

# WINNERS' CIRCLE

2018-19 TEXAS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RESULTS • A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION





## WINNERS' CIRCLE

A Texas Press Association  
publication celebrating winners in the  
Texas Better Newspaper Contest  
Published January 2020  
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## About the cover photos

The collage  
features  
award-win-  
ning feature,  
news and  
sports pho-  
tos from  
The Panola  
Watchman,  
Carthage,  
The Galveston County Daily News, The  
Liberty Hill Independent, the Burnet  
Bulletin and the Rockdale Reporter.



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## ABOUT THE TEXAS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

The 2018-19 Texas Better Newspaper Contest was the transition year to a new schedule and covered a 20-month contest period, the longest in TPA history.

Participating newspapers were invited to submit entries from work published between Jan. 1, 2018 and Aug. 31, 2019. The transition is now complete and future contests will cover the period of Sept. 1 through Aug. 31.

Perhaps due to the changes, this year's contest attracted fewer participants than in recent years. This year, 107 newspapers submitted 1,094 entries in the contest.

Competitions were divided into nine divisions in which newspapers competed against publications of similar circulation. Division 1 was reserved for the five metro dailies with the highest circulation in Texas, which compete only in the General Excellence category. Divisions 2 and 3 were for dailies; Divisions 4 and 5 for semi-weeklies and Divisions 6 and

higher for weeklies.

This year, 18 dailies competed in Divisions 2 and 3; 23 semiweekly newspapers competed in Divisions 4 and 5; and 66 weekly newspapers competed in divisions 6 through 9.

TPA member newspapers competing in each division had the opportunity to submit entries in 12 sweepstakes contest categories and four non-sweepstakes contest categories.

In the sweepstakes contest categories, awards were presented in the divisions determined by circulation.

In the non-sweepstakes categories of Community Service, Best Website, and Blue Moon special section, participating dailies, twice weeklies and weeklies were combined into one division each.

In the non-sweepstakes contest category of Best Routine Special Section, dailies and twice weeklies were combined into one division each and weeklies were combined into two

divisions.

Entries were judged by members of the Tennessee Press Association. Earlier in the year, Texas Press Association member volunteers judged entries in the Tennessee Press Contests.

First place winners received plaques and certificates were awarded in first through fourth places.

Sweepstakes points are earned for each division (except Division 1) based on point accumulation in the 12 sweepstakes categories. (See page 26.)

Awards were presented on Jan. 18, 2020 at the 140th TPA Convention & Trade Show held at Moody Gardens Hotel, Convention Center & Spa in Galveston.

The contest period for the 2019-20 BNC will be Sept. 1, 2019 through Aug. 31, 2020. Wisconsin Newspaper Association members will judge TPA contest entries and TPA members will judge the WNA contest.

## 2018-19 TEXAS BNC RESULTS BY NEWSPAPER

### Alvin Sun

Third Place Sports Coverage  
Third Place Feature Writing

### Athens Daily Review

Second Place News Writing  
Second Place General Excellence  
Second Place Advertising  
Third Place News Photo  
Fourth Place Headline Writing

### Austin Business Journal

First Place Best Website  
First Place Feature Writing  
First Place News Writing

### Beeville Bee-Picayune

First Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Second Place General Excellence  
Second Place Sports Coverage  
Third Place Feature Photo  
Third Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Editorial

### Boerne Star

Second Place Feature Photo

### Burnet Bulletin

First Place Sports Photo  
First Place Feature Writing  
Second Place Feature Photo  
Second Place Community Service  
Fourth Place Headline Writing

### Canton Herald

Second Place Advertising  
Second Place Routine Special Section  
Third Place General Excellence  
Fourth Place Sports Photo

### Castroville News Bulletin

Fourth Place Advertising

### Clarendon Enterprise

First Place Advertising  
First Place Column Writing  
Third Place Page Design  
Third Place Editorial  
Third Place Routine Special Section

### Corsicana Daily Sun

First Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place Advertising

### Del Rio News-Herald

First Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Feature Writing

### Denton Record-Chronicle

First Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Headline Writing  
Fourth Place Community Service  
Fourth Place Feature Writing

### Dripping Springs Century News

Second Place Routine Special Section  
Fourth Place Advertising  
Fourth Place General Excellence

### El Campo Leader-News

First Place Column Writing  
First Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Third Place News Photo  
Third Place Headline Writing  
Fourth Place Sports Photo  
Fourth Place Sports Coverage

### Eldorado Success

Third Place News Photo  
Third Place Feature Photo  
Third Place General Excellence  
Fourth Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Sports Coverage

### Elgin Courier

Third Place Editorial

### Farmersville Times

First Place Sports Photo  
Second Place News Writing  
Third Place General Excellence

### Fort Stockton Pioneer

First Place Headline Writing  
First Place News Writing  
Second Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place Best Website

### Franklin Advocate

Second Place Editorial  
Fourth Place Feature Writing

### Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post

First Place Routine Special Section  
First Place General Excellence  
Third Place Advertising  
Third Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Editorial

### Freestone County Times, Fairjeld

Third Place Advertising  
Third Place News Photo

*Results by Newspaper continue on page 3*

# 2018-19 TEXAS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RESULTS BY NEWSPAPER

## **Frio-Nueces Current, Pearsall**

Second Place Editorial  
Third Place Column Writing  
Third Place Sports Coverage  
Fourth Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place Sports Photo  
Fourth Place News Photo

## **Gainesville Daily Register**

Second Place Page Design  
Second Place Feature Photo  
Second Place News Photo  
Third Place Headline Writing  
Third Place General Excellence  
Third Place Sports Coverage  
Fourth Place Column Writing

## **Galveston County Daily News**

First Place Routine Special Section  
First Place News Photo  
First Place Sports Photo  
First Place Best Website  
First Place General Excellence  
First Place Advertising  
Second Place Page Design  
Second Place News Writing  
Second Place Feature Photo  
Second Place Community Service  
Third Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Third Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place Editorial  
Fourth Place Sports Coverage

## **Gladewater Mirror**

Second Place General Excellence  
Second Place Editorial  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Fourth Place Column Writing

## **Goldthwaite Eagle**

First Place Feature Writing  
Second Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Headline Writing

## **Goliad Advance-Guard Press**

First Place Column Writing  
Second Place Feature Writing

## **Gonzales Inquirer**

First Place Editorial  
First Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Column Writing  
Second Place Sports Coverage  
Third Place News Writing  
Third Place Feature Writing  
Third Place Best Website

## **Hamilton Herald-News**

Fourth Place Advertising  
Fourth Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place News Photo

## **Hays Free Press**

First Place News Photo  
Second Place News Writing  
Second Place Headline Writing  
Third Place Sports Photo  
Third Place General Excellence  
Third Place Community Service  
Fourth Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Sports Coverage

## **Herald-Zeitung, New Braunfels**

First Place Column Writing  
Third Place Headline Writing  
Third Place Routine Special Section  
Third Place Sports Photo  
Third Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place News Photo  
Fourth Place Advertising

## **Hico News Review**

Third Place Sports Photo

## **Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville**

First Place Sports Photo  
First Place Advertising  
First Place General Excellence  
First Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Blue Moon Special Section

## **Hood County News, Granbury**

First Place Column Writing  
Second Place Page Design  
Third Place Advertising  
Third Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place Headline Writing

## **Huntsville Item**

First Place Sports Photo  
First Place Sports Coverage  
Third Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Routine Special Section  
Fourth Place Editorial

## **Jacksonville Daily Progress**

First Place General Excellence  
Second Place Feature Photo

## **Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston**

First Place Column Writing  
Second Place Best Website  
Second Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Second Place News Writing  
Third Place Feature Photo  
Third Place Routine Special Section  
Fourth Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place General Excellence

## **Junction Eagle**

First Place Routine Special Section

## **Kilgore News Herald**

First Place Advertising  
First Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Page Design  
Second Place General Excellence  
Third Place Sports Photo  
Third Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Feature Writing

## **Kingsville Record & Bishop News**

First Place News Writing  
First Place Best Website  
Second Place Advertising  
Third Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place Feature Photo

## **Lampasas Dispatch Record**

First Place Feature Writing  
First Place Routine Special Section  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Third Place Page Design  
Third Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place Editorial  
Fourth Place Advertising

## **Leader News, Lytle**

Fourth Place General Excellence

## **Lexington Leader**

Second Place Advertising  
Second Place News Photo  
Third Place Feature Photo

## **Longview News-Journal**

Second Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Column Writing  
Third Place Page Design  
Third Place Editorial  
Third Place News Writing  
Third Place Best Website  
Third Place General Excellence  
Third Place Sports Coverage

## **Lufkin Daily News**

First Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Routine Special Section  
Second Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Second Place General Excellence

## **Marshall News Messenger**

First Place Advertising  
Second Place Column Writing  
Second Place Editorial  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Third Place News Writing  
Third Place Feature Photo  
Third Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place News Photo  
Fourth Place Sports Coverage

## **Medina Valley Times, Lytle**

Fourth Place Feature Photo

## **Murphy Monitor**

First Place Page Design  
Second Place News Writing  
Third Place Advertising  
Third Place Column Writing

## **News-Telegram, Sulphur Springs**

First Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Feature Writing  
Third Place Routine Special Section  
Third Place Advertising

## **Odessa American**

Second Place News Photo  
Fourth Place Sports Photo

## **Palacios Beacon**

Third Place News Photo  
Fourth Place News Writing

## **Palestine Herald Press**

First Place Editorial  
Third Place Column Writing

## **Pleasanton Express**

First Place Advertising  
Fourth Place Page Design

## **Polk County Enterprise, Livingston**

Second Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Third Place General Excellence  
Fourth Place Advertising  
Fourth Place Column Writing

## **Port Aransas South Jetty**

First Place Sports Photo  
First Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Feature Photo  
Second Place Feature Writing  
Second Place General Excellence  
Third Place Editorial  
Third Place News Writing  
Fourth Place News Photo  
Fourth Place Column Writing

## **Progress Times, Mission**

First Place Page Design

## **Robertson County News, Hearne**

Second Place Editorial  
Third Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place Advertising

## **Rockdale Reporter**

First Place Editorial  
First Place News Photo  
First Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Second Place Sports Coverage  
Third Place Headline Writing  
Third Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place News Writing

## **Sachse News**

First Place Advertising  
First Place General Excellence  
First Place Headline Writing  
First Place Page Design  
Second Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Second Place Feature Writing

## **San Jacinto News-Times**

Second Place Advertising

## **San Marcos Daily Record**

First Place General Excellence  
Second Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Feature Writing  
Third Place Sports Photo

## **Seguin Gazette**

First Place Headline Writing  
First Place Column Writing  
First Place Feature Photo  
First Place News Photo  
First Place Feature Writing  
Third Place Editorial  
Third Place Advertising  
Fourth Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Sports Photo

## **Springtown Epigraph**

Third Place News Writing

## **Taylor Press**

First Place Feature Photo  
Second Place Best Website  
Second Place Community Service  
Fourth Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Headline Writing

## **Texas Spur**

First Place Community Service  
Second Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place Page Design

## **The Bay City Tribune**

Second Place Editorial

## **The Bowie News**

First Place General Excellence  
Third Place Sports Photo  
Fourth Place Sports Coverage  
Fourth Place Blue Moon Special Section

## **The Community News, Aledo**

First Place News Writing  
First Place Feature Photo  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Second Place Advertising  
Second Place News Photo  
Third Place Editorial  
Third Place Headline Writing

## **The Dublin Citizen**

Second Place Column Writing  
Third Place Headline Writing  
Third Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place Sports Photo

## **The Facts, Clute**

First Place Community Service  
Second Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Feature Photo

## **The Fayette County Record, La Grange**

First Place Community Service  
First Place Advertising  
First Place News Photo  
Second Place Headline Writing  
Second Place Feature Writing  
Third Place Sports Coverage  
Fourth Place Feature Photo  
Fourth Place Sports Photo  
Fourth Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Best Website  
Fourth Place Routine Special Section

## **The Graham Leader**

First Place Page Design  
Second Place Routine Special Section  
Second Place Headline Writing  
**The Highlander, Marble Falls**  
First Place Editorial  
Second Place News Writing  
Third Place Best Website  
Third Place News Photo

## **The Kaufman Herald**

Second Place General Excellence  
Third Place Feature Photo  
Third Place Page Design

## **The Liberty Hill Independent**

First Place Feature Photo  
First Place Sports Coverage  
First Place Editorial  
First Place Feature Writing  
Second Place Headline Writing  
Third Place Advertising  
Third Place Column Writing  
Third Place News Writing  
Third Place Page Design

## **The News of San Patricio County, Sinton**

First Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Second Place Page Design  
Third Place News Photo  
Fourth Place Community Service

## **The Orange Leader**

Third Place Editorial  
Fourth Place News Photo

## **The Panola Watchman, Carthage**

First Place Sports Photo  
First Place News Photo  
Third Place Feature Writing  
Third Place Sports Coverage  
Third Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Third Place General Excellence  
Fourth Place Page Design

## **The Paris News**

Second Place Editorial  
Third Place News Photo  
Third Place Advertising  
Third Place Feature Writing  
Fourth Place Blue Moon Special Section  
Fourth Place Best Website

## **The Post-Signal, Pilot Point**

First Place News Photo  
First Place Feature Photo  
First Place General Excellence  
First Place Sports Coverage  
Second Place Page Design  
Fourth Place Feature Writing

## **The Sealy News**

First Place News Writing  
Second Place General Excellence  
Second Place Feature Photo  
Second Place Page Design  
Third Place Sports Coverage  
Third Place Sports Photo  
Fourth Place Headline Writing

## **The Van Horn Advocate**

Third Place Headline Writing  
Fourth Place News Photo  
Fourth Place Editorial

## **The Vindicator, Liberty**

First Place Editorial  
Second Place News Photo  
Second Place Sports Coverage

## **The Wylie News**

Second Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place Sports Coverage

## **Trinity County News-Standard**

Fourth Place Sports Coverage

## **Tyler County Booster, Woodville**

First Place Feature Photo  
First Place Page Design  
Second Place News Photo  
Third Place Blue Moon Special Section

## **Uvalde Leader-News**

First Place Sports Photo  
Third Place Page Design  
Third Place Editorial  
Fourth Place News Photo

## **Van Zandt News**

Second Place Headline Writing  
Third Place Sports Photo  
Third Place Sports Coverage

## **Vernon Daily Record**

First Place Editorial  
Second Place News Photo  
Second Place Column Writing  
Second Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Community Service  
Fourth Place General Excellence

## **Victoria Advocate**

First Place Page Design  
First Place Headline Writing  
First Place Editorial  
First Place Blue Moon Special Section  
First Place Feature Photo  
First Place Feature Writing  
Second Place Sports Photo  
Second Place Best Website  
Second Place Advertising  
Third Place Community Service  
Fourth Place News Writing  
Fourth Place General Excellence  
Fourth Place Column Writing

## **West Kerr Current, Ingram**

Fourth Place Sports Photo

## **Whitesboro News-Record**

First Place Column Writing

## **Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun, Georgetown**

Second Place Column Writing  
Third Place Community Service  
Fourth Place News Writing  
Fourth Place Feature Writing

## **Wills Point Chronicle**

First Place News Photo  
Fourth Place General Excellence  
Fourth Place Routine Special Section  
Fourth Place Page Design

## **Wimberley View**

Fourth Place Routine Special Section

## **Wise County Messenger, Decatur**

First Place Feature Photo  
First Place News Writing  
First Place Page Design  
First Place Sports Coverage  
First Place Feature Writing  
Second Place Advertising  
Second Place Editorial  
Second Place News Photo  
Third Place Headline Writing  
Third Place Column Writing  
Fourth Place General Excellence



# NO LIES KNOW TRUTH SUPPORT YOUR NEWSPAPER

Newspapers strive to ensure the free exchange of information that is fair, accurate, and thorough.

We fear no one.

The Enterprise is your trusted source for what's going on with local government. We may ruffle feathers or hurt some feelings, but it is our job to keep you informed.

For everyone who has supported this mission during 2018 through your advertising and your readership, we sincerely thank you.

It is the fashion of some elected officials in our state and nation to denigrate or besmirch the Free Press. Fortunately, our Founding Fathers saw the wisdom in having a check on those in power.

## Stronger the Press, Stronger the People.

THE CLARENDON  
**Enterprise**  
THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER & THE CLARENDON NEWS  
Spreading the word since 1878.

The Clarendon Enterprise, First Place, Division 9

## ADVERTISING

Judges' comments listed in italics.

### Division 2

**First Place:** Galveston County Daily News – *Clean eye-grabbers. Art display is optimal. Font choices come across as complimentary without any cheese.*  
**Second Place:** Victoria Advocate  
**Third Place:** The Paris News  
**Fourth Place:** New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung

### Division 3

**First Place:** Marshall News Messenger  
**Second Place:** Athens Daily Review  
**Third Place:** Seguin Gazette  
**Fourth Place:** Corsicana Daily Sun

### Division 4

**First Place:** The Fayette County Record  
**Second Place:** Wise County Messenger  
**Third Place:** Hood County News  
**Fourth Place:** Polk County Enterprise

### Division 5

*Great to see such creativity and professionalism in the layout of advertisements. A great job by all entries!*  
**First Place:** Kilgore News Herald – *Ads all reflect thought and creativity, and each are very well laid out. Very effective use of photos, too. This series of ads surely got results for the advertisers!*  
**Second Place:** Kingsville Record & Bishop News – *You can't go wrong with kids! Great use of photos in ads, and loved the creativity of the pizza ad!*  
**Third Place:** News-Telegram, Sulphur Springs – *Effective use of photos to draw the reader's eye into the ads.*  
**Fourth Place:** Lampasas Dispatch Record – *Effective advertisements – all very well laid out!*

### Division 6

**First Place:** Pleasanton Express – *The police ad is very creative. All the ads are eye catching. Great photos used.*  
**Second Place:** Canton Herald – *All the ads are very well made, very professional and eye-catching. Great graphics used.*  
**Third Place:** Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post – *The plumbing ad is very cute and definitely eye catching. The other ads are well designed.*  
**Fourth Place:** Robertson County News – *The Russian ad is hilarious. The other ads are good, just not as eye-catching as the other winners. Good use of photos.*

### Division 7

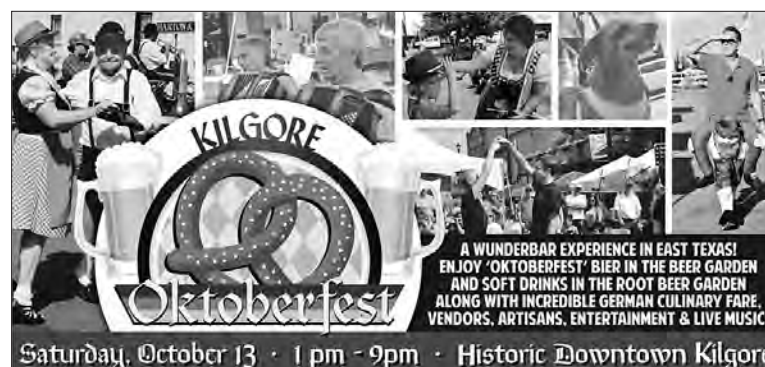
**First Place:** Hill Country Community Journal – *The Blackburn for Mayor was the best ad out of this whole group. Great concept.*  
**Second Place:** The Community News, Aledo – *Great use of photos and graphics.*  
**Third Place:** Freestone County Times – *Good photos.*  
**Fourth Place:** Castroville News Bulletin – *Well made.*

### Division 8

**First Place:** Sachse News  
**Second Place:** Lexington Leader  
**Third Place:** The Liberty Hill Independent  
**Fourth Place:** Hamilton Herald-News

### Division 9

**First Place:** Clarendon Enterprise  
**Second Place:** San Jacinto News-Times  
**Third Place:** Murphy Monitor  
**Fourth Place:** Dripping Springs Century News

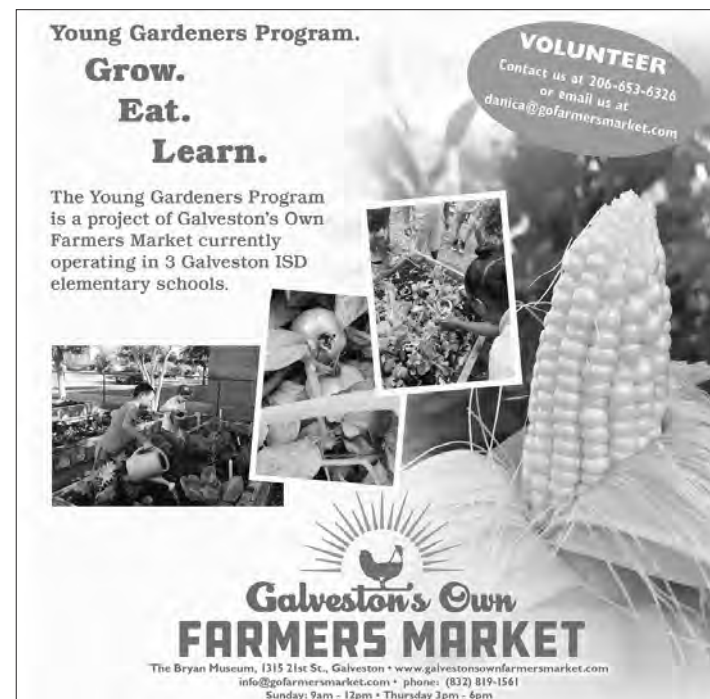


**KILGORE Oktoberfest**

A WUNDERBAR EXPERIENCE IN EAST TEXAS!  
ENJOY 'OKTOBERFEST' BIER IN THE BEER GARDEN  
AND SOFT DRINKS IN THE ROOT BEER GARDEN  
ALONG WITH INCREDIBLE GERMAN CULINARY FARE,  
VENDORS, ARTISANS, ENTERTAINMENT & LIVE MUSIC.

Saturday, October 13 • 1 pm - 9pm • Historic Downtown Kilgore

Kilgore News Herald, First Place, Division 5



**Young Gardeners Program.**  
**Grow. Eat. Learn.**

The Young Gardeners Program is a project of Galveston's Own Farmers Market currently operating in 3 Galveston ISD elementary schools.

**VOLUNTEER**  
Contact us at 206-653-6326 or email us at danica@gofarmersmarket.com

**Galveston's Own FARMERS MARKET**  
The Bryan Museum, 1315 21st St., Galveston • www.galvestonownfarmersmarket.com  
info@gofarmersmarket.com • phone: (832) 819-1561  
Sunday, 9am - 12pm • Thursday 3pm - 6pm

Galveston County Daily News, First Place, Division 2



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EXTREME marbling  
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**WALHALLA VALLEY BUTCHERY & MARKET**

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The Fayette County Record, First Place, Division 4



ADVERTISING

**Is BBQ a science? in Texas it is.**  
We are cooking all night just for you!



*Thank you for making us your favorite BBQ joint!*

**20 Years Anniversary**

Voted Best BBQ 16 Years in a Row! - Best of Wylie 2019  
Voted Best BBQ! - Best of Farmersville 2019  
Best BBQ in Rockwall! - by NextDoor.com 2019 Voted Best BBQ 3 Years! - Best of Murphy 2016  
24 BBQ People's Choice Awards | Best BBQ in Texas 2017 McClatchy - Pade

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The Sachse News, First Place, Division 8

**THREE DECADES OF LEADERSHIP  
CHOOSE BILL BLACKBURN  
FOR MAYOR OF KERRVILLE**



"As former mayor, and members of the Kerrville City Council, with a combined 31 years of experience, we enthusiastically endorse Bill Blackburn to become the City of Kerrville's next mayor. In our time on council and as mayors, we have not always agreed and have even opposed each other from time to time. However, we long ago put aside any differences for what is best for Kerrville. It is time to stop the bullying. It is time to stop the obstruction. It is time to eliminate egos and embrace a man who has humbly spent his entire life bringing people together to make a difference in our community. Bill Blackburn has a servant's heart with a keen mind for business, who will serve our community with honor and dignity. The citizens of Kerrville and our City Staff deserve a leader who will treat them with respect. We ask you to join us in voting for Bill Blackburn for Mayor on May 5."

Sincerely,  
Jack Pratt 2012-2016  
Stephen Fine 1999-2005  
David Wampler 2000-2006  
Charles Johnson 1985-1989  
Ben Low 1996-2000  
Todd Bock 2005-2010

**ELECT BILL BLACKBURN MAYOR**  
*"Bringing people together to make a difference."*

EARLY VOTING: APRIL 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30 & MAY 1  
ALL VOTING AT THE CAILLOUX THEATER  
ELECTION DAY: MAY 5

Hill Country Journal, First Place, Division 7

**WE STAND WITH YOU  
BECAUSE YOU STAND WITH US**  
Thank you to Atascosa & McMullen County Law Enforcement  
for all you do to protect and serve our communities.

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK - MAY 13-19, 2018**



With great appreciation,  
**PLEASANTON EXPRESS**

Pleasanton Express, First Place, Division 6

**SPONSORED BY The Brass Trunk**

**Ladies night out 2019**

HOSTED BY **NEWS MESSENGER** STYLE SHOW SPONSOR **Loretta's Boutique**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4 • 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.**  
**MARSHALL CONVENTION CENTER • 2501 E. END BLVD, MARSHALL**

**STYLE SHOW • 7:00 PM** LADIES FASHION BY: THE BRASS TRUNK & LORETTA'S BOUTIQUE

**GET YOUR ADVANCED TICKETS NOW! ONLY \$5 EACH**  
AT THE MARSHALL NEWS MESSENGER  
TICKET INCLUDES: DRINK COUPON, PLUS MINI MANICURE & MINI MASSAGE

**REGISTER TO WIN A DAY AT THE SPA**  
FROM SERENITY SALON & SPA  
WITH YOUR ADVANCED TICKET AT THE MARSHALL NEWS MESSENGER! (\$160 VALUE)

**CAN FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT: MISSION: MARSHALL**  
Loving in Christ's name  
FOR EVERY TWO CANS YOU DONATE YOU ARE ENTERED INTO A SPECIAL DRAWING

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Above Average Scents  
Anna Oney - Author  
ASAP Handmade Crafts  
Chalk Couture  
Clarity Laser & Med Spa  
Color Street Nails  
Creations By B  
Damsel In Defense  
DeTerra by Joyce  
Fairy Godmother Travel  
Fun Jewels For Less  
GADTeas  
Jarila  
The Jewelry Bar  
Makeup by Monti Artistry  
LulaRoe  
Mary Kay  
Omigami Owl  
The Red Poppy  
Renee Wiley - Artist  
Scents By Tam  
TinaLynn Photography  
Zurita

**DI BY: A H of Houd**  
**DONATIONS BY: R K HealthCARE Express**

Marshall News Messenger, First Place, Division 3

# COLUMN WRITING

**Division 2**  
*This category was more competitive than I expected. The smaller papers in Texas are serving their readers well with editors and columnists who care deeply about their communities, challenge authority and share intensely personal stories.*

**First Place: New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung** — Chris Lykins uses dry wit to make his points in 2 columns that cover “talker” topics that everyone can relate to. Nowadays you cannot avoid a climate change conversation (or argument) and everyone has had a run-in with a dog that is walking its owner. I thoroughly enjoyed these columns.

**Second Place: Longview News-Journal** — Phil Latham spun a great human interest column out of a chance encounter at a gas station and effectively used time and the gas pump as metaphors. Well done. And who didn’t like the Trump-Baltimore rat smackdown? Phil was skillful in adding much more detail about what the Orkin report said about other cities ... excellent context without compromising the humor.

**Third Place: Galveston County Daily News** — Nice mix of topics - one on an unbelievable shooting tragedy and the other more personal.

**Fourth Place: Victoria Advocate** — Chris Cobler’s columns used great headlines to hook the reader.

**Division 3**  
**First Place: Seguin Gazette** — “Stop being surprised by racists” was strong, eye-opening and resonant, bringing real-life experiences with racism into the spotlight at a critical time.

*And the football column had me laughing. Both columns were well-crafted in structure and writing style, with strong leads and closing grafs.*

**Second Place: Marshall News Messenger** — Well crafted, with original takes on sports-connected themes.

**Third Place: Palestine Herald-Press** — Important topics to readers, with an open, honest approach to subjects.

**Fourth Place: Gainesville Daily Register**

**Division 4**  
**First Place: Hood County News** — This is a really bold column that drives home a point. The writer pulls no punches in calling out wrongdoing. Excellent. Forceful writing and lovely storytelling. The columnists in this category should be proud.

**Second Place: Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun** — These columns really gave me a sense of place. Community pride is something that should be celebrated, and the reminder about giving back was great. And everyone needs a reminder to see things from someone else’s perspective. Forceful writing and lovely storytelling. The columnists in this category should be proud.

**Third Place: Wise County Messenger** — I love the look at the light side of life with these columns. They’re bright and made me smile. I’m right there at the rabbit funeral and seeing the pothole decorations. Very cute in the best way possible. Forceful writing and lovely storytelling. The columnists in this category should be proud.

**Fourth Place: Polk County Enterprise** — The column about President Bush was especially nice. I loved the anecdotes and I’ll bet readers did, too. Forceful writing and lovely storytelling. The columnists in this category should be proud.

**Division 5**  
*These were great columns that I enjoyed reading. The writing style on all entries was appropriate and well-done. Great work from all columnists.*

**First Place: El Campo Leader-News** — Thoroughly enjoyed reading about the possum that so rudely invaded the Crabtree household. Your colorful writing made me truly wish I witnessed this furry home invasion. Your “just keep swimming” piece was well-written.

**Second Place: Vernon Daily Record** — Really loved your columns, particularly the one about how you met your wife. Cute story about how your grandparents met, too. Dating really has changed. I enjoyed the story about your daughter dunking the cat too. Sounds like you have “dad jokes” down pat.

**Third Place: Kingsville Record & Bishop News** — I like your straight-forward writing style and the fact you do not put in much “flu ” in your column. You state your case and get to the point very efficiently. Great job.

**Fourth Place: Taylor Press** — This was a column I want to read more of. Your writing was great. I particularly enjoyed the quotes at the end, and the title of the column itself. The story about your daughters was sweet, and the story about leaving out the race of a person in a story was very intriguing.

**Division 6**  
*Lots of good commentary, reflecting community news in general.*

**First Place: Jewish Herald-Voice**

**Second Place: The Wylie News**

**Third Place: Robertson County News**

**Fourth Place: Port Aransas South Jetty**

**Division 7**  
*Thank you all for sharing these personal columns, with me and with your readers.*

**First Place: Goliad Advance-Guard Press** — Small moments in life can have the most meaning, and that sentiment is captured here. The bittersweet reflections had me smiling and tearing up.

**Second Place: Gonzales Inquirer** — From the river rapids to seeing your dad meet up with old friends at Indy, I was right there with you! Super clear writing on two moving topics.

**Third Place: Frio-Nueces Current** — This writing style is vague in a good way. It left me intrigued.

**Division 8**  
*This category included a broad range of topics, from dealing with an Alzheimer’s disease death, gun control to gardening and of course, the importance of newspapers to communities. The ledes were inviting, the writing was concise with good description and examples and the endings made sense. I congratulate the writers.*

**First Place: Whitesboro News-Record**

**Second Place: The Dublin Citizen** — TD

**Third Place: The Liberty Hill Independent**

**Fourth Place: Hamilton Herald-News**

**Division 9**  
*These were great columns that I enjoyed reading. The writing style on all entries was appropriate and well-done. Great work from all columnists. It is inspiring to see a wide range of viewpoints and ages represented from these writers, particularly to see a young writer alongside more seasoned writers. Great job everyone.*

**First Place: Clarendon Enterprise** — Really enjoyed the story about Mrs. Stave. Your writing was well-thought and conveyed an emotional response. Great job. Lastly, to the cub reporter, keep up the good work. It’s inspiring to see such a young writer in print.

**Second Place: Texas Spur** — Spur or Bust was great, as was the other column in this entry. These columns made me want to keep reading and even visit Spur myself. Great writing and attention-grabbing. Well done, Texas Spur.

**Division 9 Third Place: Murphy Monitor** — I really liked both of these columns. They both had strong messages which revolved around how people can live better lives, without making people feel guilty about their social media or not-so-environmentally friendly life choices. Great writing style and great job at keeping my attention.

**Fourth Place: Gladewater Mirror** — Great, clear, and entertaining writing about time well-spent in your earlier days. The Memorial Day story and the personal aspect of it was very well-written and I enjoyed it. Thank you for sharing. Great job.

Shannon Crabtree, El Campo Leader-News  
First Place, Division 5

**Critter’s home invasion amounts to Dog 1, Possum 0**  
Visions of weighty matters danced in my head Monday night, a wondrous dialogue destined to appear in this week’s column right until the possum walked into the living room.

At that point, most plans went flying out the door as I tried to decide if this was some rather unusual side effect of last week’s flu medication. However, “May experience possum hallucination” wasn’t a warning I recalled.

The object of my immediate fascination glanced around perhaps debating whether my copy of Sherlock Holmes really should sit on the same shelf as Douglas Adams or maybe it was waiting for the next drawing from my urn of possible fortunes. Meanwhile, the gnome just stood there, hands thrown over its ears with a slight look of surprise upon its face. I couldn’t really blame him. “What the ...\$#@!,” I proclaimed as the dog sprang into action and the little critter stood its ground.

Finding a clothing basket, I shooed the dog. Why I’m not sure because it was doing an absolutely excellent job of riding corral on this fuzzy little trespasser. One light toss later, I cursed the manufacturer ... when I realized the bloody thing didn’t sit flush on the floor. The possum was suitably unimpressed as it moseyed over to the nice shadows under the couch. Plan B? Cover bare feet and curse. Done. Outcome? Feet covered, possum apparently comfy.

Bill Clough, The Advance-Guard Press, Goliad  
First Place, Division 7

**What’s proper fashion for a tornado?**  
I take you back to a late Saturday summer afternoon of 1963 in Amarillo, Texas. The sky was black overcast except for a thin gold line on the horizon where the sunset was only minutes away. Plop. From the black overcast dropped a funnel cloud that appeared to be coming right up the frontage road of the Canyon Expressway, right at our back door.

My mother was scheduled for gallbladder surgery at Northwest Texas Hospital on Monday. But the hospital had no extra beds so she was asleep in the bedroom, highly sedated on morphine. Not the best condition to deal with severe weather. The warning siren, two blocks away, began its mournful warning. “You get mother up,” my father said. “I’ll get the dogs.” “Mother,” I yelled, “There’s a tornado coming. You have to get up and get dressed!

”She stretched, paused for a moment, and then said something that is regionally famous among the meteorologists in South Texas who have heard the story.

“Well,” my mother said in her soft, East Texas accent, “I’ve never been to a tornado. I couldn’t figure out what to wear.” After which, she turned over and went back to sleep. By then, the tornado had gone back up into the cloud, the siren silenced. She had no memory of the episode; we teased her about it for the rest of her days.

Kathy Cruz, Hood County News, Granbury  
First Place, Division 4

**A taxing situation: Maybe IRS should stand for Internet Outrage Syndrome**  
On Wednesday, the HCN sought feedback on its Facebook page about what Hood County residents have been experiencing (with their tax returns.)

Here is what we posted:

“If you have filed your taxes already, are you among those who have received a shock — either not being due as much back as you thought, or unexpectedly finding that you owe the IRS? Or did you find that what you are due or owe is pretty much what you expected?”

We got a lot of responses and, frankly, I was pleasantly surprised at first to find some polite, civil discourse. Some even provided commentary on what people need to know in order to not owe the IRS. It has been my experience that once someone posts an insult on Facebook, the floodgates open.

It wasn’t quite that bad after Danie helpfully posted “Shut up hood county news,” but that was pretty much when things started to veer southward.

See, this is why we can’t have nice things. And by nice things, I mean civil discourse that could actually prove helpful to someone who might have misunderstood a situation or might benefit from some clarity.

Trolls can’t be counted on to stay under the bridge if they have nothing positive to contribute.

Chris Lykins, Seguin Gazette  
First Place, Division 3

**School spirit doesn’t pay life’s bills**  
I’ve often joked the quickest way to tell that I won the Texas Lottery would be the front page of the newspaper. Not that I would announce that I’d won. That would be madness. No, it’s because the front page would feature stories like, “Puppies: They’re pretty cool.”

If I’m sitting on tens or hundreds of millions of dollars, there’s no way I’m risking anything — not even a frivolous lawsuit from a Puppy Lovers Foundation. Puppies and rainbows until I get out the door to begin my early retirement. That’s my motto. It’s the type of risk/reward calculation we have to make when either side of that scale gets weighted heavily enough.

It’s one that college football players are now considering far more soberly than they have in the past. With the continued proliferation of “Mean Nothing Bowls” sponsored by “Companies Who Want To Remind You They Exist” most college football players get a chance to participate in the postseason. And by postseason, I mean a game that provides only the chance to injure yourself. There’s no glory to be found on the field at the Weedeater Bowl or the Fiduciary Life Insurance Bowl.

...A lot of high talent players are simply tapping out of the Bowl-o-Rama, instead opting to rest and get ready for their predraft workouts. If you have enormous upside and earning potential in the NFL, doing anything unnecessary before you sign that contract is incredibly short-sighted.



# EDITORIAL WRITING

## Division 2

No matter our city, state and geographic location, newspapers share many of the same concerns. In judging this competition, I realize the same holds true between newspapers of Tennessee and Texas. Thank you for this opportunity to serve as a judge in your insightful contest. Journalism rocks, and it always will!

**First Place: Victoria Advocate**

**Second Place: The Paris News**

**Third Place: Longview News-Journal**

**Fourth Place: Galveston County Daily News**

## Division 3

**First Place: Palestine Herald-Press** — The Palestine Herald-Press did an excellent job of calling out Texas law enforcement officers who hide jailhouse surveillance videos under the guise of homeland terrorism. This in the wake of, on average, more than 100 Texas jail deaths a year — a staggering number. The other editorial pointed out the high costs to taxpayers for neglecting jail prisoners, often leading to their deaths.

**Second Place: The Marshall News**

**Messenger** — Marshall News Messenger's

editorials were strongly written and took to task a weak court decision that erodes the Texas Open Meetings Act, while urging legislators to actually accomplish something. Hard hitting but very well written.

**Third Place: Seguin Gazette** — The Seguin Gazette was strong in calling out an elementary school for cheating students by coaching them to pass a state standardized test, and for applauding a city council that changed its decision in mid-course to alter a water tower in answer to community concerns.

**Fourth Place: Huntsville Item** — The Huntsville Item published good watchdog editorials by exposing huge vacancies and low salaries for corrections officers and a hospital district that squandered millions of taxpayer dollars through inflated salaries, potential fraud and mismanagement.

## Division 4

Very compelling editorials. Hard to decide the winners. Almost all of these editorials were very good — a tribute to Texas journalism.

**First Place: The Highlander, Marble Falls**

— Outstanding job of explaining both issues

and encouraging readers to stay/get involved in their communities, whether it's needed improvements to roads and bridges, or why they should consider a "yucky" proposal.

**Second Place: Wise County Messenger** — Excellent job of reasoning, laying groundwork especially for building sprinklers.

**Third Place: Uvalde Leader-News** — Very compelling editorials — good job!

## Division 5

**First Place: Vernon Daily Record** — The clear winner among the entrants. Two well written, local editorials. The writer avoids the trap of writing to length, instead giving each editorial the space it needed and not an inch more.

**Second Place: The Bay City Tribune** — Takes a position on two important local topics. That outweighs writing that could be stronger.

**Third Place: The Orange Leader**

**Fourth Place: Lampasas Dispatch Record**

## Division 6

**First Place: Rockdale Reporter** — Powerful local editorials. Well written in a strong voice with clearly outlined arguments. Love and

concern for community is obvious.

**Second Place: Robertson County News** — Very nice conversational style of writing. The outrage comes through in the park column. Good local topics of wide interest.

**Third Place: Port Aransas South Jetty** — Competent editorials written in a traditional, authoritative voice. Unfortunately, the gun control editorials sounds just like a thousand others. Deer Park was stronger, given the local connection.

**Fourth Place: Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post**

## Division 7

**First Place: Gonzales Inquirer** — Compelling writing to hold government officials accountable for poor spending decisions. Strong call to action for community to call lawmakers and other about the concerns.

**Second Place: Frio-Nueces Current** — Strong, colorful conversational writing in an editorial aimed at holding government officials accountable.

**Third Place: The Community News** — Good explanatory writing to give context and depth

to the concerns of closed, out-of-town meetings.

## Division 8

**First Place: The Liberty Hill Independent** — Editorials do a very good job of holding the city council and area residents responsible for their actions, calling for each group to do a better job.

**Second Place: Franklin Advocate** — Good job of explaining problems, especially the one exploring a "gray area."

**Third Place: Elgin Courier** — I liked the exploration of clichés, and especially the council's lack of knowing what to do about flooding issues.

## Division 9

Nice selection of entries. I always find it ironic how we in the newspaper industry seem to find the same material to write about ... no matter our state or geographic region. What is important to one newspaper editor seems to be the case with editors across our nation.

**First Place: The Vindicator**

**Second Place: Gladewater Mirror**

**Third Place: Clarendon Enterprise**

**Fourth Place: The Van Horn Advocate**

Casey Stinnett, *The Vindicator, Liberty*  
**First Place, Division 9**

## The Revolution of 1776 is still on

Yesterday we celebrated the work of an extraordinary group of men who wore ponytails and short pants. They were fond of ruffled shirts, long-tailed coats, and triangular hats, and they tied their hair with silk ribbons.

They could be a witty bunch whose humor leaned toward long, multi-layered insults. A number of them were inventors.

A great many were fluent in Latin and Greek, several in Hebrew and Aramaic, and most in two or more modern languages. All of them knew their Bibles very well, even the ones who were not believers.

They did not all agree on anything and arrived at their most important decisions only through a great deal of horse trading and compromise, which is why nearly every argument today based on "the original intent of the Founding Fathers" is pure fiction. The founders were rarely of one mind.

They were not all good men. They were not all honest. They were not all revolutionary idealists, and those who were would each ultimately compromise his ideals out of necessity, or for political gain, convenience, or money. Usually for money.

But despite their flaws, there was a moment — one brief, heady, and glorious moment — when they truly believed they could remake the whole world. Our purpose as a country was written down as a statement of eternal truths in phrases prettier than any poet or lyricist has ever penned.

... Each year on July 4 we celebrate our reason for being a nation. We celebrate our commitment to those eternal truths expressed in the Declaration, the truth of universal human rights, and we celebrate in the knowledge that we have a part to play in the cause our Founding Fathers handed down to us because the Revolution of 1776 is still on.

Mike Eddleman, *The Liberty Hill Independent*  
**First place, Division 8**

## Civic responsibility goes beyond pitchforks and torches

More than 75 area residents showed up at the City Council meeting Monday eager to make their voices heard. They were heard. And while both groups present probably went home happy and satisfied they had shown the City of Liberty Hill how the First Amendment works, most should sharpen their sense of civic responsibility beyond the ability to show up, point fingers and threaten legal action.

Standing up and slinging uninformed accusations while demanding representation without taxation takes some of the luster from the appeal to everyone's sense of community and demonstrates just how uninvolved people have become.

Petitioning the government for change — or a lack of change — is as American as it gets, but what's always been assumed is that petitioners should be informed participants in the process. A number of times Monday, residents showed that was just not the case. The last of 10 area residents who chastised the Council over its annexation plans used the canceled roundabout project as evidence that city management and staff are not able to manage money or projects effectively, much less annexation.

... The plan was not hatched in a dark alley and it was not developed in a vacuum. It was discussed at multiple meetings and community input was sought throughout the process of developing the plan. ... To a degree, the local government works for everyone in the community, even those outside its incorporated limits. But even if the tax burden is not shared, the burden of being engaged and informed should be.

Residents can't claim they are not told when the local government takes action on something. They can admit they didn't bother to pay attention, say they didn't feel they had time to participate, or that they just didn't care until it was at their doorstep, but claiming they were not told is like sleeping through geometry class then blaming the teacher for not being able to solve a proof. It is a claim as old as posted public meetings and not particular to Liberty Hill.

Jeff Gerrit, *Palestine Herald-Press*  
**First Place, Division 3**

## Texas needs access to jail video

Many U.S. jails release surveillance video, almost routinely, to shed light on a prisoner's death. Not in Texas, where county sheriffs use — more accurately, misuse — a sweeping exemption to state open-records law. It allows them to withhold practically any video that local officials can, somehow, tie to terrorism.

Texas legislators can fix this problem by amending the state's open-records law to remove this ridiculously broad exemption, part of the state's Homeland Security Act. With more than 100 deaths a year in Texas' county jails, lawmakers ought to ask themselves where the real threat to public safety lies.

Revising a small part of the state's public-information statute is the only way to stop local governments from twisting the law to conceal video that in no way compromises public safety.

Section 418.182 of Texas code empowers local governments to withhold video that "relates to the specifications, operating procedures, or location of a security system used to protect public or private property from an act of terrorism."

In truth, sheriffs could argue their entire jails protect property from terrorism. Hazy language in this section of Texas open-records law amounts to a virtual blank check for sheriffs to withhold jail video from the public. In a democracy, the burden rightly rests with government to show, directly, why the release of information poses a significant risk.

Across the country, falsifying jail logs is one of the easiest and most widely used ways to cover negligence, incompetence, or misconduct. That's one reason the Herald-Press has filed more than a dozen open-records requests, with four local and state agencies, for video related to the June 15, 2018, death of Anderson County prisoner Rhonda Newsome.

Terence Fitzwater, Jose Torres, Garrett McGinley,  
Erik McCowan, *The Gonzales Inquirer*  
**First Place, Division 7**

Recent actions and conduct by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) have raised serious questions about the board's integrity and mission. In our opinion, enough is enough.

Two weeks ago, the GBRA Board of Directors had the unmitigated gall to unanimously pass a motion allowing the GBRA to consider proposals on building a brand new \$5 to \$6 million office facility in the city of New Braunfels. The reason they cited was the need for more space for management. In Gonzales County, our response should be: let the management and GBRA board eat cake. Their moral, legal and ethical responsibility should be to the citizens and taxpayers along their state-mandated territory. They should be figuring out how to rebuild the Lake Wood dam that broke a few years ago due to their negligence and lack of preparation and foresight. Instead, by voting to approve the new space for management and not the H-5 dam for Lake Wood in Gonzales, they have just flipped us the proverbial finger.

What everyone in Gonzales County should be upset about — no, mad as heck about — is the lack of moral, legal and ethical integrity practiced by the board as presently constituted. For two years they have dilly-dallied on the rebuild. They say they don't have the money. They say they can't spend from other funds. They say they are working to get a new spill gate design figured out so that sometime four or five years from now they might be able to fix this dam that they are mandated to maintain. They might.

But instead they chose to appease the monied area of their domain, New Braunfels.

It is an insult of the highest order. The Sunset Commission of the State of Texas blasted this authority's board and management for not maintaining its infrastructure and not having a plan in place to rebuild or repair existing structures.

**Division 5**

**First Place: Jacksonville Daily Progress** – *Strong photos and stories on tornado damage and good mix of local government, sports, faith and community news*

**Second Place: Kilgore News Herald** – *Excellent look back on 50th anniversary of Moon landing by local residents and look back and to the future in Progress edition. Overall, clean, clear presentation*

**Third Place: The Panola Watchman** – *Good presentation of news with compelling art. Broad mix of community news*

**Fourth Place: Vernon Daily Record**



# GENERAL EXCELLENCE



Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, First Place, Division 6



Hill Country Community Journal, First Place Division 7



The Sachse News, First Place, Division 8



The Post Signal, Pilot Point, First Place, Division 9

## Division 6

Wow. Just wow. Tough category to judge. All the entrants are winners - top notch. Wish all four winners could be first place. Many, many talented designers! All are great, showing many different tastes and flavors.

**First Place: Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post**

**Second Place: Port Aransas South Jetty**

**Third Place: Canton Herald**

**Fourth Place: Jewish Herald-Voice**

## Division 7

Good group of newspapers, each obviously serving their communities well. Keep up the good work!

**First Place: Hill Country Community Journal** – An all-around good newspaper. Good looking front page, good writing, good balance between copy/photos/advertising. Strong distinct sections.

**Second Place: The Kaufman Herald** – A very clean, good looking newspaper

with strong dominate graphics/photos. Good writing throughout. Nice versatility in topics.

**Third Place: Hays Free Press** – Nice newspaper. Interesting ragged right layout, that made the paper exceptionally clean and open. Good writing throughout.

**Fourth Place: Leader News, Lytle** – Good newspaper. Nice front. Nice writing. Just too gray inside. Could improve with more photos and graphics. A lot of potential here.

## Division 8

Highly competitive division. Each newspaper excels at providing hyperlocal content from front to back.

**First Place: Sachse News** – Well-designed newspaper with a solid mix of news, features, commentary and sports. Nice use of the A-1 rail. Concise writing and tight leads. Peak-action photos, particularly in sports, among the best in this division.

**Second Place: The Sealy News** – Fabulous job of providing hyper-local content to the readers. Many guest columnists give the newspaper a unique voice that reflects the soul of the community.

**Third Place: Farmersville Times** – Sweeping local coverage of all things Farmersville. A solid community newspaper.

**Fourth Place: Wills Point Chronicle** – Both staff and reader-submitted photos give strength to this newspaper. Vivid staff photos.

## Division 9

**First Place: The Post-Signal, Pilot Point** – Layout was easy to follow. You have great photos and content. Well done!

**Second Place: Gladewater Mirror** – Good balance throughout the paper.

**Third Place: Eldorado Success**

**Fourth Place: Dripping Springs Century News**



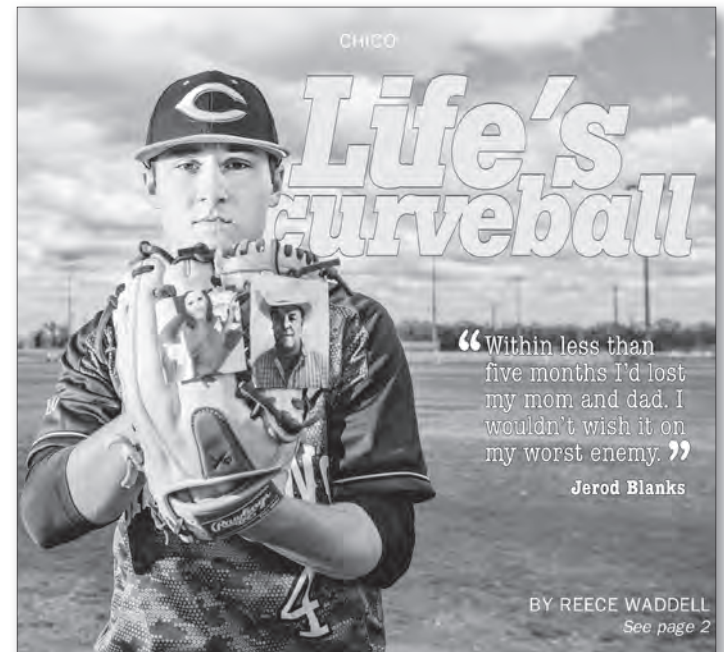




# FEATURE WRITING



Austin Business Journal, First Place, Division 6



Wise County Messenger, First Place, Division 4



◀ Burnet Bulletin,  
First Place, Division 9



◀ Goldthwaite Eagle,  
First Place, Division 7

## Division 5

**First Place:** Lampasas Dispatch Record

**Second Place:** News-Telegram, Sulphur Springs

**Third Place:** The Panola Watchman

**Fourth Place:** Kilgore News Herald

## Division 6

*This was a very competitive category and therefore, very difficult to judge. The stories submitted by the top four newspapers blended engaging subject matter with high-quality writing and professional presentation.*

**First Place:** Austin Business Journal – A pair of well-written, well researched in-depth feature stories, bolstered by high-quality photography and interesting

sidebars. Both were extremely informative, well-crafted and interesting with lots of human interest. Top-notch, highly professional work.

**Second Place:** Port Aransas South Jetty – Two great human interest stories about people responding to difficult cultural challenges. Good writing enhanced with good photography. Well done!

**Third Place:** Rockdale Reporter – Two good stories here: one, an excellent look at a woman coming to terms with childhood abandonment; and the other, a warm and well-written look at a woman who followed in her father's footsteps. Excellent work.

**Fourth Place:** Jewish Herald-Voice – An engaging and well-written story about how one man's dream grew into

a community basketball league, and a look at a young athlete responding to adversity. Two great topics, and both well executed.

## Division 7

**First Place:** Goldthwaite Eagle – Thorough, well-written feature coverage of tremendous community effort in support of a local family.

**Second Place:** Goliad Advance-Guard Press – Well-crafted stories. "Somebody's Girl" is especially vivid.

**Third Place:** Gonzales Inquirer – Great features, great photos.

**Fourth Place:** Frio-Nueces Current

## Division 8

**First Place:** The Liberty Hill Independent

**Second Place:** Sachse News

**Third Place:** The Dublin Citizen

**Fourth Place:** Franklin Advocate

## Division 9

**First Place:** Burnet Bulletin

**Second Place:** Fort Stockton Pioneer

**Third Place:** Alvin Sun

**Fourth Place:** Pilot Point Post-Signal



HEADLINE WRITING

MOTHER'S DAY

# MAJOR MOM



Andrew, 16; Joseph, 19; and Nathan Martin, 13, pose with their mother, Maj. Laura Martin, in their kitchen, where they spend most of their time together. Martin is the only widowed officer with school-aged children leading a Salvation Army outpost in Texas.

MADELYNNE SCALES/MSCALES@VICAD.COM

## Widowed Salvation Army leader steps up for sons, community

Victoria Advocate, First Place, Division 2

**Division 2**  
**First Place:** Victoria Advocate – *Catchy heads make good lead-in for stories.*  
**Second Place:** Longview News-Journal – *Congrats! Clever heads - good match for stories*  
**Third Place:** New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung – *Clever heads brighten your future. I really liked some of your photo heads better than the ones you submitted for competition - Fore a Clause and PawFect*  
**Fourth Place:** Denton Record-Chronicle – *Good headlines - good jyt for the stories*

**Division 3**  
**First Place:** Seguin Gazette – *Honestly, felt jrst and second place should tie!*  
**Second Place:** San Marcos Daily Record – *Honestly, felt jrst and second place should tie!*  
**Third Place:** Gainesville Daily Register  
**Fourth Place:** Athens Daily Review

**Division 4**  
**First Place:** Beeville Bee-Picayune – *These headlines were so clever and perfectly on point with the stories they accompanied.*  
**Second Place:** The Fayette County Record

**Third Place:** Wise County Messenger  
**Fourth Place:** Hood County News

**Division 5**  
**First Place:** Kilgore News Herald  
**Second Place:** The Graham Leader  
**Third Place:** El Campo Leader-News  
**Fourth Place:** Taylor Press

**Division 6**  
**First Place:** Port Aransas South Jetty – *Short heads. Strong word selection. Compelling info to grab a reader's attention.*  
**Second Place:** Van Zandt News – *Good use of alliteration and word choice.*  
**Third Place:** Rockdale Reporter – *Good use of pop culture references.*

**Division 7**  
**First Place:** Gonzales Inquirer – *The Gonzales Inquirer has taken some risks with its headlines "Another dam failure" borderlines on whimsical, but when we read the story and discovered this was the second catastrophic failure of a dam in the past three years, the headline perfectly reflects the frustrations of such an unfortunate*

# If you like it, put a 'ring' on it

Buffalo Wings and Rings says it has eyes on Seguin for new location

**Valerie Bustamante**  
valerie.bustamante@seguingazette.com

After being in contact for quite some time with the business, Seguin Economic Development Corporation executive director Josh Schneuer said the company recently showed an interest in the community.

"We usually touch base with them throughout the year in different forms of correspondence and then at these retail conferences we regularly attend," he said. "This past retail conference we were at

in May — that's really when the interest kind of spiked on getting a brick and mortar here in Seguin. They're definitely looking for a city that is up and coming that has a growing population."

Phil Schram, chief development officer and part owner of Buffalo Wings and Rings, agreed that Seguin is where they want to be. "We like what we call county seats and Seguin is a county seat. It's the right size for our brand," Schram said. "Also, the fact that Seguin has a mix of industrial day jobs and evening life, that's very good for us."

Buffalo Wings and Rings deemed as an "elevated



WINGS - 3

Seguin Gazette, First Place Division 3

# Whiskey & coke:

# \$3.25M cocktail



## Beeville suspect caught with bags of cocaine

**Bee-Picayune staff**  
FREER — A Beeville man is charged with possession of \$3.25 million worth of cocaine earlier this month.

This federal charge against Jose Ramirez, who was released Friday on a \$50,000 bond, was issued last week following a March 5 traffic stop.

It occurred when Border Patrol agents Carlos Lopez and Robert Villafranca, and his canine, Whiskey, were assigned traffic check duties at the Highway 59 U.S. Border Patrol

(See Federal, 9A)

Beeville Bee-Picayune, First Place, Division 4

*chain of events. It's also eye-catching and hilarious. I overheard several editors laughing out loud while judging this one. The same could be said for "An ordinance most fowl," which is good, old-fashioned double entendre at its best. A well-deserved jrst Place: for cleverness, wittiness and confidence!*

**Second Place:** Hays Free Press – *"Romaine Calm" still has people in our newsroom laughing. Hays Free Press' collection of witty headlines shows that these writers and editors have a true gift for serving and entertaining readers. To write an accurate headline that simultaneously informs and stirs a laugh isn't an easy task, and it's clear that these media professionals are doing it right.*

**Third Place:** The Community News – *I would describe this collection of Community News headlines as clever, classy and fun. No cheap laughs here - these heads are elegant and smart. "Dance like everyone is watching" is an adorable headline when paired with a photograph of two young ladies in a dance class. And "Ka-BLOOM" is a perfect jyt for a well-designed page packed full of beautiful spring owers. While the front page "Tim Buc Two" headline seems confusing out of context at jrst glance, after reading the story, it's an ingenious play on words. Outstanding work.*

**Fourth Place:** Goldthwaite Eagle – *The Goldthwaite*

*Eagle pulls no punches! These headlines are full of bold humor and sharp wit. Our newsroom is still having fun with "To pee or not to pee," and the case of the Schwartz rattlesnake is terrifying reptile humor at its best. Our judges appreciate the laughs and give two thumbs-up to the editors and writers of The Eagle!*

**Division 8**  
**First Place:** Sachse News – *Very Clever. Good use of subheads. Made me want to read the stories.*  
**Second Place:** The Liberty Hill Independent – *Clever word play.*  
**Third Place:** The Dublin Citizen  
**Fourth Place:** The Sealy News – *Particularly liked the Road Warriors headline with subhead.*

**Division 9**  
**First Place:** Fort Stockton Pioneer – *Each entry was clever and creative, demonstrating thoughtful consideration to headlines across multiple editions.*  
**Second Place:** Texas Spur – *Clever and attention-grabbing.*  
**Third Place:** The Van Horn Advocate – *Dejnately makes you want to read the story.*  
**Fourth Place:** Burnet Bulletin – *Creative.*



## HEADLINE WRITING



The rubble of the Hotel Stockton on Tuesday. (Steve Fountain/The Pioneer)



The skeleton of the Hotel Stockton on Monday. (Steve Fountain/The Pioneer)

# Landmark hotel checks out

Fort Stockton Pioneer, First Place, Division 9

# Great balls of fur!

*Spring brings more pups, kittens to shelter*



The season of spring tends to bring more puppies and kittens to the Port Aransas Animal Shelter, according to Rick Gleason, animal control officer.

"Love is in the air," he said. Folks can adopt animals by dropping by the shelter between 7 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. any day of the week.

Potential adopters must fill out forms to help the city ensure the animals are going to good homes.

Adoption fees are \$25 for kittens and \$50 for dogs. All animals are vaccinated, spayed and neutered before adoption.

A city ordinance requires that dogs and cats have city-issued tags. The cost of a tag is \$2.50 if the animal has been fixed, and \$5 if it hasn't. A new tag must be purchased every year.

If a pet has a city tag, it will be easy for an animal control officer to identify and return

the animal to its home if it is found wandering, Gleason said.

**Upper right:** Nikko Fowler feeds an orphaned kitten formula at the Port Aransas Animal Shelter. **Below right:** A mother cat lies with two orphaned kittens that she adopted. **Below left:** Peering out from under play equipment at the shelter is Dingo, an Australian cattle dog that looks like an adult dog, but actually is only about nine months old. **Upper left:** Two kittens play in a cage at the shelter. All photos on this page were shot on Tuesday, March 12.

STAFF PHOTOS BY  
ELIZABETH WEAVER

Port Aransas South Jetty, First Place, Division 6



Wylie resident Kirstin Dodd-Schubert takes a small brush to start cleaning a grave marker at Wylie Cemetery.

# Local woman passionate about bringing life back to tombstones

By Joe Reavis  
Staff Writer  
news@sachsenews.com

Armed with cleaning solutions, brushes and elbow grease, Kirstin Dodd-Schubert is on an unusual mission to clean grave markers tarnished over time by the elements.

She started cleaning markers in 2014 and formed Tombstone Touch Ups in 2018, a nonprofit business that operates as a subsidiary of Wylie Historical Society. She estimates that she has cleaned about 100 stones at cemeteries in the area.

Also, she recently entered into an agreement with Collin and Rockwall counties under which probationers can help

clean markers under supervision to complete community service requirements.

"They want to be functioning members of the community," Dodd-Schubert says of her helpers.

A native of Perryton in the upper Texas Panhandle, the 29-year-old graduated from Plano Senior High School in 2005. She and husband Brandon are parents of two sons, Jackson, 9, and Winston, 8, and she serves as Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 1988 of Garland.

Professionally, Dodd-Schubert is a partner in Veritas Academy, a private school in Wylie serving students in pre-kindergarten through seventh grade.

Dodd-Schubert reported that she has long been interested in cemeteries, starting when she was a child and made many visits to the family cemetery of her mother, New Energy Cemetery in Beloit that dates back to the 1880s.

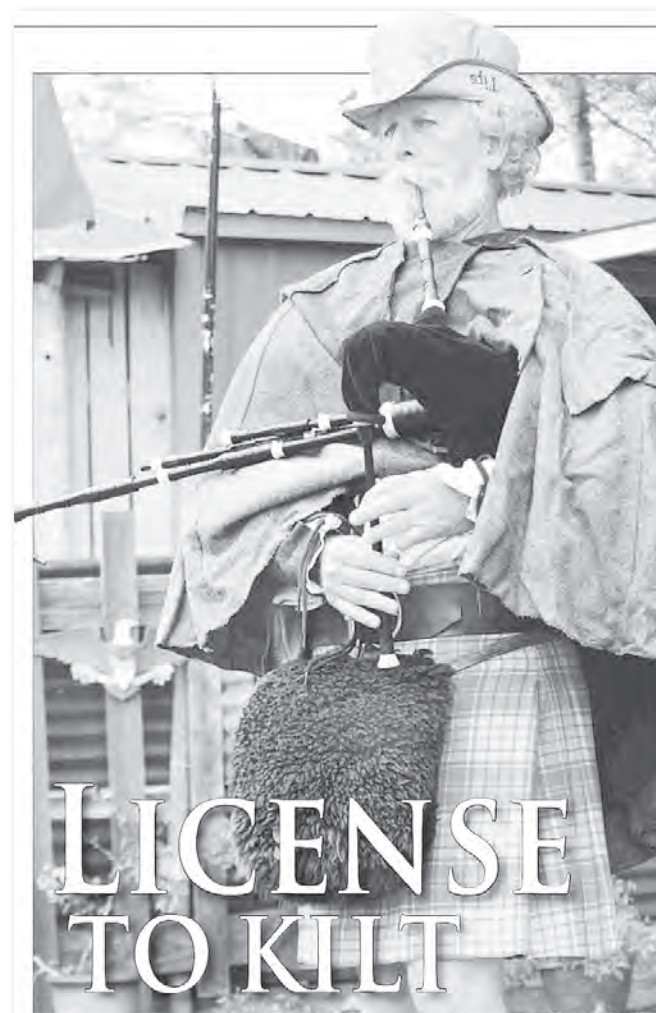
"That is where I got my fascination with cemeteries," she declared.

She also said that she saw a video about a man in Florida who cleaned the headstones of military veterans' graves, and recalled, "I asked why veterans? Why not everyone?"

With a goal in mind, Dodd-Schubert started training through online lessons and also

See PRESERVING page 3A

Sachse News, First Place, Division 8



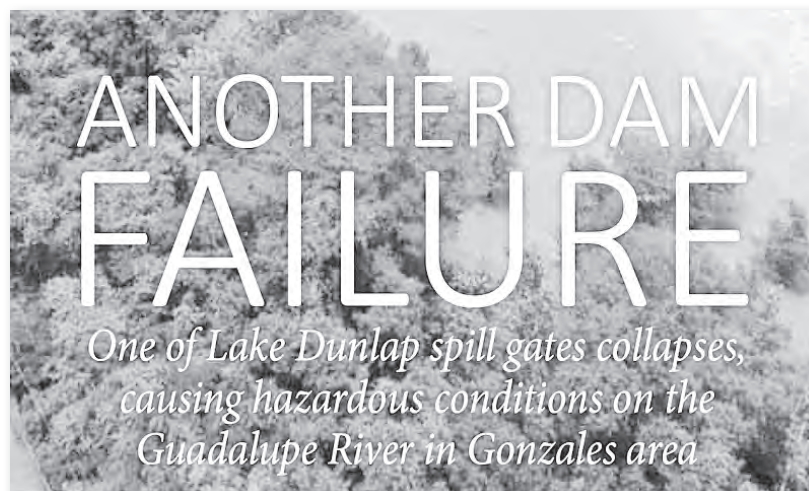
# LICENSE TO KILT

NEWS HERALD photos by LUCAS STROUGH

Lary Fowler plays the bagpipes at Avalon Faire Saturday afternoon along with (below) the musical duo of Faire to Middlin and other performers helping jump-start the attraction's opening weekend

# Avalon Faire kicks off 2019 season with more vendors, entertainment

Kilgore News Herald, First Place, Division 5



# ANOTHER DAM FAILURE

*One of Lake Dunlap spill gates collapses, causing hazardous conditions on the Guadalupe River in Gonzales area*

Gonzales Inquirer, First Place, Division 7



# FEATURE PHOTO



**DIVISION 5, FIRST PLACE:** A helicopter dumps water on a grass fire in an inaccessible area, helping firefighters contain the blaze. (Jason Hennington/Taylor Press)



**DIVISION 2, FIRST PLACE:** George Hyak, 98, an original partner of Dick's Food Store, visits with Elizabeth Gleeson, 91, during festivities when the Victoria County Historical Commission presented Dick's Food Store with the Texas Treasure Historic Business Award. (Evan Lewsis/Victoria Advocate)



**DIVISION 4, FIRST PLACE:** Dani Brown, one of the few female welders in Wise County, welds a piece of metal Wednesday at Crown Fabrication and Design in Decatur. (Austin Jackson/Wise County Messenger)

## Division 2

*Strong group. It was difficult to choose only four winners.*

**First Place:** Victoria Advocate – Photographers have captured beautiful moments that evoke emotions.

**Second Place:** Galveston County Daily News – Photographers skillfully use composition techniques to bring joy to readers.

**Third Place:** New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung – These pictures draw readers in and make them want to read the stories.

**Fourth Place:** The Facts, Clute – The pictures tell interesting stories. I particularly enjoyed the picture of Rodrigo Linares.

## Division 3

**First Place:** Seguin Gazette

**Second Place:** Gainesville Daily Register

**Third Place:** Marshall News Messenger

**Fourth Place:** Corsicana Daily Sun

## Division 4

*Solid entries. Ultimately came down to creativity and interest.*

**First Place:** Wise County Messenger

**Second Place:** Boerne Star

**Third Place:** Beeville Bee-Picayune

**Fourth Place:** The Fayette County Record

## DIVISION 3, FIRST PLACE: ▶

BMX rider Koji Kraft, of ASA Entertainment, jumps over Navarro High School assistant principal John Pugh and counselor Robyn Steffen during the "No Place for Hate" campaign. (Valerie Bustamante /Seguin Gazette)



## Division 5

*You have some great photographers in Texas! Enjoyed judging in this contest! First Place: Taylor Press – Great Photos! Loved the helicopter spraying water and the lady being honored.*

**Second Place:** Jacksonville Daily Progress – Your mudding photo was exceptional and your rodeo photo showed just what rodeo life is all about.

**Third Place:** Lampasas Dispatch Record – Your school bus wreck show that you go wherever the news is, loved the dad's expression in baby derby!

**Fourth Place:** Kingsville Record & Bishop News – The photo of the little boy racing with the box was really great. His face showed the excitement.



# FEATURE PHOTO



**DIVISION 7, FIRST PLACE:** Sporting glow sticks and electronic headgear, area residents turned out to run and walk the 1K and 5K races designed to raise funds for AdvoCats' charitable efforts in the Aledo Independent School District. (Kathy Chruscielski/The Community News)



**DIVISION 8, FIRST PLACE:** Children of all ages made a mad dash at the beach ball drop during the annual Liberty Hill Independence Day Spectacular. (Alex Rubio/The Liberty Hill Independent)



◀ **DIVISION 6, FIRST PLACE:** Woodville's Jayda Argumon soars with a jump of 16 feet 2.5 inches. (Hale Hughes/Tyler County Booster)



**DIVISION 9, FIRST PLACE:** ▶ Old City Park playground is a favorite for buddies Tanner, 3, and Kenrick, 4. (Baylee Friday/the Post-Signal)

**Division 6**  
Outstanding entries. Difficult to make a decision.  
**First Place:** Tyler County Booster – The sports feature photo did it! Outstanding!  
**Second Place:** Port Aransas South Jetty – Good all around photos. A variety that I liked!  
**Third Place:** Jewish Herald-Voice – Great large photos that told a story in themselves!  
**Fourth Place:** Medina Valley Times – Overall good quality photos.

**Division 7**  
**First Place:** The Community News – Great photos - Especially like Whipped Cream and Here they Come  
**Second Place:** Goldthwaite Eagle – Loved the double rainbow - Good composition - good feature photos  
**Third Place:** The Kaufman Herald – Cute kids on National Day of Prayer - Good composition with Graduation, Scurry Rossa and Kaufman

**Fourth Place:** Hays Free Press – You had three excellent photos: Every Wiener has its Day; Wiener Dog on Living in Hayes and Snakes Alive.

**Division 8**  
**First Place:** The Liberty Hill Independent  
**Second Place:** The Sealy News  
**Third Place:** Lexington Leader  
**Fourth Place:** The Dublin Citizen

**Division 9**  
**First Place:** The Post-Signal, Pilot Point – Clear winner. The photographers brilliantly employ composition techniques to reveal emotions and tell interesting stories.  
**Second Place:** Burnet Bulletin – Clever cutlines. The photographers have captured special moments that reveal emotions and connection.  
**Third Place:** Eldorado Success – The photographer has captured people enjoying

life, making ordinary moments seem extraordinary.  
**Fourth Place:** Fort Stockton Pioneer – Photos are packed with action and attitude.



# NEWS PHOTO



**DIVISION 3, FIRST PLACE:** Seguin Firefighters Lt. Amy Flynn and FAO Cody Blackburn carry a little boy after he was rescued from a car that was swept the road in a low water crossing on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 on Laubach Road. (Felicia Frazar/Sequin Gazette)



**DIVISION 5, FIRST PLACE:** Three little girls test out the City of Carthage's new splash pad before its grand opening. (Meredith Shamburger/Panola Watchman)

## Division 2

**First Place:** Galveston County Daily News – Every photo is powerful, telling the story immediately and beautifully in a near-perfect fashion.

**Second Place:** Odessa American – Excellent photo displaying skillful composition, and the cutline offers background to what we are seeing. Upon first glance, this image evokes powerful emotions equal to that of the subjects.

**Third Place:** The Paris News

**Fourth Place:** New Braunfels

## Division 3

We enjoyed this competition and think every entry had some-

thing to recommend it. Each community represented should be proud of their local newspapers for getting out and shooting the news. One negative present in most of the entries was the tendency to downplay news photos. Often a nice image was reduced to two column play.

**First Place:** Seguin Gazette – The rescue photo elevated this collection over a solid second-place competitor. News photography has a human face. When we, as photographers, can touch readers we are more successful. Several of the photos, such a tractor-trailer wreck, were under-played.

**Second Place:** Gainesville Daily Register – This was a strong collection with variety and for the most part well-played on the newspaper's pages. The entry was just barely edged out for first.



**DIVISION 2, FIRST PLACE:** A man watches as emergency responders work at the scene of a fatal accident on State Hwy. 3 in Texas City. (Stuart Villanueva/Galveston County Daily News)



**DIVISION 4, FIRST PLACE:** An 18-wheeler hauling a load of beer rests on the guardrail after a rollover on the bluff in La Grange. (Andy Behlen/The Fayette County Record)

**Third Place:** Athens Daily Review – Nice package on a single news event. We would have liked to see how the newspaper handled other news events.

**Fourth Place:** Marshall News Messenger – The good use of the photos on the newspaper's pages elevated this collection.

## Division 4

**First Place:** The Fayette County Record – Great entries, all examples of strong skills and sensitive news coverage. The tilted truck photo "Beer truck gets tipsy" should be a headline winner, too.

**Second Place:** Wise County Messenger – Amazing "inferno" photos – others were strong as well. Fallen hero photo is

especially poignant.

**Third Place:** The Highlander, Marble Falls – Great flood coverage. Interesting perspective on other photos as well, especially "You say goodbye and I say hello."

**Fourth Place:** Uvalde Leader-News – Interesting angles show strong photography skills.

## Division 5

**First Place:** The Panola Watchman

**Second Place:** Vernon Daily Record

**Third Place:** El Campo Leader-News

**Fourth Place:** The Orange Leader



# NEWS PHOTO



**DIVISION 6, FIRST PLACE:** Rockdale firefighters battle a fire that destroyed a local woodworking business. (Mike Brown/Rockdale Reporter)



**DIVISION 8, FIRST PLACE:** Workers repair portions of the historic brick streets in downtown Wills Point. (David Kapitan/Wills Point Chronicle)



**DIVISION 7, FIRST PLACE:** A construction worker monitors the progress of an excavator as it digs into the ground for utility placement along north Burleson Street in front of historical Kyle City Hall. (Moses Leos III / Hays Free Press)



**DIVISION 9, FIRST PLACE:** Matthew Johnson, left, Victoria Jones and Sandra Juarez were three of 108 students recognized as Pilot Point High School graduates at Denton Bible Church. (Andres David Lopez/The Post Signal)

## Division 6

**First Place:** Rockdale Reporter – A variety of photos captured at different angles. Great work!

**Second Place:** Tyler County Booster

**Third Place:** The News of San Patricio County

**Fourth Place:** Port Aransas South Jetty

## Division 7

*This was a tough one to judge. Several publications in this category have phenomenal photography.*

**First Place:** Hays Free Press – Excellent photojournalism sets the tone for great design throughout this publication. Readers are drawn into stories that might otherwise be missed by great photography.

**Second Place:** The Community News – Some really nice photography on display in this publication. Photographers think outside the box to get interesting shots. The fireworks display

*photo set this publication apart in this category.*

**Third Place:** Freestone County Times

**Fourth Place:** Frio-Nueces Current

## Division 8

**First Place:** Wills Point Chronicle – The Chronicle uses impactful photos to grab the reader's attention and pull them into the story.

**Second Place:** Lexington Leader – The Lexington Leader leverages aerial photography to show the bigger picture.

**Third Place:** Palacios Beacon – Powerful photography tells the story of fire and water and their impact on the community.

**Fourth Place:** Hamilton Herald-News

## Division 9

**First Place:** The Post-Signal, Pilot Point

**Second Place:** The Vindicator

**Third Place:** Eldorado Success

**Fourth Place:** The Van Horn Advocate





Daily Sun photo/Don Farmer  
An argument between a father and son ended with a shooting Monday night in the 500 block of W. First Ave.

## Father shoots former Corsicana football star

By Todd Wills  
Special to the Daily Sun

Cameron Washington invited his father, Jeffery, over on Monday night to see his grandchildren, who he hadn't seen in three or four months. They ate, drank socially — so they thought — and exchanged Christmas gifts.

Five hours later, Cameron was shot in the foot by his father, one of four random gun shots Jeffery fired after being asked to leave his son's house. The night could

have ended much more tragically, with six people outside around midnight, including Cameron, his fiancée and their 3-year-old son.

"I thought he would be happy to see them," Cameron said of his kids. "For it to turn out like it did is pretty bad."

Police arrested Jeffery Washington, 44, on Tuesday for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He fled the scene Monday night to the Fort Worth area and was picked up on a warrant Tuesday afternoon by

Crowley PD.

Cameron, who starred on Corsicana High School's 2011 state semifinal team, was shot once through the ankle. Fortunately another .32 caliber bullet went inside Hometown Flooring.

Cameron was home Tuesday resting comfortably with a boot on his right foot, watching a replay of the Pittsburgh Steelers-New Orleans Saints regular season

See SHOOTING, Page 8

Corsicana Daily Sun, First Place, Division 3

## WISE COUNTY

# Life and death, love and despair

Abel given max sentence for girlfriend's murder

By BRIAN KNOX

bknox@wcmessenger.com

January 31, 1987, is the day Jake Abel's life began.

January 31, 2018, is the day Jake Abel's life sentence began.

In between those two dates that occupy the same square on the calendar was a life filled with troubled relationships with those closest to him — none more so than with his girlfriend, Socorro Juanita Herrera Taylor, according to testimony provided

at his recently-concluded murder trial in 271st District Court in Decatur.

On Wednesday afternoon, it took a Wise County jury less than two hours to find Abel guilty of murdering Taylor in December of 2015.

Ten minutes was all that was needed for the jury to decide to deliver the maximum sentence — life in prison and a \$10,000 fine — only a few hours later following the short punishment

See Trial on page 8A



JOE DUTY/WCMESSENGER  
**CONVICTED** — Jake Abel leaves the courtroom Wednesday following the jury's life sentence verdict.

Wise County Messenger, First Place, Division 4

# Copypat threats to schools a nationwide issue

Bishop CISD  
locked down  
Wednesday

By Anthony Ruiz  
Reporter

Just after 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Christina Gutierrez, the superintendent of Bishop

Consolidated Independent School District, learned of a threatening note that was found inside one of the girls' restrooms at the high school campus.

Within the next 10 minutes, Gutierrez said she informed her administrative staff and local law enforcement of the threat, locked down all of the district's campuses and sent the first of several mass texts out to students' parents and guardians.

"BCISD campuses are under lockdown at the current time due to a threat found in

writing at BHS," Gutierrez texted. "We will update you when we know more."

"All threats have been and will be taken seriously," she added a couple of minutes later. "Until further notice, no one in or out of all BCISD campuses."

Throughout the day, Gutierrez continued to send out text updates to parents, which were also posted on the district's Facebook page. Just before 1:30 p.m., the lockdown was lifted at the elementary and junior high campuses, while the high

school students were released at the 3:35 p.m. bell.

"I think that I eased a lot of minds by communicating what was going on," she said in an interview on Thursday.

Since the Florida high school shooting on Feb. 14 that left 17 dead, copypat threats have been on the rise across the United States. CNN reported on Wednesday that since the shooting, dozens of threats

See Threats, Page 6A

Kingsville Record and Bishop Record News, First Place, Division 5

## Division 2

**First Place:** Denton Record-Chronicle — This is nice investigative work. Great research with excellent detail, balance and perspective.

**Second Place:** Galveston County Daily News

**Third Place:** Longview News-Journal

**Fourth Place:** Victoria Advocate

## Division 3

**First Place:** Corsicana Daily Sun — The story about the assault victim is written in a way that the reader feels the

fear that she must have felt during the suspect's attempts to burn her alive. Well done.

**Second Place:** Athens Daily Review

**Third Place:** Marshall News Messenger

**Fourth Place:** Seguin Gazette

## Division 4

**First Place:** Wise County Messenger — The court article is a clear case of storytelling as opposed to rote reporting. The writer goes beyond simply recounting the proceedings to paint a vivid picture of the events at hand.

**Second Place:** The Highlander, Marble Falls — Good to see a newspaper staying on top of open meetings shenanigans. A well-crafted explanation.

**Third Place:** Beeville Bee-Picayune

**Fourth Place:** Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun

## Division 5

Great community journalism throughout the entries, with particularly strong competition for the top spots in the category. The passion and commitment to telling stories that connect to readers' lives is evident in every entry.

# Red lights, greenbacks



Jeff Woo/DRC

Motorists drive past a red light camera Thursday at the intersection of Loop 288 and Interstate 35E.

## Assistant police chief draws more than \$120,000 in overtime from camera fund since 2014

By Julian Gill | Staff Writer | jgill@dentonrc.com

**R**ed-light cameras are designed to make streets safer, but they also have led to much larger paychecks for a few Denton police officers.

Denton Assistant Police Chief Scott Fletcher accrued \$122,839 in overtime pay from 2014 to 2016 from the city's red-light camera program, which he oversaw at the police department since the program's inception in 2005, according to city officials and payroll documents obtained through an open records request.

Two other supervising officers — Lt. David Hildebrand and Sgt. Daryn Briggs — also earned between \$10,000 and \$23,000 in overtime pay per year from the program in that time frame, records show.

Red-light cameras were installed in Denton in 2006, the year after the city entered into a contract with Redflex Traffic Systems.

The cameras, which now are installed at 11 intersections

in Denton, run 24 hours per day and take photographs and a short video of vehicles that run red lights.

After Redflex investigators and a Denton police officer confirm a violation, the registered owner of the vehicle receives a citation by mail with a \$75 charge.

Since 2007, state law has required cities to keep red-light ticket fees in a specific fund that pays for capital improvement projects, including new street lights and pedestrian crosswalks. In Denton, that "traffic safety fund" netted about \$2.5 million in revenue during the 2016-17 fiscal year, according to city budget documents.

Fletcher has collected \$155,900 in overtime pay from 2012 to 2017 from the traffic safety fund, records show. In that same time frame, Hildebrand collected \$62,707 from overtime charged to the fund, while Briggs collected \$53,190 from overtime charged to the fund, according to the financial documents.

See RED LIGHT on 6A

Denton Record-Chronicle, First Place, Division 2

Journalism matters, especially in our small newsrooms that rarely get the credit they deserve for their fine work.  
**First Place:** Kingsville Record & Bishop News — Clear writing, well-organized prose and good choice of quotes.  
**Second Place:** Vernon Daily Record — Clear and compelling writing. The reporter's actions when the news broke demonstrated urgency and well-rounded skill.  
**Third Place:** Kilgore News Herald — Stories are well written and not filled with ja gon, which is too often the cases in zoning/government stories.  
**Fourth Place:** Taylor Press



# NEWS WRITING

## Absence of policy leaves grievance in limbo

**City worker sent grievance regarding city manager**

By STEVE FOUNTAIN  
Pioneer Publisher

The City of Fort Stockton does not have a policy to handle a grievance or complaint from an employee unless it is tied to a disciplinary action.

The situation came to light through open re-

cords requests. The Pioneer has filed as part of its ongoing reporting on the terminations of Human Resources Director Gail Lampier in April and Police Chief Ryan Skelton in June.

According to Lampier's attorney, Zollie Stakley, Lampier e-mailed a grievance letter to the members of the city council, then-Assistant City Manager Shera Davis, and Mayor Chris Alexander, regarding an alleged incident the previous week with City

Manager Frank Rodriguez.

In his response to The Pioneer's request for Lampier's letter, then-City Attorney Jesse Gonzales confirmed the existence of the letter and its e-mail recipients.

Gonzales, who is now the assistant city manager, also stated that the grievance has not been



FRANK RODRIGUEZ



JESSE GONZALES, JR.

Rodriguez' file.

While the city has a detailed written policy for the handling of employee grievances that are received in response to a disciplinary action or termination, it does not

have such guidelines for a grievance unrelated to disciplinary action.

"The City of Fort Stockton does not currently have a policy that pertains to a complaint or grievance filed by an employee against a superior that is not in response to a disciplinary action or termination," City Secretary Delma Gonzalez stated in an Aug. 27 e-mail to The Pioneer. "The City is currently updating/revising its Personnel Policy Manual to implement measures related to new-

found areas of concern that will be beneficial to the City and its personnel."

Gonzalez followed up by stating that Rodriguez had a meeting with the city's human resources staff to discuss possible revisions on Friday, Aug. 23.

The Pioneer's records request sought Lampier's letter. The city has appealed the release of the letter to the state Attorney

See CITY, A10

Fort Stockton Pioneer, First Place, Division 9



COVER STORY

## DON'T SHRUG THIS OFF

Austin is rainier than we thought. So the city is overhauling its flood regulations. It's not quite CodeNext, but it's a big deal. Dive into what Atlas 14 could mean for you and your business.

PAGES 4-6

Austin Business Journal, First Place, Division 6

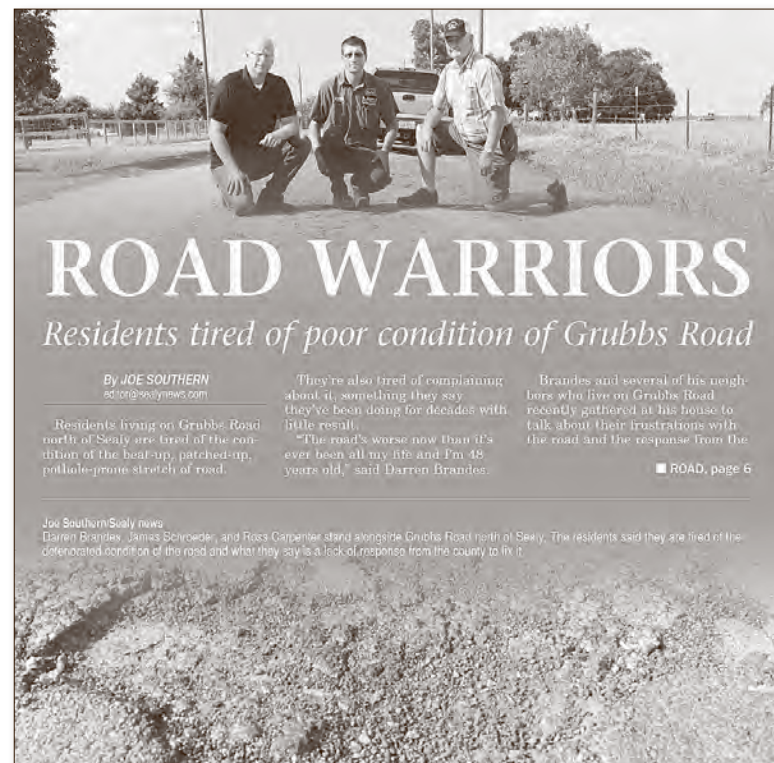
### Division 6

**First Place: Austin Business Journal** — Mike Cronin and Daniel Salazar took on complex and critical topics, and made them relevant to a wide audience. Cronin skillfully contrasted stereotypical images readers might have of both Austin and the military, then upended both to explain the seemingly unlikely marriage between the two in the pursuit of military innovation. He does a great job of contextualizing the issue and providing appropriate background without bogging down the narrative. Salazar takes a topic of local risk and its effect on development and construction — that could be a tough read for the uninitiated and keeps it engaging by focusing on impact on stakeholders big and small. Both reporters clearly took time to become expert in their topics, and sourced their work deeply.

**Second Place: Jewish Herald-Voice** — Michael Duke employs evocative writing to connect readers to important community experiences, both rooted in memory of things lost: the lives of Jewish congregants in the heart-rendering

*Tree of Life mass shooting murder, and the emotional farewell to a beloved sanctuary that had been damaged too many times by relentless flooding. In both case, Duke effectively kept the focus on people instead of events: their hopes and fears and joys and sorrows. Both pieces are deeply connected to the communities the publication serves, and honor the past while also showing a shared future influenced and informed by a shared history.*

**Third Place: Port Aransas South Jetty** — The two submissions from the South Jetty show ambitious reach, rich detail and robust storytelling. In the piece making one year since Hurricane Harvey hit, reporter Dan Parker does a great job of weaving together the situation today, the history that brought the community to this point and the challenges of the future. It's sourced well and flows easily between past and present to paint a picture of a community recovering from a devastating natural disaster. In the piece about the death of Martin Andrew Steitle, reporters Dan Parker and Zach Perkins humanize a tragic incident, telling the story in a sensitive and illuminating fashion.



## ROAD WARRIORS

Residents tired of poor condition of Grubbs Road

By JOE SOUTHERN  
a10@sealynews.com

Residents living on Grubbs Road north of Sealy are tired of the condition of the beat-up, patched-up, pothole-prone stretch of road.

"They're also tired of complaining about it, something they say they've been doing for decades with little result."

"The road's worse now than it's ever been all my life and I'm 45 years old," said Darren Brandes.

Brandes and several of his neighbors who live on Grubbs Road recently gathered at his house to talk about their frustrations with the road and the response from the

ROAD, page 6

Joe Southern/Sealy News

Darren Brandes, James Schroeder, and Ross Carpenter stand alongside Grubbs Road north of Sealy. The residents said they are tired of the deteriorated condition of the road and what they say is a lack of response from the county to fix it.

The Sealy News, First Place, Division 8

## Walsh residents file suit against developer

Plaintiffs seek damages and injunction against building of multi-family units

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

Seemingly sprouting out of the ground like popcorn, single-family homes are populating a patch of prairie that was once a part of the working Walsh Ranch.

Now known simply as "Walsh," the first phase of an ultimate 7,200 acres has been taking shape for

about two years now with active sales of single-family homes.

Twenty of those homeowners have filed suit against the developers: Republic Property Group, Ltd.; RPG, LLC; Walsh Ranches Limited Partnership; Quail Valley Devo I, LLC; and Quail Valley Devo II, LLC.

The suit, filed in Parker County's 43rd District Court on May 25, alleges Fraud/Fraudulent Inducement; Fraud by Nondisclosure; Statutory Fraud; and Negligent Misrepresentation.

Turn to LAWSUIT, page A2



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Home construction continues apace in Phase I of the Walsh development

The Community News, Aledo, First Place, Division 7

**Fourth Place: Rockdale Reporter** — Mike Brown brings extensive detail to his reports, relying on witnesses, official reports and histories to tell compelling stories about a powerful storm that pummeled the community and the progress of a cryptocurrency mining operation set to open and create dozens of local jobs. Brown effectively uses subheads to transition between sections of his reporting and provide an easy-to-follow road map for readers.

### Division 7

**First Place: The Community News** — In the story about the lawsuit filed by Walsh residents, I was intrigued by the lead, and the following paragraphs made it easy to understand the chain of events that had taken place. I also liked the "Behind the Scenes" box that explained the background of the work the reporter had done to obtain more information for the story.

**Second Place: Hays Free Press**  
**Third Place: Gonzales Inquirer**  
**Fourth Place: Goldthwaite Eagle**

### Division 8

**First Place: The Sealy News** — Great job on this. I was enthralled. By a road story. That's not easy. The animal neglect story is a difficult one. You did a great job of laying out the facts with appropriate attribution of local activists and local law enforcement.

**Second Place: Farmersville Times**

**Third Place: The Liberty Hill Independent**

**Fourth Place: Palacios Beacon**

### Division 9

**First Place: Fort Stockton Pioneer** — Great submissions! Important piece on how lack of a policy can impact government. Nice look back at history of hotel.

**Second Place: Murphy Monitor**

**Third Place: Springtown Epigraph**

**Fourth Place: Eldorado Success**



# PAGE DESIGN



Victoria Advocate, First Place, Division 2



Del Rio News-Herald, First Place, Division 3



Wise County Messenger, First Place, Division 4



The Graham Leader, First Place, Division 5

## Division 2

**First Place: Victoria Advocate** – Bold choices elevated this selection to the No. 1 spot. Experimentation is nicely balanced by thoughtful attention to secondary display type and information boxes.

**Second Place: Galveston County Daily News** – Classic and clean design. I felt compelled to read the articles.

**Third Place: Longview News-Journal** – Nice graphics work in Page 1 and Sports, and fun work with color on Living.

**Fourth Place: The Facts, Clute** – Gettin Bizet was clever, and the infobox on Opinions was well-done.

## Division 3

**First Place: Del Rio News-Herald**

**Second Place: Gainesville Daily Register**

**Third Place: Huntsville Item**

## Division 4

A tough competition at the top to find only the smallest items to separate first from second and fourth from another quartet of worthy entries. The top entries are definitely producing pages beyond their circ weight and should be proud of what they're delivering to their readers.

**First Place: Wise County Messenger** – Excellent graphics integrated into the design of the pages. Very solid selection and cropping of art.

**Second Place: Hood County News** – This entry made it so difficult to select a first place. The use of entry points was superb and photo selection and use was also excellent. In something so fine it came down to what appeared as some excessive use of featurey color on a hard news story.

**Third Place: Uvalde Leader-News** – Very solid design and style. Great use of cutout treatment. Some minor quibbles on dominant art placement.

**Fourth Place: The Fayette County Record** – A good entry that separated itself from the field with solid design and grid placement on all four pages. The front page graphic was an eye catcher that fit the story.

## Division 5

This contest was judged by the entire 11-person design staff of the Chattanooga Times Free Press. PDFs were printed and displayed on a long table, and over the course of two days, votes were tallied democratically. The first and second place winners were a tie, which was then broken by the design editor. Thanks for the opportunity - it

turned into a very valuable experience for our team as well!

**First Place: The Graham Leader** – Without a doubt, The Graham Leader's strength is its crystal-clear legibility. Although it takes some design risks with the food truck package's unconventional illustration and layered boxes on page one, the execution is colorful, compartmentalized and organized to give readers a fun ride. Even though the centerpiece is full of personality and flair, the rest of the front is basic and clean enough to balance it all out in a very relaxing, easy-to-read experience. Want a design challenge? Try pairing a fun story about food trucks over a hard-news story about mayhem and suicide. This designer kept it clean, used a grey box to maintain the separation, applied a different headline typeface (that still adheres to the stylebook) and evenly distributed the available space to keep it packaged together with appropriate separation. Brilliant!

The real success of the Leader is in the details - such as the use of Cheltenham as the body copy. This typeface lends itself very well to full justification, which eliminates those rivers of white space that can get tiresome for readers. I see great hyphen limitation and smooth paragraph breaks. Its columns are clean, gutters give the body copy

plenty of room to breathe, and the result is an extremely legible reading experience that I'm sure their readers appreciate. Franklin Gothic is always a smart, time-honored headline typeface, the use of boxes are fun for breaking up the grey and the pages are well-structured with strong headers and easy-to-read photo cutlines. The Graham Leader may be a newspaper with a smooth traditional style, but its smart simplicity, excellent use of space allocation, bold, positive attitude and fantastic legibility make it a gem. Outstanding work!

**Second Place: Kilgore News Herald** – The capital of the East Texas Oil Field should be proud of its own Kilgore News Herald. The nameplate is designed with an Onyx typeface, which is very modern and reminiscent of The Wall Street Journal, but it's juxtaposed with traditional typefaces such as Adobe Garamond and Futura BT, which bring it back home where it belongs. It's an interesting combination that communicates to readers its credibility and strong commitment to journalism, but with the accessibility and personality of a home-town paper. Awesome combination. The page one centerpiece is eye-grabbing, compelling and strong; it makes the most out of a bold piece of art. The section headers are bold and modern with great special allocation - the smaller nameplate



# PAGE DESIGN



Tyler County Booster, First Place, Division 6



Progress Times, Mission, First Place, Division 7



The Sachse News, First Place, Division 8



Murphy Monitor, First Place, Division 9

boxes add contrast and emphasis to the headers. The Lifestyle front gets a special mention - it's beautifully conceptualized, using deep black backgrounds to take advantage of the detailed wood grains and curves of the bass violin. I hope readers of the Kilgore News Herald appreciate the bold style and professional execution of their paper. They're lucky to have it.

**Third Place: Lampasas Dispatch Record** – The Lampasas Dispatch Record uses all the tools of a national newspaper, but still maintains the personality of a hometown Texas publication. And that's a serious compliment. Using Nimrod for the body copy was a smart choice; it's a time-honored typeface with a tall x-height and wide stance, making it extremely legible for readers and flexible for designers. Different weights of Bodoni for the headline typefaces are reminiscent of papers such as The Washington Post - the condensed width allows more words on a line, which is very useful for those one-column heads. Even when italicized, used here for opinion columns, it's a very clean font family that's designed for legibility. By contrast, a condensed version of Futura is a great pairing and very complimentary for its clarity and flexibility. I really love the open-air section front headers; they don't need to scream at readers to lead the page. Instead they get out

of the way and let the content of the page take control. It's a show of restraint that few papers understand when balanced with a heavy dose of local copy. Love the use of infographics, bold photography (that powerlifting shot on the sports front is fantastic!), crystal-clear photo cutlines and well-balanced page structure. The designers at the Lampasas Dispatch Record should be proud of the excellent work they're providing their community!

**Fourth Place: The Panola Watchman** – The full-page photograph on page 1A is beautiful. That's a huge story, and very appropriate treatment for the community. The decision to run a full-length vertical shot such as this was a bold move, and now this powerful moment has been immortalized. However, for this contest, we couldn't make a fair judgment without seeing a more traditional design structure to review. But looking at other section fronts, it's clear to see that the designers at the Watchman are doing some fantastic work. Nimrod MT is a fantastic body copy typeface. Its rounded stance scores big for legibility in both justified and ragged-right orientations. The Trade Gothic headlines and photo cutlines are bold, crystal clear and very flexible with different weights to choose from. I like the kicker headlines in color - it's those little details that add a splash of color to keep the page cohesive and

balanced. It was a bold, risky choice to place the coupon across the nameplate on 1A, but I respect it. It's more important than ever to serve readers with offers like this. I really enjoyed the open space and simplified structure of the Lifestyle front. It's easy for designers to feel the pressure of filling every inch of a page, but this designer didn't fear the white space; they embraced it with a very elegant style. Keep up this awesome work, Watchman. You guys are serving your readers extremely well.

## Division 6

This was so difficult to judge. Lots of good entries. Very hard to pick a winner. All should be proud.

**First Place: Tyler County Booster** – This was so well done. The football image was amazing. The use of graphics added to the articles.

**Second Place: The News of San Patricio County**

**Third Place: Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post I**

**Fourth Place: Pleasanton Express**

**Division 7**

**First Place: Progress Times, Mission**

**Second Place: Hill Country Community Journal**

## Third Place: The Kaufman Herald

### Fourth Place: Hays Free Press

## Division 8

**First Place: The Sachse News** – Clean, colorful layout throughout.

**Second Place: The Sealy News** – Stronger front than rest but all are great.

**Third Place: The Liberty Hill Independent** – Sports page is best in the entry, front page is good, too.

**Fourth Place: Wills Point Chronicle** – Good use of photos and color.

## Division 9

**First Place: Murphy Monitor** – Nice front page with dominate art and some white space to keep your many elements from seeming overpowering. I like the rail for organizing information. Your inside pages are clearly labeled and also neat and easy to navigate.

**Second Place: Pilot Point Post-Signal**

**Third Place: Clarendon Enterprise**

**Fourth Place: Texas Spur**



# SPECIAL SECTIONS

## ROUTINE SPECIAL SECTION

### Daily Division

Tough to compare these really well-done magazines with football preview mags. Hey, you guys are Texas. Where football is king. You should have a separate football preview category. Enjoyed judging this and getting ideas for my publications.

**First Place:** Galveston County Daily News, *Coast Monthly - September 2018* – Amazing look. Great typography. Even better photography. I'm stealing ideas for my magazine.

**Second Place:** Lufkin Daily News, *Underwater Charm* – Best photography of the group. Winner simply had a better look. But not by much. Well done.

**Third Place:** New Braunfels, *Herald-Zeitung, New Braunfels Monthly August Edition* – Nice slick look.

**Fourth Place:** Huntsville Item, *Item Insider 2019* – Great content. Well done.

### Semiweekly Division

**First Place:** Lampasas Dispatch Record, *Guide to Lampasas* – The cover is beautiful! I love all the information, including the Keystone Hotel story. Love the details about the RV Parks. All around great work.

**Second Place:** The Graham Leader, *2019 Graham Community Guide* – Beautiful images.

**Third Place:** News-Telegram, Sulphur Springs, *Salute to Veterans* – Beautiful images and page design. The stories are great too.

**Fourth Place:** The Fayette County Record, *2018 Spring Visitors Guide* – Colorful and fun elements.

### Weekly Division 1

Tough competition with a lot of great entries! Everyone should be really proud of the work they've put into these sections for their communities.

**First Place:** Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, *Rock and Vine Spring 2019* – Absolutely beautiful presentation with a great variety of stories and photos. I've never been to Texas and this makes me want to visit. Clearly, you don't mess with Texas! Hands down first place.

**Second Place:** Canton Herald, *Explore Van Zandt County* – It is obvious a lot of work and preparation went into this section! Quality stories with accompanying photos. Layout seemed a little repetitive at times, but the variety of content made up for that. The consistency also seemed to really work together for your theme. I also LOVE the "Views around Van Zandt County" addition with the photography contest. Great job!

**Third Place:** Jewish Herald-Voice, *Bar Mitzvah Party Planner Special Section* – Unique section with good variety of useful content for your community. Great use of photos showcasing happy experiences at Bar Mitzvahs. I can see why the section has been so well received! Great job!

**Fourth Place:** Wimberley View, *Wimberley Visitor's Guide* – Beautiful cover with great information throughout the section. The layout/design of the listing pages (restaurants, lodging, shopping, arts/culture, events and Chamber directory) seemed a little too plain to me, personally, which left me wishing there were a little more to break those apart. But overall, a good section that readers would enjoy.

### Weekly Division II

**First Place:** Junction Eagle, *Junction & Kimble County Visitors Guide 2019-2020*

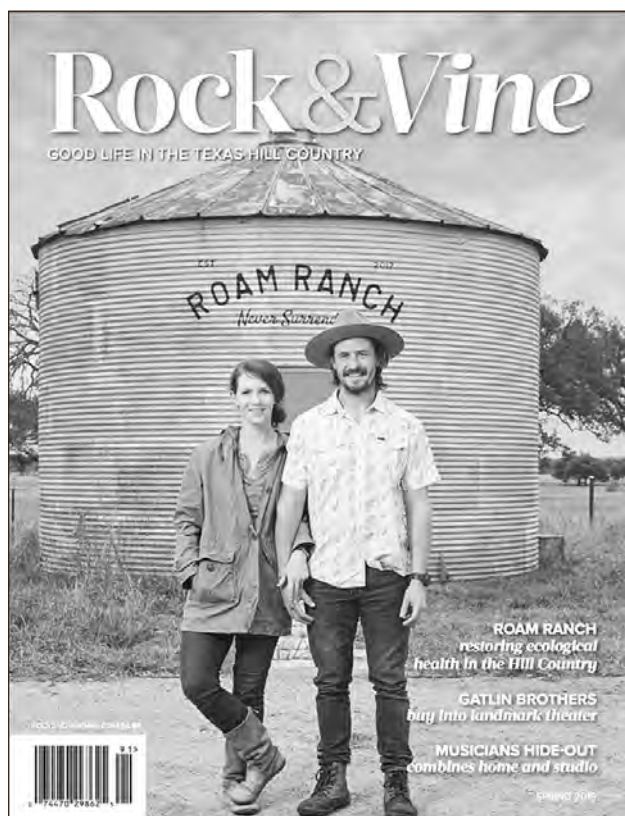
**Second Place:** Dripping Springs Century News, *Dripping Springs Chamber Directory*

**Third Place:** Clarendon Enterprise, *Fall/Winter 2018 Clarendon Welcome Guide*

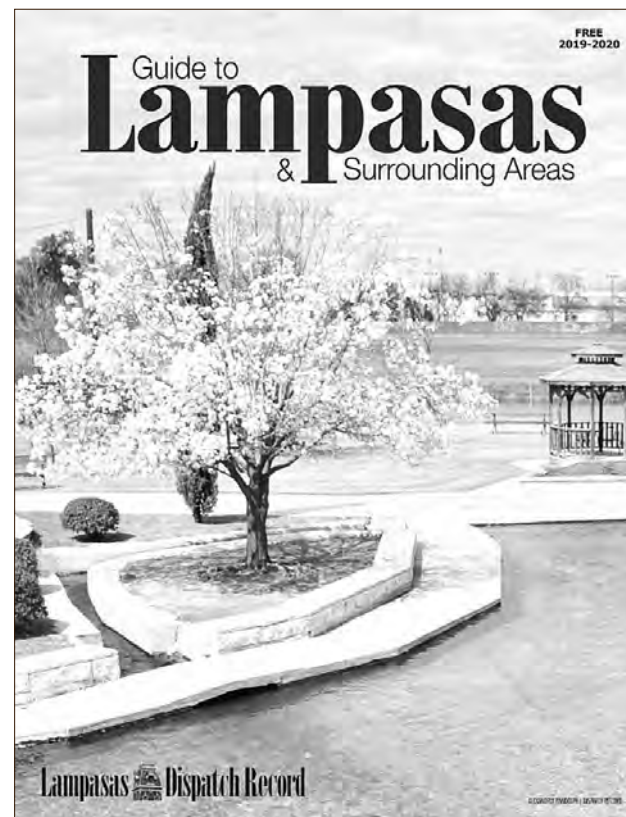
**Fourth Place:** Wills Point Chronicle, *Autumn Festivals*



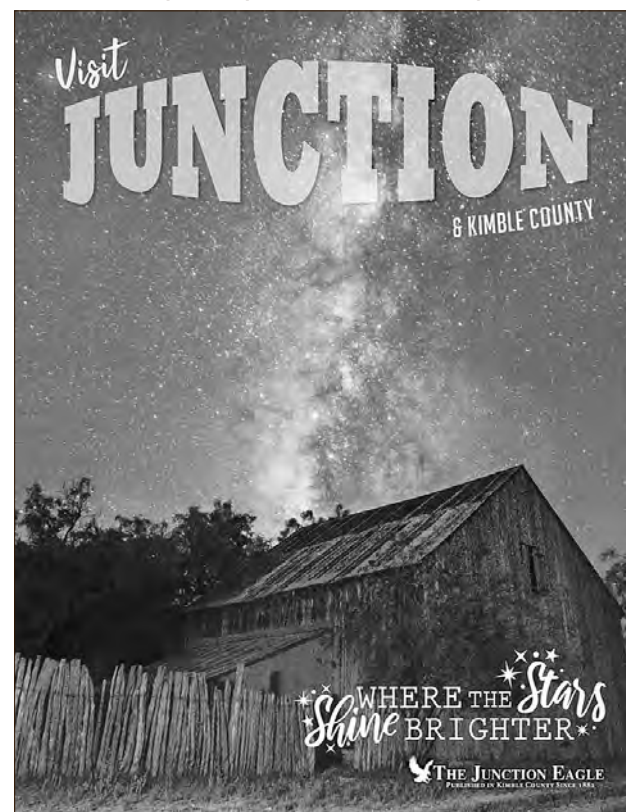
ROUTINE SPECIAL SECTION, FIRST PLACE DAILY DIVISION  
Galveston County Daily News, *Coast Monthly*



ROUTINE SPECIAL SECTION, FIRST PLACE WEEKLY DIVISION I  
Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, *Rock & Vine*



ROUTINE SPECIAL SECTION, FIRST PLACE SEMI-WEEKLY DIVISION  
Lampasas Dispatch Record, *Guide to Lampasas*



ROUTINE SPECIAL SECTION, FIRST PLACE WEEKLY DIVISION II  
Junction Eagle, *Visit Junction & Kimble County*



# SPECIAL SECTIONS

## BLUE MOON SPECIAL SECTION

### Daily Division

*Very Hard to choose the best. I was very impressed by the quality of the entries.*

**First Place: Victoria Advocate, Hidden in Plain Sight** – The photography that accompanied this Blue Moon event gave the article life and really drew you in. It was well written and the series shined a light on people we all may overlook and it was heart wrenching.

**Second Place: Lufkin Daily News, Lufkin's Fierce 14s** – Congratulations to these amazing young men. Well done special publication. The ads, content and photography were exceptional.

**Third Place: Galveston County Daily News, Harvey: One Year Later**

**Fourth Place: The Paris News, 150 Years of The Paris News**

### Semiweekly Division

*Tough category with a lot of great contenders for the top awards!*

**First Place: El Campo Leader-News, 110 Years Firefighters** – Excellent section! Very well laid out and well written and photographed.

**Second Place: Polk County Enterprise, Crime Behind the Pine Curtain** – Heritage Section Great idea for a special section. Well written and put together -- kudos to the idea and the work that went into it.

**Third Place: The Panola Watchman, 2018 Beckville Baseball State Championship Section** – Congratulations on the championship! Awesome photos and great content.

**Fourth Place: The Bowie News, Second Monday's 125th birthday** – Great layout, from cover to content and advertising support -- good job!

### Weekly Division

**First Place: Rockdale Reporter, TFND – Tiger Fight Never Dies** Great job chronicling a once-in-a-blue-moon season run to the top. The use of several stories to tell the story of the team's journey was a good choice. Excellent photos and ad placement. A winner in a tough category.

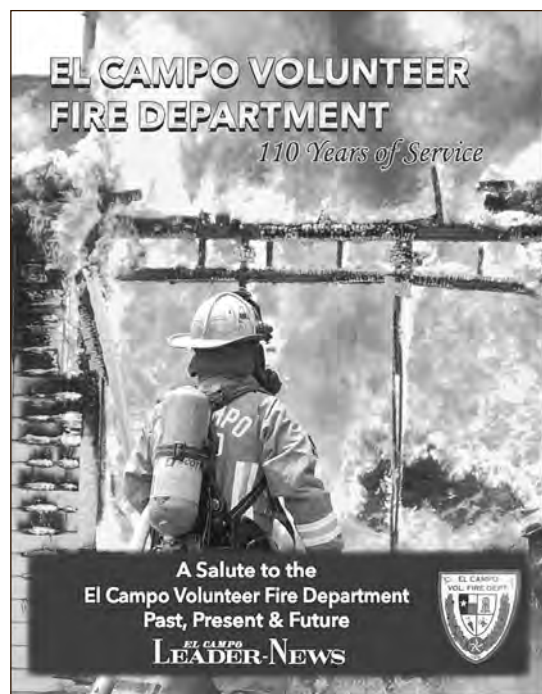
**Second Place: Jewish Herald-Voice, Healing After Harvey - 1 year later** – Good job covering the past and present after a once-in-a-blue-moon disaster. Great coverage, with a variety of articles covering differing viewpoints and topics related to the recovery of a town following a disaster.

**Third Place: Tyler County Booster, Discover Tyler County** – A lovely peek at life in Tyler County, showcasing the events and lifestyle of the community. Great variety of photos and articles.

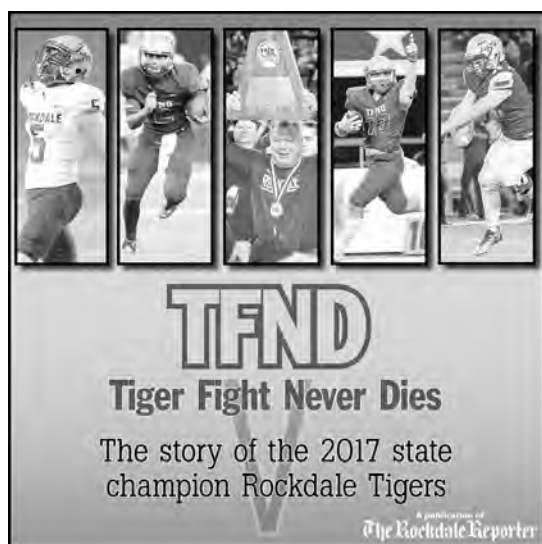
**Fourth Place: Hill Country Community Journal, Season to Remember** – A wonderful tribute to Antler athletics' accomplishments. Coverage of multiple sports, rather than focusing on only one, was a good choice for this section. The variety of articles for each sport is a plus. Great photos and layout.



BLUE MOON SPECIAL SECTION, FIRST PLACE DAILY DIVISION  
Victoria Advocate, Hidden in Plain Sight



BLUE MOON SPECIAL SECTION, FIRST PLACE SEMIWEEKLY DIVISION  
El Campo Leader-News, Salute to El Campo Volunteer Fire Department



BLUE MOON SPECIAL SECTION, FIRST PLACE WEEKLY DIVISION  
Rockdale Reporter, Story of the 2017 state champion Rockdale Tigers

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

## The Facts

## THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD

## THE TEXAS SPUR

### Daily Division

*All four of the winners were superlative, and quite different, making this tough to judge. The detail of the rape/sexual abuse series was best, to me, because of its ongoing importance. Yes, you can say the same thing about the Low Lands, and even the abuse of power that the Victoria Advocate continues to expose. I had not seen a community priority list handled as the Denton newspaper did.*

**First Place: The Facts, Clute** – Tremendous work, to explain all sides of the rape and sexual assault issue, with a compelling victim. Mixing in explanations of how the system works, and doesn't, was brilliant. Could not have been better. Excellent graphics.

**Second Place: Galveston County Daily News – Low Lands, High Stakes:** A deep and well-deserved dive into a complicated issue, from history to current status. The photos were compelling and presented in a stunning way.

**Third Place: Victoria Advocate – Port Politics:** Not sure these guys got the message - but they would have by reading this journalism. Strong reporting backed by a legal commitment from the newspaper amounts to a tutorial on how to go after a public board that likes to keep secrets. A page-turning who-done-it that's not over yet. Strong editorial.

**Fourth Place: Denton Record-Chronicle – United Way Priorities:** Excellent approach to turning a dry priority list into information that can be appreciated and responded to by readers. The family and children piece was revealing about who is suffering and making it work; the mental health piece was similarly eye-opening. Such depth is rarely seen.

### Semiweekly Division

*Uplifting field of entries. These newspapers remind us of the power of print journalism in the communities they serve.*

**First Place: The Fayette County Record – Save Our Hospital:** Heroic effort to bring the community together to help a struggling rural hospital. The newspaper united both readers and advertisers to raise money and produce tangible results. Bravo.

**Second Place: Taylor Press – 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:** Wonderful idea for community engagement that connected the newspaper with young people. The idea for a 3-on-3 tournament is a masterstroke that spotlights the newspaper as a caring corporate citizen. Kudos for raising money for scholarships.

**Third Place: Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun – City's renewable energy bust:** Fearless, in-your-face reporting is what distinguishes this entry. Bravo to the reporters and editors for not backing down to bullies in City Hall and for giving a voice to low-income residents who saw their utility rates dramatically increase.

**Fourth Place: Vernon Daily Record** – This newspaper righted a century-old oversight through its persistent reporting that led to action. Well done.

### Weekly Division

**First Place: Texas Spur** – Spur Area Chamber of Commerce revitalization, 2018-19: WOW! And, it all began with an editorial (and a good one too) that called a community to action to revitalize its chamber of commerce to improve its community.

**Second Place: Burnet Bulletin – Having A Blast, Preserving the Past:** Great effort and coverage of a successful effort to preserve a part of the community and the community's airport and plane park. Nice work.

**Third Place: Hays Free Press – Kinder Morgan pipeline fight through Hays County:** This paper's work to follow the controversy with a pipeline is a good example of good reporting (both sides) and good graphics and photos made this entry strong.

**Fourth Place: The News of San Patricio County – San Patricio Annexation:** Strong and thorough coverage of the controversial annexation. Good service to your community.



[illegible]

**Division 2**  
*This just in: High school football is really big in Texas.*

**First Place: Lufkin Daily News** – *Good coverage. Excellent photos. Writing by Josh Havard conveys the whole story.*

**Second Place: The Facts, Clute** – *Excellent choice of color photos. Art elements very good overall. Good use of quotes.*

**Third Place: Longview News-Journal** – *Photography top-notch. Treatment of state championship very appropriate. Season preview in August looks clean. Cumulative schedule especially sharp looking.*

**Fourth Place: Galveston County Daily News** – *Photos excellent. Writing by main writer (James LaCombe) is good.*

**Division 3**

**First Place: Huntsville Item** – *A cut above other competitors in this classification. Writing is strong, layout is clean. I like the minutiae features (schedules, sports on TV). Good variety of coverage.*

**Second Place: San Marcos Daily Record** – *Loved the Texas State season football preview. Good artwork. Excellent graphics.*

**Third Place: Gainesville Daily Register** – *Excellent story on track athlete and even better photo.*

**Fourth Place: Marshall News Messenger** – *Wide-ranging coverage, with good writing.*

The Oklahoman/June 11, 2010/Box 011 011

SPORTS

BACK TO WORK

Homers put last year's historic run in rearview as spring practice gets underway

University head coach Barry Swannerson, left, addresses his team during the first practice of spring practice last week.

**T**he Sooners have returned to the field for the start of the 2010 season, and the team's first game is set for Sept. 12. The Sooners will be looking to build on the success of last year's historic run, which saw the team win 11 consecutive games, including a 51-7 victory over Texas Tech in the Big 12 championship game.

Barry Swannerson, head coach of the Oklahoma Sooners, addresses the team during the first practice of spring practice last week.

Swannerson said the team's goal is to win the Big 12 championship and make a run at the national title. "We want to be the best team in the country," he said. "We want to be the team that everyone else is looking up to."

Swannerson said the team's first game is set for Sept. 12. The Sooners will be looking to build on the success of last year's historic run, which saw the team win 11 consecutive games, including a 51-7 victory over Texas Tech in the Big 12 championship game.

"The key to this game is to win the Big 12 championship and make a run at the national title," Swannerson said. "We want to be the best team in the country."

WESTERN CONFERENCE DRAFTING

**D'Antoni: Harden not only MVP, but most improved, too**

**HOUSTON** — Houston Rockets coach D'Antoni said that Russell Westbrook is the most improved player in the league. "He's been a great player since he came out of college," D'Antoni said. "He's been a great player since he came out of college."

INSIDE

**BEAKETS STUNNED IN LOSS TO WICHITA**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — The Oklahoma Sooners were stunned by a 21-14 loss to the Wichita State Shockers in a Big 12 football game last week.

DAVIS, ROBERSON AGREE TO NFL DEALS

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Oklahoma Sooners defensive end Davis and offensive tackle Roberson have agreed to NFL deals with the Houston Texans.

SEE SPRING, PAGE 30

DAVIS, ROBERSON AGREE TO NFL DEALS

**TEXAS VETERANS PARADE**  
SAT. MAY 15, 10AM  
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CORNICANA  
Come Make Your Own History in Cornicana  
Celebrate All Texas Veterans

**HUNTSVILLE ITEM, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3**

**Division 4**  
*This was a pretty competitive division. The top three were well-written. One thing that stands out about all but the first-place winner is the lack of white space in layouts, and cramming too many photos on a page. Better attention to layout and design would improve each of these papers.*

**First Place: Wise County Messenger** – *Well-written and interesting sections. Good coverage of different sports is evident. Photos are nice ... it's a shame you don't have color on every page to show them off more. Layout is good, although some of the headlines are short. Very nice job!*

**Second Place: Beeville Bee-Picayune** – *Solid writing and depth of coverage pulled this entry above the others into second place. Photos are good, but layout is cramped and needs white space. Headlines are well-written and interesting. Too many photos on January 30 front page ... stories all blend together.*

**Third Place: The Fayette County Record** – *For the space you have, a good sports section. Writing and photos are good, but layout needs some white space. Some elements could be expanded. For instance, the signings could become interesting stories if you ask the athletes and coaches a few questions. You may not have the space, though?*

**Fourth Place: The Bowie News** – *Volume of coverage and story content good. Nice coverage of state basketball title, including extra effort to highlight each player. Writing would be better if more attention was given to the how and why of games, instead of just the facts.*

[illegible]

**WISE COUNTY MESSENGER, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4**

**Division 5**  
**First Place:** News-Telegram, Sulphur Springs  
**Second Place:** Kilgore News Herald  
**Third Place:** The Panola Watchman  
**Fourth Place:** El Campo Leader-News

**Division 6**

**First Place: The News of San Patricio County** – *The pages “pop” with color and varied information on the communities’ wide array of local sports. Decent headline font and graphic usage (maybe more graphics?), though some pages could have used more “dominant” photos and many of the stories could have used more quotes. Still, this publication throws a wide community net.*

**Second Place: Rockdale Reporter** – *BOLD use of lead-page photos, complementary graphics and varied fonts. Nice attention to detail including (but not limited to) event stats, “Tale of the Tape” and even fishing report!*

**Third Place: Van Zandt News** – *Obviously amazing coverage of state champs & nice stories, emotional photos and more. Would have really liked to see what this publication did with another similar or even dissimilar event that they shined their community focus on. Great looking publication and I am sure very well read.*

**Fourth Place: The Wylie News** – *This publication simply reflects a wonderful cross-section of community sports in their coverage area. Nice photos and a broad selection of sporting events. Exceptional news team!*

Page 6A  
Saturday, March 9, 2009

# SPORTS

The Sulphur Springs Record-Examiner

Basketball | Sulphur Springs

## Turnovers, Wagner 3s doom Cats

### No. 4 Sulphur Springs' season ends with state tourney loss

Michael Wagner, Sulphur Springs' superlatives player, is fouled by Cameron Smith (right) and Isaac Smith (left) during the game. Sulphur Springs' season ends with a loss to the Mustangs in the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

Season No. 1 and Sulphur Springs' season ends with a loss to the Mustangs in the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio. Sulphur Springs' season ends with a loss to the Mustangs in the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

#### BY DON BALLANCE

AN OVERSIGHT...A mistake...but it turned out to be the making of a memorable season for Sulphur Springs basketball.

For the Wildcats (12-1) who were named "Superlatives" in the 4A-1A state tournament, the season ended with a loss to the Mustangs in the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

The Wildcats have been named the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

In the first round, the Wildcats had a 10-point lead, but lost it in the second round to the Mustangs in the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

The Mustangs were the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

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Staff photos by Don Wallace

Wagner (12-1) and Sulphur Springs' season ends with a loss to the Mustangs in the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio. Sulphur Springs' season ends with a loss to the Mustangs in the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

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and the game, sometimes they did not follow the ball and the defense was not as tight as it was in the first round. In the second round, the Mustangs were the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.

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## Defeat

Continued from Pg. 1A

The Mustangs were the 4A-1A state tournament in San Antonio.



SPORTS COVERAGE

The News of San Patricio Sports

STATE ROUND

They girls talk SA-26 to Frisco's Liberty in SA state semifinals

Wildcats stay in playoff chase with win over T-M

Mathis basketball boys fight off Taft in district victory

Ladycats win two, Wildcats drop pair

THE NEWS OF SAN PATRICIO, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6

SPORTS HILL Country COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Tough end

Tivy girls pick up loop wins

State champs

Antlers pick up more wins

Hawks roll over S. Marcos

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY JOURNAL, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7

FALL BACK SALE 15% OFF

WHITTLESEY

S P O R T S

PANTHERS IN THE PLAYOFFS

LHHS eyes best football title opportunity since mid-2000s

Liberty Hill faces 'dangerous' Bay City in first round

Ability to adjust helps Panthers succeed

THE LIBERTY HILL INDEPENDENT, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8

Sports

Bearcats win regional cross country title

Playoffs on the line

Lady Chaps' hopes high for playoff run

THE POST-SIGNAL, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9

Division 7  
First Place: Hill Country Community Journal - LOTS of information, nicely packaged. Good use of both black-and-white and color photos/fonts. Like the "Football by the Numbers" feature though I would have liked to see some quotes within it. Love the fact that team photos run big so players can be seen.  
Second Place: Gonzales Inquirer - Nice use of quotes and headlines (varied fonts and sizes). Like the mascot logos and good dominant photo on each page (the WILDCATS ADVANCE photo was particularly effective). And, I like your "INSIDE" teasers.  
Third Place: Frio-Nueces Current - Like font changes (some might not but I do). Lead photo could probably run larger on the page(s) but at least its dominant on the page. Good use of quotes and nice variety of sports covered.  
Fourth Place: Hays Free Press - Nice variety of photos and sports selections. Good use of quotes. Headline font sizes should be more varied.

Division 8  
Top entries were pretty well done.  
First Place: The Liberty Hill Independent - Strong writing and good variety of coverage carried this entry to first place. Layout and photos are good quality, too. More white space would make layout more appealing. Overall a strong section.  
Second Place: Sachse News - Best organization and layout in the class. I like the schedules on the side of the page. Outstanding pictures. Writing not quite as good as the first-place winner.  
Third Place: The Sealy News - Layout and photos are good, range of coverage good, but headlines could be stronger. Writing in stories could be more complete ... often the score is not given until the end of the story, and sometimes the story of the game - how it was won or lost - is not there.  
Fourth Place: Trinity County News-Standard - Writing is good, but I would

like to see more stories. Too many photos used to fill pages ... and they are used too small. Why was there no "sports" heading on the beginning of the second section entered?

Division 9  
First Place: The Post-Signal, Pilot Point - Excellent photos!  
Second Place: The Vindicator  
Third Place: Alvin Sun  
Fourth Place: Eldorado Success



# SWEEPSTAKES



Division 2 Dailies		Division 4 Semiweeklies		Division 6 Weeklies		Division 8 Weeklies	
1. Galveston County Daily News	725	1. Wise County Messenger	850	1. Port Aransas South Jetty	575	1. Liberty Hill Independent	675
2. Victoria Advocate	725	2. Fayette County Record, LaGrange	475	2. Rockdale Reporter	400	2. Sachse News	625
3. Longview News Journal	400	3. Beeville Bee-Picayune	450	3. The News of San Patricio County	300	3. The Sealy News	450
4. New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung	300	4. Hood County News	300	4. Jewish Herald Voice	275	4. The Farmersville News	225
Division 3 Dailies		Division 5 Semiweeklies		Division 7 Weeklies		Division 9 Weeklies	
1. Seguin Gazette	650	1. Kilgore News Herald	550	1. The Community News, Aledo	525	1. The Post-Signal, Pilot Point	500
2. Marshall News Messenger	525	2. Panola Watchman	375	2. Hill County Community Journal	475	2. Tie Burnett Bulletin	300
3. Gainesville Daily Register	400	3. Vernon Record	350	3. Gonzales Inquirer	450	2 Tie Fort Stockton Pioneer	300
4. San Marcos Daily Record	375	4. Lampasas Dispatch Record	325	4. Hays Free Press	425	3. Clarendon Enterprise	300
						4. Murphy Monitor	275

• Awards in the Community Service, Best Website and Blue Moon Special Section and Routine Special Section categories are not counted toward sweepstakes totals.

## Sweepstakes Tiebreakers:

If a tie should arise in a Sweepstakes category, the newspaper with the most points in the General Excellence category will be declared the winner. If neither newspaper has won a General Excellence award, the newspaper with the most first place awards overall will be declared the winner. If the score remains tied, the newspaper with the most second place awards will be declared the winner.

## BEST WEBSITE

### DAILY DIVISION

First Place: Galveston County Daily News – *What's not to love about galvnews.com? It is well laid-out and navigable, attractive and up-to-date. Galveston puts great effort into this website, and it shows, from stories to quizzes, from the "Scared of Santa" photo gallery to contests/interactive features, from advertising and Marketplace features to "how to subscribe" and circulation content, and from the newspaper e-Edition to coastmonthly.com This is one of the best fleshed out and executed local newspaper websites I have ever visited. This judge is truly impressed. Truly.*

Second Place: Victoria Advocate – *This is an exceptional, appealing website. It is feature heavy with a nice calendar and multimedia features. Kudos, Victoria Advocate!*

Third Place: Longview News-Journal – *Very good, solid website. Nice custom-*

*ization and use of color within BLOX. Longview News-Journal makes the site their own.*

Fourth Place: The Paris News – *Good website. It is very clever of theparisnews.com to add a Sports Twitter link to their menu.*

### SEMIWEEKLY DIVISION

First Place: Kingsville Record & Bishop News – *When I opened this website the photos jumped out and grabbed me. They just popped off my screen and drew me in. And the content, which was very good, was like icing on the cake. Very impressive.*

Second Place: Taylor Press – *Very clean and easy to navigate.*

Third Place: The Highlander, Marble Falls – *Clean, easy to go through.*

Fourth Place: The Fayette County Record Another good entry.

### Weekly Division

First Place: Austin Business Journal – *Elegant design. Easy to navigate. Outstanding content. Total class act. This and the second place entry stood out, the advantage of large staffs in urban areas.* Second Place: Jewish Herald-Voice – *Easy-to-navigate yet striking design. Loaded with compelling content. Like how stories are in a larger point size than most websites - good for aging eyes.* Third Place: Gonzales Inquirer – *Like its look! Photos played up well in this site's design, timely content (too many entries in this category contained long-outdated content), easy to navigate.*

Fourth Place: Fort Stockton Pioneer – *Impressive! Content good, newsy, well-written/photographed by small staff. Website design works well and kept updated. Navigation ease about average but content stands out.*



# SPORTS PHOTO

## Division 2

**First Place:** Galveston County Daily News – “Wow! Fabulous photos; great layouts! And I’m sure the diving security guard shot has made a lasting impact. Great work!

**Second Place:** Victoria Advocate – Excellent work! Great variety and composition. Love the photos! Tough call between first and second.

**Third Place:** New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung – Great all-around shots with very nice layout. Very good work.

**Fourth Place:** Odessa American – Some great photos. Unfortunately some wasted in layout because they were run smaller than I would have liked. Space limitations, I’m sure. Very good!

## Division 3

**First Place:** Huntsville Item – The one-handed catch photo sent this entry to the top.

**Second Place:** Marshall News Messenger – A solid football and solid basketball photo anchored this entry.

**Third Place:** San Marcos Daily Record – This entry was hurt by the strongest photo (slam dunk) being severely back focused.

**Fourth Place:** Seguin Gazette – This entry showed strong, emotional reaction photos but was hurt by the lack of action.

## Division 4

**First Place:** Uvalde Leader-News

**Second Place:** Beeville Bee-Picayune

**Third Place:** The Bowie News

**Fourth Place:** The Fayette County Record

## Division 5

**First Place:** The Panola Watchman

**Second Place:** Lampasas Dispatch Record

**Third Place:** Kilgore News Herald

**Fourth Place:** El Campo Leader-News

## Division 6

**First Place:** Port Aransas South Jetty – Great mix of photos from surfing to high-fiving children. Great work!

**Second Place:** The News of San Patricio County – Consistently good quality photos. Nice job!

**Third Place:** Van Zandt News – Some excellent shots, especially pole vault shot. Loved it!

**Fourth Place:** Canton Herald

## Division 7

**First Place:** Hill Country Community Journal – Excellent photos. Great variety and layouts. Really grab attention of readers. Great work!

**Second Place:** The Community News – Very good job with photos and composition. Serious consideration for first place. Great job!

**Third Place:** Hays Free Press – Pole vault silhouette one of best shots in whole competition. Use of photos with copy very good. Nice work!

**Fourth Place:** Frio-Nueces Current

## Division 8

**Great entries.** All these newspapers give local sports outstanding coverage. **First Place:** Farmersville Times – Great shots, good range of coverage featured.

**Second Place:** Sachse News – Beautiful, large photos displayed well.

**Third Place:** The Sealy News – Terrific photos capture action.

**Fourth Place:** The Dublin Citizen – Great fan-pleasing shots, displayed well.

## Division 9

**First Place:** Burnet Bulletin

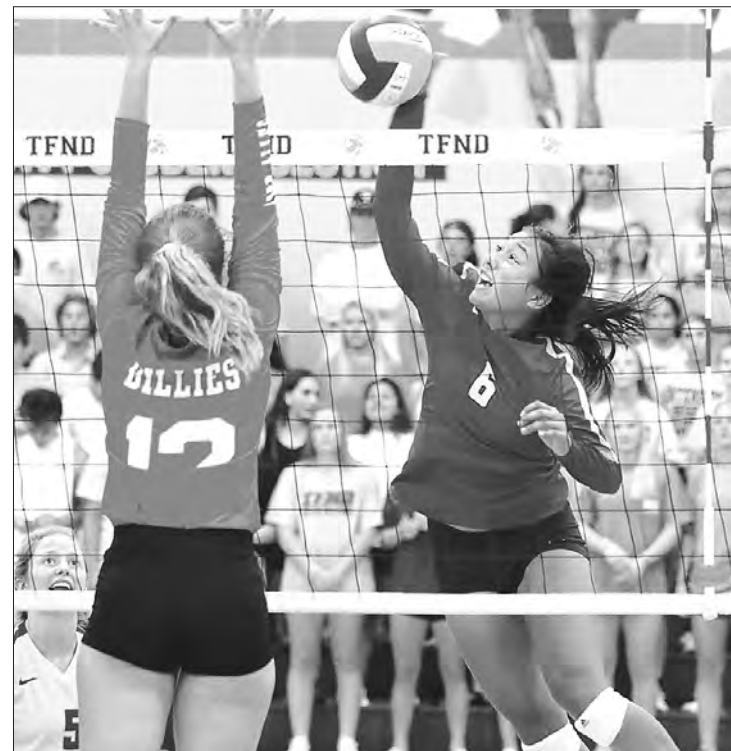
**Second Place:** Gladewater Mirror

**Third Place:** Hico News Review

**Fourth Place:** West Kerr Current



**DIVISION 3, FIRST PLACE:** Sam Houston State junior forward Kai Mitchell attacks the basket during Sam Houston’s 94-72 victory over Stephen F. Austin State University. (Joseph Brown/The Huntsville Item)



**DIVISION 7, FIRST PLACE:** Tivy’s Marissa Medina finishes a shot at the net during the Lady Antlers’ 3-2 win over Fredericksburg in both teams’ season opener. (Brandy McCoy/Hill Country Community Journal)



**DIVISION 4, FIRST PLACE:** Sixteen-year-old American freestyle bullfighter Chance Pruitt struggles to catch his balance as one of the Light Out Fighting Bulls gets the drop on his human opponent during the Cactus Jack Foundation fundraising event at the Uvalde County Arena. (Pete Luna/Uvalde Leader-News)



**DIVISION 5, FIRST PLACE:** Beckville’s Michael Mize dives for the plate as Clifton catcher Riley Perry reaches for the throw in the bottom of the seventh in the UIL Class 3A State Championship Game in Round Rock. (Vernon Mize/Panola Watchman)



# SPORTS PHOTO



**DIVISION 9, FIRST PLACE:** Senior running back Ryan Jackson runs into the end zone during during rain in third quarter action against Manor. (Wayne Craig/Burnet Bulletin)



**DIVISION 8, FIRST PLACE:** Fayth Harris takes out the Howe catcher as the ball comes loose on a collision at the plate in District 10-3A action. (Victor Tapia/The Farmersville Times)



**DIVISION 6, FIRST PLACE:** While competing in a Texas Gulf Coast Surfing ssociation contest, Arthur Pecore of Port Aransas races past the gaping mouth of a wave breaking at Horace Caldwell Pier. (Dan Parker/Port Aransas South Jetty)



**DIVISION 2, FIRST PLACE:** Texas City's Jo'Vel McDaniel hurdles Friendswood's Ryan Tostado during the first qua ter at Henry Winston Stadium in Friendswood. (Stuart Villanueva/The Galveston County Daily News)