



NORTH AND EAST TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION 2012 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

WINNERS' CIRCLE

NEWS PHOTO

SPORTS PHOTO

NEWS WRITING

ADVERTISING

PAGE DESIGN

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

SWEEPSTAKES

SPORTS COVERAGE

FEATURE PHOTO

THANK YOU, JUDGES . . .

THE NORTH AND EAST TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION WAS PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE SOUTH TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS JUDGE THIS YEAR'S CONTEST.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO CYNDY SLOVAK-BARTON, PUBLISHER OF THE HAYS FREE PRESS, WHO COORDINATED THE JUDGING OF THE NETPA BNC AND HELPED SOLVE A COUPLE OF PROBLEMS.

AND TO THE MEMBERS OF STPA — THANK YOU FOR A SPECTACULAR JOB! TO NETPA MEMBERS RANDY KECK AND KATIE MARTINEZ, THE COMMUNITY

NEWS, ALEDO; CHER THOMPSON, HOOD COUNTY NEWS, GRANBURY; AND MAC MCKINNON, THE DUBLIN CITIZEN, A SPECIAL THANKS FOR JUDGING THE STPA BNC ENTRIES.

AND A VERY SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO TOMMY THOMASON, OF TCU'S SCHEIFFER SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, TEXAS CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JOURNALISM, FOR ALLOWING NETPA MEMBERS THE USE OF THE SCHOOL'S FACILITIES — AND LUNCH .

SWEEPSTAKES

Division 1

Large Dailies

1. The Lufkin Daily News - 1,075 Pts.
2. Texarkana Gazette - 875 Pts.
3. The Paris News - 850 Pts.
4. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches) - 475 Pts.

Division 2

Small Dailies

1. Henderson Daily News - 750 Pts.
2. Athens Daily Review - 675 Pts.
3. Waxahachie Daily Light - 675 Pts.
4. Stephenville Empire-Tribune - 500 Pts.

Division 3

Semi-Weeklies

1. Wise County Messenger (Decatur) - 875.
2. Hood County News (Granbury) - 800 Pts.
3. Kilgore News Herald - 650 Pts.
4. The Graham Leader - 375 Pts

Division 4

Large Weeklies

1. The Winnsboro News - 750 Pts.
2. Mineola Monitor - 700 Pts.
3. The Wylie News - 675 Pts.
4. Pittsburg Gazette - 350 Pts.

Division 5

Medium Weeklies

1. The Farmersville Times - 825 Pts.
2. Tri County Leader - 675 Pts.
3. Crowley Star - 500 Pts.
4. The Mart Messenger - 400 Pts.

Division 6

Small Weeklies

1. Joshua Star - 625 Pts.
2. Alvarado Star - 600 Pts.
3. The Princeton Herald - 550 Pts.
4. Keene Star - 400 Pts.

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Daily Division

1. Matthew Prosser, Henderson Daily News
2. Jessica Cooley, Lufkin Daily News
3. Amanda Kimble, Stephenville Empire-Tribune
4. Krista Goerte, Paris News

Semi-Weekly Division

1. Kathy Cruz, Hood County News
2. Brandon Evans, Wise County Messenger
3. Cherry Rushin, The Graham Leader
4. Rob Durham, Breckenridge American

Weekly Division

1. Bryan Giguere, The Winnsboro News
2. Gary Edwards, Mineola Monitor
3. Tim Glaze, The Lake Cities Sun
4. Brian Porter, Joshua Star

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Daily Division

1. Andrew Brosig, The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)
2. Adam Sacasa, Texarkana Gazette
3. Sam Craft, The Paris News
4. (tie) Joel Andrews, The Lufkin News
4. (tie) Luis Noble, Sulphur Springs News-

Telegram

Semi-Weekly Division

1. Joe Duty, Wise County Messenger
2. Mary Vinson, Hood County News
3. Aaron May, Kilgore News Herald
4. Rob Durham, Breckenridge American

Weekly Division

1. Gary Edwards, Mineola Monitor
2. Ross Hunter, The Winnsboro News
3. Mac McKinnon, The Dublin Citizen
4. John Reeves, Mount Vernon Optic-Herald

SPECIAL SECTION OR SPECIAL EDITION

Division A Daily Newspapers

1. **Athens Review**
Great piece, nice content, great use of photos, good advertising.
2. **Texarkana Gazette**
Great way to capitalize on rock-n-roll in your market.
3. **The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)**
I really liked this piece, good job!
4. **The Lufkin News**
Lots of work went into this edition. Nice work all the way around

Division B Semi-Weekly Newspapers

1. **Kilgore News Herald**
I was very impressed with this publication.
2. **The Light and Champion**
Great copy, ads and artwork.
3. **Wise County Messenger**
Great publication, I liked the overall layout.
4. **The Graham Leader**
Nice publication. I loved the front cover.

Division C Weeklies

1. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald
2. The Olney Enterprise
3. Glen Rose Reporter
4. Mineola Monitor

Division D Weeklies

1. Murphy Monitor
2. Deport Times Blossom Times
3. The Lake Cities Sun
4. Bogata News Talco Times

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Daily Division

1. The Paris News
2. Texarkana Gazette
3. The Lufkin News

Semi-Weekly Division

1. Burluson Star
2. Hood County News
3. Wise County Messenger

Weekly Division

1. Mart Messenger
2. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald
3. Joshua Star
4. The Winnsboro News

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 1

Large Dailies

1. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)

First issue: Nice centerpiece, love headline typeface. Saturday in pictures is way cool. Color weather(?) is great. So impressed with the design. Kudos." Second issue: "I love this paper! You should be so proud. It has everything ... and then some. The clear winner."

2. The Lufkin Daily News

First issue: "Love the top-of-page treatment. Beautiful! Nice, clean A1 as well. Perry graphic is squished. Like color weather graphic. On the record is a nice feature." Second issue: "This paper is gorgeous. Like separate East Texas section. Thorough sports coverage. Feels like maybe a bit too much AP copy. Close call between 1st and 2nd place in this category."

3. The Paris News

First issue: "Big 'got a great idea' box looks odd. Really nice front page. Nice biz coverage, sports, too. Like the stand-alone section. White space on Life front works really well." Second issue: "I love the idea but pink front is a bit much, maybe if stories weren't pink (don't hate me). The assortment of stories, though, is awesome(QR?) code is very cool. Sports front is primo."

4. Texarkana Gazette

First issue: "Nice, clean A1. Bust staff! Lots of nice contributions. Great sports front. Nice story on accent cover about Samboree." Second issue: "Nice trauma package. Sports page is kinda gray, inside pages, too. Another great accent section."

Division 2

Small Dailies

1. Henderson Daily News

First issue: "Great front page! Clean, good story mix. Sports is solid, too. Paper could use a better flow." Second issue: "Like 9/11 package. Some really gray pages inside. Like family section."

2. Athens Daily Review

First issue: "Front page seems a bit much, maybe put one or two unrelated stories out there. Nice, clean page design. Sports section is very neat." Second issue: "Nice tornado package on A1, like photo page, too. Classifieds in middle of paper seems odd."

3. Stephenville Empire-Tribune

First issue: Design could use a bit of an update. Love all the pix of community events. Sports section is excellent. Lifestyle needs work." Second issue: "Another issue full of pix, love the names and faces approach. Solid sports again. 9/11 section is a nice touch."

4. Waxahachie Daily Light

First issue: "Front page is ugly, too busy. I understand what you're going for, but tone it down a smidge. Op/Ed page is kind of weak. Paper needs better ordering of sections. Nice cancer section." Second issue: "Tons of special sections. Wow! Push Op/ed page back several pages. Can't really get the theme, focus of In Motion section."

Division 3

Division 1

Large Dailies

1. The Paris News

Congratulations — nice layout for so many pictures. Message is good to create awareness of no time lost. Campbell's — Love the layout! Makes you want to read about each product. Very informative. Kimberly-Clark — Good use of photos and overall cute ad. Small copy is a little hard to read in reverse because of busy background.

2. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)

Autoplex — Cute ad to include "owner"? Call for action, only ad says "only a few more days left." It ran on Dec. 31? Autoplex — Nice layout and colors. Only thing I didn't like was cutout around "Rex." Mike Perry — Nice layout with one auto to focus on. Color was a little boring to get your attention and know what the background was. Overall nice layout to draw attention to vehicle.

3. The Lufkin News

Hilliard — For as much information as was in ad, nice layout and easy to follow on products pricing. Bright colors caught my eye. Galaxy — No call to action to make me stop in. A-1 — Nice photos to give you an idea of what they do. Very descriptive in their services. Tag line catches your attention!

4. Texarkana Gazette

Ellis — Nice, bright colors to get your attention. Good call to action. Easy to follow each item. Robbins — Border a little busy, but overall good layout with 25 autos featured. H&N — Good use of photos, pics. A bit hard on the eyes but features a lot of items.

Division 2

Small Dailies

1. Athens Daily Review

1st State Bank — great ad! I liked the way the photo illustrated the message. Easy to read. Huddle House — this was also a very appealing ad. Great use of photos. Toys for Tots — another nice ad that clearly relays a message.

2. Waxahachie Daily Light

Allen Samuels — overall a nice ad. The yellow type. Galaxy — nice

Semi-Weeklies

1. Hood County News (Granbury)

1. Great variety of interesting front page stories. Great attention in making inside pages attractive/readable, too. Those updated stands in sports (even youth baseball) are nice touches and not done enough in papers your size. 2. Outline way too long and awkward under "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt." Great stories and inside design on that package but front design missed the mark.

2. Kilgore News Herald

1. Love the section front designs throughout. You pay a lot of attention to them and it shows. I wish inside pages got a little more design attention, however. 2. Again great design, even on the inside pages this time, Great headlines. One thing I've noticed is a lack of box scores with both the football and volleyball game stories.

3. Wise County Messenger (Decatur)

1. Outstanding job on the 9/11 look-back package. The bylines on the Wise County fire story are almost as big as the headline. Love that you run obituary photos in color. 2. Moving front page photo of construction accident. Wonderful graphic on sports front detailing Bridgeport/Decatur rivalry. Great volleyball photography and stats package.

4. Burleson Star

1. Good front page but not as eye-catching as some in this category. Love the editorial page and inside photo-filled pages. Good sports coverage but dominant volleyball photo was poor compared to many inside photos. 2. Nice headline on front. Love the "Dear Santa" section, especially the front used and the fact that you used some scans of actual letters and kids' drawings.

Division 4

Large Weeklies

1. The Winnsboro News

1. Progress edition shows great effort, but even ignoring the special sections this issue is great. Who can argue with 79 snakes? This is a reader's newspaper — lots of reading material. 2. Lots of letters to the editor. Always a good indication of how important a newspaper is to its readers. Use of heavy-weight paper certainly adds to image.

2. The Dublin Citizen

1. Great story on DP. Like the "Legends" feature as a front-page anchor. Might improve the lead on Mack Brown. Give more space above heads, way too crowded. 2. Very thorough to giving space to many groups and activities.

3. Mineola Monitor

1. Oct. 26 is the stronger issue. Good photo at top of page. Long story on Jack Ruby is compelling. Good sports coverage. Nice feature on former coach. On street music layout, pick one photo to be dominant, reduce size of others. 2. Having a mug shot separated from story is confusing. Try harder on page design. You narrowed the left-hand "rail" in October compared to March and made type smaller. That was an improvement.

4. The Wylie News

ADVERTISING

use of photo. Keller Williams — I liked the overall layout concept, I was not impressed with the readability of this ad. Why use the business cards if they are going to detract rather than enhance?

Division 3

Semi-Weeklies

1. Wise County Messenger (Decatur)

1. Liked the ad with entire background on what they are selling. 2. Good use of white space and creative photo. Clean and crisp ad. 3. Very creative and simple for featuring the sponsors of the ad. Appealing to the ad instead of busy with logos.

2. Hood County News

1. Copy a little hard to read but overall nice use of quarter-page space to get your attention with 3 vehicles. 2. Good use of photo and double burn with message in photo. 3. Photo jumps out and grabs you. Nice simple ad with good layout design.

3. The Light and Champion

1. Nice graphic use but didn't like so much red in the reverse boxes. 2. Nice use of photos, Design of entire ad was appealing and easy to read. 3. Like the use of the large photo and white space. Good informative piece and easy to read and follow.

4. The Graham Leader

Picture works well to grab you. Like the choice of font to create even more the mood for a nail business. 2. Cute ad with cows, copy just runs together and a little boring. Maybe better with more white space? 3. Nice simple ad, eye appealing. Would have taken out the "small" address print since it was typeset again, larger.

Division 4

Large Weeklies

1. The Wylie News

1. Nice layout with great use on photo for background. 2. I like the lion picture with bunny ears. 3. Nice use of space and like combination of fonts.

2. The Pittsburg Gazette

1. Nice ad overall, good display of artwork, logos. 2. Simple ad with a little taste of what's going on downtown. 3. Graphic catches readers

1. 9/11 coverage great — thanks to terrific local angle. Sports front very nice, loved volleyball. 2. Soldier's funeral layout well done. Wonderful sports pages and pics.

Division 5

Medium Weeklies

1. The Farmersville Times

First issue: "Lotsa good stuff on A1, area briefs are great. Nice coverage of region. Onion Fest page seems a bit much. Nice voter guide." Second issue: "Another nice mix of stories on A1. Around Farmersville is a cute idea. Like the Op/Ed page, the letter to the editor is way long."

2. Crowley Star

First issue: "Nice news mix on A1. Editorial suggesting merchants in a struggling shopping center advertise in the paper seems improper. Great content inside. Police blotter, sports, menus." Second issue: "Another nice mix of news on A1. Nice pic of the car crash, nice pix paper-wide. Great job of covering your community."

3. Tri County Leader

First issue: "Front page is a bit busy but pix are nice and crisp. Love Page 2, lotsa goodies. Like all the photos a bunch of names, faces." Second issue: "Love the masthead and the addition of art. Eye-popping display. Friends and neighbors is a nice regular feature. Page 3 is (dull?) gray. Another nice Page 2."

4. The Olney Enterprise

First issue: "Front page is a bit gray, nice assortment of stories though. Organization of paper is a bit hard to follow. Nice assortment of stories on Leland Snow." Second issue: "Dominant A1 pic a bit blurry. Great sports front. Love the story mix."

Division 6

Small Weeklies

1. Joshua Star

First issue: "Great A1 layout, nice story mix though hierarchy is questionable. Like second front, don't like financial section." Second issue: "Another solid A1. Good art, like photo pages. Comprehensive sports section."

2. The Princeton Herald

First issue: "Great A1 art. Centerpiece feature is a winner. Kille's story, too. Sports cover is strong." Second issue: "Inside of paper is a bit gray. Like the kids page. Another nice sports section. 9/11 section is a nice touch."

3. Alvarado Star

First issue: "Gorgeous front page. Like cops/fire blotter. Nice local Op/Ed page. Headlines need work." Second issue: "Another nice front, lots of pizzazz. Excessive pics on 6 and 7. Sports section arranged in odd fashion."

4. Keene Star

First issue: "Nicely organized A1. Like stars before subheads. Health page = no. Like the activity page for kids. Nice color photo pages." Second issue: "Another solid A1. Op/Ed page is weak. Senior living another no, too advertorial-ish. Like color pic pages."

attention.

3. The Winnsboro News

1. Attractive ad with crisp pictures to visualize property. 2. Nice layout format with copy and picture. 3. Would have liked to see a few photos instead of just copy and logo.

4. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald

1. Colorful ad and informative. 2. Decent layout to break up copy. 3. Unique design to fit business.

Division 5

Medium Weeklies

1. The Farmersville Times

1. Very eye catching and appealing, easy to read. 2. Nice color and use of space. 3. Pulls the reader into the ad.

2. The Olney Enterprise

All three ads were simple but very eye catching. Type was clear and very readable.

3. Tri County Leader

1. Nice use of photos, easy to read. 2. Very eye catching. 3. Would have liked to see more prominent use of the photos.

4. Crowley Star

Very good ads but not as strong as others in this division.

Division 6

Small Weeklies

1. The Sachse News

"Very eye catching. Good use of photo. Wording very clear and concise. Sleek, again great use of photo, type very readable; nice, but simple."

2. The Big Sandy and Hawkins Journal

"Nice ad, clean copy, good use of color; Simple ad, very clear."

3. Keene Star

"Grabs the reader and pulls him into the ad, good use of photos to enhance copy."

4. The Lake Cities Sun

"Type a little difficult read but otherwise a good ad; Liked the use of photos."

COLUMN WRITING

Division 1

Large Dailies

1. Denise Hoepfner, The Lufkin Daily News

1. Thoroughly enjoyable and clearly written. I'd sit next to her at the dinner table anytime. 2. Dull topic turned fun and humorous. Inspired empathy made me smile at my newspaper.

2. Ethel Channon, Texarkana Gazette

1. Great turn of a phrase, totally compelling. 2. Good information. Straight forward and totally readable.

3. J.D. Davidson, The Paris News

1. Good story telling, made good points. 2. Great column, told well, straightforward, compelling.

4. Edwin Quarles, The Lufkin Daily News

1. Sweet without being melodramatic, straightforward. 2. Kind of wandering path he came full circle. Thoroughly readable.

Division 2

Small Dailies

1. Les Linebarger, Henderson Daily News

Very well written!

2. Sara Vanden Berge, Stephenville Empire-Tribune

The trouble with Facebook. I found myself relating to this one!

3. Neal White, Waxahachie Daily Light

I found both columns to have good subject matter. Thought they were a bit too long.

4. Tony Floyd, Henderson Daily News

Enjoyed both columns.

Division 3

Semi-Weeklies

1. Mark Wilson, Hood County News

Great columns!

2. David Rupkalvis, The Graham Leader

Very touching.

3. Kristen Tribe, Wise County Messenger

Loved the Century Link letter!

4. Cherry Rushin, The Graham Leader

Division 4

Large Weeklies

1. Gary Edwards, Mineola Monitor

Very moving.

2. Donnita Nesbit Fisher/The Wylie News

1. Very good column, you captured the reader and brought him into your life 2. Made me laugh out loud.

3. Bryan Giguera/The Winnsboro News

No comments.

4. Susan Taft/The Pittsburg Gazette

No comments.

Division 5

Medium Weeklies

1. Suzanne Loudamy/Tri County Leader

1. Nicely written, good flow, carried me through to the end.

2. Good avoidance of sentimentality. The story is compelling and respectful, unintrusive. Well done.

2. Deport Times Blossom Times

1. Bravo. Good storytelling of a devastating subject. Good visuals, impressive. 2. Funny. I was right there with you on those dark roads. Straightforward writing style.

3. Wyndi Veigel/The Farmersville Times

1. Compelling and well written. Gained momentum as it progressed. 2. Nice analogy, great word choice. Made me smile at my newspaper. Cool love story on all kinds of levels.

4. Bogata News Talco Times

1. Nice pace and word choice, humorous tone. 2. Nice visuals, description, carried me right along. Could almost hear the coyotes, nicely written.

Division 6

Small Weeklies

1. Candy McMichen, Alvarado Star

"Nice flow, good info presented in a straightforward manner; Great humor, had me laughing all the way through, great imaging."

2. Paul Gnadt, Keene Star

"Lots of information, straightforward; Sensitive subject matter dealt with, a dose of reality."

3. Wanda Godso, Whitewright Sun

Simple premise, straightforward story telling; Nice illustration in lead, lots of details.

4. Patty Montagno, The Sachse News

Straightforward; Lots of detail.

EDITORIALS

Division 1

Large Dailies

1. The Lufkin Daily News

1. Call to action at end wasn't as might be, but overall very strong editorial with good local tie-in and information. Well done. 2. Starts strong and builds a clear, convincing argument. Does a nice job of bringing issue home to local readers and the local bottom line.

2. The Paris News

1. Applause goes for helping bring an important local meeting to broader community awareness. A few more quotes, detail or specifics about local conditions would have been welcome. 2. Congratulations for taking on a dicey local issue head on. You lay out the case well and analyze excuses and budget implications. Good call to action.

3. Texarkana Gazette

1. Life and death issue deserves attention and you gave it. The editorial has a strong voice and point of view. Some leaps to judgement and trails of logic seemed murky or premature to me given state of investigation. 2. Gripping lead, very strong point of view, shines light on important challenges at local college. I wondered if the tone made it easier or harder for new president you support but admired your willingness to tackle local issue.

4. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)

1. Nice lead, interesting take; thorough light on local angle with news peg, good job of working in local information. (Note: Clinton's "adoptive" status was a bit different.) 2. Meaty local issue, jumped straight into it, strong point of view, all good. The summary of events was just a tad muddy for me (and, I suspect, some of your readers). Unfortunate coincidence that both editorials ended with same phrases. Good effort overall.

Division 2

Small Dailies

1. Henderson Daily News

Rules of the Road. Good mix of opinion, facts and history to marshal your arguments. Timely, local and relevant. Why now for SWEPCO — Whew, alphabet soup and still you dissected a complex public issue with clarity. This took a little extra work and thought, it shows.

2. Sulphur Springs News-Telegram

Endorsements are tough in small towns. You handled this one particularly well, you did not shy from your opinion and you laid it out with gentle force and reasoned tone. 2. In one or two places the writing seems rushed but it's quite readable with a generous tone and smart, specific

suggestions for improvement.

3. Waxahachie Daily Light

Heavy hearts — warm tribute to a fallen soldier from a local family. I appreciated the call-out to his family it showed the newspaper in an important role as the voice of community support and solace. Blessings — Timely and caring. The writing could use a bit of polish but the underlying message was no doubt important to a hurting community.

4. Athens Daily Review

Vote 'for' bond — Worthwhile effort to rally community support. The history was interesting if a bit long. I hope your readers responded. Good Friday — again a local editorial on topic important to the community — schools. Good crisp style here, though didn't follow all your logic. Very close call between third and fourth place. Keep it up.

Division 3

Semi-Weeklies

1. The Graham Leader

1. Topical, balanced. Lays out the case well and presents a strong, cogent point of view. Unit road system is a worthwhile local issue and The Leader is leading on it. Readers can disagree about whether it's needed or about whether commissioners should take a pay cut or focus on other planning but the editorial has provoked thought. 2. Again, a strong editorial on local community government. The lead is brisk and carries us straight to the issue at hand. The editorial lays out the facts clearly, with balance, and then takes a position. It's good work from a strong writer and thoughtful mind.

2. Kilgore News Herald

1. Editorial on the privacy policy for public school students was a gem. It gave us readers a crisp, direct insight into the paper's policy and the thinking of the editor(s) on a tough topical issue. We all ought to be doing more of it. You summarized the case and made clear the paper's position. Brevity is appreciated but a little more "why" on your policy would have helped. 2. Nice little whimsical piece on having survived 2012. It's not especially meaty or local but it offers a bit of philosophy and a chance to show off dexterity with the language.

3. Breckenridge American

1. We take life ... Stark lead draws the reader in. Strong writing for the most part, loses a little momentum as it goes on but delivers a sense of urgency. The conclusion has great intensity and emotion but falls just short on concrete ideas as a closing that is as compelling as the intro. 2. Good challenge to the community to see their

children as they are. Walks a fine line between preachiness, old school cliché, and personal insight. For the most part, it works.

4. Burleson Star

"Good reminder of Dec. 7. A little weak on local tie-in. Piece is good "journeyman" writing — clear, well crafted, but also without new insight or angle. 2. Precinct 2 indictment is strong local subject manager. The facts are presented with fairness and balance, if not so much depth. Conclusions are limited because of the stage of the case pending a grand jury action.

Division 4

Large Weeklies

1. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald

1. Strong statement defending the newspapers right - and obligation - to explore city news and controversial topics. 2. Forceful, urgent and convincing. Good job of separating opinion from the news side.

2. The Winnsboro News

1. Fitting tribute. Would have liked to see a little more about Sgt. Mays. 2. Interesting reading, though not so local.

3. Mineola Monitor

1. Enjoyed the piece and the point. Clean writing style. 2. Not heavy stuff but calls attention to local, deserving team

4. The Bee (Dangerfield)

"1. Your lead wasn't exactly an invitation to read on. Your informal style suits you. 2. Nice job of bringing a regional issue home. If you have time, a few quotes or thoughts from local sources would be interesting."

Division 5

Medium Weeklies

1. Crowley Star

"1. Council caved: Good issue to weigh in on and the paper seems to be acting here as a needed community voice. 2. Veterans Committee: Positive piece with clear message and recommendations.

2. Mart Messenger

1. Road repair: Clean writing style. A little more of a personal column — both of these — than editorials. Playing it safe in topic and content but nice thoughts nonetheless..

Division 6

Small Weeklies

1. Joshua Star

"Informative and straightforward, direct, logical, convincing."

FEATURE STORY

Division 1

Large Dailies

1. The Paris News/Krista Goerte, Connie Beard

1. Good use of alternative story format. No local angle though. Intro text was a bit too obvious and general. 2. Colorful lead drew me in. Smart to pull out the boring details for a side bar. Nice writing.

2. The Lufkin Daily News/Denise Hoepfner

1. Touching story. Well organized and broken into sections that readers will appreciate. Little cliffhangers build momentum and keep me engaged. 2. Well written but weak subject matter.

3. The Daily Sentinel/Robbie Goodrich

1. Writing flows nicely, bizarre decision to downplay his forced resignation and to not seek a second point of view to confirm or counter the minister's account of the controversy. 2. Relies a bit too heavily on authorial voice, cliches, truisms. Get out of the way and tell a story.

4. Texarkana Gazette/Aaron Brand, Eric Nicholson

1. Enjoyable read about an interesting topic. Lead seems irrelevant, could have started with the benign beehive boxes, gotten into the story sooner. 2. Nice story on these "boys." Lead good as it sets the stage well.

Division 2

Small Dailies

1. Stephenville Empire-Tribune/Micah D. Moore, Amanda Kimble

1. I liked the lead on the cowboy (girl) story. Good story, I liked the ending. 2. Excellent article, well written, interesting.

2. Waxahachie Daily Light/Rebecca Hertz, Alex Riley

1. Booyah! Dealt with a tough subject well. 2. Very long story but good lead. Could have probably cut last third.

3. Sulphur Springs News-Telegram/Terry Matthews

1. Read was on the hokie side but otherwise interesting article. Great old photos. 2. Nice story about

neighbor, went on a bit long.

4. Henderson Daily News/Les Linebarger, Matthew Prosser

"1. Basketball article — had trouble getting interested based on lead. 2. Sad story, captured well in article. Ran on long but generally interesting. Felt like authentic sports without all the hoopla we see here.

Division 3

Semi-Weeklies

1. Wise County Messenger (Decatur)Erika Pedroza, Brandon Evans

1. Good details about day-to-day life with this rare disease. Good job. 2. Teen mother, layout, writing, research all great.

2. Hood County News/Kathy Cruz, Rick Mauch

1. Nicely done. I want to stay there now. Wish you would have had a picture of the current owner. 2. Nice story, great layout. Lots of interviews, I like it!

3. Kilgore News Herald/James Draper, Aaron May

I felt like I could hear the organ. Nice works, made me want to go see it. 2. A piece of Kilgore's history. Nice angle — someone who worked there.

4. The Graham Leader/David Rupkalvis, Cherry Rushin

1. Nice story mixed with lots of pertinent facts and quotes. I read to the end and enjoyed every word. 2. Good story on homeless family. I would actually have made the crisis center story a sidebar or found a way to separate the homeless angle from the crisis center problems.

Division 4

Large Weeklies

1. Glen Rose Reporter/Kathryn Jones

1. Excellent feature, very well organized, well told. 2. A fun feature on a well-liked dog. Kids' reactions were great.

2. The Pittsburg Gazette/Susan Taft

1. Great topic for 4th of July. Nice layout touches, too. 2. Good lead, nice story.

3. The Wylie News/Judy Truesdale

1. Bee keeping is an interesting angle. Why does

it wait until the eighth graph to be mentioned? 2. I like the beat of "And ... And ... And ..." Rather long wonder if it could have been packaged differently — sidebars or something to odder multiple entry points.

4. Mineola Monitor/Gary Edwards, Doris Newman

1. Kind of long and it's not until the seventh graph that we get to the point. But who can argue with an "unsolved mystery" story from the JFK assassination? 2. A hopeful feature on a difficult topic. Good approach.

Division 5

Medium Weeklies

1. Crowley Star/Dave Sorter

1. Made me feel tense just thinking about the hay ride. 2. Heartwarming story.

2. Tri County Leader/Suzanne Loudamy

1. I'd like to see a stronger, more compelling lead on the culinary story. 2. Greenhouse story — the part about sales paying for the program might be more powerful.

3. Mart Messenger/ Brad Reynolds, Bill Reynolds

1. Cosby — Well written, like the diversity of quotes. 2. Good, but want a more compelling lead, otherwise, well written.

4. Deport Times Blossom Times/Thomas Nichols, Nanalee Nichols

1. Intro, lead did not draw me in. Story well written. 2. Guitar kid story interesting. Really long.

Division 6

Small Weeklies

1. The Princeton Herald/Jimmy Alford

Terrific layout/story.

2. The Sachse News/Patty Montago

Good layout/photos.

3. The Lake Cities Sun/Tim Glaze

Cute story. Are those "glaze(d)" donuts?

4. Joshua Star/Brian Porter

Good characterization of an "outsider." Good topic.

HEADLINE WRITING

Division 1

Large Dailies

1. The Lufkin Daily News

1. Basic and straightforward with a hint of pun. 2. Eye-catching fun fonts. 3. This one made my day, great pun, playful font, nice subhead. Bravo!

2. Texarkana Gazette

1. Lots of words but it works with the simplicity of the photograph. 2. Nice pun, to the point. 3. Oh my god — the pun ishment! I love it. Twice. And with humor. Good job.

3. The Paris News

1. Nice pun. 2. Good play on words. 3. I like the double entendre.

Division 2

Small Dailies

1. Athens Daily Record

1. Eye catching, great pun. 2. Again, like a megaphone. I couldn't help but read on. 3. Nothing like a bit of humor. Made me smile at my newspaper.

2. Stephenville Empire-Tribune

1. Macabre pun, I like it. Had to read lead to make sense of it though. 2. Good illiteration. 3. Headline tells the story, made me want to know more.

3. Waxahachie Daily Light

1. Good illiteration. 2. Good imagery. 3. Eye catching.

Semi-Weeklies

1. Wise County Messenger (Decatur)

1. You wiped me out with the pun.

2. Kilgore News Herald

It would have been easy to take this headline to an extreme, but you caught the irony and balanced it.

3. Hood County News

Division 4

Large Weeklies

1. The Pittsburgh Gazette

1. Good illustration. 2. Great pun. 3. Good twist. I loved all three of these. Made me smile at your newspaper. Great job!

2. Glen Rose Reporter

1. Clever pun. 2. Loved the rhyme. 3. Nice twist on old joke.

3. Mineola Monitor

1. Terse and catching. 2. Great use of color symbolism. 3. Good pun.

4. The Dublin Citizen

1. Nice. 2. Such an incredible pun. 3. Good imagery.

Division 5

Medium Weeklies

1. The Farmersville Times

Far and away the most clever headlines in this category.

2. Mart Messenger

1. Liked the rifle support headline. 2. Blue light special — clever!

3. Muenster Enterprise**4. Tri County Leader**

Division 6

Small Weeklies

1. Princeton Herald

1. Loved the Onion Fest layers reference. 2. Liked the library check-out headline. 3. No comment.

2. Whitewright Sun

All three headlines were very clever with high impact!

3. The Sachse News

No comments.

4. Joshua Star

No comments.

PAGE DESIGN

Division 1
Large Dailies**1. The Paris News**

Very nice sports page, creative photos. Top 10 toys is also creative. Excellent job breaking up text on the editorial page with comic. Front page — nice mast head.

2. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)

Very creative pages! Color is also very nice. Great text wrap on the sports page. Graphics make the front page interesting to a wide variety of readers.

3. The Lufkin Daily News

Get the advertisement off your front page! Everything else flows nicely.

4. Texarkana Gazette

Overall, not bad, but I would like to see a little more creativity in layout.

Division 2
Small Dailies**1. Athens Daily Review**

Nice dominant art, Really draws your eye in. Check color — photos seem a little yellow. Would have liked dominant photo on sports to action but understand why you chose this story. Great use of headlines.

2. Waxahachie Daily Light

Dominant art on sports and lifestyle. Try doing that on Page 1, too. Page 1 is too busy. Nice use of type and photos on Lifestyle.

3. Henderson Daily News

Nice crisp opinion page but center column is too long. Need to break up with inset quote or something. Good headlines, family page needs a dominant photo. Page 1 a little busy.

Division 3
Semi-Weeklies**1. Kilgore News Herald**

Very creative! Sports has very similar font throughout, consider changing it up a bit.

2. Hood County News (Granbury)

Very nice creativity on front and lifestyle. Color on sports page could be better. Layout on all is very appealing.

3. Wise County Messenger

Interesting front page, Might try to move the "2011 Look back" to the full-page width. Interesting sports page, seems more of a special section to me but very creative. Nice photos on Lifestyle page. Overall, very nice color and layout.

4. Breckenridge American

Great front page photos! Very nice color. Excellent text wrap on the life page. Sports and opinion pages could be more creative.

Division 4
Large Weeklies**1. Mineola Monitor**

Excellent photos, nice layout. Like the color bars to tie sections (out and about, obituaries). It shows some kind of style thoughts. Opinion page could use cartoon or graphic.

2. The Wylie News

Nice sports pages with big bold headline. Nice clean layout. Nice use of "Ageless love" headline.

3. The Winnsboro News

Nice bold, clear headlines. I like seeing dominant photo on Page 1. Nice line drive photo. Your family life news could use some help. Too many oval boxes.

4. Glen Rose Reporter

Choose one dominant story on Page 1 and use fewer different headline types. This will clean up the look. Good use of color.

Division 5
Medium Weeklies**1. Tri County Leader**

Excellent front page design. Sports and opinion pages are also very good.

2. The Olney Enterprise

The sports and lifestyle pages are very good.

3. The Farmersville Times

Great sports page!

4. Crowley Star**Division 6**
Small Weeklies**1. Princeton Herald**

Very nice Page 1 and Sports. Good dominant art and stories. Good use of white space to emphasize headlines. Nice touch with copy wrapping around graphic on Family page.

2. The Sachse News

Nice headlines. Good photos. Good job overall, clean look throughout.

3. Alvarado Star

Nice action photos. Editorial page nice and clean. Maybe make lead sports photo larger than rest.

4. Joshua Star

Clean look. Would prefer "header" on opinion and family pages (like you have designated sports pages)..

NEWS WRITING

Division 1
Large Dailies**1. Texarkana Gazette/Lynn LaRowe**

1. Writing is simple and effective. Info drawn from affidavits could have been a little more concise. 2. Consider use of a nut graph to alert the reader this will be a deeper, broader story about the troubled history of Blitz gas containers

2. The Lufkin Daily News/Jessica Cooley

1. So sad. Story loses momentum when it switches gears and becomes about local authorities feebly trying to answer why. 2. WOW. Y'all went to the scene of the crime, saw the mattress and the bottle allegedly used in the rape. That's some good reporting. A touching story that could have been told more clearly. I had to read it twice to figure out what was happening.

3. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)/Robbie Goodrich

1. You should be commended for tackling big, complicated stories with regional and statewide interest. The point-counterpoint between Christian and Moor gets confusing. Lead is long and clunky and too timid, especially when compared to headline. 2. Comprehensive coverage of inside baseball.

4. The Paris News/Krista Goerte, Bill Hankins

1. Comprehensive spot new coverage. Victim's quotes add human interest. 2. Nice lead, story a bit convoluted.

Division 2
Small Dailies**1. Athens Daily Review/Jeff Riggs, Jon Humphries**

1. Great job of making a story of someone deceased for 61 years seem relevant. You brought the story alive. 2. We have all read a story before about the damage caused by a tornado. However, you did a good job of keeping it relevant, to the point and interesting.

2. Henderson Daily News/Matthew Prosser, Les Linebarger

1. Good job investigating the story with good job presenting the facts. 2. You told the story well and included the facts without getting bogged down too much in the gruesomeness of the details.

3. Stephenville Empire-Tribune/ Sara Vanden Berge

1. Interesting story. Also I like the blurb describing what information will be in next week's paper. 2. The writer did a good job of making me care about the people in the story even though I've never met them and don't know who they are.

4. Waxahachie Daily Light/Andrew Braca, Staff writers

1. Good job of covering the story from many different angles

so what we can see how the fire affected the community. 2. It is hard for me to criticize this story because the topic is so meaningful. However, as an outsider who does not know all the people quoted, it seemed like the story had too many quotes. Maybe it could have been edited to be shorter?

Division 3
Semi-Weeklies**1. Wise County Messenger/Brandon Evans**

1. Fire blazes ... Well done package with several stories and plenty of photos. I would have stuck with a straight news lead instead of gambling on the volcano simile. 2. Well turned article about a mysterious country murder. Wonder if you answered all these questions on subsequent stories.

2. Kilgore News Herald/James Draper

1. Death's decor ... Great lead, well conceived and executed story idea but the story would have benefitted considerably with some sort of presence from people who have decorated family graves. It relies too heavily on city sources. Also, questionable story for news category. 2. Investigation ... I like how the sheriff is "very satisfied" with the way the (unsuccessful) investigation has been going. Solid unsolved murder anniversary piece.

3. Hood County News/Mark Wilson, Kathy Cruz

1 No show ... This reads like an infomercial for a fed up county clerk. It certainly doesn't seem to warrant above-the-fold "war headline" treatment. Interviewing elected officials is easy, talk to normal people. 2. Baby Riley ... It's frustrating to have to read to sixth paragraph to find out it's a child abuse case but great emotional, gripping comment from teen hero. Thorough package with article on accused dad's version. Overall, fantastic story.

4. Breckenridge American/Rob Durham

1. Aftermath ... Although I have docked other papers for not submitting stories that use a traditional new lead, I think the one in this story works 2. One step ... I realize this is a weekly paper, but I would probably lean in the future toward submitting traditional inverted pyramid, etc.

Division 4
Large Weeklies**1. The Wylie News/Judy Truesdall, Donnita Nesbit Fisher**

1. Great job of showing all the different points of view about purple haze. 2. I really liked how you situated the significance of the life and death of Robert Welch in the context of the community he came from. Very well written.

2. Glen Rose Reporter/ Kathryn Jones

1. Great job combining local information with information from national speed trap exchange. 2. Good job describing all aspects of the situation and the different responses to the fires.

3. The Winnsboro News/Bryan Giguere

1. Well written story, however, the list of bonds and charges could probably have been presented in a more interesting way. 2. I thought the lead was very good for this story.

4. Mineola Monitor/Doris Newman

1. There were lots of names in the story which at times made it hard to follow. Other than that, though, it was great. 2. A sad, but well written, story

Division 5
Medium Weeklies**1. Crowley Star/Dave Sorter**

I'd like to see the headline and lead be a bit more distinct. Overall had good journalistic form. 2. Had less news feel and more homage to Mr. Gilbreath. Guy sounds like a saint.

2. Tri County Leader/Don Treul

Detected bias in the firefighter petition article. 2. A few awkwardly worded sentences snuck into the story about water bills.

3. The Farmersville Times/Wyndi Veigel

1. Candlelight vigil story was interesting. 2. Try not to use passive voice so much.

4. The Olney Enterprise/Mindi Kombro

1. Felt like redundant info and quotes. Photos were helpful. 2. Took a long time to find out the discovery made by Bailey. Lead could be more compelling and relevant to council not knowing/understanding its own rules. Photos might have been helpful.

Division 6
Small Weeklies**1. Wood County Democrat**

Clear, simple writing about a local tragedy.

2. The Princeton Herald

Great story telling. Entries might have been more at home in feature category. Quality of writing makes up for non-newsiness.

3. Keene Star

Fun lead, informative story with OK local interest.

4. Alvarado Star

A well written important story is marred by lead that suggests reporter is in commissioner's back pocket..

SPORTS COVERAGE

Division 1 Large Dailies

1. Texarkana Gazette

1. Functional coverage but not dynamic. Needs more than one headline font. Writing well structured. Nice roundup section, love the addition. 2. Good previews, schedules. Way to blow out football preview. Love pull guides, no variation of layout inside though. The covers are well done. Quick facts, good reader-friendly item. Love the "Full Throttle."

2. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)

1. Excellent design, cutouts, love the features. Excellent photos. 2. Excellent layout. Love that features and news stories separated by ragged right and justified layout. Solid teasers. Use of graphic elements key.

3. The Paris News

1. Excellent paginating on front, great use of photos, love the stand up. I'd try a sans-serif outline font. Basic layout on inside. Do love "Friday Night Facts," love box scores.. 2. Good design concept on front. Keep theme up in the section. Strong previews, excellent choice of photos for section. Nice local, local content, stats package impressive.

4. The Lufkin Daily News

1. Basic, decent layout. Love the 2-Minute Drill, decent roundup. 2. Section has improved immensely. Good package on front, better use of the 2-Minute Drill on front.

Division 2 Small Dailies

1. Waxahachie Daily Light

1. Nice use of photos, lots of good photos. The variety and presentation really made this entry stand out. Writing was very solid. The Q&A was a nice added feature. Very impressive work. 2. Nice use of large photo in layout. Plenty of good info included. The "where are they now" feature is a nice touch.

2. Athens Daily Review

1. Solid writing, nice photos. Don't think the layout presents the material as good as it could. Overall, solid info presented though. 2. Like the layout concept for the softball feature but it made it more difficult to read the story. Nice stories, pieces were well written.

3. Stephenville Empire-Tribune

1. Very solid writing. Lots of OK photos but lacks dominant pr outstanding pic. Nice variety. 2. Solid writing and nice variety. Use of top photo was very perplexing.

4. Sulphur Springs News-Telegram

1. Nice feature, well written. Layout on feature was well done. Decent layout overall. Lack of local material hurt here. 2. Cut-outs were OK but didn't seem to add much. Writing was OK.

Division 3 Semi-Weeklies

1. Wise County Messenger (Decatur)

1. Great photos. Everything very crisp and clear. Very good writing. An all-around great job. 2. Nicely done. Good use of photo in layout.

2. Kilgore News Herald

1. Nice photos, solid layout, nice writing. A really nice overall effort, well presented, well written. 2. Nice photos. Solid presentation, well done on all fronts.

3. Hood County News

1. Nice photos, solid layout, very well written. 2. Very nice dominate photo, very well written pieces, nice layout.

4. Breckenridge American

1. Nice layout front, two really good dominate photos. Solid layout throughout, nice coverage 2. Nice variety, solid writing.

Division 4 Large Weeklies

1. The Wylie News

1. Nice use of photos, action photos were very solid. Lots of nice variety. 2. Nice range of coverage, solid use of photos.

2. Mineola Monitor

1. Nice photos and nice mix of coverage. Quality writing. Good layout. 2. Some really nice photos used throughout. Everything was just rally nice..

3. Glen Rose Reporter

1. Very nice dominate photo, good use of photos throughout. Solid writing, nice variety. 2. Solid writing, several very good photos here. Nicely done.

4. The Winnsboro News

1. Decent photos. Different layout would have improved presentation. Decent coverage. 2. Nice headline, photos. Use of photos tells story there. Overall, though, layout was a little confusing.

Division 5 Medium Weeklies

1. Tri County Leader

Good action shot lower right. Odd layout for main story, don't split photos. Typos on cutlines. Good variety of coverage, excellent youth coverage. 2. No quotes from a game story?

2. The Farmersville Times

1. This group of newspapers have excellent photos. Layout modular, but basic. Three stories on front with no quotes. Excellent variety of coverage. Decent but basic layout. Excellent photo cropping.

3. Crowley Star

1. Like the labels. Poor photo quality. Don't like white bullet box in feature package. Excellent variety of coverage. Would like to see a better layout. 2. Photos could be improved, watch boxing elements. Volleyball standings on Page 2 too tight to border at top.

4. Muenster Enterprise

1. Need to improve design. Story packed full of information. Don't split copy with photos, volume of photos impressive. 2. Not a fan of headline font. Stick with basic font for editorial portion of paper. Love the JV, subvarsity, junior high coverage.

Division 6 Small Weeklies

1. Joshua Star

Decent coverage. Love the labels. Photos need to be crisper. Ever thought of having 2 headline fonts? Excellent preview box, love the standings. Feature on athletes a breath of fresh air.

2. Alvarado Star

Love the label design. Sports briefs would work. Decent photos. Color toning on track photo needs help. Excellent volume of local sports. Not a fan of pull quote design. Clean design. Like the variation of typography. Only one sporting event covered.

3. Keene Star

Good variation of sports on front. Like that all individuals are IDed in photos. Photo pixelated on basketball story.

4. The Sachse News

Excellent photo and cropping on front page soccer photo - expressions on faces - Wow! Decent leads. Basic layout again but still excellent photo devices, cropping.

FEATURE PHOTO

Division 1 Large Dailies

1. The Lufkin Daily News/Joel Andrews

1. Composition not very strong, very centered. Line of sight does very well to draw the reader's eye through the photo. 2. Helping hand — great photo! Great job "stopping time." Very well balanced. Definitely the stronger of the two photos..

2. The Paris News/Sam Craft

1. Rain — fantastic photo! Very interesting, really draws the reader's attention. Great creativity with a "run of the mill" story.. 2. I like that no one is looking at the camera. Depth of field is great. Good photo, just does not jump out at me.

3. Texarkana Gazette/Adam Sacasa, Evan Lewis

1. Dog — great focus on boy and dog. Could have used a little cropping to off-center the photo. 2. Very posed, not very clear what is on his face or why it is there.

4. The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)/Andrew D. Brosig

1. Fair sunset — very ordinary sunset photo, nothing stands out 2. Knowledge — interesting photo but again kind of ordinary. May have liked to see more of the scene behind the boy to give more context..

Division 2 Small Dailies

1. Sulphur Springs News-Telegram/Luis Noble

Fireworks — Capturing fireworks is a challenge that was deftly achieved with this photo. Composition could have improved by cropping about an inch off bottom and left side. This would have placed the blast, the courthouse and the horizon in the strong lines. Tourists — This photo must have grabbed readers' attentions. The perspective in this photo offset some of the other composition flaws.

2. Henderson Daily News/Matthew Prosser

Redbuds — The depth of field use and the sharpness of the main subject made this photo "pop." Reproduction was outstanding. Rainbow — The lines in this photo was its strength. The photo appeared to have a couple of issues, perhaps over-use of contrast and under use of brightness.

3. Athens Daily Review/Joe Humphries, Chad Wilson

Jam Session — The viewpoint made this photo particularly interesting. While composition was very good, a little less cropping would have strengthened the focal point to the banjo player. Horse — A little more foreground would have strengthened the focus on the horse. The photo did a really good job of emphasizing the problem of negligence to some animals.

4. Stephenville Empire-Tribune/Nathan Bural, Amanda Kimble

Tractor Kids — A minor cropping on the left would have improved the composition of this photo. Reader interest could have been increased by using this photo as larger of the two used. Soldiers — Reader interest was the strength of this photo. The sharpness leaves a little to be desired in the reproduction. The soldier below right of the pastor was the actual subject of the photo despite what the outline said.

Division 3 Semi-Weeklies

1. Hood County News (Granbury)/Mary Vinson

1. Blue hand — great photo, draws interest well. Very well done compositionally. 2. Boy praying — Also draws interest well. I love that three are no faces shown, adds to the mystery of the photo.

2. Kilgore News Herald/Aaron May

1. Thunderstorm — great timing! Compositionally well-balanced, lines draw the eye to the "burst," good quality, excellent photo. 2. Dancers — no one is looking at the camera, fantastic! Action is great. May have cropped a little more on the left side.

3. Wise County Messenger (Decatur)/Joe Utly

1. Rodeo — great shot. Heavy on the right but line of sight and the calf balance it out well. Well done at "stopping time." 2. Reflections — overall good photo. Would have liked to see something on the left side to balance a little more. Love the sue of the reflections.

4. The Graham Leader/ Julianne Murrah, Cherry Rushin

1. Butterfly — great composition! Crisp and clean, great details. The simplicity of the background really makes the butterfly stand out. 2. Hug — great job on both photos of really focusing on the subject. Both very nice photos. Wish there was more distinction

between child's shirt and skin.

Division 4 Large Weeklies

1. The Winnsboro News/Ross Hunter

1. Very strong photo. Interesting colors, great job "stopping time." 2. Artistic shot of the reflection in the sunglasses. Nice!

2. The Wylie News/Rick White, David Jenkins

1. Great composition and balance, very well executed. 2. Great use of depth of field and shadows, very strong photo.

3. Mineola Monitor

Great shot, wish we could see the expression on the child's face. Reproduced a little too light. 2. Very nice. Would like to see richer color and less head space.

4. The Bee

1. Great composition, attention draws to little girl's face. 2. A little bit washed out, some distractions in the background.

Division 5 Medium Weeklies

1. Wyndi Veigel/The Farmersville Times

2. Liz Irwin/Deport Times Blossom Times

3. Janet Felderhoff/Muenster Enterprise

4. Suzanne Loudamy, Jim Jackson/Tri County Leader

Division 6 Small Weeklies

1. Alvarado Star/ Candy McMichen, Christopher Amos

1. Great color and contrasts. Beautiful expression on subject's face. 2. Great movement, very cool.

2. Keene Star/ Paul Gnad

1. This photo tells an incredible story through captured expressions. 2. Sweet picture.

3. Joshua Star/Brian Porter

1. Cute photo — You can feel the energy in this one, movement and laughter. 2. This one I actually smiled at. Sweet and goofy.

4. Princeton Herald/Jimmy Alford

1. Captured intensity. Good balance/composition. 2. Sweet pic, nice light.

NEWS PHOTO

Division 1
Large Dailies1. **Texarkana Gazette**

1. Great shot. The emotion on the witness' face with the tape behind and the officer standing on the side is gripping. Good job. 2. Speed, tension, emotions. You captured it all. Great!

2. **The Lufkin Daily News**

1. You are really on the scene when you can line up a shot before the firefighters even get the water going. Nice shot. 2. Good shot of action. I might have cropped some of the darkened sky out, but still, this works.

3. **The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)**

1. Nice job, great clarity. 2. Wreck scenes are hard to capture, you did it well.

4. **The Paris News**

1. Dark and smoky tells the story. I think printing problems (registration) takes away from the impact. 2. Again, good photo, bad printing. The firefighter dragging hose in from left makes for nice composition.

Division 2
Small Dailies1. **Henderson Daily News/Matther Prosser**

1. The rustic look of this barn was its strength. It was framed nicely on the bottom and right sides by the grassy foreground and vertical trees respectively. The reproduction was outstanding. 2. The reproduction of this photo was outstanding. While there was action exhibited in the photo by the fire itself, catching the officer in mid step improved this attribute. The composition could have been slightly improved by cropping about a quarter inch on the left and about a half inch on the right.

2. **Waxahachie Daily Light/Chad Wilson, Andrew Branca**

Reproduction was outstanding. 1. Placement of the photo in the frame resulted in good composition. 2. The photo presentation would have been improved by using a little smaller inset text. The best thing about photo is it captures the magnitude extremely well.

3. **Sulphur Springs News-Telegram/Luis Noble**

1. Reproduction was pretty good on this photo. Composition was not bad, but could have been improved by not cropping so tightly on the right side. 2. First impressions lead one to initially conclude that the shot is a little too centered in the frame. However, closer inspection reveals that framing by the tree on the left with its shadow improves the composition.

4 (tie). **Stephenville Empire-Tribune/Micah Moore**

1. The composition of this photo was near picture perfect but could have been slightly improved by not cropping quite so tightly on the right. 2. Not having a cutline, the photo has no context by itself. On the plus side, this photo was among the best of all entries for its composition.

4 (tie). **Athens Daily Review/Rich Flowers, Jeff Riggs**

1. With the exception of the clock face in the bottom third strong line and barely perceivable perspective caught in the foot level shot, the overall centered-ness of this photo overshadows the positive aspects of the photo's composition. 2. The reproduction of this photo left much to be desired. A more interesting angle would be left to right.

Division 3
Semi-Weeklies1. **Breckenridge American**

1. Aftermath — great composition. I like how large it is, makes the detail (textures) stand out. 2. Battle rages on — good use of perspective. Again, size helps the details "pop."

2. **The Light and Champion**

1. Tank explosion — great balance and depth of field, line of water does a great job of drawing the viewer's eyes right. 2. Officers — good shot, would have liked more focus on man being arrested rather than other people not involved.

3. **Wise County Messenger (Decatur)**

1. Workers mourning — great photo, able to feel sadness and grief along with the subjects. 2. Arrest — good job focusing on arrested subject. Not out of the ordinary but goes with the story.

4. **Kilgore News Herald**

1. Fire — great shot! Very well balanced compositionally, color is great. Very strong photo. 2. Police — kind of plain. Would like for this photo to tell more of a story. Not a bad photo, just not interesting.

Division 4
Large Weeklies1. **The Winnsboro News**

1. Lots of activity, kept me busy just looking at it. Love the tunnel effect. 2. Wow! Incredible, everything flying.

2. **The Pittsburg Gazette**

1. Can almost feel it melting. Great shot. 2. Tension and movement. Lots of emotion.

3. **Mineola Monitor**

1. Intensity of the situation palpable. 2. A couple of different

stories going on in this photo. Almost looks staged — stop action on a movie set. Nice.

4. **Mount Vernon Optic-Herald**

1. Wow. Good composition, good juxtaposition between tree and flames. 2. Humor and movement. Nice shot.

Division 5
Medium Weeklies1. **Muenster Enterprise**

1. Windmill — good balance and angles. May have liked more vibrant colors but darker sets the tone well. 2. Fire safety — great line of sight. Love that the subjects are not centered. Excellent composition.

2. **The Farmersville Times**

1. Car wreck — very good use of available light, great composition. 2. Fire — nice composition, might have cropped a little bit further in to focus on firefighter and ruck. Overall, nice photo.

3. **Tri County Leader**

1. Uprooted tree — crop closer into tree on the right side. Might have been a better angle to be higher to cut out the fence. Weaker of the two photos but not bad overall. 2. Horses — would have cropped closer but very well balanced and good line of sight.

4. **Mart Messenger**

1. Award — great perspective but not overall a very interesting shot. Cutline a little confusing, good angles. 2. Fire — nice balance draws the attention of the reader, makes me want to read story.

Division 6
Small Weeklies1. **Alvarado Star**

1. Dynamic, stark steeliness, stands in absolute contrast to color. Bravo. 2. Busy. Difficult to grasp concept/focus. Good reflection of devastation.

2. **Murphy Monitor**

1. Nice, deliberate shot. Good clarity and focus on subject in context. 2. Starkness and movement give this show power to draw the eye.

3. **The Princeton Herald**

1. Nice simplicity and contrast. 2. Captures the intensity.

4. **Whitewright Sun**

1. Stark with good contrast. 2. Shows movement and conveys intensity.

SPORTS PHOTO

Division 1
Large Dailies1. **Texarkana Gazette/Adam Sacasa, Evan Lewis**

1. Great directional composition and execution of "stopping time." 2. A great photo! Love seeing the context of the photo, nice reproduction.

2. **The Lufkin News**

1. Soccer — excellent photo. Definitely different and very clean for an action shot. 2. Football — great use of depth of field.

3. **The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches)**

1. One step closer — perfect catch of the emotion. 2. A splitting bat — Perfect timing, both on her face and catching the bat falling.

4. **The Paris News**

Commemorative — great idea, reproduction could be much more clear. 2. North Lamar — great job stopping action. Might like to see more of what's going on.

Division 2
Small Dailies1. **Sulphur Springs News-Telegram/Luis Noble**

1. This photo says concentration to the viewer. Though perhaps not perfectly composed, it is well composed. The action aspect was outstanding with the capture of the softball just before (or possibly just after) it was struck. 2. There are two things that set this photo apart from the everyday type sports photos with one resulting from the other. First, there was the enterprising aspect (or daringness) to shoot the photo from this angle. The other was the resulting perspective that led to outstanding composition. Too bad it had to be taken during a demo as opposed to in real competition (Not likely possible).

2. **Henderson Daily News/Hughes Ellis, Les Linebarger**

1. The two outstanding features of this photo are the action captured and the facial expressions. The reproduction was excellent. The composition could have been improved by cropping at the bottom and right side. 2. Excellent action and reproduction. The timing was outstanding. The composition could have been improved by using more of the top, left and right sides of the

photo (if available).

3. **Waxahachie Daily Light/Chad Wilson, Neal White**

1. The action in this photo was very good. The amount of space taken by the inset/overlay photo headline and sub head took away from the overall appeal, especially in the width. 2. The composition of this photo could have been improved by cropping away the entire left third to one quarter. While a good photo, the particular photo is a relatively common football sports shot. Reproduction was outstanding.

4. **Stephenville Empire-Tribune/Nathan Bural**

1. The composition of this photo was good, the captured emotion was the strongest feature. 2. While it may have been more of being in the right place a the right time, and with the unique situation, catching the coach in action set this photo apart from the norm making a relatively common football shot extraordinary. It allowed the overall entry to place in the contest.

Division 3
Semi-Weeklies1. **The Graham Leader**

Pole vaulter — Wow! Great job stopping action. Only one suggestion, may have liked to see more of the pole. Basketball — kind of ordinary photo but well executed.

2. **Breckenridge American**

Football — nice composition, very well balanced, love that I can see his surroundings also. High jump — great execution. Love to see the intensity in her face.

3. **The Light and Champion**

Football — great job stopping action. Nice angle and composition. Hurdler — Love to see his intensity. Might toy with the idea of focusing solely on him without the others behind him.

4. **Wise County Messenger**

Runner — great use of depth of field to focus on Hanna. Football — great job stopping action in the air. Reproduced a little dark.

Division 4
Large Weeklies1. **Mineola Monitor**

1. Ouch! That softball hitting shin hurts. Nice catch on the action..

2. **The Winnsboro News**

1. Nice job, even caught her desperate look. 2. A little dark but football shot has good action.

3. **The Wylie News**

1. Great action on football but graininess detracts a bit. 2. Not action, but good idea on golf.

4. **The Dublin Citizen**

1. Nice job. 2. Good shot but getting down beside track might have helped angle.

Division 5
Medium Weeklies1. **The Farmersville Times**

1. Composition and clarity is great. Nice use of dominant photo. 2. Good action. Like it!

2. **The Olney Enterprise**

1. Nice clear photos, good action. Football — wow, the look in his eyes. 2. Good eye on baseball, good shot.

3. **Mart Messenger**

1. Baseball — nice action, could be a little crisper. 2. Softball — Nice!

4. **Deport Times Blossom Times**

1. Nice job on shot put and on the heat shot.

Division 6
Small Weeklies1. **The Sachse News**

Great action shot of girls soccer, dirt and hair flying, grimacing faces. Great clarity At the right place.

2. **Murphy Monitor**

You are getting great angles on your shots. Crisp softball shot. Nice work.

3. **Joshua Star**

Rule of thirds really worked nicely in the baseball photo.

4. **Princeton Herald**

Good action on baseball shot. Nice job. In cutline, why say "above"? It's the only photo. Nice clear shot though.