



Nebraska Press Association

Nebraska Press Advertising Service

MEMO FROM THE DESK OF:
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LINCOLN — Sweepstakes winners in the Nebraska Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest are the weekly Gretna Breeze and Gering Courier and the daily Grand Island Independent.

By placing first among all the Nebraska weeklies entered, Gretna Breeze and Gering Courier will share a year's possession of the Loral Johnson Community Weekly Sweepstakes Award. This year marks the sixth annual presentation of the Loral Johnson Community Newspaper Sweepstakes Award. Loral had a passion for community journalism throughout his life, and this award is given in memory of his enthusiasm. The Gretna Breeze finished with 10 first-place awards, 12 judged second best awards and 10 judged third best awards. This is their fourth time winning this award. The Gering Courier finished with 12 first-place awards, 12 judged second best awards and 5 judged third best awards. This is their third time winning this award.

The Grand Island Independent was the winner in the daily category, which excludes dailies in Omaha and Lincoln. It finished with 11 first-place awards, 10 for second and 9 for third. The Grand Island Independent has won this award in 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The dailies are judged in 39 categories, and the weeklies in 40 categories. Both focused on writing, photography, advertising, design and creativity.

Other weeklies in the top three were, second, Wauneta Breeze, and the Aurora News-Register, third.

Finishing second in the daily category was the Kearney Hub with the Norfolk Daily News, third.

More than 3,400 separate entries, representing 13 dailies and 72 weeklies, were judged by members of the Missouri Press Association.

First, second and third place winners were announced Saturday night at an Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Kearney, where more than 200 journalists attended.

2009 Weekly Newspaper Winners

1. Use of Computer Graphics – Produced in House
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Doniphan Herald
By: Darren Ivy
Title: State Tournament
Judges Comments: Creative use of key statistics.
2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Presidential Caucus
3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Moisture Totals

1. Use of Computer Graphics – Produced in House
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Jon Burlison
Title: Royals to Sarpy County?
Judges Comments: The baseball diamond lets readers know the subject matter. Putting the people's pictures and comments in positions is creative.
2nd Place: Gering Courier
By: Matt Heigel
Title: Gering Arts Festival
3rd Place: Ashland Gazette
By: Madelyn Lorenzen and Suzi Nelson
Title: On The Air

1. Use of Computer Graphics – Produced in House
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Albion News
By: Julie Dickerson
Title: Property Valuation
Judges Comments: The design is more interesting than a regular bar graph, it clearly shows the upward trend in property values.
2nd Place: Sutton Clay County News
By: Jeremy Chevalier
Title: Jump Serve
3rd Place: Imperial Republican
By: Chris Fidler
Title: Moisture Record

1. Use of Computer Graphics – Produced in House
Class D Weekly
1st Place: North Platte Bulletin
By: Terri Davis
Title: Pirates Of The Caribbean
Judges Comments: The graphic correlates to the story and the impact on the reader draws them to the story.
2nd Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Laurie Pfeifer
Title: Motor Vehicle Sales
3rd Place: Wahoo Newspaper
By: Lisa Brichacek
Title: Grilling Time & Temps

1. Use of Computer Graphics – Produced in House
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Jack Sheard
Title: Back In Swing?
Judges Comments: The graphic is interesting and shows the recent increase in golf rounds played.
2nd Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Sage Merritt
Title: Taxes
3rd Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Alexis Rosse
Title: Sexual Predator

2. Newspaper Promotion
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Lynn Mace
Title: Worthy Women Of Distinction
Judges Comments: Great way to freshen up a promotion. Obviously well received by the community.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Lynn Mace
Title: Brass in Blue
3rd Place: Coleridge Blade
By: Alisha Stone
Title: Happy 125th Coleridge

2. Newspaper Promotion
Class B Weekly
1st Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal
Title: This Is The Eagle
Judges Comments: Very creative! Original! Fun! Love the lighthearted approach and I'm sure the readers do too!
2nd Place: Ashland Gazette
By: Cheryl Ludvik
Title: Open House
3rd Place: Gering Courier
By: Roger Tollefson
Title: United Way Rubber Duck Dash

2. Newspaper Promotion
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Syracuse Journal-Democrat
By: Staff
Title: Welcome to Otoe County Fair
Judges Comments: Great idea. Way to think beyond the normal and go outside of your newspaper to promote!
2nd Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Greg Viergutz
Title: Subscription: Priceless
3rd Place: Hartington Cedar County News
By: Rose Rolfes
Title: Bargain Hunter

2. Newspaper Promotion
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Blair Enterprise
By: Libby Palmer-Tarrox
Title: Reader Prize Patrol
Judges Comments: Great, fun idea to promote reading the newspaper.
2nd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Echo Bronk
Title: Pet Idol
3rd Place: Omaha Jewish Press
By: Richard Busse
Title: BOGO

2. Newspaper Promotion
Daily
1st Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald
By: Dalene Loudon
Title: FYI
Judges Comments: Outstanding. Creative! Clever themes.
2nd Place: Alliance Times-Herald
By: Steve Stackenwalt
Title: Online Subscriber
3rd Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald
By: Dalene Loudon
Title: Color Does It

3. Reader Interaction
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Coleridge Blade
Judges Comments: Entice-use front page and ads to ask for involvement. Obvious impact as the multiple pages show.
2nd Place: Lyons Mirror-Sun
3rd Place: Gretna Breeze

3. Reader Interaction

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Ralston Recorder

Judges Comments: Creative and relevant. Initiated across departments and cooperative with sponsors. Definitely interactive.

2nd Place: Ashland Gazette

3rd Place: Oakland Independent

3. Reader Interaction

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer

Judges Comments: The peeps are it! How creative and fun! I will steal this idea!

2nd Place: Ord Quiz

3rd Place: Gothenburg Times

3. Reader Interaction

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Aurora News-Register

Judges Comments: So original, with a great tie to advertisers.

2nd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief

3rd Place: David City Banner-Press

3. Reader Interaction

Daily

1st Place: York News-Times

Judges Comments: Excellent idea — well-executed. You not only get readers involved, but their families/friends as well.

Good idea which contributes to overall health of community.

2nd Place: Kearney Hub

3rd Place: Fremont Tribune

Advertising

4. Community Promotion Advertisement

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Gretna Breeze

By: Laura Anderson

Title: Firefighting Heroes

Judges Comments: Full page — color — has the newspaper's name at the top. Good job — income too. Plus you have posters to pass out. Local pictures.

2nd Place: Dodge Criterion

By: Kathy Kauffold

Title: WE-Dodge Criterion

3rd Place: No third place awarded.

4. Community Promotion Advertisement

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Gering Courier

By: Matt Heigel and Jim Headley

Title: Great Gering Giveaway

Judges Comments: Nice mix of local newspaper promotion and revenue from advertisers. Good layout, color, design and concept. Full page very good big prize.

2nd Place: Ravenna News

By: Wanda Keilig

Title: Garage Sale Day!

3rd Place: Ralston Recorder

By: Paul Swanson

Title: Kids Take Over

4. Community Promotion Advertisement

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Nebraska City News-Press

By: Kathy Kaufman

Title: Halloween

Judges Comments: News-Press very involved — did your part — lots of kids' pictures — plus lots of additional revenue. Good promotion tied to lots of local ads.

2nd Place: Sutton Clay County News

By: Darren Ivy

Title: Shop At Home

3rd Place: Lexington Clipper-Herald

By: Staff

Title: Save Gas! Shop Local!

4. Community Promotion Advertisement

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Wahoo Newspaper

By: Dorothy Anderson

Title: Holiday Lighting And Parade

Judges Comments: Design and color work well for event.

2nd Place: North Platte Bulletin

By: Kyle Ferguson and Terri Davis

Title: Carnival For Cancer

3rd Place: Papillion Times

By: Shon Barenklau

Title: Papillion Concert Series

4. Community Promotion Advertisement

Daily

1st Place: Alliance Times-Herald

By: Steve Stackenwalt

Title: Veterans Cemetery Ground Breaking

Judges Comments: Simple and moving.

2nd Place: Kearney Hub

By: Kimberly Rahe

Title: Heritage Day

3rd Place: North Platte Telegraph

By: Dee D. Klein, Adam Goodwin and Alexis Rose

Title: Clayton C. Anderson

5. Agricultural Advertisement

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Cozad Free Press

By: Lincey Martin

Title: Darr Feedlot

Judges Comments: Attractive use of graphic background & screen.

2nd Place: Callaway Courier

By: Michael A. Wendorff

Title: Rigler Tree Service

3rd Place: Doniphan Herald

By: Darren Ivy

Title: Hamilton Telecommunications

5. Agricultural Advertisement
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Waverly News
By: Grant Fiedler
Title: Farmall Land U.S.A.
Judges Comments: Ad is very personable, even has family picture. Also gives location in great detail.
2nd Place: Pawnee Republican
By: Ronald Puhalla
Title: Farmers Market
3rd Place: Waverly News
By: Grant Fiedler
Title: Hamilton Equipment

5. Agricultural Advertisement
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Albion News
By: Datrece Voichoski
Title: White Star Oil Company
Judges Comments: Clean ad. The graphic meshes the biofuel to the corn field.
2nd Place: Chadron Record
By: Linda Teahon
Title: Pine Ridge Animal Health
3rd Place: Valentine Midland News
By: Dana Anderson and Janette Duffield
Title: First National Bank of Valentine

5. Agricultural Advertisement
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Staff
Title: Mid-Nebraska Land Developers
Judges Comments: Clever headline paired with a good graphic layout.
2nd Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
By: Lincey Martin
Title: Mid State Aviation
3rd Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
By: Lincey Martin
Title: National Farm Safety

5. Agricultural Advertisement
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Kimberly Rahe
Title: AgNet
Judges Comments: Idea and layout very well executed. Entertaining and captive ad.
2nd Place: Beatrice Daily Sun
By: Staff
Title: 1st National Beatrice
3rd Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald
By: Dorothy Quindt and Dalene Loudon
Title: Panhandle Coop

6. Best Small Ad (Under 1/4 page or less than 3x10-1/2")
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Cozad Free Press
By: Lincey Martin
Title: Founders Day
Judges Comments: Graphic invites you to read on and find out what's being advertised.
2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Tommy's Sports Club
3rd Place: Doniphan Herald
By: Cassie Ivy
Title: Easter Egg Hunt

6. Best Small Ad (Under 1/4 page or less than 3x10-1/2")
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Guide & News
By: Mike Overmann
Title: Pinnacle Bank
Judges Comments: Excellent use of graphic and text together.
2nd Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Erin Kujath
Title: Casa Maruca
3rd Place: Pawnee Republican
By: Rachelle Grof
Title: Mary E. Ritchie, CPA

6. Best Small Ad (Under 1/4 page or less than 3x10-1/2")
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Imperial Republican
By: Chris Fidler and Karen Hayes
Title: Pinnacle Bank
Judges Comments: Graphic is entertaining and informative.
2nd Place: West Point News
By: Karey Rahn
Title: Scribner Bank
3rd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
By: Roberta Gill
Title: Wragge Pharmacy

6. Best Small Ad (Under 1/4 page or less than 3x10-1/2")
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Papillion Times
By: Sara Kocer
Title: Justin Thyme Café & Catering
Judges Comments: No comments given.
2nd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
By: Mary Coffman
Title: Crow Bar and Grill
3rd Place: Seward County Independent
By: Patti Danbom and Pat Daehling
Title: Fashions By Barb

6. Best Small Ad (Under 1/4 page or less than 3x10-1/2")
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Kimberly Rahe
Title: Opera Mania
Judges Comments: Tall skinny ad to get the attention. Clean and eye catching.
2nd Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald
By: Candice Fisher and Jenny Fisher
Title: Bluegrass Festival
3rd Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Jennifer Kelly & Alexis Rose
Title: Change Up Your Look

7. Signature Page
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Echo Bronk
Title: UBS
Judges Comments: Excellent use of page/color/balance. Staggering ads gave it a visual style that could be easily read by your customers and readers. Great Job!
2nd Place: Callaway Courier
By: Michael A. Wendorff
Title: Kite Flight
3rd Place: Petersburg Press
By: Datrece Voichoski
Title: Carnival Days

7. Signature Page
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gering Courier
By: Carol Steele and Irene Anderson
Title: Fire Prevention Week
Judges Comments: Great idea to honor the firefighters and identifies your local squad.
2nd Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal
Title: State Track
3rd Place: Creighton News
By: Rhea Landholm
Title: Honor Roll Students

7. Signature Page
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Imperial Republican
By: Chris Fidler and Karen Hayes
Title: Veterans Day
Judges Comments: Nice use of local photos. Good photo-shop work. Clean.
2nd Place: Imperial Republican
By: Chris Fidler and Karen Hayes
Title: Congratulations
3rd Place: Nebraska City News-Press
By: Kirt Manion
Title: American Legion Baseball

7. Signature Page
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Hickman Voice News
By: Staff
Title: Happy 4th of July
Judges Comments: Beautiful photo. Very clean ad layout on back.
2nd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Erin Kujath and Paul Swanson
Title: We Are Proud Of You
3rd Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Karla Senff
Title: State Champions

7. Signature Page
Daily
1st Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Denise Webbert
Title: Catholic Lady Knights
Judges Comments: Well organized. Love the big graphic and loved that the sponsors were "down played."
2nd Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Linda Brudigan
Title: West Point Sesquicentennial
3rd Place: York News-Times
By: Staff
Title: Coloring Contest

8. Classified Section
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Callaway Courier
Judges Comments: The classified headlines are easy to find. The overall organization is good and the page is attractive.
TIE: 2nd Place: Shelton Clipper
And Gibbon Reporter

8. Classified Section
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Creighton News
Judges Comments: The overall look is organized and easy to read. The classified headers are easy to pick out and information to place a classified ad is in a good place.
2nd Place: North Bend Eagle
3rd Place: Pawnee Republican

8. Classified Section
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Sutton Clay County News
Judges Comments: Clean look, well organized. Classified advertising information is easy to find at top of page.
2nd Place: Grant Tribune-Sentinel
3rd Place: Wisner News-Chronicle

8. Classified Section
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
Judges Comments: Clean. Information on how to advertise is easy to find. Classified headers are bold and easy to read.
2nd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
3rd Place: Aurora News-Register

8. Classified Section

Daily

1st Place: Grand Island Independent

Judges Comments: Categories split nicely. Easy to find what you are looking for, organized well.

2nd Place: North Platte Telegraph

3rd Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald

9. Advertising Campaign

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Wauneta Breeze

By: Susan Jones

Title: I Want That

Judges Comments: Excellent use of fonts and graphics in three ads...Solid use of rules to change location in ad for allowing readers to have to look and remember name of business. Nice job!

2nd Place: Callaway Courier

By: Michael A. Wendorff

Title: Shop Callaway

3rd Place: Gretna Breeze

By: Erin Kujath

Title: Chimes & Time

9. Advertising Campaign

Class B Weekly

1st place: Ralston Recorder

By: Erin Kujath

Title: Elite Contract Services

Judges Comments: No comments given.

2nd Place: Gering Courier

By: KC Heath

Title: Northfield Retirement Communities

3rd Place: Milford Times

By: Patti Danbom and Pat Daehling

Title: Farmers & Merchants Bank

9. Advertising Campaign

Class C Weekly

1st Place: West Point News

By: Karey Rahn

Title: Juvenile Awareness Group

Judges Comments: Very attention grabbing-both because of graphics and headlines. It really makes you read the ad, then think about what it says.

2nd Place: Imperial Republican

By: Chris Fidler and Karen Hayes

Title: Mid-Plains Community College

3rd Place: Geneva Nebraska Signal

By: Sherri Nun

Title: Geneva State Bank

9. Advertising Campaign

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Fairbury Journal-News

By: Jennifer Lewis and Susan Bartels

Title: fairburyjournalnews.com

Judges Comments: Clever placement of headline and graphics. Very good substitution for post-it notes.

2nd Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune

By: Tamie Thurmin

Title: Dawson County Raceway

3rd Place: Wahoo Newspaper

By: Kathy Meduna

Title: Communities in Concert

9. Advertising Campaign

Daily

1st Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald

By: Connie Myers and Dalene Loudon

Title: Village Garden Center

Judges Comments: Beautiful layout, very engaging ad and story. All around a great idea for your advertisers.

2nd Place: York News-Times

By: Irene Duncan

Title: Days Until Christmas

3rd Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald

By: Staff

Title: High Plains Job Finder

10. Single Retail Advertising Idea - Color

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Gretna Breeze

By: Sara Kocer

Title: Kajoma's

Judges Comments: Great eye catching ad. Style and headlines are captivating.

2nd Place: Gretna Breeze

By: Barb Kinsella

Title: Auto Body Authority

3rd Place: Gretna Breeze

By: Cindy Brenner

Title: Dollar Place

10. Single Retail Advertising Idea - Color

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Ralston Recorder

By: Erin Kujath

Title: Winner\$ Sports Bar

Judges Comments: Attractive, captivating ad. Its headlines are motivating and typography/layout is clear and easy.

2nd Place: Ashland Gazette

By: Joan Berggren

Title: Name Our Bed & Breakfast Contest

3rd Place: Ralston Recorder

By: Laura Anderson

Title: Stavie's Restaurant

10. Single Retail Advertising Idea - Color
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Chadron Record
By: Staff
Title: GMC of Chadron/Parts of Animal
Judges Comments: The layout of the ad is truly captivating.
The idea entertains and the color is just enough.
2nd Place: Lexington Clipper-Herald
By: Terrie Baker
Title: Platte Valley Lexington
3rd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
By: Roberta Gill
Title: Rejoice at Eastertide

10. Single Retail Advertising Idea - Color
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Papillion Times
By: Cindy Brenner
Title: Long John Silver's/A&W
Judges Comments: This ad follows all the rules. The business doesn't just say thank you to show appreciation with an enticing offer. Very attractive ad, typography is easy to read and layout is clean.
2nd Place: Omaha Jewish Press
By: Richard Busse
Title: James Skinner Baking Company
3rd Place: Papillion Times
By: Erin Kujath
Title: Papillion-LaVista Community Theatre

10. Single Retail Advertising Idea - Color
Daily
1st Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald
By: Gay Hill and Cathy McDaniel
Title: The Spa
Judges Comments: Clever, attractive, entertaining. Clean layout, easy to read, original. Great ad!
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Amanda Johnson and Michala Soundy
Title: McCafe
3rd Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Judy Feeney and Tony Jasnoch
Title: Shults Construction

11. Single Retail Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Tommy's Sports Club
Judges Comments: Good use of benefits and direct call-to-action.
2nd Place: No second place awarded.
3rd Place: No third place awarded.

11. Single Retail Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class B Weekly
1st Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal
Title: North Bend Mini-Mart
Judges Comments: Great headline.
2nd Place: Ravenna News
By: Wanda Keilig
Title: Boy Scouts
3rd Place: Milford Times
By: Patti Danbom and Pat Daehling
Title: Jones Bank

11. Single Retail Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Grant Tribune-Sentinel
By: Shari Friedel
Title: Shop in Grant
Judges Comments: Very readable and fun to read. Based on solid benefits.
2nd Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Greg Viergutz
Title: Gothenburg State Bank
3rd Place: Elkhorn Douglas County Post-Gazette
By: Darcy Kracht
Title: Pooley's Pumpkin Patch

11. Single Retail Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Kurt Johnson
Title: Jim's U-Save Pharmacy
Judges Comments: Simple wins. This ad for Jim's Pharmacy is a great example of less being more. Clean, immediate impact.
2nd Place: Papillion Times
By: Sara Kocer
Title: Papillion Pediatric Dentistry
3rd Place: Seward County Independent
By: Patti Danbom and Pat Daehling
Title: Davisson Furniture Center

11. Single Retail Advertising Idea – Black & White
Daily
1st Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Candace Alder
Title: Women's Health
Judges Comments: Enticing headline. Pretty picture. Clean slick B/W ad.
2nd Place: Alliance Times-Herald
By: Steve Stackenwalt and Cassie Danieau
Title: Thank A Veteran
3rd Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Joe Odell and Mary Beth Chapman
Title: Schaben Sanitation

12. Single Classified Advertising Idea - Color
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Echo Bronk & Ann Hinrichs
Title: Here's My Card
Judges Comments: Great idea that can be used in any paper.
Very clean and eye catching.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Marsha Polack & Teresa Brodbeck
Title: Senior Care Homestead
3rd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Aileen Bell & Erin Kujath
Title: Event Listing

12. Single Classified Advertising Idea - Color
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gering Courier
By: Willy Weibert
Title: High Plains Job Finder
Judges Comments: No comments given.
2nd Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Lynn Mace
Title: Metro Real Estate Magazine
3rd Place: No third place awarded.

12. Single Classified Advertising Idea - Color
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Lexington Clipper-Herald
By: Carol Meyer
Title: City Wide Garage Sales
Judges Comments: Good concept. Good use of single color.
Easy to read. Coupons, good addition!
2nd Place: Nebraska City News-Press
By: Lisa Chaney
Title: Century 21 Virtual Tours
There were only 2 entries in this category.

12. Single Classified Advertising Idea - Color
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Echo Bronk
Title: St. Mathew Preschool
Judges Comments: Cute ad, nice color and good art for client.
2nd Place: Papillion Times
By: Dennis Hulme, Lynn Mace and Paul Swanson
Title: Dodge Realty
3rd Place: Seward County Independent
By: Patti Danbom and Carrie Johnson
Title: Wind Tower Manufacturer

12. Single Classified Advertising Idea - Color
Daily
1st Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Adam Goodwin and Jason Trospen
Title: Premier Autoplex
Judges Comments: Great idea. Very clean and simple.
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Amanda Johnson and Joleen Robinson
Title: Dinsdale
3rd Place: No third place awarded.

13. Single Classified Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Laura Anderson and Aileen Bell
Title: Xtreme Audio Concepts
Judges Comments: Perfect! Clean, simple and eye catching.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Echo Bronk
Title: Texture Salon
3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Susan Jones
Title: Heritage of Wauneta

13. Single Classified Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gering Courier
By: Matt Heigel
Title: Top Weekly Newspaper — Gering Courier
Judges Comments: Clear, clever use of space. Good graphic.
2nd Place: Milford Times
By: Rachelle Hinrichs and Pat Daehling
Title: Awe Salon
3rd Place: Ashland Gazette
By: Joan Berggren
Title: Buck's Tire Service

13. Single Classified Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Geneva Nebraska Signal
By: Staff
Title: Garage Sale Grouping
Judges Comments: Well organized. Easy to read. Lots of information.
2nd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
By: Roberta Gill
Title: Get Trash
3rd Place: Elkhorn Douglas County Post-Gazette
By: Penny Overmann
Title: Life Care Center of Elkhorn

13. Single Classified Advertising Idea – Black & White
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Echo Bronk and Lynn Mace
Title: Park and Walk Into History
Judges Comments: Good execution! Very clean, like the idea!
2nd Place: Wahoo Newspaper
By: Kathy Meduna
Title: Colony Place Condominiums
3rd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Echo Bronk
Title: Macy Construction

13. Single Classified Advertising Idea – Black & White Daily

1st Place: Norfolk Daily News

By: Vickie Hrabanek

Title: Norfolk Auto Center

Judges Comments: Clean, simple, easy to read message.

2nd Place: Grand Island Independent

By: Sheryl Jennelle and Gretchen Fowler

Title: A S Inc.

3rd Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald

By: Victoria Heath and KC Heath

Title: Fat Boy Tire & Auto

Sports

14. Sports Action Photo

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Cozad Free Press

By: Corbey Dorsey

Title: In His Final

Judges Comments: Nice expression on jumper's face! Good photo!

2nd Place: Doniphan Herald

By: Cassie Ivy

Title: Giltner's Stasia Ott Soars

3rd Place: Callaway Courier

By: Michael A. Wendorff

Title: Hurdles

14. Sports Action Photo

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Ravenna News

By: Nancy Jackson

Title: Pleasanton Basketball

Judges Comments: Mid leap basketball shot has great action!

Good facial expressions.

2nd Place: North Bend Eagle

By: Nathan Arneal

Title: Didgets

3rd Place: Gering Courier

By: Jim Headley

Title: Lady Bulldogs

14. Sports Action Photo

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Minden Courier

By: Jim Edgecombe

Title: Battle For The Ball

Judges Comments: Intense basketball action! Great composition with technically not a great photo. The action grabs the eyes.

2nd Place: Gothenburg Times

By: Deb Egenberger

Title: Cheek to Cheek Basketball

3rd Place: West Point News

By: Willis Mahannah

Title: West Point Catcher

14. Sports Action Photo

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Blair Pilot-Tribune

By: Joe Burns

Title: Long Jump

Judges Comments: I liked the way it was laid out in the paper and good detail, good action.

2nd Place: Seward County Independent

By: Stephanie Croston

Title: Soccer

3rd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief

By: Deb McCaslin

Title: Rodeo

14. Sports Action Photo

Daily

1st Place: Kearney Hub

By: Brad Norton

Title: Jumping In

Judges Comments: Excellent composition and cropping.

Perfectly focused. Nothing to improve upon except to run it bigger!

2nd Place: Fremont Tribune

By: Matt Gade

Title: Making a Splash

3rd Place: Kearney Hub

By: Rick Tucker

Title: Nose For The Ball

15. Sports Feature Photo

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Clearwater Record-News

By: Carm Thramer

Title: State Champions

Judges Comments: Great decision to run photo full width. Players are having lots more fun than the losing team's fans in the background — interesting contrast of emotions. Nice composition and cropped well.

2nd Place: Doniphan Herald

By: Cassie Ivy

Title: State Champs

3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze

By: Tina Kitt

Title: Dugout Days

15. Sports Feature Photo

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Pender Times

By: Jason Sturek

Title: Trojans Stumble

Judges Comments: Great shot taken at exactly the right moment.

2nd Place: Gering Courier

By: Jim Headley

Title: Extraordinary Hazard

3rd Place: North Bend Eagle

By: Nathan Arneal

Title: No Pressure

15. Sports Feature Photo
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Minden Courier
By: Jim Edgecombe
Title: Basketball Close Game
Judges Comments: Nice angle crop. Right place, right time.
2nd Place: West Point News
By: Mike O'Brien
Title: Horseshoe Toss
3rd Place: Imperial Republican
By: Russ Pankonin
Title: State Track Meet

15. Sports Feature Photo
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
By: Corbey Dorsey
Title: Lexington Catcher
Judges Comments: Good cropping technique, excellent focus. Just enough of the ball in the photo to make it work. The eye is the money part of the shot.
2nd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Eric Taylor
Title: Reaching For More
3rd Place: Plattsmouth Journal
By: Brent Hardin
Title: Fall Girls Sports

15. Sports Feature Photo
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Matt Noffke
Title: Biggest Catch
Judges Comments: Wonderful shot — great emotion!
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Barrett Stinson
Title: Wrestler
3rd Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Darin Epperly
Title: Madison Coach

16. Sports Page
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Arlington Citizen
Judges Comments: You are proof that a solid B & W page still gets the job done. First Rate! Good mix of action/feature photos and stories. Full of results, names and faces. Excellent writing and design. Your pages stand out among larger dailies — great job!
2nd Place: Doniphan Herald
3rd Place: Cozad Free Press

16. Sports Page
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gering Courier
Judges Comments: Sports page neat and clean. "Freeze Frame" is fabulous. Color super. Layout excellent.
2nd Place: Blue Hill Leader
3rd Place: Pawnee Republican

16. Sports Page
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Sutton Clay County News
Judges Comments: Very, very consistent. Impressive color, layout and content. "A Season To Remember" puts you over the top.
2nd Place: Gothenburg Times
3rd Place: Imperial Republican

16. Sports Page
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
Judges Comments: Sections are built around outstanding photography. Played well. People may know how the games come out, but they will not have seen them. Huge sports sections full of local content.
2nd Place: Aurora News-Register
3rd Place: Ogallala Keith County News

16. Sports Page
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
Judges Comments: Love the bold design on the Huskers HQ. All entries are characterized by great hierarchy, clean typography, strong photos, punchy headlines and excellent writing.
2nd Place: North Platte Telegraph
3rd Place: Hastings Tribune

17. Sports Column
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Dave Vrbas
Judges Comments: No comments given.
2nd Place: Callaway Courier
By: Michael A. Wendorff
3rd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Jason Bissell

17. Sports Column
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Ron Petak
Judges Comments: Good local interest. The golf column was a good introspective.
2nd Place: Ravenna News
By: Monte Steele
3rd Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal

17. Sports Column
Class C Weekly
1st Place: West Point News
By: Mike O'Brien
Judges Comments: Nice job of capturing the atmosphere at the volleyball match. I'm sure even those who attended enjoyed the replay in print. Colorado-Nebraska game commentary done in any interesting way; nice job of adding local angle.
2nd Place: Albion News
By: Joe Flanagan
3rd Place: Sutton Clay County News
By: Nick Benes

17. Sports Column
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Plattsmouth Journal
By: Brent Hardin
Judges Comments: By far the best submissions in this category. Interesting topics, well-written copy and local interest make these two articles fun to read.
2nd Place: Blair Enterprise
By: Wendy Hilgenkamp
3rd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
By: Megan Kulhanek

17. Sports Column
Daily
1st Place: Columbus Telegram
By: Tom Mix
Judges Comments: Good insight on two topics not always highlighted (fans and 6-man football) that made me want to know more about both.
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Bob Hamar
3rd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Terry Douglass

18. Sports Writing
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Jason Bissell
Title: Washed Out
Judges Comments: Well written account of athletic directors headaches. Stood out in stack of routine game stories.
2nd Place: Doniphan Herald
By: Darren Ivy
Title: Hornets Win...
3rd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Jason Bissell
Title: Blum Makes Impact...

18. Sports Writing
Class B Weekly
1st Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal
Title: Silver Surprise
Judges Comments: Nice job capturing a whole weekend. You know the balance of not going overboard.
2nd Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal
Title: Renter's Jumps
3rd Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Jon Burlison
Title: Little Lady With Big Heart

18. Sports Writing
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Elkhorn Douglas County Post-Gazette
By: Mike Wilder
Title: 2nd Class Blown
Judges Comments: Photos go with story and help get the point out there. You read it and picture it. Good job.
2nd Place: Nebraska City News-Press
By: Kirt Manion
Title: Which Twin
3rd Place: South Sioux City Dakota County Star
By: Blake Branch
Title: Robinette Twins

18. Sports Writing
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Eric Taylor
Title: Memory of Tanner
Judges Comments: Very well written and emotional piece. Factual, strongly worded but concise, not verbose. Grabbed me and held on. Great job!
2nd Place: Seward County Independent
By: Stephanie Croston
Title: Yankee Stadium
3rd Place: Wahoo Newspaper
By: Jason Unger
Title: Line Crews

18. Sports Writing
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Chris Basnett
Title: Last Letter Brings Hope
Judges Comments: Sensitive subject dealt with using tact and an appropriate writing style — in-depth, but not overlong.
2nd Place: Kearney Hub
By: Seth Blank
Title: Blind Ambition
3rd Place: Fremont Tribune
By: Brent Wasenius
Title: Freak Accident

Photography
19. Photo Page
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt and Krystle Dean
Title: Harvest Fest
Judges Comments: Good, bold photos with an excellent sense of hierarchy on the pose. You captured a large and diverse slice of the community around your festival. Variety of photos and subjects add interest. I'm sure this will be a keepsake.
2nd Place: Callaway Courier
By: Michael A. Wendorff
Title: Pioneer Picnic
3rd Place: Cozad Free Press
By: Scott Anderson
Title: Prom

19. Photo Page
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Jon Burleson
Title: May Crowning
Judges Comments: Strong focus, good details, balance in size and shape of photos – not crowded, informative cutlines.
2nd Place: Gering Courier
By: Jim Headley
Title: Geil's Field Day
3rd Place: Waverly News
By: Peggy Brown and Joe Evans
Title: Heritage Festival Day

19. Photo Page
Class C Weekly
1st Place: West Point News
By: Willis Mahannah
Title: Honoring The Unknown
Judges Comments: Nice dominant image with a good variety of support images.
2nd Place: Valentine Midland News
By: Laura Vroman
Title: Frost, Snow, Winter
3rd Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Elizabeth Barrett
Title: Thrills & Spills

19. Photo Page
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Kurt Johnson and Laurie Pfeifer
Title: ASAD Day for Aurora
Judges Comments: Nice dominant image with a good mix of photos to tell the visual story. Clean, neat display.
2nd Place: Papillion Times
By: Mike Fisher, Corie Russell, Jason Glenn and Sarah Mullady
Title: County Fair
3rd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Sarah Mullady and Jason Glenn
Title: Wild Blue Yonder

19. Photo Page
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Scott Kingsley
Title: Memories & Dreams
Judges Comments: By far the strongest page in this category. Each individual photo is outstanding with the dominant photo especially dramatic.
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Barrett Stinson
Title: View To A Thrill
3rd Place: Hastings Tribune
By: Amy Roh
Title: Off The Air

20. Feature Photography
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Cozad Free Press
By: Corbey R. Dorsey
Title: Special Candid Moment
Judges Comments: A wonderful moment. Nice tight cropping and good composition. A graduation iconic moment.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Emily Kampschneider
Title: Goofy, Yet Safe 'Family'
3rd Place: Coleridge Blade
By: Patrick Breen
Title: Fun At The Pool

20. Feature Photography
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Blue Hill Leader
By: Darren Ivy
Title: Scout's Honors
Judges Comments: You captured a nice, story-telling moment.
2nd Place: Waverly News
By: Joe Evans
Title: Harvest
3rd Place: Milford Times
By: Nancy Swarts
Title: Hint of Spring

20. Feature Photography
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Elizabeth Barrett
Title: Unique Wedding
Judges Comments: Exact timing captures moment of truly smitten young boy-good focal point while capturing overall scene.
2nd Place: Chadron Record
By: George Ledbetter
Title: Did You See That?
3rd Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Deb Egenberger
Title: Beating The Heat

20. Feature Photography
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Kurt Johnson
Title: Balloon Drop
Judges Comments: Look at those drops of water and expression on one girl's face — great moment and detail.
2nd Place: Hickman Voice News
By: Logan Seacrest
Title: Geese
3rd Place: Plattsmouth Journal
By: Brent Hardin
Title: Roping Longhorn Steer

20. Feature Photography
Daily
1st Place: Scottsbluff Star-Herald
By: Rick Myers
Title: Snow Geese
Judges Comments: It's a winter palette — almost a painting. Strong perspective and a gorgeous moment in time.
2nd Place: Kearney Hub
By: Brad Norton
Title: Stained Glass Dome
3rd Place: Fremont Tribune
By: Tony Gray
Title: Science Fair

21. News Photography
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Coleridge Blade
By: Robert Yost
Title: Harvest
Judges Comments: Wonderful composition. You needed to show all the friends and neighbors helping and you did that in a dramatic way. Excellent use of lens length, depth of field and angle.
2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Russ Pankonin
Title: History Made
3rd Place: Coleridge Blade
By: Robert Yost
Title: Final Salute

21. News Photography
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Blue Hill Leader
By: Darren Ivy
Title: Heat Of The Night
Judges Comments: Very dramatic silhouette.
2nd Place: Gering Courier
By: Jim Headley
Title: Fallen Marine
3rd Place: Gretna Guide & News
By: Mike Fischer
Title: Fire

21. News Photography
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Elizabeth Barrett
Title: Grain Bin Removal
Judges Comments: Several entries in this category would have benefited from tighter cropping to give a more intimate look at the scene.
2nd Place: Wisner News-Chronicle
By: Tom Kelly
Title: High Wire Act
3rd Place: Nebraska City News-Press
By: Patricia Rengifo-Lant
Title: Sandbag

21. News Photography
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
By: Tamie Thurm
Title: Epic Water
Judges Comments: I like that the photo ran so wide but I would have cropped more from the top for a widescreen sort of view.
2nd Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Jonna Huseman
Title: Mustang Damage
3rd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Zachary McDonald
Title: Gun Sale

21. News Photography
Daily
1st Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Beth Gilbert
Title: Floride Treatment
Judges Comments: It's all about the eyes in any great photo of people. Good focus technique for field depth.
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Barrett Stinson
Title: Salute to Heroes
3rd Place: York News-Times
By: Steve Moseley
Title: Floride Bill

22. Spot News Photography
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Arlington Citizen
By: Melissa Rice
Title: Eagle
Judges Comments: Strongest photo in an otherwise weak class. Good graphic.
2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Train Wreck
3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Car Wreck

22. Spot News Photography
Class B Weekly
1st Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal
Title: Shawsky's Robbery
Judges Comments: The best of a very weak class of entries. One of them that actually has a face in it.
2nd Place: Gering Courier
By: Jim Headley
Title: Wildfire
3rd Place: Pawnee Republican
By: Carol Sisco
Title: Snowplow Accident

22. Spot News Photography
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Elizabeth Barrett
Title: There's The Beef
Judges Comments: Very funny, nice news image of a comical situation. This category had several overall kinds of images, but nothing really jumped out.
2nd Place: Nebraska City News-Press
By: Dan Swanson
Title: Up A Pole
3rd Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Elizabeth Barrett
Title: Grain Bin

22. Spot News Photography
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
By: Michelle Zlomke
Title: Firemen
Judges Comments: Human motion — firemen tell us a story no one else in the category really showed. Most all entries in category could benefit from better reproduction or initial separations/scans. Several entries were eliminated due to poor finished quality of image in print.
2nd Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Laurie Pfeifer
Title: Up In Smoke
3rd Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
By: Corbey R. Dorsey
Title: Coal Car Fire

22. Spot News Photography
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Todd Gottula
Title: Rescue
Judges Comments: Solid news in a strong category. Photo could have been cropped a little tighter in each side. You guys "do" photos really well! Good play and good photo-journalism. Nice job Todd!
2nd Place: McCook Daily Gazette
By: Connie Discoe
Title: Rollover Accident
3rd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Barrett Stinson
Title: Fire Guts Building

News and Editorial
23. Use of Color – News (Weeklies Only)
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Arlington Citizen
Judges Comments: Very vibrant colors. Both graphics and photos. Very tasteful use of red, white and blue.
2nd Place: Cozad Free Press
3rd Place: Doniphan Herald

23. Use of Color – News (Weeklies Only)
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Blue Hill Leader
Judges Comments: Great use of color to make very important story really "pop."
2nd Place: Gering Courier
3rd Place: Gering Courier

23. Use of Color – News (Weeklies Only)
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Gothenburg Times
Judges Comments: Bright colors throughout. Helps organize the page and make it easier to read.
2nd Place: Hebron Journal-Register
3rd Place: Lexington Clipper-Herald

23. Use of Color – News (Weeklies Only)
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune
Judges Comments: From the top to the bottom, this page is attention grabbing and creative.
2nd Place: Fairbury Journal-News
3rd Place: Wahoo Newspaper

24. Lifestyles
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Breeze
Judges Comments: Great use of local feature on page 1. I enjoyed the kids speak feature in 6/25 and 9/24 issues. Hope you're continuing that. Great section.
2nd Place: Arlington Citizen
3rd Place: Cozad Free Press

24. Lifestyles
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ralston Recorder
Judges Comments: Nice use of community event photos. History book and kids speak columns interesting. I think people enjoy those.
2nd Place: Gering Courier
3rd Place: Ashland Gazette

24. Lifestyles
Class C Weekly
1st Place: West Point News
Judges Comments: Very nice lifestyle section! Great variety of stories, lots of photos, loved the school page. Great work!
2nd Place: Sutton Clay County News
3rd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer

24. Lifestyles
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Blair Enterprise
Judges Comments: Many good things going on here. Good local features and submitted pics packaged nicely into a section.
2nd Place: Wahoo Newspaper
3rd Place: Blair Pilot-Tribune

24. Lifestyles

Daily

1st Place: Kearney Hub

Judges Comments: Photos help tell the cover stories well. Consistent design should be a comfort to readers. Nice variety of story topics captures broad interest. "Lady" and "Here" stories do well to personalize the stories and draw in the reader. Nice trio.

2nd Place: Norfolk Daily News

3rd Place: Grand Island Independent

25. Special Single Edition or Section

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Wauneta Breeze

By: Staff

Title: 4-H

Judges Comments: Good idea for a small local paper's readers. Nice photos for the most part and readable layout.

2nd Place: Gretna Breeze

By: Deb Grayson

Title: Going Green

3rd Place: Bayard Transcript

By: Staff

Title: Pioneer Days

25. Special Single Edition or Section

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Blue Hill Leader

By: Staff

Title: Yearbook

Judges Comments: While there were many interesting entries in this category, this was the only section to include an explanatory column about the content and why — I'm sure it's a keeper.

2nd Place: Waverly News

By: Joe Evans and Grant Fiedler

Title: Camp Creek

3rd Place: Ashland Gazette

By: Staff

Title: Twenty Under 40

25. Special Single Edition or Section

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Lexington Clipper-Herald

By: Staff

Title: People Who Make A Difference

Judges Comments: What a novel idea. Thoughtfully done, great cover. A good way to connect with readers and the community. I wouldn't have thought of it. Inside headline front a little iffy.

2nd Place: Albion News

By: Staff

Title: Vera Sun

3rd Place: Elkhorn Douglas County Post-Gazette

By: Staff

Title: Fire & Rescue

25. Special Single Edition or Section

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Aurora News-Register

By: Staff

Title: Winds Of Fury

Judges Comments: Great art. Great stories. Excellent layout! A very nice section after such a disaster. Good use of white paper.

2nd Place: Bellevue Leader

By: Valerie Cutshall

Title: Reaching Higher

3rd Place: Plattsburgh Journal

By: Staff

Title: Platte Valley Info Guide

25. Special Single Edition or Section

Daily

1st Place: Columbus Telegram

By: Staff

Title: Fall Sports Section

Judges Comments: Great local content displayed well. Great design.

2nd Place: Kearney Hub

By: Staff

Title: Living Green

3rd Place: Grand Island Independent

By: Staff

Title: All Roads Lead to GI

26. Special Edition or Section, Multiple Publication Dates

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Gretna Breeze

Title: Let's Go

Judges Comments: Nice variety of activities in your content. Only one entry received in this category.

26. Special Edition or Section, Multiple Publication Dates

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Blue Hill Leader

Title: Sports Previews

Judges Comments: Nice variety of preview coverage. Especially intrigued with summer softball/baseball.

2nd Place: Gering Courier

Title: Oregon Trail Days

3rd Place: Ashland Gazette

Title: Lifestyles

26. Special Edition or Section, Multiple Publication Dates

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Chadron Record

Title: Paths of Progress

Judges Comments: Well thought out, well planned addition to your regular coverage.

Only one entry was submitted for this class.

26. Special Edition or Section, Multiple Publication Dates
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
Title: Healthier Central Nebraska
Judges Comments: Great idea, had positive impact on community health, lots of pictures of community members. Good layout.
2nd Place: North Platte Bulletin
Title: Agriculture
3rd Place: Aurora News-Register
Title: Hometown Team

26. Special Edition or Section, Multiple Publication Dates
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
Title: Silver Salute
Judges Comments: Best design by a mile. Readable stories, inviting layouts — I'll bet this is a very popular section.
2nd Place: Hastings Tribune
Title: Outlook
3rd Place: Columbus Telegram
Title: Power and Progress

27. Personal Column
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Arlington Citizen
By: Melissa Rice
Judges Comments: No comments given.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Emily Kampschneider
3rd Place: Mullen Hooker County Tribune
By: Gerri Osborn

27. Personal Column
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Pawnee Republican
By: Carol A. Sisco
Judges Comments: This column was well written, humorous and contemporary. I enjoyed reading it and felt that "I know exactly what you mean" feeling.
2nd Place: Gering Courier
By: Jerry Purvis
3rd Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Sherry Wachtler

27. Personal Column
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Hartington Cedar County News
By: Rob Dump
Judges Comments: Engaging read. Very humorous and human. (Unfortunately, I related all too closely).
2nd Place: Lexington Clipper-Herald
By: Danny Gruber
3rd Place: Hartington Cedar County News
By: Joani Potts

27. Personal Column
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Kate Peterson
Judges Comments: This caught my attention and not just because I'm a man! It was a great standout among many wonderfully descriptive writing, thoroughly entertaining.
2nd Place: Ogallala Keith County News
By: Mary Pierce
3rd Place: Ogallala Keith County News
By: Michael Carnes

27. Personal Column
Daily
1st Place: York News-Times
By: Melanie Wilkinson
Judges Comments: Excellent Narrative. Warm personal anecdotes, told with feeling. Stretch the length limit — be careful.
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: George Ayoub
3rd Place: York News-Times
By: Steve Mosely

28. Youth Coverage
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Doniphan Herald
Judges Comments: Wow! The yearbook section is extensive and a good coverage of young people. Kudos to your paper's staff for working with the journalism students. That's a big commitment for a small staff yet so rewarding for the students and your readers! Excellent work!
2nd Place: Coleridge Blade
3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze

28. Youth Coverage
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ralston Recorder
Judges Comments: Love the Kid Speak feature — that will not only get the parents reading, but the students reading. That's a great commitment to go into those schools each week and to highlight students of the week. Great Job!
2nd Place: Blue Hill Leader
3rd Place: Ashland Gazette

28. Youth Coverage
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
Judges Comments: Good job. Easy to read and you want to.
2nd Place: West Point News
3rd Place: Geneva Nebraska Signal

28. Youth Coverage
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Seward County Independent
Judges Comments: Wow! What a commitment to young people in your community! Beautiful, extensive special sections and a great class room of the week feature! Excellent!
2nd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
3rd Place: Aurora News-Register

28. Youth Coverage

Daily

1st Place: Kearney Hub

Judges Comments: I was truly impressed with the Kids Scoop section. What an introduction to the newspaper for children.

2nd Place: Norfolk Daily News

3rd Place: Grand Island Independent

29. Specialty Pages

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Wauneta Breeze

Judges Comments: Nice layout and design of theme pages... solid composite and use of pictures, fonts, copy... good job!

2nd Place: Gretna Breeze

3rd Place: Mitchell Index

29. Specialty Pages

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Gering Courier

Judges Comments: Very nice use of text and pictures in a business section. Entry was eye-catching with good layout and balance. Great job!

2nd Place: Ralston Recorder

3rd Place: Milford Times

29. Specialty Pages

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Gothenburg Times

Judges Comments: State Meet — excellent use of layout skills to incorporate style and design. Pictures were perfect to reflect the mood of the page. Swimming — excellent pictures show off the rest of the page. Great job!

2nd Place: Sutton Clay County News

3rd Place: Valentine Midland News

29. Specialty Pages

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Blair Enterprise

Judges Comments: Great idea, very creative! Wonderful use of pictures, graphics and text — superior layout. Enjoyed reading it! Congrats!

2nd Place: Wahoo Newspaper

3rd Place: Plattsmouth Journal

29. Specialty Pages

Daily

1st Place: Hastings Tribune

Judges Comments: A page featuring a single story is an interest-catcher. One will have the tendency to read the entire story.

2nd Place: Kearney Hub

3rd Place: Alliance Times-Herald

30. Spot News

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Wauneta Breeze

By: Tina Kitt

Title: Violent Storms

Judges Comments: Nice chronicle of local storms. Ingenuity and variety of photos were a plus.

2nd Place: Arlington Citizen

By: Melissa Rice, Stephanie Ludwig and Joe Burns

Title: Storm Leaves High Water

3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze

By: Tina Kitt

Title: Weekend Fire

30. Spot News

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Creighton News

By: Rhea Landholm

Title: Center Teen Caught In Twister

Judges Comments: This is an interesting story because of the young man involved. The writer did a good job of making it personal. I also like the way the writer provided a timeline for the event.

2nd Place: Ashland Gazette

By: Suzi Nelson

Title: Twisters

3rd Place: North Bend Eagle

By: Nathan Arneal

Title: Flooding

30. Spot News

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Hebron Journal-Register

By: Mike Edgcombe and Jacque Rocolle

Title: Storms Plow Through County

Judges Comments: Nice timeline — thoroughly covered all the angles and interviewed several sources from individuals who were affected by the storms to officials.

2nd Place: Gothenburg Times

By: Elizabeth Barrett

Title: Explosion

3rd Place: Imperial Republican

By: Jan Schultz

Title: Bomb Threat

30. Spot News

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Aurora News-Register

By: Laurie Pfeifer

Title: A Destructive Force

Judges Comments: Good organization. Good use of quotes. I like the series of short sentences opening the story. It made for a fast read.

2nd Place: Aurora News-Register

By: Kurt Johnson

Title: History Up In Smoke

3rd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief

By: Deb McCaslin

Title: The Cows Got Him!

30. Spot News
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Sarah Schulz
Title: Enough, already!
Judges Comments: This story is great because of Ray Miller. The writer brought Miller to life and made the flood personal. Nice quotes and good use of facts without boring the reader.
2nd Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Kent Warneke
Title: Trench Collapses
3rd Place: Beatrice Daily Sun
By: Staff
Title: Tornado

31. Feature Series
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Ninety Years
Judges Comments: This series on 90-year-old residents was well written with wonderful layout and photos. Nice writing!
2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: 100 Years
3rd Place: Callaway Courier
By: Michael A. Wendorff
Title: ESGR Series

31. Feature Series
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Blue Hill Leader
By: Rita Brhel
Title: The Future Of Farming
Judges Comments: Informative, personal stories with a consistent theme. Very well written!
2nd Place: Friend Sentinel
By: Lee DeBevoise
Title: What Is My Space
3rd Place: Gering Courier
By: Jim Headley
Title: Make A Wish

31. Feature Series
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Elizabeth Barrett
Title: Adoption Series
Judges Comments: Interesting subject and story line. Readers would want to follow in a series. Loved the baby picture and its layout on the first story.
2nd Place: Gothenburg Times
By: Elizabeth Barrett
Title: Underage Drinking Series
3rd Place: Chadron Record
By: Kerri Rempp
Title: Tragic Couple Series

31. Feature Series
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
By: Ellen Mortensen
Title: Parents Warn
Judges Comments: Exceptional research and reporting on a complicated topic. Very moving and personal.
2nd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Jason Glenn
Title: Boys of Berlin
3rd Place: Omaha Jewish Press
By: Leo Adam Biga
Title: Two Men Shared Path

31. Feature Series
Daily
1st Place: North Platte Telegraph
By: Diane Wetzal
Title: Children
Judges Comments: Very touching. Makes the reader want to keep reading. Nice details and emotion.
2nd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Sarah Schulz and Meredith Gardner
Title: Child Abuse
3rd Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Kathryn Harris
Title: Hospital

32. Single Feature Story
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Arlington Citizen
By: Melissa Rice
Title: Mustang Man
Judges Comments: Really well-done story that is interesting from lead to the end. Fun topic!
2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Long Rider
3rd Place: Mullen Hooker County Tribune
By: Gerri Osborn
Title: II Cabella's Stories

32. Single Feature Story
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ashland Gazette
By: Suzi Nelson
Title: Warmth Stitched Into Grandma's Quilts
Judges Comments: Clearly the best in the category. The description of how grandma's craft changed as she aged was very powerful and stuck with me throughout the story.
2nd Place: Pender Times
By: Jason Sturek
Title: Harvest Is A Beginning
3rd Place: Waverly News
By: Joe Evans
Title: Git-R-Done

32. Single Feature Story
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Syracuse Journal-Democrat
By: Dan Swanson
Title: Forever Wild
Judges Comments: Well written, engaging story about a local man who trained a wild mustang for the extreme mustang makeover in Ft. Worth, TX. Lots of history, human interest, and love of animals packed into a fairly short article.
2nd Place: Sutton Clay County News
By: Nick Benes
Title: Bowling A New Lane
3rd Place: Wisner News-Chronicle
By: Elaine Bak
Title: Buddies Forever...

32. Single Feature Story
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Zachary McDonald
Title: Family Recounts Little Sioux Experience
Judges Comments: Gripping story driven by as-it-happened quotes. Great lead, followed by good writing. The structure kept the reader's interest until the last word. Great job!
2nd Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Laurie Pfeifer
Title: Just Kiddin' Around
3rd Place: Omaha Catholic Voice
By: Lisa Maxson
Title: Son's Death

32. Single Feature Story
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Todd Gottula
Title: If This Workhorse Could Talk
Judges Comments: Kept me reading and wanting to know more. Great way to tell the story. Gottula did a lot with a little.
2nd Place: McCook Daily Gazette
By: Connie Discoe
Title: Leap Day Baby
3rd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Robert Pore
Title: Farming A New Way

33. In-Depth Writing
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Arlington Citizen
By: Melissa Rice
Title: Senior Center
Judges Comments: Nice reporting of what could be a serious issue for the community. Would have liked more comments from people who don't use the center. Writing straight forward.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Emily Kampschneider
Title: Kush Property
3rd Place: Niobrara Tribune
By: Valorie Zach
Title: Filling The Houses

33. In-Depth Writing
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ralston Recorder
By: Jon Burleson
Title: Blight
Judges Comments: Fascinating topic of blight tag. Nice enterprise in showing different sides, including improvements made to other blighted properties. Just curious, what happened to the Legion Building?
2nd Place: Ashland Gazette
By: Suzi Nelson
Title: Grain Elevator
3rd Place: Pender Times
By: Jason Sturek
Title: Omaha Tribe

33. In-Depth Writing
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Imperial Republican
By: Russ Pankonin
Title: Water Issue
Judges Comments: Timely and important issue and coverage for your readers. You doggedly pursued the story and used a variety of sources to get the kind of depth coverage this story needed. Bravo!
2nd Place: Chadron Record
By: George Ledbetter
Title: Uranium Expansion
3rd Place: Elkhorn Douglas County Post-Gazette
By: Mary Lou Rodgers, Sandra Steinglein and Abby Farrens
Title: Annexation Issues

33. In-Depth Writing
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Hickman Voice-News
By: Mark Mahoney and Gerry Baksys
Title: Volunteer Fire Fighting
Judges Comments: Great reporting and in-depth coverage. Multiple story angles keep the story from becoming old. Well done!
2nd Place: Blair Pilot-Tribune
By: Stephanie Ludwig
Title: What Recession?
3rd Place: North Platte Bulletin
By: Frank L. Graham
Title: Pirate Of The Caribbean

33. In-Depth Writing
Daily
1st Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Sheryl Schmeckpeper
Title: Solving The Puzzle
Judges Comments: Great stories about people to illustrate need for nursing school. Compelling and well written.
2nd Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Evan Bland
Title: Windstruck
3rd Place: Fremont Tribune
By: Don Bowen
Title: Immigration Petition

34. Public Notice & Its Promotion
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
Judges Comments: Made you read it and short and sweet.
2nd Place: Doniphan Herald
3rd Place: Gretna Breeze

34. Public Notice & Its Promotion
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Guide & News
Judges Comments: No comments given.
2nd Place: Gering Courier
3rd Place: Ashland Gazette

34. Public Notice & Its Promotion
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Valentine Midland News
Judges Comments: Pages are filled with meeting accounts of municipalities and governmental bodies, plus lengthy lists of meeting notices with time, place, and nature of meeting. All this with the regular legal notices. Great job!
2nd Place: Elkhorn Douglas County Post-Gazette
3rd Place: Sutton Clay County News

34. Public Notice & Its Promotion
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Ogallala Keith County News
Judges Comments: The most easily readable public notice pages I've seen. Good editorial as well as display ad promoting newspapers' role in the public's right to know. Good job all around.
2nd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief
3rd Place: Cozad Tri-City Tribune

34. Public Notice & Its Promotion
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
Judges Comments: Two good editorials on sunshine law importance.
2nd Place: Kearney Hub
No third place awarded.

35. Editorial Page
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
Judges Comments: A fair amount of locally produced content, packaged well and cohesively. "Nice Notes" is a good touch.
No second or third place awarded.

35. Editorial Page
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gering Courier
Judges Comments: Head and shoulders above others in this class. Solid local opinions, and plenty of them. Editorials were brief, put to the point and made a point.
2nd Place: Pawnee Republican
3rd Place: Milford Times

35. Editorial Page
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Hartington Cedar County News
Judges Comments: The massive amounts of local content made up for the general weakness of the editorials. Good design and including contacts for elected officials is great community service.
2nd Place: West Point News
3rd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer

35. Editorial Page
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
Judges Comments: Lots of meaningful local content from both staff and readers. Nice design and good use of Wes Poll. Making the grade works really well. High 5 is low point.
2nd Place: Aurora News-Register
3rd Place: Seward County Independent

35. Editorial Page
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
Judges Comments: Amount of local content is overwhelming. Great reader interaction with daily poll and results. Solid design. The pages scream "we know and care about our community."
2nd Place: North Platte Telegraph
3rd Place: Grand Island Independent

36. Editorial
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Doniphan Herald
By: Darren Ivy
Judges Comments: Clearly the best submission of the category. Clear viewpoint of two meaningful local issues.
2nd Place: Niobrara Tribune
By: Valorie Zach
3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Dave Vrbas and Tina Kitt

36. Editorial
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gering Courier
By: Jim Headley
Judges Comments: Trio of well-written editorials that clearly took a position.
2nd Place: Pender Times
By: Jason Sturek
3rd Place: Pawnee Republican
By: Carol Sisco and Beverly Puhalla

36. Editorial
Class C Weekly
1st Place: West Point News
By: Staff
Judges Comments: Three well-written, clear and significant editorials. Breakdown of the two city sales taxes was especially good.
2nd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
By: Mark Jackson
3rd Place: Hartington Cedar County News
By: Rob Dump

36. Editorial
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Fairbury Journal-News
By: Fred Arnold
Judges Comments: Enjoyable, issue-oriented comments that sent clear messages to readers about the newspaper's stands. Jail project was best of the bunch.
2nd Place: Blair Enterprise
By: Doug Barber
3rd Place: Aurora News-Register
By: Kurt Johnson

36. Editorial
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Mike Konz
Judges Comments: Clear and logical. Contemplative pieces about meaningful local issue. Nice explanatory work in mental health editorial.
2nd Place: Scottbluff Star-Herald
By: Steve Frederick
3rd Place: Beatrice Daily Sun
By: Staff

37. News Writing
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Arlington Citizen
By: Stephanie Ludwig
Title: Livestock, Law Enforcement
Judges Comments: This was a unique topic done in an informative and attractive way. The chart of statistics pushed it over the top.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Emily Kampschneider
Title: Fluoride Vote
3rd Place: Wauneta Breeze
By: Tina Kitt
Title: Presidential Caucus

37. News Writing
Class B Weekly
1st Place: North Bend Eagle
By: Nathan Arneal
Title: Democracy Inaction
Judges Comments: The title and picture immediately caught my eye. The story was unique, thorough and well written. Interesting.
2nd Place: Ravenna News
By: Nancy Jackson
Title: Housing Project
3rd Place: Blue Hill Leader
By: Cassie Ivy
Title: Fire School

37. News Writing
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Hebron Journal-Register
By: Jacque Rocolo
Title: All Electric Users Feel The Heat
Judges Comments: Good lead to story presenting relevant facts on a story of importance to the community. Nice use of language/wording to keep interest.
2nd Place: Imperial Republican
By: Jan Schultz
Title: City Residents To Vote on Fluoride Issue
3rd Place: Nebraska City News-Press
By: Patricia Rengifo-Lant
Title: Teens Nude Dances Center Of Court Case

37. News Writing
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Zachary McDonald
Title: Heritage Center
Judges Comments: I was impressed with how much time and energy must have went into this piece. The information was concise and interesting and all viewpoints were presented well.
2nd Place: Plattsmouth Journal
By: Rick Setchell
Title: Teenage Accident Victims
3rd Place: Papillion Times
By: Jake Russell
Title: Still Eroding

37. News Writing
Daily
1st Place: Kearney Hub
By: Kim Schmidt
Title: Who was Kelcey Fike?
Judges Comments: Good combination of hard news story about a murder with a very affecting sidebar on the victim. Printing the victims MySpace page made her real. Excellent reporting.
2nd Place: Kearney Hub
By: Todd Gottula
Title: Powermate Closing Doors
3rd Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Lisa Munger
Title: Small-Scale Impact

38. Reader Contest
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Gretna Breeze
By: Staff
Title: Turkey Scramble
Judges Comments: No comments given.
No other entries in this category.

38. Reader Contest
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Ashland Gazette
By: Teresa Livers
Title: Christmas Coloring Contest
Judges Comments: An oldie but a goodie. Draws reader participation and, in particular, young readers which we all need.
No 2nd or 3rd place awarded.

38. Reader Contest
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
By: Roberta Gill
Title: Peeps Show
Judges Comments: Photograph those confections going ice fishing, etc. Creative. Funny. Excellent idea and execution.
2nd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
By: Roberta Gill
Title: Pet Costume Contest
3rd Place: Imperial Republican
By: Jana Pribbeno, Chris Fidler, Karen Hayes
Title: Father's Day Contest

38. Reader Contest
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Staff
Title: Crossword Promotion
Judges Comments: This one earned a double hit for reader participation. First they submit local trivia questions, which the staff made into a crossword puzzle, then they participate in entering to solve it. Well done!
2nd Place: Hickman Voice News
By: Staff
Title: Best Lake Essay Contest
3rd Place: Bellevue Leader
By: Staff
Title: Got the Dirt?

38. Reader Contest
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
By: Staff
Title: Music Madness
Judges Comments: An obvious labor of love — finding 256 songs, setting up an NCAA-style bracket (excellent graphics all the way through), then letting readers whittle the songs down to a precious few. It has reader participation and drama. Great idea and follow up to determine central Nebraska's all-time favorite song.
2nd Place: Norfolk Daily News
By: Staff
Title: Name That Pothole
3rd Place: Kearney Hub
By: Julie Speirs and Tiffany Fisher
Title: Architecture

39. General Excellence
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
Judges Comments: Great package of local news and photos. Very nice layout and design — get color! Front page design excellent. Has opinion page but no local editorials — need a voice! "Editorials" are news stories.
2nd Place: Gretna Breeze
3rd Place: Arlington Citizen

39. General Excellence
Class B Weekly
1st Place: Gering Courier
Judges Comments: Innovative, expressive photos. Good color use. Nice job making each issue unique. Like 2-page color house ad.
2nd Place: Ashland Gazette
3rd Place: Ralston Recorder

39. General Excellence
Class C Weekly
1st Place: Gothenburg Times
Judges Comments: One of the best weekly newspapers anywhere. Strong writing in all departments — details from the courthouse to track meets — just simply outstanding. Photo/layout/design — all strong points. Any advertiser should be proud to partner with an excellent community newspaper like the Gothenburg Times. Newspapers Dead? Not in Gothenburg!!
2nd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer
3rd Place: Minden Courier

39. General Excellence
Class D Weekly
1st Place: Bellevue Leader
Judges Comments: Good strong newsy fronts — layout consistently clean throughout section fronts and inside pages. A very inviting looking publication. A winner in a strong field of quality entries.
2nd Place: Aurora News-Register
3rd Place: Blair Pilot-Tribune

39. General Excellence
Daily
1st Place: Grand Island Independent
Judges Comments: Excellent layout and design. Great variety of local news and features. Nice photos and graphics. Local editorials; lots of letters. Good crisp writing. A few more columns — general, food, sports, politics, etc. by local writers would be nice.
2nd Place: Columbus Telegram
3rd Place: Beatrice Daily Sun

40. Web Sites
Class A Weekly
1st Place: Wauneta Breeze
Judges Comments: Love the "feel" of this site. It is warm AND informative. The rotating pictures give a wonderful touch. Nice interactive. My only negative is the lack of advertising. You have a wonderful base, now sell it!
2nd Place: Doniphan Herald
3rd Place: Gretna Breeze

40. Web Sites

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Gering Courier

Judges Comments: This was a very evenly matched class. If the banner of the Bay Realty ad had been flipped, this site would have won by a bigger margin. I like the super picture link. Great job with local video. Photo gallery is very nice but stretches too far down the page.

2nd Place: Waverly News

3rd Place: Blue Hill Leader

40. Web Sites

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Imperial Republican

Judges Comments: I absolutely loved this site. Two negatives that were awesome by a great layout. No advertising? Really? Featured media. Make it video, not media, or change it as needed. I would re-design the log-in to show a video player. Still very nice site.

2nd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer

TIE: 3rd Place: Chadron Record and Lexington Clipper-Herald

40. Web Sites

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Plattsmouth Journal

Judges Comments: Wonderful site. Two improvements. Video on the front page and an identifier on where you are (might have been with the weather, but it wasn't showing up if it was). Nice use of color and good placement. Could use a photo but has very basic appeal.

2nd Place: North Platte Bulletin

3rd Place: Aurora News-Register

40. Web Sites

Daily

1st Place: York News-Times

Judges Comments: Wow! The extra work on the front page photos makes this site POP! Excellent set-up with smooth transition. Nice tabbed headers for news, sports and state-wide. Video is local. Advertising is nice without being over the top or gaudy. Photo gallery, polls are nice touches.

2nd Place: Kearney Hub

3rd Place: Grand Island Independent

Weekly Class A Award

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Gretna Breeze

2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze

3rd Place: Doniphan Herald

Weekly Class B Award

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Gering Courier

2nd Place: Ralston Recorder

3rd Place: Ashland Gazette

Weekly Class C Award

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Gothenburg Times

2nd Place: Tekamah Burt County Plaindealer

3rd Place: West Point News

Weekly Class D Award

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Aurora News-Register

2nd Place: Bellevue Leader

3rd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief

Weekly Sweepstakes Award

Class - Weekly

1st Place: TIE: Gretna Breeze & Gering Courier

2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze

3rd Place: Aurora News-Register

Daily Sweepstakes Award

Daily

1st Place: Grand Island Independent

2nd Place: Kearney Hub

3rd Place: Norfolk Daily News

Front Page

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Doniphan Herald

Judges Comments: Modular layout and use of color makes you a winner. Teasers in flag and bottom also a pleasant addition.

2nd Place: Cozad Free Press

3rd Place: Gretna Breeze

Front Page

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Gering Courier

Judges Comments: Good layout and headlines.

2nd Place: Ashland Gazette

3rd Place: Waverly News

Front Page

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Gothenburg Times

Judges Comments: Design attracts and content solid. Paper's front page is organized well. Headlines are straight forward. Typography is excellent.

2nd Place: Lexington Clipper-Herald

3rd Place: Cental City Republican-Nonpariel

Front Page

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Plattsmouth Journal

Judges Comments: Typography is simple but well thought out. Lots of points of entry.

2nd Place: Omaha Catholic Voice

3rd Place: Bellevue Leader

Front Page

Daily

1st Place: Norfolk Daily News

Judges Comments: I like the real estate and the amount of info devoted to the centerpiece story. Also love the balance of stories and topics on the front. Color is used well to highlight specific data but without overwhelming the reader.

2nd Place: Grand Island Independent

3rd Place: Fremont Tribune

Headline Writing

Class A Weekly

1st Place: Doniphan Herald

Judges Comments: Good use of different fonts/weights to display headlines. Word choice accurately describes and catches the eye.

2nd Place: Wauneta Breeze

3rd Place: Randolph Times

Headline Writing

Class B Weekly

1st Place: Milford Times

Judges Comments: Excellent action headlines — good use of font variety — good word choices (“battling” — “thorough-breds” and others.) Your headlines draw me into your front page. Congrats!

2nd Place: Gretna Guide & News

3rd Place: Gering Courier

Headline Writing

Class C Weekly

1st Place: Schuyler Sun

Judges Comments: The front page addresses the criticism of the flood handling and also offers the plan to correct it.

2nd Place: Gothenburg Times

3rd Place: Hartington Cedar County News

Headline Writing

Class D Weekly

1st Place: Crete News

Judges Comments: Basic, to the point.

2nd Place: Wahoo Newspaper

3rd Place: Broken Bow Custer County Chief

Headline Writing

Daily

1st Place: Columbus Telegram

Judges Comments: Great headlines! Concise and informative. Well done.

2nd Place: Fremont Tribune

3rd Place: Norfolk Daily News

Photo of the Year

By: Michelle Zlomke, Broken Bow Custer County Chief

Title: Firemen Take A Break

Editorial of the Year

By: Fred Arnold, Fairbury Journal-News

Title: And Just Where Are The Candidates Now?

Freedom of Information

Grand Island Independent

Comments: The newspaper’s feature series for Freedom of Information Week were an excellent example of the type of journalism needed to make sure city government stays open and accountable to the people. Well done.

Best NIE Program

Broken Bow Custer County Chief

Comments: I was impressed by the depth of your NIE sections and the reporting that came from them. You did an excellent job of interacting NIE with your regular coverage while providing a service to local schools. Great resources for teachers.