

2025 High School 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. This year's entries were 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, B

First Place: Wausau West Staff, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: The students behind Warrior's Word at Wausau West High School deserve top honors for these issues, each well-written, professionally assembled and marked by impressive range and diversity. I enjoyed the in-depth look at how students are grappling with the school's cellphone policy, which is a major concern in schools all over the country, and which is covered capably here, with thoughtful quotes, a student survey and graphics. There's a solid mix of movie and music reviews, and an interesting feature about the resurgence of record collecting, with a nice headline: Needle Drop. The magazine is well edited, well designed and easy to read throughout. I also appreciated the inclusion of an ethics policy, with entries on factual corrections and anonymous quotes. The other issue is also strong, with a sensitive look at services for students needing extra support leading the pack. Nice work on these!

Second Place: Cardinal Columns Staff, Cardinal Columns, Fond du Lac High School

Judge's Comments: With Cardinal Columns, student journalists from Fond du Lac High School show a flair for design and a willingness to tackle big topics, as in the cover story of the May 2025 issues, Cutting Back, which documents staff and budget cuts in the wake of a failed school funding referendum. There are solid features throughout these two issues, including on the mental health challenges of teens, and compelling photos and clever headlines like Fiddle Faddle. Closer attention to copyediting and correct grammar could lift up the quality of journalism further. Definitely a strong example of what up-and-coming journalists can accomplish.

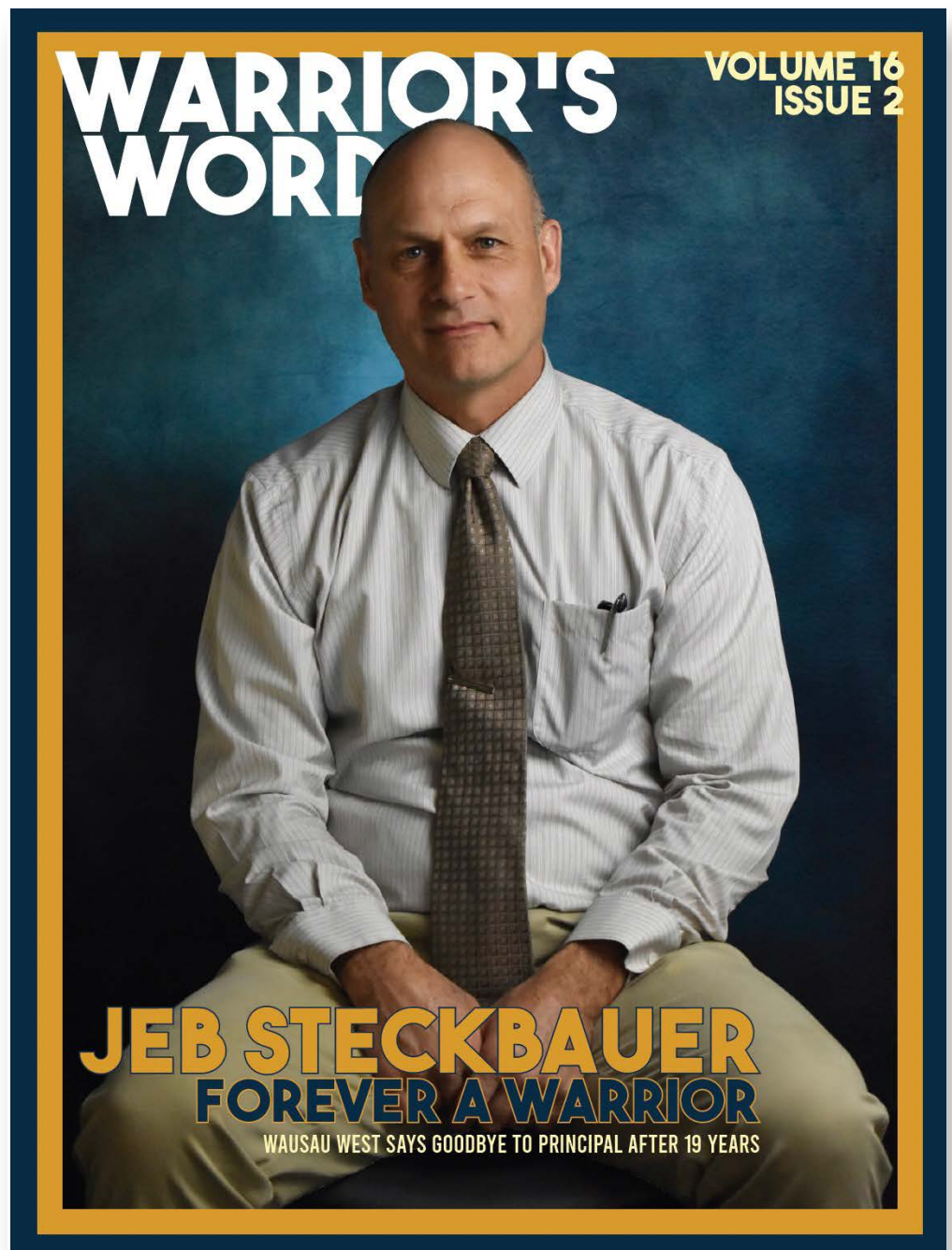
Third Place: Spartan Spin Staff, The Spartan Spin, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: The students behind Spin Cycle produced two strong contenders in the general excellence category. A standout feature in the April edition looked at disparate treatment that women and girls face in covering sports. The June issue was heavy on student profiles, but relatively light on news. I'd recommend the journalists at Superior High consider a broader range of

topics and approaches.

Honorable Mention: The Red 'n' Green Staff, The Red 'n' Green, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: I would encourage the students at The Red 'n' Green to try again next year, making sure to submit two complete editions. This contest entry included only the newspaper's url, and I was unable to find the complete issues from November and October in the archives. It didn't seem sporting to rank this entry alongside schools that followed the contest instructions more closely.



General Excellence, 1st place (Division A, B)
Warrior's Word, Wausau West High School

General Reporting

Division A

First Place: Norah Martin, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: Strong writing with a clear nose for news. Knowing that the writer also conducted the survey says a lot—they understood the need for data and for insights from all parties in the story. Well done.

Second Place: Khalil Barki, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: An excellent story. I was hooked from the start with the promise of change and discovery, and rewarded throughout with information, history, context, reflection on the self and society, and multiple primary sources (one of whom was the writer, which we will overlook just this once).

Third Place: Aviya Yang, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: Technically strong story, with a smart sense for who to interview (who else would have the best POV on this than the school custodian? Brilliant!).

Honorable Mention: Avi Zarnowski, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: Warm and inviting story with thorough reporting. Remember that not everyone can access/see the images in a story, so when it's about art, it's worth taking extra time to describe how the piece interacts with its surrounding or at least get various students' take for a more well-rounded description.

Division B

First Place: Hailey Rodriguez, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: There is nothing better than a story that makes you want to read it. Strong nose for news here, and how to tell it.

Second Place: Taylor Van Ornum, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Generally well-reported story, but it never really answered the 'why this story, why now?' question.

Third Place: Makayla Trochinski, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Fun community story. But remember: Pretty packaging is no substitute for depth. If the goal was to demonstrate who the school's FFA group is and how it serves the community, it would be good to talk about what FFA stands for (literally and philosophically).

Honorable Mention: Emelia Beulen, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: The writer's work was overshadowed by a factual error - colleges have not stopped requiring two years of foreign language. Back up your claims with sources, and always check additional ones.

Public Affairs Reporting

Division A, B

First Place: Alana Williams, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: A really nice way to start with a student voice who is passionate about the class to draw in the reader, and then getting to the main peg of the story, that the class is ending and being merged in with other topics. That helps the

On Delivered

West Rolls Out Stricter Cell Phone Policy at Start of School

Story by: Norah Martin

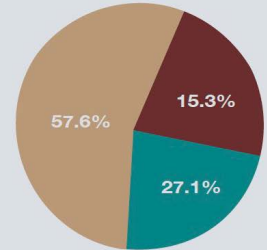
As states across the country implemented school cell phone bans, it was only a matter of time before Wisconsin followed suit.

On Oct. 31, 2025, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers signed Assembly Bill 2 into law, requiring school districts to implement a phone-restricting policy by July 1, 2026. After numerous conversations, meetings, and conferences among Wausau School District employees and the staff at West, principal Curt Richardt rolled out the school's current policy at the start of this school year. The idea behind it was to allow students to access devices outside of the classroom, while simultaneously cracking down on phone use during instructional time.

From the start, many students rejected the idea, and voiced concerns about everything from student safety to the abrupt nature of the change. However, as the 2025-2026 school year rolled around, the decision was solidified, and it was one that staff and students would need to come to terms with.

Okabe is not alone in her claim, and despite the initial less-than-enthusiastic response from students, they overall tend to agree: phones in the classroom significantly deplete student engagement. In fact, some have noted that phone usage not only takes away valuable class time from the student actively using the device, but can also negatively impact their peers.

"When teachers had to stop in the middle of class to tell kids to put their phones away, it was really annoying," senior Taylor Deffner said. "Having the phones away for the whole class is less distracting overall."



How often do you see students with their phones out during class

- Never or rarely
- Fairly often
- Sometimes during the first couple or last couple minutes of class

"I think cell phones have been an issue in schools for a while."

– Curt Richardt

While this year's ban is a new addition to the school, controversy surrounding personal technology use in classrooms has consistently been a topic of discussion.

"It's always been a problem. Kids are on their phones in class, or their phone goes off in class, or whatever it may be," Associate Principal Yumiko Okabe said. "It is, and has been, a

General Reporting, 1st Place (Division A)
Wausau West High School

Special Education class constructs golf course

Hailey Rodriguez, Business Manager

November 19, 2025



Deb Weiske

Freshman Ben Hoffman lines up his shot at hole seven of the golf course. The special education class spent a month constructing the course. "They had a lot of fun with it. Ben would bring in the putter, someone else would bring a ball," Weiske said.

Deb Weiske's special education class spent a month preparing a homemade golf course so they could challenge staff members to a game.

"We worked on it for about a month. We worked on it hole by hole. We had nine holes total so one day it was 'oh lets work on this hole the next lets work on this one.' They'd come in on Mondays with things to add to the course, so we just kind of kept going with that," Weiske said.

After a month of hard work, the course was finally ready. They chose Halloween for their grand opening.

General Reporting, 1st Place (Division B)
The Red 'n' Green, Berlin High School

Lesson Denied

Fond du Lac school referendum failure leads to budget and staff cuts

Addy Benzinger and Gretchen Gilhaus

May 28, 2025



Senior Hannah Guyette is deeply concerned about teachers in the district after the referendum failure. As a student and a TA at the high school, she has a direct view into the way budget cuts are affecting teachers. "Teachers are more stressed out," she said, "I mean, I've seen teachers who I won't name cry about it."

On April 1, Fond du Lac County voters rejected a referendum put forward by the school district asking for \$40,000,000 from property taxes over four years. This would have been used to keep up with staff and maintenance costs and to introduce new upgrades to

In-Depth Reporting, 1st Place (Division A)
Cardinal Columns, Fon du Lac High School

Students, staff remain calm during fire evacuation

Emileena Neconish, Reporter

October 30, 2025



Emileena Neconish

On October 23 at 7:35 a.m., the fire alarm was pulled because of the appearance of smoke in the middle school. We know now that there was not an actual fire, and it was the cause of an overheated motor inside a heating unit. "I should've just turned around and gone back home, but I wanted to see if there was an actual fire," freshman Haley Hitz said.

The fire alarm was pulled by an adult due to the presence of smoke in the middle school building on October 23 at 7:35 a.m.. All students and staff had to evacuate both buildings. An overheated motor inside a heating unit was the cause of the alarm and evacuation.

"Our students and staff handled the situation extremely well, especially during a chaotic time with buses and parents dropping students off," Superintendent Dr. Emmett Durtschi said.

The Berlin Fire Department responded quickly

In-Depth Reporting, 1st Place (Division B)
The Red 'n' Green, Berlin High School

reader get a sense of why this story is important. Solid use of quotes throughout the story from both sides of the conversation. Really good perspective on the role of the narratives of trauma and addressing that in a balanced approach. The final section on the broader debate is a good section to end with but would have liked to see one more local quote for context.

Second Place: Kennadi Ross, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: This story was a fun way to look at how the challenges of being a new student are being addressed. The top of the story had a nice transition from the personal connection to the solid "here's why you need to read this" paragraph with introduction of The Connections. I really like the mix of people you have in the story, and making it relatable to the general audience. Explaining how the program works to welcome students and get staff involved is a good element to have. What would be beneficial for this story would have been a bit more editing to remove some repetitive lines and to clean up some grammatical things.

Third Place: Evelyn Davis, Eleanor Scholtus, Devin Long, Emmersen Weber, Avi Zarnowski, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: This is a very clean presentation and guide for the school board, which typically doesn't see this kind of coverage. There were some consistency issues within the profiles, but overall very good questions to ask candidates, and ones that are helpful to the reader/voter. A bit more balance on the length of the answers would be good. With candidate Q&A's sometimes it's good to give them, or keep it to a word count, say 150 words for each answer. That way candidates have to be a bit more exact in their answers; or if you interview them then it's on the reporter/editor to find that spot so they are a bit more balanced. (Same with including links to candidate websites.) The 'fun facts' question is a good one to end with. D&D, mountain bike races, video gamer. ... Those are the things that can make candidates relatable and get past the policy wonk. As well as the 'proud of' question. ... Good thoughts.

Honorable Mention: Thomas McCarthy, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

In-Depth Reporting

Division A

First Place: Addy Benzinger, Gretchen Gilhaus, *Cardinal Columns*, Fond du Lac High School

Judge's Comments: Excellent analysis of the school district's financial challenges and reality.

Second Place: Katie Vang, *Cardinal Columns*, Fond du Lac High School

Judge's Comments: A good review of the American retail scene and challenges.

Third Place: Lily Yang, *Cardinal Columns*, Fond du Lac High School

Judge's Comments: A solid report on the challenges and struggle of this age group.

Division B

First Place: Emileena Neconish, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Multiple stories with multiple sources. Great job!

Second Place: Taylor Van Ornum, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Good job on student truancy story sharing how it impact everyone's education.

Third Place: Hailey Rodriguez, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Interesting feature utilizing multiple sources.

Feature Story

Division A

First Place: Laine Fester, Brady Doyle, *Cardinal Columns*, Fond du Lac High School

Judge's Comments: Wow, fascinating and important story. Great use of quotes from teachers, students and information sites on the topic.

Second Place: Raven Pagsisihan, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: I really like how this article takes what someone thinks they can do and shows them to get out of your comfort zone to find out more about skills and talents you would never know about if you did not try.

Third Place: Allison Jagodzinski, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: Kids supporting kids. What a compassionate, important article and lesson. Love this article!

Division B

First Place: Emileena Neconish, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Substitute teachers are often taken for

grants. This story shows the multifaceted people they are and how their experience can enhance those they teach. Enjoyed this article very much. Congratulations.

Second Place: Camila Villalobos, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: I found the generational aspect of this article simple great. I enjoyed the interviews with former and future military personnel. Good job!

Third Place: Tasi Ana Sanchez, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Wow, this article shows how the impact of decisions others make can change and challenge your plans rather quickly. The real test is how one adapts and Choir Director Abbe Lane certainly is an inspiration! Good work.

Sports Story

Division A

First Place: Hunter Sidorowicz, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: Well-constructed article. Tighten up your lede paragraph because it's too wordy. I went back and forth between first and second, but in the long run, I felt you presented your information better.

Second Place: Katie Vang, *Cardinal Columns*, Fond du Lac High School

Judge's Comments: This is one of those topics that is never explored. Overall, the reporter did a good job with explanations. I will say the same for the second and fourth entries. Be careful of not going from first to third person in narrative.

Third Place: Ben Westmont, Adam Onopa, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: This is one of those topics that is never explored. Overall, the reporter did a good job with explanations. Tighten up the writing a little more and work on the way you quote your sources.

Honorable Mention: Henry Hurley, Brady Doyle, *Cardinal Columns*, Fond du Lac High School

Judge's Comments: All my top four were very close, but it was the little things that put this article at second. I like the subject matter and presentation, but work on consistency. Work on the first paragraph. Wordy. Use one good sentence..

Division B

First Place: Emileena Neconish, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Interesting story and good comments offering a look into the different levels of soccer. Nice job.

Second Place: Camila Villalobos, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: I really enjoyed the second half of this story, including the comments looking back on the season and looking ahead to the next season.

Third Place: Makayla Trochinski, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Has the foundation for a good story. Try not to bounce back and forth with comments from before and after the meet. And, if possible, include the team and individual results instead of putting them in a quote.

Sports //

High School, High Stakes, High Losses

THE GROWING COST OF TEENAGE SPORTS BETTING

RECEIVE AID FOR WORK

by LAINE FESTER & BRADY DOYLE

On an average weekday, 16-year-old "Jake" (not his real name) scrolls through TikTok like most teens. Somewhere between goofy memes and dance videos, he stumbles on a clip of a young influencer celebrating a huge win on a sports betting app. Curious, "Jake" downloads the same app and tosses in a few bucks. It seems harmless until it becomes a daily habit that he hides from his parents.

According to the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), over 60% of young people between the ages

of 14 and 21 have experimented with gambling. Many are drawn into sports betting through social media and peer pressure. While gambling used to be for adults in casinos, today's teens have instant access to sports betting apps, often with little understanding of the risks. As gambling becomes normalized, the danger of addiction grows, with serious consequences that can affect their future.

As of now, gambling is legal in more than 30 states (including Wisconsin), with many allowing online access. That means teens don't need to leave their bedrooms to place bets. While only 1-2% of gamblers develop serious addiction, according to Addiction Help, that number could rise as gambling becomes more normalized, especially for teens who are still learning impulse control.

"I'm pretty good at knowing when to stop," senior Sam Maure said. He

has been sports betting for a few months. "But I wouldn't say the same for all my friends." He added that one of his friends lost "thousands" in a short amount of time.

Parlay bets, combining multiple bets for a chance at a bigger win, have become especially popular. The problem is, the odds of winning them are incredibly low. Still, they're what many high schoolers go for first, likely from influences on social media. "I feel like I'm due for one of those wins," Jake said when asked about why he did parlay bets.

Unfortunately, according to betting site Elite Pickz, only about 3% of sports gamblers make money in the long run. Conversely, companies like DraftKings and FanDuel take in massive profits. DraftKings reports a profit margin of nearly 40%, which rivals Vegas casinos. That kind of money comes from regular players losing, and teens are part of that equation.

Mr. Parnell, a teacher at Fond du Lac High, shared a cautionary story: someone he knew once gambled away part of their kids' college fund and even dipped into their mortgage. It's a reminder that gambling isn't always just "fun money"; the stakes can get very real, very fast.

Sports betting has been a grey area until fairly recently. In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the states could decide if they wanted to legalize sports betting. Since then, some states like Illinois and Michigan have jumped on the opportunity, bringing in millions in revenue. Wisconsin has been slower in embracing the idea, while the push for legalization in Wisconsin remains ongoing, it's clear that many other states have already begun to see the benefits. For example, in 2022, legal sports betting generated over \$4 billion in revenue nationwide.

In Wisconsin, you must be 18 to play the lottery and 21 to gamble at casinos or place sports bets. But teens are finding ways around that using adult accounts, fake IDs, or offshore apps that don't follow U.S. rules. This makes it tough for schools or law enforcement to step in early.

If you or someone you know is struggling with gambling, talk to someone or call the hotline at 1-800-GAMBLER. Set limits. Don't chase big wins. And above all, know that most of those "big wins" online don't show the full picture. It's okay to walk away.



HORSE RACING (PHOTOGRAPH BY...)

CARDINAL COLUMNS MAY '25 • 6

Feature Story, 1st Place (Division A)
Cardinal Columns, Fond du Lac High School

Editorial Writing

Division A, B

First Place: Camila Villalobos, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: This editorial earns first place because it combines clear, persuasive arguments through specific, relatable examples that show a deep understanding of students' daily experiences. The writer thoughtfully acknowledges the purpose of attendance policies while challenging them, using concrete details and a measured tone to argue for balance between accountability and empathy--hallmarks of strong, effective opinion journalism.

Second Place: Taylor Van Ornum, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: This editorial stands out for centering the real-world consequences of failed referendums on students, teachers, and programs, helping readers understand why budget decisions matter beyond spreadsheets. Using concrete examples that resonate with students, such as staff and program cuts, the writer helps readers better understand the role the community has in supporting its schools.

Column Writing

Division A, B

First Place: Milo Holdhusen, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: From the first sentence of this column, there's no question about the writer's perspective on the first 100 days of President Trump's second term. But it's through the use of concrete, specific examples, figures, polling data, lawsuits, cultural flash points, and even a student survey that the author's



TRUMP HINDERS DEMOCRACY
COLUMN BY: MILO HOLDHUSEN
FIRST 100 DAYS REFLECT CHAOS, CONCERN, AND DIVISION AT HOME AND ABROAD

The second Donald Trump presidency has well exceeded the discomfort, governmental turmoil, and overall concern within the first 100 days compared to his entire four-year term from 2016. In his first 100 days, Trump has gutted federal funding, bypassed congress to enact tariffs that drove up the price of goods, and reversed or enacted the most executive orders of any president within their first 100 days, signing 130 orders – 37 more than Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. The constant state of change presented by this new Trump administration has become more and more worrisome as the days have mounted, and there is no sign of it slowing down.

While Trump won the election, it was not the mandate by the American people he claimed it to be. Trump had 49.9% of the popular vote – just 1.5% more than Kamala Harris, and 89.2 million eligible voters didn't even cast a ballot in the 2024 election. The first signs of trouble could be traced back to Trump's inauguration. In the front row alone, we saw three of the richest men in the world there to support him, as well as other social media, tech, and global leaders. This collection of money and power looked like an oligarchy, and signaled that the past values and morals of the American government are quickly changing, and moving closer to a nationalist identity. In an effort to make America a more powerful nation, it feels like it is a less unified place, further dividing class and people.

The biggest name present at the inauguration was Tesla and SpaceX CEO and X owner Elon Musk. Musk, the wealthiest man in the world (net worth of \$359.6 billion), spent over \$290 million to help get Trump elected. Once in office, Trump appointed Musk to an internal government position, rebranding the "U.S. Digital Service" to the "Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)" and making Musk its leader. This

mishandling of the rebrand, which led to an awkward transition and a clunky public roll out. All of this was created so Musk had a place around the White House, but mismanagement of something this important felt disrespectful to the American people, in my opinion.

On his first day Trump signed 10 orders, touching nearly every aspect of the American system. He also pardoned 1,500 Jan 6th insurrectionists, placed DEI staff on leave, withdrew from the Paris climate agreement, and launched the ICE program. While these actions definitely solidified his standing among many Republicans, it fueled division and showed lack of respect for the rest of the country.

The aforementioned ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency) has become a big story with the Trump presidency. One of Trump's key political issues he campaigned on was the deportation of illegal immigrants, so he heavily increased ICE's intensity. Officers have started picking people up off the street or from their homes. This has resulted in some false accusations and arrests, along with splitting up families who came here seeking a better life, and creating more disconnect from the U.S. to other countries. This process is terrifying in that it denies the constitutional right of due process – something Trump openly questioned – and has been normalized as the correct way to go about deporting illegal immigrants.

Throughout his first months Trump also spent time and effort legally changing the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, obsessing over buying Greenland and Canada, and switching Air Force One to a luxury jet from Qatar. These actions were a waste of time, money, and showed a lack of attention towards issues that truly affect Americans. Trump also spent his time golfing. About a quarter of his days included a trip to the course, all on the taxpayer's dollar. Trump's

Column Writing, 1st Place (Division A, B)
Wausau West High School



News/Feature Photography, 1st Place (Division A)
Wausau West High School

argument lands. The urgency and conviction in the writer's voice give the piece momentum, delivering a timely, engaged, and unmistakably opinionated piece, thus exuding the core strengths of column writing.

Second Place: Ella Corbin, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: This column earns high marks for clarity, focus, and accessibility, tackling a complex, and therefore underreported, women's health topic. The writer balances explanation with personal insight, using her own experience to humanize the issue while educating readers about PMDD. It's an effective column that feels direct and useful to a student audience.

Third Place: Allison Jagodzinski, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: This column earns recognition for taking on a complex, high-stakes topic and making it accessible to student readers through clear explanations, examples, and a consistent focus on civil liberties. The writer effectively links historical precedents with current events, helping readers who may not closely follow national politics understand why these debates matter today. Its ambitious scope, informative approach, and steady throughline make it a strong and deserving entry in the contest.

Honorable Mention: Natalie Schultz, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: This column receives honorable mention for its willingness to draw attention to gender bias in sports journalism from a deeply personal perspective as an aspiring journalist. The writer strengthens her argument by weaving in a well-chosen real-world example alongside her own experiences, helping readers see how individual moments reflect broader patterns in the industry.

News/Feature Photography

Division A

First Place: Jocelyn Wolosek, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: What a great mix of images showing the excitement and emotion of this event. This made us smile and we felt like we were there. Nicely done!

Second Place: Ava Dahl, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School



Sports Photography, 1st Place (Division A, B)
The Spartan Spin, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: Stage lighting can be tricky, but the photographer here used it well. Images are all well-lit, well-composed and sharp. Good job of providing several scenes to convey a sense of the entire event.

Third Place: Allie Baker, Ahnalia Vang, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: A good mix of overall and detail photos here help to really tell the story. The main image could be a bit brighter, but overall a good job.

Honorable Mention: Natalie Schultz, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: Very nice mix of images. The shallow depth of field technique worked very well in some cases, not so well in others. Overall a good, unique take on this event.

Division B

First Place: Camila Villalobos, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: It's a challenge to capture events like this as they are in motion but these are so nice moments here to honor this special moment for high school seniors.

Second Place: Makayla Trochinski, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Nice job of capturing these students as they rehearse for a show.

Third Place: Camila Villalobos, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Nice color in the photos along with capturing the feeling of the event.

Sports Photography

Division A, B

First Place: Mike Fiegle, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: The composition is good, crisp and clear with great timing.

Second Place: Ava Dahl, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: This is a different photo of winners and teammates. The composition says it all.

Third Place: Lan Nguyen, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: The lighting is unique, but there should be a little more lighting for the sports page. The reader would be more interested in the facial expressions.

Honorable Mention: Elijah Kresin, Wausau West High School

Judge's Comments: Second photo, the dunk. Too much distance between the lens and action. If this had been a closeup, I would've moved it to second, possibly first.

Infographic/Illustration

Division A, B

First Place: Emelia Beulen, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Impressive! The color is eye catching and the design is clean. Personal accounts to go along with the graphic helps resonate the information. Good job.

Second Place: Thomas McCarthy, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Great graphic, colorful and tells the basic story. Would have been nice to see the breakdown of the 36 individuals surveyed to provide a little deeper dive. Congratulations!

Third Place: Mariah Miller, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: Student life summarized in a flash! I suggest more contrast in the "Favs" portion to make it stand out. Good organization, idea and title.



Infographic/Illustration, 1st Place (Division A, B)
The Red 'n' Green, Berlin High School

Best Use Of Multimedia/Website

Division A

First Place: Lan Nguyen, Keira Ihm, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: This was an excellent storytelling video and immediately rose to the top. The beginning grabs your attention with the drummers. The video and audio quality is solid and edit is pretty smooth. Overall, it's a great news video that could rival professional newspaper/TV news work. Great job!

Second Place: Evelyn Davis, Devin Long, Emm Weber, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: I really liked the approach and topic of this podcast. It's a great way to feature students doing interesting things. Especially this topic involving music. The audio was excellent. Great job!

Third Place: Mariah Miller, *The Spartan Spin*, Superior High School

Judge's Comments: This reminds me of a traditional newspaper approach called "Man of the Streets" where a reporter would ask random people what they thought about a topic. This video was nicely executed. I really like how it involved a lot of students and had very different answers. I hope underclassmen paid attention. Great job!

Honorable Mention: Avi Zarnowski, Eleanor Scholtus, Emmersen Weber, *The Tosa Compass*, Wauwatosa West High School

Judge's Comments: It was hard to pit a whole website against individual work but this website needed recognition. It has an easy to look at, clean style and a lot of content. It's easy to navigate too. I love visuals so to see stories with multiple photos that help tell the story was fantastic. Great job!

Division B

First Place: Thomas McCarthy, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

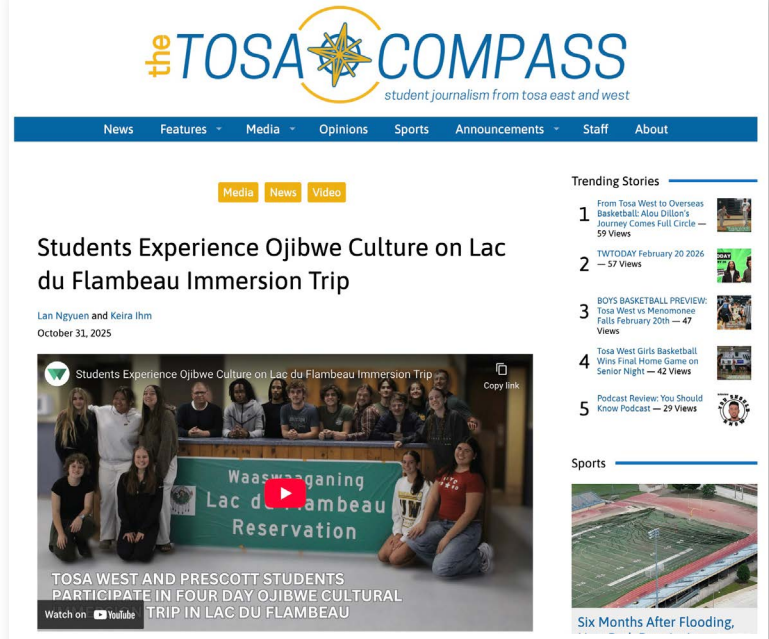
Judge's Comments: Enjoyed the video/interview, the directions to the app with link and the follow up story and picture. You ticked all the boxes of this category. Congratulations.

Second Place: Emelia Beulen, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: Main photo was strong and attention getting. Good story along with slideshow. Keep up the good work!

Third Place: Tasi Ana Sanchez, *The Red 'n' Green*, Berlin High School

Judge's Comments: I enjoyed the story, nice photos plus the slide show. A couple of the pictures were a little dark but you get the idea and gives you the inspiration to visit. Nice job!



Best Use of Multimedia/Website, 1st Place (Division A)
The Spartan Spin, Superior High School



Best Use of Multimedia/Website, 1st Place (Division B)
The Red 'n' Green, Berlin High School