

NORTH & EAST TEXAS

Press Association



**2010 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST
NETPA Convention**

Thursday, April 14 to Saturday, April 16, 2010

@ Fort Worth Crowne Plaza South

100 Altamesa East Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76134

General Excellence

Division 1

1. Texarkana Gazette - 12/5/10 - Nice A1 - I like the sports tie in. Very heavy A section and the wire stuff doesn't overwhelm the local coverage. B - Nice local look at sports. C - Nice business stories - impactful lead story isn't overwhelmed by the wire copy inside. I like that I got lots of staff stuff before you give me the wire stuff. More nice features on E. I also like the Friend of Family page - nice way to bring readers in and engage them. 6/13/10 - Excellent flood coverage. Stories introduce you to victims and in a way guide you through the rest of section. Accent - Two nice pieces of color. I like the layout of booklet one.

2. Daily Sentinel - 12/19/10 - Lots and lots of specials - two supplements. Very clean and inviting A1. Sports 1-4 seen very AP heavy. Charm - Nice holiday tips, nice layout and cover feature. Nice local focus over AP stuff. D. Neighbors - I like the variety of stories in this section. Home: bad print job makes hard to read. The AP stuff - re local R.E. tab bothers me. Why not profile more local homes? Wes Andy's house on cover or feature? I really like this issue until I got to next tab. 3/21/10 - Nice tease and Active Life on A1. Minimum use of AP in A totally local B section, I love that. C - Sports still leaves one with too much of a national feel. Why not more on high schools? Coming off Spring Break _ should be plenty to profile. Don't write opinion in D - Should be part of A section. E - I like this section and how you put it together. Great front page layout. Special section - Much Better. All local, nothing canned. Section that people look forward to reading. Makes up for RE Section in first one.

3. Paris News - 10/17/10 - A section has honor rolls why not try to consolidate on 1 or 2 pages instead of running them throughout? Well-rounded section with lots of variety and solid art. B section - Nice picture to go around classifieds. Photos were okay but not great. Maybe a little overkill. C section - Football, football, football, lots of nice photos. Lots of coverage of showdown game. - box scores are a little big - like trying to fill space. D section - I love page 4 and all the candidates. 3/14/10 - A section - I like the editorial. Talking on outside is nice idea. Same as talking out loud. Again with the honor roll outside of school page. B Life: Out of register on B1, but I love the feature layout. Gerhirt is misspelled. C Sports: Nice photos. Section pretty much all photos.

4. Lufkin Daily News - 8/22/10 - A: Nice Panther Proud feature - Nice overall front page. But in a strong section why do you need AP on page 2. B: East Texas is more local section C: Why not put SFA scrimmage on C1 and NFL stuff on inside? Very similar to Nacodoches Daily Sentinel. D: Put opinion in A and make Section D National or save the newsprint and put AP stuff online only. Charm works for Nac as well. Creative page - Too much white space at bottom of nudist colony feature. Overall - your big page of week I feel like its dominated with wire stuff. 3/14/10 - Great A1 feature - combine A and B - A four page A just doesn't feel

right. Charm ___ to carry the paper. It's your second best page both times compared to A1.

Division 2

1. Daily Record - Great front page! So clean, great fonts, easy on the eyes. Police brief on celebrations page is a bit jarring. The obvious winner!!! No. 2 - Pink paper is a great idea!! Eye-catching and for a good cause. Another great A1. Friday night central is a great product. Awesome work guys.

2. Henderson Daily News - Love the huge picture to hammer led for football champs. Perfect way to play it. Too much wire copy...maybe more wild art instead? Lots of large fillers in classifieds... could have used space better. No. 2 - Nice front page...lots of points of entry. Birthdays on A1 is a really nice touch. I like seeing meeting agendas...don't have many papers that do that.

3. Waxahachie Daily Light - All local op/ed page is a rarity these days. Well done. Some pages are a bit gray. That said...lots of great data, such as city permits. Very impressive sports section, eight pages? Whoa! Way to go. No. 2 - Another great sports section. Readers are very, very, fortunate to get that depth of coverage. Like the photo pages in A and C sections.

4. Sulphur Springs News Telgram - Nice centerpiece on North Pole. Good news mix too with plane crash on A1. Some inside pages are a bit gray. No. 2 - Lots of fun games and features - perfect for a lazy weekend!! Smidge too much wire copy for my tastes,

Division 3

1. Hood County News - This paper is absolutely flawless. Your staff should be so proud. Best interest of the child coverage is amazingly in-depth. Clearly a ton of work went into making it happen. No. 2 - So much to offer! Great typography, clean layout makes paper a breeze to navigate. Clear #1 in this category.

2. Wise County Messenger - Front page is so clean. A beautiful thing! Labels are a nice touch. Jump heads seem a bit odd...maybe tweak? Love sports with the great big picture. No. 2 - Voters guide is such a great service. Would like to see sports before classifieds. Sex offender section seems a bit much. Business Wise is huge!

3. Kilgore News Herald - Beautiful typography. Love the wild art on A1... very fun and eye-catching. Some inside pages are a tad gray. No. 2 - Another gorgeous front page. Kilgoround is a fun feature. Like mix in lifestyles section. Some gray pages in here, too.

4. Graham Leader - Very clean easy-to-follow front page. Nice news mix, too. Livestock section is a definite keeper. No. 2 - 8A is too darn gray! Wish sports was in color. Fall preview is great. So thorough!

Division 4

1. Rockwall County Herald Banner - Great looking paper. You should be very, very proud. Great typography makes it east to navigate. Best paper in this category by a mile. No. 2 - Nice mix on A1... something for everyone. Can't really find anything to suggest for improvement.

2. Mineola Monitor - Like out and about in A1 and very thorough calendar inside. Lots of good listngs inside... a good leader service. Like Extreme Makeover photo page. No. 2 - Great fire picture. Getting acquanited feature is a nice touch. Try to group like content together for ease of navigation.

3. The Wylie News - Not crazy about A1 cut out. Nice news mix on A1. Nice church timeline...looks great and good information through sports section. No. 2 - Good looking A1 another great sports section. Liking kid print section.

4. Lake County News - Great fire picture. Citizenship headline isn't really a headline. Easy-to-read for body type. Keep hard news in A; features in B. No. 2 - Stepping down headline is a cute idea but it doesn't quite work.

Division 5

1. Olney Enterprise - Nice, clean fornt page. Section headers inside aren't uniform...all caps use uppers and lowers. Need a better flow from news to features. No. 2 - Another clean front page...like all the local on op/ed page.

2. Tri-County Leader - Clean front page with crisp, clear headline typeface. Parade at top of the page is questionable. Like police beat and calendar. Thorough sports section. No. 2 - Another clean A1 Author is another questionable lede. Like section feature readers - Head bust on 6A. Sports cover layout could be better.

3. The McGregor Mirror - Section/feature headers lack uniformity. Seems like photo page (page 7) should have captions. Holiday section is a nice touch. Kinda soft A1. No. 2 - Another feature-y A1 some hard news needs to be added to mix. Football section is awesome. Y'all really know how to do a thorough interesting special section.

4. Mart Messenger - Homecoming package on A1 seems like it should jump inside a bit too much. Like sports in its own section No. 2 - Would like to see a smidge more hard news.

Division 6

1. Alvarado Star - Bold layout on front page, very engaging section headers, too small though. Layout on the interior is very clippy. Solid writing. Fine sports package. Very good use of community photos. No. 2 - Decent layout. Watch the use of fonts. Don't want to go overboard with the "funky" fonts. Need to have consistent section headers - "Sports" different from "News" and "Business".

2. Joshua Star - Excellent standing header. Clean look of front page. Layout solid but not bold. Classifieds layout a bit

out of sorts. Watch the pixelation of many images. Low - resolution version used on front of sports. No. 2 - Solid pages with local news. Better use of typography in this editon.

3. Big Sandy and Hawkins Journal - Excellent Lifestyle page. Front page designed effectively. Three front page stories - no quotes on these stories. Why? Good use of calendars, police blotter, events. Not too much content in B Section. No quotes in sports stories. No. 2 - Redesigned front page, Page 2 was hit and miss for me. Excellent photo pages. Again, no quotes on all four front page stories. Why?

4. Lake Cities Sun - Solid layout. No table of contents/index on front. What's inside? Basic layout inside. Try to vary headlines font weight/size. Lots of local content in B Section. No. 2 - Excellent news coverage and the way stories are put together. Sports layout leaves something to be desired. So much local content, why have a state page?

Advertising

Division 1

1. Texarkana Gazette: Flea Market - great use of art, very eye catching. Also like the clean design and use of color. Robbins Toyota - like the style and colors. Ashley Furniture - nice and neat, Information is clear and good flow.

2. The Daily Sentinel: Macy May - good use of color. Like the art. Aesthetic Laser - nice layout and graphics, logo and contact information almost blends into background. Al Meyer - a little busy. Creative layout, but colors and graphics a little awkward.

3. The Paris News: Campbells - like the scale of soup can, but the placement seams awkward. Also all three ads seem to have a very similar layout. Nextera - Informative, font towards top right seems too large. Paris Chamber of Commerce - nice color and pictures. Font on top harder to read.

4. Lufkin Daily News: King Putt - Cute, but hard to find a focus. Cook - very busy hard to find a focus. Al Meyer - nice photo. Grainy black/solid black is awkward.

Division 2

1. Athens Daily Review: Green Oaks - nice colors and art. Nice Layout. Funkhouser - nice font use. Top of ad does not flow with bottom. First Baptist - nice art on top, split in the middle is odd.

2. Waxahachis Daily Light: Victron - Nice colors, text on right too large. Kenton Homes - photos/graphics seem awkward. Baby picture seems stretched. The Greenery - A little busy at the top.

Division 3

1. Terrell Tribune: E.edition - ad is very clean, good use of white space. Like the creative idea of newspapers as monitor. Downtown Terrell ad - Also clean and to the point. Nice use of photograph of downtown. Discount tire - a little busy, but good use of shading and lines to guide the eye around the ad.

2. Wise County Messenger: Daily Donuts - Good use of color, attention grabbing and fun. College St. Childcare - ad meaning is clear and to the point. Like the white space, cute pictures. Wise County Home and Lawn - very clean, Rotary Club logo placement is a little awkward.

3. Hood County News: Lake Granbury Medical Center - like the use of photo/text on top of ad. Harsh transition to bottom half of ad. Granbury Eye - nice colors. Hard to find a focus. Does not flow well. Briscoe Real Estate - bottom portion is nice and clean, but ad as a whole is confusing.

4. The Graham Leader: ACE - like the organice shape and good use of color, but text does not stand out. Jamey: Hard to tell from the ad who the candidate is. Eye catching and clean. Young County - eye catching, font is hard to read.

Division 4

1. Iowa Park Leader: Protection - Solid, understated ad. Good concept and use of helmet graphic, very effective. Excellent use of white space. Read to feed - another effective ad without doing to much. Excellent choice of artwork! Good treatment on headline typography. Christmas with the Boys - Excellent use of color, background graphics, low resolution and heavily pixelated. Good overall typography and used space.

2. Wylie News: Treat your Tastebuds - well done on the graphic and photo! Effective used of script font and treatment. Ad is a bit too busy, but not cluttered. Wylie Dental - another fine use of photo and layering of graphics. Ad has a 3-D feel to it. Bursts are hard to keep clean and you did a good job with this one. Downtown Salon: Ok job with this one. Watch the overuse of too many graphics. Not sure if gray image in background is needed, watch the center and elements, vertically in reverse boxes.

3. Mount Vernon Optic-Hearld: Friends - Good mesh of graphics and excellent use of emotions in photos! Designs had fun with ad. Bright color good choice for boutique. Happy Valentines Day - Solid use of graphics. Nice effort on layering with photo coming out of the heart. Mission Manor - basic layout. Again, well done on the choices of photos for ads. Be careful of too much information in ad.

4. The Marlin Democrat: Main St. Bargains - effective advertisement, but page has multiple ads on it. Watch out for too much information in ads. Marlin Exxon - Solid use of space, graphics and photos. Effective use of bursts and reverse type to bring reader in. Marlin Veterinary Clinic - Example of too much information in a ad. Be careful in lining up elements vertically. Days of the week and times did not line up.

Division 5

1. Princeton Herald: Bob Tedford - Good use of graphics and photos. Typography treatment works well. Nice layering. Griffin Jewelry - Good use of photos. Be carefull with logo elements begin too small. Straight foward, clean design. Center for Dermatology - Clean look. Wonderful us of photo - grabs the readers attention. Be careful on being too wordy with verbage.

2. Public I News: Mo Money - catching ad and artwork, Good use of typography and graphic elements. All Bail Bonds - Effectice use of color and space. Straight foward layout. Glenwood Country Club - Straight foward ad. Some text too small and compressed.

3. The Onley Enterprise: Berend Bros. - Effective ad. Be careful in putting too much verbage in an ad so small. 3-D Etc - Effective use of photos in this ad. Graphic used well, not too busy. Fringe - Nice work with gray and graphics. Be careful not to use too many fonts

4. The Farmersville Times: Quick Check - Very busy ad. too much information in ad. Dr. Pepper is misspelled. Bob

Tedford - well done ad for car dealerships. Not too busy, as a lot of dealerships ad want to put too much information in them. Good Layout and effective message. First Bank - Solid use of photo/photoshop work. Nice layering work and effective message.

Division 6

1. Murhpy Monitor: Pounds and Inches Away - Effective use of space. Typography is well done. Good concept for ad and what it is promoting. Kids R Kids - Effective use of photo and graphic elements. Watch the over use of too many fonts. Photoshop work is top of its division. Extra Extra - Good concept for house ad. Fine use of text and graphic elements. Clean design. Creator had fun with this ad.

2. Alvarado Star: Playoff Bound - there are six ads on this page - not sure which ad it pertains to? Grandview Bank - Excellent ad and use of graphic element. Lonestar - Quality layout, use of photos and typography. This is how it should be done!

3. Joshua Star: Football Frenzy - Not really an ad, but a page. Solid effort. Plunder the Pirates - A fine piece of spirit card. Bankston Ford - Excellent effort. A bit too busy, but you put a good effort into it.

4. The Sachse News: Hooleys Tavern and Grill - Excellent use of space. Watch the overuse of multiple fonts. Atlas Building Systems - Fine work with photos, but this ad is too busy. Sometime less elements would be better for customer. Classic Gardens - Effective use of space, but this ad is information overload. Again, stick with limited fonts- don't go overboard. Excellent photoshop work on elements.

Column Writing

Division 1

1. The Paris News: Patrick Graham – Informative and well-written who knew publishers could write? :) Mr. Graham shies away from the subject of race until the end, however: How has ‘race’ been controversial in Paris? - Mr. Graham ties in a local story with national implications to his personal life, an ideal formula for any column.

2. The Daily Sentinel: Kendal Rogers – Mundane topic, but Mr. Rogers uses strong writing and powerful imagery to draw in readers. - Christmas can produce a lot of melodrama for columnists, but Mr. Rogers made a common meeting between strangers compelling.

3. Texarkana Gazette: Les Minor – Column may only draw political junkies and news hounds, but Mr. Minor delivers a strong lambasting of what appears to be a clear open records violation. Brave and good. - A column about the USPS lacks the immediacy and passion that Mr. Minor had with his Wake Village column. More crusading columns please!

4. Herald Banner: Carol Ferguson – April 11, It’s more of a book review than a column, but Ms. Ferguson has a flair for writing. “Delightful, charming” but never “cloying, cutesy.” - Very strong writer that puts a bit of pop culture in perspective. And closes with a flourish! I want the subject more local, though.

Division 2

1. Henderson Daily News: Tony Floyd – Yakker: Real flair for the written word brings childhood recollections to life. - BP: Outstanding job of putting the BP spill into the East Texas perspective. I’m still grinning about Big Al.

2. Henderson Daily News: Les Linebarger – Local \$: what a great lead. It brings a national and state issue straight to your readers. A bit workish, but a strong column, and informative. And a strong conclusion! - Budget: similar to above, Mr. Linebarger brings the national and state issues home.

3. Waxahachie Daily Light: Rebecca Hertz – Drinking: A fascinating portrayal of rural life. I read every word, drawn to the detail. Trivial? To some if they don’t look deep enough. - Bump: Harrowing, but the column is a little indulgent for your readers.

4. Stephenville Empire-Tribune: Sara Vanden Berge – Shock and awe: I think the paper’s editor just labeled a local play ‘debacle’ without seeing the production. Poor message sent and it negates the heartfelt first half of the column. I do like the localness of the topic. - Kids: Well-written and every parent will immediately relate. The format of a letter is clever, too.

Division 3

1. Hood County News: Kathy Cruz – Camera Shy: well-written and offers reader a personalized insight into a colum-

nists. Aren’t we all a little vain? - City Hall: Story, timely and well-written. Ms. Cruz doesn’t shy away from controversy yet doesn’t deliver her firm opinion heavy-handed and what a strong conclusion!

2. Hood County News: Mark Wilson – Valentines: Humorous and well-written, but a little trite. Toss the parents’ love story in is sometimes too easy a tug on the heart string.- Christmas: Mr. Wilson does a good job in putting a ‘controversy’ in perspective, but I wished the topic had more relevancy in Hood County. Both written well.

3. The Graham Leader: David Rupkalvis – Learning the hard way: Earnest if not lyrical, this column welcomes the community into Mr. Rupkalvis’ World. - Wikileaks: Mr. Rupkalvis does an excellent job of translating an international story to the local level. He champions open government even when it is not popular. That’s a good service to your readers.

4. Wise County Messenger: Brian Knox – School Safety: Mr. Knox firmly embraces his role as a crusading columnist and does a nice job of taking a stand. - Democrats: Informative piece on local politics intrigues because of its subject if not writing style.

Division 4

1. The Wylie News: Donnita Nesbit Fisher – Should story have been ‘axed’?: best of the two columns by far. - A New Philosophy: A good column, but harder to follow narrative.

2. Rockwall County Herald-Banner: David Wilfong: Never Apologize... and Sometimes you...

3. Iowa Park Leader: Kari Collins & Kevin Hamilton – Interesting style for a column. Pretty good dialogue between the two.

4. The Pittsburg Gazette: Roy Knox

Division 5

1. Glen Rose Reporter: Kathryn Jones – two powerful columns with good narrative thread and well-written.

2. The Farmersville Times: Wyndi Veigel

3. Deport Times-Blossom-Times: Cindy Baker Burnett

4. The Onley Enterprise: Mindi Kimbro

Division 6

1. Alvarado Star: Christopher Amos

2. Joshua Star: Dave Sorter

3. The Overton Press: Chalotte Heldenbrand

4. Bullard Banner: Cathy Primer Krafve

Editorials

Division 1

1. Greenville Herald Banner - Editorial 1 - The editorial makes a good argument for providing incentives to large employers such as L-3 Communications and strong criticism for those who attempt to thwart public discussion of doing away with such incentives. Editorial 2 - This was an imaginative way of localizing a national movement which attempting to actuate a change in the apathy with in the community toward local government.

2. Texarkana Gazette - Editorial 1 - The writer makes a good case for why the Texarkana school district should have a bare-bones bond package. Second paragraph relating to tax rate being \$640 per \$1,000 hurt chances of being first place. Editorial 2 - Well written editorial about unneeded interference. Overuse of dashes was distracting.

3. The Lufkin Daily News - Editorial 1 - The writer makes a convincing case for having more people on Tita Appraisal District Board. Editorial 2 - Nice, convincing job of promoting participation in census.

4. Daily Sentinel - Editorial 1 - Great insight into local topics of interest. Well written.

Division 2

1. Waxahachie Daily Light - Editorial 1 - "Its in the Bill" delves home the importance of respecting the rights of all citizens. the writer clearly understands the key elements of a persuasive editorial. Editorial 2 - Good insight into the subject.

2. Henderson Daily News - Editorial 1 - The editorial demonstrates A zeal For a Park Project that will be an asset worthy of praise. Editorial 2 - Spelling error in first paragraph of editorial on street repairs hurt first place chances.

3. Athens Daily Review - Editorial 1 - Good editorial on bond proposal, but no other entry from specified months was submitted.

Division 3

1. Hood County News - Editorial 1 - "Justice for All" is an insightful look pitfalls in the criminal justice system locally for men accused of domestic violence. It was food for thought and exceptionally well written. Editorial 2 - Editorial demonstrated that the newspaper takes a firm stance on issues invading city politics laced with unfair use of power.

2. Wise County Messenger - Editorial 1 - Editorial on public information delivered a well deserved blow to city officials guilty of serious infractions against the public's right to be informed and a newspaper's ability to do its job. Editorial 2 - Road planning editorial is a good effort, but criticism of TxDOT is relatively easy when one takes into consideration how little funding the agency has to spread throughout the state.

3. The Graham Leader - Editorial 1 - Editorial on Olympians provided well-deserved, well written praise for a deserving organization. Editorial 2 - the effect of the editorial about the city council sending the wrong message was diminished by blanket statement such as the reference to the council's "Rubber Stamp" of "Most Requests For Variances."

4. The Terrell Tribune - Editorial 1 - Signs editorial was on the mark, but it could have been more effective if it had included an appeal to delinquent politicians to pick up their trash for the sake of citizenship. Editorial 2 - The piece on the police department was a mild part on the back for taking the initiatives on the TPD grant.

Division 4

1. Lake Country Sun - Editorial 1 - Taking heat demonstrated the writer's talent for depicting complexities of law enforcement - A well written account of an interesting case. Editorial 2 - The editorial about changes for the Possum Kingdom Lake Area covered concerns effectively. Showed insight into inevitable problems on the horizon.

2. Mineola Monitor - Editorial 1 - With the exception of a few sentences that beckoned for missing commas, the editorial on county politics was well-written. It made valid points about a public official being held to a higher calling when it comes to finances.

3. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald - Editorial 1 - Nice, heartfelt tribute to stalwarts who passed on. Editorial 2 - Perhaps an appeal to residents would help spur reconsideration of this council action on AG.

4. The Winnsboro News - Nice short, to the point editorial on setting an example.

Division 5

1. Dublin Citizen - Editorial 1 - Great points about inherent problems of straight - party voting - A well written editorial.

2. Mart Messenger - Editorial 1 - Good effort, but "My New Little Hero" was more a column than anything resembling an editorial.

Division 6

1. Joshua Star - Editorial 1 - The editorial on the GOP sending the wrong message showed that the writer fully understands the complexities of back-room politics. More people should also insist on open votes on obvious issues like this, which is clearly the intent of this persuasive opinion. Editorial 2 - Writer makes a convincing case for transparency in taxing entities.

2. The Overton Press - Editorial 1 - Editorial on pit bulls makes a good case for the community to rally around efforts to address the problem. Editorial 2 - Sidewalk editorial would have been more effective if it had been edited to half its length.

Feature Story

Division 1

1. The Paris News - Mary Madewell: Powerful storytelling good lead. Great organization of information with most powerful first transitioning into character portrayal. Good control of paragraphs. Strong writing style. Some errors in quote format. Concise sentences. No. 2 - Great layout and use of photos (dominant and jump). Deserves better headline. Good use of material to create feel for life with cancer and cost very insightful. Could use less grip-and-grin secondary photos. Deserved better editing: could have better rhythm and should be cut to strengthen dramatic message. Horrible date error.

2. Texarkana Gazette - Aaron Brand: Great layout, photo's and lead. Good cuts - would eliminate first quote in dominant photo cut. Awkward hyphenation in lead. Superb storytelling. Strong quotes. Good transitions. Length need to be reduced - too long to stay with. Deserved additional editing and elimination of words, number of people covered. Improper quote style. No. 2 - Jim Williamson: Great photo, good subhead awkward lead structure, but great lead content, full of sophisticated imagery. Good imagery throughout - Deserved additional edits to reduce length. Created powerful images that stayed with me long after setting article down. Powerful.

3. The Daily Sentinel - Trent Jacobs: Excellent article. Good organization and choice of material included. Great headline, cutline, photo and lead - really work together to pull reader in good use of quotes. Quote format errors. Awkward double jump. Deserved addition edits to reduce length - weaken powerful story. No. 2 - Robbie Goodrich: Good front page photo and cutline. Excellent portrayal of human condition. Really draws reader into life of homeless and drug addicted. Good character portrayal. Might have separated into two shorter articles as two-part series. Headline and lead need sharpening. Comma errors.

4. Herald Banner - Laughter: Good lead, but a little wordy. Strong subject matter and perspective. Good use of humor. Photo in jump would have been very effective. More engaging photo needed linked to subject matter story would be even better going through several more edits to reduce wordiness and separate out run-on sentences. No. 2 - Coming: Great creativity, good humor, too many run-on sentences - ruins flow. Love the examples of favorite toys per era. Could make better use of color page. Some AP style errors. Lead a bit confusing not sure what part was actual facts inserted. Good story - deserved more editing to make more concise and powerful.

Division 2

1. Waxahachie Daily Light - Neal White: Good header and subhead. Excellent insight and feeling for subject mat-

ter. Strong, clean writing style. Deserved better front page photo. Article way too long for average reader. Strong subject matter and writing style should have been given space as series. No. 2 - Rebecca Hertz: Great header and subhead. Good storytelling style. Cutlines inadequate.

2. Athens Daily Review - Rich Flowers: Great article. Good lead and front photo. Good character development. Good command of verbs and word rhythm. Good use of Quotes. Tells hidden tale of human interaction, cutline weak. No. 2 - Great story. Good writing skill, although writer seems somewhat uncomfortable. Interject more personal style. Good dominant action shot. Article too long for content. Deserved better editing to condense story and add personality.

3. Empire Tribune - Vanden Berge: Good photos. Strong storytelling. Excellent research and development. AP Style errors and grammatical error. Good story insight and instinct. Could have used better material organizations and editing. Mix a few blog excerpts into time sequence of main story. No photo cutlines. No. 2 - Erin Cooper: Good feel for history. Good angle for story. Awkward lead. Neat background photo, but overall, photos disappointing. AP style infractions, drop use of "However" Good writer - need to develop more comfort with personal style.

4. Henderson Daily News - Lorri Little: Good lead and header. Well-written. Good quotes. Excellent portrayal of parent's emotion, experience and journey. Good flow. Humanized story. Calls for better photo of Brynn. Grammatical errors. No. 2 - Charming story - good perspective. Subhead confusing. Teacher should be in photo. Watch AP style and comma usage.

Division 3

1. Hood County News - Bonus points given for excellent graphics, layout, design, and photos on both!! Rick March - Really nice lede. Super interesting story - makes me want to go out and buy his book. Great snapshot of a fascinating life. Nice phrasing. Great writer. No. 2 - Debbie Schreider - Great lede. Nice, heartwarming story with just enough detail and color. An abundance of writing talent at this paper! Great job.

2. Wise County Messenger - Erika Pedroza - Nice photos! Great story! It is a gorgeous chair. Very cool story of the journey of these families told thru the journey of this chair. Very skilled writer. No. 2 - Mandy Bourgeois - Nice layout photos. A compelling, page turner of a story. Very good writer, used the right items at the right time. Excellent job.

3. Terrell Tribune - Peggy - on both stories - nice layout, use of fonts, design. Some minor AP style issues. On Peggy - great, no, excellent, use of quotes! Very interesting story told well. No. 2 - Hidden - What a great idea for a story! Nice job hunting down the untold stories that make up a community. I love the way you turn a phrase, i.e., miserly mentality.

4. Burleson Star - Hentag - Great lede! Nice, compelling story. You would have scored higher if your story did not

contain so many mistakes. Proofer needed! As far as the writing - superior. No. 2 - Model - Another great lede but still those nagging mistakes. "Peaking in the window" Really? I would have liked to see an explanation of why the city shut down what seemed like an attractive draw for tourists - you could have explored that a little deeper. Overall - fantastic writer!!!

Division 4

1. The Wylie News - CAC - Great use of graphics, layout, design elements - A++. Superior writing skill. Really went all the way to explore many facets of this important center for abused children. Good job!! No. 2 - Haiti - Again, excellent use of graphic elements to really jazz things up. Lede just grabbed me by the heart and pulled me right into the story. I felt like I was sitting there in Haiti watching, not just reading about it. Skill level here is leaps and bounds ahead of other entries.

2. Van Zandt News - Championship - Catchy use of fonts. Writing skills much better than most. Nice use of descriptive words and phrases. Kind of odd to see a sports feature in this category but it's good. No. 2 - Sisters Wow. It's an old story but you wrote it in a fresh way! I foresee good things for you as a journalist and writer. Great job!!

3. Iowa Park Leader - Kevin Hamilton: Bones - Fascinating story. Above average writing skills. Long but kept my interest. Funny choice of graphics but kind of cool. Liked the font. No. 2 - Sherrie Williams - Interesting to see a homes tour as a feature story. A little bit of a stretch but it worked - I can see lots of effort in this. Good writing skills. Nice job!

4. The Winnsboro News - Bryan Giguere - Animal rescue - Interesting story but I got bogged down in weird details. Did I really need to know the genders of the puppies? The jump was not long enough to warrant a jump - I feel gypped. Overall, an interesting story and I learned something (Pets needed in Colorado!) No. 2 - Tom Pendergast - Rosie - Luckily, your story was really interesting and compelling. If I was judging solely on layout - not so much! You broke your copy up in a really awkward way with a huge picture that I suspect may have come from the Internet?

Division 5

1. Tri-County Leader - "Mullican enjoys a sweet sideline business" Only one source: the story could have been much richer if you'd talked to a few more people. Some AP style errors. Picture isn't very clear and poorly placed. Try not to break up the text with your art. But, clearly written with good imagery. No. 2 - Also only one source. A few awkward sentences, eg. "All that snow and those cold temperatures..." Good imagery, but a little cheesy at times. Once again, the reader has to jump over the photo to find the rest of the text.

2. Dublin Citizen - "Retiree sees change..." Picture placed in the middle of text. You should never make the reader look for the next line. Only one source: the story would be

richer if you talked to more people. Well-written with clear language. No. 2 - Layout is terrible. You can't tell which story the photo goes to without close inspection. Sentence that starts "Woolever actually arrived..." is way too long and convoluted. Some AP style errors. Cute story overall, but needs work.

3. Mart Messenger - "Ex-MHS great..." Well-written with a variety of sources. Had this story stood on its own, I would have given it first place. Learn to type an m-dash. Multiple dashes together don't look good. Some AP style errors, and random changes in tense. No. 2 - This story desperately needs a good copy editor. Take a second look at the sentence "Jenny has been opening movieland weekdays..." Some of the writing is pretty cheesy. The photo is way too big.

4. Farmersville Times - "Flight of freedom" The writing is mostly clear, but has awkward spots. There were a lot of missed opportunities to add some good imagery. No. 2 - See above. Much of the emotion of this article fell flat.

Division 6

1. Lake Cities Sun - Interesting piece. Good subject matter. Good ending. Layout with pictures on page 4A breaks up text, which is undesirable. No. 2 - Strongly written with good quotes and subject matter.

2. Alvarado Star - Good example of findings an inspiring topic and producing it into a strong feature. No. 2 - Feature gives historical content to high school football team. Layout is well thought out.

3. Bullard Banner News - Strong subject matter, effectively telling the story of a painful experience and moving on from it. No. 2 - Strong conclusion on Boyd's endeavor ultimately being an example of faith.

4. Joshua Star - Written well with good use of quotes. No. 2 - Written well with good use of quotes.

Headline Writing

Division 1

1. **Texarkana Gazette:** Best 3 Headlines as group.
2. **Lufkin Daily News**
3. **Daily Sentinel**
4. **Herald Banner**

Division 2

1. **Waxahachie Daily Light**
2. **Athens Daily Review**
3. **Sulphur Springs News - Telegram**
4. **Stephenville Empire Tribune**

Division 3

1. **Wise County Messenger:** Best headlines I have seen all day.
2. **Terrell Tribune**
3. **Breckenridge American**
4. **Hood County News**

Division 4

1. **Mineola Montior:** Charlie's gators are no angels - Nice, how often can you work Charlie's Angels into a headline. It's not a tiger but downtown parking stripes to change - My least favorite of your three. Maybe trying just a little too hard. A penchant for puzzles - clever, creative, draws you in.
2. **Iowa Park Leader:** A team to Ponder - Nice play on coach's name. Arno's nose knows - very creative, really makes you want to read the story. IP goes GOP - Careful with too many acronyms - 67% of headline is initials, but it works.
3. **Mount Vernon Optic-Herald:** Inflation eating away at food budget for prisoners - Clever, I like it. Try to keep it active voice throughout. Burglar at bait shop... - Try to avoid the early preposition...Bait shop burgler has a better ring to it. But I like it, clever and creative. Lowry closes the cover as church organist - Nice.
4. **Winnsboro News:** Rosie the Riveter takes a ride - Nice tie in of obscure name of women workers, but it makes you think a little hard. Making the moo-ve to chickens - very creative, a la Chick-fil-A, A little misleading because the headline makes you think they just switched, but story says six years ago. The Untouchables - Very solid. I like the layout style as well.

Division 5

1. **Glen Rose Reporter:** Bling loving suspect - really creative without trying too hard to be clever. How often to get to use "bling" in a headline for a serious story. Home Sweet Hive - simple, effective and clever. Headline tells story and

draws you in. Jule's little Jewels - Nice. Not great by part of really strong entry.

2. **The Farmsville Times:** A Christmas to Remember - fun sub head to use one Christmas carol, it catches your eye and draws you in. We've got friends in Lowe's places - I get it - staff likes music - It works and is fun, but try not to go to same well too often. Shouldn't the sub head say "home improvement store..." not story? Show and tails, Another nice clever headline. Solid if not spectacular. Side note: photo with story looks like its cropped wrong. Animal heads aren't visible.

3. **McGregor Mirror** - It is rocket science! - I like it, Contradicts what everyone says about something that shouldn't be hard. Fits the story very well. Get your 'jingle'on - not sure I like the attempt at a festive font, but it catches your eye when you look at the page. Success - SpaceX launch makes history - Appropriate weight and location for history making story. To the point. Just curious, why is their no byline on the top story in paper? It's not a news release, I hope. No quotes?

4. **The Dublin Citizen:** Economy puts the squeeze on milk men - Make me think of the guys in all white uniforms, dropping glass cartons on the front step. Fun, but does it match the lede well enough? Its all 'right' for Erath voters - Best of your submissions. Like the use of red to emphasize the right wing - helps make story stand out on a busy page. Bank passes 'notes' to Dublin - Why use ' ' on notes? I like the concept and headline without it.

Division 6

1. **Keene Star:** Fun times no more, Residents want to grow the economy and Txdot sees the light - all three entries are creative and do a good job pulling key details from the story into headline, as you show with the underlining.

2. **The Overton Press:** Zephyr: The Long Paw of the Law - Everyone loves a good dog story, especially if it come with a great headline. Wise Guy compliments crooked ways of players - Nice stand against crime against our industry. Clever and appropriate.

3. **The Sachse News:** Weeks at Sachse strength - Nice play on Kid's name in headline for picture. It works too because strength is the opposite of weak. Rain puts kibosh on parade, but kaboom kept in July celebration - nice alliteration with kaboom and kibosh in same headline. Leaner times, 'green' thinking grow new food trends - last part of the headline lost in graphic. You have to be aware of that in layout.

4. **Murphy Monitor:** Cornucopia of contests highlights Maize Days events - Nice blending, creative, original. Very good. Mom and Pop stores move home - A little vague. Aviary Park off to flying start, but some feathers still ruffled - Headline is for the birds, couldn't resist. I like it and its balanced with both sides of the story represented. Well done

Page Design

Division 1

1. The Lufkin Daily News: Excellent front page. The feature headline “All Aboard!” really stands out and the size of and colors in the picture draw you in. Nice use of graphics on the sidebar. Only suggestion on front – the 5-deck subhead is a little too wordy. Interesting opinion page - like the cartoon in the center. The “charm” section was also laid out nicely – very eye catching and unique. Nice pictures on Sports page, but the main headline is way too small – its smaller than the bottom one.

2. The Daily Sentinel: It was very hard to choose between The Daily Sentinel and the first place paper. The front page is full of innovation – love the graphics and it is very easy to read. Very interesting Opinion page – layout makes it easy to read. The Sports section – was the paper’s strongest point – great use of photo, cut outs and graphics – very clean. The Food section was also very interesting – good use of purple throughout and awesome pictures.

3. Texarkana Gazette: Interesting front page – great pictures and use of graphics. The four-deck subhead on the right-hand side is a little too much though. Nice photos on sports page, but not a big fan of the layout. Swimming headline is too close to the photo – too blocky as well. Nice Opinion page – easy to read. However, the best part was the “Accent” section – great pictures, graphics and layout.

4. The Herald Banner: Overall, an interesting-looking paper, just not on the same level as some of the others. Would have been nice to see actual photos on the front. It’s also a little difficult to read the font with all caps. Too many decks on the front and Sports pages. Nice Opinions page though. The “Sunday Brunch” section is very eye-catching.

Division 2

1. Waxahachie Daily Light: Design is very well put together. Like Headline fonts, but feel front page is too cluttered. Teaser “inside” column is too wide. Opinion page is well done as is Lifestyle page. Sports is strongest part of paper. One suggestion is to add a second headline font and make it Roman.

2. Henderson Daily News: Front page is well done and definitely makes me want to buy it in a rack. Sports is very good and the features and elements work together. Headlines on Opinion page are too close to text.

3. Stephenville Empire-Tribune: Front page needs more spacing between stories and lines. Main head should be bigger. Scoreboard graphic is good. Don’t like centered headlines make them stretch across columns. Like Lifestyles page and Sports is very well laid-out. Opinion page has same spacing issues as front page. Big headlines and big photos would help with catching readers eyes.

Division 3

1. The Terrell Tribune: Great front page – really like the feature story layout – very clever. The pictures are a little dark, however. Nice use of graphics on Sports page and great Opinion page – very professional looking. The “Lifestyles” section is also very innovative and interesting.

2. Hood County News: Liked the use of the six-column photo as main art on the front page. It’s very easy to read and has nice graphics. Photos are a little dark, however. Opinions page is interesting, but a little blocky, as is the Sports page. Great photo on sports through. The “Life” section is the paper’s strongest point – very colorful and modern looking. Nice use of photos and graphics.

3. Wise County Messenger: All pages have too much white space on them. Good use of color on front and great typography. Like the idea on the Sports page – as well as the photos. The “Trekking the Trinity” section is very innovative and interesting to look at.

4. Burleson Star: Too much white space in the front page headlines and not enough main art above the fold. The photos are interesting though. The Sports page is good, except for the headlines above the fold being the same column size. Nice design features, however.

Division 4

1. The Wylie News: Dynamite lead photo pulls me into A1 and the graphic gives a nice touch; ‘art fest’ awkward with clumsy cutouts; Opinion is clean and easy to read; Sport leans on dominant art, header, and it works.

2. Iowa Park Leader: Don’t like A1, even with good football photo; Opinion is awkward with ‘police activity’ within column; good photos do not translate to a good layout (see Sports); in general, use dynamite sports pictures to anchor design instead of substituting for design.

3. Lake Country Sun: The front page has some issues – such as the six-column header – but its not boring, ‘Life’ could be cleaner by unboxing wild art, Sport is uninspired and needs dominant art/header, clean ‘Opinion’ page.

4. Winnsboro News: Lots of action on A1, but little effectiveness, and drop the purple box, Opinion has too many lines under headers and tag lines, needs a deep cleansing, Sports draws readers in with dominant art, family page is cluttered. Whoever laid out sports needs to get on other pages.

Division 5

1. The Farmersville Times: Questionable decision to submit your special issue because I’d like to see a ‘routine’ A1, but its clever, Editorial page makes good use of white space; spring photos are packaged nicely; Sports does a smart job to lean on strong ‘girls’ photo.

2. Tri County Leader: Nice layout on A1 that could use a dominant header; ‘Lifestyles’ is ho-hum, but readable; really clean Opinion page and I love the Bulletin Board look;

Sports has good photos, but needs dominant art.

3. The Princeton Herald: Lovely montage on A1 draws readers in; Opinion very gray and could use some art in library column; the snow photos are a little uninspired with the layout; Sports font is exceptional with dominant art and side graphics.

4. Mart Messenger: Purple is painful on A1, as is the layered design; Sports is uninspired, but 'On the Avenue' has a nice movement with the sidebar column, Community is easy to read.

Division 6

1. The Malakoff News: Very clean layout on A1 with good use of dominant art and sidebar. Very clean Community page that could use a one-column art in the calendar, reader-friendly with both Sports and 'Living Well'. Overall, keeps design simple and clean for readers. Well done.

2. The Sachse News: Good, readable movement on A1, but the 'Victory' cut needs a cleaner look; Sports relies on massive photo that is good, not great, Opinion is clean, but please 86 the graphic clip art of a pen, 'Boating' can't match ambition of masthead.

3. Joshua Star: Front page is good, but a tad cluttered, especially with a filler on the bottom! Love the 'Word on the Street' column opinion; Sports is solid; 'Stock Market' font is overwrought.

4. Murphy Monitor: Good movement again on A1, and I like the teasers; graphics give movement to Opinion, but they are a bit overused throughout; very readable Sports front; 'In Focus' a tad too busy with clip art.

News Writing

Division 1

1. The Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel: Michelle Marcotte – Extensive coverage with multiple resources. Good job! You went above and beyond routine reporting. It's obvious you were out there – working the scene and the neighborhood. Trent Jacobs – Writing is heads and tails above the other entries. Your story is what took these entries from a really close tie with the place 2 entries to first place. Great initiative.

2. Herald-Banner: Brad Kellar and Derek Price – Million Dollar Makeover – First I have to say – it was a very hard decision for place 1- you only missed it by a fraction! This story was a great job of really going out there and personalizing what this would mean to the people who actually use this park! This could have been a little shorter, it kind of got bogged down in details and that is why you ended up in 2nd place. Still an amazing job! - New Light Shed – Great job of exploring and exposing all of the possible ways the wrong – or right – decisions could affect this community. Definitely went above and beyond a simple taxing story. Well done!

3. The Paris News: Mary Madewell – I like that you went

beyond just reporting the facts, but its still at its basics a press release with some commentary quotes. Krista Goerte – Good, exhaustive reporting. Unfortunately, I got exhausted trying to read it. Could have tightened it up some to keep readers interest.

4. Texarkana Gazette: Brandy Chewing – News value on this story is great. I'm outraged by the inequality of the situation and I don't even live there. I would have liked to see you explore the disparity between the rich neighborhood and the poor neighborhood more. Jump issues. Lynn LaRowe – Basically its just a trial story. There's nothing extraordinary here.

Division 2

1. Waxahachie Daily Light: Joann Livingston – 8 Miles Away – Oh my goodness!!! They left a little old lady at the Casino?? A real page turner! Write kept it interesting and suspenseful. Great use of multiple sources. Great investigative work. Nice headline! - Chief fires Officers – Oh my goodness!!! They tasered a handcuffed man?? What the heck? Again, great story, couldn't put it down. Excellent, excellent us of FOI!! Multi sources, great investigative work. You left all the other entries behind in the dust! Keep up the good work!

2. Gainesville Daily Register: Greg Russell – Engaging writer, nice incorporation of friends comments. Nice descriptive style of writing. Kind of a "featurey" news story. Pamela Robinson – Good writing style. Too featurey to be considered a news story. You got second place in news because even though this is more of a feature the news value was way above entries behind.

3. Henderson Daily News: Matthew Prosser – Lawsuit – ho-hum. You going to have to step it up to compete in this division. - SE Rusk – slightly more interesting. You should have included the quote "I really think they are watching us" way closer to the top. Your lede could have been; Some elderly residents feel they are being stalked, by robbers/burglars..." etc. to make it more interesting and compelling.

4. Athens Daily Review: Rich Flowers - "about 9"? Was she 9 or wasn't she? I got distracted from the story trying to figure out how someone could be "about" 9. Shortly, thereafter, you "news" story disintegrated into a bullet list. Yikes. Jayson Larson – Redemption of sorts. Story is pretty compelling. Not seeing any above and beyond work that would win awards here.

Division 3

1. Wise County Messenger: Brandon Evans – Lots of great quotes. Paints a picture.- Love the descriptive language.

2. Kilgore News Herald: James Draper – Excellent all around. Great quotes and very illuminating re: legal issues. J. Louise Larson – A bit dense in the beginning, but a solid take on a complicated issue. It was a bit long too.

3. Hood County News: Kathy Cruz – Very entertaining. A

bit long, but I soldiered on and it was worth it. Great kicker.
- Informative. Didn't like "killed were..."

Division 4

1. Wills Point Chronicle: Randal Brewer – Fire Destroys...
- Clearly written, good details. I would have like to see more sources. - Teens Injured... - No information on the driver's injuries. Clearly written.

2. Van Zandt News: Terry Britt – Dress Wearing – Clearly written, good facts. - Signs, Debates – Well-written jumps around a bit, but well researched.

3. The Pittsburg Gazette: Kim Cox – Fire burns lake house... - Through coverage. Writing is a bit stilted at times. Susan Taft – Camp county's most famous voice.. - more of a feature than news. Well-written, but needed more sources.

4. Rockwell County Herald-Banner: Jim Hardin – School Intruder – Well-written, good clarification of the facts. Story is cut off, could have gotten a much higher ran with a little better copy-editing. - The Road – Bullet points bog the story down, should have been at the end.

Division 5

1. Tri County Leader: Don Treul – Whitehouse annexation – Excellent lead! Best in division. Story well done. Writer takes a fairly ho-hum (from a outsider) news item and crafts an award winning story. Great job with quotes! Suzanne Loudamy – Troup elections – Excellent presentation. Watch the lead that's too long. Writer puts a good effort into presenting facts and quotes in a nice manner.

2. Glen Rose Reporter: Kathryn Jones – Job application – Be careful – lead is too long. Don't try to pack in all details in first paragraph. Excellent job investigating all city employees. Kudos to you being the watchdog. Very informative! - Kidnapping – Another lead that's too long. Good job using, FOI requests to obtain further information. The presentation of the story is very straight forward and easy to read. Excellent Job!

3. Dublin Citizen: Mac B. McKinnon – Post Office could be shell – Try no to have a "The" lead. Excellent job pulling together all sides of a controversial issue. Very easy to read – He wanted to Help – interesting character and story topic. I was drawn in by the straight forward presentation.

4. The Olney Enterprise: Mindi Kimbro – Storm causes damage – Good straight forward writng style and use of quotes. Would have like to have read quotes from residents/ folks in community affected. - Chase – Average presentation and lead. I did like the depth of this story and how many details you were able to pull out. Excellent use of quotes.

Division 6

1. Keene Star: Paul Gnadl – Huguley – Excellent lead! Brings reader right in. Nice use of quotes as well. Fairly bland story told extremely well. - TxDot – Another fine ex-

ample of how to write a lead. Story nice and succinct.

2. Joshua Star: Ricky Moore and Brian Porter – Robles Rumble – Excellent story and subject matter told well. Very emotional. What a touching story. The writer did an excellent job putting all the quotes and details together. Brian Porter – Dynamite – Straight forward lead and interesting story. Fairly simple and short story.

3. Alvarado Star: Christopher Amos – Man on Mission – Excellent snappy lead. Not sure if this is a news story as it is written in the first person. Reads like a column, but job well done. - Student survives traumatic crash – Straight forward lead. I would have put first quote as the second paragraph. It says what you state. Touching story.

4. Murphy Monitor: Jamie Engle – MPD – Interesting news subject. Straight forward lead and storytelling. Donnita Nesbit Fisher – EPIC Event – Good lead and detail of subject matter. All-in-all a wonderful package of a story that feels like a feature instead of news. Storytelling draws reader in.

Sports Coverage

Division 1

1. The Daily Sentinel: March 21 – Headlines need work, nothing really catchy and banner head is kind of dull; Range of coverage is lacking as it is male sports heavy; Design is very clean, but photo selection could have been better; Headline sizes for center piece and banner are too close to the same size. March 28 – Very nice layout, headline writing is better; Like the pullout box on coach story; One thing is column size on bottom should be smaller, may be 5 columns over 6 column grid. Still lacks girls sports coverage. Overall, very good!

2. Greenville Herald-Banner: Aug. 28 – Like big bold headlines that jump off the page, very clean layout. “Inside” box location is a bit distracting, maybe move it to top or bottom of column. Need more than one photo on page. Writing is very good. Love this page despite lack of photos. March 21 – Like this page. Photos are exciting and well cropped. There is a little too much dead space on Basketball photo, but other than that not bad. Agate with all district Basketball should be at top of column with story wrapping around it.

3. Lufkin Daily News: April 10 – too many photos! Softball photo at bottom is facing away from story. No need for two six-column headlines at top, change it up. Writing is very good, best in division. Less photos better range would have made it perfect. March 31, 2010 – Headlines are good, photos make the page, but still too many. Quality of writing is good. Headlines on bottom two stories below fold are a little small. Good section otherwise.

4. The Paris News: Oct. 17 – Lacks range of coverage. Section is all local except for NFL page on 9C, which is outstanding. Volleyball coverage is buried and easily lost. Maybe use teaser on front page! Two double deck headlines at top of page is distracting. Like the “Sports Extra” Banner. Dec. 26 – I am a sucker for All Area teams and like how the whole section with exception of 1 AP story, is used for All-Area team. Photos are good, but same pose is use on 3 to 4 main photos on front page. Mix it up a bit. Otherwise, nice job.

Division 2

1. Athens Daily Review: March 14 – Love Main Package! Capsule with easy reads makes pages sing. Very clean layout with lots of good photos. Looks like a section you would see in a metro daily. Kudos! Nov. 14 – Again, very nice consistent layout, Main photo is catchy and I like that volleyball playoffs got some play on front page on an obvious football section, Again well done

2. Henderson Daily News: Dec. 9 – Very nice coverage of state title game. You can tell a lot of work went into this. May 23 – Great job with space you had to work with. Baseball package was good as the softball playoff story.

3. Waxahachie Daily Light: March 7 – Great overall section. Lots of good photos and great range of coverage. Like teaser box at bottom. May 2 – Overall Nice Layout! Like the pullout box teasing inside with football story. Nice Job!

4. Stephenville Empire-Tribune: Nov. 21 – Very good looking section. Girls are buried inside. Makes it seem they are not really important. Like the main package. Dec. 5 – Nice package with football. Like emotion shots.

Division 3

1. The Terrell Tribune: Dec. 12 – Well designed page, good photos, good balance between text and photos. Like schedule down the side. Oct. 3 – Great range of coverage and nice photos. Photo on top of story is facing away from story, but it does not kill effectiveness of page. Overall Great Job.

2. Wise County Messenger: Nov. 14 – Nice package on Alvord game. Design is nothing special as text is broken up with photos. Range of coverage is lacking. Volleyball and Softball stuff is buried on pages 4B and 5B. Too much white space. March 14 – Lots of white space! Still lacks range on front page. Male sports dominate.

3. Hood County News: March 17 – Good balance between coverage of boys and girls sports. Bolding headlines on top stories is confusing. Do not like the two-column outline. Great use of pullout boxes. Nov. 3 – Great use of Big Bold headline. Range of coverage is lacking as it is football heavy. Of course, this is Texas!

4. Breckenridge American: Dec. 22 – I bet there are a lot of happy parents with this section. Photos are exciting and effective. Don’t really like “Dog Leg” of briefs box as it is distracting. Nov. 10 – Good range of coverage. Not a fan of posed photos, but they work. Stay clear of two-column cut lines.

Division 4

1. The Wylie News: April 14 – Dynamic sports front page that really pulls me in. Lots of sports, lots of information. And I always love standings. Nice job. Watch the ledes: “The Pirates...” is way to common. Good work, hard work! A clear winner. Dec. 1 – Strong header on B1, Love it! Lots of coverage and photos. Be mindful of lead photo quality. And the athletic schedule is always good to have! Details like that make for a strong section.

2. Mineola Monitor: March 31 – solid B1, I like the creative use of a pull quote. Wide range of coverage and the springs sports section gives readers names and faces. Nov. 24 – Love that football garners A1 mention. Writer does a nice job of translating passion for sport in a small town. I’d like some stats with all the football coverage.

3. Iowa Park Leader: March 4 – What a dynamite photo of the catcher on 1B. I like that you’re not afraid to fill the space with his photo. And you have a good range of sports. Nov. 11 – again good photos. But why bury football and playoff volleyball inside the section? Not a fan of B1 photo

spread.

4. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald: Oct. 14 and March 18 – Editor squeezes lots of information into tight spaces. Not the most visually arresting paper, but includes lots of names, faces, and stats. Love the stats, but make an effort to cover “smaller” sports like cross country and tennis.

Division 5

1. The Farmersville Times: March 18 and Oct. 7 – Love the dominant art in both issues. And I love the bold headers. Both issues do a good job of covering multiple sports. Liven up the leads; every B1 story on March 18 starts with “The.”

2. Tri County Leader: Oct. 14 and Dec. 9 – Strong, hold layout with dominant art, and nice job including box scores and standings. Little more legwork, but readers appreciate it. Well-written stories, but where’s the byline? I would place a tournament title in hoops above the fold and above an all district team. Good mixture of boys and girls, but please diversify the head and font size.

3. The Princeton Herald: May 20 – Excellent use of blending photos emotions with the header. Good way to play up his baseball win. Dec. 23 – Nice layout, but it’s easy to rely on photos form SIDs, but it was the holidays, right?

4. Mart Messenger: June 24 and Dec. 2 – Very good writing from a scribe with flair. Nice to have a football box score. The “Panther Lore” sidebar is a nice feature for readers.

Division 6

1. Murphy Monitor: March 4 and Sept. 9 – Like Ford’s other paper in Sachse, good writing and design basics. A little creativity would help in design. Good range of coverage. Great lead photo, and good photos throughout Solid section if unimaginative. Good work! Use of excellent photos lifts you to the top.

2. The Sachse News: March 11 and Sept. 2 – Lots of photos, lots of faces. And lots of good ledes! Section could use some stats/standings. Good coverage of all fall sports and I like the box with the football story.

3. Crowley Star: March 25 – Solid B1, perhaps dominant art/header would capture more attention.

4. Alvarado Star: March 11 and Nov. 11 – Moore is a busy guy! Quality in the star papers south of DFW hurts quality of individual sections. But what can Ricky do? Good job, Ricky! Good coverage, nice photos and limited design. Again, good writing. I’d like to see what this reporter could do with more space.

Feature Photo

Division 1

1. **The Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel:** Andrew Rogers - "No Justice" photo - Very strong shot, great composition. A bit more contrast (in photoshop?) Could have perked up photo some - The dog is great! Andrew D. Brosig - Yoga - great wide angle, composition and lighting.

2. **Texarkana Gazette:** Evan Lewis - Twilight - strong "atmospheric" shot, nice composition, tree at far right adds that little extra to shot. Evan Lewis - Cross - strong graphic lines and composition. Focus absolutely nailed - looks like viewer could lift his sunglasses right off his face.

3. **The Lufkin Daily News:** Joel Andrews - Pizza - You could sell this shot to Pizza Hut, even if its arranged? Who cares! Nice close up and composition. Are these kids related!! Joel Andrews - Hands in the Sand - Ah kids and their toys, very nice shot. His parents must have loved this shot - sharp focus.

4. **The Paris News:** Sam Craft - Summer Sights - nice close up - hurray! For newspapers who don't worry when public says, "But you chopped off their head!" Rain - Is that the Eiffel Tower or one of the muppets in disguise? An interesting, abstract photo.

Division 2

1. **Gainesville Daily Register:** Raccoons - very good reaction in getting photo before raccoons changed position. Coloring seems a little "too purple" in reproduction. Nice 'Kid' shot - a little better focus could have made this a stronger shot, but still good action.

2. **Athens Daily Review:** Winter scene - a nice postcard shot, reminds me of Wisconsin in winter. Focus a bit soft, but hey that didn't hurt the Impressionist era painters a bit!! Nice "community support" pictures.

3. **Waxahachie Daily Light:** Balloon - nice composition and action. Focus not too sharp, reproduction a little "ink heavy". Still a fun shot to view.

4. **Sulphur Springs News-Telegram:** Drill team - nice wide angle shot a bit grainy and soft focus. At sunset experiment sometimes with deciding to shoot with a mono pod or even tripod, for a few shots even though its sports.

Division 3

1. **Wise County Messenger:** Bi-plane - So good, it looks photoshopped - Not! A shot Dallas Morning News or A.P. would probably love to have, Courthouse position and early morning/late afternoon (?) light adds 50% to photo. Great positioning and angle on climber, calendar quality of climbers.

2. **Breckenridge American:** Water ski - surreal! Excellent photo. Organ - Nice people interaction photo.

3. **Kilgore News-Herald:** Boys with Chicken - Great shot,

good choice to "focus" on youth's face, instead of chicken. Slanted angle draws you into photo. Again, photo up against stiff competition. Great expression on girls face, crisp focus. Nice tight shot.

4. **Hood County News:** Baseball youth - great expression. Masters of Disaster - nice motion in background.

Division 4

1. **Iowa Park Leader** - "Boy on Tractor" Hot-diggity-dog! I dare anyone to look at this photo and NOT smile. It epitomizes "feature" with TOTAL eye appeal. It's the one by which I measure all others. Thankfully, someone recognized it for what it is and gave it some very appreciative six-column play. "Happy New Year" Beautiful hues help this silhouetted windmill and farmstead jump off the page. There's obvious talent at work here and hopefully it's given due credit. But, also, take the time to thank your press man for excellent reproduction quality. Note: Tractor boy should have been identified in outline.

2. **Rockwall County Herald Banner** - "Raindrops" This image is the result of a wonderful effort that wows readers. We're given such minute detail that this is probably the best shot in the division in terms of reproduction quality. Plus, the outline is the best I've seen. "Season of Celebration" Several weeklies submitted, Santa visit photos, but the golden lighting that creates a nearly nostalgic feel and beautiful composition of this one, is a step above the rest. It makes us feel the wonder and mystery of Old St. Nick. Well done!

3. **Lake Country Sun** - "What I really Want Is..." An adorable expression and dreamy quality on this faded edged entry make this photo not just another Santa visit, picture that anyone's Mom could've snapped with a point and shoot. Nice, professionalized! "Surreal Cyclists" This well-framed shot makes me want to climb on my bike during a sloppy wet day. Well, not really, but still cool effects. Also - I appreciate the brave choice in leaving so much gray sky in the frame. It makes the image work.

4. **Mineola Monitor** - "Sunny One Day..." Thanks for giving us a nice visual break from winter weather. Nice composition and thought behind this one. Branch in foreground through middle of subjects is a bit distracting could've used it as a framing tool for better impact. "Froggy Leaper" Miss Jackson definitely has a leap frog stance and you picked a great way to show it. This shot is the result of split second timing by a photographer who has a nice eye for creative detail -- even under the pressure of a stopwatch. Good Job!!

Division 5

1. **The Farmersville Times** - "Celebrating Big Win" This image is far and away the tops of this division. Veigel's eye captures all the emotion of a "crowning" moment -- good action, good lighting (people against a pitch - black sky is tough and you pulled it off!), good informative outline -- Great Job! "O Holy Night" Veigel yet again treats Farmersville's read-

ers to a photo that's visually interesting. Thankfully, it's NOT another Santa Claus shot, but instead an image reminding all of the season's religious significance. Nice!!

2. Deport Times/Blossom Times - "Taking A Spin" Flat-out Adorable! Irwin's mid-dance glance captures the essence. (The sweetness, the fun, etc.) of a sockhop. It's proof that beautifully - done black and white photos can still win over audiences (even in a four-color world). "Think Basketball" -- Corso scores points with readers by picturing this young girl putting her head into the game. It is certainly a less traveled route than showing a kid dribbling, but in this case it's more powerful and tells the story. Awesome job to you Both!

3. Glen Rose Reporter - "Ladder To The Moon" Jones eclipses any absence of faces/emotion with a striking visual. It's my second favorite individual shot of this division because of its amazing angling, rich blues and oranges and captivating creativity. I bet it made the fire department's bulletin board! "Kisses for Santa" In a twist of the traditional visit with Santa Shot, Hoodenpyle's image shows Santa getting a gift of his own -- a peck on the cheek from an admirer. Keep in mind that a full flash would've minimized shadows and helped the image "pop" off the page. Nice work!

4. The Princeton Herald - "Fireworks Show" This is absolutely one of the best July 4th fireworks shots I've seen. Fike puts readers in the audience, gives a location reference (the water tower) and shares the show of colors against a dusk sky. Nice! (It should've run six column wide, pushing the other shots inside.) "A Secret with Santa" Engle's precisely timed shutter shares a cute kid's visit with Santa. Zooming in tighter to eliminate non-essential back-ground "noise" (the car, building etc.) would've amped up the youth's expressive and better served the message. Good job from you both!

Division 6

1. The Overton Press - "Clearly, It Takes A Licking" Awesome photo! Technically, Heldenbrand's photo surpasses most others, but it is the sheer creativity spilling forth that raises it above all others. Thank you for an excellent example for the rest of us in the biz. This is my favorite of all weeklies - absolutely. "Payton Hits Paydirt" Don't be fooled by this photo's simple appearance of a kid with a fish on the line. The expertise at work with the background is "off the hook" delightful. It only looks like an ordinary thing to get (kind of like when ice skaters make jumps look so darn simple).

2. Alvarado Star - "Respect For Heroes" Wow! A photo we can feel. Many photographers can frame their subjects well, but Amos' composition / spacing is near perfect (boxing our emotions in right where he wants them) Also, his outline with its thorough and good back story is the very best among the weeklies. "Hoggin The Show" In this shot, Amos' swings us from somber reflection to giggling amusement -- a move that's rare to find as cleanly and clearly as he does it. Winning diversity and a fantastic photo in its own right. Next time, smooth out cut-out edges and avoid the distraction of

overprint text. Your photos are strong enough without it.

3. The Lake Cities Sun - "The Angry Friar" One can just about smell the fish and crips on crisp night air and sense socializing in line because of the slight motion blur and mood lighting in McClendon's image of an English double decker bus - turned - rolling restaurant. Definitely an attention grabber! "Jay Jay Sanchez" McClendon reveals The Lake Cities Sun's diversity in this frank portrait of an earnest boxer. With precise lines and "heart" (plus up-front placement of the gloves) this photo does what good feature pictures do -- it tells us volumes about the subject before we ever read a single word.

4. Murphy Monitor - "Sanctuary Dinosaur" What a gem! It's my second favorite individual feature shot for all weeklies. Surprise, suspense, horror, humor -- Veigel's photo has it all. Remember to run such extraordinary shots much larger, but only if they match their accompanying stories in tone. "Hands-On Open House" Way to seize a nice shot! How many times do we miss golden opportunities in our communities simply because they seem ordinary? Engel's image proves that creativity goes a long way toward sparking reader interest. (For next time: Better angles help you avoid distracting backgrounds.)

News Photo

Division 1

- 1. The Lufkin Daily News:** Fire – Emotional shot, great composition – You feel couple “will survive” from their body language. Motorcycle Wreck – You can almost feel impact of motorcycle. Great composition, leading to “Comfort hug” in background – Focus nailed!
- 2. Texarkana Gazette:** Up in Flames – If a photo ever made a fire “beautiful” this is it! Even with the blacks, you can see some detail. Off Rails - “Decisive moment” of waiting till person is between cars – nice choice of viewing angle. Strong focusing in shot!
- 3. The Paris News:** Stand Off – Very strong news shot, but as per rules judge had to “consider both photos as one entry.” Two other papers just had a stronger “combined” effect. If the focus had been a bit sharper in this strong entry – it might have carried competition by itself – Man’s gun is hard to see, if it weren’t for info in outline.
- 4. Herald-Banner:** Bridge scare – Good effort to gets shot, even if view doesn’t have the ‘sense of potentially deadly drop space’ under the man – nice composition. * (misspelling of “form”/from on front page Not too good)

Division 2

- 1. Sulphur Springs News-Telegram:** Fire – Great wide angle shot. Good camera exposure, too. Plane shot – a bit fuzzy it looks like “press plate” may have been out of register from seeing ‘two layers’ in view at left edge of photo.
- 2. Waxahachie Daily Light:** Storm – Nice shot.
- 3. Athens Daily Review:** Stabbing – Gruesome, but good spots news photo, that’s how crime is sometimes. Nice composition – Reproduction a bit ‘mushy’
- 4. Henderson Daily News:** When you can’t get close to a crime scene – a little innovative framing helps, as this photo shows cone “dead center” leads eye right into photo.

Division 3

- 1. Wise County Messenger:** Fire – my face felt like it was getting singed holding this page! Nice composition, color quality – must have nice photo gear! But talent is more important, which shows through here.
- 2. Hood County News:** Fire – excellent spot news shot, especially with man’s arms raised.
- 3. Breckenridge American:** Flag – Flags in right light usually make good photos – this photo has really nice composition with man’s face ‘cutting’ the edge of flag. Glad you did not hit him with fill-flash. Fire – again, nice composition.
- 4. The Light and Champion:** Fire – solid framing on shot. Outlines should be able to stand on their own and answer, Who, What, Why – If, as in story, “No Word” was given for a reason of raid, they say so in outline.

Division 4

- 1. The Winnsboro News -** “Repairing the Damage” Terrific photo! This image is the product of a photographer who through snow and slush -- left the comfort zone to deliver readers straight to the action. It’s a great example of on-the-spot coverage, it’s impeccably framed, reproduced well and completed by a clean outline. No. 2 - “The Agony of Defeat” Wow! This image perfectly conveys the emotional turmoil of this event! I’m certain it was chose only after the photographer/editor carefully weighed the news subjects right to privacy with the importance of sharing the essence of what transpired with an entire community.
- 2. Iowa Park Leader -** “Good Smooch” Great shot! Stock show photos can be dull, but this one is absolutely a delight! A little washed out on the facial tones, but otherwise good quality and great timing. This made your paper a very close second behind your division leader. No. 2 - “Highway Hay Ride” This photo could have been much improved had it been positioned so we could see the wreckage more clearly. The red truck is there, but the others disappear in the night. Lots-o-hay still makes the grade for its unusual nature.
- 3. Lake Country Sun -** “Roll-Over” Great shot! It sums up the wreck well, but its reproduction is distracting. It appears low in resolution perhaps because its registration is slightly off. Also, I wanted more from your outline -- who is the third man in the photo you did not identify? Also, what’s the updated status of the driver? 2 - “Gate Down” - Good job on putting a visual on a community wide issue. Kudos for keeping your readers up to date on their surrounding environment. Next time, when you don’t have the element of human interaction, add interest with creative angles.
- 4. Tie - Pittsburg Gazette -** “Tricycle near Fire” Cool shot! You definitely delivered to your readers some great on-the-scene timing and content with this one! If we judged solitary photos in this category, this image would rank very highly. As it is, however, we must consider both photos as a single entry and... the No. 2 - “Post Fire Photo” lacked the same impact. Although after-the-fact, it could have been helped greatly by the inclusion of the human element-- such as arson, investigation combing for clues or homeowners searching for anything to salvage. Avoid stating the obvious in outlines. Love the photo in large format. P. S. Would have liked to see more diverse topics.
- 4. Tie - The Marlin Democrat -** “Marlin Family Fire” This is one of the best fire photos in a tough division! Good framing, good play and darn good spot coverage. Don’t take away from such quality with distracting mistakes (i.e. the outline that reads - in bold type - “Marlin Family Loses Everything”) Use fresh eyes to proof! No. 2 - “To Drain Or Not to Drain...” Good photo that reflects a recurring flooding issue. The barricade isn’t a very good visual scale for how deep the water is. Can cars drive through? Could something else have conveyed the severity better? Don’t always settle for the cliché road sign.

Division 5

1. Glen Rose Reporter - "Gas Line Inferno" Holy Mackerel! What an on-the-spot-at-just-the-right-time shot with good composition, awesome color reproduction and great action. I'm glad this photo got the ink and space that one of this caliber deserves. Cutline was lacking, but the impact of this image had me engrossed to car. Top job! No. 2 - "Buckin Broncs" Your readers are lucky that you get in the middle of the action so quickly on their behalf. This is a beautiful and unusual news shot hampered some by unfortunate shadows and the absence of people (in this same frame) trying to corral them into control. Plus, a cutline could have helped snag readers to delve deeper into the story.

2. The Farmersville Times - "Traffic Snarls Hwy. 380" Ohter photographers could learn a lot from this great wreck photo! Gary's shot is well-framed and concise in content -- taking readers close to see the damage and crews aiding a survivor (whose face is respectfully not shown) Things that could've made it better: much larger play and an improved print job. No. 2 - "Window front Shot Out" Nice job! This aftermath photo by Fike shows a lot of thought and a gifted eye for on-the-spot creation. It not only shows the damage, but also a frame-of-reference for tis location through a nice down-the-street angle. With such a good shot - don't be afraid to run it BIGGER.

3. Mart Messenger - "Crunch Time" - Nice framing on this shot takes readers close up to the action and a thorough cutline fills them in on the situation. The only thing that could have improved this shot would be for it to show people actively working the site rather than standing there looking as we are. No. 2 - "Christmas Spirit" - A creative well-framed shot to show big news in the readership -- the hometown team extending its season into the holidays and making it to state. Nearly as good as a shot that shows the hometown team celebrating the win.

4. The Dublin Citizen - "Tanks For the Memories" Awesome, awesome, awesome photo! I love your expansive framing that shows us the scope of where this is happening and includes people in the middle of the action. Your cutline could NOT have been more entertaining or appropriate. Terrific Job! Thank you for that. No. 2 - "Mess" Although static, this shot surely reveals the trashy situation left by neglectful customers. It would've had so much more impact had you shown city crews cleaning it up (helping readers realize their tax dollars have been the only things lifted by the perpetrators.)

Division 6

1. The Overton Press - "New London House Fire" Best shot of hte division by far! Terrific framing, good focus on the action and reproduction that's detailed enough (even on newsprint) that we can almost smell the cleared ruins. The firemen in the photo should have been identified. Other than that - EXCELLENT JOB - Congratulations! No. 2 - "Mock

Wreck" An eye-catching image that is bound to draw attention and awareness to a serious matter. Most of all, I appreciate how well you labeled the photo as a mock incident (and in bold, red ink too) so there isn't the slightest chance readers might be misled. Thak you for being upfront on that and resisting the urge to sensationalize.

2. Murphy Monitor - "Building Plans" Nice angling, good reproduction and attention paid to precise framing make this shot one of the best. Great Job!! You've given your readers a clear image that immediately sums up activity in the community that will affect so many. No. 2 - "Sanctuary Sues Water District" With muted tones and serene atmosphere, this photo literally lurers readers into a hard-hitting issue. At first glance, it seems like a feature photo. A closer look reveals a ploy to remind people of just what's at stake on both sides of an ongoing, local situation. Extra notes: 1.) This shot is a great example of when to center a subject in the frame! Doing so here lends the boater an air of solitude and serenity, which serves to punctuate the "sanctuary" part of your story. 2.) Thank you for an excellent cutline that accurately gets to the heart of the issue in very few words. Next time, go the extra mile and get the boaters's name and ask how he feels about the controversy. But, at the least, always I.D. your subjects.

3. Alvarado Star - "Memorial Walk" - In contrast to what readers might expect with a rodeo clown, this shot reveals a very somber man surrounded by walkers with serious expressions. Overall, this sets the tone and clues us in that something more is at work here than the obvious. It's great you have names in the cut, but worded awkwardly. No. 2 - "Two Alvarado Firefighters" Nice action shot that's proof positive this paper is willing to go straight to the action to bring it home for its readers. Some added contrast and sharpening would have helped it carry in newsprint (quality wise). Also, just a couple of suggestions: 1.) Never state the obvious in a cutline by decribing to the readers what they can see for themselves in a single glance. Instead of insulting thier intelligence (or boring them), why not go a little deeper and offer them some added information that draws them into a story wanting to learn more? 2.) About a week elapsed from the time of this fire and when you published it. You should have take some time after-the-fire- and gotten some identifications on the two firemen. Readers want to know who is in the photo. Do the leg work to be thorough and you'll be pleased with the feedback you'll get!

4. The Lake Cities Sun - "All Smiles" - Finally - a news photo that isn't all doom to gloom! When school starts, everyone in a community is talking. This quick peek in a school bus window captures all that excitement. Good job! As far as the cutline, you should have ID'd the kids - even if it meant visiting their school office. No. 2 - "Flags Dress the Grave" An image that cuts right to the subject at hand. Rather than the easier static, straight-on shot, next time challenge yourself to come up with an image that speaks volumes. Try to use more dramatic angling for added interest and include faces. (i.e. family, placing flowers at gravesite).

Sports Photo

Division 1

1. **Texarkana Gazette:** Baseball multi exposure – most unique of all entries. Creative and in focus. Wish I knew how to do that. Very, very cool. Sand blasted – Another great shot. Love how you can see the ball flying free. Cutline is a little out of order with “Thursday” in the wrong place. But that’s all I can say I’d change.

2. **The Paris News:** MVP – nice crisp photo, but doesn’t really do anything for me. To take up 2/3 of the above fold space – give us more than a guy holding a football. Pantherettes prevail – great photo of a significant moment in the game. Definitely in right place at right time. Everything is crisp, you can even see home plate and boy is she out by a mile.

3. **Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel:** Shot under pressure – Classic that the players name is Arsenio Hall. Nice emotion, great shot at intensity on shooters face. NHS players – lots of action, printing was off register every so slightly, giving it a bit of a blur. But I’m not sure the naked eye would notice.

4. **The Lufkin Daily News:** Pro day – very well done. You can almost read the tattoos on Dez’s arm. Cutline is misspelled. Too bad because its a great shot. Play at 2nd – another great photo. You can see the ball in glove and batting glove just reach the dirt. Maybe to dark on the print job.

Division 2

1. **Athens Daily Review:** Softball – cropped better than most softball pitcher shots I have seen. Most people forget about the batter, but it gives it great perspective. Out on 3rd – Really good shot. Like how the dust visibly obscures the base and a little of his face.

2. **Waxahachie Daily Light:** Red Oak misery – great emotional shot with the celebration in the background. Very sharp, printed well. Who is the Red Oak player hiding his eyes? Headed to state – solid photo that reproduced nicely. Not sure I would call it a 1A quality photo, but like I said it’s solid.

3. **Stephenville Empire-Tribune:** Aledo escapes – should I know that Westbrook plays for Stephenville and not Aledo? Nice shot full of emotion. Sweet 16 – Nice shot of runner trying to dodge tackler. Didn’t print well and it is dark.

4. **Henderson Daily News:** Going up – Okay shot. May be pan out to give more perspective? Lions going to state – Nice shot, but not great. Reproduced okay.

Division 3

1. **The Terrell Tribune:** Juggling catch – great shot – I really like that you can see receiver and defenders eyes clearly. Pole vault – great focus on facial expressions and the press treated you well.

2. **Burleson Star:** Sliding – very clear, good action and re-production. Cutline is complete. Walking off – very cool shot, especially with the celebration in the background.

3. **Wise County Messenger:** Final Statements – great photo and great production. Football – printed dark so you can’t see ball carriers face. Cutline doesn’t tell me anything I did not know immediately except for the names. The ball carrier is a little out of focus.

4. **The Graham Leader:** New era – no cutline to judge – would like to know who’s eyes we are seeing. A little dark, but that helps the reflection. Guarding – identify who Joseph is – outside readers don’t know. Cropping: don’t cut the guy with the basketball’s head off. Not much action in the shot.

Division 4

1. **Mineola Monitor:** Pitcher – good “impact” photo – feels like fastball is coming smack between my eyes. Nice celebration picture, including reaction of losing team in background.

2. **The Wylie News:** Softball – caught in mid-air, nice a little soft on focus, but that’s okay, because its a fun shot to look at. Hurdler – nice composition, of course pre-focusing on middle of hurdle is standard way to get this shot – perhaps a ¼ - ½ second before or after, he clears mid-air over the hurdle might offer a more interesting photo.

3. **Iowa Park Leader:** Football – nice sharp focus (flash accentuates the clarity of photograph “nailing” the focus here – nice, tight cropping too. Great expression on hurdler.

4. **The Winnsboro News:** Basketball – great action – you can “feel” opponents tugging on the ball. Focus not quite nailed, but still a solid shot.

Division 5

1. **The Princeton Herald:** great action and focus at 2nd base. Again the ‘decisive moment’ captured.

2. **Mart Messenger:** Tackled – timing and framing brings viewer right in on action – story and focus. Equally good timing on shot.

3. **The Farmersville Times:** Baseball – nice ‘freeze-frame’ good clarity and lens choice. Good timing on shot – might have cropped a little tighter.

4. **Olney Enterprise:** Slide at home – decisive moment – focus a bit mushy, perhaps affected by reproduction. Decent shot – perhaps a moment before or after when shutter was tripped might have caught more interesting action.

Division 6

1. **Murphy Monitor:** Football – clean, crisp and great action photo. Nice choice of lens – very good framing and action.

2. **Alvarado Star:** Baseball celebration – kind of like a Norman Rockwell painting of Little League – Focus not real sharp, but still very nice shot. Solid camera work, nice re-

production with greys, whites, and black. Like old school but with a photo lab.

3. The Sachse News: Golf – nice action. Even better action, especially with movement of umpire behind.

4. Crowley Star: Soccer – Great action, run photo bigger! When its this good. Nice to see a not-so-closeup shot, once in a while in football.

Journalist of the Year

Daily Division

1. Lufkin Daily News - Writer: Melissa Hayes - The clear winner in this category. These are the kinds of stories that get people talking that keep newspapers relevant. Interesting reads that show this writer has an intimate knowledge of the communities she covers. Awesome job!!

2. Henderson Daily News - Writer: Matthew Prosser - It's the small things that make this collection of work stand out. The little details, the turns of phrase the obvious thought that went into each story. Capital murder story in particular stands out for taking a look at an angle I've rarely - if ever - seen explained in a case where there was a change of venue.

3. Waxahachie Daily Light - Writer: Joann Livingston - Readers of this paper are very well served by a writer who is not afraid to dig through piles of records and ask the huge questions. First - person accounting of tasing was an excellent way to advance a story that obviously had many in the community up in arms.

4. Paris News - Writer: Krista Goerte - Nice variety of stories. This writer can obviously go back and forth between hard and soft news with ease. Love, love, love, the lede on the night club noise story. Brought a smile to my face - and, no doubt, many readers, too.

Semi-Weekly Division

1. Hood County News - Writer: Kathy Cruz - Long form reporting like this takes time - time many papers can't afford to give reporters these days. Props to management for allowing this, a big props to the writer who's skill at digging for the truth, asking tough questions and perusing public records is virtually unprecedented in a paper of this size. Readers are very well served.

2. Kilgore News Herald - Writer: James Draper - Really, really strong entry, ledes are catchy and make you want to keep reading. The CISD story was very even-handed and had me hooked beginning to end.

3. Wise County Messenger - Writer: Brandon Evans - Really strong voice in each of these stories. Distinctive writing style that can flex as needed to go between hard news and features. Column of pursuits is a nice extension of coverage of the incident and subsequent trial.

4. Burleson Star - Writer: Candise Montemayor - Nice selection of features! My face is the underground house what a great find that was.

Weekly Division

1. Mineola Monitor - Writer: Gary Edwards - Nice collection of long form features. All are on interesting topics and are fun leads. Great headline on gator story.

2. Dublin Citizen - Writer: Pal Gaudette - Very versatile talented writer, who appears to be comfortable covering just about anything thrown his way.

3. Farmersville Times - Writer: Wyndi Leigel - Nice job covering buzzy stories that no doubt had the community talking. EMS story in particular was riveting to read/follow.

4. Glen Rose Reporter - Writer: Kathryn Jones - Nice job digging through criminal records and finding city employee's checkered past. Hard news coverage at its best. All five pieces are very, very, strong, nicely done! Page Design

Photographer of the Year

Daily Division

1. Texarkana Gazette - Christena Dowsett - The creativity of your shots put you in first place, because it was very close. Your firefighter shot is great. I personally know how tough it is to capture smoke without blurring. Sand trap? Great way to capture this. and baseball? Wow! I imagine you still use film. If not, I'd like that technique. Good job overall.

2. Paris News - Sam Craft - This was really tough between 1st and 2nd place. Your sports and feature photos show great depth. The photo of the woman in the car was dark, so I'd say that put you in second. Love the summer sights shot.

3. Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - Andrew Rogers - The angles you take to shoot some photos are great. They give a different perspective. I like that. Track? Yes! Great Shot. The firefighters with the baby... Great clarity. And the firefighter foaming the oil fire. That is wonderful. You have some great ideas. Keep up the work.

4. Lufkin Daily News - Joel Andrews - Overall, some good shots. Soccer is tough to shoot. I like that one. Nice work on the firefighter.

Semi-Weekly Division

1. Hood County News - Mary Vinson - You have a powerful eye. I like that you show emotions in your photos and at the same time you put the context into the picture. I like the close-up focus of your football shot. Wish it had been a little lighter. Track shot. Great!

2. Wise County Messenger - Joe Duty - I like your idea on the basketball shot. The center needed a little more focus, but it has a lot of creative thought. Cute shot on Service Dog. The emotions on the shot with the mother holding the flag. Powerful. Good Job.

3. Kilgore News Herald - Aaron May - Love the "Poultry Love" shot. Beautiful Danger - that was worth waiting for. Just need a little work on sports. Technically good, yes. Needs something maybe "competition" in lens (football).

4. Terrell Tribune - Don Johnson - Like the football shot, but it really printed RED! You captured that perfect split second. Same for the B&W shot. Perfect moment. A creative way of looking at the band. Nice shot. You are actually a good photographer, stuck in a category with tough competitors.

Weekly Division

1. Iowa Park Leader - Kevin Hamilton - Hamilton's images quickly remind us in this point-and-shoot digital world just how fantastic professional photos can be. From motown blur effects to crisp, stopped action, he reveals his diversity in every delicious turn of the tear sheets. Spilling over with creativity and a true eye for what's interesting, Hamilton

wows us with photos that turn the news into art. Most of his photos deserve six-column play and thankfully, almost all his entries have been run precisely that by someone who recognizes them for what they are. Those of us in the industry could learn much by studying his style and technically - specific images. I balk at showing accident victims' faces, but other than that, Hamilton's work is golden.

2. Mart Messenger - Karla Reynolds - From a ball carrier caught in a mid-air play and workers repairing a natural gas leak to the thrill of a prom and the elation of a trophy raised above students' heads, Karla Reynolds offers the exact type of diversity that is the back bones of the weekly newspaper. She obviously has a talent for a quick trigger, a keen eye that spots what most others do not and a flair for on-the-spot news coverage. Thankfully, she uses those skills packaged together to produce great images, all the while sharing her creative eye with readers along for the ride. We can't wait to see where she takes us next.

3. The Lake Cities Sun - Greg McClendon - McClendon is a strong photographer on all sides of the job. In news coverage, his photos provide readers with an interesting look at the here-and-now issues affecting their community. In shooting sports, he comes up with solid shots of the action that are better than readers could get with the price of a ticket. And, in feature photography, he executes creatively and with top-notch technique. All these traits make McClendon a true professional who is always on the hunt for the best way to show his diverse subjects in an extraordinary way. Your carnival ride photo is cute, but your photo of crews placing tracks, is the best: Nice angling to yield a not so everyday construction site. Keep up all the hard work. You're showing the rest of us how to do it.

4. Mineola Monitor - Gary Edwards - Whether he is on a basketball court or shooting the new Miss Mineola Court, Edwards seems equally at ease as he produces high-quality photos with TOTAL eye appeal. His images lead readers to feel an event. They aren't just shown a static shot of a captured moment, but rather are put on the edge of their reading glasses as they take in the emotion of a driving play to the basket or of a pageant queen hearing her name announced as the winner or of so many other interesting, but different things Edwards has shot. Overall, impressive work -- from mind's eye to newsprint.

Special Section

Division 1

1. **The Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel:** Nice, clean design. Well-written. This is a good example of featuring local people in an interesting way. Well done!
2. **The Paris News:** A lot of good information. It's nice to see local businesses featured. However, pictures were huge. It felt like you trying to fill space. Every section break starting with a full page ad was a little much, too. If the section can be pulled out, it needs some editorial content to pull readers in.
3. **Texarkana Gazette:** A lot of good information, but the layout, especially the ads were too busy. It felt overwhelming looking at the page. I'll bet the readers loving have an individual section for each school, but all put together it felt like too much.
4. **The Lufkin Daily News:** I'm not sure what's special about this edition. It looks like a regular edition to me.

Division 2

1. **Athens Daily Review:** Good content, pictures, layout. Strong design and writing. I can see this as a must have publication for local High School enthusiasts. Advertising is solid except for some stretched pictures. Cedar Lake ad is in need of serious work.
2. **Waxahachie Daily Light:** Some strong page design, could use more design leading into each team. Witty headlines and great writing from Alex Riley. Ads look good.
3. **Stephenville Empire-Tribune:** Page design is average and photos are sub par. Editorial content is interesting and thorough. Advertising is average.
4. **Henderson Daily News:** Average page design. Ads have outdated clip art. Content is strong in terms of editorial.

Division 3

1. **The Terrell Tribune:** Sports preview. Excellent front cover design. Bold graphic choices make the section stand out. Well done with game by game preview. Entire section with ads are a huge read for your audience.
2. **Wise County Messenger:** Welcome to Wise. Excellent layout and typography on cover. Graphics are top of the division. This special section is complete in every way. Excellent consistency with look and them throughout. This section is a must have for anyone coming to town.
3. **Hood County News:** Newcomer's Guide. Impressive design and stories. Well thought out and design rich. Excellent subject for front page photo, but seems very blurry. Advertising top class.
4. **Burleson Star:** Left-handers Day. Very unique concept of pages turning the other way. Excellent idea thats fresh and hasn't been done before. I commend the staff and management in coming up with this idea and keeping the theme

consistent through the paper.

Division 4

1. **Winnsboro News:** Progress Edition. Very comprehensive look at the community. Your staff put in a complete effort in making the special section successful. Layout is very basic though as well as the advertisement. A treasure trove of information!
2. **Rockwall County Herald-Banner:** On the Horizon: Effective presentation. Very clean and informative visitors guide. Interesting historical articles. Nice slick cover and back page. Very good layout on cover – makes readers want to open it.
3. **The Wylie News:** 2010 Newcomer's Guide: Effective color on front. Excellent advertising and organization of contents. Loved the time line graphic. Other information very basic. Would have loved to see feature stories mixed in with the basic information.
4. **Mount Vernon Optic-Herald:** Centennial Edition: Excellent section. You can tell the amount of work the staff put into it. I found all the information to be very reader friendly and helpful. I really like the features on the Families of the community. Ads were fairly basic and straight forward.

Division 5

1. **Glen Rose Reporter:** On Track: Well put together cover that draws the reader in. Delicate use of color on index page does well. The leaf theme is a good touch to carry throughout the section. Excellent presentation of "phone book" items. Advertisement well put together. I'm glad you added stories to the mix. Stories are just the right length. Excellent Job!
2. **The Olney Enterprise:** Celebrating 100 Years: Collage well done on front. Could have been too busy, but you did an excellent job. Interesting look back at the newspaper. I like the theme of "established" ads. Brings the section together and made it easier to template the advertising. Like the back page ad!
3. **The McGregor Mirror:** Century of Football: Cover is very well done – just the perfect font to convey the one page. Excellent use of space and photos on page 1 and 13. Good straight forward presentation. This section took a while to compile the information. I would have like to see more stats – year by year records? Graphic elements?
4. **The Farmersville Times:** Old Time Saturday: Excellent use of photos with old timey frames. Page does gray out at the bottom though. Watch using too many "funky" fonts. Graphic elements well done.

Division 6

1. **Murphy Monitor:** Excellent design concept for cover. Very clean look and typography. Font choice on the inside very ho-hum, but the photography and how it's used is excellent. Schedules – It's a color page, use color in this ele-

ment. Advertising top of category.

2. The Big Sandy and Hawkins Journal: 2010 Fall Sports Preview: Interesting cover. I'm not sure I would have put the lyrics story on the front, seems it would have been more appropriate inside. Clean layout with team preview/roster. Advertisement pretty basic, but effective. Nice edition with team posters. Instead of all the state champs. I would have put year by year historical records in all High schools you cover.

3. Keen Star: Senior Citizen Stars: Excellent idea for a section. Very unique in its content. Look and feel of content is very basic. The features within the section are very well-written. Another multi-paper entry.

4. Lake Cities Sun: Progress 2010: Good content, but basic layout on front. I'd want to know what's inside to make me buy the newspaper. Lots of good information. A fine job of gathering all the stories. There's a jump on front that goes to Section B. Don't jump stories to another section.

Community Service

Daily Division

1. Texarkana Gazette - I cannot give credit for what you did with any words better than those City Editor Christy Busby used in her cover letter. A community's local newspaper is with them during the best - and in this case - the worst - times of their lives. The Gazette staff really rose to the occasion here - credit due to reporters and photographers Jim Williamson, Lori Dunn, Christina Donsett, Marie Martin, Evan Lewis and Jason Lindsey. Williamson, especially, paints portraits with words. You have really done right, by the craft you have chosen and the readers you serve.

2. Herald Banner - Derek Price and Brad Keller did an outstanding job here. Many big stories - and this is one of the them - grow out of what appears to be routine items on public meeting agendas. This is clearly an issue of great interest to your readers. Property tax stories can be dull and difficult to follow - obviously not the case here. Good layout and design, as well. The front page editorial is a nice touch - appropriate in this case - it's a technique you can use maybe once in a generation. Nice point by point breakdown of the issues as well, in the editorial. And the City Attorney's name is "Money?" That's too good to be true!

3. Waxahachie Daily Light - This is the sort of story everyone can relate to; because we all live with a certain anxiety level, trusting the safety and care of our children, parents or grandparents to others. You show a good sense of "News." Good for the *Daily Light* - For not brushing this off and for holding people accountable until answers were given and actions taken. It is unconscionable that (1) the buses left without Ruby Garner and (2) once realizing she was gone, they didn't go back to get her. Managing Editor JoAnn Livingston and the *Daily Light* proved here to be a positive force for needed change.

4. Daily Sentinel - This is a prime example of a newspaper's relationship to the community it serves. Your "Shop Nac First" Campaign identified a problem and attacked it in a way that was unique, creative and effective. Clearly a lot of work went into this and the *Daily Sentinel* is to be praised for coordinating all of the cooks in the kitchen. 116 participants in the campaign and \$80,000 spent locally? Impressive!

Semi-Weekly Division

1. Wise County Messenger - In category with several worthy entries, the work done by the *Wise County Messenger* stands head-and-shoulders above the rest. Writer Brandon Evans and photographer Joe Duty (an appropriate last name) have done work worthy of publication in any big-city daily. This is an example of Community Service at its best - particularly because this is not a "Real good" topic - Nor is it an assignment your paper had to tackle. But where else are the Ruggieros, the Pals and other people to go, if not their local newspaper. You have navigated a technically complex issue

and, at every turn, put a human face in it. Work like this - and to people who do it - brings honor to our profession. Keep it up!!!

2. The Graham Leader - *The Graham Leader* commended for tackling this issue. What merits an award here is the initiative shown by editor David Rapkalvis and reporter Cherry Rushin. By following up on a Letter to the Editor you brought a community health hazard to light - then, your continued news and opinion - page coverage spurred local government officials to action. Well done.

3. Polk County Enterprise - *The Polk County Enterprise* has done work it can be proud of, with its series of articles, "County rallies around Child victims of sexual abuse." The public campaign, of which you were a part, brought to light an uncomfortable fact of life. By highlighting the work done by the Children's Haven Advocacy Center, You have done immeasurable good. Editor Valerie Reddell's Aug. 1 story was especially effective - and I like the "one with courage" icon. All in all, excellent example of community service.

4. Hood County News - This is a good example of a community newspaper taking the lead in a project that can bring the entire community together. You did a good job getting the word out. Your iconic standing headline "Support our Troops - Adopt One!" was especially effective. Your articles and updates have very useful information. Such as who is adopting whom and what care package items are needed. Good job putting a human face on it, too, with Sgt. Silva and his wife.

Weekly Division

1. Mart Messenger - A wonderful topic for a community newspaper to take on. To get your staff involved on a level like this is very impressive. Their project to me is the full integration of the newspaper with its community.

2. Joshua Star - Excellent topic to take on - ESD taxes. Your paper brought to light issues with the new tax increase and effectively forced resignation due to the pressure. Editorial on 9/2/10 did a good job spelling out what needs to be done. Continuous stories and editorials pushed the item to a head. Stories presented in a very thorough manner. No comment from Reed in the story about his termination? Why not?

3. Dublin Citizen - Post Office relocation. Editorial on 8/5/10 very strong case made in keeping the PO in Dublin. Excellent historical perspective on the PO by Paul Gaudelle and Teri Matsin to keep the cause in the eyes of the community. Good job to get 1100 signatures - wow! Would have liked to see more features with interviews from the community and what the PO means to them. Maybe interview carriers to see what the impact was?

4. Wylie News - Excellent job by the newspaper in partnership with the community. This seems like an ongoing one, so kudos to keeping the Christian Care Center at the forefront of your readers' minds. This seems like a constant effort for the newspaper. Well done!