Solid reporting and great balance of quotes and narrative.

Division E

First Place: Angie Griepentrog, *The Freedom Pursuit*, Freedom

Second Place: Kevin Dittman, Oconto County Reporter, Appleton
Third Place: Cari Cornelius, Sun-Argus, Spring Valley

Honorable Mention: Regan Kohler, *Spooner Advocate*, Spooner

Feature Story (Profile)

Division A

First Place: Nicholas Garton, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: The lede and story focus is powerful without being over-dramatized.

Second Place: Kendra Meinert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
Judge's Comments: "It's America." The writer conveys it.

Third Place: L.A. Sklba, *The Journal Times*, Racine

Judge's Comments: Good presentation and explanations on a nonobvious topic.

Division B

First Place: Terri Pederson, *Daily*

Citizen, Beaver Dam
Judge's Comments: A spare telling, but it works. I very much wanted to read this story again.

Second Place: Karen Pilarski, *The Freeman*, Waukesha

Judge's Comments: Excellent lede, well-done throughout.

Third Place: Caitlin Shuda, *Wausau Daily Herald*, Wausau

Judge's Comments: Nuclear energy focus was important and covered well ... but maybe more on Wausau connections, personality influences.

Honorable Mention: Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc
Judge's Comments: An effective, moving story.

Division C

First Place: Patti Lee, *Neenah News*, Neenah

Judge's Comments: Beautifully

written, good lead, the copy was clean and clear. The quotes and stories are evocative and well told, but what makes this the winner is that when I finished reading, I felt like I had really met this elder through the profile.

Second Place: Brian Jopek, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: This was a really interesting profile, what a character and what a story. I wanted to follow it through each jump, which is a sign of a good story. Well written and told, and the layout with the other veteran's profile was nice as well.

Third Place: Colleen Kottke, *Wisconsin State Farmer*, Waupaca
Judge's Comments: Really lovely memorial profile, an emotional story told sensitively. The photos and layout were well done also, easy to read and fit smoothly with the story.

Division D

First Place: Ruth Erickson, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Judge's Comments: Excellent Piece. I feared it was going to be

"inspiration porn". It wasn't. The best informational quotes. Brava!

Second Place: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: Extremely rich piece. I loved reading about these women and their accomplishments. Super writing.

Third Place: Eric Johnson, *Lake Geneva Regional News*, Lake Geneva

Judge's Comments: Fun to read. Extremely well-done. Bravo!!!

Honorable Mention: Kevin O'Brien, *The Record-Review*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: Everything you ever wanted to know about bees and didn't know. Fascinatingly informative. Great job.

Division E

First Place: Charley Preusser, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: Stories like "Bohlen" help pass the mantle of community care from generation to generation. The way this delightful feature is structured keeps the reader



Madison's 'Officer Vic' gives kids a respite from trauma, worries

By Nicholas Garton
Feb 21, 2024
9 min to read



Walking home in the snowy dark, the kids' minds are full of the fantasy what-ifs of childhood.

What if a shooter shows up and starts shooting? What would we do to get away?

Feature Story (Profile), First Place (Division A)
The Cap Times, Madison

PRIME OF LIFE SECTION B JULY 2024 Bohlen at the center of it all

BY CHARLEY PREUSSER
Communities are usually held together by individuals with a deep commitment to their neighbors. These people go above and beyond what others routinely do to support the community. They play a big role in creating the sense of shared values.

There are many people like this in Seneca, but at the center of it all is an 88-year-old woman named Ica Bohlen. Everybody knows Ica. And, everybody knows how to say her name—it's pronounced 'i-sah.'

Take Tyler Aspenson, the construction contractor, who is the Chief of the Seneca Fire Department and a former Seneca School Board member.



said jokingly.

"We all work for lady when I was go-

memories of eating current school board

the school lunches. member, also remem-

bered to the Seneca Schools from which she graduated in 1954. She returned to work in the school for 30 years in a variety of positions. Besides being the consummate school lunch lady, Ica worked as teacher's aide and a custodian, among other things. After 30 years, she returned to the school and worked two years as a half-time volunteer teacher's aide.

Alex Osterkamp, a relatively new school principal in Seneca, has quickly learned about the importance Ica plays in the community and at the school.

"Ica is a wonderful person," Osterkamp said. "She's great for the community and supports the school

Feature Story (Profile), First Place (Division E)
Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout

engaged all the way through, even if they've never met Miss Ica. And by the end, they'll feel as though they have.

Second Place: Roger Mathews, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon
Judge's Comments: At a time when so many news stories are about the things that divide us, this timely profile of a local physician who goes out of her way to solve problems and serve her community was a refreshing and well-written read.

Third Place: Ginna Young, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell

Judge's Comments: An unexpectedly rich look at a community, an annual shared event, and two people trying to make life a little more enjoyable for others...in an unusually short piece. It's not easy to fit a feature story into the inches allotted for a brief, but this writer pulls it off.

Honorable Mention: Anne Trautner, *Kewaskum Statesman*, Kewaskum

Judge's Comments: Riveting story, made relevant through a connection with COVID-19.

Localized National Story

Division A

First Place: Jelissa Burns, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Judge's Comments:

As personal budgets tighten, so does altruism. People shift focus to their own welfare. Using sourced statistics and perspectives, the reporter wrote a convincing series about inflation's cost to both individuals and society. Reading her grocery list in the third and final story made me licking my lips, especially for Cheez-Its. Gumshoe reporting rarely fails.

Second Place: Jeff Bollier, Genevieve Redsten, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
Judge's Comments: Reporter Bollier made the often confusing and boring topic of real estate compelling. For that alone he deserved something. For doing it well, he earns my vote for a first-place award. Chopping the stories into subsections made it easier to comprehend and categorize what can often be a stultifying topic.

Third Place: Andrew Bahl, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Reporter obtained local sources to put faces to national labor statistics and proposed federal policies.

Honorable Mention: Gazette Staff, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Judge's Comments: A trio of valid, undramatic and sensationalized previews of the Milwaukee convention provide perspective, review the issues and, in the last of the stories, insight into what it takes to maintain law and order and such events. An unsentimental honorable mention edged out a competitor's retrospective of the civil rights movement.

Division B

First Place: Audrey Korte, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls
Judge's Comments: What an interesting set of reads! The first article gives readers a window into the inspirations and lengths political supporters will go. It could have easily been coverage of a presidential visit as an event. Instead, we quite literally get to go on a walk with some of them in one article as they leave their vehicles behind to make it in time. The other supporting articles also give depth and voice to

Series: Seclusion and restraint

Area district improves behavior with non-violent methods

By JOE HART

This story is second in a series about the use of physical behavior-control methods on school children. Your feedback is welcomed at dialeditor@boscobeldial.net

On a recent Thursday afternoon, Skyler Reynolds squatted in a hallway at Bluff View Intermediate School in Prairie du Chien.

incidents in Wisconsin public schools.

Educators define "seclusion" as forcing a child into isolation against his or her will; "restraint" is when staff physically detain a student.

Seclusion is being broadly phased out—it's ineffective, traumatizing, and actually worsens behavior problems instead of solving them. The U.S.

Localized National Story, First Place (Division D)

The Boscobel Dial

residents out supporting presidential candidates.

Second Place: Daphne Lemke, *The Reporter*, Fond du Lac

Third Place: Patti Zarling, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Division C

First Place: John Mielke, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: This piece demonstrates a wonderful understanding of how a localized national story can provide local readers with a better grasp of how national stories do have an impact on the local scene. The reporter clearly spent time with interviews and research. Excellent piece!

Second Place: Tori Wittenbrock, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: I don't usually consider "sports" a place where I see

a localized story but this piece was exceptional. I'm not a big football fan, but the story was intriguing and kept my interest.

Third Place: Patti Lee, *Oshkosh Herald*, Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: What communities do for Earth Day and beyond as the next generations deal with climate change are important areas of coverage for local papers. It's in the local paper that people really are motivated to care about their communities. This was well written. Great job!

Honorable Mention: Bethanie Gengler, *Neenah News*, Neenah
Judge's Comments: Great work! I think this likely helped a lot of older folks be more attentive to possible scams as well as providing them with information on preventing themselves from becoming victims. The use of the Victims rights law

was well researched and explained.

Division D

First Place: Joe Hart, *The Boscobel Dial*, Boscobel

Judge's Comments: Note: I considered these two stories by Joe Hart together as one entry of up to 3 stories on a topic:

Area district improves behavior with non-violent methods

Some area schools report high numbers of forcible methods

An important issue to localize, with good writing and structure.

I really appreciated the reporting digging into specifics of restraint and seclusion at local schools and asking them to be accountable.

This series is very impressive. Some editing errors, but the reporting is top quality and the issue is vitally important to the community.

Second Place: Tom Stangl, Justin Runberg, *Amery Free Press*, Amery

Judge's Comments: This was thorough, informative reporting localizing and humanizing what could have been a very dry national issue of pharmacy benefits and putting it in context in the community. It's so rare to get a medical business to agree to discuss a problem like this, and this should serve as a model for other local reporters. The only critique I would offer is that there are a few places where quoting from the FTC report gets pretty dry itself; some judicious paraphrasing might have read more smoothly.

Third Place: Ruth Erickson, Michelle Jensen, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Judge's Comments: Good follow-through on this set of stories on a local pastor trapped in Haiti, with a really interesting account of his time there, and a great look into the Haiti conflict through local eyes. This kind of reporting does so much

to explain and humanize what could otherwise be a faraway international news story.

Honorable Mention: Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
 Judge's Comments: The set of stories — preview, main story, and follow-up — on President Biden visiting Superior and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was well executed. The writing was good, and the retrospective of local people's experiences with his visit was a nice ending to the coverage. Some editing flaws and at times the structure seemed unfocused.

focus without having to endure a tragedy locally.

Third Place: Jordan Derrick, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills
 Judge's Comments: Captured the mood without an overuse of quotes. Could've used a bit more detail at the end.

Honorable Mention: Roger Mathews, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon
 Judge's Comments: Good examples of a local connection to a national story, and it provided several ways to help

Division E

First Place: Nicolette Nauman, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro

Judge's Comments: A clear, first-hand accounting that provides background knowledge on a complex international subject of historical weight.

Second Place: Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: A concise story that brings school shootings into

Sports News Story

Division A

First Place: Nile McNair, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Effectively told. Good quotes throughout.

Second Place: Tim Seeman, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Judge's Comments: Excellent lede on the main piece. Smooth transitions.

Third Place: Mark McMullen, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Thorough coverage.

Food prices continue to climb, so donations spread thin

Jelissa Burns
 Appleton Post-Crescent
 USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

The cost of groceries has been a major topic over the last few years as, during the pandemic, shoppers began to notice they were spending more money and buying fewer items.

Last July, The Post-Crescent explored the cost of inflation in Wisconsin grocery stores, trying to determine just how much prices had increased.

Using a grocery list made up of every day necessities, we visited a series of stores and compared the overall cost of the store brand groceries to name brand groceries.

Our full grocery list includes: half a gallon of almond milk, a loaf of whole wheat bread, one pound of bacon, one pound of bananas, one pound of 80/20 ground beef, a four-pack of butter, standard box of Cheerios, standard box of Cheez-Its, a dozen eggs, a five pound bag of flour, canned green beans, 18 ounces of strawberry jam, 18 ounces of peanut butter, a head of iceberg lettuce, a gallon of milk, individual naval oranges, a two-pack of paper towels, a six-pack of toilet paper and a standard box of Triscuits.

At the time of the article, we found



People visit the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. In 2023, food pantries across Wisconsin reported they were seeing lower-stocked shelves, with grocery inflation playing a major roll in the shortages.

some of the highest priced items included eggs, butter and ground beef.

Over a year later, we're exploring whether grocery store prices have changed and how that relates to food relief programs, as part of coverage related to our annual Stock the Shelves fundraising campaign.

The campaign, which runs during October, is a partnership between USA

TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin and Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. It aims to raise enough funds from readers and the community to support 750,000 meals for those in need. For more information on how to donate, there are details at the end of this article.

See GROCERIES, Page 5A

'CHICKEN FRIED' GOLD BALL

■ Cedar Grove-Belgium's undefeated girls' soccer team wins state title, makes school history

By MITCH MAERSCH
 Ozauxee Press staff

It wasn't going to happen again. The Cedar Grove-Belgium High School girls' soccer team refused to let home what has become that dreaded silver ball for a fourth time.

This time, the Rockets conquered their demons and the Prairie School in convincing fashion, winning the Division 4 championship, 5-1, on Saturday at Ublein Soccer Park in Milwaukee.

Star striker Cora Erickson scored three goals and had two assists, breaking the Division 4 two-game tournament record for goals and points and, more importantly, led the charge in securing the first girls' team championship in school history and an undefeated season. The gold ball comes home after the Rockets suffered heartbreaking title-game losses in 2018, 2021 and 2023.



Localized National Story, First Place (Division A)
The Post-Crescent, Appleton

Sports News Story (Non-profile), First Place (Division C)
Ozauxee Press, Port Washington

Honorable Mention: Scott Venci, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Good backgrounder, including salary information.

Division B

First Place: Matt Lehmann, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
 Judge's Comments: For all of his submissions, he makes the article engaging and interesting - even when I didn't really care about the sport!

Second Place: Matt Lehmann, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
Third Place: Matt Lehmann, *EagleHerald*, Marinette

Division C

First Place: Mitch Maersch, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
 Judge's Comments: The writing in the story held up to the brilliant headline. Great blend of play-by-play expected in a news story with comments from players to make a lively narrative.

Second Place: Zach Rastall, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta
 Judge's Comments: Nice combination of competition drama, statistics and background.

Third Place: Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Really liked the strong lead to take the readers into the action-packed story.

Division D

First Place: Reagan Hoverman, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
 Judge's Comments: I love sports writing that goes beyond the game to explore relationships, and this does exactly that. My favorite line: "Adding a few pounds of muscle

has been important, but the weight room represents far more than that. It's about the chemistry and camaraderie they've built through hard work, more than the actual free weights and iron plates scattered across the floor."

Second Place: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
 Judge's Comments: Nice job digging deep to talk to so many people that have been involved in the program over the years. Very thorough coverage.

Third Place: Reagan Hoverman, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
 Judge's Comments: Anyone can write about wins and losses, but it's much more fun to read about people, and this story goes beyond the score to explore the relationship between brothers who led a team to a championship.

Honorable Mention: Joe Peine, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth
 Judge's Comments: Good information here. I'm glad you got comments from opposing coaches who could speak to what they saw from the coach who was let go. I'm assuming you filed a FOIA for the letter and had a follow-up story on this?

Division E

First Place: Zach Rastall, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro
 Judge's Comments: When you read this sports story about the state volleyball championship comeback win you feel like you are at the Resch Center and part of the action. That is why this piece is awarded first place. Great photo work to support a good story too. Very good work.

Second Place: Nicolette Nauman, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro
 Judge's Comments: This is a very solid story about a special young

man who has made the most out of an unfortunate situation. Well written and a great story.

Third Place: Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Minocqua
 Judge's Comments: This story made the swim meet interesting. It is well worth the read. Good look at the team, the girls and a good job telling how they feel.

Honorable Mention: Mark Nesbitt, *The Oregon Observer*, Oregon

Judge's Comments: Girls wrestling is an up and coming sport and this story does a good job making us aware of that. A good read and a good look at the future of the sport.

Sports Feature Story

Division A



Wonewoc-Center cheers after sealing the five-set victory over Newman Catholic in the WIAA Division 4 state championship final on Saturday, November 4 at the Resch Center in Green Bay. HSE photo by Nate Boler/GX3 Media.

W-C reverse sweeps Newman Catholic to complete state title run

by ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

GREEN BAY — Having erased a two-set deficit for a second straight day on the state tournament stage, the Wonewoc-Center Wolves found themselves heading into an all-decisive fifth set with Newman Catholic to decide who would take home the state championship trophy.

You couldn't find yourself in a more stress inducing situation in high school volleyball than what the Wolves and the Fighting



Wonewoc-Center's bench lops in the air after Bryn Ertel blocks a Newman Catholic ball for a point in the third set in Saturday's championship match-up. HSE photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

STAT LEADERS

KILLS

34

Kelsey Justman

Justman cut her attacking errors in half from the day prior as the Wolves played through the D4 final.

Justman went 34-90 with just 11 mistakes to finish with an attack percentage of .256.

ASSISTS

52

Jaelyn Stowe

Stowe threw dimes in the fourth set as the offense landed a match-high 15 kills from efforts from the senior setter.

Stowe connected with Kelsey Justman for 8 kills and Bryn Ertel with 6. Stowe tallied six assists in the final set.

Sports News Story, First Place (Division E)
Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise

First Place: Ryan Wood, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Very well written, a clear winner

Second Place: Peter Jackel, *The Journal Times*, Racine

Judge's Comments: Nice feature.

Honorable Mention: Sean Davis, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Division B

First Place: Matt Lehmann, *EagleHerald*, Marinette

Judge's Comments: Love this story and honoring such a great guy who gave his time to help the community.

Second Place: Justin Marville, *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: Like the tie to the local community.

Third Place: Mark McMullen, *Daily Citizen*, Beaver Dam

Judge's Comments: This must have been hard to do - kudos to the athlete and the writer for getting him to share his story.

Division C

First Place: Audrey Schiek, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: What a great story and an equally great way of telling it. Not only well written but also written from the heart. An inspiring subject whose story was well told.

Second Place: Herb Gould, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: America needs baseball at the grass roots level and this writer brings that out perfectly. Just give me a place to play and a team to play on and I will be a happy person...that's the message

which was told well here. Play ball!!!

Third Place: Brett LaBore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Amateur boxing is hard as this story points out and it takes a very unique and committed group to make it work. This story goes deep into the world of amateur boxing and lets the reader know how difficult of a sport it is. Well worth the read.

Honorable Mention: Zach Rastall, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Judge's Comments: Lemons to lemonade type of story told very well. Nice to see a young person who refuses to give up be written about. Inspiring and very well written piece of sports writing.

Division D

First Place: Reagan Hoverman, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: This story puts

you in the office with the coach. You see what he sees, you feel what he feels — that's great writing.

Second Place: Benjamin Pierce, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall

Judge's Comments: What a story! Great job capturing the emotion of a young man playing in front of his father for the first time.

Third Place: Dave Boehler, *The Review*, Plymouth

Judge's Comments: Wow, sometimes the topic is just so compelling, and that's the case here. A teenage girl overcomes a heart attack and eventually a heart transplant — really puts things into perspective.

Honorable Mention: Dave Greschner, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Judge's Comments: There were 4-5 entries I considered for this spot but what really got me about this

was how the author did a great job highlighting the stresses of the athletic director position and how that all melted away as the subject retired and began a new career building fishing rods.

Division E

First Place: Jonathan Bailey, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon

Judge's Comments: A multifaceted story about a coach that takes readers to various aspects of life and sport.

Second Place: Neal Hogden, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: Took us onto the field, back in time and forward to retirement with an inspiring coach.

Third Place: Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: A unique view from the officiating team with engaging writing and solid reporting.

Landerman reflects on storied coaching career

By Jonathan Bailey
jbailey@ripypress.com

When Tracy Landerman was hired by the Ripon Area School District to be the new elementary and high school physical education teacher in June 1984, she knew that she would coach the entire time she was in the profession.

It turned out to be even longer.

Landerman retired from coaching volleyball after 39 years last fall, and continues to serve as an assistant coach for track and field. She stepped down from her teaching position following the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year.

"Coaching was definitely coming along for the ride with teaching," Landerman said. "My No. 1 priority was my teaching, but I knew I was going to coach, and I wanted to coach as much as I could."

Landerman was a three-sport athlete

basketball and track and field her first year as a teacher, the head coaching position opened for volleyball in 1985 as Kelm stepped down. Landerman pounced on the chance and never looked back.

She also spent time as the head girls' basketball coach and assistant track and field coach, but was allowed to coach only two sports during a school year as the school district wanted teaching to be the No. 1 focus.

While Landerman went on to spend the next four decades coaching volleyball, she got off to a rough start. Her teams finished near the bottom of the conference her first few seasons, which included going just 2-5 the first year.

"When I started, they were running a very different offense, and so we put in an entirely different offensive and defensive set," Landerman said. "The good thing that happened with that



TRACY LANDERMAN, LEFT, and her bench reach as the Tigers complete a come-from-behind win against Oconto Falls to advance to the state final match against River Valley in 1998. RCP file photo



Sports Feature Story, First Place (Division E)
Superior Telegram

Breaking News Reporting

Division A

First Place: Katie Garcia, Ryan Spoehr, Karyn Saemann, Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville
 Judge's Comments: "I grabbed the kids and ran." Yeah, that's breaking news.

Second Place: Staff, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: Coverage from all perspectives. Profiled an anguished, elderly female flood victim without belaboring nor dramatizing her loss.

Third Place: Staff, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Third only because the scene of the action was centralized and therefore easier to cover logistically, unlike the first and second-place coverage of natural disasters.

Division B

First Place: Alisa Schafer, Brandon Reid, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: This series of pieces followed a story of a missing 3-year-old boy, through to the

latest coverage during the Better Newspapers Contest period. First, we should salute the reporter's ongoing coverage of what must have been a challenging and taxing reality as a human tasked with reporting on the events that took place. The reporter presented information clearly to readers while showing context and nuance. This coverage gave basic details at first on the search with info on how people can help look for the missing child. Later, readers get follow-up coverage that includes the picture of residents coming together to search and hold vigils. All of the coverage is presented in an easy to read/organized way, including the "what we learned" from court documents section. It is also transparent with readers, guiding them and defining why the articles do/don't have certain information like when court documents are sealed, but criminal complaints were available and obtained. Readers are also privy to basic explanations that easily translate what could have been complex court jargon/legalese that most people aren't familiar with.

Second Place: Daphne Lemke, *The Reporter*, Fond du Lac

Third Place: Dan Kitkowski, *EagleHerald*, Marinette

Sheriff takes blame for Unity siren failure

Gov. Evers makes stop to survey damage

By Neal Hogden



Ongoing cleanup efforts in the village of Unity after a confirmed EF1 tornado went through the center of the village last week have left residents little time to think about the May 21 weather event.

However, the reflection on what led up to those events was detailed in an interview with Clark County Sheriff, Scott Haines. He said the sirens in the village that were intended to warn residents

Breaking News Reporting, First Place (Division E)

The Tribune-Phonograph, Abbotsford

Division C

First Place: Brian Jopek, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Second Place: Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*, Ladysmith
 Third Place: Debra Fitzgerald, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Honorable Mention: Brian Jopek, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division D

First Place: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
 Judge's Comments: Extraordinary reporting with a personal element, mixed with a history lesson and national and international sources. Went online to see if she is still alive.

Second Place: P.J. Glisson, *The Globe*, Ironwood

Judge's Comments: Well-rounded reporting, with local quotes and documentation. It helps when the reporter is already on scene!

Third Place: Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
 Judge's Comments: Good explanation of a touchy political

subject.

Honorable Mention: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
 Judge's Comments: Provided good coping resources following such a tragic loss.

Division E

First Place: Neal Hogden, Nathaniel Underwood, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford
 Judge's Comments: Quality writing makes these stories easy to read. Nice job.

Second Place: Valorie Brecht, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford
 Judge's Comments: This brought the family to the reader. Liked the extended coverage on the other tornadoes.

Third Place: Diane Everson, *The Edgerton Reporter*, Edgerton
 Judge's Comments: Good, well-rounded coverage. Prefer "wrecked" over "wreck." Thought the "scaries" should have quotation marks.

Honorable Mention: Ginna Young, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell
 Judge's Comments: This was a

'I grabbed the kids and ran'

Kellogg Avenue grandmother saw tornado touch down

RYAN SPOEHR
 ryan.spoehr@wiscns.com

JANESVILLE — Kellogg Avenue resident Michelle Auger was home on Janesville's southside Saturday night, watching two of her grandchildren. Her daughter and son-in-law, meanwhile, were hosting a birthday party for another grandchild a few miles away on the city's

Her grandchildren were playing with Legos, she told *The Gazette* Sunday, when she looked out her apartment window and saw a tornado take out what had been her favorite tree.

Then, the tornado siren went off. "I grabbed the kids and ran," Auger said. Auger said just before they took shelter in the basement of her building, she looked out a window one more time and saw the tornado take out a dumpster. She was on the phone

funnel cloud was hitting the ground.

TRAINED WEATHER SPOTTER

Auger has lived in Wisconsin for seven years. She used to live in Texas, where she was trained weather spotter.

"This is the first time I've seen one (a tornado) in the city. I've seen rotation but never seen one touch down," Auger said. "We're so laxed here. Maybe we shouldn't be," she added.

Auger said she feared that the building would

ready to do whatever she needed to protect her grandchildren.

"I was three seconds away from putting them in the washer and dryer in case the building came down," Auger said.

A frightening aspect was not hearing it coming, she said. "I did not hear it even a little bit," she said, just the sound of rain.

"When we got in the basement we heard it, and it sounded like a whistle," she said.

Auger was without power during and imme-



COURTESY MICHELLE AUGER

As what was later confirmed to be an EF-2 tornado bore down on Janesville's southside Saturday, June 22, Kellogg Avenue resident Michelle Auger took this photo.

It was restored around 2 a.m.

Auger credited first responders who arrived quickly "within 15 min-

"Fire and first responders came really fast. I don't think I saw that in Texas. They should be commended

Breaking News Reporting, First Place (Division A)

The Gazette, Janesville

tough call, and would have ranked higher in a less-competitive field.

Investigative Reporting

Daily Division

First Place: Lucas Robinson, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: This is an extremely well-crafted piece, weaving facts with the human factor; providing in-depth information about the situation without getting many officials to go on the record — or even respond to requests for interviews and/or information. Yet you got the answers. This is investigative journalism at its best.

Second Place: Erin McGroarty, *The Cap Times*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: Now this is how you do an investigation: clearly identify the problem and/or conflict, do the research, find knowledgeable/credible sources and get them on the record, ask probing questions, seek clarity and report the facts, backed by statistics — and then lay out the story in a way that can be easily digested by the reader. It was telling that “the DOC would not allow The Cap Times to interview the warden at Taycheedah Correctional Institution about this issue.” Erin clearly did everything she could to flesh out this gripping story — trying to make these women “count.”

Third Place: Allison Garfield, *The Cap Times*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: This is a compelling story with multiple angles: the economic realities facing owners and investors — which are demonstrably at odds; the human tales of life in a “trailer” community; the feeling of being

trapped. Allison does a great job weaving through those (and other strands) without losing track of the story. She also did her homework in seeking “interviews with the owners or property managers of all four mobile home parks in Madison.” Interestingly, she said one owner did answer questions, but then “asked not to be included in the article.” Allison did a great working around this by using what the owner said while she was on the record — learning that she “is trying to sell the park and has several potential buyers, large and small, both in and out of state.” Finally, doing the research into the national “boot camp” for aspiring mobile home park investors run by Mobile Home University was a masterstroke — providing insight into that side of the economic ledger.

Honorable Mention: Kelli Arseneau, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: Very well done. Great job in reporting the facts “including detailed reviews of as many state jails as possible” interwoven with the personal tales of those on both sides of those visits. I got a true sense of the implied conflict that exists with jails that don't allow in-person visits and get a slice of the revenue from video visits. Not to mention that some contracts with video providers prohibit jails from even offering in-person. Talk about creating a literal captive audience.

Division C

First Place: Douglas Etten, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River
 Judge's Comments: Good job springing facts to prove deniers are lying. Goes to show how much of good reporting depends on the ability to obtain information which, in turn, is often due to building trust with knowledgeable sources.

I've never known of a love affair that “festered”.

Second Place: Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*, Wausau
 Judge's Comments: Lead pipe replacement is an important matter for every community. Fortunately for the people of Wausau, an alderman raised questions about a questionable contractor which the newspaper largely answered.

Third Place: Richard Moore, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
 Judge's Comments:

Using the word, “caper,” is cutesy and too close to a criminal accusation to be used in a story where no charges are lodged against a seemingly meddling in government business by people whose time is over. But generally well written. Good work opening the matter to public purview.

Honorable Mention: Kris Leonhardt, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: I wish I'd reported, “city work crews discovered a leg, hand and rib cage while ... performing utility work.” I would have placed that higher in the story,

tied it to the cemetery walk, and then dived into the generations-old retrospective. Interesting story about local history.

Division DE

First Place: Raymond Rivard, Tom Stangl, *Amery Free Press*, Amery
 Judge's Comments: I'd have punched up the lede to flash the issue of political types hiding behind mailers. And been more aggressive with the funders despite their unwillingness to comment. But that's me. The owner of the paper for which I report tells me I try to put “too many nails in the coffin.”

Second Place: Tom Stangl, Justin Runberg, *Amery Free Press*, Amery
 Judge's Comments: The school district may not want public information released to the public, but fortunately the newspaper does.

Third Place: Angie Griepentrog, *The Freedom Pursuit*, Freedom
 Judge's Comments: This isn't all that investigative, in the typical sense investigative journalism has come to mean. So what. Congrats to the

News Analysis – Group spends thousands on non-partisan county board election

BY RAYMOND T. RIVARD
 RAY@SENTINELMEDIA.NET

Keep Polk County Rural, an independent expenditure committee registered with the State of Wisconsin by Adam Jarchow, spent nearly \$10,000 on two mailers and text messages for the April 2 spring election.

The group targeted at least four of the contested races for the Polk County Board. All but one Keep Polk County Rural (KPCR) endorsed candidates seemingly benefitted from the group's strategies – strategies that were minimally described as questionable by candidates targeted by KPCR.

The four “targeted” county board candidates said they used their own funds to pay for their election costs, with most explaining they expended somewhere between \$500 and \$1,500.

- Tony Johnson – spoke out against the group's messaging.

Calls and emails for comment to Jarchow, listed as the organization's treasurer on campaign finance reports, were not returned.

11:10
 +1 (715) 861-8142
 Vote Joy Cahill-Egleston for Polk County Board!

Help stop the settlement of illegal migrants and the flow of dangerous, illegal drugs into Polk County by voting for Joy Cahill-Egleston today.

But it was the timing of the mailings by KPCR, and the questionable messaging just prior to Election Day that irked targeted candidates.

They all said they didn't have the time, nor the resources, to counter the accusations once they were publicly known.

“Hindsight is 20/20, but if I would have had any kind of inkling that a group like Keep Polk County Rural was going to spend thousands on attack ads, I would have made a community fundraising effort more along the lines of [my] 2022 campaign,” former Supervisor Ryan Wood said.

Wood lost his 2024 race to Pamela Garvey, a candidate of choice by KPCR.

Instead of providing positive information about their endorsed candidate, the full-color postcards sent by KPCR via the U.S. Mail threw shade on the target-

Investigative Reporting, First Place (Division DE)
Amery Free Press

reporter for beating the town, so to speak, but reporting news from police reports is routine. Warning: Cribbing information from other media outlets, as is reported in part two of the submission, isn't kosher.

Enterprise/ Interpretive Reporting

Division A

First Place: David Wahlberg, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
Judge's Comments: Really compelling interviews, figures and layout. The interviews with the families are so raw and provide the connection readers need to understand the magnitude of this issue.

Second Place: Kimberly Wethal, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
Judge's Comments: Great multimedia package. The videos, including the youth panel, really

help to bring this story to life as well as the excellent graphics, photos and storytelling. Strong work.

Third Place: Caden Perry, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse

Judge's Comments: Great package. Comprehensive coverage, great photography, layout, videos, photography and storytelling.

Honorable Mention: Tyler Katzenberger, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Important and meaningful storytelling and historical perspective.

Division B

First Place: Daphne Lemke, *The Reporter*, Fond du Lac

Judge's Comments: I thought this was very interesting and well-researched reporting on this topic.

Second Place: Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc

Third Place: Justin Marville, *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Oshkosh

Division C

First in a series focuses on physical disabilities

Daphne Lemke
Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Editor's note: This is the first in a series examining accessibility in Fond du Lac. The series will use input from readers and local experts. The first topic covers physical disabilities and community members who use mobility aids. An upcoming story will examine accessibility for conditions and disorders such as dementia, autism, PTSD and invisible disabilities.

FOND DU LAC – How accessible is Fond du Lac? We asked, and the community answered.

Many people in the Fond du Lac area live with or care for someone with a disability, and they have to navigate their community with an eye for whether their wheelchair will fit in an es-

"In a perfect world, there would be a lot of handicap accessible parking in a variety of formats, all reasonably close to an establishment, all with plenty of room to navigate around the vehicle, or at the very least, room for pick-up and drop-off limited to those who need it (not your average person who doesn't want to get rained on walking from their car into the grocery store)."

Anna Huck

tablishment, whether parking will suit their needs and whether staff will be accommodating.

The United States Census Bureau includes six questions related to disability in its American Community Survey. Fond du Lac County's estimated population from the 2020 Decennial

Census was 104,154.

As of the 2022 estimates, 3.5% of that population reported hearing difficulty, 1.6% reported vision difficulty, 6.6% reported cognitive difficulty, 5.6% reported ambulatory difficulty, 2% reported

See **ACCESSIBILITY**, Page 4A

First Place: Bill Schanen IV, Kristyn Halbig Ziehm, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington

Second Place: Peter Weinschenk, Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*, Wausau

Third Place: Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division D

First Place: Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
Judge's Comments: Strong reporting and good interviews highlight a community problem and, importantly, possible solutions.

Second Place: Todd Bergmann, *The Valdres Journal*, Valdres

Judge's Comments: Highly informative stories that many parents will read with interest.

Honorable Mention: Shelley

Nelson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
Judge's Comments: Well reported.

Division E

First Place: Jordan Derrick, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: Clear explanations of something most people may not think about. Kudos to the lunch staff.

Second Place: Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: Good for you, for highlighting open meetings' requirements.

Third Place: Valorie Brecht, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: Makes clear the need for victim services in contrast with the funding available.

Superior considers policies to restrict vaping access

BY SHELLEY NELSON
Superior Telegram

SUPERIOR

When school district officials administered the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 30% of Superior High School students reported they had tried vaping, and 15% reported vaping within the last 30 days.

A subsequent survey administered in November revealed only 35% of students believed flavored vapes were harmful.

"Kids sometimes feel like the flavored vapes are less harmful," said Jane Larson, Superior High School social worker. "Some say if they didn't have flavored vapes, they probably wouldn't use them at all."



Jed Carlson / Duluth Media Group

Superior Mayor Jim Paine reads a proclamation honoring the 50th anniversary of the 1974 Spartan boys basketball state championship during halftime of the Spartans' game with Hermantown on Feb. 22 in Superior.

In fact, 91.1% of students who responded to the November survey said they wouldn't use vapes if they didn't have

flavors, Larson said.

The environment is set up to have the problems we're having," Larson said. "So how do we

change that?"

The problem isn't just at the high school, said Brynn Larrabee, health coordinator for the Superior School District. While statistics weren't yet available for Superior Middle School, Larrabee said she hears about the adverse effects of vaping there more than at the high school. She said she has been at the middle school when students who had been vaping came into the nurse's office with a rapid heart rate, nausea and other symptoms.

"We've had to advise that parents take their kids in because of continuous high heart rate and needing to have it monitored," Larrabee said.

VAPING ON A3

Would've been nice to hear from some victims (anonymously) who received services.

Environmental Reporting

Division A

First Place: Miquéla Thornton, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: This piece shows context and nuances of conventional and green burial practices. It does a great job informing readers on how realities, perceptions and expectations are changing and residents are impacted. Readers are welcomed to the topic through the lens of early adopters of green burials, and taken on a journey that shows where nature and humanity are connected through death. Death and funeral traditions are a delicate topic to tackle, and this reporter does it in an engaging and human way that weaves in anecdotes and statistics of a changing practice.

Second Place: Jana Rose Schleis, Andrew Bahl, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Third Place: Andrew Bahl, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Honorable Mention: Jana Rose Schleis, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Division B

First Place: Patti Zarling, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: The reporter took news of fragments from a buried forest and turned it into a history lesson for readers. Great context of what happened in Wisconsin and this region in particular.

Second Place: Alex Garner, *The*

Sheboygan Press, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: Water quality is important. This story delves into what's being done to protect and improve it.

Third Place: Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc
Honorable Mention: Patti Zarling, Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

Division C

First Place: Debra Fitzgerald, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
 Judge's Comments: This is a standout story in a category with some very strong contenders. I really liked the personal story that



These logs could be samples from the Two Creeks Hidden Forest buried thousands of years ago. They were found in April by a small group of geologists along Lake Michigan near Manitowoc. PROVIDED BY THE WEIS EARTH SCIENCE MUSEUM

Hidden forest possibly 13,500 years old discovered

Patti Zarling
 Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MANITOWOC – Did you know there's a buried forest right along the shores of Lake Michigan in the Manitowoc area?

Yup, there's a hidden secret, right out in the open, called the Two Creeks Buried Forest.

In April, a small group of geologists, joined by a landowner who is also a supporter of the Weis Earth Science Museum, recovered two relic fragments of wood that might date to the final glacial advance of the last great ice age during the Pleistocene Epoch — or about 13,500 years ago.

Environmental Reporting, First Place (Division B)
Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

ted in history with current efforts to clean up years of contamination. The rest of the story was well sourced and well organized. The story was very engaging due to this work. Outstanding job!

Second Place: Debra Fitzgerald, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
 Judge's Comments: This is another outstanding story from Peninsula Pulse. I liked the organization and the use of sources and quotes. The lead pulled me in right away. All too often environmental stories can be highly technical and not get the human cost across. This one checks all of the boxes for me, explaining why beach water monitoring is so crucial. Great work!

Third Place: Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: The lead is super boring but the rest of the story is great. (Worry less about meeting dates and more about why a wet detention pond is important.) The story has lots of great information, the writing is strong and it "flows" quite well. (Could not resist.) I especially liked how the options were spelled out. Fine work!

Honorable Mention: Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*, Wausau

Judge's Comments: This is a very solid package of stories. Most are well written. But spell out your acronyms and tell us what the chemical compounds are. Even one line about potential health impacts would add a lot.

Division D

First Place: Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
 Judge's Comments: An excellent range of sources used to tell the story in an engaging way with

elements of science, indigenous knowledge, policy and programs.
Second Place: Joe Hart, *The Boscobel Dial*, Boscobel

Judge's Comments: Lively writing helps make nature relatable here.
Third Place: Joe Hart, *The Boscobel Dial*, Boscobel

Judge's Comments: A comprehensive piece on the subject with an admirable variety of sources.

Honorable Mention: James Card, *Waupaca County Post*, Waupaca

Division E

First Place: Alex Prochaska, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green

Judge's Comments: Good, informative story. I felt like I had learned a lot just by reading this story.

Second Place: Heather Schaefer, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander

Judge's Comments: A very in-depth look at a very serious issue.

Third Place: Cheyenne Thomas, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford

Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Division A

First Place: Jillian Craig, *Kenosha News*, Kenosha

Judge's Comments: Important topic, well written and well organized follow through.

Second Place: Lindsay Christians, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Coverage organized and well written. New information throughout.

Third Place: Caden Perry, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse

Judge's Comments: This coverage could easily have been "sensationalized," but was covered clearly and well-sourced.

Honorable Mention: Danielle DuClos, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Solid reporting, great follow-through.

Division B

First Place: Jamie Rokus, Karen Madden, *Wausau Daily Herald*, Wausau

Second Place: Caitlin Shuda, *Marshfield News-Herald*, Marshfield

Third Place: Justin Marville, *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Oshkosh

Honorable Mention: Dan Kitkowski, Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette

Division C

First Place: Kris Leonhardt, Janelle Fisher, Shane Fitzsimmons, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: This ongoing coverage of the Green Bay Correctional Institution showcases community action, empathy and awareness of residents, inmates and area leadership while also recognizing the hurdles and historical context involved. It shows the issue through a number of angles while both asking and answering valid questions without hesitation.

Second Place: Kaity Coisman, Shirley Prudhomme, *Peshtigo Times*, Peshtigo

Third Place: Bill Schanen IV, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington

Honorable Mention: Fred Williston, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division D

First Place: Kevin O'Brien, Casey Krautkramer, *The Record-Review*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: A well developed, on-going story. Lots of good background information and detail to help understand this complex situation.

Second Place: Ryan Urban, Jim Bell, *Barron News-Shield*, Barron

Third Place: Tom LaVenture, *Price County Review*, Phillips

Division E

First Place: Alex Prochaska, Luukas Palm-Leis, Taylor Scott, Nicole Aimone, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green

Judge's Comments: What a mess! Credit to you for keeping track of the mayhem. Good luck to all those in Arena.

Second Place: Gillian Pomplun, Ambrosia Wojahn, Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: Jam-packed! Dogged reporting on an issue that directly impacts residents. Could use some more explanations of acronyms and perhaps a sidebar on the longer stories.

Third Place: Valorie Brecht, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: Good coverage of the two districts wrestling with consolidation issues.

Honorable Mention: Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: Good stick-to-itiveness on this reporter's part. Good lessons in geology, government finance.

Health Coverage

Division A

First Place: Benita Mathew, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: This was an extremely difficult category to judge and the entries were very strong.

In "Care of our elders," on older adults and suicide, it blends and weaves statistics, experts' insights and a focal point person who can speak to their experiences as an older adult and their mental health journey/transformations and changes over time. Far from blaming individual older adults for not seeking help or compounding their mental health with alcohol and life choices, readers learn how layered the issue is. There is also a helpful section on vital mental health resources for residents. In another piece of this news package, we have something news stories really, really need to be doing more often but too regularly fail at: talking to the marginalized individuals experiencing the topics we cover. This piece interviews an older person with schizophrenia and an advocate who shares his experiences. Readers have a chance to hear about the intersectional parts of aging, mental health, health care, and changes to psychiatric standards. Too often we talk to the experts about groups of people like our focal person here, but not as often do we talk to the people themselves. And for a number of reasons, people with mental illnesses are often a hard one to talk with people to get their firsthand stories. Great work!

Second Place: Erin McGroarty, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Third Place: Benita Mathew, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay

'We are not giving up': Monk family continues fight to restore founder's name to Wausau botanical gardens

As support grows to reinstate the Monk name to the Wausau Botanic Gardens, the organization's board says it is considering the community response.



Jamie Rokus

Wausau Daily Herald

Published 5:20 a.m. CT May 3, 2024



WAUSAU – Members of Robert Monk III's family say they are grateful for the outpouring of support they have received from the Wausau community since it was announced last week that the local botanical gardens that previously honored his legacy - the Monk Botanical Gardens - were renamed as the Wausau Botanic Gardens.



Robert Monk IV stands near a small walking bridge.

Ongoing/Extended Coverage, First Place (Division B)
Wausau Daily Herald

Division B

First Place: Caitlin Shuda, *Marshfield News-Herald*, Marshfield
 Judge's Comments: In-depth look at the rural health care crisis in Wisconsin, what it means for patients and whether anything could change. Strong reporting paints a clear and scary picture.

Second Place: Erin Noha, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
 Judge's Comments: Being pregnant in a rural area is rife with challenges. This series tackles those challenges while also celebrating the teamwork of rural providers. Reporter did a great job of telling the stories of people affected by the limited care options.

Third Place: Terri Pederson, *Daily Citizen*, Beaver Dam
 Judge's Comments: Nice feature on how two doctors developed a solution to a young girl's brain issue and years later the young woman is thriving.

Honorable Mention: Ethan Duran, *The Daily Reporter*, Milwaukee

Division C

First Place: Rick Cohler, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Second Place: Olivia Coffin, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Third Place: Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*, Ladysmith

Honorable Mention: Dan Benson, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington

Division D

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

Judge's Comments: A crucial issue in small and rural communities is lack of health care. This extensive and continued coverage of the local impacts of ongoing clinic closings

is important. The writing is solid, and the reporting is very thorough and well-balanced, though there are minor editing errors and the print layout is too compact in places.

Photo selection and captions are informative. Good follow-through on the labor and delivery story and its connections to the larger issues.
Second Place: Tom LaVenture, *Price County Review*, Phillips
 Judge's Comments: Nice layout with plenty of space and a themed masthead that caught the eye. The quotes were occasionally hard to follow, although the writing did work to contextualize them. Good callouts of community resources and connections provided depth. Telling these kinds of personal stories in a relatable and vivid way can educate readers on what cancer can look like in women, contributing to public health.

Third Place: Michelle Jensen, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake
 Judge's Comments: Ongoing and significant coverage of medical closures in the area, an important topic for rural health. Generally nice clean layout, some editing errors, but solid writing providing

lots of context and local expertise. Extensive informational quotes might be better paraphrased, and a wider variety of sources in some places could add balance.

Honorable Mention: Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth
 Judge's Comments: Mental health awareness for farmers is an example of a story that has potential for significant public impact. The reporting gave in-depth local context and plenty of good information, and displayed sensitivity to a difficult topic. This rates an honorable mention due to the writing suffering from lack of clarity and structure. Overall, good work on an under-covered topic that deserves recognition.

Division E

First Place: Nicole Aimone, *Valley Sentinel*, Spring Green
 Judge's Comments: Dedicated coverage over several months on the crucial issue of supporting rural EMS services. The writing is clear and the reporting is a thorough look into costs, budget impacts, and local political decisions. I appreciated seeing the follow-through on the

story months later, and the editorial addressing the weight of the issue to the community.

Second Place: Cari Cornelius, *Sun-Argus*, Spring Valley

Judge's Comments: Really important story, covered with the attention it required. Clear writing and solid reporting that worked to present both parties' statements in context to give readers a clear and balanced picture.

Third Place: Charley Preusser, *Crawford County Independent & The*

The faces of cancer

BY RICK COHLER
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

GREEN BAY – Since 1985, the month of October has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness month to focus attention on preventing and treating breast cancer.

Breast cancer accounts for 12.5% of all new annual cancer cases worldwide — making it the most common cancer in the world — according to the American Cancer Society.

About 13%, or one in eight, of U.S. women are going to develop invasive breast cancer during the course of their life.

Aurora BayCare Clinic and local photographer Rachael Phillips have launched "Faces of Breast Cancer" to highlight the inner beauty which still shines in the faces of women fighting the disease.

"I turned 40 in March and got my first mammogram," Phillips said. "Being curious, I started to explore photos online and I

was stunned when I saw the scars and what is left from breast cancer and as a photographer I thought I could help bring more awareness to breast cancer.

Phillips and Jessica Winkel, Business Development Manager for Bay Care Clinic, came up with a plan.

"We put a call out to local breast cancer patients," Winkel said. "We had 10 spots on a first-come first-serve basis to participate in a program where they would get their hair and makeup done, have a portrait taken and be willing to talk about their cancer journey."

Another 10 women were put on a waiting list and will likely have their turn next year, according to Winkel.

The profiles will be featured on the RP Photography website during October.

While acknowledging it is a difficult subject, Phillips said it has increased her awareness.

See CANCER page 7



Wisconsin systems face 'crisis' in providing health care in rural communities

Caitlin Shuda
 USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin

Health care systems throughout Wisconsin are facing challenges in providing and maintaining services in rural communities, and the decisions they're making to address them have made headlines over the last several weeks.

Prevea Health and Hospital Sisters Health System recently announced plans to close Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls and all Prevea locations across the Chippewa Valley. In a joint release, the companies cited challenges in pro-

country — are at risk of closing without enough revenue to cover the costs of providing patient care.

Eric Borgerding, the president and CEO of the Wisconsin Hospital Association, said challenges in rural health care are different from those faced in urban areas and include an older population, reimbursement rates and worker shortages.

Starck and John Gardner, Marshfield Clinic Health System's director of communications, also shared insight into challenges the health system is facing as it provides medical care across about 50,000 square miles in rural Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Rural communities have fewer options to care for aging patients

According to 2022 data from the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, rural populations in the state have considerably more residents 65 years and older.

Health Coverage, First Place (Division B)
Marshfield News-Herald

Health Coverage, First Place (Division C)
The Press Times, Green Bay

Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills
 Judge's Comments: Good reporting laying out the physical and financial impact on the community. Well contextualized and the writing was clear and informative.

Reporting on Local Government

Division A

First Place: Jesse Lin, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Jesse Lin is a gumshoe reporter. An on-scene guy. At street corners, the city hall lobby. I wish my stop sign stories were as good as his.
Second Place: Kylie Balk-Yaatenen, Ryan Spoehr, *The Gazette*, Janesville
 Judge's Comments: Another instance of unforeseen consequences. Forbidding a landlord to own rental properties results in his selling his rental properties and the likelihood of tenants being put on the street. I'd like to read more comments from the authorities whose legal ruling is leading to the evictions.
Third Place: Sophia Voight, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: Interesting story with analysis about fallout from national political and social issues resulting in a shortage of candidates for local offices.

Division B

First Place: Karen Madden, *Daily Tribune*, Wisconsin Rapids
 Judge's Comments: Lucid explanation of how voting machines work.
Second Place: Dan Kitkowski, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
 Judge's Comments: Good reporting of government business.

Third Place: Alisa Schafer, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: The focus in the first of these three stories shouldn't be just a projected budget deficit due to some sort of screw up, but, importantly, the fact that the municipal administrator claiming responsibility won't explain why. Apparently, the reporter didn't press the question. What is reported, however, is reportedly clearly, although passively. Overall, however, a readable, workmanlike trio of entries warranting recognition.
Honorable Mention: Daniel

Spatchek, *Antigo Daily Journal*, Antigo

Division C

First Place: Kristyn Halbig Ziehm, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
 Judge's Comments: Excellent work on all of the stories. Clear, informative, quality journalism that stood out among all of the entries reviewed.
Second Place: Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*, Wausau
 Judge's Comments: Terrific example of sharp, detailed journalism. Really impressive work.

Honorable Mention: Kevin Boneske, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
 Judge's Comments: Solid coverage of community issues. Clearly detailed reporting

Division D

First Place: Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth
 Judge's Comments: Nice package of stories about the workings of government. Good mix of background information and timelines to help the reader understand the situations.
Second Place: Michelle Jensen, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake
Third Place: Joe Hart, *The Boscobel Dial*, Boscobel

Division E

First Place: Roger Mathews, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon
 Judge's Comments: Incredibly solid reporting and stood out amongst all entries. Very well written. Impressive work.
Second Place: Jonathan Stefonek, *Lodi Enterprise and Poynette Press*, Lodi
 Judge's Comments: Excellent reporting across multiple meetings on a local hot-button issue.
Third Place: Ethan Ferrell, *The Herald-Independent and The McFarland Thistle*, Cottage Grove
 Judge's Comments: Terrific work especially the explanations of the TIF & TID.
Honorable Mention: Heather Schaefer, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander
 Judge's Comments: Great detail, very informative, well structured, helped me feel a part of the community through the reporting

Public hearing to be held for CAFO expansion



Posted Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:21 pm

By Sarah Nigbor

During the public comment portion of the June 25 Pierce County Board meeting, a representative of GROWW asked supervisors to consider attending a public hearing about a proposed CAFO expansion.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is holding a public hearing at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 11 in the Elmwood Auditorium (323 W. Winter Ave.) about Ridge Breeze Dairy's expansion proposal. They

Reporting on Local Government, First Place (Division D)

The Pierce County Journal

Reporting on Local Education

Division A

First Place: Kimberly Wethal, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: Strong reporting and writing on an issue that affects rural communities. The reporter writes with authority while ensuring the people affected are centered.
Second Place: Kayla Huynh, *The Cap Times*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: The piece on new mandated approaches on teaching literacy provided great context on both the why and how. Other pieces are watchdog in nature and serve community well.
Third Place: Rebecca Loroff, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
Honorable Mention: Abbey Machtig, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Division B

First Place: Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: Good variety

of topics, told with the parents and taxpayers in mind.
Second Place: Daphne Lemke, *The Reporter*, Fond du Lac
 Judge's Comments: Nice variety of concise reporting.
Third Place: Justin Marville, *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Oshkosh
 Judge's Comments: Good variety of higher ed and K-12 topics, told with a strong voice and good organization.
Honorable Mention: Audrey Korte, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls

Division C

First Place: Bethanie Gengler, *Neenah News*, Neenah
 Judge's Comments: Great variety of topics, well covered.
Second Place: Jonathan Richie, *Oshkosh Herald*, Oshkosh
 Judge's Comments: Nice variety of topics, presented with clarity and insight. Student viewpoints would benefit coverage.
Third Place: Kris Leonhardt, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Nice variety and writing; try harder to get the

student viewpoint in the stories.

Division D

First Place: Maria Lockwood, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
 Judge's Comments: What stood out with these entries was the clear writing, excellent reporting and diversity in coverage.
Second Place: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
Third Place: Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth
Honorable Mention: Benjamin Pierce, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall

Division E

First Place: Mad Bergstrom, *The Verona Press*, Verona
 Judge's Comments: These entries clearly stood out among the competitors because they focused less on process and more on the students and student support. Excellent supporting fact boxes in the homeless awareness story. I was hoping to see a quote or two from the students on the winning team in the academic competition story, but the fact that the story centers on students is great.
Second Place: Hayley Hodsdon, *Sun Prairie Star*, Sun Prairie
Third Place: Heather Schaefer, *The Northwoods River News*, Minocqua

Business Coverage

Division A

First Place: Barry Adams, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: Strong reporting on issues of interest to readers, from a housing proposal drawing criticism to the anniversary of New Glarus. Reporter uses

numbers to add authority to the storytelling.
Second Place: Jeff Bollier, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
Third Place: Samara Kalk, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
Honorable Mention: Richard Ryman, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay

Division B

First Place: Alex Garner, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: The story on the liquor license dispute was thorough, touching on several key issues. Also, story about unpaid wages was straight-forward and thorough.
Second Place: Ethan Duran, *The Daily Reporter*, Milwaukee
 Judge's Comments: Marijuana in the workplace is an issue for employers. This story does a fine job laying out potential challenges and warns employees to know the policies related to their jobs.
Third Place: Caitlin Shuda, *Stevens Point Journal*, Stevens Point
Honorable Mention: Jamie Rokus, *Wausau Daily Herald*, Wausau

Division C

First Place: Colleen Kottke, *Wisconsin State Farmer*, Waupaca
 Judge's Comments: Good variety of articles written with the reader in mind. Well organized and demonstrate solid interviewing skills.
Second Place: Kristyn Halbig Ziehm, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
 Judge's Comments: Nice selection of business-related articles, from breaking news to features.
Third Place: Betsy Lecy, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
 Judge's Comments: Solid features,

Third time's the charm

VAHS seniors to compete in national African American History Academic Challenge this weekend

BY MADDIE BERGSTROM
 Staff reporter

For the third year in a row, the Verona Area High School (VAHS) will send a team of students to compete in the national African American History Academic Challenge (AAHAC) in Atlanta, Georgia this weekend.

Hosted by 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc., the AAHAC is an educational program designed to

Mentzer has seen participate since becoming a coach six years ago.

Mentzer said the national competition is a great way for VAHS students to network as students participate from all around the world. Their trip is sponsored entirely by 100 Black Men of Madison.

"One of the things that I've really appreciated about working with the 100 Black Men over the years is that they not only want to push our students to succeed academically and to be able to use those skills beyond high school, but they also want to make sure that when the kids are going up there they are feeling their best – that they are confident in themselves and the presence that they have," she said.

curriculum.

Going beyond curriculum

Following Verona's third consecutive win at the regional competition, the Press sat down with some team members to learn more about their time participating in the AAHAC program.

Though sophomores Samiya Nur, Fatima Kinteh and junior Aster Gitche did not compete in this year's regional competition, they are eligible and prepared to participate in upcoming challenges.

And while the students all joined the program for various reasons – be it a way to make friends or to step out of their comfort zone by competing – there was one commonality

Amery Free Press

First Place Investigative Reporting
 Second Place..... Localized National Story
 Second Place..... Spot News Photo
 Second Place..... Investigative Reporting

Antigo Daily Journal

First Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion
 Honorable Mention..... Reporting on Local Government

Barron News-Shield

Second Place..... Editorial Award
 Second Place..... Local Column
 Second Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place..... Best Headlines

Beloit Daily News

First Place Sports Action Photo
 Second Place..... Local Column
 Second Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Third Place..... Local Sports Column
 Honorable Mention..... Best Special Section (Editorial)

Burnett County Sentinel

Third Place..... General Excellence

Cashton Record

First Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 First Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 First Place Sports Action Photo
 First Place Artistic Photo
 First Place Spot News Photo
 First Place .. All-Around Newspaper Photography
 Second Place..... Best Sports Pages
 Second Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Second Place..... Business Coverage
 Second Place..... Feature Photo
 Third Place..... Best Headlines
 Third Place..... Visual Storytelling
 Honorable Mention..... Photo Essay

Courier Press, Prairie du Chien

First Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread

Courier Sentinel, Cornell

First Place Editorial Award
 Honorable Mention..... Breaking News Reporting
 Second Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second Place... Best Special Section (Advertising)

Third Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Third Place..... Best Restaurant Ad

Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills

First Place Feature Story (Profile)
 First Place Local Column
 First Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First Place Best Use of Color
 First Place Local Sports Column
 Second Place..... Local Column
 Second Place..... Localized National Story
 Second Place..... General News Photo
 Second Place... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place..... Localized National Story
 Third Place..... General News Photo
 Third Place..... Health Coverage
 Third Place..... Feature Photo
 Third Place..... Spot News Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Daily Citizen,

First Place Feature Story (Profile)
 Third Place..... Health Coverage
 Third Place..... Sports Feature Story

Daily Jefferson County Union, Fort Atkinson

First Place Best Special Section (Advertising)

Daily News, West Bend

Third Place..... Best Front Page
 Third Place..... General Excellence

Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids

First Place Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place..... General News Story

Dodge County Pionier, Mayville

Second Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place..... Feature Photo

Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay

First Place Feature Story (Non-profile)

EagleHerald, Marinette

First Place Artistic Photo
 First Place Sports Feature Story
 First Place Lindsey Witter
 Second Place..... Feature Photo
 Second Place..... Best Front Page

Second Place..... Health Coverage
 Second Place..... Spot News Photo
 Second Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place..... Sports News Story
 Third Place..... General News Story
 Third Place..... Artistic Photo
 Third Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Third Place..... Sports News Story
 Third Place..... Breaking News Reporting
 Honorable Mention..... General News Story
 Honorable Mention..... General Excellence
 Honorable Mention..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Fennimore Times

First Place Best Ad Idea (Series)
 First Place Best Use of Art Service
 First Place Best Large Ad
 First Place Best Use of Local Photography
 Second Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 Honorable Mention..... Best Use of Art Service

Grant County Herald Independent, Lancaster

First Place Best Restaurant Ad
 First Place Best Use of Color
 First Place Best Use of Art Service
 Second Place..... Best Use of Color
 Second Place..... Best Large Ad
 Second Place..... Best Small Ad
 Third Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 Honorable Mention..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Honorable Mention..... Photo Essay

Green Bay Press-Gazette

First Place General News Photo
 First Place Sports Feature Photo
 First Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 First Place Sports Feature Story
 First Place Reporting on Local Government
 First Place Health Coverage
 First Place Best Video
 Second Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place..... Localized National Story
 Second Place..... General Excellence
 Second Place..... Business Coverage
 Second Place..... General News Story
 Second Place..... Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Third Place..... Artistic Photo
 Third Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Third Place..... Health Coverage
 Honorable Mention..... Visual Storytelling

Honorable Mention.....Sports News Story
 Honorable Mention Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention..... Business Coverage

Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 First Place Feature Photo
 First Place Best Front Page
 First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting
 First PlaceBreaking News Reporting
 First PlaceLocal Column
 First Place Local Sports Column
 Second Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place..... Feature Photo
 Third Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place..... Localized National Story
 Third Place.....Local Column
 Honorable Mention.....Environmental Reporting

Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise

First PlaceBest Special Section (Editorial)
 First PlaceSports News Story
 First PlacePhoto Essay
 First Place Localized National Story
 First Place Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place.....Sports News Story
 Second Place.....Best Headlines
 Third Place..... Local Sports Column
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Feature Photo

Juneau County Star-Times, Mauston

First Place Coronavirus Coverage

Kenosha News

First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Second Place.....Best Special Section (Editorial)

Kewaskum Statesman

Second Place..... Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention..... General News Story

La Crosse Tribune

FFirst Place Visual Storytelling
 First Place General Excellence
 First Place Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Second Place..... Best Front Page
 Second Place.....Photo Essay
 Third Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Third Place.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place..... Best Video

Ladysmith News

First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Second Place..... Editorial Award
 Second Place.....Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place..... Health Coverage
 Third Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Honorable Mention.....Best Headlines

Lake Geneva Regional News

First PlacePhoto Essay
 First Place Business Coverage
 Third Place.....General News Photo
 Third Place..... Feature Story (Profile)

Lake Mills Leader

Second Place.....Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place..... Sports Feature Story

Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire

Second Place.....Spot News Photo
 Second Place.....Best Newspaper Promotion
 Third Place..... Best Front Page
 Third Place.....Best Headlines
 Third Place..... Editorial Award
 Third Place.....Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Action Photo

Lodi Enterprise and Poynette Press

Second Place..... Reporting on Local Government

Marshfield News-Herald

First Place Sports Feature Photo
 First Place Health Coverage
 Second Place.....Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Milton Courier

Third Place.....Best Special Section (Editorial)

Monroe County Herald

First PlaceBest Special Section (Editorial)
 First Place Best Small Ad
 First Place Visual Storytelling
 First Place Sports Feature Photo
 First Place Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second Place..... Local Sports Column
 Second Place..... Visual Storytelling
 Second Place.....General News Photo

Second Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place.....Best Headlines
 Second Place.....Sports News Story
 Second Place..... Best Niche Product
 Second Place..... Best Sports Pages
 Third Place..... Visual Storytelling
 Third Place..... Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Third Place..... Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Feature Story

Muscoda Progressive

Second Place..... Best Restaurant Ad
 Third Place..... Editorial Award

Neenah News

First Place Feature Story (Profile)
 First Place Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place.....Spot News Photo
 Third Place..... General News Story
 Third Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place.....Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention..... Localized National Story

News Graphic,

Second Place..... General News Story

Oconomowoc Enterprise

First Place General Excellence
 Honorable Mention..... Best Front Page

Oconto County Reporter

First Place General News Story
 Second Place.....Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention..... Business Coverage

Oshkosh Herald

First Place General News Story
 Second Place..... Feature Photo
 Second Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place..... Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention..... General Excellence

Oshkosh Northwestern

First Place General News Story
 Second Place..... Sports Feature Story
 Third Place.....General News Photo
 Third Place.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage

Awards by Newspaper

Ozaukee Press

First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First PlaceEditorial Award
 First PlaceFeature Photo
 First PlaceReporting on Local Government
 First PlaceSports News Story
 First PlaceBest Sports Pages
 Second Place.....Business Coverage
 Second Place.....General Excellence
 Second Place.....Best Opinion Pages
 Third Place.....Best Small Ad
 Third Place.....Feature Photo
 Third Place.....Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place.....Best Headlines
 Honorable Mention.....Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention.....Health Coverage

Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor

First PlaceLocal Sports Column
 First PlaceBest Restaurant Ad
 First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting
 First PlaceLocalized National Story
 First PlaceBest Use of Color
 First PlaceBest Niche Product
 First PlaceCommunity Engagement Award
 First PlaceBest Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 First PlaceOpen Records/FOI Award
 First PlaceSalesperson of the Year
 Second Place.....Local Column
 Second Place.....Environmental Reporting
 Second Place.....Artistic Photo
 Second Place... Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Second Place.....Best Large Ad
 Second Place.....Audio Storytelling
 Third Place.....Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Third Place.....Sports Action Photo
 Third Place.....Business Coverage
 Third Place.....Best Opinion Pages
 Third Place.....Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place.....Best Front Page
 Third Place.....Artistic Photo
 Third Place.....Best Ad Idea (Series)
 Third Place.....Audio Storytelling
 Honorable Mention.....Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Honorable Mention.....General News Story
 Honorable Mention.....Reporting on Local Government
 Honorable Mention.....Audio Storytelling
 Second Place.....Sports Feature Story

Peshtigo Times

Second Place.....Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Second Place.....Best Front Page

Sawyer County Record, Hayward

First PlacePhoto Essay
 Second Place.....Coronavirus Coverage
 Third Place.....Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place.....Local Column

Price County Review

Second Place... Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Second Place.....Health Coverage
 Third Place.....Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place.....Best Video
 Third Place.....Local Outdoor Column
 Honorable Mention.....General News Story

Ripon Commonwealth Press

First PlaceReporting on Local Government
 First PlaceSports Feature Story
 Second Place.....Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place.....Editorial Award
 Second Place.....General News Story
 Third Place.....Photo Essay
 Third Place.....Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place.....Business Coverage
 Honorable Mention.....Localized National Story

Sawyer County Record

First PlaceBest Small Ad
 Third Place.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

Spooner Advocate

First PlaceBest Ongoing Niche Publication
 Second Place.....Best Niche Product
 Third Place.....Best Niche Product
 Third Place.....Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Honorable Mention.....Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Honorable Mention...Feature Story (Non-profile)

Star-Observer, Hudson

Third Place.....Sports Action Photo
 Third Place.....Best Sports Pages

Stevens Point Journal

Third Place.....Business Coverage

Sun Prairie Star

Second Place.....Reporting on Local Education

Sun-Argus, Spring Valley

Second Place.....Health Coverage

Third Place.....Feature Story (Non-profile)

Superior Telegram

First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 First PlaceSports Feature Photo
 First PlaceReporting on Local Education
 First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First PlaceGeneral News Story
 First PlaceBest Sports Pages
 First PlaceSports News Story
 First PlaceSports Feature Story
 First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting
 First PlaceBest Headlines
 First PlaceArtistic Photo
 First PlaceBest Video
 First PlaceAudio Storytelling
 Second Place.....General News Photo
 Second Place.....Best Restaurant Ad
 Second Place.....General Excellence
 Second Place.....Sports Action Photo
 Second Place.....Business Coverage
 Second Place.....Visual Storytelling
 Second Place.....All-Around Newspaper Photography
 Third Place.....General News Story
 Third Place.....Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place.....Sports News Story
 Third Place.....Business Coverage
 Third Place.....Bill Payne Award
 Honorable Mention.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Honorable Mention.....Best Use of Color
 Honorable Mention.....Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention.....Best Small Ad

The Baldwin Bulletin

First PlaceBest Niche Product
 Third Place.....Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Honorable Mention...Best Newspaper Promotion

The Boscobel Dial

First PlaceLocalized National Story
 Honorable Mention...Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place.....Environmental Reporting
 Third Place.....Best Restaurant Ad
 Third Place.....Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place.....Environmental Reporting

The Cap Times, Madison

First PlaceFeature Story (Profile)
 First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting
 First PlaceGeneral News Story

First Place Local Column
 First Place Photo Essay
 First Place Community Engagement Award
 Second Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Second Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Second Place..... Health Coverage
 Second Place..... Local Column
 Second Place..... Investigative Reporting
 Second Place..... Best Headlines
 Second Place..... Editorial Award
 Second Place..... Local Sports Column
 Third Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place..... Visual Storytelling
 Third Place..... Localized National Story
 Third Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Third Place..... Investigative Reporting
 Honorable Mention..... Environmental Reporting
 Honorable Mention..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting

The Chetek Alert

First Place Best Ad Idea (Series)
 First Place Health Coverage
 First Place Bill Payne Award
 First Place Best Newspaper Promotion
 Second Place..... Photo Essay
 Second Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 Second Place..... Community Engagement Award
 Second Place..... Best Use of Humor
 Third Place..... Best Front Page
 Third Place..... Spot News Photo
 Third Place..... Best Use of Local Photography
 Honorable Mention..... Spot News Photo

The Chippewa Herald, Chippewa Falls

First Place General Excellence
 First Place Localized National Story
 First Place Best Headlines
 Honorable Mention..... Reporting on Local Education
 Honorable Mention..... Photo Essay

The Chronotype, Rice Lake

First Place Best Niche Product
 First Place Sports Action Photo
 First Place Feature Story (Profile)
 First Place Local Outdoor Column
 Second Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place..... Artistic Photo
 Third Place..... Localized National Story
 Third Place..... Health Coverage

Honorable Mention..... Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Feature Story
 Honorable Mention..... Business Coverage

The Daily Reporter, Milwaukee

Second Place..... Business Coverage
 Honorable Mention..... Health Coverage

The Dodgeville Chronicle

Honorable Mention..... Best Video

The Edgerton Reporter

Third Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Third Place..... Breaking News Reporting

The Freedom Pursuit

First Place Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place..... Investigative Reporting
 Third Place..... Community Engagement Award

The Freeman, Waukesha

Second Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place..... General Excellencen

The Gazette, Janesville

First Place Breaking News Reporting
 First Place Editorial Award
 First Place Best Newspaper Promotion
 First Place Best Special Section (Editorial)
 First Place Bill Payne Award
 First Place Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Second Place..... Feature Photo
 Second Place..... Sports News Story
 Second Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 Second Place..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 Third Place..... Spot News Photo
 Third Place..... Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Honorable Mention..... Best Front Page
 Honorable Mention..... Localized National Story
 Honorable Mention..... General Excellence
 Honorable Mention..... Rookie Reporter of the Year

The Globe, Ironwood, MI

First Place Best Special Section (Advertising)
 First Place Spot News Photo
 Second Place..... Best Niche Product

Second Place..... Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place..... Feature Photo
 Third Place..... Best Small Ad
 Honorable Mention..... Best Restaurant Ad

The Herald-Independent and The McFarland Thistle

Third Place..... Reporting on Local Government

The Journal Times, Racine

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

The Lakeland Times, Minocqua

First Place Photo Essay
 First Place General Excellence
 First Place Best Opinion Pages
 First Place Best Headlines
 First Place Breaking News Reporting
 First Place Artistic Photo
 First Place Spot News Photo
 First Place Best Use of Humor
 Second Place..... Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Second Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place..... Best Ad Idea (Series)
 Second Place..... Bill Payne Award
 Third Place..... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place..... Sports Feature Story
 Third Place..... Investigative Reporting
 Third Place..... General News Photo
 Third Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place..... Best Use of Art Service
 Third Place..... Best Niche Product
 Third Place..... Best Sports Pages
 Third Place..... All-Around Newspaper Photography
 Third Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion
 Honorable Mention..... Editorial Award
 Honorable Mention..... Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Visual Storytelling
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Honorable Mention..... Breaking News Reporting
 Honorable Mention..... Best Front Page
 Honorable Mention..... Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Spot News Photo

The Monroe Times

First Place Best Opinion Pages
 First Place Best Large Ad

First Place Breaking News Reporting
 First Place Visual Storytelling
 Second Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place..... Feature Photo
 Second Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place..... Sports News Story
 Second Place..... Best Front Page
 Second Place..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Second Place..... Bill Payne Award
 Second Place..... Best Video
 Second Place..... Overall Page Design
 Third Place..... Photo Essay
 Third Place..... General Excellence
 Third Place..... Best Use of Color
 Third Place..... Local Sports Column
 Honorable Mention..... General News Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Feature Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Sports Action Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Breaking News Reporting
 Honorable Mention..... Best Sports Pages
 Honorable Mention..... Best Headlines
 Honorable Mention..... Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention.. Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages

The Northwoods River News, Rhinelander

First Place Best Sports Pages
 First Place General Excellence
 First Place Best Restaurant Ad
 First Place Best Front Page
 Second Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Second Place..... Photo Essay
 Second Place..... Best Ad Idea (Series)
 Second Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place..... Local Sports Column
 Second Place..... Spot News Photo
 Third Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place..... Sports News Story
 Third Place..... Best Small Ad
 Third Place..... Sports Feature Story
 Third Place..... Artistic Photo
 Third Place..... Best Use of Color
 Honorable Mention..... General News Photo

The Oregon Observer

Second Place..... General Excellence
 Third Place..... Best Sports Pages
 Third Place..... Best Front Page
 Honorable Mention..... Sports News Story

The Pierce County Journal, Ellsworth

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

Third Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place..... Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Best Niche Product
 Honorable Mention..... Sports News Story
 Honorable Mention..... Health Coverage

The Platteville Journal

First Place Editorial Award
 Second Place..... Best Opinion Pages
 Second Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Second Place..... Best Sports Pages
 Third Place..... Best Multiple Advertiser Spread
 Honorable Mention..... Local Sports Column
 Honorable Mention..... Overall Page Design

The Post-Crescent

First Place Spot News Photo
 First Place Sports Action Photo
 First Place Localized National Story
 Second Place..... Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place..... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Second Place..... Visual Storytelling
 Second Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Second Place..... Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place..... General News Photo
 Third Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place..... Reporting on Local Government
 Third Place..... General Excellence
 Third Place..... Local Column
 Third Place..... Photo Essay
 Honorable Mention..... Artistic Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Spot News Photo
 Honorable Mention..... Investigative Reporting
 Honorable Mention..... Best Headlines
 Honorable Mention..... Local Sports Column

The Press Times, Green Bay

First Place Sports Feature Story
 First Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 First Place Best Front Page
 First Place Health Coverage
 First Place Best Large Ad
 First Place Best Ad Idea (Series)
 First Place Best Use of Art Service
 Local Outdoor Column
 Second Place..... Best Restaurant Ad
 Second Place..... Best Small Ad
 Second Place..... Localized National Story
 Second Place..... Sports Action Photo
 Second Place..... Health Coverage
 Second Place..... Best Use of Color
 Second Place..... Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Second Place..... Best Newspaper Promotion

Third Place..... Editorial Award
 Third Place..... Best Restaurant Ad
 Third Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Third Place..... Photo Essay
 Third Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Third Place..... General Excellence
 Third Place..... Sports News Story
 Third Place..... Spot News Photo
 Third Place..... Bill Payne Award
 Third Place..... Best Feature/Lifestyle Pages
 Honorable Mention..... Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention..... Investigative Reporting
 Honorable Mention..... General News Photo
 Honorable Mention... Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention..... Best Opinion Pages
 Honorable Mention..... Best Sports Pages
 Honorable Mention.. Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Honorable Mention..... All-Around Newspaper
 Photography
 Honorable Mention..... Local Outdoor Column

The Record-Review, Edgar

First Place Feature Photo
 First Place Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place..... Best Large Ad
 Honorable Mention..... Feature Story (Profile)

The Reporter, Fond du Lac

First Place Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place..... Breaking News Reporting
 Second Place..... Localized National Story
 Second Place..... Reporting on Local Education
 Honorable Mention..... Local Column

The Review, Plymouth

First Place Local Sports Column
 Second Place..... General News Story
 Second Place..... Best Headlines
 Third Place..... Sports Feature Story

The Richland Observer, Richland Center

Second Place..... Best Large Ad
 Second Place..... Best Use of Color

The Sheboygan Press

First Place Business Coverage
 First Place Reporting on Local Education
 Second Place..... General News Photo
 Second Place..... Environmental Reporting
 Second Place.... Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place..... Artistic Photo
 Second Place..... Sports Action Photo

Third Place.....Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Third Place.....Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place.....Environmental Reporting
 Third Place.....Open Records/FOI Award
 Honorable Mention.....Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention.....Best Front Page
 Honorable Mention.....Artistic Photo

The Stoughton Courier Hub

First PlaceBest Opinion Pages
 First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 First PlaceBest Headlines

The Tribune-Phonograph, Abbotsford

First PlaceBreaking News Reporting
 Second Place.....Sports Feature Story
 Third Place.....Local Column

The Valders Journal

First PlaceLocal Column
 Second Place.....Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Second Place.....Sports Feature Photo
 Second Place.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place.....Editorial Award
 Third Place.....Best Special Section (Advertising)
 Third Place.....Feature Story (Non-profile)

The Verona Press

First PlaceReporting on Local Education
 First PlaceGeneral News Photo
 Second Place.....Best Opinion Pages
 Second Place.....Best Front Page
 Second Place.....Rookie Reporter of the Year
 Third Place.....Overall Page Design

The Woodville Leader

First PlaceFeature Photo

Trempealeau County Times, Whitehall

Second Place.....Sports Feature Story
 Third Place.....Sports Feature Photo
 Third Place.....Local Column
 Third Place.....Best Niche Product
 Honorable Mention.....Reporting on Local Education

Tri-County News, Kiel

Second Place.....Best Ongoing Niche Publication
 Third Place.....Best Opinion Pages

Third Place.....Best Special Section (Editorial)
 Honorable Mention.....Local Column
 Honorable Mention.....General Excellence

Tri-County Press, Cuba City

First PlaceBest Small Ad

Tribune Press Reporter, Glenwood City

Second Place.....Best Small Ad
 Third Place.....Best Use of Art Service
 Third Place.....Best Large Ad

Tribune Record Gleaner

First PlaceOverall Page Design
 Second Place.....Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place.....Environmental Reporting
 Third Place.....General News Story
 Third Place.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Third Place.....Ongoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place.....Best Use of Humor
 Honorable Mention.....Best Small Ad
 Honorable Mention.....Spot News Photo

Valley Sentinel

First PlaceEnvironmental Reporting
 First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 First PlaceHealth Coverage
 Honorable Mention.....Best Front Page

Vilas County News-Review

First PlaceSports Action Photo
 First PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 First PlaceRookie Reporter of the Year
 Second Place.....Photo Essay
 Second Place.....Best Use of Local Photography
 Second Place.....Local Outdoor Column
 Third Place.....Best Large Ad
 Honorable Mention.....Photo Essay
 Honorable Mention.....Bill Payne Award

Watertown Daily Times

First PlaceSpot News Photo
 Third Place.....Spot News Photo
 Third Place.....Rookie Reporter of the Year

Waupaca County Post

First PlaceBest Front Page
 Honorable Mention.....Environmental Reporting

Wausau Daily Herald

First PlaceOngoing/Extended Coverage
 Third Place.....Feature Story (Profile)
 Honorable Mention.....Business Coverage
 Honorable Mention.....Sports Action Photo

Wausau Pilot and Review

Second Place.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place.....Reporting on Local Government
 Second Place.....Investigative Reporting
 Third Place.....Local Column
 Third Place.....Best Use of Color
 Honorable Mention.....Environmental Reporting
 Honorable Mention.....Best Large Ad

Wisconsin State Farmer, Waupaca

First PlaceLocal Column
 First PlaceFeature Story (Non-profile)
 First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 Third Place.....Feature Story (Profile)

Wisconsin State Journal, Madison

First PlaceArtistic Photo
 First PlaceFeature Photo
 First PlaceReporting on Local Education
 First PlaceBest Front Page
 First PlaceSports News Story
 First PlaceBusiness Coverage
 First PlaceEnterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 First PlaceInvestigative Reporting
 Second Place.....Artistic Photo
 Second Place.....General News Photo
 Second Place.....Enterprise/Interpretive Reporting
 Second Place.....Community Engagement Award
 Second Place.....Best Video
 Third Place.....Feature Photo
 Third Place.....Sports News Story
 Third Place.....Breaking News Reporting
 Third Place.....Business Coverage
 Third Place.....General News Story
 Honorable Mention.....General News Photo
 Honorable Mention.....Reporting on Local Education
 Honorable Mention.....Feature Story (Non-profile)
 Honorable Mention.....Sports Feature Story
 Honorable Mention.....General News Story
 Honorable Mention.....Local Column
 Honorable Mention.....Editorial Award
 Honorable Mention.....Best Video

well written and interesting, but could use more examples of “hard news” or consumer angles from the business beat.

Division D

First Place: Eric Johnson, *Lake Geneva Regional News*, Lake Geneva

Second Place: Maria Lockwood, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Third Place: Shelley Nelson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Honorable Mention: Michelle Jensen, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Division E
First Place: Scott De Laruelle, *The Stoughton Courier Hub*, Verona

Second Place: Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Third Place: Roger Mathews, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon

Honorable Mention: Kevin Dittman, *Oconto County Reporter*, Appleton

Local Column

Division A

First Place: Paul Fanlund, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Comprehensive. Cautionary tale for others. Issues that matter.

Second Place: John Nichols, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Fascinating profile.

Third Place: Duke Behnke, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Judge's Comments: Body Farms? Who knew? Compelling. Wow.

Honorable Mention: Kelly Lecker, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: Strong pieces.

Division B

First Place: Bob Fay, *Herald Times*

Reporter, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: Highly readable and interesting.

Second Place: Bill Barth, *Beloit Daily News*, Beloit

Judge's Comments: Great background context. Lots of information for the voter. Compelling.

Third Place: Alisa Schafer, Patti Zarling, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: Felt like I was in the restaurant with you.

Honorable Mention: Daphne Lemke, *The Reporter*, Fond du Lac

Judge's Comments: Fun piece.

Division C

First Place: Colleen Kottke, *Wisconsin State Farmer*, Waupaca

Judge's Comments: Stark reality faced as parents grow older and lives well-lived are remembered. A once

in a lifetime column deserves to win this category.

Second Place: Debra Fitzgerald, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Judge's Comments: The crisis facing newspapers is always a worthy subject of an editorial. Well done.

Third Place: Keene Winters, *Wausau Pilot and Review*, Wausau

Judge's Comments: Writer brings home critical issue facing the community by using real numbers to back up his opinion.

Division D

First Place: Mary Thomsen, *The Valders Journal*, Valders

Judge's Comments: These columns are amazing. The topics are universal, but the way Mary writes draws you into her life using a clear, conversational style. The reader can feel the writing.

Major changes create emotion that only time can wear away

I'm not the same person I was on March 20 of this year. I will never be her again. And it's hard to sit with that knowledge and live in the hard stuff.

That was the last day my husband was truly with us, as he suffered a massive stroke overnight and by mid-day on March 21, it was pretty clear he wasn't coming all the way back. We lost him three days later.

Most of you know that story because as the publisher of this newspaper, Brian's death was news, which I was forced to report as the editor here. That was the beginning of the hard stuff.

It feels like years since he was here and again it seems

too many sweets or you are getting a cold: You're not really sick, you just feel...icky. Only this time the ick isn't

How 'Bout It?

By Mary Thomsen

going to go away when my dessert digests or I take some cold medicine. It needs to weave and wind its way through time, and that means I have to find patience, which is a problem for me.

I can't even stand to walk behind someone in a crowd if they go to slow, and I nearly

isn't always going to be kind. Patience just didn't come with it, which would have been helpful.

I've lived with the anxiety, medicated the anxiety, gotten therapy when needed, cried, not cried, prayed, asked for help and pretended it wasn't there. Most of the time, it came in temporary waves, hanging around until a situation ended or a problem was solved.

But sometimes, it lurks and churns and itches inside my skin and makes my brain and body vibrate. That's how I've been feeling the past couple of weeks as I go through what I assume is another stage of this grieving and changing

Second Place: Ryan Urban, *Barron News-Shield*, Barron

Third Place: Andrew Dannehy, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall

Honorable Mention: Mark Sherry, *Tri-County News*, Kiel

Division E

First Place: Jane Schmidt, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: Your readers are so lucky to have Jane. What a great writer. I ended each column wanting more. When you can feel the writing, you know you are doing something right. Well done!

Second Place: John Gibbs, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

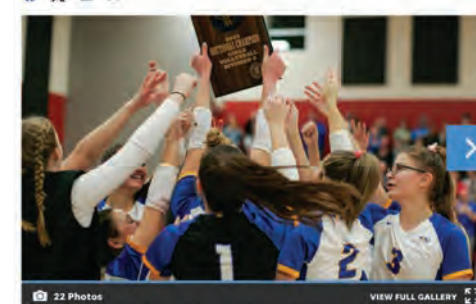
Third Place: Nathaniel Underwood, *The Tribune-Phonograph*, Abbotsford

Local Sports Column

Daily Division

Dombeck: Appreciate Howards Grove volleyball's run no matter what happens at state tourney

Tom Dombeck
Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter
Published 5:01 a.m. GT Nov 2, 2023



Howards Grove wins in four over Lake Country Lutheran
Howards Grove won in four games over Lake Country Lutheran in Doolburg.

Only one program in state history has accomplished what the Howards Grove Tigers volleyball team is attempting to do this weekend, win five-straight state championships.

Waupun won five straight from 2001-05, a feat Howards Grove is seeded to match having drawn the top seed in the WIAA Division 3 state tournament.

Local Column, First Place (Division D)

The Valders Journal

Local Sports Column, First Place (Daily Division)

Herald Times Reporter, Manitowoc

First Place: Tom Dombeck, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: Personal and emotional — exactly what I want to read in great columns.

Second Place: Mike Lucas, *The Cap Times*, Madison

Judge's Comments: A poignant read about a columnist and a coach sharing their cancer journey together.

Third Place: Jim Franz, *Beloit Daily News*, Beloit

Judge's Comments: Well written columns.

Honorable Mention: Ricardo Arguello, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Judge's Comments: I like the notable milestones column. I'd have liked to read an opinion piece about the competitive balance plan.

Division C

First Place: Herb Gould, *Peninsula*

Pulse, Baileys Harbor
 Judge's Comments: Fun columns that made the reader laugh while being informed on local sports.

Second Place: Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Judge's Comments: Being critical of local traditions is ok, if done tastefully by this writer.

Division D

First Place: Dave Boehler, *The Review*, Plymouth

Second Place: Greg Peters, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth

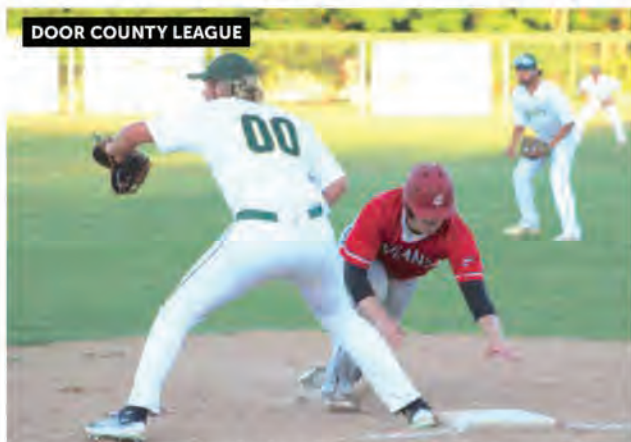
Third Place: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Honorable Mention: Steve Prestegard, *The Platteville Journal*, Platteville

Division E

First Place: Len Harris, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo*

One Long Road Trip



Egg Harbor's Riley Spetz (right) dives back to first base July 1, 2022, to beat the pick-off throw to Baileys Harbor's Cooper Cole (00). FILE BY KEVIN BONESKE

by HERB GOULD

And the award for "Most Miles Traveled to Play in the Door County League" goes to... Egg Harbor shortstop Riley Spetz. It is a 4,675-mile trek from Dutch Harbor in Unalaska, Alaska, to Egg

own a house, and we're a really good community. We really like it. But it's nice to come back.

"I do miss baseball, man. You can ask my wife [Jill]. I'm in the living room swinging a bat almost every day."

Also taking a Road Less Traveled, in a way, is the entire Egg Harbor team. A

50 at-bats. And Fuller (.480, 24 for 50) missed tying him by one base-hit.

"One bad week or one good week can raise or lower your batting average by 50 points," said Kita, a big key to what remains a very solid core at Egg Harbor.

"He's always been a good ballplayer," DeJardine said of Kita, 28, who works in maintenance at Sturgeon Bay High School. "He's smart. He knows the game. He was a really good hitter in college at Ripon. It's hard to find guys like that."

Kita, an infielder, and his brother, Brady, the Indians' catcher, who will be a senior at Gibraltar this fall, also have big hearts. A few tough-to-handle pitches in the loss at Sister Bay left Brady banging his mask on the plate.

And Nick, who has a 20-month-old daughter, still finds time to help coach at Gibraltar, where his father, Jay, the manager of the Piggly Wiggly in Sister Bay, has been head coach for nearly three decades.

"My family all played at Egg Harbor," Nick Kita said. "My dad played at Egg Harbor, my grandpa, all my uncles. That's the neat part about the league. All the guys that we're playing with right now are the kids who my dad played with. It's a generational thing."

But it's no coincidence that the league's top three teams have the league's top three pitchers — Jeremiah Jahnke

JOURNAL ...

Where is your listening point, your happy place, outdoors? Is it quiet, perhaps the light subdued? Surely, it's away from the bustle in your life and the noise in your head. It's where life slows down, where thoughts become clear, where you recalibrate and rejuvenate.

Yesterday, I walked into the stillness and peace flowing below the boughs of pine trees. Tannish pine needles softened my steps as I walked deep into the stand of pines. I sat down, and time stood still.

My thoughts becalmed, it reminded me of when I was a boy, how I'd slip away to a clump of low brush atop a knoll in the pasture. Cow paths crisscrossed the thicket, providing me trails.

I was hidden. A creek snaked around the knoll, providing a sort of moat on three sides, while the other side was guarded by thick elm trees. I was in solitude, no doubt hearing the Pipes of Pan that fill children with a sense of nature's peace.

From this secluded base, I could plan frog catching, watch red-headed woodpeckers probe for insects in the dying elms, and listen to meadowlarks and bobolinks in the hayfield. I would sit, keenly conscious of my natural surroundings. Though stress was not part of my young world, I nevertheless felt a calmness.

I did not know it then, but this calmness would be sought more and more in adulthood. I still have refuges, listening points where one hears an inner voice, where life slows down. But the consciousness of natural beauty and its meaning are harder to find. Naturalist Sigurd Olson wrote, "No adult can know such sustained contentment [as a child], but there are moments that do come."

A moment came the other day, among the pine trees. I was aware of the beauty around me, filling me with contentment. I stayed as long as I could.

— Dave Greschner

Local Outdoor Column, First Place
 (Overall Divisions)
The Chronotype, Rice Lake

Scout, Gays Mills
 Judge's Comments: Very well done. This column captured a highlight reel moment and wrote in such a way that you could easily visualize it.

Nice subject, nice writing, nice job
Second Place: Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander

Judge's Comments: This writer writes with a purpose and educates the reader. Good topics and good explanation from start to finish. Well worth the read.

Third Place: Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro

Judge's Comments: A good effort which I am sure readers look forward to viewing every week.

Well researched and written so it all makes sense. Nice job

Local Outdoor Column

Overall Divisions

First Place: Dave Greschner, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Judge's Comments: Poignant, interesting, poetical. These are really enjoyable columns. They are clear, easy to read and transporting.

Second Place: Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River

Third Place: Thomas H. Nicholls, *Price County Review*, Phillips

Honorable Mention: Kevin Naze, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Rookie Reporter of the Year

Daily Division

First Place: Caden Perry, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse

Local Sports Column, First Place (Division C)
Peninsula Pulse, Baileys Harbor

Homeless and dying

La Crosse veteran diagnosed with heart failure finds peace in final weeks



SASKIA HATVANY, RIVER VALLEY MEDIA GROUP

...a stool to prop himself up at the entrance of his tent in La Crosse on Thursday, July 11. Swollen legs which he has from a serious heart condition have made it difficult for him to move around.

CADEN PERRY | caden.perry@lee.net

Brad Schwaegerl stood outside his tent, taking deep breaths of the humid summer air along the La Crosse marshland walking trail. He has been confined to his tent more often lately, but as soon as he steps out, favors from neighbors start falling his way. A long-time friend brought four couch cushions to pad his bed and another passerby put a cup of ice water in Schwaegerl's hand before continuing down the path.



VIEW: To see more of this story, scan the QR code.

heart failure because his heart is not circulating blood efficiently enough, with some sections of his heart barely functioning at all.

Without reliable access to health care and housing, Schwaegerl found it eas-

local chapter of the SPJ. It's a great piece. Excellent work!

Third Place: Zack Goodrow, *Watertown Daily Times*, Janesville
Judge's Comments: The reporter has an exceptional ability to write about those things that are so important to communities: local government, local public safety, and local development. Excellent work in reporting and in writing. Clearly, this reporter will have a long career ahead.

Honorable Mention: Katie Garcia, *The Gazette*, Janesville
Judge's Comments: Fine examples of community reporting and solid storytelling to accompany these

pieces. I am positive the readers of the *Gazette* appreciate the reporter's talent for getting the story and writing it in a concise, objective manner. Well done!

Weekly Division

First Place: Audrey Lehman, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River
Judge's Comments: I feel this writer can handle any type of story from hard news to features to sports. Good insight on subjects. Writing style wants the reader to keep on reading. Very good entry.

Second Place: Maddie Bergstrom, *The Verona Press*, Verona
Judge's Comments: Good writing

Silver Lake Beach summer swim lessons draw to a close

BY AUDREY LEHMAN
 ASSISTANT EDITOR

The summer swim lessons at Silver Lake Beach in Eagle River have recently concluded for the season. Led by instructor Joe Laux, participants of all ages had the opportunity to learn essential swimming skills and improve their water safety. Over the past few weeks, they have been mastering important water safety skills and building confidence in the water.

Laux, who has a rich

background in swimming, shared insights into his journey and the program's development. "I've swam my whole life," he said, reflecting on his early years on a swim team in high school.

But his passion for open-water swimming brought him to this area. "My favorite thing to do is swim in open water. And that's kind of what brought me up to the area. I would go up to Sylvania to go swim in those lakes."

The swim lessons at

Silver Lake Beach have a long history, but Laux's involvement began about four to five years ago. "They used to have swimming lessons here off and on, but about five years ago, Rotary got involved, and we raised a little over \$30,000 (to improve the facilities)," Laux explained.

The funds went toward new benches on the edges of the dock for the children to rest and hold on to, as well as dock extension and kick boards. "The whole idea was to create a proper

environment for teaching kids how to swim," he said.

These improvements have made a big impact on the program. "They used to have swimming lessons here off and on, but about five years ago, Rotary got involved, and we raised a little over \$30,000 (to improve the facilities)," Laux explained.

Joe, a long-time member and a former Eagle River City Administrator, has always been deeply involved in civic activities through local government, and his commitment to the community is evident in his dedication to the swim program.

According to Joe, the program's primary goal is to equip children with the skills they need to feel comfortable and safe in the water. "The main goal is to give them some of the basic skills so that they can swim, swim different types of strokes, and feel comfortable in the water. If they were out in the middle of the lake and somehow fell in, and weren't wearing a life preserver, they could swim to shore if they needed to, without panic."



Pictured is Joe Laux's swim students returning from laps in the deep end on the last day of

Rookie Reporter of the Year, First Place (Daily Division)

Caden Perry - La Crosse Tribune

Judge's Comments: Tough topic, excellent reporting, superior writing. The reporter demonstrates the kind of talent usually reserved for more seasoned writers. He has an uncanny instinct for organizing the piece and making sure that all of the voices are heard in a concise and balanced fashion. I admit to being really intrigued by this, since I've some acquaintances among UW faculty and I had not even heard about this! The reporter did a wonderful job with this story as well as the homeless dying veteran and the homes built near the sand mines. I loved the homeless veteran

story--we encounter so many of them in our small rural community. The writer clearly understands his job as a storyteller as well as a reporter. Well done!
Second Place: Jesse Lin, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
Judge's Comments: The first two entries in this set were good. They demonstrated solid reporting and balanced use of quotes and narrative. But the story of the blind and deaf man's father's efforts to get stop signs placed at an intersection left me crying. That story is exceptional. The reporter really hit it out of the park. I hope he submits it to the

Rookie Reporter of the Year, First Place (Weekly Division)

Audrey Lehman - Vilas County News-Review, Eagle River

style and has the ability to tell the complete story. Every piece submitted was well written and gave complete information. Very solid entry.

Third Place: Jayme Bahl, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Judge's Comments: A very in depth look at an issue that affects many communities. Well researched and well presented. Keep up the good work. **Honorable Mention:** Mickey Schommer, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Writer does a very good job in getting the story right. Everything written was well worth the read.

General News Photo

Division A

First Place: Sarah Kloeping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: We felt this photo was a good example of coming away from what could have been a rather stale environment with a really attention-getting photo.

Second Place: John Hart, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: We felt like the facial expression of the police officer in the center really elevated this photo to second place. A bit tighter of a crop (particularly cleaning up the lower left-hand corner) would have made this a bit better composition.

Third Place: Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Judge's Comments: We liked the clean composition of this photo and felt that it conveyed the emotion of the first day of school well.

Honorable Mention: Amber Arnold, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: We like the story this photo told, especially with the info from the caption, but felt

that the two people standing on the left side of the frame were a bit distracting.

Division B

First Place: Gary Klein, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: The photographer did a good job of bringing us close to the subjects and that helps the viewer feel the emotions the subjects are feeling.

Second Place: Gary Klein, *The*

Sheboygan Press, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: This photo was a really nice moment that told the story the event.

Third Place: Gary Klein, Oshkosh Northwestern, Oshkosh

Division C

First Place: Luke Klink, *Ladysmith News*, Ladysmith

Judge's Comments: Great shot, cute subject and great headline. Well done.

Second Place: Jennifer Rodriguez



General News Photo, First Place (Division C)
Ladysmith News

Moran, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta
 Judge's Comments: Very cool subject and amazing color!

Third Place: Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Looks like the machine is literally taking a bite out of the house.

Honorable Mention: Mike Hollihan, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Cute!

Division D

First Place: Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Great job of capturing some emotion and a great quick moment from a routine event. It's clean, clear and communicates immediately. Nicely done.

Second Place: Maria Lockwood, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: We love the interaction in this genuine moment. Every dog owner can relate to this.

Third Place: Eric Johnson, *Lake Geneva Regional News*, Lake Geneva

Judge's Comments: This is framed very nicely. Nothing distracts from the little girl and the great time she seems to be having. It all works to tell the story.

Honorable Mention: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: Great job by the photographer of working to bring viewers a unique viewpoint. The framing and timing are both excellent.

Division E

First Place: Maddie Bergstrom, *The Verona Press*, Verona

Judge's Comments: Everything seems to come together in this sharp, visually interesting, well composed image of an unusual performance.

Second Place: Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills
 Judge's Comments: Good illustration for an important safety story about a deceptively dangerous aspect of farming.

Third Place: Gillian Pomplun, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills
 Judge's Comments: A happy water taxi rider helps draw attention to the story.

Honorable Mention: Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander
 Judge's Comments: Good night shot. The watchers in the foreground help add perspective. A little tighter crop taking out the distracting doorway light might have helped the impact of this image.

Spot News Photo

Division A

First Place: Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: Great flooding shot — the man-as-measuring-stick provides a humorous twist.

Second Place: Matt Milner, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire
 Judge's Comments: Sure, it would be nice to have an element of foreground interest in this photo, but sometimes, just being there is its own reward. Beautiful photo.

Third Place: Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville
 Judge's Comments: Powerful collection of damage photos after a significant storm.

Honorable Mention: Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: A clever find in tornado aftermath.

Division B

First Place: Ed Zagorski, *Watertown Daily Times*, Janesville
 Judge's Comments: The first-place photo took advantage of interesting light in a difficult situation to photograph.

Second Place: Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
 Judge's Comments: Of the two photos in the entry, the vertical showing the rescuer carrying the deer is the winner.

Third Place: Ed Zagorski, *Watertown Daily Times*, Janesville
 Judge's Comments: Straightforward coverage, but well-composed. Extra credit was given for ID'ing the firefighter.

Division C

First Place: Renee Draszkiwicz, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
Second Place: David Hall, *Neenah News*, Neenah
Third Place: Shane Fitzsimmons,



Spot News Photo, First Place (Division C)
The Lakeland Times

The Press Times, Green Bay
Honorable Mention: Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division D

First Place: P.J. Glisson, *The Globe*, Ironwood

Second Place: Justin Runberg, *Amery Free Press*, Amery

Third Place: Tyler Florczak, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek

Honorable Mention: Tyler Florczak, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek

Division E

First Place: Logan Everson, Nate Beier, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Second Place: Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander

Third Place: Charley Preusser, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills
Honorable Mention: Valorie Brecht, Cheyenne Thomas, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford

Sports Action Photo

Division A

First Place: Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: Peak action at a Packers game.

Second Place: Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: Interesting graphic baseball pic.

Third Place: Tork Mason, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Excellent pro football shot.

Honorable Mention: Efrain Sueldo, *Leader-Telegram*, Eau Claire
 Judge's Comments: Nice light! Not much else to say, but it's really nice light.

Division B

First Place: Jimmy Oswald, *Beloit Daily News*, Beloit
 Judge's Comments: A compelling image that captures both sides of the moment of winning and losing.

Second Place: Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: Peak action.

Third Place: Matt Lehmann, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
 Judge's Comments: Nice image that captures the excitement of winning a championship or three.

Honorable Mention: Tork Mason, *Wausau Daily Herald*, Wausau
 Judge's Comments: Interesting football image.

Division C

First Place: William Zuelke, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River

Second Place: Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Third Place: Larry Mohr, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Honorable Mention: Sam Arendt, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington

Division D

First Place: Travis Nyhus, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Judge's Comments: This is a heckuva baseball photo that, unfortunately, had the drama and impact sucked out of it by lack of cropping, and underplay. Nice moment.

Second Place: Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Interesting image. Awkward, sure, but I found myself looking at every part of the image.

Third Place: Bob Burrows, *Star-Observer*, Hudson

Judge's Comments: The moment of jubilation is always unpredictable. This frame captures enough of the excitement to memorialize the moment.

Honorable Mention: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: Who doesn't

like mud volleyball? Fun image — out of the ordinary image for the readers.

Division E

First Place: Nate Beier, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Judge's Comments: Clear winner - really stood out for the perspective and the unusual scene! Well done!

Second Place: Nate Beier, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Judge's Comments: Loved all of the excitement, fanfare and expressions.

Third Place: Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro

Judge's Comments: Cool shot - you can feel the action and intensity.

Sports Feature Photo

Division A

First Place: Tork Mason, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: We liked

the multiple layers of celebration happening in this photo.

Second Place: Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Third Place: Saskia Hatvany, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse

Division B

First Place: Tork Mason, *Marshfield News-Herald*, Marshfield

Second Place: Gary Klein, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: Another great moment, we liked the clean composition and felt like the negative space complimented the quiet moment between the two players well.

Third Place: Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc

Division C

First Place: Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Second Place: Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Third Place: Kate Reichl, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Honorable Mention: Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division D

First Place: Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Amazing. This is the very definition of a sports feature. Clearly the first place winner in this category.

Second Place: Brian Thomsen, *The Valders Journal*, Valders

Judge's Comments: Excellent job of looking beyond the obvious action for a nice candid moment.

Third Place: Benjamin Pierce, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall

Judge's Comments: Great job of capturing the emotion of this longtime coach. This is difficult to do under tough lighting conditions.

Honorable Mention: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: Another great moment here beyond the action. Too bad this only ran one column, it really deserved better play. Still a very nice capture by the photographer.

Division E

First Place: Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro

Second Place: Brett LaBore, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander

Third Place: Miya Grunert, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon

Honorable Mention: Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro



Sports Action Photo, First Place (Division E)
Cashton Record



Sports Feature Photo, First Place (Division C)
Monroe County Herald, Sparta

Feature Photo

Division A

First Place: Amber Arnold, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: A nice moment that we felt told the story of the day. Winter's ending and this guy's getting one of his last lunch-time ice skating sessions in.

Second Place: Anthony Wahl, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Judge's Comments: Beautiful morning light and composition.

Third Place: John Hart, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Division B

First Place: Gary Klein, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Judge's Comments: We loved the different kids' facial expressions.

Second Place: Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette

Third Place: Gary Klein, *Herald Times Reporter*, Manitowoc

Division C

First Place: Bill Schanen IV, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
 Judge's Comments: Just a stunning photograph. The news was big enough that a standard photo of the birds would probably have worked, but the photographer didn't stop there. This sums up what wildlife photography should really be all about. An amazing moment that took patience and perseverance. The clear winner in this category.

Second Place: Michael Cooney, *Oshkosh Herald*, Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: Great photos convey a mood or feeling and this certainly left us with one impression: Cold. Kudos to the

photographer for being out there at dawn on a freezing morning to make a beautiful image.

Third Place: Sam Arendt, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington

Judge's Comments: Great job matching the tagline with the photo, it certainly is a "new perspective." Photo jumps right off the page and makes an impact.

Honorable Mention: Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Easily could have been in second or third place.

Amazing job of finding a new approach to something that I'm sure gets covered every year. It may not be everybody's cup of tea, but it's interesting and new and very well done.



Feature Photo, First Place (Division C)
Ozaukee Press, Port Washington

Division D

First Place: Casey Krautkramer, *The Record-Review*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: This is the winner because of the kid in the middle. While others viewed this heavenly event as a big deal, he didn't think so. The photographer told the story well with this photo.

Second Place: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: Getting in the right spot for a photo is the first rule of newspaper photography. Hustling and effort led to this great image

Third Place: P.J. Glisson, *The Globe*, Ironwood

Judge's Comments: A crowded field of great photos means this one is

relegated to third place, although any of the top three could have been number one. Great work.

Honorable Mention: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
 Judge's Comments: Bubbles are always fun and the photographer did well to capture the emotion of happiness in this image. So many good entries that this one could also have been the winner in this category.

Division E

First Place: Cari Cornelius, *The Woodville Leader*, Spring Valley

Judge's Comments: Unbelievably adorable — who doesn't love animals!?! I think this was a great capture by the photographer.

Second Place: Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Judge's Comments: As a photograph goes, this is top notch. As a feature, I would have perhaps liked to have seen a little more action or reality of the work that goes into growing garlic like that.

Third Place: Charley Preusser, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: Truly a great capture — I think we're going to see a lot of great things coming up from this publication photography-wise.

Artistic Photo

Division A

First Place: John Hart, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Judge's Comments: This was the whole package of color, content, technical, and creativity. Great Job

Second Place: John Hart, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: Beautiful use of color. Looks like it should be framed and on a wall.

Third Place: Sarah Kloeping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: Lovely color and content. Caught the eye right away.
Honorable Mention: Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: Congratulations on catching lightning. Beautiful colors.

Division B

Second Place: Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: Nothing says action and fun like a fair, and this photo shows that action up close, defined, and well. Like the people for perspective.
Third Place: Paul Williams, *EagleHerald*, Marinette
 Judge's Comments: Isolation is the theme, nature's color gradient is on display and the sun - I am squinting and shivering at the same time.
Honorable Mention: Gary Klein, *The Sheboygan Press*, Manitowoc
 Judge's Comments: A fall picture worthy of mention with a unique building to balance the colors of nature.

Division C

First Place: Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
Second Place: Larry Mohr, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Third Place: Remy Carmichael, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
Honorable Mention: Dean Hall, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division D

First Place: Jed Carlson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
 Judge's Comments: Fantastic use of lighting and shadows.
Second Place: Travis Nyhus, *The*

Chronotype, Rice Lake
 Judge's Comments: Great sense of motion.
Third Place: Sarah Nigbor, *The Pierce County Journal*, Ellsworth
 Judge's Comments: Loved seeing something without people!
Honorable Mention: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe
 Judge's Comments: Excellent use of reflection.

Division E

First Place: Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*, Cashton
 Judge's Comments: The best of the best right here.
Second Place: Anne Trautner, *Kewaskum Statesman*, Kewaskum
 Judge's Comments: Just an incredible capture of light and shadow!
Third Place: Renee Draszkievicz,

The Northwoods River News, Rhinelander
 Judge's Comments: Wonderful shot of something pretty mundane.

Photo Essay

Daily Division

First Place: Ruthie Hauge, *The Cap Times*, Madison
 Judge's Comments: This was such a compelling story and corresponding images. I truly enjoyed reading this!
Second Place: Saskia Hatvany, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse
 Judge's Comments: Wow, what a powerful piece.
Third Place: Dan Powers, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton
 Judge's Comments: I loved seeing the joy on the students' faces and

the fashion that was worn at the dance. It looked like a joyful time was had by all.
Honorable Mention: Brandon Berg, *The Chippewa Herald*, Chippewa Falls
 Judge's Comments: Loved seeing these student athletes enjoying victories on the field!

Division C

First Place: Trevor Greene, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
 Judge's Comments: I felt this piece best represents the category. The photos are eye-catching, diverse, and attractive, and the design complements the photos and story. It certainly talks about topics near and dear to the readers. The writing and the cutlines and the photos work as a complete story-telling



Photo Essay, First Place (Daily Division)
The Cap Times, Madison

package. As a reader, I would be satisfied and enriched by this piece.

Second Place: Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten, Al West, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River

Judge's Comments: I liked this entry because it delivers on what it promises - faces! The photos ARE up-close. Too many photographers shy away from close-ups but readers love them. Of course, there is a mix here, as well as some important information accompanying a storied event. The Cierra photo is wonderful - showing two views at once.

Third Place: Janelle Fisher, Sue Schroeder, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: There is color, movement, and plenty of faces here, as well as solid, story-telling information in the cutlines. A lot of families were happy with this edition, and these local students, I am sure, appreciated the coverage. Two suggestions: Get at least one close-up. Give photographer Janelle a bigger credit line!

Honorable Mention: Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River

Judge's Comments: There are amazing, up-close, vibrant photos. But there were elements missing - the WWWWWH and the impact the spaces and animals have in this coverage area and beyond. The essay needs to give information as well as visuals. What stream, forest, season, etc.? Tell us please.

Division D

First Place: Eric Johnson, *Lake Geneva Regional News*, Lake Geneva

Judge's Comments: I loved these colorful, engaging photos of the county fair!

Second Place: Kenton Troutman,

The Chetek Alert, Chetek

Judge's Comments: This photo essay was a beautiful tribute to the fallen officer. You could really feel the emotion in each of the images.

Third Place: Natalie Dillon, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: This collection of photos reminded me of my own homecoming days and hometown pride. Wonderful!

Honorable Mention: A.J. Gates, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster

Judge's Comments: The joy of each of these ball players was palpable in each of the photos!

Division E

First Place: Nate Beier, *Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise*, Hillsboro

Judge's Comments: Excellent mix of photos that tell the story of this historic game. And outstanding choice for the stand-alone photo of the rebound. What a great shot.

Second Place: Brett LaBore, Bob Mainhardt, Jeremy Mayo, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander

Third Place: Jonathan Bailey, Roger Mathews, *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, Ripon

Honorable Mention: Logan Everson, Nate Beier, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Overall Page Design

Weekly Division

First Place: Karie Schmidt, Valorie Brecht, Cheyenne Thomas, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: Very memorable.

Second Place: Adam Krebs, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: Like the way

the story was laid out.

Third Place: Brad Allen, Jack Miller, *The Verona Press*, Verona

Judge's Comments: Nice use of color and pictures.

Honorable Mention: Jason Nihles, *The Platteville Journal*, Platteville

Judge's Comments: Very nice and consistent design which I liked.

Visual Storytelling

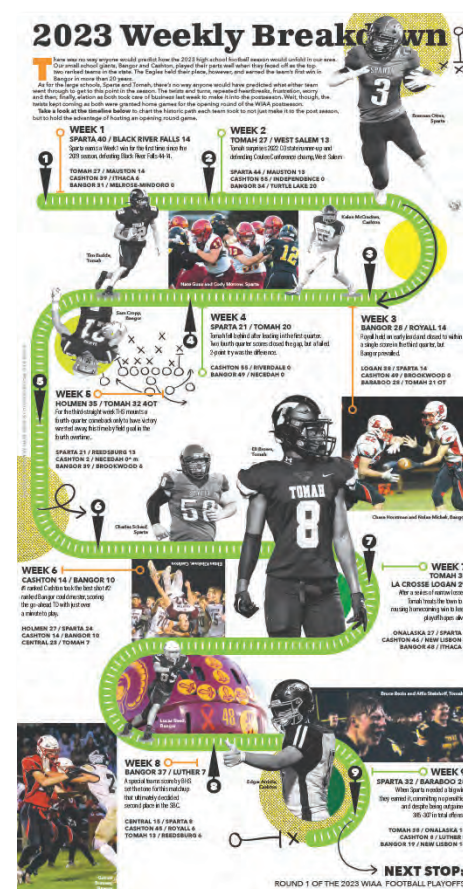
Division A

First Place: Saskia Hatvany, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse

Judge's Comments:

Second Place: Ricardo Arguello, Jim Rosandick, Dan Powers, Bill Glasheen, *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton

Third Place: Ruthie Hauge, *The Cap*



Visual Storytelling, First Place (Division C)
Monroe County Herald, Sparta

Times, Madison

Honorable Mention: Sarah Kloepping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay

Division C

First Place: Logan Everson, Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Second Place: Nate Beier, Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Third Place: Nate Beier, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Honorable Mention: Heather Holmes, Beckie Gaskill, Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Division DE

First Place: Sarah Sabatke, Doug Sabatke, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: This was fun, informative and energetic - nacho normal layout of graphics! Love the consistency of the theme and look in the visual elements into this slice of Wisconsin culture.

Second Place: Dan Williamson, Clint Austin, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Lovely photo used throughout the layout, and the video was an added visual that helped tell the story.

Third Place: Logan Everson, Nate Beier, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Judge's Comments: Original (and maybe brave) approach to scatter the photos on different pages, but the visual consistency really tied it together.

Audio Storytelling

Overall Divisions

First Place: Dan Williamson, Maria Lockwood, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Loved it. People are so connected and interested in the history of their community. This podcast series has to be a hit with the community. Well produced!

Second Place: Myles Dannhausen Jr., *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Third Place: Debra Fitzgerald, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Honorable Mention: Myles Dannhausen Jr., *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Best Video

Daily Division

First Place: Sarah Kloepping, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay

Second Place: Bryce Gauger, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Third Place: Saskia Hatvany, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse

Honorable Mention: Jake Kocorowski, Samantha Madar, Jim Polzin, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison

Weekly Division

First Place: Dan Williamson, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Second Place: Sarah Sabatke, Doug Sabatke, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Third Place: Tom LaVenture, *Price County Review*, Phillips

Honorable Mention: John Dalton, *The Dodgeville Chronicle*, Dodgeville

Bill Payne Award

Division ABC

First Place: Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Second Place: Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Third Place: Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Honorable Mention: Doug Etten, Kurt Krueger, Al West, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River

Division DE

First Place: James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek

Second Place: LANCE RAY, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Third Place: Scott Blatchford, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Salesperson of the Year

Overall Divisions

First Place: Jess Farley, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: Jess Farley Nelson has shown significant growth in a career that apparently, chose her as much as she chose it. Starting from scratch to being

an integral part of the team with multiple responsibilities is admirable and best of all, Jess is sharing her love of a small, community newspaper and vast, acquired knowledge with her staff. Well done and a well deserved first place finish.

Best Restaurant Ad

Division C

First Place: Renee Puccini, Jess Farley Nielsen, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: Great graphics and good use of color.

Chairs overlooking the water really tell the story! Good use of type

Second Place: Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Great photography and clear message about location and contact information

Third Place: Casie Mallien, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Great photography and good use of burst



Green Bay-area community reflects on lasting legacy of Cherry Starr

Cherry Starr, wife of famed Green Bay Packers quarterback Bart Starr, died Feb. 27, 2024, at age 89. Fans, former players and community leaders reflect on her lasting legacy.

Sarah Kloepping

Published 2:55 p.m. CT Feb. 27, 2024 | Updated 10:41 p.m. CT Feb. 27, 2024



Best Video, First Place (Daily Division)
Green Bay Press-Gazette

Best Restaurant Ad, First Place (Division D)
Grant County Herald Independent, Lancaster

with information.

Division D

First Place: Emily Koch, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster

Judge's Comments: Great use of color, type and photography

Second Place: Scott Blatchford, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Judge's Comments: Great use of type, color and graphics.

Third Place: Tyra Saddoris, *The Boscobel Dial*, Boscobel

Judge's Comments: Great use of graphics and the ad stands out to the reader.

Honorable Mention: The Globe Advertising Staff, *The Globe*, Ironwood

Judge's Comments: Great layout and good use of type

Division E

First Place: Renee Draszkievicz, Al West, Madeleine De Fore, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander

Judge's Comments: Easy to read and good use of type

Second Place: Tyra Saddoris, *Muscoda Progressive*, Muscoda

Judge's Comments: Easy to read and great photography

Third Place: Joy Dain, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell

Judge's Comments: Very creative and easy to read

Best Large Ad

Division ABC

First Place: Janelle Fisher, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: A fun design to creatively handle an event schedule. Visually draws the reader in to the

ad to take in a lot of information. Great idea, well executed. Sharp looking ad. Good use of photos and graphics. Typically boring coupons are given life as 3D images popping off the page.

Second Place: Renee Puccini, Jess Farley Nielsen, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: Sharp looking ad. Good use of photos and graphics. Typically boring coupons

are given life as 3D images popping off the page.

Third Place: Doug Etten, Kurt Krueger, Al West, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River

Judge's Comments: Very colorful night shot of the complex is eye-catching, along with large, bright photos capturing the excitement of the event.

Honorable Mention: Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*, Wausau

GBUFO INVASION FEST 2024

JULY 19-21

AT THE HISTORIC TARTLTON THEATRE
405 W WALNUT STREET
GREEN BAY, WI

SINGLE DAY PASS:
\$30 IN ADVANCE
\$35 DAY OF SHOW
THREE-DAY PASS: \$75

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
GREEN BAY UFO GIFT SHOP AND RECORDS,
IRVING PLACE RECORDS,
MADCITY MUSIC AND
ERODING WINDS.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

ELNER GLUESKIN | 12:00
SHANTY SLEAZE | 12:40
STINKEYS | 1:15
SONS OF KONG | 2:00
DEVILS TEETH | 2:45
BODY FUTURES | 3:30
CASTLE BLACK | 4:15
BURN THIS COMEDIANS | 5:00
KEVIN FAILURE | 5:45
DUSK | 6:30
LUNG | 7:15
IFINADANIPI | 8:00
PET MOSQUITO | 8:45
WRISTWATCH | 9:30
PLASTICLAND | 10:30
SWEET KNIVES | 11:50
HOLLY AND THE NICE LIONS | 12:50

SATURDAY, JULY 20

HUE BLANC'S JOYLESS ONES | 12:00
DELICIOUS MONSTERS | 12:45
ALUMINUM KNOT EYE | 1:30
VHS DUST | 2:15
GREG WHEELER & THE POLY HALL COPS | 3:00
YARNELLS | 3:45
SPIY TAKES | 4:30
BURN THIS COMEDIANS | 5:05
WHIPPETS | 5:50
DEATH PARTY | 6:35
DUSK | 7:25
BRIDES | 8:15
FREEZING HANDS | 9:00
CHINESE TELEPHONES | 9:55
THE NIGHTY DEERLICK | 10:40
THE NECKBONES | 11:30
BABY TYLER BAND | 12:45

SUNDAY, JULY 21

DITCH THE HUBCAP | 12:00
ZAZOU CARBOMB | 12:40
SNOKE FREE HOME | 1:05
WARHAWKS | 1:50
NIGHTFREAK | 2:35
JINKSIE | 3:20
PROUD PARENTS | 4:05
BOB PIGGINS | 4:50
SINKING SUNS | 5:35
FLORIDA BROTHERS BAND | 6:20
SPIDORA | 7:05
LAVISH WASTE | 7:50
BIG CLOWN | 8:35
THE SLEEVEENS | 9:20
TINNY'S ORGANISM | 10:20
THE PRESENT AGE | 11:45

PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS:
CHEESESTEAK REBELLION,
ALAMO PIZZERIA, ASTRA THERAPEUTIC

Best Large Ad, First Place (Division ABC)
The Press Time, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Creative background picks up the colors from the carpet in the photo. The paint from background brushed over the lower corner of the photo is a nice touch. Choice of font resulted in odd spacing that needs kerning, otherwise a very nicely done ad.

Division D

First Place: Tai Ruegsegger, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Judge's Comments: This ad displays top-notch uses of graphics and typography. Very clean, bold, and creative.

Second Place: Staff, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster

Judge's Comments: I really like the retro look of this ad. Interesting and eye-catching design.

Third Place: Kati Schoelzel, *The Record-Review*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: This ad grabs your attention and through the use of well-placed images, compels the audience to read the details.

Division E

First Place: Jessica Brownell, Jason Nihles, *Fennimore Times*, Fennimore

Judge's Comments: A very exciting design. Love the comic book feel.

Second Place: Tyra Saddoris, *The Richland Observer*, Richland Center

Judge's Comments: I enjoyed the "retro" look of this ad — nice use of color and headline typography.

Third Place: Carole Schurtz, *Tribune Press Reporter*, Glenwood City

Judge's Comments: This ad is very bold and attention-grabbing. Also, a nice tribute to this young man's accomplishment.

Best Small Ad

Division C

First Place: Eric Roellig, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Judge's Comments: Large powerful graphic demands attention, pops out of the border and off the page.

Second Place: Press Times Production Staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Inviting ad is simple and to the point.

Third Place: Rebecca Casarez, *Ozaukee Press*, Port Washington
Judge's Comments: A lot of elements and info flow into this very colorful small ad.

Division D

First Place: Michelle Carlson, Janis Redman, *Sawyer County Record*, Hayward

Judge's Comments: Excellent photo of a delicious dinner and appreciate

the message as to where it came from (and how the cattle are raised). Savor the Flavor is a clever heading and immediately catches the eye (as does the photo)! Effective messaging.

Second Place: Jessica Brownell, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster

Judge's Comments: Unusual and clever graphic of the plumber. Simple and direct messaging. Horizontal format dominates the page. Good use of color.

Third Place: The Globe Advertising Staff, *The Globe*, Ironwood
Judge's Comments: Clever merge of logo with a real photo of snowshoes in the snow. Covers the activities they offer year round, beyond just the snow activities. Creative, small space ad!

Honorable Mention: Scott Blatchford, *Superior Telegram*, Superior
Judge's Comments: Plenty of photos, well organized and good use of color to help with separating each category.

Division E

First Place: Jessica Brownell, Jodi White, *Tri-County Press*, Cuba City
Judge's Comments: Well organized, sufficient info, photos of pancakes and eggs/sausage stood out. Very cute and eye-catching background tied it all together.

Second Place: Carole Schurtz, *Tribune Press Reporter*, Glenwood City

Judge's Comments: Well organized and balanced and the choice of the red truck was perfect amongst the otherwise black background.

Third Place: Renee Draszkievicz, Al West, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander
Judge's Comments: Festive art, to

the point and effective.

Honorable Mention: Karie Schmidt, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford

Judge's Comments: Sam is front and center as he should be and his engaging smile catches the readers' attention. I bet he is a very good pianist too!

Best Ad Idea (Series)

Division ABC

First Place: Casie Mallien, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Fun series encourages reader participation by choosing your favorite pizza place. In a friendly rivalry the meter fills up each week based on sales and at the same time promotes awareness of charity donation.

Second Place: Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Large logo is placed prominently. Ad features a strong call to action. Backgrounds used are inviting to get outdoors, promoting use of their products.

Third Place: Renee Puccini, Steve Grutzmacher, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: Candid photos of locals enjoying their experience gives readers a feel of the atmosphere and reinforces the headline.

Division D

First Place: James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek

Judge's Comments: Love how they use an adorable dog as their mascot and tie him into holidays. The ads are cute, easy to read, and a solid constant reminder of the business that is in a crowded category. Well

done!

First Place: Jessica Brownell, Jodi White, *Fennimore Times*, Fennimore
Judge's Comments: Such a fun and engaging contest for both readers and sponsors! The ongoing aspect gave readers a reason to check back consistently, the sponsors enjoyed a level of frequency and the tie-breaker questions involved a little digging with each sponsor (and additional engagement). Making the weekly gift certificate valid at one of the sponsors only was also genius. I just might have to steal this idea. Well done!

Second Place: Renee Draszkievicz, Madeleine De Fore, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander
Judge's Comments: The ad campaign is a creative, worthy and helpful tool for the readers!

Division E

First Place: Jessica Brownell, Jodi White, *Fennimore Times*, Fennimore
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Judge's Comments: The ad campaign is a creative, worthy and helpful tool for the readers!

Best Use of Color



Best Small Ad, First Place (Division E)
Tri-County Press, Cuba City

Division ABC

First Place: Renee Puccini, Jess Farley Nielsen, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: Colorful art photographs pop off the black background. Colored text matches logo.

Second Place: Casie Mallien, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
Judge's Comments: Extra attention to detail went into the design of this advertorial - strong graphic headline, drop cap paragraph, text wrap on clipped image. A lot of info presented neatly with a nice blue color scheme.

Third Place: Shereen Siewert, *Wausau Pilot and Review*, Wausau
Judge's Comments: Brightly colored petunia photo with matching colored border and green info box listing the featured items is very suitable for this greenhouse ad.

Division D

Second Place: Emily Koch, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster

Third Place: LANCE RAY, *The Monroe Times*, Monroe

Honorable Mention: Scott Blatchford, *Superior Telegram*, Superior

Division E

First Place: Tyra Saddoris, *Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout*, Gays Mills

Judge's Comments: This is what a great ad should look like -- not overly busy, and smart color choices that tie in each aspect of what is being advertised.

Second Place: Tyra Saddoris, *The Richland Observer*, Richland Center
Judge's Comments: Simple use of color can make a bold statement and a memorable ad — this has it all.

Third Place: Renee Draszkievicz, Madeleine De Fore, *The Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander
Judge's Comments: Great use of contrasting colors to highlight events while not being overly "loud".

Best Multiple Advertiser Spread

Division ABC

First Place: Logan Everson, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta

Judge's Comments: Extremely impressed with this attention grabbing layout. Well executed retro design, excellent choice of typography and use of color, action shot duotones on distressed football

field background, team headshots on sidelines, My compliments to the designer, I love everything about this sharp looking page.

Second Place: Beloit Daily News Staff, *Beloit Daily News*, Beloit
Judge's Comments: Can't go wrong showcasing the talents of young artists. Nicely designed hand-drawn look of the cover and page headers are appropriate for the theme of this section. Fun section for the reader.

Third Place: Kyle Harmon, *Ladysmith News*, Ladysmith
Judge's Comments: Nicely laid out page for a good cause with lots of advertising support. Paw prints dotting the "T's" is a nice touch.

Division D

First Place: Kim Corpian, *Courier*

Best Multiple Advertiser Spread, First Place (Division E)

Cashton Record

Press, Prairie Du Chien

Second Place: Ann Rupp, Carol Tyson, *The Platteville Journal*, Platteville

Third Place: Ann Rupp, Carol Tyson, *The Platteville Journal*, Platteville

Honorable Mention: Jessica Brownell, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster

Division E

First Place: Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Second Place: Staff, *Courier Sentinel*, Cornell

Third Place: Diane Everson, *The Edgerton Reporter*, Edgerton

Best Use of Art Service

Division ABC

First Place: Press Times Production Staff, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
Judge's Comments: A great selection for the main graphic in this ad. Nice design.

Second Place: *The Gazette*, Janesville
Judge's Comments: Nice use of art service image.

Third Place: Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
Judge's Comments: Effective use of art service elements.

Division D

First Place: Jessica Brownell, Jodi White, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster
Judge's Comments: This is a very well-designed ad. Despite a lot going on, it has a creative flow, and everything is easy to read. I love the homage to an all-time Christmas classic.

Second Place: James Moran, *The*

Best Use of Color, First Place (Division E)

Crawford County Independent & The Kickapoo Scout, Gays Mills

Chetek Alert, Chetek

Judge's Comments: This series of ads demonstrates that graphics and images from an art service can be manipulated into attention-getting ads. Nice work.

Third Place: Jessica Brownell, Kevin Kelly, *Grant County Herald Independent*, Lancaster

Judge's Comments: This ad has a very tasteful balance of graphics and text. Great choice of fonts.

Division E

First Place: Jessica Brownell, *Fennimore Times*, Fennimore

Second Place: Jessica Brownell, Jodi White, *Fennimore Times*, Fennimore

Honorable Mention: Emily Koch, Jodi White, *Fennimore Times*, Fennimore

Best Use of Local Photography

Weekly Division

First Place: Jessica Brownell, Jason Nihles, *Fennimore Times*, Fennimore

Second Place: Doug Etten, Kurt Krueger, *Vilas County News-Review*, Eagle River

Third Place: James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek

Best Use of Humor

Overall Divisions

First Place: Heather Holmes, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Attractive. Photos/copy of pieces surrounding ad, excellent.

Second Place: James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek
Judge's Comments: Attractive. Lots



Best Use of Local Photography, First Place (Division A)
The Cap Times, Madison

Whether it's bagging the BIG BUCK or hauling your trash

We ALWAYS get the job DONE!

Have a safe and enjoyable hunt!

Lakeland DISPOSAL & RECYCLING INC.

715-358-8500
www.lakelanddisposal.com
7750 US-51, Minocqua, WI 54548
"Working hard to keep the Northwoods beautiful!"

Best Use of Humor, First Place (Overall Divisions)
The Lakeland Times, Minocqua

of information.

Third Place: Karie Schmidt, *Tribune Record Gleaner*, Abbotsford
Judge's Comments: People love funny photos of babies. And, cranky is in.

Best Newspaper Promotion

Daily Division

First Place: Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Third Place: Lindsey Witter, *Antigo Daily Journal*, Antigo
Division C, D, E

First Place: James Moran, *The Chetek Alert*, Chetek

Judge's Comments: Very imaginative promotions, well executed and explained and a whole lot of fun across the board. It sounds like a great place to work with a creative and dedicated staff who work hard but also love what they do. Well done one and all.

Second Place: Casie Mallien, *The Press Times*, Green Bay

Judge's Comments: Simple, effective and consistent messaging where a picture is worth a thousand words with The Press Times high school sports coverage. Brody's ad is very sweet and to the point and love the snow globe art.

Third Place: Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua

Judge's Comments: Clever Big Apple analogy and art. Appreciate the obvious pride the staff members have in their newspapers and they have done well as multiple year winners of Newspaper of the Year. Also liked the colorful and classy Salute to Veterans ad. Very eye catching.

Honorable Mention: Laura

Alvarez, Becki LaMar, *The Baldwin Bulletin*, Baldwin

Judge's Comments: Nicely done graduation promo encouraging folks to purchase ad space for their grad. Well organized without being overwhelming or confusing. Good examples of possible ads.

Best Special Section (Advertising)

Division ABC

First Place: Lindsey Witter, *Daily Jefferson County Union*, Fort Atkinson

Judge's Comments: Detailed with lots of photos and excellent use of type and color

Best Special Section (Advertising)
First Place (Division ABC)

Daily Jefferson County Union,
Fort Atkinson

Second Place: Sharon Anderson, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor
 Judge's Comments: Graphics are compelling and easy to read type and color.

Third Place: Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville

Judge's Comments: Excellent information on a subject every newspaper covers...great graphics and easy to read.

Division D

First Place: The Globe Advertising Staff, *The Globe*, Ironwood

Judge's Comments: Graphic draws you in the the color scheme is riveting The blue ribbon is eye-catching.

Second Place: Jen Moritz

(Designer) Dawn Damrow (Ad Manager), Matt Bablick (Ad Rep), *Price County Review*, Phillips
 Judge's Comments: Easy on the eye and Santa was a great choice. Type is easy to read.

Third Place: Staff, *The Valders Journal*, Valders

Judge's Comments: Easy to read and clever using a child's drawing for the cover!

Division E

First Place: Logan Everson, *Cashton Record*, Cashton

Judge's Comments: Great design and easy to read.

Good use of the fall theme

Second Place: Staff, *Courier*

Sentinel, Cornell

Judge's Comments: Cut design with primary colors and easy to read type. Great graphic.

Third Place: Jason Schulte, Laura Alvarez, Becki LaMar, *The Baldwin Bulletin*, Baldwin

Best Niche Product

Division ABC

First Place: Katie Hohmann, & Peninsula Pulse Staff, *Peninsula Pulse*, Baileys Harbor

Judge's Comments: Enjoyable, clean design and a well-organized piece.

Second Place: Eric Roellig, Kyle Evans, *Monroe County Herald*,

Sparta

Judge's Comments: A nice tribute to first responders.

Third Place: Staff, *The Lakeland Times*, Minocqua
 Judge's Comments: A nice publications with interesting graphics.

Division D

First Place: Deb Fosberg-Wheeler, Charlene Raley, *The Chronotype*, Rice Lake

Second Place: The Globe Advertising Staff, *The Globe*, Ironwood

Third Place: Tracy Marsolek, Karla Demaske, *Trempealeau County Times*, Whitehall

Division E

First Place: Laura Alvarez, Becki LaMar, *The Baldwin Bulletin*, Baldwin

Second Place: Bill Thornley, Janis



Best Special Section (Advertising)
 First Place (Division D)
The Globe, Ironwood



Best Niche Product, First Place (Division ABC)
Penninsula Pulse, Bailys Harbor



Best Niche Product, First Place (Division E)
The Chronotype, Rice Lake

Redman, Michelle Carlson, *Spooner Advocate*, Spooner
Third Place: Michelle Carlson, Janis Redman, *Spooner Advocate*, Spooner

Best Ongoing Niche Publication

Division ABC

First Place: Lindsey Witter, *The Gazette*, Janesville
 Judge's Comments: This publication has a very clean and cohesive design. Well done.

Second Place: Mike Warren, Tori Wittenbrock, Kris Leonhardt, Thom Gerretsen, *The Press Times*, Green Bay
 Judge's Comments: This publication demonstrates a great use of exciting graphics and headline treatments.
Third Place: Eric Roellig, Kyle Evans, *Monroe County Herald*, Sparta
 Judge's Comments: A nicely designed publication.

Division DE

First Place: Janis Redman, Michelle Carlson, *Spooner Advocate*, Spooner
 Judge's Comments: I love the idea of a senior publication, weekly at that, to highlight concerns to a niche market that loves print. Clean, easy to view and see. A great service.
Second Place: Staff, *Tri-County News* (Kiel), Kiel
 Judge's Comments: A lively, diverse publication. How often is it produced? I love the by-line articles. It makes it feel real. In fact,

I'd like to see all copy by-lined for accountability. Perhaps some more local photos throughout?
Third Place: Michelle Carlson, Janis Redman, Regan Kohler, *Spooner Advocate*, Spooner
 Judge's Comments: A local almanac is indeed crucial for the population. It provides a quick, ordered resource for information, especially when you are not sure how to wade through the internet. Good local photos and features. Engaging.

RACINE AREA MANUFACTURERS AND COMMERCE

the RAMAC VOICE

Acquisition Evokes Opportunity
 Risk Strategies Acquires Johnson Insurance Services.

Joanne Szymaszek and Brian McNulty guide Racine Risk Strategies forward.

SPRING 2024

Best Ongoing Niche Publication, First Place (Division ABC)
The Gazette, Janesville

Focus for Life

A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE WEEKENDER NORTH

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 7 JULY 2024

Happy 4th of July!

WISH OF A LIFETIME
 SUBMITTED BY LINDA HAND
 ADRC Director/ Aging Director

DIRECTOR NEWS
 WASHBURN COUNTY WISCONSIN

Hope your summer is ramping up with great activities and social outings. We understand that not all people have accessibility to making it out, so please keep Washburn County Transit in mind when needing to get somewhere. This service is provided for all Washburn County residents age 60+ and adults with disabilities. Contact Amber Anderson, Mobility Manager, at 715-635-4465 to make your reservation. The Mission of Wish of a Lifetime is to shift the way society views and values our oldest.

SEE DIRECTOR NEWS PAGE 8

WISH OF A LIFETIME FROM AARP

The ADRC has formed a great partnership with Wish of a Lifetime from AARP <https://wishofalifetime.org/>
 On Valentine's Day 2024, our staff and volunteers were chosen to be part of the "Cupid Crew". They hand delivered over 600 fresh roses to Washburn residents, which was the highlight of the year for them, as they delivered much love and smiles throughout the county.

TRANSIT DRIVER/BACKUP DISPATCHER FOR THE ADRC OF WASHBURN COUNTY

Accepting applications for a 32-hour-per-week driver to transport elderly and/or disabled citizens in and outside Washburn County to various destinations such as grocery shopping or doctor's appointments. Candidates should have experience working with older adults and/or people with disabilities. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, be certified or be willing to become certified in CPR, AED, and first aid, and be able to procure a Passenger Assistance Techniques Certification (PAT); have good communication skills and possess a valid Wisconsin Driver's license with a good driving record. This position will also act as a backup dispatcher for the Program Coordinator. Starting pay would be \$16.73 per hour DOE. You may request an application by contacting the Washburn County Personnel Department at P.O. Box 337, Shell Lake, WI 54871, 715-468-4624, Fax 715-468-4628, email adminper@co.washburn.wi.us or download an application from the Washburn County website at www.co.washburn.wi.us. Resumes will be accepted but will not take the place of a completed application. Recruitment will continue until the position is filled. EOE.

Best Ongoing Niche Publication, First Place (Division DE)
Spooner Advocate

