Nebraska Press Association/Nebraska Press Advertising Service
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2026

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LINCOLN — Sweepstakes winners in the Nebraska Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest are the weekly Knox County News and the daily Hastings Tribune.

By placing first among all the Nebraska weeklies entered, the Stanton Register is the second recipient of the ALLEN & LINDA BEERMANN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SWEEPSTAKES AWARD. Allen retired at the end of 2019 after serving 26 years as executive director of NPA; his wife, Linda, a long-time journalist and broadcaster, passed away in November 2022.

The Knox County News finished with 18 first-place awards, 12 judged second best awards and 7 judged third best awards for a point total of 370. This is their fourth year to win this award.

Long-time former publishers and NPA members R.L. "Butch" and Nancy Furse sponsored the print Division A, B, C and D winners: Division A – Stanton Register; Division B – Cedar Valley News; Division C – Knox County News; and Division D – Aurora News-Register.

The Hastings Tribune was the winner in the daily category. It finished with 12 first-place awards, 11 for second and 4 for third for a point total of 240.

Categories for both weeklies and dailies are focused on writing, photography, advertising, digital, design and creativity.

Finishing second in the daily category was the North Platte Telegraph with the Norfolk Daily News, third.

There were 2,051 separate entries judged by members of the North Dakota Newspaper Association.

The Cedar County News was the Community Newspaper Digital Sweepstakes Award for Division A, which recognizes weekly newspapers.

The North Platte Telegraph is the daily newspaper to win the Digital Sweepstakes Award in Division B, recognizing newspapers publishing 3 or more times per week.

Flatwater Free Press won the inaugural Class C Digital Sweepstakes Award, recognizing larger print and digital newsrooms.

Other weeklies in the top three were, tied for second, Kearney Hub and Nance County Journal, and Clearwater Summerland Advocate-Messenger, third.

Finishing second in the daily category was the Grand Island Independent with the North Platte Telegraph, third.

First, second and third place winners were announced Saturday night at an Awards Banquet at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln.

Those winners are as follows:

01 - Use of Computer Graphics - Produced In House

Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
How Much Does It Cost To Outfit A Firefighter?
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Stanton County Arrests
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
What's the real cost of your local newspaper
By: LuAnn Schindler

01 - Use of Computer Graphics - Produced In House
Division B
1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Winter sports preview
By: Nathan Arneal

2nd Place
Elgin Review
School Enrollments
By: Lynell Morgan

3rd Place
North Bend Eagle
EHC T&F champs
By: Nathan Arneal

01 - Use of Computer Graphics - Produced In House
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Where Did The Money Go?
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Trading Cards/Collect them all
By: Claire Wagner

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Computer graphics - Weather
By: Staff

01 - Use of Computer Graphics - Produced In House
Division D
1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Rustic Edge Salon
By: Jennifer Lewis

2nd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Jims Carpet
By: Jennifer Lewis

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Bridal Expo
By: Jennifer Lewis

02 - Building Circulation
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Free trial subscription
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Be aMAZEd
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Cozad LOCAL
Preserving the Stories You Can't Find Online
By: Liz Romero

02 - Building Circulation
Division B
1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Eagle rate change
By: Nathan Arneal

2nd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Help Us Keep Going
By: Ellen Mortensen

3rd Place
Springview Herald
News Flash: Newspapers make the perfect gift
By: Amy Johnson

02 - Building Circulation
Division C
1st Place
Dakota County Star
Did Somebody Say Dog Days?
By: Noodles

2nd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Get your news
By: Claire Wagner

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Not A Creature Was Stirring
By: Heidi Dawe

02 - Building Circulation
Division D
1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
We appreciate our loyal readers

By: Jennifer Lewis

2nd Place
North Platte Bulletin
Invitation to subscribe
By: Staff

3rd Place
North Platte Bulletin
Subscribe to the Bulletin
By: Staff

03 - Reader Interaction/Contest
Division A
1st Place
Cozad LOCAL
Cozad Kindness
By: Liz Romero

2nd Place
Callaway Courier
Football Contest & Greeting Cards
By: Bailey Schwarz & Loleta Connell

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Thanksgiving dinner is served
By: LuAnn Schindler

03 - Reader Interaction/Contest
Division B
1st Place
Gothenburg Leader
Coloring, Football and Greeting Cards
By: Bailey Schwarz & Loleta Connell
2nd Place
Nance County Journal
Football Contest
By: Rick Holtz

3rd Place

Elgin Review
These Eyes
By: Lynell Morgan

03 - Reader Interaction/Contest
Division CD
1st Place
Humphrey Democrat
How to cook a turkey
By: Claire Wagner

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Super Shot (Hunting) photo contest
By: Staff

3rd Place
Falls City Journal
From the Journal Archives
By: Nikki McKim

04 - Newspaper Organized or Sponsored Event
Division AB
1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Heritage Trail
By: Nathan Arneal

2nd Place
Cozad LOCAL
Color of Patriots
By: Liz Romero

3rd Place
Elgin Review
Great Pumpkin Decorating Contest
By: Lynell Morgan

04 - Newspaper Organized or Sponsored Event
Division CD
1st Place
North Platte Bulletin
Music on the Bricks.
By: Staff

2nd Place
Imperial Republican
Community Wide Garage Sales
By: Samantha Goff

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Choose Your Holiday Gift Giveaway
By: Jennifer Lewis

05 - Community Promotion Advertisement
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Stanton County Fair
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Fourth of July In Stanton
By: Kimberly Large & Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place

Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Ewing Summer FunFest
By: LuAnn Schindler

05 - Community Promotion Advertisement
Division B
1st Place
Elgin Review
American Education Week, Public Schools
By: Lynell Morgan

2nd Place
Elgin Review
TeamMates, National Mentoring Month
By: Lynell Morgan

3rd Place
Randolph Times
Community promotion - school bond election
By: Peggy Year

05 - Community Promotion Advertisement
Division C
1st Place
Cedar County News
Community promo - Candlelight Christmas
By: Peggy Year

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
North Loup Old Fashioned Christmas
By: Kate Wolf, Heidi Dawe

3rd Place
Humphrey Democrat
We all scream for ice cream
By: Claire Wagner

05 - Community Promotion Advertisement
Division D

1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Upcoming Events
By: Jennifer Lewis

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Royal BBQ
By: Kimberly Large & Rikki Rader

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Lemonade Days
By: Jennifer Lewis

06 - Agricultural Advertisement
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Becker Flying
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Callaway Courier
Bullieve it Or Not
By: Bailey Schwarz / Loleta Connell

3rd Place
Callaway Courier
We tip our hats
By: Bailey Schwarz

06 - Agricultural Advertisement
Division B
1st Place
Elgin Review
Bank of Elgin
By: Lynell Morgan

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Beef Sale

By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
MidPlains Ag
By: Carrie Pitzer

06 - Agricultural Advertisement
Division C
1st Place
Cedar County News
Best ag ad Feb 5 Ostrand Angus
By: Staff

2nd Place
Imperial Republican
Raile Cattle Company
By: Samantha Goff

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Wells Air Service
By: Heidi Dawe

06 - Agricultural Advertisement
Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
Heart of Nebraska
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Ken's Trailers
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Seward County Independent
Briggs Cattle Co.
By: Kennedy Goldsmith, Kevin Zadina

07 - Small Ad COLOR - Under 1/4 page or less than 3 x 10 1/2”
Division A
1st Place
Cozad LOCAL
Big E's Christmas Ad

By: Liz Romero

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Local Matters
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Whooo Says Graduates Are Special - Orchard Lumber
By: LuAnn Schindler

07 - Small Ad COLOR - Under 1/4 page or less than 3 x 10 1/2”
Division B
1st Place
Elgin Review
Elgin Rescue Color Run
By: Lynell Morgan

2nd Place
Springview Herald
Sandhills Family Dental - Ahhhh, Summer
By: Kelsi McGee

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Burger Bash
By: Kimberly Large

07 - Small Ad COLOR - Under 1/4 page or less than 3 x 10 1/2”
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Fire Department Open House
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Imperial Republican
Fish Fry
By: Samantha Goff

3rd Place
Knox County News
Don't Blink
By: Carrie Pitzer

07 - Small Ad COLOR - Under 1/4 page or less than 3 x 10 1/2”
Division D
1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
WE SALUTE ALL WHO SERVE - HOMESTEAD
By: Staff

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
TEAMWORK GETS RESULTS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
Seward County Independent
Goehner Spaghetti Feed
By: Kennedy Goldsmith - Sharon Hartshorn

08 - Small Ad Black and White - Under 1/4 page or less than
Division A
1st Place
Thedford Thomas County Herald
Cow Country Clinic Christmas
By: Marcia Hora

2nd Place
Thedford Thomas County Herald
Herbie's Speakeasy Spellebration
By: Marcia Hora

3rd Place
Palmer Journal
HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE
By: MICHAEL HAPP

08 - Small Ad Black and White - Under 1/4 page or less than
Division B
1st Place
Mullen Hooker County Tribune
Anthem Coffee

By: Gerri Peterson

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Fish Fry
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Mullen Hooker County Tribune
9.three.salon
By: Gerri Peterson

08 - Small Ad Black and White - Under 1/4 page or less than
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
City-Wide Clean Up
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Knox County News
Tree Specialists
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
50th Anniversary Wishes
By: Heidi Dawe

08 - Small Ad Black and White - Under 1/4 page or less than
Division D
1st Place
Seward County Independent
Soup Supper - Seward Booster Club
By: Kennedy Goldsmith, Paula Miller

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Liver and Onions
By: Kennedy Goldsmith, Paula Miller

3rd Place

Aurora News-Register
Celebrating 1st responders -- Mars
By: Bekah Mead, Karla Senff

09 - Signature Page
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Holiday Happenings
By: LuAnn Schindler, Elizabeth Odell

2nd Place
Callaway Courier
Kite Flight
By: Bailey Schwarz & Loleta Connell

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Easter & Alumni Fun
By: Kimberly Large & Carrie Pitzer

09 - Signature Page
Division B
1st Place
Sherman County Times
FARM SAFETY
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Arnold Sentinel
Gnome for the Holidays
By: Debbie Connelly

3rd Place
Sherman County Times
STATE TRACK
By: MICHAEL HAPP

09 - Signature Page
Division C
1st Place
Ord Quiz
Girls State Wrestling
By: Heidi Dawe

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
State Cross Country
By: Heidi Dawe

3rd Place
Knox County News
Wausa Homecoming
By: Kimberly Large & Elisha Meyer

09 - Signature Page
Division D
1st Place
Seward County Independent
Good Luck at State
By: Staff

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Saluting Veterans
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Beef Month
By: Jennifer Lewis

10 - Classified Section
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Sam Classified Section
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place

Stanton Register
Stanton Register Classifieds
By: Sarah Coffey

3rd Place
Palmer Journal
PALMER JOURNAL. - CLASSIFIEDS
By: Staff

10 - Classified Section
Division B
1st Place
Nance County Journal
Nance County Journal Classifieds Section
By: Rick Holtz

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Classifieds
By: Rikki Rader

3rd Place
Central City Republican-Nonpareil
CC R-N CLASSIFIEDS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

10 - Classified Section
Division CD
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Classified section
By: Paula Johnson

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Classifieds Section
By: Sarah Coffey

3rd Place

St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
PHONOGRAPH-HERALD - GARAGE SALES
By: MICHAEL HAPP

11 - Advertising Campaign
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Stanton State Bank
By: Carrie Pitzer & Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Local Matters
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Cozad LOCAL
Santa's Weekly Scavenger Hunt
By: Liz Romero

11 - Advertising Campaign
Division B
1st Place
Springview Herald
McIntosh Jewelry
By: Kelsi McGee

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Spring Into Gear
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Randolph Times
Advertising campaign - First State Bank
By: Staff

11 - Advertising Campaign
Division C

1st Place
Knox County News
Brunswick State Bank
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Knox County News
Green River Garden
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Blair is F_I_F_T_Y
By: Heidi Dawe

11 - Advertising Campaign
Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
Mr. Golf Cart
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Peace of Mind in a Bank
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Slide Into Lucky Joe's
By: Kimberly Large & Carrie Pitzer

12 - Single Ad - Color
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Two Bills First Anniversary
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Batter Up
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Cozad LOCAL
Big E's
By: Liz Romero

12 - Single Ad - Color
Division B
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
Crazy Rayz
By: Kimberly Large & Kelli Garcia

12 - Single Ad - Color
Division B
2nd Place
Sherman County Times
WELCOME CADEN
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
Springview Herald
Outback Machine and Welding
By: Amy Johnson

12 - Single Ad - Color
Division C
1st Place
Imperial Republican
Lighthouse Food/Eastern Sky tires
By: Samantha Goff

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
Kindergarten Roundup
By: Heidi Dawe

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Join Valley County 4-H
By: Heidi Dawe

12 - Single Ad - Color
Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
Big Game, Big Savings
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Not a creature was stirring
By: Bekah Mead, Karla Senff

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Merry Christmas
By: Bekah Mead, Karla Senff

13 - Single Ad - Black and White
Division AB
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
Spaghetti Feed
By: Kimberly Large
.

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Help Wanted: Veterans Service officer
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Haunted Trail
By: Kimberly Large

13 - Single Ad - Black and White
Division C
1st Place
Ord Quiz
North Loup Church Camp
By: Heidi Dawe

2nd Place
Knox County News
Verdigre FFA
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
This Young Lady turning 80

13 - Single Ad - Black and White

Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
Fireworks
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Highway 15 Repair Now Open
By: Kennedy GoldSmith, Sharon Hartshorn

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Are you ready?
By: Kurt Johnson, Karla Senff

14 - Single Classified Ad - Color
Division AB
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
Santa Day
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Are you interested in joining our team - AMH
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Pool Help Wanted
By: Kimberly Large

14 - Single Classified Ad - Color
Division C
1st Place
Cedar County News
classified ad- LCC we're hiring school bus drivers
By: Peggy Year

2nd Place
Knox County News
Preschool Exploration
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Knox County News
Car For Sale
By: Kimberly Large

14 - Single Classified Ad - Color
Division D
1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Valley Hope Hiring
By: Kimberly Large

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Hiring Pool Help
By: Kimberly Large

15 - Single Classified Ad - Black and White
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Holt County Road Department - Choose Your Direction
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Ferguson Ag
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Help Wanted - Farmers Coop
By: Kimberly Large

15 - Single Classified Ad - Black and White
Division B
1st Place
Elgin Review
TC Veterinary Clinic, Spa -- a SPOT for you
By: Lynell Morgan

2nd Place
Springview Herald
Outlaw Trail Bar & Grill - Join our team
By: Kelsi McGee

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Town Hall Meeting
By: Kimberly Large

15 - Single Classified Ad - Black and White
Division CD
1st Place
Knox County News
We're Hiring
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
76 Construction
By: Heidi Dawe

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Maintenance Help Wanted
By: Kimberly Large

16 - Creative Ad Writing
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Save The Tatas
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place

Summerland Advocate-Messenger
National Newspaper Week
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Frozen Internet
By: Carrie Pitzer

16 - Creative Ad Writing
Division B
1st Place
Central City Republican-Nonpareil
HOLLY, JOLLY, AND PERFECT
By: JORDAN COSLOR, MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Springview Herald
Munger Motorsports
By: Kelsi McGee

3rd Place
Springview Herald
KBRB Radio
By: Kelsi McGee

16 - Creative Ad Writing
Division C
1st Place
Ord Quiz
Hook, Line, Dinner
By: Kristina Foth

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
Taste The Rainbow
By: Kristina Foth

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Sleigh the Holidays
By: Kristina Foth

16 - Creative Ad Writing
Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
Bone-A-Fide
By: Kimberly Large

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register

Aurora Vet Clinic
By: Bev Eastman

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
'To plant a garden ...'
By: Staff

17 - Sports Action Photo
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Run in
By: Amy Kerkman

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Sand Woman
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Elm Creek Beacon-Observer
ABOVE, BRAYLON RUSSELL..
By: MICHAEL HAPP

17 - Sports Action Photo
Division B
1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Flag pole vault
By: Nathan Arneal

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
Slip and slide
By: Nathan Arneal

3rd Place
Pender Times

Flames fly at the Pendragon Sports Complex
By: Jason Sturek

17 - Sports Action Photo
Division C
1st Place
Custer County Chief
Dane Pokorny flipped by bull
By: Linda Teahon

2nd Place
Knox County News
Bulldog Balancing Act
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Sports Action photo - Wildcat in the air
By: Darin Epperly

17 - Sports Action Photo
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Girls basketball
By: Richard Rhoden

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
KAVAN
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
Seward County Independent
Takedown to win
By: Stephanie Croston

17 - Sports Action Photo
Division E

1st Place
York News-Times
DUKES' WALZ, RAUERT PUNCH STATE GOLF TICKETS
By: Christian Horn

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Tough Start
By: Laura Beahm

3rd Place
Grand Island Independent
Safe From all Angles
By: JOSH SALMON

18 - Sports Feature Photo
Division A
1st Place
Elm Creek Beacon-Observer
THEIR TIME TO SHINE - MADDOX JONES
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Memories & Friendship
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Cheer Squad
By: Amy Kerkman

18 - Sports Feature Photo
Division B
1st Place
Pender Times
NEN punches its ticket
By: Jason Sturek

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
Tiger Time

By: Nathan Arneal

3rd Place
Elgin Review
Winners - Headed for State
By: Dennis Morgan

18 - Sports Feature Photo
Division C
1st Place
Cedar County News
Sports Feature photo - Airborne Wrestling coaches
By: Jeremy Buss

2nd Place
Dakota County Star
A blast of relief
By: Michael Carnes

3rd Place
Dakota County Star
An uplifting district championship
By: Michael Carnes

18 - Sports Feature Photo
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Wrestling emotion
By: Richard Rhoden

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
An eye on the prize
By: Doug Carroll

3rd Place
Seward County Independent
Runner-up selfie
By: Stephanie Croston

18 - Sports Feature Photo
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Wrestler defeat
By: Laura Beahm

2nd Place
York News-Times
BOBCATS ROLL PAST SPARTANS IN D1 QUARTERFINALS
By: Christian Horn

3rd Place
Grand Island Independent
Downtown Mat Mayhem
By: JOSH SALMON

19 - Sports Page
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Sports Page
By: Carrie Pitzer

19 - Sports Page
Division A
2nd Place
Milford Times
Milford Times sports
By: staff

3rd Place
Palmer Journal
PALMER JOURNAL - SPORTS PAGE
By: STAFF

19 - Sports Page
Division B
1st Place
Pender Times
The Pender Times sports section
By: Jason Sturek

19 - Sports Page
Division B
2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Sports Page
By: Rikki Rader

3rd Place
Polk County News
PCN Sports Page
By: Staff

19 - Sports Page
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
KCN Sports Pages
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Dakota County Star
Dakota County Star sports pages
By: Michael Carnes

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Sports pages - Nov 5, May 21, Feb 26, March 12
By: Staff

19 - Sports Page
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Sports page
By: Richard Rhoden

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
PHONOGRAPH-HERALD SPORTS
By: STAFF

3rd Place
Antelope County News
ACN Sports Pages
By: Carrie Pitzer & Kelli Garcia

19 - Sports Page
Division E
1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Dale Miller

2nd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Star-Herald Sports
By: Tim Johnson

3rd Place
Beatrice Daily Sun
Beatrice Daily Sun sports pages
By: Luke Nichols

20 - Sports Column
Division A
1st Place
Palmer Journal
HAPP-ENINGS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Isms
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
First Down, Second Thoughts
By: JR Manthei

20 - Sports Column
Division B
1st Place
Elgin Review
Spinning Tales
By: Dennis Morgan

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
NJ sports columns
By: Nathan Arneal

3rd Place
Polk County News
From the Corn Rows
By: Ken Kush

20 - Sports Column
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Faith Over Fear
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Dakota County Star
From The Bleachers
By: Michael Carnes

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Sports column - hard to believe the season is over March 19
By: Mike Renning

20 - Sports Column
Division D
1st Place
Seward County Independent
Husker game and Eagles win
By: Craig Jones

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Sports column
By: Richard Rhoden

3rd Place
Falls City Journal
Right or Wrong, It's my Opinion.
By: Brian McKim

20 - Sports Column
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Hawkettes finish 'the climb' with Class C championship
By: Will Reynolds

2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Throwing anomalies
By: Damon Cook

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
College football should want more Jake Bowers
By: Justin Frommer

21 - Sports Feature Writing
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Freshman Inspires
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Palmer Journal
Glause gets fitting farewell
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
Milford Times
Eagles win first state volleyball title
By: Stephanie Croston

21 - Sports Feature Writing
Division B
1st Place
Lexington Clipper-Herald
Hanging up the whistle
By: Jessica Kennedy

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Basketball Player Saves Teammate's Life
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Record Setting Year
By: Ellen Mortensen

21 - Sports Feature Writing
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
All-State Record Set
By: Elisha Meyer

2nd Place
Knox County News
Warrior Leads Prayerr
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Dakota County Star
Siouxlander Smith living the dream as a Musketeer
By: Michael Carnes

21 - Sports Feature Writing
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Boerkircher's final act with the 12th Man
By: Richard Rhoden

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
HUGHES IS BATTING 1000
By: MICHAEL ROTHER

3rd Place
Antelope County News

Family Ties
By: Carrie Pitzer

21 - Sports Feature Writing
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
'I need a punter'
By: Justin Frommer

2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Faster than ever at 40 years old
By: Ben Drozd

3rd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Hitting back at cancer
By: Jake Dreilinger

22 - Sports Game Coverage
Division A
1st Place
Elm Creek Beacon-Observer
BROWN FINISHES CAREER AS STATE MEDALIST
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Wrestling Support Warms Hearts
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Fueled By Doubt
By: Carrie Pitzer

22 - Sports Game Coverage
Division B
1st Place
Central City Republican-Nonpareil
CENTRAL CITY IS STATEBOUND
By: JORDAN COSLOR

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News

Bringing The Heat
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Elgin Review
Evans, Veik bring home state wrestling medals
By: Dennis Morgan

22 - Sports Game Coverage
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
I Wanted More
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Knox County News
Record-Breaking Season
By: Elisha Meyer

3rd Place
Dakota County Star
Homer's heat takes sting out of Queen Bees
By: Michael Carnes

22 - Sports Game Coverage
Division D
1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
COUGARS CLAW PAST CHARGERS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Bobcats Raise The Bar
By: Elisha Meyer

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Perfect Season Continues
By: Carrie Pitzer

22 - Sports Game Coverage
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune

Class C team title just out of reach of Whippets
By: Will Reynolds

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Minden's KayLynn Jorgensen caps career with gold medal
By: Will Reynolds

3rd Place
Grand Island Independent
Northwest beats Omaha Skutt Catholic 4-1 and is championship bound
By: Spencer Thomas

23 - Photo Page
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Clearwater's Big Rodeo
By: LuAnn Schindler, Faith King, Jeremy Buss, Jorden Cox

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Stanton Fourth of July
By: Kimberly Large & Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Milford Times
Hands that help
By: Craig Jones

23 - Photo Page
Division B
1st Place
Central City Republican-Nonpareil
A TOURNAMENT TO REMEMBER
By: JORDAN COSLOR

2nd Place
Pender Times
Watermelon Days
By: Jason Sturek

3rd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Mutton Bustin
By: Ellen Mortensen & Mark Lewis

23 - Photo Page
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Crofton Dam Race
By: Kimberly Large & Elisha Meyer

2nd Place
Knox County News
Bloomfield Appreciation Day
By: Kimberly Large & Barrett Stearns

3rd Place
Knox County News
Lindy Days
By: Kimberly Large & Brooke Sazama

23 - Photo Page
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Smiles, high fives and takedowns in A-Town
By: Richard Rhoden

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Neligh-Oakdale Homecoming
By: Kimberly Large & Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Firefighter Training
By: Gordon Hopkins

23 - Photo Page
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Celebration of Lights
By: Amy Roh

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune

Boys State Basketball
By: Staff

3rd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Oregon Trail Days
By: Grace Ptak, Megan Kelley, Tim Johnson

24 - Feature Photography
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Start em young
By: Faith King

2nd Place
Milford Times
Color our .... arms, legs, hair, etc.?
By: Craig Jones

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Sky Light
By: Scott Schindler

24 - Feature Photography
Division B
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
More Fun With Friends
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Pender Times
Catching a heckuva good time in Pender
By: Jason Sturek

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Fun With Water
By: Carrie Pitzer

24 - Feature Photography
Division C

1st Place
Dakota County Star
A Soooo-Weeee-T Weekend for Tri County Days
By: Michael Carnes

2nd Place
Knox County News
Ponca Tribe Dance
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Knox County News
Mixed Emotions
By: Carrie Pitzer

24 - Feature Photography
Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
Dog Days Of Summer
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Fireworks
By: Doug Carroll

3rd Place
Seward County Independent
It's a magic key
By: Stephanie Croston

24 - Feature Photography
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Independence Day
By: Laura Beahm

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Old Fashion Fun
By: Amy Roh

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News

Five-alarm fire for industry
By: Jim Javorsky

25 - News Photography
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Color My World
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Rescue At Night
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Props For A Prop At Graduation
By: Carrie Pitzer

25 - News Photography
Division B
1st Place
North Bend Eagle
Illumination
By: Nathan Arneal

2nd Place
Pawnee Republican
Youngsters help set up flags
By: Beverly Puhalla

3rd Place
Sherman County Times
TODD HARDERS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

25 - News Photography
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Celebration At State
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Custer County Chief
CH-47 Chinook at sunset
By: Mary-Jean Griffis

3rd Place
Imperial Republican
Flooding in Imperial
By: Alan Carman

25 - News Photography
Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
Giving His All
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
RIVER FLOWS IMPACT RR
By: Staff

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Gambles building
By: Ron Burtz

25 - News Photography
Division E
1st Place
Grand Island Independent
Reason to Cheer
By: JOSH SALMON

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Memorial Tribune
By: Laura Beahm

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Making a splash
By: Laura Beahm

26 - Breaking News Photography
Division A
1st Place
Grant County News
Cover Ranch Hit By Largest Nebraska Tornado
By: Sharon M. Wheelock

2nd Place
Grant County News
Tractor Causes Fire At Paul and Alice Dubs Ranch
By: Alice Dubs

3rd Place
Laurel Advocate
Breaking news photo- car on fire in front of school
By: Sandra Cross

26 - Breaking News Photography
Division B
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
Fire Jumps Highway
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Polk County News
Fire damages trailer
By: Ken Kush

3rd Place
Polk County News
Snow Creates Traffic Circles
By: Beth Sparrow

26 - Breaking News Photography
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Rescue Squads Team Up
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Off the rails
By: Patrick Murphy

3rd Place
Custer County Chief
Broken Bow Power Plant explosion
By: Donnis Hueftle-Bullock

26 - Breaking News Photography
Division D
1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
House Fire
By: Gordon Hopkins

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Hanging power
By: Stephanie Croston

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Fighting Fire
By: Carrie Pitzer

26 - Breaking News Photography
Division E
1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
25 cars derail Sunday
By: Todd von Kampen

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Northern Lights
By: Laura Beahm

3rd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Home engulfed
By: Todd von Kampen

27 - Use of Color — News
Division A
1st Place
Elm Creek Beacon-Observer
BUFFALOES MARCH TO TITLE TILT
By: JORDAN COSLOR, MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Use of Color - Rodeo queen
By: LuAnn Schindler, Faith King, Jorden Cox

3rd Place
Cozad LOCAL
Harvest Cover
By: Cozad LOCAL

27 - Use of Color — News
Division B
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
Popcorn Days
By: Kelli Garcia, Carrie Pitzer, Kimberly Large

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
Eagle color- FSP
By: Nathan Arneal

3rd Place
Elgin Review
Community Remembers
By: Staff

27 - Use of Color — News
Division C
1st Place
Cedar County News
Best use of color - thermometer
By: Rob Dump

2nd Place
Cedar County News
Best use of color - Memorial Day
By: Rob Dump

3rd Place
Custer County Chief
Oct. 9, 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness
By: Staff

27 - Use of Color — News
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Salute to veterans
By: Kurt Johnson

2nd Place
North Platte Bulletin
Rail Days
By: Photos by George Lauby. Layout by Martin Owen

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Old Mill Days
By: Staff

27 - Use of Color — News
Division E
1st Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Creating a close knit crafting community
By: Maunette Loeks, Megan Kelley

28 - Personal Column
Division A
1st Place
Elm Creek Beacon-Observer
WITH GRATITUDE - HAPPENINGS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Mental Health Put In Forefront Of Fair
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Grant County News
Sass and Sentiments: Holocaust and Newspaper Week
By: Sharon M. Wheelock

28 - Personal Column
Division B
1st Place
Elgin Review
Spinning Tales
By: Dennis Morgan

2nd Place
Elgin Review
Faith
By: Susan Szalewski

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Popcorn is bigger than I thought
By: Carrie Pitzer

28 - Personal Column
Division C
1st Place
Humphrey Democrat
Murphy's Law
By: Patrick Murphy

2nd Place
Knox County News
Mental Health Put In Forefront
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Murphy's Law
By: Patrick Murphy

28 - Personal Column

Division D
1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
HAPP-ENINGS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Steph and Nonsense
By: Stephanie Croston

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Music Helps In Rough Times Of Life
By: Carrie Pitzer

28 - Personal Column
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
"For Tribune staff, need to prevent tick bites personal"; "Sweet gifts from heaven"
By: Andy Raun

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Not of the same pedigree? You can't convince me
By: Will Reynolds

3rd Place
Grand Island Independent
More Than Remarkable Rodeo
By: JOSH SALMON

29 - Breaking News
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Human Skull Found
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place

Stanton Register
150-Mile Pursuit
By: Carrie Pitzer

29 - Breaking News
Division B
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
6,000 Acres Of Teammork
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Nance County Journal
DeMuth Murder
By: Rick Holtz

3rd Place
Sherman County Times
VETTER TO CLOSE ROSE LANE
By: MICHAEL ROTHER

29 - Breaking News
Division C
1st Place
Custer County Chief
Explosion at Broken Bow power plant and Doors opened to those without power
By: Mona Weatherly, Mary-Jean Girffis

2nd Place
Dakota County Star
Local woman drowns in Missouri River
By: Michael Carnes

3rd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Off the rails
By: Patrick Murphy

29 - Breaking News
Division D
1st Place
Antelope County News
12-Year-Old Saves Grandfather
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
RIVER FLOWS IMPACT RR
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Fighting Fire
By: Carrie Pitzer

29 - Breaking News
Division E
1st Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Mitchell mayor accused of misuse of city resources
By: Maunette Loeks

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Tyson to close its Lex plant
By: Joan von Kampen, Andrew Bottrell, Todd von Kampen

3rd Place
Beatrice Daily Sun
Firefighters spray down hotspots after Dempsters site was heavily damaged in fire
By: Rob Schlotterbeck

30 - Feature Series
Division A
1st Place
Callaway Courier
Saluting Our Veterans
By: Ellen Mortensen

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Water Rescue Training
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Career Technical Education: FFA, SkillsUSA, FCCLA
By: LuAnn Schindler

30 - Feature Series
Division B
1st Place
Gothenburg Leader
Education Options
By: Alisa Mullen

2nd Place
Humboldt Standard
Bouncing Bob Blecha's Retirement
By: Sharla Sitzman

3rd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Eateries
By: Alisa Mullen

30 - Feature Series
Division C
1st Place
Custer County Chief
What your YES vote means
By: Donnis Hueftle-Bullock, Mona Weatherly, Mary-Jean Griffis

2nd Place
Dakota County Star
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
By: Michael Carnes

3rd Place
Knox County News
Santee Water Loses Grant
By: Carrie Pitzer

30 - Feature Series
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Where Are They Now
By: Elizabeth Hunter

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Digital Literacy
By: Lori Shriner

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Dead Man in the Ring
By: Gordon Hopkins

30 - Feature Series
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
Dangers of tick bites and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
By: John Huthmacher

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
John Rohnert: Double Hall of Fame life
By: Todd von Kampen

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Battle Creek flooding
By: Eddie Evans, Ben Drozd

31 - Single Feature Story
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Champion Leans On Faith
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Hitting Close To Home
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Swimming with Confidence
By: LuAnn Schindler

31 - Single Feature Story
Division B
1st Place
Randolph Times
Feature story - Valentine Day couple
By: Trisha Benton

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Wolbach Man Saves Co-Worker's Life
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Step By Step
By: Elisha Meyer

31 - Single Feature Story
Division C
1st Place
Custer County Chief
From the plains to the peaks

By: Mary-Jean Griffis

2nd Place
Custer County Chief
Stray beagle steals hearts around the world
By: Mary-Jean Griffis

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Feature Story - Halloween
By: Rob Dump - Kellyn Dump

31 - Single Feature Story
Division D
1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
SOUNDS OF ST. PAUL
By: MICHAEL ROTHER

2nd Place
North Platte Bulletin
Cold Case Dig
By: George Lauby

3rd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
STITCHNG TOGETHER HISTORY
By: MICHAEL ROTHER

31 - Single Feature Story
Division E
1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Missing pilot's remains recovered
By: Sheryl Schmeckpeper

2nd Place
Beatrice Daily Sun
Last American WWII ace lived a lifetime of service after the war
By: Rob Schlotterbeck

3rd Place

North Platte Telegraph
A befuddling bugle
By: Caitlyn Thomas

32 - Feature Story – PROFILE
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
He Was A Gift To Stanton
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Welcomed With Open Arms
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Hometown Hero
By: LuAnn Schindler

32 - Feature Story – PROFILE
Division B
1st Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
Remembering Motz
By: Barbara Perez

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
Chief Dobrusky
By: Nathan Arneal

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
His Spirit Lives On
By: Carrie Pitzer

32 - Feature Story – PROFILE
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
WWII Vet
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Knox County News
State Champion Honored
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Chain saw artist
By: Patrick Murphy

32 - Feature Story – PROFILE
Division D
1st Place
Seward County Independent
She always served from her heart
By: Lori Shriner

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Hall of Fame Coach
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Rita Shabram Remembered
By: Carrie Pitzer

32 - Feature Story – PROFILE
Division E
1st Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Siring a Legacy
By: Megan Kelley

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
'Legacy of resilience and impact': Joe Hewgley
By: Caitlyn Thomas

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Guided by family, faith and sports
By: Austin Svehla

33 - Preserving Local History – Story/Series
Division A

1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Echoes from the Outfield
By: Bev Krutz

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
A Well Kneaded Tradtion
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Callaway Courier
Historic Church
By: Ellen Mortensen

33 - Preserving Local History – Story/Series
Division B
1st Place
Randolph Times
Local History -bank marks 90 years
By: Rob Dump

2nd Place
Pawnee Republican
At The Dubois Západní Česko Bratrská Jednota Hall
By: Sharla Sitzman

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Tornado Horrors
By: Carrie Pitzer

33 - Preserving Local History – Story/Series
Division C
1st Place
Custer County Chief
Band trip intermingles with history 45 years ago
By: Mona Weatherly, Christi Cooley

2nd Place
Custer County Chief
Wayne Mills receives WWII medal
By: Mona Weatherly, Donnis Hueftle-Bullock

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Valley County's Iconic Drive-In
By: Kate Wolf

33 - Preserving Local History – Story/Series
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Remembering the voyage of the NSN SS Centennial
By: Elizabeth Hunter

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Former Gambles building stirs memories as possible demo nears
By: Kurt Johnson

3rd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
SIGNED BALL BACK IN ST. PAUL
By: MICHAEL ROTHER

33 - Preserving Local History – Story/Series
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
"Let her fly!"
By: Joseph Peshek

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
"History close to home"
By: Andy Raun

3rd Place
North Platte Telegraph
A cabin stuck in time
By: Caitlyn Thomas

34 - Entertainment Story
Division A
1st Place

Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Open for the Season
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Bringing Back Kris Kringle
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Palmer Journal
PUZZLES, PIZZA, AND FUN
By: MICHAEL HAPP

34 - Entertainment Story
Division B
1st Place
Gothenburg Leader
The Magic Returns
By: Alisa Mullen

2nd Place
Sherman County Times
CROWDS FLOCK TO POLISH FLY-IN
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
North Bend Eagle
Saul set
By: Nathan Arneal

34 - Entertainment Story
Division C
1st Place
Imperial Republican
Fair Entertanment Announced
By: Alan Carman

2nd Place

Knox County News
A-Maze-Ing Event
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Valentine Concert at Husk
By: Kate Wolf

34 - Entertainment Story
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
It's a wrap on Bands on Bricks 8
By: Elizabeth Hunter

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Crowds, classmates & community
By: Staff

3rd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
GCA DAYS
By: STAFF

34 - Entertainment Story
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
"Deep impact"
By: John Huthmacher

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Laurie Woolever speaks of travels with Anthony Bourdain
By: Caitlyn Thomas

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
"Darkness, then light"
By: Andy Raun, Laura Beahm

35 - In-depth Writing

Division A
1st Place
Cozad LOCAL
A Soldiers Sacrifice
By: Liz Romero

2nd Place
Stanton Register
No Water? No Problem
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Callaway Courier
Board Split
By: Ellen Mortensen

35 - In-depth Writing
Division B
1st Place
Pawnee Republican
Deputy Resigns; Crisis Level; Retention Struggles; Rift Between Local
By: Regan Connelly

2nd Place
Springview Herald
"A balancing act": Springview parents navigate life without daycare
By: Kelsi McGee

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Landfill Breaks Ground
By: Carrie Pitzer

35 - In-depth Writing
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
County Reinstates, Settles, Terminates
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Knox County News
Inside The Santee Water Troubles
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Cedar County News
In Depth reporting - Laurel Nursing home
By: Trisha Benton

35 - In-depth Writing
Division D
1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Power Plant Investigation
By: Gordon Hopkins

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
Aurora is on ‘The Road to Everywheree'
By: Staff

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
New paths, new purpose: Career shifts offer fresh start
By: Staff

35 - In-depth Writing
Division E
1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
DOGE targets Niobrara visitors center
By: Todd von Kampen

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Where did our water go?
By: Todd von Kampen

3rd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Ban in place at schools
By: Avery Carl

36 - Public Notice and Its Promotion
All Divisions
1st Place
Knox County News
County debacle shows public notices work
By: Carrie PItzer

2nd Place
Elgin Review
Public Notices
By: Lynell Morgan

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Say What; Your Right To Know
By: LuAnn Schindler

37 - Editorial Page
Division AB
1st Place
Nance County Journal
Nance County Journal Editorial Page
By: Rick Holtz

2nd Place
Palmer Journal
PALMER JOURNAL - EDITORIAL PAGE
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Blown Away By Local Fireworks
By: CarriePitzer

37 - Editorial Page
Division CD
1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
PHONOGRAPH-HERALD - OPINION
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register

Editorial page
By: Kurt Johnson

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Editorial Page April 2 - July 30 - Aug. 6
By: Rob Dump

37 - Editorial Page
Division E
1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Tim Pearson
2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph editorial pages
By: Staff

38 - Editorial
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Lesson In Love
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Grant County News
"Who is Tyson Working For?" " Rural Nebraska Need You," "Are We connected?" Editorials
By: Sharon M. Wheelock

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Postal service dismantling (Isms)
By: LuAnn Schindler

38 - Editorial
Division B
1st Place
Cedar Valley News
Quick Thinking Mitigates Damage
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Pender Times
The Publisher's Pen
By: Jason Sturek

3rd Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
A Series of Editorials on Community, Accountability, and Public Engagement
By: Barbara Perez

38 - Editorial
Division C
1st Place
Custer County Chief
Winner-Take-All and me; Good-bye, Louis; Is anyone listening?
By: Mona Weatherly

2nd Place
Knox County News
Knox County Debacle
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Best Editorial - July 30- Sept. 3 - Oct. 8
By: Rob Dump

38 - Editorial
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Editorial
By: Kurt Johnson

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
HAPP-ENINGS
By: MICHAEL HAPP

3rd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Star Trek Lied To Me, Does AI Beat Natural Stupidity, Exploitation
By: Gordon Hopkins

38 - Editorial
Division E
1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Austin Svehla, Kent Warneke

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph editorials
By: Todd von Kampen

39 - News Writing
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
WWI Heroes honored
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place
Stanton Register
Still A Little Salty
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Stanton Register
6-7 Day: If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them!
By: Carrie Pitzer

39 - News Writing
Division B
1st Place
Gothenburg Leader
The Good Life
By: Alisa Mullen

2nd Place
Gothenburg Leader

Controversial Sign
By: Ellen Mortensen

3rd Place
Randolph Times
Newswriting- city administrator fired
By: Trisha Benton

39 - News Writing
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
No County Attorney: Cases Dropped
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Knox County News
Murderer Sentenced
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Dakota County Star
ANNNNND they're off . . .
By: Michael Carnes

39 - News Writing
Division D
1st Place
North Platte Bulletin
Cody Park: Carousel horses sparkle again
By: George Lauby, Martin Owen and Floydene Dressel

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
City begins 5th year of EMS operations
By: Kurt Johnson

3rd Place
North Platte Bulletin
Postmaster plans to step down days after Nebraska complaint
By: George Lauby

39 - News Writing
Division E
1st Place
Norfolk Daily News
Schools facing uncertainty
By: Nejla Muminovic

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte-based nonprofits stress federal budget cuts' human costs
By: Caitlyn Thomas

3rd Place
Hastings Tribune
Harvard voters to decide on removing mayor
By: Will Vraspir

40 - Headline Writing
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Headline Writing Lawncare business cuts a path to FFA's top honor
By: LuAnn Schindler

2nd Place
Stanton Register
No Water, No Problem
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Cozad LOCAL
Purple Hearts Bleed Red
By: Liz Romero

40 - Headline Writing
Division B
1st Place
Stapleton Enterprise
One Hail of a Storm
By: Marcia Hora

2nd Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
Who let the Dog out?
By: Barbara Perez

3rd Place
Cedar Valley News
Gotta Have Heart
By: Rikki Radar

40 - Headline Writing
Division C
1st Place
Cedar County News

Headline writing - Aug. 13
By: Rob Dump

2nd Place
Knox County News
Indian Country, Nun Like Wausa
By: Staff

3rd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Mat-Man
By: Patrick Murphy

40 - Headline Writing
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Roe-tine record
By: Richard Rhoden

2nd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
PHONOGRAPH-HERALD - HEADLINE
By: Staff

3rd Place
Antelope County News
Bible And A Badge
By: Carrie Pitzer

40 - Headline Writing
Division E
1st Place
Hastings Tribune
May 15, 2025
By: Tami Humphreys

2nd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Family-owned flour mill sees rapid rise

By: Maunette Loeks

41 - Front Page
Division A
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Front Page SAM
By: LuAnn Schindler, Amy Kerkman

2nd Place
Palmer Journal
PALMER JOURNAL - FRONT PAGE
By: STAFF

3rd Place
Stanton Register
It Was Emotional
By: Carrie Pitzer

41 - Front Page
Division B
1st Place
Central City Republican-Nonpareil
CC R-N FRONT
By: STAFF

2nd Place
Cedar Valley News
Past Brought To Present
By: Rikki Raer

3rd Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
Backyard Biddies
By: Barbara Perez, Adrienne LaBay

41 - Front Page
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Running The Greatest Race

By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
ExtraORDinary
By: Staff

3rd Place
Imperial Republican
July 31
By: ALAN CARMAN, SAMANTHA GOFF

41 - Front Page
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Front page
By: Kurt Johnson

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Front Page
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Fourth of July
By: Kurt Johnson

41 - Front Page
Division E
1st Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Proud to be an American
By: Grace Ptak, Maunette Loeks

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Sept. 25, 2025
By: Staff

3rd Place
Beatrice Daily Sun
Beatrice Daily Sun front page
By: Christina Lyons, Rob Schlotterbeck

42 - General Excellence
Division A
1st Place
Palmer Journal
PALMER JOURNAL - GENERAL EXCELLENCE
By: STAFF

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Gen Excellence May 14, Oct 1, Oct 8
By: Staff

3rd Place
Milford Times
Milford Times
By: staff

42 - General Excellence
Division B
1st Place
Nance County Journal
Nance County Journal
By: Rick Holtz, Beth Sparrow, Ken Kush

2nd Place
Sherman County Times
SHERMAN COUNTY TIMES
By: STAFF

3rd Place
Springview Herald
Springview Herald
By: Amy Johnson, Kelsi McGee

42 - General Excellence
Division C
1st Place
Ord Quiz
ExtraORDinary News
By: Kristina Foth, Heidi Dawe, Kate Wolf

2nd Place
Knox County News
General Excellence
By: Staff

3rd Place
Dakota County Star
Dakota County Star
By: Staff

42 - General Excellence
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
General Excellence
By: Staff

2nd Place
Antelope County News
General Excellence
By: Staff

3rd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
PHONOGRAPH-HERALD
By: STAFF

42 - General Excellence
Division E
1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
2025 North Platte Telegraph general excellence
By: Staff

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
May 1, May 2 and Oct. 21, 2025
By: Staff

3rd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
General Excellence
By: Maunette Loeks, Megan Kelley, Grace Ptak

43 - Special Single Section
Division A
1st Place
Callaway Courier
Salute to Beef
By: Staff

2nd Place
Cozad LOCAL
Saluting Our Veterans
By: Liz Romero

3rd Place
Thedford Thomas County Herald
Veterans Day Salute
By: Staff

43 - Special Single Section
Division B
1st Place
Sidney Sun-Telegraph
2025 Gold Rush Days - Special Section
By: Barbara Perez

2nd Place
Gothenburg Leader
Salute to Agriculture
By: Staff

3rd Place
Polk County News
Senior Sketches
By: Beth Sparrow and Kirk Sparrow

43 - Special Single Section
Division C
1st Place
Cedar County News
Special section Memorial Day
By: Staff

2nd Place
Cedar County News
Specal Section - student awards
By: Staff

3rd Place
Dakota County Star
Dakota County Star Winter Sports Preview
By: Michael Carnes

43 - Special Single Section
Division D
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Lights & Sirens
By: Staff

2nd Place
Seward County Independent
Milford volleyball state champs
By: Stephanie Croston, Doug Carroll

3rd Place
Aurora News-Register
Salute to veterans
By: Staff

43 - Special Single Section

Division E
1st Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Veterans Day 2025: Honoring Those Who Served
By: Star-Herald Staff

2nd Place
Hastings Tribune
Hastings Tribune 120th anniversary
By: Staff

3rd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
2025 Scotts Bluff County Fair Tab
By: Star-Herald Staff

44 - Special Section (Multiple Publication Days)
All Divisions
1st Place
Custer County Chief
Progress 2025 I Live For This
By: Staff

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
ANR sports preview editions
By: Staff

3rd Place
Cedar County News
Special Sections - Ag Update
By: Staff

45 - Youth Coverage
Division AB
1st Place
Stanton Register
Youth Coverage
By: Carrie Pitzer & Lisa Wilke

2nd Place
Milford Times

Milford Times youth coverage
By: staff

3rd Place
Pawnee Republican
Youth Coverage
By: Staff

45 - Youth Coverage
Division C
1st Place
Knox County News
Youth
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Ord Quiz
Supporting Our Next Generation - Our Youth
By: Kate Wolf

3rd Place
Humphrey Democrat
Bylines
By: Claire Wagner

45 - Youth Coverage
Division D
1st Place
Seward County Independent
2025 SCI youth coverage
By: staff

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
ANR Youth Coverage
By: Staff

3rd Place
Antelope County News
ACN Youth
By: Staff

45 - Youth Coverage
Division E
1st Place

Hastings Tribune
Hastings Tribune youth coverage
By: Staff

2nd Place
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Daily News
By: Avery Carl

46 - Specialty/Lifestyles Sections
All Divisions
1st Place
Cozad LOCAL
CL Harvest Tab
By: Staff

2nd Place
Aurora News-Register
ANR Ag Life
By: Ron Burtz and Kurt Johnson

3rd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
HIGHLIGHTS
By: STAFF

47 - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
1st Place
Grand Island Independent
Grand Island cuts back on the info it releases to media
By: Jeff Bahr, Victoria Ayotte

2nd Place
Fairbury Journal-News
FOI
By: Gordon Hopkins

3rd Place
Knox County News
Knox County Courthouse Security Investigation
By: Carrie Pitzer

48 - BEST NIE PROGRAM

1st Place
Pawnee Republican
NIE Program
By: Staff

49 - Web Sites
Division A
1st Place
Kearney Hub
Kearney Hub website
By: Staff

2nd Place
Cedar County News
Website - Hartington.net
By: Staff

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Website

By: Staff

49 - Web Sites
Division B
1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
North Platte Telegraph website
By: staff

2nd Place
Grand Island Independent
Grand Island Independent website
By: Staff

3rd Place
Beatrice Daily Sun
Beatrice Daily Sun
By: Christina Lyons, Luke Nichols, Rob Schlotterbeck

50 - Online Video - Advertising
Division A
1st Place
Aurora News-Register
Mowing circles around the competition
By: Kurt Johnson

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Advertising Video
By: Carrie Pitzer

51 - Online Video - Editorial
Division A
1st Place
Cedar County News
Online Video - Memorial Day
By: Hannah Ryun

2nd Place
Laurel Advocate

online video - Laurel Ag Days
By: Hannah Ryun

3rd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Together, We - First Day of School at SPS
By: LuAnn Schindler

51 - Online Video - Editorial
Division B
1st Place
North Platte Telegraph
Video: If LB 302 passes, these Nebraskans could wind up behind the time
By: Andrew Bottrell, Joan von Kampen, Todd von Kampen

2nd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Horse racing comes to Ogallala
By: Jake Dreilinger

3rd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Brown Sheep Company: Carrying on a family legacy
By: Grace Ptak

52 - Online Coverage of Breaking News
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Boil Notice
By: Staff

2nd Place
Cedar County News
online breaking news - Jones trial and verdict
By: Rob Dump

3rd Place
Nance County Journal
Church Demolition
By: Rick Holtz

53 - Best Use of Social Media
Division A
1st Place
Antelope County News
Social Media
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Cedar County News
Best use of Social Media - Memorial Day
By: Rob Dump, Hannah Ryun

3rd Place
Polk County News
PCN Social Media--Facebook
By: Beth Sparrow

54 - Best Digital Ad Idea
Division A
1st Place
Stanton Register
Digital Inventory
By: Kimberly Large & Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
Cedar County News
Digital ad - Don Miller Land
By: Staff

3rd Place
Nance County Journal
State Theater
By: Rick Holtz

55 - Best Sports Video
Division A
1st Place
Polk County News
Cross County State Basketball
By: Rick Holtz

2nd Place
Nance County Journal

Fullerton Football Recap
By: Rick Holtz

3rd Place
Polk County News
Polk County News - Game Winning Basket
By: Rick Holtz

55 - Best Sports Video
Division B
1st Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Scottsbluff volleyball moves over .500 with sweep of Gering
By: Tim Johnson

2nd Place
Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Scottsbluff football finds game in second half
By: Staff

3rd Place
North Platte Telegraph
Bucking Battle & Bash
By: Samson Ndege

56 - Investigative Journalism – Class C Only*
Division C
1st Place
Flatwater Free Press
Douglas County's Failure to Commit
By: Chris Bowling

2nd Place
Flatwater Free Press
Dying Blind
By: Destiny Herbers

3rd Place
Flatwater Free Press
A priest, a diocese and a boy who is now a man.
By: Emily Wolf

57 - Excellence in Newsletters – Class C Only*
Division C
1st Place
Flatwater Free Press

Flatwater Free Press Omaha newsletter
By: Jeremy Turley and Chris Bowling

2nd Place
Flatwater Free Press
Flatwater Free Press statewide newsletter
By: Matthew Hansen

58 - Breaking News – Class C Only*
Division C
1st Place
Lincoln Journal Star
Nebraska will let Trump use McCook prison as ICE facility, governor says
By: Chris Dunker, Andrew Wegley

2nd Place
Nebraska Examiner
Breaking News — Juan 1
By: Staff

3rd Place
Lincoln Journal Star
SWAT storms house, finds missing Lincoln woman; man arrested
By: Peter Breen

60 - Explanatory Reporting – Class C Only*
Division C
1st Place
Nebraska Examiner
Medical cannabis issue — Zach Wendling
By: Staff

2nd Place
Flatwater Free Press
The Immigration Crackdown in Nebraska: Raids, Rumors, Fear and Costs.
By: Natalia Alamdari, Emily Wolf and Jeremy Turley

3rd Place
Lincoln Journal Star
UNL budget cuts
By: Chris Dunker

61 - Feature – Class C Only

Division C
1st Place
Lincoln Journal Star
How one Lincoln couple's foster care journey turned into a new kind of family
By: Margaret Reist

2nd Place
Flatwater Free Press
Lincoln bookseller
By: Emily Wolf

3rd Place
Lincoln Journal Star
Meet the unsung women who helped redefine the Cornhusker Marching Band
By: Alyssa Johnson

62 - NEWS PHOTO OF THE YEAR
1st Place
Sherman County Times
FAIR - SEKUTERA
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Antelope County News
Fighting Fire
By: Carrie Pitzer

3rd Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
RIVER FLOWS IMPACT RR
By: MICHAEL HAPP

63 - SPORTS PHOTO OF THE YEAR
1st Place
Antelope County News
Championship Leap Into Father's Arms
By: Carrie Pitzer

2nd Place
North Bend Eagle
Flag pole vault
By: Nathan Arneal

3rd Place
Seward County Independent
Takedown to win

By: Stephanie Croston

64 - FEATURE PHOTO OF THE YEAR
1st Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Sky Light
By: Scott Schindler
2nd Place
Mullen Hooker County Tribune
Water Carnival
By: Gerri Peterson

3rd Place
Stanton Register
Blast Into Summer
By: Carrie Pitzer

65 - EDITORIAL OF THE YEAR
1st Place
St. Paul Phonograph-Herald
LET'S ENJOY THE SUNSHINE
By: MICHAEL HAPP

2nd Place
Cedar County News
Editorial of the Year - small towns need to fight back
By: Rob Dump

3rd Place
North Platte Telegraph
'But, Mr. ICEman, we don't even have a jail ...
By: Todd von Kampen

66 - ADVERTISEMENT OF THE YEAR
1st Place
Fairbury Journal-News
Bacon Spirits Bright
By: Jennifer Lewis

2nd Place
Summerland Advocate-Messenger
Make Her Heart Go Bloom
By: LuAnn Schindler

3rd Place
Ord Quiz
Join Valley County 4-H
By: Heidi Dawe

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