

DIVISION 1 – DAILIES

CIRCULATION MORE THAN 6,500

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very nice variety of stories on A1, with the three days submitted including a balance of crime, government, business and community features. Sports coverage is outstanding. Quality writing throughout, and your use of photos throughout your sections is outstanding. Headlines stand out, and your comprehensive coverage of your community from news to features to sports shows that you truly are the news authority in your community.

SECOND PLACE: Enid News & Eagle. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice mix of stories, from crime to government to the enterprise stories in the Sunday section. Good local coverage. Headline writing and use of photos could use some improvement, and sports seemed to lack the ultra local focus of the news coverage. But, all in all, a nice newspaper that is really delving into community issues.

THIRD PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Whether it's news or sports, it's obvious the focus is on local, as it should be. Nice mix of stories on A1, from crime to government to features. Stronger use of photos and headline writing would strengthen the overall news product. Writing and reporting is solid. Nice community newspaper.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Enid News & Eagle. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This entry's use of easy-to-read typefaces and photos put this entry over the top. Great use of clean design - the eyes know where to look. Great job!

SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This entry was a very close second. Great job on layouts and use of photos. At times, it seemed like too much info was crammed on the page. Don't be afraid of white space.

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great Ad design, Loved the Solar Eclipse section. Keep up the good work!

SECOND PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice house ads, Great readers choice contest.

THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Easy to read Classifieds, Nice Candy Cane Cash page

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution

SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript

THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good job of capturing sports action and feature work.

SECOND PLACE: Enid News & Eagle. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice sports coverage. Like the concentration of the boy teeing off on the baseball.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript

SECOND PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Enid News & Eagle, "Candy Cane Cash." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A great promotion that engages shoppers and businesses.

SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript, "Discover Norman." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice visitors guide. Was disappointed with the quality of the PDF, many of the ads were bitmapped, missing from the document when the PDF was made.

THIRD PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix, "Dog Days of Summer." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Who doesn't love dogs and cats! It's a worthwhile cause to help with pet adoptions. If this was your first year, I hope you'll continue it and the community and businesses support it.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: Enid News & Eagle, "Community engagement efforts." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: What an incredible demonstration of community involvement. Unfortunately, newspapers are increasingly having to prove their worth to readers and potential advertisers. You have done just that, and I applaud your efforts. Hopefully your community recognizes your commitment to real news.

SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript, "Renaming DeBarr Avenue." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Yikes, what a sticky issue. Way to stand up for what you believe in without shoving it down readers' throats. I recognize it's sometimes difficult to see both sides of an issue that seems to only have one side in this day and age, and you've represented both sides well. Great job.

DIGITAL MEDIA - DAILIES

FIRST PLACE: The Journal Record

SECOND PLACE: The Ardmoreite

THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Cass Rains, Enid News & Eagle. "Fraud arrest: Former mayor, bank VP Currier charged in largest fraud investigation in EPD history."

SECOND PLACE: Mack Burke, The Norman Transcript. "Former state seismologist testifies officials coerced him to alter research on induced quakes"

THIRD PLACE: Cass Rains, Enid News & Eagle. "Sheriff, 5 others indicted in inmate death: All charged with second-degree manslaughter in Garfield Co. court."

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Steve Metzger, The Lawton Constitution. "Marlow man had role in bomb that ended World War II." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** This was an interesting article! The writer was good at capturing the Marlow man's life experiences. I wanted to keep reading more.

SECOND PLACE: Sheila Robinson, The Lawton Constitution. "Effects of a childhood scourge remain." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** The article brought light back to the polio epidemic. The writer was very good at capturing what Gary went through as a child with polio.

THIRD PLACE: Grace Leonhart, The Lawton Constitution. "Belgian family gets taste of SW Oklahoma hospitality." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** What an interesting article of this women's life and how she overcame all the obstacles.

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Tyler Palmateer, The Norman Transcript. "Baker Mayfield's journey to the top captivates." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** This was long, but kept my attention throughout.

SECOND PLACE: Dave Ruthenberg, Enid News & Eagle. "At the crossroads: A phone call and a coach's offer helped turn life around for Enid's Augie Prichett." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Interesting topic and something that held my attention. I liked how you broke the story up and moved it forward.

THIRD PLACE: John McKelvey, The Norman Transcript. "OU takes second straight national title: Sooners top Gators for third championship in five years."

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: James Neal, Enid News & Eagle. "Separated by skin."

SECOND PLACE: James Neal, Enid News & Eagle. "Teacher pay."

THIRD PLACE: Ryan Miller and Janelle Stecklein, Enid News & Eagle. "Overextended Oklahomans"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Clay Horning, The Norman Transcript. "Sports columns"

SECOND PLACE: Jeff Mullin, Enid News & Eagle. "Sidelines"

THIRD PLACE: Jamie Berry, The Norman Transcript. "Norman Citizens' Police Academy series"

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Rebekah Collins and Rebecca Howe, The Norman Transcript. "Spark's Clinic - Reader's Choice." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Very clean & catches the eye.

SECOND PLACE: Rebecca Howe, The Norman Transcript. "Bryan's Car Corner." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Although it is noticeable – it could be hard to read for many readers.

THIRD PLACE: Marise Boehs and Rebekah Collins, The Norman Transcript. "Mitchell's Jewelry"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Marise Boehs and Rebecca Howe, The Norman Transcript. "Rose Rock Vet Hospital." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Dogs with sunglasses! You look at one and you want to look at them all! Great way to get and keep eyes on an ad. Simple and fun. Clean and effective.

SECOND PLACE: Stephanie Elswick, Cindi Lennier, Charlie Meggyes and Erin Shriver, Muskogee Phoenix. "Warner School." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Great concept for a community ad. Getting a lot of information in the ad that will put a lot of eyes on the ad, for a longer than average time.

THIRD PLACE: Rebecca Howe, The Norman Transcript. "Mel's Klostet." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Good way to highlight the business and bring attention to the merchandise.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Jeff Dixon, The Lawton Constitution. "Snowstorm socks Lawton." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Enticing photo that helps visualize an Oklahoma snowstorm. I like the angle and the trail of footprints.

SECOND PLACE: Cody Giles, The Norman Transcript. "Up in smoke." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A smoke photo with some action. I appreciate what was captured here. Blinding smoke and the fire truck about to drive into it.

THIRD PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript. "Ready to respond." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Dramatic photo of an emergency response exercise. Good angle, well-cropped.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Jeff Dixon, The Lawton Constitution. "A dirty game."

SECOND PLACE: Steve Miller, The Lawton Constitution. "Pumpkins are aplenty at Pumpkin Hill"

THIRD PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript. "Summer fun for a good cause"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript. "Westmoore leaping catch." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great timing to catch the peak action, and it makes you want to know more about the photo. Did he make the catch? Was it a pivotal moment in the game?

SECOND PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript. "Baker's revenge"

THIRD PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript. "OU loses big lead in loss"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Abbie Sears, The Norman Transcript. "Merry Christmas from The Norman Transcript." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The graphic got me! Very clever "Christmas Card."

SECOND PLACE: Jamie Berry, The Norman Transcript. "Lifesavers." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Your front page photo was strong and told the story.

THIRD PLACE: Dillon Hart, The Norman Transcript. "OU Softball: National championship"

OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION – 2017 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RESULTS

DIVISION 2 – DAILIES **CIRCULATION 3,500 TO 6,500**

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: McAlester News-Capital. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: All of these papers were of solid quality. I looked at them as if I were new to the town and trying to learn about the community each one represents. I also was looking for how I as a new resident could bridge into the community from national stuff I'd been hearing about elsewhere. Watch the use of imagery and keep in mind where the fold falls for the photos as I might not pick it up if the compelling part of the photo is hidden. I rated each one on the content that best allowed me to gather the most news from local, regional and national stories.

SECOND PLACE: The Ardmoreite

THIRD PLACE: Stillwater News Press

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Weatherford Daily News. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This well-designed newspaper's front pages put it over the top. Ad design was fantastic and consistent. Great use of white space and other important design elements.

SECOND PLACE: McAlester News-Capital. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Graphic elements put this entry over the top. Easy-on-the-eyes typeface made the newspaper an easy read.

THIRD PLACE: The Shawnee News-Star. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clean, consistent layouts with great prime ad real estate above the masthead. NICE!

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Weatherford Daily News. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I will be subscribing, mostly for ideas we can use in Kansas. The ads are creative and interesting. They also are woven into Weatherford's news pages, something I suspect attracts readers beyond the traditional news.

SECOND PLACE: Stillwater News Press. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Attractive ads, many of them involving readers. I also like the variety of ad options on Page 1.

THIRD PLACE: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Reproduction is good. Ads are attractive and interesting. Not too busy.

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Weatherford Daily News

SECOND PLACE: McAlester News-Capital

THIRD PLACE: Stillwater News Press

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: Stillwater News Press. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Consistently well-executed photography that catches the eye.

SECOND PLACE: McAlester News-Capital. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice job of capturing the subject and action.

THIRD PLACE: The Shawnee News-Star. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good job of relaying action and events to readers.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Ada News. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Lots of excellent sports coverage in this division.

SECOND PLACE: Stillwater News Press.

THIRD PLACE: Weatherford Daily News.

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "Dewey Blizzard." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very ambitious promotion that seemed to be well supported by the news staff as well as the advertisers. I hope the businesses benefited by the extra traffic downtown.

SECOND PLACE: The Shawnee News-Star, "Our Native Traditions." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice magazine style publication. Liked the layout, fonts and styles.

THIRD PLACE: The Ardmoreite, "Honoring our local firefighters." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice tribute to local firefighters. I would have liked to see more supporting materials on how the voting took place, sample of ballot ads maybe.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "Night of Scholars and Champions." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: What an incredible example of community! So many current community members/businesses working together to honor the future of the community!

SECOND PLACE: The Shawnee News-Star, "2017 Firefighter of the Year awards." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I am incredibly impressed with this idea - first responders deserve much respect, and I'm glad to see you honored them with awards and a beautiful tab at the end. I only wish it could have been full-color - but I understand that's not always possible. Great idea and execution. I hope it becomes a tradition.

THIRD PLACE: Weatherford Daily News, "Christmas in the park." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This was such a fun idea - and truly shows the impact a good newspaper can have on a community. The photos were darling, and it looks like everyone had plenty of fun getting to know the newspaper and its people.

DIGITAL MEDIA - DAILIES

FIRST PLACE: The Journal Record

SECOND PLACE: The Ardmoreite

THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Beau Simmons, Stillwater News Press. "Cycle of crisis: City leaders decry lack of mental health treatment options."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A great, in-depth look at a crisis that Oklahoma is facing as well so many other states. This offers a first hand look at the crisis and what those who are "on the ground" are seeing as a result of funding cuts to mental health. Great job.

SECOND PLACE: Tim Ahrens and Jordan Bishop, Stillwater News Press. "OSU coach Lamont Evans charged." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Great story on a scandal that is plaguing many universities in the U.S. Explanation was thorough and easy to understand.

THIRD PLACE: David Bitton, Stillwater News Press. "Feeling unsupported by state, student teachers bolt for better pay." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Wonderful story on a problem that educators are facing not only in Oklahoma but across the nation. Brain drain is a problem and it is well explained in this article.

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Eric Swanson, The Ada News. "After seven decades, Marine's remains to be buried in Oklahoma."

SECOND PLACE: Randy Spicer II, Weatherford Daily News. "World War II veteran reflects on his time in war-torn Europe."

THIRD PLACE: Michelle Charles, Stillwater News Press. "A dog's second life."

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Mike Tupa, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. "Red Murrell imparted legacy of hoops, charity"

SECOND PLACE: Adam Ewing, The Shawnee News-Star. "Nichols overcomes cancer, fulfills football dream"

THIRD PLACE: Adrian O'Hanlon III, McAlester News-Capital. "What really happened in the Texas A&M bullpen prank call video"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: James Beaty and Adrian O'Hanlon III, McAlester News-Capital. "State Auditor: More than \$1.7 million from city of Hartshorne never deposited." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** This in-depth reporting category had many good entries. Lots of good reporting.

SECOND PLACE: James Beaty, McAlester News-Capital. "Longtime Expo Center manager, city tourism manager dismissed."

THIRD PLACE: Randy Spicer II, Weatherford Daily News. "Meeting to feature annexation debate, again."

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: David Dishman, McAlester News-Capital. "The Reel Dish"

SECOND PLACE: James Beaty, McAlester News-Capital. "Ramblin' Round"

THIRD PLACE: Kent Bush, The Shawnee News-Star. "Publisher's Column"

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Brenda Sheikh, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. "Glenn Security Systems"

SECOND PLACE: Julie Strain, Stillwater News Press. "Lazenby Landscaping"

THIRD PLACE: Brenda Sheikh, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. "Flowerland"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Julie Strain, Stillwater News Press. "Lakeview Pointe Shopping Center." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** What a great way to attract and lead the eye to the businesses. Good use of photos and graphics.

SECOND PLACE: Brenda Sheikh, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. "Glamour Pets." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Great ad and idea. Because the photos are so great, coming up with a way to make them a bit bigger could have added even more impact. Cute animal photos always win.

THIRD PLACE: Jill Hunt, Stillwater News Press. "Agri Center." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Nice big and bold line in the banner makes you want to read more - and I did!

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: David Bitton, Stillwater News Press. "Unheard." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** They say a picture is worth a thousand words, well this picture of one word says a thousand words. High quality photo, well-cropped. You can see the emotion in her eyes. This picture speaks even though the subject of the photo cannot speak. Good job.

SECOND PLACE: Chris Day, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. "Polar Plunge bellyflop." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Fun picture. Great timing of the instant before splashdown. I cringe (in a good way) looking at it!

THIRD PLACE: Randy Mitchell, The Ada News. "Air Evac Lifeteam helicopter landing." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Nice angle on the emergency response down the road, capturing the helicopter and the emergency personnel in the distance.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

- FIRST PLACE:** David Bitton, Stillwater News Press. "Boomer Blast."
JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The photo captures the spirit of the holiday. It was exciting to see.
- SECOND PLACE:** Richard Barron, The Ada News. "Ada Indivisible – Health care protest." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The face of the man captures the idea of the moment.
- THIRD PLACE:** Kevin Harvison, McAlester News-Capital. "Miss McAlester crowning." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Miss McAlester's face tells the whole story.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

- FIRST PLACE:** Mike Tupa, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. "Loose ball." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: An outstanding sports photo. Not only is the focus sharp and the crop tight, the moment is amazing, with a different expression on each face. The player with the ball is determined, the player jumping over him is worried, and the player in the back is worried, as the viewer is, that someone's going to come out of this injured. There's a lot to look at in this frame, and it's all fascinating.
- SECOND PLACE:** Josh Burton, Weatherford Daily News, "Eagles suffer first loss." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Here's the struggle of football in a frame. The defense tries mightily to stop the advancing offense, which in this case outnumbers the poor guy whose grasp on the ball-carrier's leg looks unlikely to last.
- THIRD PLACE:** Jason Elmquist, Stillwater News Press. "Hill's touchdown dive." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Sports action doesn't always require a super-telephoto lens and a tight crop. This photo shows that a wider view can work if the entire frame is well used. In addition to the player diving for a touchdown, we can see that line of defense trying to stop him and, on the other side, the quarterback cheering the play. A sea of red in the background increases the excitement of the shot.

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

- FIRST PLACE:** Dawnyal Hill, McAlester News-Capital. "Eclipse 2017." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very brave to have a black front page – but it was the time to do it! (As an aside, we didn't get to see it in our part of Kansas – too cloudy)
- SECOND PLACE:** Josh Burton, Weatherford Daily News. "SportsDay Unleashed." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Front page definitely says your town is about football! At least that time of year. I liked the graphics.
- THIRD PLACE:** Samantha Spears, The Ada News. "ECU Graduation." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice balanced page. Strong lead photo.

DIVISION 3 – DAILIES

CIRCULATION LESS THAN 3,500

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Journal Record (Oklahoma City). **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** The writing in this publication is of very high quality - very informative. The depth of reporting clearly shows that the publication is the authority on business, economic and government news. Despite being a niche product with a limited scope, the variety of business, economic and legislative stories is impressive. Very nice use of photos and graphic elements. You really pack a lot of coverage in your section each day, and it's very comprehensive and well-organized. Clearly the class of this division

SECOND PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Writing is solid, and the coverage is balanced with great variety on A1 every day. Great job balancing crime, government, feature and community coverage. Love the focus on local. Headlines are creative, concise and clear. The section is well-organized and the use of photos is solid.

THIRD PLACE: Poteau Daily News. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Good job focusing on local. Great variety of stories, and stories are well-written. The section would come together better with a few more photos and snappier headlines.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Journal Record. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Very professional looking paper while also stepping out of the box artistically. Excellent eye for detail throughout. Nice use of fonts.

SECOND PLACE: The Altus Times. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Excellent layout that is very easy to follow. Clean elements and consistency throughout. The front page could use a little more creativity.

THIRD PLACE: Clinton Daily News. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Appealing front pages. Photographic elements were nice on each edition. Consistency was nice on the inside pages. Overall type and photos seemed a little large. (We did not dock points for this as we understand it might be a preference to the readers.) We did notice on some pages it seemed column widths were too narrow for the size of the font.

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Clinton Daily News. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** These are in-your-face ads, impossible to ignore. The 'Saluting Our Patriots' section was especially good. Also enjoyed the personal touch on one Help Wanted Ad. "I'm Hector" put a face with the job.

SECOND PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** There were two qualities I liked about your ads - your efforts to find new ways to showcase advertisers and the way the ads seem to be a true reflection of the advertiser. I suspect your advertising representatives take the time to know their clients and it shows.

THIRD PLACE: The Journal Record. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** You're not afraid to use white space. Awesome! Also liked the feel of your ads - mood fit the advertiser. A word of caution, reverse type isn't always a good thing, especially for older readers.

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Clinton Daily News

SECOND PLACE: The Journal Record

THIRD PLACE: Claremore Daily Progress

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: Guymon Daily Herald. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Good captures and story-telling of events.

SECOND PLACE: Woodward News. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Nice job of bringing readers in the events.

THIRD PLACE: Clinton Daily News. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Good sports action and spot news coverage.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Poteau Daily News. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** I thoroughly enjoy the layout of this paper. I also love the fact that the photos are in B/W because it doesn't take your eye away from the stories.

SECOND PLACE: The Altus Times. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** I like the variety of stories this paper has. You get youth, high school, college and even professional, which is great.

THIRD PLACE: Durant Daily Democrat. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** I like the layout of this paper and the variety as well. I also like the headlines, those jump out at you off the page.

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press, "Annual Newcomers Guide."

SECOND PLACE: The Journal Record, "2017 Woman of the Year."

THIRD PLACE: Clinton Daily News, "Home for the Holidays."

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Duncan Banner, "Take Out Tuesday partnership with Stephens County Humane Society." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Great community involvement. I enjoy how the Duncan Banner staff created excitement within the community for a much needed service. The pictures show some very happy customers. Great job!

SECOND PLACE: Woodward News, "Standing Strong." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Woodward News showed how a community survives by working together and the strength within to overcome. I love how they invited people to submit their own photos and stories and become involved with the papers research of past destruction and the rebuilding.

THIRD PLACE: The Journal Record, "The modern black plague: Oklahoma's opioid epidemic." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Journal Record provided valuable information to the community. Great research work.

DIGITAL MEDIA - DAILIES

FIRST PLACE: The Journal Record

SECOND PLACE: The Ardmoreite

THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Molly Fleming, The Journal Record. "Locked out: Affordable housing still scarce in OKC." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Compelling story telling; information that is critical for the community to know, told in a detailed fashion.

SECOND PLACE: Rachael Van Horn, Woodward News. "The killer inside: Local family sickened by malfunctioning home furnace." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Well done. Nice job finding and writing this piece.

THIRD PLACE: Tes Jackson, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Man arrested for murder in Daisy Doe case." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Cold cases are fascinating beasts, and sometimes hard to write about. This was a well done piece of story telling.

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Tom Fink, Claremore Daily Progress, "Dolenz reflects on 50 years of Monkee business." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good use of quotes from Dolenz about how his career has evolved, and continues to do so. I am of a younger generation, and this really drew me in.

SECOND PLACE: Tom Fink, Claremore Daily Progress, "Christmas Magic." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Heartfelt story about how one man's visit to Santa after a personal loss led to him becoming "Santa Nicholas" as a way to pay it forward.

THIRD PLACE: Sean Stephens, Clinton Daily News, "Collins finds kinship with birds of prey." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Interesting story about a rather unusual hobby. Good quotes and information about the purpose of falconry and how it is done.

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Rick Heaton, Claremore Daily Progress, "Just another journey for Parker Price." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Wonderful feature about sports and more. Your story captures the essence of sports – working hard, competing, striving for improvement.

SECOND PLACE: Brian Brus, The Journal Record, "River Connections: Regatta." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Strong craftsmanship at the start of this story, pulling me into the rest of it. Good example writing a feature lead.

THIRD PLACE: Brian Brus, The Journal Record, "World champion fencer visits OKC as sport ambassador." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Interesting feature, a different kind of topic that stood out.

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Rachael Van Horn, Woodward News, "Wildfires series." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Wow. This series looked at all aspects of this natural disaster and even did follow-ups with stakeholders about what was learned, etc. It was well-written with excellent pictures included. Well done.

SECOND PLACE: Catherine Sweeney, The Journal Record, "The cost of cuts: Agency to cut child abuse prevention programs." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This series was a close second. What a way to show the public about potential/actual cuts and how it would affect them personally. Excellent. Many other states could use this as a great example of how to report of cuts to local programs.

THIRD PLACE: Sheri Gourd, Kim Poindexter and Sean Rowley, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Markwayne Mullin forums." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great in-depth series.

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Tom Fink, Claremore Daily Progress. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I chose this writer because he writes with "his" style. He's fun and interesting. Good Job!

SECOND PLACE: Ted Streuli, The Journal Record, "Periscope."

THIRD PLACE: Rick Heaton, Claremore Daily Progress, "The Heat Index."

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Juanita Lewis, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Aerofit"

SECOND PLACE: Sarah Barrow, Jordan Mazuranic and Laura Watts, The Journal Record. "Geno's Furs"

THIRD PLACE: Keith Foster, Poteau Daily News, "LeFlore County Museum"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Laura Watts, The Journal Record, "Oklahoma History Center: Welcome home." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Really pops off the page.

SECOND PLACE: Dana Boyles, The Duncan Banner, "Marlow Mercantile." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Looks like a fun celebration.

THIRD PLACE: Laura Watts, The Journal Record, "Oklahoma History Center: The wall that heals." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Dramatic use of black-white with a touch of color. Nice.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Brent Fuchs, The Journal Record, "Remove." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Several reasons to give this photo first place. I'm sure it took some effort and permission to get the opportunity to take the photo. Great quality and cropping. The picture itself could tell the story. I really liked it.

SECOND PLACE: Amanda Corbin, Poteau Daily News, "Lifesavers." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The emotion in this photo is what made it a top photo. I would've liked to have seen the photographer jump in closer or maybe even crop the sides down a bit.

THIRD PLACE: Brent Fuchs, The Journal Record, "Oklahoma has a big toothache." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great framing and quality. I like being able to see their eyes.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Amanda Corbin, Poteau Daily News, "Mardi Gras." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good pictures of action. Lets people see what they missed.

SECOND PLACE: Shawn Yorks, Guymon Daily Herald, "Kremlin-Hillsdale wins state championship." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Captures the moment of excitement for the students and coach.

THIRD PLACE: Rick Carpenter, The Altus Times, "Don't look now!" JUDGE'S COMMENTS: She expresses how most people feel about a shot. Great capture of the moment.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Rick Carpenter, The Altus Times, "Layup over the back."

SECOND PLACE: Kevin Farr, Durant Daily Democrat, "Leaping catch."

THIRD PLACE: Kevin Farr, Durant Daily Democrat, "Silo wins 13th state title"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Bryan Richter, The Journal Record, "Raising the Barres." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clean simple design with plenty of white space. Gives plenty of attention to the featured article. Summary of inside articles are simple and concise.

SECOND PLACE: Stacey Neal, The Altus Times, "Nov. 30, 2017." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good use of photos; front page is a little busy and could use a little more white space to make it easier for the reader.

THIRD PLACE: Bryan Richter, The Journal Record, "Looking at the big picture." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great template design.

DIVISION 4 – WEEKLIES

CIRCULATION MORE THAN 2,000

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I loved all the issues in this category. These winners are the ones staying uber-local and serving their residents with intent and dedicated purpose. The Purcell Register is the first place pick because of the addition of some regional (state-level) content and for image quality to accompany the stories.

SECOND PLACE: The Stilwell Democrat Journal

THIRD PLACE: Mustang Times

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Excellent creativity and interesting designs throughout. Good use of photographic elements. Inside pages could use a little consistency and organization. Pages need either vertical dividing lines or more space in between stories.

SECOND PLACE: Mustang Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice balance of photo and text placement. Front pages were lively. Some text and graphic elements were too close together. Text was seen butted up to other elements.

THIRD PLACE: Choctaw Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Organized, consistent, clean and easy to read. It could use a little more creativity on the front page. Sometimes the news items were a little too close to the advertisements.

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Choctaw Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Lots of ads! Nice ad layout, very colorful.

SECOND PLACE: Stigler News-Sentinel. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very eye catching ads.

THIRD PLACE: The Madill Record. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great ad sales and design for the special sections!

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register

SECOND PLACE: Choctaw Times

THIRD PLACE: The Madill Record

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great clarity and action. Appreciated the pink lines directing to the entry photo.

SECOND PLACE: Mustang Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Loved the focus on the American Legion photo. Very moving.

THIRD PLACE: Choctaw Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Loved the bubbles and softball in the forefront. Added interest.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Madill Record

SECOND PLACE: Stigler News-Sentinel

THIRD PLACE: The Purcell Register

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Stigler News-Sentinel, "Honor, A Salute To Our Veterans." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Section is laid out very well. Very creative ads. Section can be used as a example in almost every other market.

SECOND PLACE: OKC Friday, "Celebrate Oklahoma."

THIRD PLACE: Choctaw Times, "Oktoberfest 2017 Guide"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register, "Passage of school bond issue." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Fantastic way to be a leader in the community by using the newspaper to support - and write about - this bond issue. After reading these, I would have voted yes!

SECOND PLACE: Mustang Times, "Food drive"

THIRD PLACE: The Madill Record, "Marshall County Junior Livestock Show"

DIGITAL MEDIA - WEEKLIES

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register, "Website, Facebook & Twitter accounts." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clean, large photos, navigates easy and ties into socials well. Good ads and not too busy for web. Just need more of them. Very simple look which makes it less intimidating than what many other sites can be.

SECOND PLACE: The Edmond Sun, "Website and social media." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Like the way the socials tie into this site. It is easy to navigate and images draw well into the site. Use full frame or adjust images in featured banner to provide better look.

THIRD PLACE: Skiatook Journal, "SkiatookJournal.com." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Lots of home page content here. Could integrate other visuals or links to other areas on the right panel about a third of the way down. Seems like it hits white space too soon and missing opportunities to promote other areas maybe.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Mike Ray, OKC Friday, "Nichols Hills beaches channel surfing."

SECOND PLACE: Anita Reding, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Attorney: Use of sales tax for jail debt legal."

THIRD PLACE: Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "State Could Cut County Budget."

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "Second Lieutenant Cain returned home." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Sweet story, and sweet story telling.

SECOND PLACE: Darrell Neale, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Rock retiring from scrap business after 64 years." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice job with a very interesting subject.

THIRD PLACE: Becky Clark, Nowata Star, "Blind veteran creates artistic, handcrafted wooden bowls"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Tom Firme, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Brooks breaks career rushing mark." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice job recording a great moment in a young player's life, as well as making sure the offensive line is included. I view community newspapers' main purposes as recording local history and providing scrapbook material, and this does both of those well.

SECOND PLACE: Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "The last hoorah!" JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good work in previewing of pivotal moment for a pair of schools and communities, and creating a story that can be held on to by the participants.

THIRD PLACE: Tom Firme, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Kinta Eagles make second straight state semifinals run." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice story to wrap up the season, even though the team did not reach its ultimate goal. I thought you did a good job using quotes to convey the story and emotions.

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Tina Firquain and Karen Maple and Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "Marshall County Fire Departments." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: These were all very well written and informative on 5 different departments.

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Charles Keim, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Keim's Korner." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I really like the writing style. Telling different stories but keeping them light. Just what the readers need in a column. Would really like to read the jump pages too, as I could only see the first page of each story, but that was enough to be a winner.

SECOND PLACE: Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "Single Mom"

THIRD PLACE: Joy Richardson, OKC Friday, "Excursions"

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: LaGayla Eakle, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Sockey Insurance"

SECOND PLACE: LaGayla Eakle, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Methodist Church Holy Week services"

THIRD PLACE: Chris Fuson, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Cane Hill Harvest Music Festival"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: LaGayla Eakle, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Team Roping Fundraiser." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great use of color, good photos and clear message.

SECOND PLACE: LaGayla Eakle, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Skin Deep, sun & water safety." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Adorable. Love the bold photo and fun fonts.

THIRD PLACE: Vicki Gourley, OKC Friday, "Nazih Zuhdi, M.D." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great tribute to a man who apparently was highly respected. Nice use of white space.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "Two-vehicle accident." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: People helping people and enterprise.

SECOND PLACE: Mike Bryant, Nowata Star, "Oops, trailer snags low line." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Shows people helping out but doesn't show the truck that caused the problem.

THIRD PLACE: Darrell Neale, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Tornado hits Greasy community." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Shows the contrast between what the twister hit and didn't hit but has no people or immediate action.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Mike Bryant, Nowata Star, "Blind veteran creates artistic, handcrafted wooden bowls"

SECOND PLACE: Tina Firquain, The Madill Record, "Welcome Home"

THIRD PLACE: Frankie Duncan, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "One year old at Bell Pow Wow"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "Kingston's second place steal." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great capture of the action as well as the facial reactions. Careful with the highlights getting too blown out.

SECOND PLACE: Tom Firme, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Safe at home plate." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice photo of action at home plate. Was disappointed to see the bold heading take away from the photo itself.

THIRD PLACE: Tom Firme, Stigler News-Sentinel, "Parker lights up homecoming night as Keota beats Porum"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Tina Firquain and Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "Halloween." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The color of the left column doesn't blend well with the other elements of the page, however, the other elements complement each other perfectly. Plenty of white space and graphics that will draw reader in. Overall balance; gives reader plenty of elements without being cramped.

SECOND PLACE: Molly Raley, The Madill Record, "August 3, 2017." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clean transition between elements; easy to navigate; purple color is distracting.

THIRD PLACE: Karen Holt, Stigler News-Sentinel, "February 23, 2017." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good article separation. Clean page, but could be improved with fewer, more focused elements and more white space.

DIVISION 5 – WEEKLIES

CIRCULATION 1,400 - 2,000

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Lots of great content, photos with nearly everything, the writing is pretty good. There is some editorializing or opinion in some stories, though.

SECOND PLACE: The Beckham County Record. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Beautiful color, good looking front page.

THIRD PLACE: The Delaware County Journal. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good variety of stories, but I would have liked to have seen more original content and there was incorrect use of commas. When in doubt leave it out.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Countywide & Sun (Tecumseh)

SECOND PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal

THIRD PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Magazines are clean. Ads in paper are a wide variety as well as the news coverage.

SECOND PLACE: Owasso Reporter. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Half magazine is clean - good use of pricing / sales insert for next time. Difference in advertising overall changes things up - it doesn't get too repetitious.

THIRD PLACE: Tuttle Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Wide variety of event advertising. Layout flows well. Good ads.

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Delaware County Journal

SECOND PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune

THIRD PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great fire picture! Pictures are clear and good action.

SECOND PLACE: Countywide & Sun. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very good photos. Nicely framed.

THIRD PLACE: Oologah Lake Leader. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great perspective. Highlighted cutlines made is so much easier to judge.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This was a tight contest between first and second. I thought the thing that put this paper over the top was the photography. A few too many grip and grins for my taste, but the action shots were tops in the field.

SECOND PLACE: Owasso Reporter. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This paper did a great job as well. Liked the headlines, leads, and overall writing styles. The photography left some to be desired, but the decision was very close.

THIRD PLACE: The Cleveland American. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This paper did a nice job overall and peppered the reader with lots of art which I am sure the community loves. I liked the packages, but would have run some of the art bigger rather than so many small photos. The headlines also left a little to be desired I thought. The writing was solid.

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Countywide & Sun, "2017 Graduation." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: An outstanding content-driven grad section with great context from the teachers & staff of the school. Broadsheet format gives lots of space for kids profiles & info and ad support. Well done.

SECOND PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Wagoner County Hometown Guide." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The layout is consistent, clean and organized. I like the way you added texture behind the story space and leave the ad space nice & clean. This is a good, simple, straightforward section and would convert well to a mobile device. Nicely done.

THIRD PLACE: The Marlow Review, "Football Preview." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Just an outstanding approach to your football season. Must have taken a huge amount of staff time. I've never seen anyone devote so much time & effort, and the idea of including the opponents in a section is unique.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: Countywide & Sun, "Domestic violence awareness." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good in-depth articles and support of a needed center in your community. Putting yourself out there was probably very difficult, but that's the type of thing that will get people to pay attention.

SECOND PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Food from Fans food drive." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I loved this! A great way to make a school rivalry into something that goes BEYOND football.

THIRD PLACE: Oologah Lake Leader, "Fishing Derby." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This is a nice event for your community ... even nicer because your champion fisherman donates his time.

DIGITAL MEDIA - WEEKLIES

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register, "Website, Facebook & Twitter accounts." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clean, large photos, navigates easy and ties into socials well. Good ads and not too busy for web. Just need more of them. Very simple look which makes it less intimidating than what many other sites can be.

SECOND PLACE: The Edmond Sun, "Website and social media." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Like the way the socials tie into this site. It is easy to navigate and images draw well into the site. Use full frame or adjust images in featured banner to provide better look.

THIRD PLACE: Skiatook Journal, "SkiatookJournal.com." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Lots of home page content here. Could integrate other visuals or links to other areas on the right panel about a third of the way down. Seems like it hits white space too soon and missing opportunities to promote other areas maybe.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Hominy hatchet murder suspects to stand trial"

SECOND PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "ICES Corporation looks to uncertain future after fire"

THIRD PLACE: Eric Warsinsky, Watonga Republican, "Local woman found dead in Greenfield"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Local landmark celebrates 60 Pioneer Days"

SECOND PLACE: Rusty Ferguson, The Cleveland American, "Thankful for the village where it all began"

THIRD PLACE: Shonda Little, The Beckham County Record, "Breast cancer awareness series: A life cut short"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "CHS grad buckled up and headed to rodeo nationals"

SECOND PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Tigers want to knock Bucks off their throne"

THIRD PLACE: Christian Favalora, Owasso Reporter, "Lineman culture: Owasso's big uglies power Ram offense"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

(INCLUDES DIVISION 6)

FIRST PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Earthquakes."

SECOND PLACE: Gloria Trotter, Countywide & Sun, "Officer Justin Terney, Our Fallen Hero."

THIRD PLACE: Chad Waters, Watonga Republican, "Gay man files lawsuit against Hitchcock residents and Blaine County sheriffs."

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Kaylea Hutson-Miller, The Delaware County Journal, "Bits & Pieces." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great writing! Engaging and well written. Great job.

SECOND PLACE: Aaron McDonald, Countywide & Sun, "Life In The Little Red House." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This entry was a close second! Great writing with easily relatable stories.

THIRD PLACE: Rusty Ferguson, The Cleveland American, "Standing Tall." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great entries on timely topics. Great job.

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Caleb Head, The Cleveland American, "Westport Baptist Church." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Awesome dynamic layout. Really stands out on the page and is clear, legible, and stylish. Love the use of the large graphic and the diagonal text.

SECOND PLACE: Caleb Head, The Cleveland American, "Hickory House." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Cute attention grabbing ad. Great use of fonts. Use of white on black makes it stand out. It is the most eye-catching ad on a page with even larger ads on it.

THIRD PLACE: Caleb Head, The Cleveland American, "First Christian Preschool." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great mix of fonts. A very attention grabbing ad.

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Rusty Ferguson, The Cleveland American, "Overman Insurance"

SECOND PLACE: Faith Wylie, Oologah Lake Leader, "Redbud Marina"

THIRD PLACE: Susi Yount, The Delaware County Journal, "RFC Music Fest"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

(INCLUDES DIVISION 6)

FIRST PLACE: Todd Brooks, The Marlow Review, "Burglary suspects arrested following manhunts." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice shot of the capture of a burglary suspect. It's often difficult to be there for that money shot.

SECOND PLACE: Jessica Davis, Vian Tenkiller News, "Accident claims life of truck driver." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good photos of a fatality crash. Like having both the detail shot and the distance shot.

THIRD PLACE: Tim Carman, Oologah Lake Leader, "NW firefighters prevent huge property loss." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice photo of the cloud of smoke. Good detail in the cutline.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

(INCLUDES DIVISION 6)

FIRST PLACE: Judy Keller, The Marlow Review, "Happy Easter"

SECOND PLACE: Kaylea Hutson-Miller, The Delaware County Journal, "Memorial Day"

THIRD PLACE: Tim Carman, Oologah Lake Leader, "Santa Claus is coming to town"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Marea Breedlove, The Delaware County Journal, "Bulldogs face double loss to Fort Gibson"

SECOND PLACE: Kaylea Hutson-Miller, The Delaware County Journal, "John 'The Ice Box' Culver cradles the Delaware County Bowl trophy"

THIRD PLACE: Jennifer Hertel, Oologah Lake Leader, "Softball intensity"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Joseph Fasano, Owasso Reporter, "State Champs!"

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great feature dominance. Attractive coordinated coloring and balance. It is easy to tell what this is about; how important it is to the community and what the important factors are. Makes reader excited!

SECOND PLACE: Brad Spitzer, The Beckham County Record, "November 8, 2017." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great use of cutouts; could use a little more white space and balance. Overall attractive.

THIRD PLACE: Joseph Fasano, Owasso Reporter, "Picking up the pieces ." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good balance. Articles are definitely prioritized for the reader.

DIVISION 6 – WEEKLIES

CIRCULATION 850 – 1,399

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Midwest City Beacon. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good writing, a nice mix of news and features, great looking front page.

SECOND PLACE: Garvin County News Star. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good writing, creative headlines, I like the changing flag. Where are your sports?

THIRD PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I like the changing flag, good color and photography on the front. Use bigger photos, not huge headlines. Put more content on your front; that will fix your problem of killing space with huge headlines.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Midwest City Beacon

SECOND PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Excellent use of flag on front and photos throughout.

THIRD PLACE: The Hennessey Clipper

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Top notch advertising - layouts solid, creative and great use of color. Lots of really good ad designs in the Focus glossy magazine. The Gridiron Guide was off the charts with ad layout, design and also the overall page layout design and color. Hats off to all those involved with the advertising in both specialty publications and in your paper as you all have done an outstanding job!

SECOND PLACE: The Hennessey Clipper. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice ad design and overall look in your papers. You have had to overcome being located between other publications and more than likely competing for ad dollars. I think you have shown that you can most certainly offer terrific advertising design for your advertisers! Lots of ads on the pages! In my opinion you did 'bring home the bacon.'

THIRD PLACE: Midwest City Beacon. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Overall solid ad design. Easy to read, nice layouts, good use of color.

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Hennessey Clipper. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: It was a close competition at the top. The strength of this winning entry was consistently strong writing throughout all samples. The writer used history and researched background to establish his positions. Well done.

SECOND PLACE: Midwest City Beacon. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I especially liked the 'This is why we stand' and checkout charity editorials. I appreciate the topics are of local interest.

THIRD PLACE: The Fairfax Chief. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Maybe this is a personal opinion on editorial writing, but these entries were more column-style than editorial (trying to sway the public to a certain opinion). Well-written otherwise.

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Carnegie Herald. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great photos! Really shine out above the rest.

SECOND PLACE: Midwest City Beacon. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good color run. Nice stop of action on the planes.

THIRD PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good rodeo pics.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I really enjoy the variety of stories. Especially the clay shooting and bull riding. You do not see those very often. I also like the fact that the pictures don't take away from the stories either. Layout is very nice as well and the headlines catch your eye.

SECOND PLACE: Midwest City Beacon. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I also like the variety of stories in this paper but sometimes it felt like all the ads took away from that. Layout is very well put together and I like seeing that they have a player of the week.

THIRD PLACE: The Hennessey Clipper. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I know that being from a small town, locals want their dose of sports and this paper gives just that. I feel like there could have been more, but I understand that sometimes you don't have more being a small town paper.

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat, "2017 Gridiron Guide."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Outstanding football section. Not an original idea, but production and content is so good it beats the others in this category.

SECOND PLACE: Skiatook Journal, "Reader's Choice Awards."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Readers choice is a good seller although not an original idea, but what I like the most about your section is the focus on photos of the principals of the businesses you highlight here. A great way to force the connection between the business and the reader.

THIRD PLACE: Midwest City Beacon, "Midwest City, 75th Anniversary."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice anniversary section and very content driven.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Fairfax Chief, "Tall Chief Theater Art Market."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Taking the lead in trying to save a downtown landmark is a worthy effort, and never easy. But it seems like the Fairfax Chief has started something that will continue to bear fruit.

SECOND PLACE: The Hennessey Clipper, "School bond election for dome." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** The coverage was definitely above and beyond the call of duty for a newspaper. The Clipper definitely took a leadership role in the bond election.

THIRD PLACE: Skiatook Journal, "Photo sought for Skiatook veteran."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great effort to help bring recognition to a fallen Vietnam veteran. This is the type of effort that makes an impact on history.

DIGITAL MEDIA – WEEKLIES

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register, "Website, Facebook & Twitter accounts." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Clean, large photos, navigates easy and ties into socials well. Good ads and not too busy for web. Just need more of them. Very simple look which makes it less intimidating than what many other sites can be.

SECOND PLACE: The Edmond Sun, "Website and social media."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Like the way the socials tie into this site. It is easy to navigate and images draw well into the site. Use full frame or adjust images in featured banner to provide better look.

THIRD PLACE: Skiatook Journal, "SkiatookJournal.com." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Lots of home page content here. Could integrate other visuals or links to other areas on the right panel about a third of the way down. Seems like it hits white space too soon and missing opportunities to promote other areas maybe.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Lindsey Renuard, Skiatook Journal, "Officials, city employees cleared after investigation"

SECOND PLACE: Steve Bolton, The Comanche Times, "Jakaycee In D.C."

THIRD PLACE: Steve Bolton, The Comanche Times, "Rattle Tale"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Steve Bolton, The Comanche Times, "When Teddy and Pam met Harvey and Irma." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Pulled me right into the story by describing their travels. I expected to meet some friends, not hurricanes. Well done.

SECOND PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Robert Clark, Fairfax legend." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Interesting tale, well told and well written.

THIRD PLACE: Morgan Smith, The Hennessey Clipper, "Sisterly love gives brother a new life." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Good job!

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Jesse Haynes, Skiatook Journal, "End of the road"

SECOND PLACE: Steve Bolton, The Comanche Times, "Friday night lights"

THIRD PLACE: Steve Bolton, The Comanche Times, "Campbell races 65 yards for TD on senior night"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

COMBINED WITH DIVISION 5

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Barb Walter, The Hennessey Clipper, "Couldn't help but notice"

SECOND PLACE: Judy Baker, Garvin County News Star, "Black and white and read all over"

THIRD PLACE: Lindsey Renuard, Skiatook Journal, "Personal columns"

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Sharon Lee, The Fairfax Chief, "Bags bags bags."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This ad is great! It really stands out, even in the sea of gray that is the classifieds. I'm impressed with the graphics and what you've done with a small (tiny) space. Font choices are solid. A+!

SECOND PLACE: Sharon Lee, The Fairfax Chief, "Garrett Pumpkin Patch." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** I like this ad! It really stands out, even in black and white! The only change I would make is to vary the text sizes and maybe have some alternating light and very heavy parts in the black bar on the right side to make certain info stand out. All in all, great job!

THIRD PLACE: Eric Guillermo, McIntosh County Democrat, "Smith Construction." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** This ad is eye-catching which is very important for your advertiser. Its simplicity is also appealing. However, on its own, I'm just not sure why there's a football on a construction ad. With some clever ad copy ("A solid team for all your building needs"), this could have been a solid touchdown. (OK, I'll stop there.)

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Sharon Lee, The Fairfax Chief, "Here comes Santa Claus"

SECOND PLACE: Sharon Lee, The Fairfax Chief, "Osage Oil & Gas Summit 2017"

THIRD PLACE: Eric Guillermo, McIntosh County Democrat, "Eufaula Indian Community"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH COMBINED WITH DIVISION 5

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH COMBINED WITH DIVISION 5

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Rodney Haltom, McIntosh County Democrat, "Hall takes State runner-up"

SECOND PLACE: Amy Garner, Skiatook Journal, "Head coach Vance Miller"

THIRD PLACE: Rodney Haltom, McIntosh County Democrat, "Eufaula Round-Up Club Rodeo"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Joseph Fasano, Skiatook Journal, "Still country: The future of Oklahoma's family farms." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Nice front page and liked the big lead photo.

SECOND PLACE: Casey Beartrack and Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Trumpeting the season: Swans on Shidler's lake"

THIRD PLACE: Steve Bolton, The Comanche Times, "Summer storm huffed and puffed"

DIVISION 7 – WEEKLIES

CIRCULATION LESS THAN 850

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Minco-Union City Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good government reporting, attractive front page and design; I like the flag, I like "Inside the Times." But photos are just OK, and there is too much informality, or editorializing, in stories on the front page: "You may have noticed ..." "Mayor has always had community's best interest in mind ..." "Even though you may have missed ..."

SECOND PLACE: Eastern Times-Register (Roland). JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I really like the grad tab, crime stories well written, the color is good, the front page is attractive, but original content is mostly limited to crime stories. Where are your features? Show me that you can do reporting beyond digging through the police and court blotter. Also, I dislike the huge obit photos, especially since your obit photos are the same size as the headshots for your community stories on the next page. At first glance it looks like you have two pages of obits because they look the same.

THIRD PLACE: The Chronicle (Elgin). JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I disliked AP on the front page. Never use exclamation marks. I would like to see more reporting and more features.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Tri-County Herald (Meeker). JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great use of photos with creative layout.

SECOND PLACE: Minco-Union City Times

THIRD PLACE: Eastern Times-Register

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Minco-Union City Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Overall ads are clean, solid, attractive. Good use of color on color ads. Best Kept Secrets - NICE! Fall Festival - solid section with lots of advertising.

SECOND PLACE: Tri-County Herald. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Ads are creative and look great. Many are larger with good use of the space and color. Play by Play is a solid section (great job with the ads). How to cook a turkey has a nice creative advertising base to support the section as well.

THIRD PLACE: Eastern Times-Register. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Ads look good and stand out - good use of space. The Fall Home Improvement page ads are outstanding.

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Tri-County Herald. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The winning entry stood out from the crowd. Well-written with legitimate and well-thought-out arguments. Easy first place. Submitting a "journalism is important" type of editorial wasn't even pandering! All three editorial samples were very good.

SECOND PLACE: Eastern Times-Register. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I feel like the writer knows her community and she uses her editorial platform to nudge citizens in the right direction on important, worthy topics.

THIRD PLACE: Minco-Union City Times. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Topics were addressed well. One editorial was missing it's jump page.

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Chronicle

SECOND PLACE: Tri-County Herald

THIRD PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Tri-County Herald. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great action shots!

SECOND PLACE: The Chronicle. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: All aspects of sports were represented!

THIRD PLACE: Eastern Times-Register. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The layout was eye catching!

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Eastern Times-Register, "Four school tabs." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I really like how you are highlighting kids & activities that don't get as much press. Good job!

SECOND PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer, "Pigskin Press Pass"

THIRD PLACE: Tri-County Herald, "Play by Play: Fall sports guide"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- FIRST PLACE:** Tri-County Herald, "Education funding." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: What a fantastic way to take a stand for your local educators! This series educated the public about school funding issues while providing support for local issues and keeping it front and center for multiple weeks. Great job!
- SECOND PLACE:** The Chronicle, "Winter Wishes." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: What an amazing project that brought together two cornerstones of a community - the schools and newspaper! Amazing job!
- THIRD PLACE:** Eastern Times-Register, "Ahimsa Rescue Foundation." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great project that involved special events that provided support for those who cannot speak for themselves - the animals. Great job!

DIGITAL MEDIA - WEEKLIES

- FIRST PLACE:** The Purcell Register, "Website, Facebook & Twitter accounts." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clean, large photos, navigates easy and ties into socials well. Good ads and not too busy for web. Just need more of them. Very simple look which makes it less intimidating than what many other sites can be.
- SECOND PLACE:** The Edmond Sun, "Website and social media." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Like the way the socials tie into this site. It is easy to navigate and images draw well into the site. Use full frame or adjust images in featured banner to provide better look.
- THIRD PLACE:** Skiatook Journal, "SkiatookJournal.com." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Lots of home page content here. Could integrate other visuals or links to other areas on the right panel about a third of the way down. Seems like it hits white space too soon and missing opportunities to promote other areas maybe.

NEWS STORY

- FIRST PLACE:** Debi DeSilver, The Chronicle, "Chickasha Police meet barrage of gunfire"
- SECOND PLACE:** Mike McCormick, Tri-County Herald, "Caught: Authorities bag two of four escapees"
- THIRD PLACE:** Chad Waters, The Hinton Record, "Hinton Schools adopt new learning module"

FEATURE STORY

- FIRST PLACE:** Chad Waters, The Geary Star, "Altus dedicates former Geary wrestler center." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very nice tribute feature. Good depth and summation of the coach's career.
- SECOND PLACE:** Debi DeSilver, The Chronicle, "Diversity drives Leadership Oklahoma class." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good lead. It got me interested immediately, and the story was solid through the very end.
- THIRD PLACE:** Debi DeSilver, The Chronicle, "Founder of Blues Ball honored." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice feature. This is the type of story that represents what community papers are about.

SPORTS STORY

- FIRST PLACE:** Trey Smart, Waurika News Journal & The Ryan Leader, "West brothers have great impact on Jefferson County"
- SECOND PLACE:** Debi DeSilver, The Chronicle, "17-year-old high school student stuns C Flight card"
- THIRD PLACE:** Emily Poindexter, The Chronicle, "Owls' wings soared faster than the Racers' engines started"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

- FIRST PLACE:** Chad Waters, The Geary Star, "Cracking Geary City Codes." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice job digging!
- SECOND PLACE:** Chad Waters, The Hinton Record, "NextEra Affiliates Sue Hinton Over Town Regulations on Wind Turbines/Town of Hinton Responds to NextEra Energy Lawsuit/Federal Judge Dismisses NextEra Lawsuit Filed Against Town of Hinton"
- THIRD PLACE:** Staff, Eastern Times-Register, "Christian Mayberry, Gray/Brannon trials"

COLUMN WRITING

- FIRST PLACE:** Ellen Workman, Westville Reporter, "Then and Now"
- SECOND PLACE:** Clarence B. Wright, The Newcastle Pacer, "Musings from the Morgue"
- THIRD PLACE:** Leslie Durham, The Chronicle, "Take A Hike"

SMALL SPACE AD

- FIRST PLACE:** Gina Cato, Eastern Times-Register, "Muldrow Spring Cleanup." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A wonderfully dynamic ad. It takes information that could be boring, but presents it in a well-organized and eye-catching manner. I love how the text sets with the graphic below. Relevant information is highlighted appropriately.
- SECOND PLACE:** Jennifer Pitts, Tri-County Herald, "Fish Fry at St. Michael's." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very eye-catching ad. Great font choices. Great frame. I love how the text is integrated well with the graphic elements of the ad.
- THIRD PLACE:** Jennifer Pitts, Tri-County Herald, "Red Rock Shelters." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A simple ad that really pops on the page due to the great use of the graphic and text elements. The white on black text really makes this ad a stand-out.

LARGE SPACE AD

- FIRST PLACE:** Jennifer Pitts, Tri-County Herald, "Dobson Telephone Company." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A mundane message, but you make it come alive with a great design and good use of dominant element.
- SECOND PLACE:** Clarence B. Wright, The Newcastle Pacer, "Tri City Mart/Conoco." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Hard for customers to get excited about new gas pumps, but your use of color sets this off pretty well. Your elements are fighting for dominance however, and it could have been gussied up if you gave one of these elements dominance.
- THIRD PLACE:** Jennifer Pitts, Tri-County Herald, "Dale Public Schools." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice ad. Well worded, not too verbose and a solid dominant element to gather attention.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Debi DeSilver, The Chronicle, "Drug dog sniffs motorcycle." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great interest to area. Readers take interest in stories about kids.

SECOND PLACE: Lisa Carroll, The Chronicle, "Kindness and donuts." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great cause and read. Excitement captured!

THIRD PLACE: Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald, "Show time! For live-stock show." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Way to get 'down to Earth' with your photo.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald, "Football time!"

SECOND PLACE: Lisa Carroll, The Chronicle, "Small town kids meet country music star"

THIRD PLACE: Jennifer Pitts, Tri-County Herald, "Solar smiles"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald, "Wild week in area hoops." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The facial reaction on the player below is great. Nice crop on the photo overall.

SECOND PLACE: Jennifer Pitts, Tri-County Herald, "Safe!" JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great stop-action shot here. Dirt flying, player in the air, and a funny face really tells the story. I think it could be cropped in a bit more to get closer to the action, but overall well done.

THIRD PLACE: Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald, "Dale storms into baseball finals." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Really great reaction shot. This is cropped well and shows the whole story.

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Clarence B. Wright, The Newcastle Pacer, "Are you ready for some football?" JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This page is a little top heavy (maybe should have tried white background in flag), but page was overall balanced and had interesting design. Flows well.

SECOND PLACE: Chad Waters, The Geary Star, "Geary finishes as runner-up at Dual State." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I love the incorporation of the wrestlers into the logo. Photo and article headlines compete. Overall good design with available space.

THIRD PLACE: Chad Waters, The Hinton Record, "On the Red Rock." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Love how the photo was taken all the way to the top of the page. The left column makes one too many steps. Perhaps that column should have been shortened slightly to help balance the page.

OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION – 2017 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RESULTS

DIVISION 8 – SEMI- AND TRI-WEEKLIES

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Miami News-Record. JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

Good writing. Good mix of news and feature stories.

SECOND PLACE: The Grove Sun. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good writing. Nice mix of news and feature stories.

THIRD PLACE: Henryetta Free-Lance. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice, lively writing. Good mix of news and features.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Edmond Sun. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: You have a nice clean and consistent look to your layout. I like the balance of bold with regular fonts in headlines. I would caution of using double or even triple-deck headlines in stories of two or more columns. When it comes to headlines, fewer words are stronger.

SECOND PLACE: The Miami News-Record. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Ads across top of sports detract from the news. Can't they be at the bottom? 5-deck headline with 2-deck sub-head takes up as much as the story. Fewer words are stronger. Nice, clean layout with good use of white space.

THIRD PLACE: The Grove Sun. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: You might reconsider your header and weather box. And perhaps work harder on the quality of your photos.

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: El Reno Tribune. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Display ads were well designed with clean layouts all throughout. I like how classy the classified section looks. It's easy to navigate. The only comment I would make is on your legal notices. These are extremely hard to read. Perhaps bolding the heading would at least draw some attention to where one begins and one ends. Otherwise, overall this is exceptional work.

SECOND PLACE: The Edmond Sun. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I like that you have a Business Service section - but I think the background photo on it is very distracting from the ads themselves. I would not use Small Caps on the headers for these and I would change the text to something bolder. The light small cap text gets lost on the black. The display ads are all well done and there is a variety to them. I like how you have ads that are consistently in the same places – “Frankie's Brick Repairs” and “YMCA.” Readers can always expect to know where to find those ads. Really like the coupon ad area. What a great idea. Nicely done layout of your ads overall. The classified section: I like the header for your classified section. It's clear that is where the classified ads go. However, I dislike the bold black box around random ads. I think this looks a bit messy to readers.

THIRD PLACE: The Miami News-Record. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Classified ads that are boxed should have more of a space inset so it's not so hard to read. Overall, good layout and placement of ads.

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Miami News-Record. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The strength of these pieces are in the way the writer encourages readers to see something ordinary from a new perspective. The writer shows how the 'bootstraps' idea may sound like self-reliance, but it also permits institutional neglect, and how even basic literacy skills can help a person decipher news from a hoax.

SECOND PLACE: Bristow News. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Convincing readers to care about a local civic matter is rarely easy, but these columns succeed because they are carefully written to bring out the key facts, they are well argued by showing different points of view, and their rhetoric is logical and respectful.

THIRD PLACE: The Edmond Sun. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Challenging authority is one of the roles of journalism, particularly when taking on powerful groups. Speaking up against a Walmart development or questioning why the DEA is tight-lipped about a local investigation risks turning off some readers, but when the writing uses solid reasoning instead of emotion, the speech succeeds.

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: El Reno Tribune

SECOND PLACE: Alva Review-Courier

THIRD PLACE: The Grove Sun

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Yukon Review. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good feature story of siblings!

SECOND PLACE: The Edmond Sun. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good headlines to grab the readers attention!

THIRD PLACE: Alva Review-Courier. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good action shots!

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Sequoyah County Times, “Women's Expo: Recipe for Success.” JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very witty sales promotion. I loved the concept of “Recipe for Success” and it appears to have been a very successful promotion. The design of the publication itself was top-notch.

SECOND PLACE: El Reno Tribune, “Easter Ham Give-a-way contest.” JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great concept. Fun sales promotion that engages the community and draws several advertisers. Package is the perfect mix of advertising and whimsy.

THIRD PLACE: Henryetta Free-Lance, “Retirement Fair: Rockin' into Retirement.” JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A great community involvement promotion. The final product was a very nice section filled with editorial content and advertising aimed specifically to the target audience. Overall, great job.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Grove Sun, "DCCSAN series / Child abuse awareness." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great job taking a big issue no one wants to admit is going on in our own communities and makes it personal for the reader.

SECOND PLACE: The Edmond Sun, "Debilitating disease affects young siblings." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: As journalists we often look over these types of things because everyone just wants free publicity.

THIRD PLACE: El Reno Tribune, "Blue Out Night." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This looked like a fun and effective way to get the community behind the high school.

DIGITAL MEDIA - WEEKLIES

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register, "Website, Facebook & Twitter accounts." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clean, large photos, navigates easy and ties into socials well. Good ads and not too busy for web. Just need more of them. Very simple look which makes it less intimidating than what many other sites can be.

SECOND PLACE: The Edmond Sun, "Website and social media." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Like the way the socials tie into this site. It is easy to navigate and images draw well into the site. Use full frame or adjust images in featured banner to provide better look.

THIRD PLACE: Skiatook Journal, "SkiatookJournal.com." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Lots of home page content here. Could integrate other visuals or links to other areas on the right panel about a third of the way down. Seems like it hits white space too soon and missing opportunities to promote other areas maybe.

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Roy Faulkenberry, Sequoyah County Times, "Sheriff fires shot killing suspect." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good work getting information off Facebook and other non-traditional sources and in getting the information on the last shooting. The story held my interest from start to finish.

SECOND PLACE: Terry Groover, Yukon Review, "Yukon teacher accused of rape, child porn." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A sad story for everyone but one that needs to be told. Good work getting information on her background. I would have liked to know the age or grade of the student but I also know how hard that information is to get sometimes - like everyone in town doesn't know.

THIRD PLACE: Kelsy Schlotthauer, The Grove Sun, "Grove 3-year-old's roller coaster life." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: This was a story I couldn't stop reading. A roller coaster is exactly what it is.

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Austin Litterell, Chickasha Express-Star, "Brendan Laub making plays on and off the field." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The writer captured an enduring story of a young man's selflessness.

SECOND PLACE: Kelsy Schlotthauer, The Grove Sun, "Officially American." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The story was interesting! The writer did a good job at capturing this man's struggles. You never know what a person is going through until you walk in their shoes.

THIRD PLACE: Kaylea Hutson-Miller, The Grove Sun, "Wrapped with memories." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The subject matter was interesting! What a wonderful way to honor the fallen - very unique.

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Darin Hinman, The Grove Sun, "State Bound"

SECOND PLACE: Kyle Salomon, Yukon Review, "Yukon's X-Factors"

THIRD PLACE: Michael Swisher, Kingfisher Times & Free Press, "Top of the Heap"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Kaylea Hutson-Miller, The Grove Sun, "DCCSAN series / Child abuse awareness."

SECOND PLACE: Patty Miller, The Edmond Sun, "Museum exhibit focuses on children who were 'making a difference'."

THIRD PLACE: Melinda Stotts, The Miami News-Record, "GRDA's relicense request to FERC"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Roy Faulkenberry, Sequoyah County Times, "Observations"

SECOND PLACE: Dorothy Ballard, The Miami News-Record, "Personal columns"

THIRD PLACE: J. D. Meisner, Bristow News, "Chaos Theory"

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Paula Oakes, Alva Review-Courier, "Farmers Cooperative Association." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great use of subject art and layout just grabs you in.

SECOND PLACE: Wes Stout, Okmulgee Times, "Jandebeur's Motor Sports Park." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Love the artwork and where logo was placed...draws you into the advertising logo.

THIRD PLACE: Lyndsay Bayne-Luton, El Reno Tribune, "Eleven Five Salon and Shave Parlor." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Very crisp and clean layout with wonderful eye appeal.

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Carrie Carberry, Sequoyah County Times, "Forever Memories Funeral Services." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: I really liked the message of the ad.

SECOND PLACE: Staff, Yukon Review, "BancFirst." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The use of the graphics complemented the message of the ad.

THIRD PLACE: Staff, The Grove Sun, "Grand Lake Association." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: The ad was simple but effective.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Gun firing"

SECOND PLACE: Patrick Ford, Okmulgee Times, "Officer-involved shooting"

THIRD PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Robot arm"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Roy Faulkenberry, Sequoyah County Times, "'Mommy' a 'rise and shine' surprise." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: An amazing moment of a family reunion, one unexpected by the mother's two children. Tears, joy and pride exude from the three faces. While not technically perfect, the photo's emotional oomph pushes it to first place.

SECOND PLACE: Shirley Todd, Bristow News, "You're going to feel a little pinch." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Ouch! We all know that feeling, and we've all made that expression. Seeing it on the face of someone who's undergoing it as a good deed makes the viewer smile and at the same time appreciate his vein's sacrifice.

THIRD PLACE: Kaylea Hutson-Miller, The Grove Sun, "Creative minds at work." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Her concentration makes it clear that her project is important to her, and better yet, we can clearly see what she's working on. The photo makes us want to find out what she's working on so we get the full story.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Collision at home plate." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good crop and stop-action here. The catcher's face is really gritty too. I think this photo was composed well.

SECOND PLACE: Kaitlyn Dillard, Okmulgee Times, "Off and running." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Clear shot with a good face of determination here. Crop is nice.

THIRD PLACE: Larry Owen, Henryetta Free-Lance, "Shot blocked"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Kari Tompkins, The Edmond Sun, "July 8." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Beautiful layout - very colorful and catches your eye.

SECOND PLACE: Bob Markham, The Grove Sun, "Playing for leads: Cold cases." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Love the card graphic and the headline.

THIRD PLACE: Lyndsay Bayne-Luton and Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Eyes toward the sky." JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Love the graphics used on the top story.

OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION – 2017 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RESULTS

DIVISION 9 – COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Southeastern - Southeastern Oklahoma State University. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: They covered a lot of local, on-campus events and activities. A feature of cultural significance was covered in a compelling way, so that gives me positive hope for the future of journalism.

SECOND PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily - The University of Oklahoma. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Again for the local content. I suggest tightening the writing some for conciseness - but otherwise I felt I knew what was going on at the school through your pages.

THIRD PLACE: Pioneer - Oklahoma City Community College. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A compelling mix of tough social issues accompanied by good imagery and local events. The social issues were from the student perspective in many of the feature. That brings the story home.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Strong mix of features and sports on front page, as well as a dash of hard news. Photos draw readers in, particularly the full page photo of former president. Inside graphics contribute to story-telling ability. Some areas were text-heavy, but not overwhelming. Would like to see front page teasers to important inside stories.

SECOND PLACE: Collegian - Cameron University. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Great mix of front page design. I enjoyed the use of a large full-page graphic to aid storytelling of the debt accrual for students. Size and number of photos sometimes overwhelm other more striking elements in the paper. But overall solid composition.

THIRD PLACE: The O'Colly - Oklahoma State University. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Solid graphics drive much of the appeal of this newspaper. Cutouts may be relied upon a bit too much, but it's done right more often than not in these issues. Bedlam previews' full-page graphic is gripping. Would like to see more of a mix of headline styles.

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice variety of display ads. Great eye-catching font choices. I like how you have separated your classified area with a noticeable bold font. I really love the ads about your alumni and where they are now. What a great idea and it adds so much interest in the advertising area.

SECOND PLACE: The O'Colly. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: On your classifieds pages, I would recommend changing the font on the headers to something bolder and more striking. Some of the classified ads seem a bit "clunky" with the dark black border. Pick something that is dividing the ads. Whether it be a box, a line or just space, make it consistent. Also, don't be afraid to jazz up your house ads about Student Media. Make them eye-catching. That's a lot of text in a box that no one is likely to read. Think short, simple phrases. In the display advertising, those ads are very close to the text. I would recommend giving just a bit more space between the ads and the text above them.

THIRD PLACE: Pioneer. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: House ads are a bit bland - don't be afraid to use graphics to jazz them up so they catch the reader's attention. Vary your text in size and appearance so that the reader can read it easier. The back page ads are nicely done, though I was not sure if they were created by your paper.

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Collegian (Cameron)

SECOND PLACE: Pioneer

THIRD PLACE: The Gazette - Langston University

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Consistent quality images that capture the moment for readers.

SECOND PLACE: The O'Colly. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Nice sports photos and event coverage.

THIRD PLACE: 15th Street News - Rose State College. JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Good execution of concepts for illustrative art.

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The O'Colly. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** The stories were extremely in depth and I really enjoyed that. As well as the variety of sports that were covered. Loved the layout as well!

SECOND PLACE: The Gazette. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Each page may have only had two stories but sometimes, "a little goes a long way." This one also covered a variety of sports as well.

THIRD PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily. **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** I liked the stories and the layout of this paper. But I felt like photos took up majority of the paper and the entries were mostly about football. I do like football but would like to see more variety. =)

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily, "Heisman issue"

SECOND PLACE: The O'Colly, "Homecoming issue"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The O'Colly, "Community group issues." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** These special sections, in response to a troubling situation on campus, shows the potential that newspapers still have. Very fine work, tackling numerous issues and giving voice to community groups that often are marginalized or left out of conversations.

SECOND PLACE: Pioneer, "Homeless in college." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** This is another strong entry. I was impressed by the effort it took young journalists to get out of their comfort zones and connect with those living on the fringes of society.

THIRD PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily, "Mental health." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Solid reporting and writing on a topic that will have a major impact on the local community. Good work taking a topic that could be dry or difficult to digest, and delivering a piece that's impactful and understandable.

DIGITAL MEDIA - COLLEGES

FIRST PLACE: The Oklahoma Daily, "Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagrams."

SECOND PLACE: The O'Colly, "Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram"

THIRD PLACE: Pioneer, "Website"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Anna Bauman and Kayla Branch, The Oklahoma Daily, "All I know is America"

SECOND PLACE: Dekota Gregory, The O'Colly, "OSU students escape unharmed after violent road rage encounter"

THIRD PLACE: Stetson Payne, The O'Colly, "Undocumented immigrants fearful of deportation while attending OSU"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Cheyenne Cole, Collegian (Cameron), "The whiskey of our discontent"

SECOND PLACE: Tallorial Bonds, The Gazette, "Family man by day, head coach by night"

THIRD PLACE: Cheyenne Cole, Collegian (Cameron), "Social justice: Michele Norris and social discourse"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: George Stoia, The Oklahoma Daily, "Stoops tackles retirement." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** I liked the layout of this article.

SECOND PLACE: Joe Buettner, The Oklahoma Daily, "Baker Mayfield: Heisman." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Good article showing the perseverance of greatness!

THIRD PLACE: Kelli Stacy, The Oklahoma Daily, "Caleb Kelly: Taking heart." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** I liked the subject matter showing how role models can make such a difference in a person's life.

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Dana Branham, The Oklahoma Daily, "Confronting history: DeBarr Avenue"

SECOND PLACE: Kayleigh Thesenvitz, Collegian - University of Tulsa, "CSAS policies and procedures"

THIRD PLACE: Emma Keith, The Oklahoma Daily, "Goddard Health Center: Waiting game"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Payton Williams, Collegian (Cameron), "Voices columns"

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Alyxandria Butt, The Oklahoma Daily, "The Baked Bear." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Wonderful use of color and simple graphics - the ad is cute without being too "cutesy". As a customer, I'd want to check this place out pronto - and satisfy my sweet tooth!

SECOND PLACE: Amelia Kinsinger, The Oklahoma Daily, "Qdoba." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Simple and to-the-point. Color scheme is on point and makes me crave some Mexican food! My only complaint would be the amount of empty space combined with the tiny print. Blank space, used properly, can be extremely useful. Here it's attractive, but the font seems too small.

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Austin Childers, The Oklahoma Daily, "Epic Pops."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: A local might have a better grasp of this ad, because the message isn't too clear- I assume this is a 'make your own custom ice cream bar' store? Regardless, you nailed the color attack here for this category, even down to the purple polish on the hand model's thumbnail.

SECOND PLACE: Austin Childers, The Oklahoma Daily, "OU Graduation Office."

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Cara Johnson, The Vista - University of Central

Oklahoma, "Students gather peacefully." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Powerful photo of people asking for rights. Interesting mix with headscarves, modern jeans, American flags and sign. Their faces show their emotions.

SECOND PLACE: Stacie Larsen, Collegian (Cameron), "Halloween carnival." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** A good action picture. I don't have to read a caption or a story to pretty much guess what is going on here. Clear, fun and a great expression on the boy's face.

THIRD PLACE: AnneMarie Altman and Cheyenne Cole, Collegian (Cameron), "PRIDE remembering Matthew Shepard." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Black and white works for this photo. The darkness, lanterns and sober faces tell the tale.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Kimberly Thompson, The Gazette, "Track star twin."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Admirable work all around in this environmental portrait. A relaxed and cheerful expression on the subject, with wonderfully even light and a soft background, which keeps the emphasis on the student.

SECOND PLACE: Stacie Larsen, Collegian (Cameron), "CKI chapter retreat." **JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** The smile is the best part of this because it shows he's in on the joke and because it makes the viewer want to smile too. It's a moment that didn't last long but the photographer was ready for it.

THIRD PLACE: Adam Lux, Collegian (Tulsa), "Bleachers concert."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Crisp image with a lovely use of the unusual stage lighting.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Caitlyn Epes, The Oklahoma Daily, "Basketball height"

SECOND PLACE: Paxson Haws, The Oklahoma Daily, "Touchdown celebration"

THIRD PLACE: Hayden Barzditis, The Vista, "NCAA's leading receiver"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Jasmine Mayes, The Gazette, "Lions dominate the gridiron"

SECOND PLACE: Dana Branham, Jesse Pound and Megan Ross, The Oklahoma Daily, "Boren: Ending an era"

THIRD PLACE: Paul Pugh, The Gazette, "Student Government elections"