

# 2025 Collegiate Better Newspaper Contest

The WNA's High School and Collegiate Better Newspaper Contest recognizes excellence in student journalism across the state. The contest is open to all active newspapers in high school and Wisconsin's public and private college campuses. The collegiate contest, drew 331 entries from 12 campus newspapers and was judged by members of the Colorado Press Association. Students received their awards March 5, 2026, at the WNA Convention Student Luncheon at The Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin.

## General Excellence

### Division A

**First Place:** Staff, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** Wow. Just wow. These editions had newsy, relevant stories, well written features and a creative flair as was seen in the AI edition. There is a lot of attention to detail going on here to make such smart story selections and play each one appropriately. The entire staff should be very proud of what they've accomplished.

**Second Place:** MATC Times Staff, *The MATC Times*, Milwaukee Area Technical College

**Judge's Comments:** Good photos, a great mix of information, human interest and entertainment. At the end of the day, a great looking and

informative publication. Nice job.

**Third Place:** Anna Smith, Anna Kristoff, Zoe Klein, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** I like the fact that it was all student created work and included good photos, art and a variety of topics.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Clarion staff, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

**Judge's Comments:** Truly represents general excellence. A wide spectrum of staff generated content. Solid design. Engaging photography. The publication looks and reads like a real team effort.

**Second Place:** Staff, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University  
**Judge's Comments:** Solid. Particularly impressed with the scope and variety

of sports coverage.

**Third Place:** Staff, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

**Judge's Comments:** Sports and features photography really stood out in this publication.

## Collegiate Journalist of the Year

### Division A

**First Place:** Annika Bereny, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

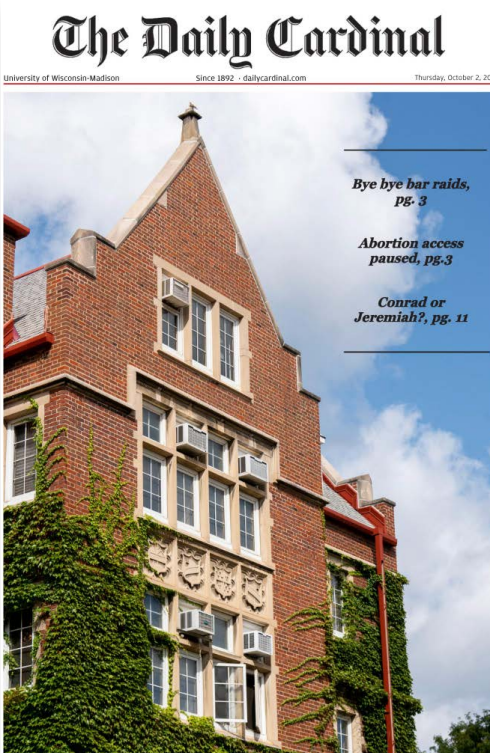
**Judge's Comments:** Knowing your audience and writing stories that matter to them is critical if newspapers are to attract and hold the subscribers that make our business viable. In story after story, this is what Annika does. Her coverage reflects an understanding of both student life and the outside factors that impact the university, namely the budget. She writes with clarity and authority. The student body and faculty are lucky to have her.

**Second Place:** Ella Hanley, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** It looks like this reporter can tackle the difficult subjects and not back away from pushing forward the information the reader needs to know. Great writing and reporting skills. Ella will go far! Congratulations.

**Third Place:** John Ernst, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** John's writing skills and choice of stories to cover shows his interest, passion and attention to detail for his work. This was a difficult category to judge as I would be proud to have any of



## The Daily Cardinal

University of Wisconsin-Madison Since 1892 - dailycardinal.com Thursday, October 2, 2025

**Bye bye bar raids, pg. 3**

**Abortion access paused, pg. 3**

**Conrad or Jeremiah?, pg. 11**



**'SOULFUL Joy' exhibit on display in Truax Gallery through Feb. 28**

**BY SHOMOT**

**BY KESLER**

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General Excellence, 1st place (Division A)  
*The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison



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General Excellence, 1st place (Division BC)  
*The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

## Wisconsin has a new budget. Here's what UW-Madison will receive

Though state lawmakers awarded crucial funding for renovations at DeJope and Chadbourne, the University of Wisconsin-Madison fell short of funding requests for a new residence hall and demolishing the aging Mosse Humanities building.

By **Annika Bereny**  
July 3, 2025 | 6:19pm CDT



Gov. Tony Evers signed Wisconsin's 2025-27 bipartisan state budget into law Thursday morning. It includes a \$256 million increase to the University of Wisconsin System budget after months of negotiations with Republican lawmakers. It's a far cry from the \$856 million the system requested, but a welcome change from the \$87 million cut Republican legislators floated just two weeks ago. Here's what that money will mean for the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alongside \$27 million annually to "attract faculty in high-demand fields of study," more than \$160 million has been approved for "critical" renovations to Science Hall, which will "restore the building's historic character while improving accessibility, addressing deferred maintenance issues and adding an atrium."

UW-Madison will receive \$10 million to renovate and add to DeJope Residence Hall and almost \$19 million to renovate Rheta's Market in Chadbourne Residence Hall. However, no funding was approved for the construction of a new residence hall on campus, set to meet the growing number of new students UW-Madison admits each year.

In a statement Tuesday, UW-Madison called a new residence hall "much-needed," and said they were "disappointed" to not receive bonding approval, especially since it would have been funded "entirely with university resources."

Collegiate Journalist of the Year, 1st Place (Division AB)  
**Annika Bereny, The Daily Cardinal, UW-Madison**

## Chancellor opens the 2025-26 academic year

Campus celebrates achievements, discuss AI efforts

Chase Keller, Editor  
September 1, 2025



Charlie Clark

UW-Whitewater Chancellor Corey A. King celebrates as the resident assistants of UW-Whitewater celebrate his entrance into the Chancellor Celebration of 2025-2026 school year in the Hamilton Room at the James R. Connor University Center at UW-Whitewater on August 27th, 2025.

UW-Whitewater Chancellor Dr. Corey A. King, along with fellow administrators, faculty and staff members, officially kicked off the 2025-26 academic year during the Chancellor's Opening Celebration Tuesday, August 26 in the James R. Connor University Center Hamilton Room.

King, who is entering his third academic year at the helm of the university, held the event as an opportunity "to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our faculty, our staff and our students, to share meaningful updates, achievements, opportunities to kick off another academic year, and engaging in conversations with key stakeholders from across our campus community."

Collegiate Journalist of the Year, 1st Place (Division B,C)  
**Case Kellor, Royal Purple, UW-Whitewater**

these top 3 individuals on my staff. Congratulations on a job well done.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Chase Keller, *Royal Purple, UW-Whitewater*  
**Judge's Comments:** Chase Keller has a strong instinct for news and sports coverage. Impressive writing skill and noted leadership qualities. I found myself wanting to read more of his articles. Congratulations on a job well done!

**Second Place:** Jack Albright, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune, Marquette University*  
**Judge's Comments:** Jack is as solid as they come. Storytelling, details, compassion and strong reporting and writing skills. One of the best student reporters I have judged in a long time. Your future is bright.

**Third Place:** Sara Bernabe, *The Clarion, Madison Area Technical College*  
**Judge's Comments:** Sara has a strong writing style that I enjoy. She is on topic and draws the reader in. I think Sara has a rewarding career ahead of her. Congratulations.

### Breaking News Reporting

#### Division A

**First Place:** Annika Bereny, Ella Hanley, *The Daily Cardinal, UW-Madison*  
**Judge's Comments:** Nicely written. Asking the bar owners how they feel about these enforcement efforts and how they attempt to adhere to the liquor laws would add another angle to the story.

**Second Place:** Charlie Skrade, *Media Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee*  
**Judge's Comments:** There is no indication in the story as to when the email was sent and received. This is well-written, focusing on the actions, giving the source info and answering the questions concerning the impact of this federal action on the University. The one problem I have is the last sentence - it is conjecture and speculative - and does not add to the

strength of the un-biased reporting previous to this statement.

**Third Place:** Anna Kristoff, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Solid reporting, supplemented with background information. Well-structured and easy to read. Well sourced

**Honorable Mention:** Annika Bereny, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Well written with solid reporting and nice transitions. Thoroughly explained, but I wonder what the impact on students will be.

How will this improve the student experience and what would be the competitive advantage for those moving into those career areas? Also, what did the working groups find and/or suggest?

## Breaking News Reporting

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Sophia Tiedge, Jack Albright, Ben Hanson, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University

Judge's Comments: A sad, difficult topic to cover but the coverage was well written and the interviews strengthened the article. The timeline of events was impactful.

## Two Marquette students killed in car crash identified as men's lacrosse players



BENJAMIN HANSON, SOPHIA TIEDGE and JACK ALBRIGHT · SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 · 2,401 Views



Breaking News Reporting, 1st Place (Division B,C)

*The Marquette Wire/Tribune, Marquette University*

**Second Place:** Chase Keller, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: Nice clarity of the timeline of reporting and how the school handled the communication. Keep up the good work.

**Third Place:** Kelly Feng, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: This topic was head spinning for all absorbing the news. Good local coverage of a national event and how it pertains to one of "your own".

## Public Affairs Reporting

### Division A

**First Place:** Beth Stacey, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: A heartbreaking story on the breaking news of two students killed by an intoxicated driver. Difficult to cover but the writer covered the impact on coaches and students respectfully. Good job.

**Second Place:** Annika Bereny, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Solid reporting on the state education budget and what it will mean to the university and students. Good cause and effect details of the budget cuts. Nice work.

**Third Place:** Vanessa Gavilan, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Strong coverage. Good to see what actions were put into place out of need and necessity. Enjoyed the thought process of the article.

**Honorable Mention:** Brooke Hargraves, Akira Quinn, Grace Santiago, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

Judge's Comments: Important use of statistics, details and reporting. An article that stirs something in the reader. Great job and all involved should be proud.

## Public Affairs Reporting

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Angel Riley, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

Judge's Comments: Good report on how a national policy affects students on a local level. There was an honesty to the change from DIB to SIB and you could hear the hurt in their "voice". Great job.

**Second Place:** Sahil Gupta, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University

Judge's Comments: Localizing a larger issue. Good examples and provides some insight to student life and opportunities. Uplifting quote at the end of article. I'm glad Nathan Stevens is not giving up on public service!

**Third Place:** Vladyslav Plyaka, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: Good use of interviewing skills, statistics and quotes on an important issue. You bring it home for the reader. Good job.

## In-Depth Story

### Division A

**First Place:** Carter Evenson, Alex Stahl, Caleb Rose, Akira Quinn, Summer Fisher, Stephanie Perez, Ivy Skarda, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

**Judge's Comments:** Strong reporting and writing on an issue so devastating to so many. Reporters pull the readers in with the detail, personal accounts and photos. Excellent job.

**Second Place:** Aiden Mellon, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** The reporter holds the parties accountable. This is the job of the journalist. Great follow through and well written.

**Third Place:** JAMS 320 student journalists, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

**Judge's Comments:** The stories of those who experienced 9/11 and those who were not yet born but how it is

part of their lives made an interesting read. Great perspective. Nicely written.

## Division B

**First Place:** Jack Van Hoof, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

**Judge's Comments:** The piece approaches the issue by providing great context on the why and how. Strong reporting and writing.

**Second Place:** Sophia Tiedge, Sahil Gupta, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University

**Judge's Comments:** The writers bring home critical issues and challenges

facing the college. Well organized and well written.

**Third Place:** Kelly Feng, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

**Judge's Comments:** Great interview with someone who has lived a reality and history most of us could never understand.

## Division C

**First Place:** Emma Johnson, *College Days*, Ripon College

**Judge's Comments:** Solid enterprising work on an important topic. The organization could have used a little help to sharpen the story to a point higher in the piece to signal why it matters.

**Second Place:** Eduardo Zermeno, *College Days*, Ripon College

**Judge's Comments:** Good sourcing and clear writing -- and an important topic that only college newspapers can do well.

**Third Place:** Ryder Ebbe, *College Days*, Ripon College

**Judge's Comments:** On the right track. The story needed more diverse sourcing to help explain why the main character matters so much.

## Lifestyle Story

### Division A

**First Place:** Connor Servais, *The MATC Times*, Milwaukee Area Technical College

**Judge's Comments:** Found the story of Karen Bell inspiring. Loved her adventure which the reporter documented so well. Thank you for letting the reader escape for a few minutes into Karen's world.

**Second Place:** Jackson Baker, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** Enjoyed learning about the restaurant, bar and location of Proust! Makes the reader want to visit. Nice article.

**Third Place:** Jake Piper, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** The sadness of the closing of a book store is felt

# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

March 17, 2025

www.uwrfvoice.com

## "An optimistic path:" An interview with Interim Chancellor John Chenoweth

Jack Van Hoof  
jack.schindlervanhoof@my.uwrf.edu

John Chenoweth became UW-River Falls' newest Interim Chancellor on March 1, 2025. Chenoweth has served as an Interim Chancellor in the Universities of Wisconsin System before, at UW-Whitewater, from 2023 to 2024. He also served as UW-Whitewater's Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs until he assumed his new role at UW-River Falls.

"I've been a department chair, an Associate Dean, a Dean, an Interim Chancellor, a Provost, and an Interim Chancellor again," he said. "I've done it all." He has also worked in teaching, as an assistant professor of computer science at East Tennessee State University.

Chenoweth arrives at a turbulent time in UW-River Falls' history.

The university's financial difficulties have caused budget reductions in departments across campus, as well as pauses and freezes on hiring and the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program. Meanwhile, the construction of the Science and Technology Innovation Center, UWRF's \$116 million academic building, is nearing completion. In addition, Chenoweth is the third person to hold the position of Chancellor within the last year: Chancellor Maria Gallo left the university on Sept. 6, 2024, and Interim Chancellor Michael Martin left on March 1.

The budget deficit is a top concern for many at UW-River Falls.

Chenoweth said that, after his time at UW-Whitewater, this is an "area of expertise" for him. "I've done a lot of financial work, so as [UWRF] has wrestled with its financial situation, hopefully I bring some skills and ideas in that space, and in enrollment as well."

UW-Whitewater has experienced similar difficulties in this area. The university reported a budget deficit of over \$500,000 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which is reduced from \$7.9 million in 2023. UW-River Falls reported a \$7.1 million deficit in 2023.

Chenoweth is hopeful for UWRF's future. "[I'm] optimistic in terms of the financial situation," he said. "The enrollment numbers are positive, and I think that [if] all of those [numbers] continue in the direction they're headed, it's a really optimistic path."

He acknowledged the efforts of UWRF's faculty, staff, and students in making this possible: "We have really good people doing really good work."

While optimistic, Chenoweth said that there are still areas of uncertainty. First and foremost is Wisconsin's state budget, which will determine how much funding UWRF, and the other Universities of Wisconsin System schools, receive from the state for fiscal year 2026.

In 2024, the UW System received 18% of its total funding from the state, after \$32 million was cut from its budget, to remove diversity, equity, and inclusion programs from the universities. This sets Wisconsin at 43rd out of 50 states in funding for its public universities. "It's time Wisconsin escapes the bottom 10 in public funding and [moves] up to the middle," said UW System President Jay Rothman. Rothman, and the UW System, hopes that the \$855 million it has requested from the state of Wisconsin would improve this ranking.

Chenoweth said that the state budget would be released in May, June, or July of this year.

Enrollment is another area of uncertainty, especially with UWRF's participation in the Direct Admit Wisconsin pro-

gram. "There are still question marks around all of that," Chenoweth said. "Once the state budget is passed, it will be clear as of that day." The next level of clarity, he added, will be in fall 2025, when UWRF's enrollment numbers are finalized.

Chenoweth believes that it is more important for UWRF to maintain its current recruitment and retention initiatives than to introduce new ones. He said that, as Interim Chancellor, his role will be to elevate programs and ideas that have been successful in the past.

"We should always be looking at our programs. We should always be looking at how we drive student recruitment and retention," Chenoweth said. The university will have to "follow through" with its efforts to secure a stable future, he added. "There's always a risk that, when it starts to look a little sunnier, you stop doing the work or think that you don't have to do it."

The UW System mandated that its universities with budget deficits eliminate those deficits by 2028. Once UW-River Falls can achieve the goals in its strategic enrollment plan, the university will then be able to focus on "[continued] growth," Chenoweth said.

Much of this relies on the success of the Science and Technology Innovation Center. Chenoweth will likely oversee SciTech's opening, which is set for January 2026. "President Rothman wants to make sure that campus understands this is not someone coming to campus for a few months," he said. Interim Chancellors can hold their position for up to three years.

One reason that SciTech is important is because of the opportunities it creates for collaboration between the university and local businesses. "A campus has to be engaged with the local and regional economy," Chenoweth said. "The business community in River Falls relies on the university to help drive ideas... That reach extends well beyond the local community."

SciTech will be home to the SciTech University and Business Collaboration Center, or UBCC, which will allow employers to work with students and faculty "through internships, collaborative research projects, presentations, strategic discussions, product design, and joint professorships," according to UW-River Falls' website.

"There's really positive outcomes when our students are engaged with the business community [and] other organizations in the community," Chenoweth said. One area where students could be involved is "in the startup space," he added. UBCC has been positioned as such a space. UW-Whitewater has one of its own: its University Innovation Center.

An example at UW-River Falls is the Wuehrlich Family/Grassland Dairy Center of Excellence, which recently



John Chenoweth. (Photo by UW-Whitewater)

In-Depth Story, 1st Place (Division B)  
Student Voice, UW-River Falls

throughout a community. I felt for everyone in the story, which was brought to life by the writer. Good job!

**Honorable Mention:** Connor Servais, *The MATC Times*, Milwaukee Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Besides being my favorite holiday, I liked the article, and thought it was well written and entertaining. Good reminder of the origin of Thanksgiving. Nice work.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Maddie Schaffer, Hannah Hutton, Brendyn Otradovec, Jennifer Cadotte, Emmett Appleby, *The Promethean*, UW-Superior

Judge's Comments: A well written, celebration highlighting the importance of recognition of Black History month by the campus and community. Nice article.

**Second Place:** Kelly Feng, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: In this article, I enjoyed the evolution of the student. It shows you need to try things outside your comfort level and it might just work! Good personal portrayal. This writer pulled me in.

**Third Place:** Michaleen Lovett, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

Judge's Comments: Campus Cat Colony? Who knew! What a fun, interesting article. I love the idea, and you don't have to be a cat lover to think that. I love the compassion of those making this work. Thank you for a fun read.

**Honorable Mention:** Sara Bernabe, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Most of us take the TSA personnel for granted. This article shows us they are human too and have challenges just like the rest of us. Good read, nice interviews. Thank you!

## Arts and Entertainment Story

### Division A

**First Place:** Lydia Picotte, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Fascinating way to bring pop culture and history together. This was entertaining with an educational element used by both the University and teachers in Puerto Rico. Very nicely done. Congratulations.

**Second Place:** Annabelle Hershelman, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

Judge's Comments: I thoroughly enjoyed following the story of Rachel Talalay. Thank you for showing what a trailblazer she is. The writer continually pulled you in to every step of her career.

**Third Place:** Adan Merino-Cabrera, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

Judge's Comments: I enjoyed the celebration and the sentiment that you need to occupy space for culture to be seen on campus. The writer makes you feel like you were there with words and pictures.

**Honorable Mention:** Anja Breihagen, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Interesting to hear from some of the original contributors to The Onion. This added perspective to the article as well as it showcased the strength of the editorial process and featured historical markers.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Kaitlyn Broderick, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: So much good about this story, from the headline to the last sentence. Well done. Lede made me want to read, and great use of quotes and background of the program that brought it all together. Well done.

**Second Place:** Jess Duch, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: Best lede of the entries. Writing style pulls reader into story and keeps them there. Good use of quotes and, obviously, writer had a way of bringing them out from the subject. Good read from start to finish.

# The Daily Cardinal

Est. 1892

ARTS

## UW professor's collaboration with Bad Bunny highlights Puerto Rican history

Jorell Meléndez-Badillo contributed to 17 videos based on Puerto Rico's history for the artist's most recent album.

By [Lydia Picotte](#)  
February 12, 2025 | 2:00am CST

This winter, in a joint effort to highlight Puerto Rican history, University of Wisconsin-Madison assistant professor Jorell Meléndez-Badillo partnered with rapper Bad Bunny to educate through music.

The fruits of this collaboration are 17 videos, a visual for each song on Bad Bunny's latest album "DeBí TIRAR M&S FOToS," released Jan. 5. Each video discusses a different piece of Puerto Rican history.

The project, which began as an Instagram DM from a member of Bad Bunny's team, was born out of the rapper's goal to teach more people — in Puerto Rico and around the world — about the island's rich history. Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, better known as Bad Bunny, is Puerto Rican himself.

The vision, Meléndez-Badillo told The Daily Cardinal, was to release a digestible and general history because right now, "not even Puerto Ricans know their own history."

The first drafts, which were 74 pages of handwritten notes, drew on research he'd done while writing his third book, "Puerto Rican National History." Some of the more niche topics touched on include the history of surveillance in Puerto Rico, the origins of Afro-Caribbean beats in the country and an entry on Sapo Concho, an endangered toad native to Puerto Rico.

**Third Place:** Mary Kate Stepchuck, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University  
**Judge's Comments:** Obviously, not as exciting of a story to write as others in this category, but one that stood out. Writer talked with people to bring both sides of the story and avoided her slant - bravo. Information presented was pertinent and not just random info. Easy to read. Well done, and good job tackling an issue.  
**Honorable Mention:** Annie Goode, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University  
**Judge's Comments:** Good story with good information mixed with good use of quotes. I think working this quote into the lede would have enhanced it: "We always knew that art was therapy..." Story flows well and keeps reader interested. Enjoyed it.

## Sports Story

### Division A

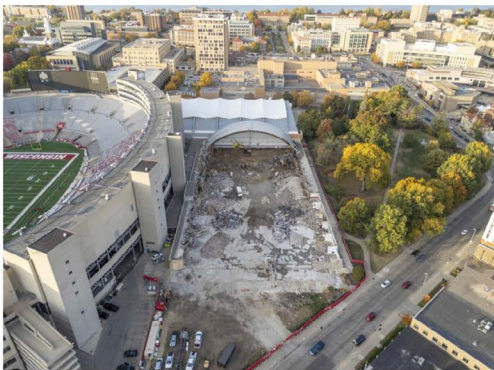
**First Place:** Taylor Kaufmann, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

### Title IX violations: Planned football facility could leave UW athletic funding, opportunities lopsided

As UW pushes forward with \$285 million football facility, Title IX compliance questions arise

Cross Country Football Sports UW Athletics Volleyball Women's Track & Field

by Taylor Kaufmann  
 May 6, 2025



The University of Wisconsin has potentially violated all three pillars of Title IX, which was signed into law in 1972 seeking to prevent the discrimination of individuals under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on the basis of sex. The three pillars include accommodating student interests, proportional financial assistance and equal benefits and opportunities.

This provision stands for all activities, but society has noticed a high importance towards the world of athletics. The first of the three pillars regards equal opportunity, which can be as simple as equal roster spots within the university.

The second goes into financial funding towards each gendered program, including scholarship funding, programming and game days.

Lastly, Title IX provides equal treatment and access to practice and competition space for both athletes. With this information, as well as the results of the 2025 U.S. Department of Education Equity in Athletics Data Analysis survey, the potential violation shows within all three pillars.

Sports Story, 1st Place (Division A)  
**The Badger Herald, UW-Madison**

**Judge's Comments:** This piece was well written and outlines clearly what Title IX violations occurred and what could happen next due to the actions. Important information for the whole community. Well done.  
**Second Place:** Jack Laude, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee  
**Judge's Comments:** Good article which included the coach's philosophy and player interviews. Easy to read. Congratulations.  
**Third Place:** Jack Laude, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee  
**Judge's Comments:** Look into the strategy of a team that is rebuilding. Interesting to know where they were, where they are and where they are headed. Nice Job.  
**Honorable Mention:** Josh Murphy, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison  
**Judge's Comments:** Good quotes. Interesting article. Well done.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Jack Albright, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University

**Judge's Comments:** Wow! This feature is impressive, and everything from the quotes and anecdotes to the details and creativity caught my attention. The lede is excellent, and the use of chess throughout the story is interesting. Overall, this is a well-written, compelling and engaging read, and you captured his journey effectively

#### Tom Mendoza is Always Attacking

Marquette volleyball head coach Tom Mendoza thrives on risk, pressure and momentum — in both his career and life.

Jack Albright, Executive Sports Editor  
 AUGUST 26, 2025

Tom Mendoza looked down and realized what he'd done. "Oh my goodness, I am not paying attention," he said, staring at the chessboard he keeps in his office. "That was a big mistake." It's only been a few moves, and the mid-interview game of chess he's playing against me is far from over, but he's already let me trap his valuable dark-square bishop with one of my pawns. I'm suffocating him. In the game, of course. Now, his bishop's death unstopable, he's left with a choice. Most people in his situation would cut their losses, trading their bishop for the attacking pawn to cede only two points instead of three. It would allow him to gain something, anything, from a losing position. Mendoza isn't most people. "Losing pretty is still losing," he says. He leans back in his chair, rubs the hairs on his beard and rapidly scans the entire board. After some quiet muttering on how to get out of his predicament, he settles on a plan of action. He starts swinging, a trapped piece be damned. Mendoza marches a different pawn forward, letting the bishop die for nothing. Not exactly a sacrifice, but not far from it, either.

Sports Story, 1st Place (Division B,C)  
**The Marquette Wire/Tribune**

and creatively. I also really liked the story structure and flow.  
**Second Place:** Jack Albright, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University  
**Judge's Comments:** This is an extremely creative and unique feature about a significant topic (recruiting) in sports that continues to evolve. This is a well-written, detailed-oriented story with great quotes and anecdotes. Great job highlighting Smart's recruiting strategies.  
**Third Place:** Chase Keller, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater  
**Judge's Comments:** This story is a really unique and interesting historical account of the trifecta. The story is well written, with good quotes. The coaches' past overlap and how the trifecta impacted the university since were great additions.

## Club/Intramural Sports Story

### All Divisions

**First Place:** Avery Chheda, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison  
**Judge's Comments:** A great article on a not-typical "sports" activity. Personalized with lots of good quotes and a thorough explanation of those involved. Good job!  
**Second Place:** Natalie Illikainen, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater  
**Judge's Comments:** A solid piece; good lead and excellent use of quotes and stats. A hole in one!  
**Third Place:** Molly Sheehan, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison  
**Judge's Comments:** An excellent article on a sport not well known in America. Concise with great observations.  
**Honorable Mention:** Abby Hoffman, Noa Mikami, Patrick Douglas, Maison Wiberg, Xavier Walt, Daniel Young, *The Promethean*, UW-Superior  
**Judge's Comments:** Tight writing and thorough coverage of various teams and individuals. You can be proud of diving deep in your school's sporting activities.

## Editorial Writing

### Division A

**First Place:** Leah Kennedy, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: A timely, important and well written piece - Nice job - keep spreading the message.

**Second Place:** Leah Kennedy, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Taking a national issue and localizing it to share the meaningful message of respect and tolerance. Good job.

**Third Place:** *The Daily Cardinal* Editorial Board, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Nice job of addressing broad issue that certainly is relevant to college community and beyond.

**Honorable Mention:** Geneva Michlig, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Disconnect to reconnect, I enjoyed this article very much.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Angela Satterlee, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: A first-class editorial offering options to the awful shut-down of federal SNAP benefits. A solid localized spin on an issue impacting many families.

**Second Place:** *Student Voice* Staff, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

Judge's Comments: Good job in clarifying and simplifying a complex issue that obviously affects most students. The writer has a clear understanding of the complexities involved and has a unique ability to boil down the issues for clearer understanding.

**Third Place:** *Student Voice* Staff, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

Judge's Comments: Great editorial that deconstructs a complicated issue that impacts most students. Excellent job in tackling a tough and complex issue.

**Honorable Mention:** CiCi Cox, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: A current topic that has potential ramifications locally and nationally. An excellent job in condensing and clarifying the impacts AI will have on students and the general public.

## Column Writing

### Division A

**First Place:** Paul O'Gorman, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: his is a well-written column that takes a stand and does not deviate from the original premise. It is supported by logical reasons and examples. Thank you for sharing your own perspective in making the case for the liberal arts!

**Second Place:** Owen Puckett, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Nicely constructed perspective. The sentence/paragraph structure is varied and you solidify your argument with arguments that appeal to the emotions. That is one of the strongest ways people are influenced.

**Third Place:** Olivia Ruetten, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Well constructed with arguments supported by sources and the use of examples. Well constructed lede and a conclusion that supports that.

**Honorable Mention:** Casmir Byrne, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

Judge's Comments: Nicely organized, well-described components. I needed to know a little about the event history, but the descriptions of the offerings was complete.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Sierra Brunner, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Thoughtful and personal observations about the tragedy of suicide. A well-written and touching piece which includes available resources.

**Second Place:** Johan Harworth,

## SNAP out of it!

Angela Satterlee, Copy Desk Chief  
November 14, 2025

Nearly 42 million Americans didn't receive their SNAP benefits Nov. 1 as a result of the temporary government shutdown. When something like this happens, it can feel far away in Washington, D.C., but from FoodShare benefits to student aid and local jobs, this shutdown is more than a political fight and hits closer to home than you think.

Earlier this month, the federal government entered a partial shutdown after Congress failed to pass a funding deal. Essential workers stayed on the job without pay, some federal services were paused and programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were left scrambling for temporary funds.

At first, it sounded like something that wouldn't affect most college students. But it didn't take long for the impact to show up closer to home. According to the Federal Reserve Bank, just under 17,000 of Winnebago County residents rely on FoodShare, our state's version of SNAP, and many of them are college students juggling tuition, rent and part-time jobs like myself. When news broke that benefits might be cut or delayed, I'd never been so afraid for myself, family and friends who rely on SNAP for food to live.

In Winnebago County, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services eventually announced that full November benefits would be paid after a federal court ordered the government to find the funds. That decision brought relief, but it shouldn't have come down to a last-minute legal battle just to make sure people can eat. And this is not the case for the whole country — some states are still without any SNAP benefits.

Shutdowns have become bargaining tools in budget negotiations, with everyday people caught in the middle. While politicians argue over line items, families and students are left checking their QUEST cards, wondering if they can afford to eat this month.

Editorial Writing, 1st Place (Division B,C)  
***The Advance-Titan, UW-Oshkosh***

*Student Voice*, UW-River Falls  
Judge's Comments: A well-crafted piece that thoroughly explains the important collaboration between industry and academia. Great writing skills!

**Third Place:** Lexi Childers, *The Marquette Wire/Tribune*, Marquette University

Judge's Comments: Excellent and well-written article on an unfortunate situation playing out in cities across America. Superb arguments with loads of supporting evidence. Good job!

**Honorable Mention:** Jennifer Cadotte, *The Promethean*, UW-Superior

Judge's Comments: Extremely well-written article that many readers can likely identify with. Excellent quotes and insights into this timely piece.

## Freedom of Information Award

### Division A

**First Place:** John Ernst, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Wow, I couldn't stop reading. Good description and use of sources. Well reported and written. Nice job.

**Second Place:** Anna Kristoff, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Challenging barely scratches the surface. Excellent effort in handling a complex subject. Congratulations on a job well done.

**Third Place:** Gabriella Hartlaub, Ella Hanley, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: The headline is strong. Immediately makes the reader think "what?". Many people would have a strong opinion about these actions and you brought the facts and let them decide for themselves.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Jacob Link, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: An excellent, thorough report using live voices to

explain the issue, open records to dig into the decision process and clear descriptions of the issue.

**Second Place:** Kelly Feng, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: A strong First Amendment editorial.

## Business Coverage

### Division A

**First Place:** Leila Dunfee, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Strong look at the issue of banning certain vape products - they explored the business impact as well as the health concerns that drove the law.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Elijah Plonsky, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: This story stood out because it was purely enterprise reporting and the writer got multiple sources from varying viewpoints to paint a fuller picture of the impact of

# The Daily Cardinal

Est. 1892



Photo by [Jake Piper](#) | The Daily Cardinal

IN-DEPTH

## Behind the quiet termination, 'predatory' recruitment practices of former UW Chinese Christian group

A University of Wisconsin-Madison investigation reported non-student leadership and out of state trips. Those non-students refute the allegations

By [John Ernst](#)

November 2, 2025 | 11:50am CST

The University of Wisconsin-Madison terminated the Chinese Christian Fellowship student organization in January 2025 after multiple former students reported "predatory" recruitment practices from non-students and a subsequent investigation determined the organization was majority non-students.

Freedom of Information Award, 1st Place (Division A)  
**The Daily Cardinal, UW-Madison**

tariffs on the community. Quotes were meaningful and story had the needed context.

**Second Place:** Kaitlyn Broderick, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: This was a good effort to tell a story important to the community, even though it appears the main source (the owners) didn't consent to an interview. The context included about the growth and demographics of the town set this story apart.

**Third Place:** Kristy Moore, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

Judge's Comments: It's great when a business story directly intersects with student life. Good job identifying that and showing what it means.

## Technology Coverage

### Division A

**First Place:** Annika Bereny, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Fascinating look at how technology is driving issues in

the classroom and how going anti-tech might be the answer. Strong explanation of the issues involved in grading papers in the world of AI.

**Second Place:** John Ernst, Kayla Dembiec, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Nice coverage of a town and its residents grappling with large data centers.

**Third Place:** Zoey Elwood, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Good examination of new AI courses in the university system. Needed some more specifics and student comments to win.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** El Dalbey, *Exponent*, UW-Platteville

Judge's Comments: Good explanation of how the idea came about along with the process to make...milk into plastic. Nice job.

**Second Place:** Balaji Abishek, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Well executed report on LMS platforms and how they have become so important in education and as the technology evolves assistance must be available on campus. Well done.

**Third Place:** Elijah Plonsky, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: This article outlines many challenges the university has faced but also highlights the gains that have and will be made with the help of the community. Good job.

**Honorable Mention:** Aidan Salama, *The Promethean*, UW-Superior

Judge's Comments: Good reminder, AI is here and we must learn to work with it or be left behind. Keep up the good work!

## Environmental Coverage

### Division A

**First Place:** Avery Chheda, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Very informative piece on an issue affecting many communities.

**Second Place:** Anna Smith, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Great context for what is happening. The last sentence says it all. Good work.

**Third Place:** Jake Kilander, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: I like this concept. I appreciated the information and the important work that is being done and how the article was written.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Maison Wiberg, Ella Hill, Alicia Zoltowski, Noa Mikami, *The Promethean*, UW-Superior

Judge's Comments: Informative and interesting from the location to the energy savings. Nice job.

**Second Place:** Aliza Kaiser, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: Strong lede, interesting facts and good photos. All round great article.

The screenshot shows the top of the Exponent website. At the top left are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and RSS. The main header features the 'EXPONENT' logo in a large, stylized font with a yellow sun icon in the letter 'O', and 'UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE' underneath. To the right of the logo is a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Features, Opinions, Visuals, Sports, Antagonist, Raven, and About. The main content area displays the article title 'UW-Platt Professors Turn Milk To Plastic' in a large, serif font. Below the title is the author's name 'El Dalbey, Chief-Copy-Editor' and the date 'October 16, 2025'. The article text begins with 'Two University of Wisconsin-Platteville professors, Dr. John Obielodan and Dr. Joseph Wu, recently received a patent from WiSys for their project, "Bio-Composite Materials For 3D Printing Using Milk Proteins." This biodegradable thermoplastic aligns with industry standards and is created from casein, a milk protein, and plant-derived PLA filament. When asked what inspired him to pursue this research, Obielodan shared, "During COVID, there was global supply chain interruption. That left a lot of problems for many industries, and the dairy industry was badly hit. Everything was on lockdown and vehicles could not move ... they could not deliver their products. There was a lot of dumping of milk, this was a big economic waste. Would it be possible to limit or mitigate the waste resulting from that situation?" As it turns out, there was. Milk contains two primary proteins, casein and whey. The researchers found that these proteins have "functional groups," groups of atoms in a molecule that interact in predictable ways, that appeared similar to those in some plastics. This sparked the question: Could these proteins be used to create plastic?' The text is in a clean, sans-serif font.

Technology Coverage, 1st Place (Division B,C)  
**Exponent, UW-Platteville**

**Third Place:** Josh Lehner, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: Good reporting on the plans and programs for sustainability. Clear explanations and how UWO plans to get there.

**Honorable Mention:** Riley Crowe, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: Good, informative story. I felt like I learned something about a subject that many take for granted.

## Health Coverage

### Division A

**First Place:** Nathan Buckley, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Great article. Interesting and the technical and medical portion explained for easy understanding. And not least of all, something we can all get encouraged about.

**Second Place:** Clara Strecker, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Necessary piece to inform women of the loss of health care coverage. Explains why this is happening and hopefully will make people think. Informative as it provides alternatives to the loss of campus services. Important work.

**Third Place:** Joseph Panzer, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: You caught my attention immediately, I was interested in the topic and it was presented in an easy to read fashion.

**Honorable Mention:** Joseph Panzer, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Good article. Good detail and definition of who the committee is made up and how administration policy has deleted funding and the challenges of meeting the needs of students.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Mikey Rottier, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: Good story with good local examples. Story flowed

nicely with good transitions. Liked that you found personal example on your campus. The 2nd paragraph is your lede!!

**Second Place:** Jacob Link, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

Judge's Comments: Good lede, which is important to this judge. Good information to share. Easy to read. Don't forget your audience's story would have been enhanced a bit with more input from students about vaccination status/beliefs..

**Third Place:** Kelly Feng, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Good story and one of few that dealt with the life of a student. It's good work, but don't be afraid to self-edit to tighten it up. Work on ledes something like: Motivated by her brother's illness, Madison College student Teegawende Josephine Segrado is working to find help for those dealing with epilepsy. That way you could have introduced the main story earlier.

**Honorable Mention:** Kristy Moore, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

Judge's Comments: Good story, with important information to share. I

## Heart health 'critical' for student-athletes

Mikey Rottier, Men's Sports Journalist

January 26, 2025



Former UW-Whitewater men's basketball player, Derek Gray, died unexpectedly in July of 2022 when he collapsed during a basketball clinic due to a blood clot in his heart.

According to the National Institute of Health, sudden cardiac death is the leading medical cause of death in athletes with an estimate between one in 40,000 to one in 80,000 incidents per year.

At UW-Whitewater, student-athlete heart health is a priority. In July of 2022, Warhawk men's basketball player Derek Gray died unexpectedly when he collapsed due to a blood clot in his heart at the age of 20.

The beloved member of the Whitewater community left his mark on countless members of the Madison area – where he grew up – and quickly won over the Warhawk fanbase as a star on the basketball team. Since his passing, heart health has become an even bigger concern for the Whitewater athletic department.

Health Coverage, 1st Place (Division B,C)  
**Royal Purple, UW-Whitewater**

would have liked what you ended with to be more on the front end of the story. Working the 2nd to last paragraphs into the lede, perhaps.

## News Photography

### Division A

**First Place:** Akira Quinn, Carter Evenson, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

Judge's Comments: Nice mix of people photos and the shot of the jagged asphalt and the house affected by the flood. Clear photos documenting a news event here!

**Second Place:** Jacob Duran, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Student photojournalists are on the front lines of these campus protests and there are sure to be more of them. Don't be afraid to zoom in and capture more emotion during these conflicts. Nice framing of the subject here and good job getting low so you could get the shot.

**Third Place:** Dwight Williamson, *The MATC Times*, Milwaukee Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Interesting low angle on one of these photos of a demonstration. Getting a different perspective adds interest and variety. Good job!

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Fleuretta Phipps, Calise Howard, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: Photos captured the [pride fest] by showing the emotions of those attending. The first photo made it clear what the story would be about. Good color on all three, great job with showing participants enjoying their attendance at.

**Second Place:** Ethan Hack, *Exponent*, UW-Platteville

Judge's Comments: The three-photo sequence was well framed, showed action with a progressive movement from beginning to the finished product. Difficult conditions to

photographs, but nice action in #1.

**Third Place:** Ella Hill, Alicia Zoltowski, *The Promethean*, UW-Superior

Judge's Comments: Good composition, with photos that help tell the story. Thanks for focusing on the people and the one with the smoky haze illustrates the conditions. Relaxed atmosphere and for the viewer, it shows that this was not

a destructive fire because of the emotions on the subjects' faces.

**Honorable Mention:** Charlie Clark, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: Good expressions on both photos. Captured the essence of the event as well as the Chancellor himself. Good use of including the crowd in front in the first photo. Try taking multiple angles - vertical and horizontal to have less extraneous



News Photography, 1st Place (Division A)  
*Media Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee*



News Photography, 1st Place (Division B,C)  
*Royal Purple, UW-Whitewater*

space and focus more on the subject.

## Feature Photography

### Division A

**First Place:** Maggie Spinney, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Nice use of framing on this portrait. We get a sense of who this guy is- he doesn't take himself too seriously if he has all these stickers on the window of his classroom. Creative use of depth of field to highlight the in-focus subject with the stickers in the foreground. Much better than a posed photo at his desk.

**Second Place:** Jake Piper, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Nice job getting a clear portrait on this subject.

**Third Place:** Caleb Rose, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

Judge's Comments: Nice composition in particular on the photo with the burned landscape and foliage in the foreground, with the hazmat suited figures in the background.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Tenzin Pelmo, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Clear photo, good

focus and clean lines in this photo. Would be even better if the dancers were performing and we could see some movement to help tell the story.

**Second Place:** Jack Liska-Verdu, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Seems like an interesting topic - would have been even better to get some photos of them in action and showing how fencing works.

**Third Place:** Jack Liska-Verdu, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Good composition on this photo. Would be great if we could get a little more action or emotion to help tell the story visually.

## Sports Photography

### Division A

**First Place:** Jake Piper, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Impressive work. Both of these photos immediately caught my attention. I can feel the emotions and impact, and they're both technically sound. Catching moments like these are inspiring and impactful.

**Second Place:** Evan Halpop, Molly Sheehan, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: These photos effectively highlight the importance of the game. The first photo is phenomenal - not just because of the player reactions but because of the sticks and gloves in the air. That's what makes this photo great. The photo from the stands is unique and creative; I like the fan reaction in the foreground and how the player is coming toward the glass and crowd.

**Third Place:** Chloe Wang, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

Judge's Comments: Great job capturing both player and crowd impact in these photos. I could especially feel the impact of that first photo - clearly a huge moment. Good work seeing that and getting both players on the ground, as the reactions from both teams really make this a noteworthy photo.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Charlie Clark, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

Judge's Comments: I wish we (photographers) captured this kind of emotion more often in sports. The scoreboard in the background is great, too, to see that this happened early in a game and must have been a tone-setting play. Outstanding shot!

**Second Place:** Hunter Radke, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Excellent action photo. The looks on the players' faces and the fans in the bleachers are great. Getting a shot of him with the ball cocked back behind his head ... you can feel what's about to happen. Great shot.

**Third Place:** Hunter Radke, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

Judge's Comments: Sometimes a great photo comes from being in the right place at the right time. Then, there are great photos that come from KNOWING where to be at the right time. This is a photo I'd be glad to run in my paper or website anytime. Excellent work!



Sports Photography, 1st Place (Division A)  
*The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Honorable Mention:** Charlie Clark, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

**Judge's Comments:** Wrestling is a sport that produces more raw emotion than any other. It's 1-on-1, no one else coming to help you if you get in a bad position, or if you need a little extra push to get a pin. These photos show all that is great about the sport!

## Infographic

### All Divisions

**First Place:** Jessica Duch, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

**Judge's Comments:** Eye catching, informative and easy to read. Good job.

**Second Place:** Josh Lehner, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

**Judge's Comments:** Interesting, balanced and brings the reader in.

**Third Place:** Alison Keeler, *Student Voice*, UW-River Falls

**Judge's Comments:** Unique, fun and informative.

## Page Design

### Division A

**First Place:** Finnegan Ricco, Cameron Schneider, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** This page had strong reader appeal. Good clarity and balance. The page makes me want to read the stories. Color element is nice too. Good job.

**Second Place:** Zoe Kukla, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** This page demanded your attention. Beautifully designed, interesting and informative. Colors and photos draw you in.

**Third Place:** Francesca Pica, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** Solid news page. Looks interesting, good photos and nice balance. Keep up the good work.

**Honorable Mention:** Isabella Barajas, Maya Morvis, Hailey Johnson, Tess Voigt, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** Little confused as this was labeled "comics" but I liked the story behind these individuals and the time and effort to give them respect. The page was interesting and artistic.

## Division B,C

**First Place:** Kaya Mantz, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

**Judge's Comments:** I liked everything about this front page. Inviting, informative and nice balance. Photos work well. Makes me want to read the copy.

**Second Place:** All Staff, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

**Judge's Comments:** Good front page. A lot of different stories (but not too much). Good photos, color and balance of white space.

**Third Place:** Cassidy Johnson, Jess Duch, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

**Judge's Comments:** Love the creative design of this page. The color, photos and the way the pictures lay upon the script beneath. Good job.

## Use of Multimedia

### Division A

**First Place:** Cameron Schneider, John Ernst, Kayla Dembiec, Jake Piper, Gabriella Hartlaub, Avery Chheda, Paige Armstrong, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** A nice use of visuals and audio to tell the story. and complete the presentation.

**Second Place:** Carter Evenson, Summer Fisher, Stephanie Perez, Akira Quinn, Alex Stahl, Ivy Skarda, Caleb Rose, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

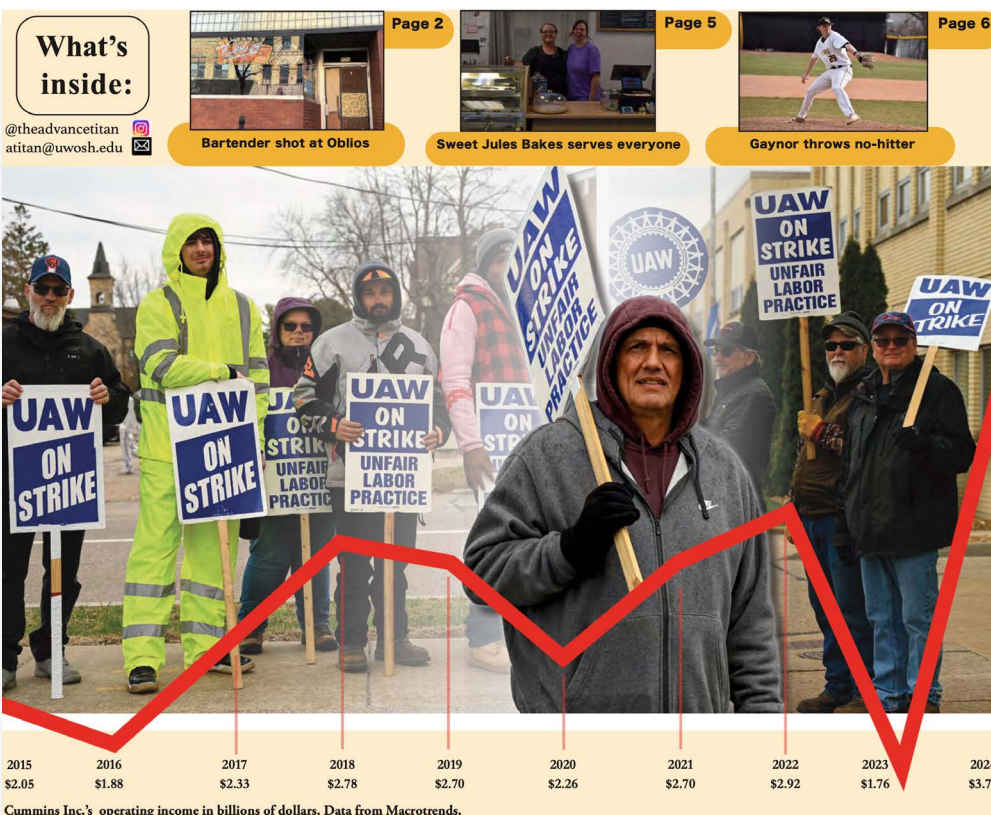
**Judge's Comments:** Pulling out data in pictures, podcasts and video always helps tell the story. Great job including it with solid imagery.

**Third Place:** Bella Ferak, *The Badger Herald*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** This was a quality video that tells a nice personal story. It got my attention in a fun way. Good job!

**Honorable Mention:** Sonia Bendre, Ted Hynstrom, Gabriella Hartlaub, *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** Podcast a plus to the story. Great photo and the legacy of the women's physical education program.



Infographic, 1st Place (All Divisions)  
*The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

## Division B,C

**First Place:** Josh Lehner, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

**Judge's Comments:** Good coverage with clean photos and audio interviews to strengthen the story. Nice work.

**Second Place:** Xavier Walt, Maddie Schaffer, Sama (Sky) Abdullayeva, Carter Lansdale, *The Promethean*, UW-Superior

**Judge's Comments:** Enjoyed the video of the Professor Greg Moore, the music and written and audio coverage of this beloved man.

**Third Place:** Kelly Feng, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

**Judge's Comments:** Good story, I like the video embedded in the story. Pictures help pull you to make you want to read about the subject.

## Website

### Division A

**First Place:** Media Milwaukee Staff, *Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee

**Judge's Comments:** Easy to navigate website. A wealth and variety of content. The documentary section really stood out and maintained my attention. The use of multimedia either independent of written stories or as a compliment increased engagement.

**Second Place:** *The Daily Cardinal*, UW-Madison

**Judge's Comments:** Well organized and information driven. It was impressive how much staff generated content was available. Feels like the site has a good feel for the pulse on campus and keeps students aware of what is going on.

**Third Place:** MATC Times Staff, *The MATC Times*, Milwaukee Area Technical College

**Judge's Comments:** The slider of top stories is a great way to highlight where to start in navigating the website. It also allows for less timely stories to still be spotlighted without being overshadowed by breaking news.

### Division B,C

**First Place:** Emma Johnson, Eduardo

Zermeno, Evelyn Koch, *College Days*, Ripon College

**Judge's Comments:** An easy to navigate front page. The really impressive thing was how much was included with each story. With each click on a news story, the reader was introduced to a topic that was covered in detail.

**Second Place:** Clarion staff, *The Clarion*, Madison Area Technical College

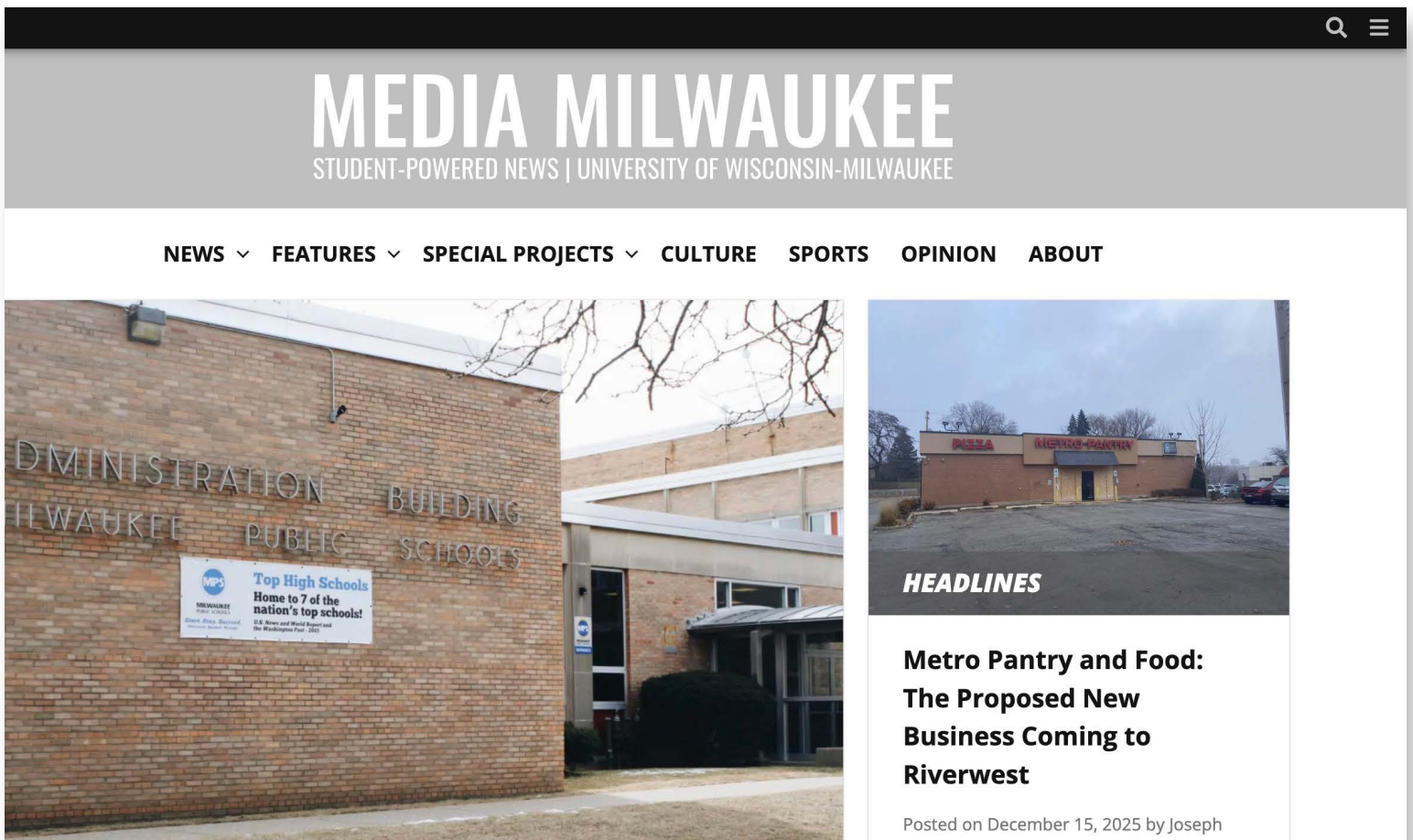
**Judge's Comments:** The upgrades mentioned in the cover letter improved the reader experience. Using photography to drive readers to stories was solved nicely with a headline transition as you scrolled over the photo.

**Third Place:** Jacob Link, *The Advance-Titan*, UW-Oshkosh

**Judge's Comments:** Easy to use, nice quality.

**Honorable Mention:** All Staff, *Royal Purple*, UW-Whitewater

**Judge's Comments:** Well organized. Good use of color.



Website, 1st Place (Division A)  
*Media Milwaukee*, UW-Milwaukee