

# WINNERS' CIRCLE

2012 TEXAS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RESULTS | A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION





## Winners' Circle

### TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

718 West 5th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 477-6755 phone  
(512) 477-6759 fax  
<http://texaspress.com>  
<http://facebook.com/texaspress>  
<http://twitter.com/texaspress>

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*President*

The Banner Press Newspaper,  
Columbus

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Lufkin Daily News

#### Randy Mankin

*Treasurer*

The Eldorado Success

#### Micheal Hodges

*Executive Director*

Texas Press Association

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## About the Cover Photo

### SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 4

TAYLOR FESTIVAL: Members of the Folkloric Dance Collaborative, a dance troupe based in Taylor under the direction of Alma Holiday, are shown during one of their performances on Saturday at Taylor's annual Zest Fest. A number of acts performed for visitors, but there were also plenty of arts and crafts as well as things for kids to do at this one-day free event in historic downtown Taylor. Andy Sharp/The Williamson County Sun.

## About the Texas Better Newspaper Contest

This year 169 newspapers submitted 1,703 entries in the Texas Better Newspaper Contest. The contest is broken down into 10 divisions in which newspapers compete against papers of similar circulation size.

Weeklies compete under a unique division system in which the total number of weekly entrants is divided into five divisions based on descending circulation — this year 102 weeklies entered so there were 21 newspapers each in Divisions 6-7 and 20 newspapers each in Divisions 8-10.

Dailies and Semiweeklies compete in fixed circulation breaks: Division 1 Dailies 100,000 or More (compete in General Excellence only); Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999; Division 3 Dailies Less Than

7,000; Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More; and Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less.

First place winners receive plaques and second through fourth place winners earn certificates. Sweepstakes points are earned for each division, except Division 1, based on point accumulation in contest categories (excluding Community Service & Special Sections) - 1st Place: 100 points; 2nd Place: 75 points; 3rd Place: 50 points; and 4th Place: 25 points. The awards were announced June 23, 2012, at the TPA Newspaper Executives' Retreat in San Antonio.

The Winners' Circle is an annual publication saluting the Better Newspaper Contest winners. Judges' comments on first through fourth place winners are reprinted along with samples of winning entries.

# Community Service

## Daily Division

### **Caller Times**

**1. Corpus Christi Caller-Times:** "Premont Independent School District" – An assistant football coach said to the Premont football team before a critical game: "I'm asking you to carry this town on your shoulders." That's what this newspaper did. Through deep reporting, compelling writing and photographs and informative graphics, the Caller-Times chronicled the impact that a school district closing would have on a small rural community. Rhiannon Meyers and Michael Zamora embedded themselves in that community, and the exquisite detail reflected in their stories and images had an impact. The state of Texas gave the district another year to prove itself. This met the highest standard of public service journalism.

**2. New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung:** "The River Wild" – The Herald-Zeitung's in-depth series, "The River Wild," asked hard questions about the impact tubing crowds had on the river community. It documented everything – from the impact of the poor behavior of drunk tubers to the effectiveness of law enforcement and public ordinances. This helped spur action by an informed citizenship. Strong editorials and local columns added insight to that community conversation.

**3. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches:** "Burmese refugees" – The Daily Sentinel brought enlightenment and understanding to what could have been a divisive issue – the hiring of Burmese refugees to fill factory jobs. The revelatory reporting helped this community grow.

**4. Victoria Advocate:** "Barefoot Sunday" – One writer's personal experience on a mission trip to Africa helped prompt empathy and compassion in her community. She built a bridge between Texas and Africa that helped bring more than 5,300 pairs of shoes to impoverished people in Malawi. That's quite an impact.

## Semiweekly Division

### **The Bastrop Advertiser**

**1. The Bastrop Advertiser:** "Anatomy of a Fire" – Excellent coverage from wide variety of angles. A lot of good information given to readers. Great help and effort to restore and bring community together. Used newspaper as it should be – to disseminate info.

**2. Hood County News, Granbury:** "Fight Hunger, Feed Hope" – Good concept followed throughout the year. A lot of good info. A wide variety of stories.

**3. Burleson Star:** "John Matthews criminal investiga-

tion" – Excellent coverage and investigation. Paper pushing for open records/info essential to resignation and indictments. Great journalism.

**4. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** "Feeding Wise" – Great presentation. Coverage throughout the year. Great logo. Good information.

## Weekly Division

### **The Ozona Stockman**

**1. The Ozona Stockman:** "Keeping public informed on wildfires and drought" – Outstanding work! Not many weeklies would have gone this far to protect the community.

**2. Tyler County Booster, Woodville:** "Taste of Tyler County" – \$7,800 is a great gain for Relay For Life. These books are not easy to produce.

**3. The Clifton Record:** "Raising \$80,000 fire truck" – Excellent job. Most people do not think much about volunteer fire departments until they need them. Then they want them to have the best equipment.

**4. Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston:** "Help the Berry children" – What a story! There is no telling what would have happened to these children had the JHV not jumped on top of this. \$1,000,000? Wow!

# Special Sections

## Routine Special Sections

### Daily

### **Athens Daily Review**

**1. Athens Daily Review:** A well-written and well-photographed football section. The layout is excellent. The added bonus is the way you celebrated two decades of fanfare. I can see this magazine being a "keeper." Very well done!

**2. Taylor Daily Press:** A good guide with lots of local information. One of the things that elevated this for me was the presentation of photos. They really highlighted the community events and activities. This was hands-down the best of the "FYI/Visitor's/Newcomers" type guides.

**3. Brownwood Bulletin:** The photography was very strong and the stories were engaging. I like the cover art for each section in particular. Very, very good. First through third was a tough choice.

**4. Waco Tribune-Herald:** An excellent football section. Tells me everything I need to know. In particular, the photography really stands out. Well done!

## Semiweekly

### **The Gonzales Inquirer**

**1. The Gonzales Inquirer:** Enjoyed the creative use of photos.

**2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** Provide visitors with a lot of useful information. Love the Decatur Square ad.

**3. The Bay City Tribune:** Liked the layout of the pages with information going down the side of the page.

**4. Hood County News, Granbury:** Very attractive cover. Lot of design creativity.

## Weekly A

### **Jewish Herald-Voice**

**1. Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston:** This was a tough, tough decision, but "Voices" stood out. Excellence across the board – excellent writing, excellent photos, excellent design. Stories were compelling. Very well done!

**2. The Goldthwaite Eagle:** First and second was a tough choice. This is the best hunting/outdoors tab I've seen. I really sense you've captured an important part of your community. Very well done!

**3. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville:** The design and information was good. The handling of "Players to Watch" and your integration of other sports made this one stand apart from other sports sections.

**4. Park Cities People, Dallas:** How clever! I am stealing this idea! I love the comic book style presentation. Thanks for making me smile. More students and a little more info on each would have moved this up a place or two. Very unique!

## Weekly B

### **Glen Rose REPORTER**

**1. Glen Rose Reporter:** Very well written. Kathryn Jones lends the deep feeling she has for the area to her

writing style. Design and presentation are well planned and though out. A very good product!

**2. The Clifton Record:** Great content and writing. Design very straight forward. Could be made a little more interesting.

**3. The Community News, Aledo:** Well-written content and valuable guide to the area. Design and presentation appear be well thought.

**4. The Dublin Citizen:** Very good historical information. Design seems well planned but could use some fine-tuning. Very interesting visitor's guide!

## Weekly C

### **WEST KERR Current**

**1. West Kerr Current, Ingram:** Good mix of information, photos, recipes and ads. Great job.

**2. The Albany News:** A great way to share a local yearly event. Cover is quite busy – biggest mistake. But overall, good production.

**3. The Pearland Journal:** A great way to get people's attention. Good mix of photos and stories.

**4. The Clarendon Enterprise:** Nice clean lines – good information. Parents are already overwhelmed; this special section is nothing short of helpful.

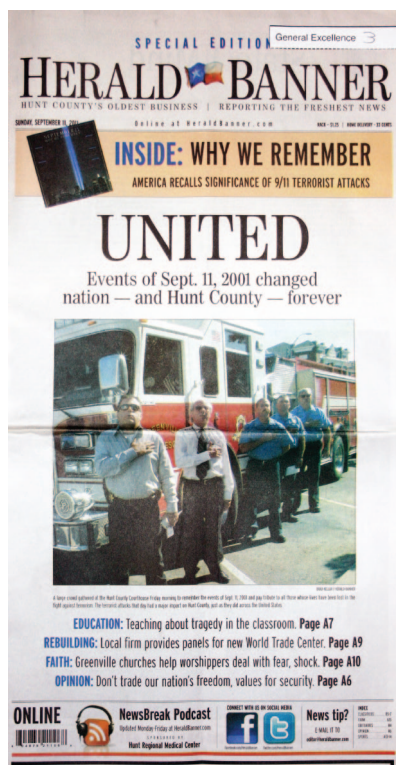


# General Excellence

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

### BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

**1. Beaumont Enterprise:** An absolute standout! Front pages make me want to read more, and the inside pages live up to the expectations. Open-ended answers (9/25) is an outstanding reporting effort. The BE section stands out – content and display. Sports coverage is outstanding. Well-deserved 1st!

**2. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches:** A relatively small daily, but no one can tell by looking. Has the look and feel of a large metro. Kudos to Robbie Godrich (HIV story) and Andrew D. Brosig (photos) in particular. Not a weak spot anywhere in this paper. Hopefully, the people of Nacogdoches realize what a gem of a newspaper they have.

**3. Victoria Advocate:** Layout/design stands out fantastically. Great work by J.R. Ortega on Watts story. Photos on CYFC package (11/20) look great.

**4. Midland Reporter-Telegram:** 9/11 package simply outstanding. Carrying the theme throughout the paper was great idea. Photography and section fronts stand out. Fire line story well written. Columnist headings look good.

## Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

### HERALD-BANNER

**1. Greenville Herald-Banner:** The Herald-Banner gives the reader a sense and feel of community. Its coverage of the 9/11 anniversary was outstanding and included schools, churches, editorials and a lot of

reader participation. It's Sunday Brunch package is well done. Good calendar and watchdog-type coverage.

**2. Jacksonville Daily Progress:** The Daily Progress has a good mix of community news coverage – from a retiring police dog hanging out of city hall to handling – mishandling – public tax dollars.

**3. Brownwood Bulletin:** The Bulletin does a good job of covering its community, but its coverage of the funeral of a firefighter was outstanding – writing and photos excellent and comprehensive. Good diversity of content on page one.

**4. Mineral Wells Index:** Great coverage of the Texas drought and its effects on our community. Good headlines.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### THE SUN

**1. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** Excellent newspaper top to bottom. Classic look. Quality writing and overall news coverage. Good editorial page presence and community coverage.

**2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** Strong entry. Great presentation and overall design. Solid writing and inside content.

**3. The Highlander, Marble Falls:** Good entry in competitive category. Nameplate weak and buried for good newspaper branding. Good appearance. Clean writing.

**4. Hood County News, Granbury:** Very good overall news coverage.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### KILGORE NEWS HERALD

**1. Kilgore News Herald:** Extremely compelling cover designs. Back-page sports fronts are smart use of space. Rein in leads that undermine the strength of the story and its design (Saggins story). Strong sports photos.

**2. Alice Echo-News Journal:** Excellent use of graphics to further illustrate news stories. Strong sports, feature photography. Strong stories, though leads are somewhat weak.

**3. Wharton Journal-Spectator:** Strong writing, clean composition.

**4. Round Rock Leader:** Strong cover stories. Unique easy-reading design. Strong community feel. Entertainment section feels out of place.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### THE AZLE NEWS

**1. The Azle News:** Boxes above nameplate busy. Headline writing little impact. Inside page organization could be stronger. Overall very well done editorially, graphically.

**2. Port Aransas South Jetty:** Strong content. Very informative newspaper. Nameplate not prominent enough for good newspaper branding. Writing could be slightly more formal. Reproduction good. Photo selection good. Close 2nd place.



# General Excellence

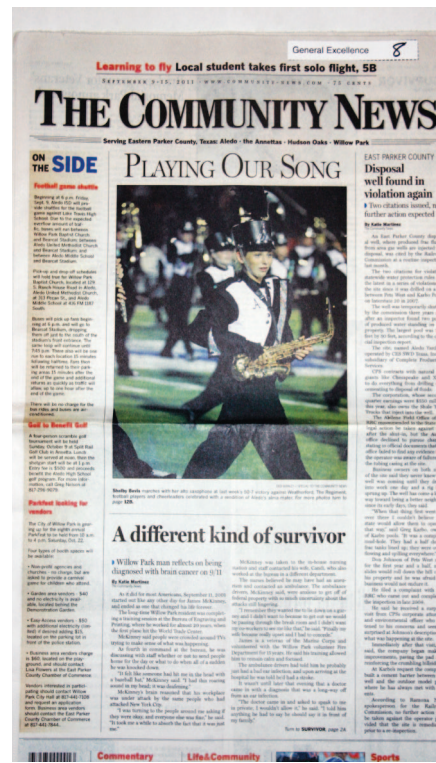
## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10



**3. Park Cities People, Dallas:** Generally good newspaper. Strong page one. Strong community coverage on inside pages.

**4. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls:** Solid entry in a competitive category. Clean front page. Overall good content. Good use of photos.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### Hays Free Press

**1. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** Strong photography. Excellent layout.

**2. The Big Bend Sentinel, Marfa:** This newspaper has its pulse on the local community in a way few papers do with excellent writing and a real feel for the local community.

**3. The Navasota Examiner:** Good local news coverage.

**4. Lake Travis View, Lakeway:** Layout is eye catching. Stories are appealing.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**1. The Community News, Aledo:** Very attractive front-page layouts. Quality writing.

**2. Refugio County Press:** Great novelty front page for the championships coverage. Well-written P-1 story on man found beaten.

**3. The Springtown Epigraph:** Nice job expanding what could have been a routine crash story on P-1 in the May 11 ed.

**4. Iowa Park Leader:** Unusual front-page layout, but it works.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### THE ALBANY NEWS

**1. The Albany News:** Nice layout, design and use of color, and great job keeping it local! I like the

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



photos and use of color, too! Congrats!

**2. Crowley Star:** Very nice layout and local coverage! Strong and steady in terms of writing, photography, layout and design, op/ed and the reprinting of local issues. Great job!

**3. Tri County Leader, Whitehouse:** I love the friends and neighbors spotlight. Nice, local, short columns. 911 reflections good – more photos, graphics, pull quotes or things to break up page would have been more appealing. Nice community paper with lots of things to do featured. I would read this paper if I lived there. Good job! One suggestion: Don't cram too much on front. Some of that (polar express) could have run on jump page.

**4. The Jasper Newsboy:** Nice op/ed page and good use of community submissions. Good sports photos. More continued inside would be a reader plus. Students of the week is a great feature! Nice rodeo special section.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

**1. The Eldorado Success:** Why no bylines? Love the writing style. Excellent paper. You have a real grasp on the local community.

**2. Pflugerville Pflag:** Interesting name! Nice package on veterans story.

**3. Alvarado Star:** Excellent layout and readability. Strong headlines on front, use of local photos throughout.

**4. Joshua Star:** Maybe too much on left column on front page. Cute photo of football player and baby.



# NewsWriting

## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

### VICTORIA ADVOCATE

- 1. Victoria Advocate:** "Same-sex marriage" by Gheni Platenburg – Well-done look at controversial topic from those most closely involved. "Campus chaos" by Kayla Bell and Erin Pradia – Good reporting and well-written.
- 2. Beaumont Enterprise:** "Brawl!" by Jared Ainsworth – Mercy! Writer didn't look away from this very distasteful melee. Community should be very embarrassed by this display. "Deaths" by Heather Nolan and Jessica Lipscomb – No everyday execution story.
- 3. Waco Tribune-Herald:** "Park" by Kirsten Crow – Strong news value in both stories entered. "Credit card misuse" by Cindy Culp – No comments.
- 4. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** "Terror" by Elliott Blackburn and Logan Carver – Good story, but had an arms-length feel to it. "Suspect in custody" by Robin Pyle – Lead could have been stronger.

## Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

### Mineral Wells Index

- 1. Mineral Wells Index:** "Rush to pass ban on airboats" by Chris Agee – Well-researched, highly readable public issue. "Cuts in education" by Libby Cluett – An inside well-researched look at devastating effects of education fund cuts. Difficult topic you handled with ease.
- 2. Jacksonville Daily Progress:** "Accountability for EDC funds" by Karla Clark – Good to see the paper digging into this mess. Keep after them. "Rescued worker" by Faith Harper – Great story. Top photo. Definitely was a must-read and winning entry. Best compelling must-read story.
- 3. Taylor Daily Press:** "Recreation center plan" by Mike Eddleman – Strong on detail. A solid presentation for an important resource. "Helicopter crew fights fires" by Mike Eddleman – Interesting inside look at how a helicopter is used to fight wildfires in Texas.
- 4. Seguin Gazette-Enterprise:** "Crips – 227 years in prison" by Ron Maloney – Impressive in-depth study of gang violence. "Facebook status" by Ron Maloney – I liked this story – different.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### THE SUN

- 1. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** "Morton embraces freedom" by Andrew McLemore – Andrew can write. That is clear, but importantly he can blend effectively writing with strong reporting. Excellent work. "Divorce/shooting" by Andrew McLemore – Breaking from traditional hard news writing style, McLemore weaves a narrative and still manages to report the facts.
- 2. The Graham Leader:** "Guilty" by Cherry Rushin – Very exhaustive report. Great detail, wouldn't do it often, but on such a big story in the community seems very warranted

and a good read. "Salt Creek" by Cherry Rushin – Solid report.

- 3. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** "Horses seized" by Jason Collins – Effective reporting in a way that surely engaged readers, giving human element to a crime. "3 dead" by Gary Kent and Christina Rowland – Nice detail. Good reporting.
- 4. Hood County News, Granbury:** "City takeover" by Kathy Cruz – "Million dollar parking lot," could have at least been a pull quote! Good reporting. "Teen angry" by Mark Wilson – Powerful piece. How Rutledge encountered the body could have effectively followed the lead. In any event, good work.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies Less Than 4,000

### THE PORT LAVACA WAVE

- 1. The Port Lavaca Wave:** "Missing file" by Tania French – Lots of important research and interviewing to develop this award-winning hard news story. "Tornado threatens residents" by Melony Overton – Compelling narrative and must-read story. Two of the strongest news pieces combined to make the best entry.
- 2. The Bowie News:** "Puppy mill" by Barbara Green – Well written. Extreme in-depth, fair and balanced on important issue. Lots of strong photos. Much time involved evident. "Bowie memorial" by Barbara Green – Significant story for your community. Good detail on vote/issues. Almost first place because of your super extra effort on puppy mill story.
- 3. The Mexia News:** "Rights over river" by Roxanne McKnight – Complicated issue thoroughly explained. Obvious you spent a lot of time on research and presentation. Many entries and one of the best. "Elvis" by Roxanne McKnight – No comments.
- 4. The Gonzales Inquirer:** "Fierce storm" by Rob Ford and Lynn Adams – Good, general round up of what happened because of storm plus dramatic photo and interests quotes. "Desecration" by Lynn Adams – Short but important story with appropriate photos. Well written, concise.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### THE RIVER CITIES SUNDAY TRIBUNE

- 1. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls:** "South-of-border crooks" by Connie Swinney – It's obvious you put in a lot of research, interview work on this important issue. "Parched" by Daniel Clifton – Extensive work and writing on almost every aspect of drought.
- 2. The Cleveland Advocate:** "Animal cruelty" by Vanesa Brashier and Cassie Gregory – Sad story needed to be brought to light. Well done. Strong front photo, too. "Girl abducted, assaulted" by Vanesa Brashier – A most captivating story.
- 3. Silsbee Bee:** "Celebrating lives of teens killed" by Gerry Dickert – Wonderful, touching and seldom presented in news look at lives of crash victims. Your presentation brought this couple back to life for me. "\$1 million bond" by David Lisenby – A quick read draws in readers on this important case.

- 4. Pleasanton Express:** "It's here and it's big!" by Leon Zabara – Impressive writing, research and presentation on a highly technical subject. "Rowdy ruckus" by Lisa Luna – Lots of detail, colorful quotes and good structure in presentation.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### FRIO-NUECES Current

- 1. Frio-Nueces Current, Pearsall:** "Home invasion, murder, robbery" by Marc Robertson and Manuel Azocar III – This story was thoroughly written and kept my interest from beginning to end. A truly wonderfully written news story. Mug shots would have been good if available. "Child abuse case" by Marc Robertson – Great lead. Good headline. Good story.
- 2. The Big Bend Sentinel, Marfa:** "Fire" by Sterry Butcher – Beautifully written news stories. "Better communications" by Sterry Butcher – No comments.
- 3. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** "Mom shoots son" by Sean Kimmons – Heart-rendering story. Well-written. "Is Monarch bad for business?" by Wes Ferguson – Good article on subject not often easy to understand or very interesting or exciting.
- 4. The Cuero Record:** "A too familiar scene" by Coy Slavik – Good story on timely and interesting topic to local residents. "Talking traffic" by Coy Slavik – No comments.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### Meridian Tribune

- 1. Meridian Tribune:** "True grit" by Brett Voss – A very well written story with lots of details. Good job. You painted a good picture of Ms. Fortier. "Flag presentation" by Brett Voss – Good job with this story as well.
- 2. The Springtown Epigraph:** "Final salute" by Edwin Newton – Nice job with story and painting a photo of who Arnold was. "Second kidnapper" by Carla Noah Stutman – Okay follow-up story. Lead is a little too long.
- 3. Glen Rose Reporter:** "Speed trap" by Kathryn Jones – Good job shedding light on this issue in your community. Good job in going to court to get people who have been impacted by this. "Manhunt continues" by Kathryn Jones – Good job getting this story out to your readers – more voices though.
- 4. The Dublin Citizen:** "Pecan growers" by Paul Gaudette – Good job localizing this story and including a voice of a local producer. "Community garden" by Paul Gaudette – Nice job with story. Good community story.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### Crowley Star

- 1. Crowley Star:** "Land disputes" by Dave Sorter – Good job getting both sides of the story. "Eight-liners" by Dave Sorter – No comments.



# NewsWriting

**2. The Princeton Herald:** "Low water levels" by Jimmy Alford – Good story and good to get a local voice and how it impacts him. "Flea market" by Andrew Cone – Good getting both sides of story.

**3. The Ozona Stockman:** "Burning up" by Melissa Perner – Important issue in your coverage area and lots of voices. "Honking helicopter" by Melissa Perner – Cute/unusual story. Could have talked to local folks about it.

**4. The Clarendon Enterprise:** "Child's death" by Roger Estlack – Good job explaining the abuse and timeline of the case/events. "Greenbelt" by Roger Estlack – No comments.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### Alvarado★Star

**1. Alvarado Star:** "Commissioner resigns" by Brian Porter – Good reporting on this local issue. "Veteran recalls" by Candy McMichen – Nice feature article.

**2. The Friendswood Journal:** "Keystone XL pipeline" by Jim Molony – Good reporting on an important topic.

"Energy expert" by Jim Molony – No comments.

**3. The Eldorado Success:** "Jeffs' story" by Randy Mankin – A little lengthy, but very detailed account of trial. "Hospital bond" by Randy Mankin – No comments.

**4. The Big Lake Wildcat:** "Taxing issues" by J.L. Mankin – Good to see the paper reported on the open meetings violation. "3 day, 60 miles" by Marla Daugherty – No comments.

## NEWS WRITING, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3

# CUTTING OR GUTTING?

## Schools officials say potential funding cuts would be devastating to districts

BY LIBBY CLUETT  
Mineral Wells Index

Area school districts have faced the unknown before. It comes largely every two years – when the state Legislature convenes.

Planning for the unknown for the next biennium (the school years from 2011-12 and 2012-13) has area superintendents skeptical about the future of state funding, especially after hearing possible scenarios from school finance experts who are trying to interpret a draft versions of appropriations bills.

School finance experts Moak, Casey and Associates of Austin crunched the numbers presented in the House General Appropriations Act, introduced on Jan. 19, and within two days came up with three possible scenarios illustrating what cuts to the state's Foundation School Program might look like over the next two fiscal years.

While many point out these scenarios are speculative, based on the first draft of the bill, the outlook has many area superintendents concerned.

### Bracing for budgetary hurricane

On Monday, Millsap ISD Superintendent Jerry Lee Hunkapiller shared the Moak Casey estimates to a seemingly stunned school board as he explained that the state could cut \$560,721 to \$924,700 from the district's general fund.

The news seemed equally brutal for all other area districts.

The cuts are not just to the state Foundation School Program, which contributes to districts' general fund, but the appropriations legislation recommends cutting discretionary grant funds, including funds for technology infrastructure.

Perrin-Whitt Consolidated ISD Superinten-

dent John Kuhn attended a small schools summit Tuesday, which included nine area districts including Graford, Santo and Palo Pinto. As a result of the state appropriations bills currently on the table, Kuhn said school finance expert Doug Karr recommended that districts plan to cut 15 percent out of their budgets – after removing the technology grant funds.

"After running the numbers for Perrin, we will be looking for \$500,142 in reductions," Kuhn said. "Mr. Karr told us that, while these bills will change somewhat before a final version is passed, we shouldn't expect that the situation will get much better."

Mineral Wells ISD could lose up to \$3.51 million per year in state funding for the next two years, based on Moak Casey's worst-case interpretation of the first draft House Appropriations Act.

MWISD Superintendent Ronny Collins explained that in the firm's "best case scenario" the state would underfund its aid to the district, cutting \$2.45 million from the budget each year, and in the worst case – at least for Mineral Wells – the district would lose \$3.51 million in state aid, based on an anticipated 14.956 percent reduction to all Texas school districts' general funds.

"This is my 21st year of doing this and I've never seen anything as ugly as this," said Collins.

"I don't know if this is for shock value or what it is," he added of the first draft of the appropriations bill, titled House Bill 1, which recommends cutbacks to all state-funded programs.

Until Moak Casey crunched the numbers, Collins said superintendents were concerned, but didn't know the full extent of possibilities.

"Moak and Casey put a fly in the ointment when they spelled it out and ran the numbers

and people can see it's not just education losing \$5 billion [totaling \$10 billion over the biennium], it's Mineral Wells losing over \$2.4 million per year," Collins said.

He calls these figures "gutting" not "cutting."

"It's kind of asinine to be gutting our schools when you have rainy day funds that could relieve some of this and [then the state] wouldn't need this drastic of cuts," Collins added.

"It's not something we did," Collins said of the overall current school finance and state budget situation. "This is just out of the blue, saying you'll get \$2.5 million less than you had last year ... for one school year, 2011-12. It's totally out of our control."

"I feel like we're the city council of New Orleans waiting for Hurricane Katrina to hit. It's not like we can avert the hurricane. We're just waiting to clean up the damage," said Collins.

### Interpreting figures

Since most school districts are a community's largest employer, this means the area and state could lose a large portion of its workforce.

Collins suggested one way for the public to envision these proposed revenue cuts is to see how they would translate into teacher salaries, which could be more real than hypothetical.

Collins said, based on the three Moak Casey scenarios, MWISD's cuts could equate into the average salaries of 63 to 92 teachers.

"Theoretically it's possible, but practically it's tough," said Collins. "Looking at that list, [a district such as] Santo, if they hit that \$806,000 [Moak Casey's worst-case scenario for SISD], I can't image Santo would have near enough people to cut."

Besides, schools like Santo and Millsap ISD have already made staff and position cuts

in the past few years.

"We will cut all supplies that we can, but with our staffing accounting for approximately 70 percent of our budget, it may require the loss of some personnel units," explained Graford ISD Superintendent Angie Myrick.

"If we have personnel cuts, our class sizes will increase dramatically causing an impact on individualized student learning," she added. "In small schools, if you decrease the number of staff, the number of preparations could increase also. This would require teachers to prepare to teach more than five different subjects a day, which would also impact student learning."

On top of the Moak Casey figures for cuts to the Foundation School Program, there are other ways programs at local schools could take a hit, since the HB1 recommends reducing discretionary grants programs.

Legislative cuts to grants could the following from the MWISD budget:

- \$98,877 technology allotment.
- \$3,632 for Discipline Alternative Education Program funding.
- \$44,554 for Student Success Initiative programs.
- \$42,914 for teen parenting programs.
- \$3,250 for the Advanced Placement incentive program.

### Reducing quality

Kuhn and Palo Pinto ISD Superintendent Eric Cederstrom noted that the appropriations bills will likely change before state legislators pass a final version.

"The simple answer is that the proposed cuts reduce our ability to provide the quality education our communities desire," Ceder-

See DEEP EDUCATION CUTS, PAGE 10

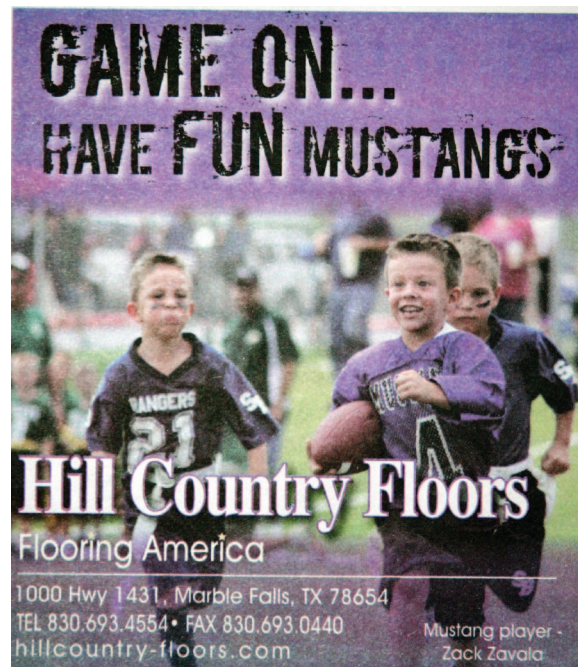


# Advertising

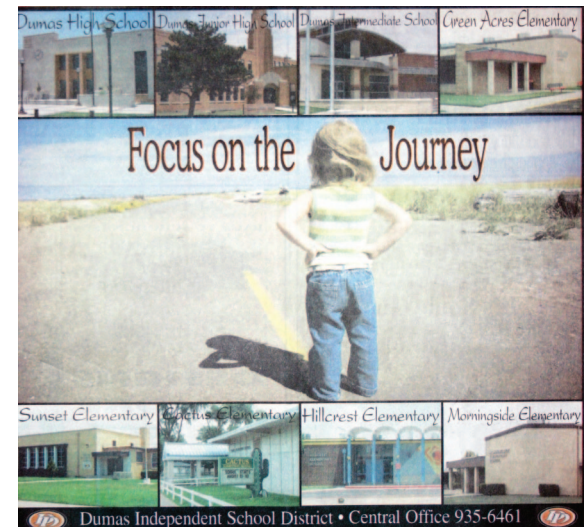
## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

### ODESSA AMERICAN

- 1. Odessa American:** Ad 1 – Great copy. So-so art. Ad 2 – Great art! Ad 3 – More great art. Registration hurt a bit.
- 2. The Paris News:** Ad 1 – Good design. Poor print job. Hurt reverse copy. Ad 2 – Good idea. Description and employee a bit lost in copy. Maybe their names in bold? Ad 3 – Good looking ad. Has impact.
- 3. The Kerrville Daily Times:** Ad 1 – Nice work. Ad 2 – Good idea. Too much blue below center of ad. Ad 3 – Generally good. Choice of yellow font takes away from message.
- 4. The Baytown Sun:** Ad 1 – Nice design. Too much small copy for the size of ad. Ad 2 – Good ad. Ad 3 – Excellent marketing for K&T – customers can shop on this page. Good print job.

## Division 3 Dailies 7,000 or Less

### Waxahachie Daily Light

- 1. Waxahachie Daily Light:** Ad 1 – Good idea. Reproduction weak. Ad 2 – Good design. Layout good. Reproduction bad. Ad 3 – Good design. Copy on autos hard to read. Reproduction poor.

- 2. Brownwood Bulletin:** Ad 1 – Good impact. Ad 2 – Nice use of color. Ad 3 – Attention-grabber.
- 3. Seguin Gazette-Enterprise:** Ad 1 – Nice ad. Copy on left could be stronger. Ad 2 – Good ad idea. Reproduction could be better. Ad 3 – Good

idea. Maybe wide ad would have allowed larger use of photo.

## 4. No 4th place awarded.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### The Highlander

- 1. The Highlander, Marble Falls:** Ad 1 – Excellent work. Classy ad! Ad 2 – Good design. Made me read ad. Ad 3 – Nice ad. Reverse at bottom should have been bolder.
- 2. Hood County News, Granbury:** Ad 1 – Excellent. Gets attention. Ad 2 – Nice ad. Register off. Ad 3 – Good work! Real attention-grabber.
- 3. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** Ad 1 – Good layout. Gets attention. Ad 2 – Nice ad. Better reproduction would help poor photo repro in lower left. Ad 3 – Nice idea. Would have given buffet and takeout more space or bold type.
- 4. The Fayette County Record, La Grange:** Ad 1 – Nice clean ad. Easy to read. Ad 2 – Gets attention. Poor reproduction on right. Ad 3 – Well done. Easy to read.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### The Moore County News★Press

- 1. The Moore County News-Press, Dumas:** Ad 1 – Nice idea with good use of color. Subscriber will

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3





# Advertising

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10



read names to see who they know. Ad 2 – Good idea! Not sure you pulled it off as well as intended. Ad 3 – Great idea. I like the photo of child in road.

**2. The Gonzales Inquirer:** Ad 1 – Makes me hungry! Well done. Ad 2 – No comments. Ad 3 – Good idea. Got my attention.

**3. El Campo Leader-News:** Ad 1 – Excellent idea for Volt. Advertiser should have been pleased. Ad 2 – Too much reverse type. Hard to read quickly. Ad 3 – Great idea with impact. Logo on car could have been sharper. Nice attention-grabber.

**4. Copperas Cove Leader-Press:** Ad 1 – Good ad. Products could have stood out more. Ad 2 – Nice ad copy. A little busy, but it got my attention. Ad 3 – Good as car ads go. Smart layout for used cars. Easy to read.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### FREESTONE COUNTY TIMES

**1. The Freestone County Times, Fairfield:** Ad 1 – Barn Stop – Love all the photos – they tell the story. Ad 2 – Gilberto's – great artwork. Ad 3 – McDonald's – Great color.

**2. The Rockdale Reporter:** Ad 1 – Christmas ad is eye catching. Ad 2 – Veterans Day ad – great idea to allow smaller businesses the change to advertise. Ad 3 – Garden ad provides a lot of information.

**3. Tyler County Booster, Woodville:** Ad 1 – Love the creativity of the Festival ad. Ad 2 – Vacation ad is eye catching. Ad 3 – Wal-Mart ad does not have enough info. I had to look really hard to determine what the clouds were.

**4. The Wylie News:** Ad 1 – BBQ ad – Eye Catching. Ad 2 – Egg hunt – Eye catching and provides lots of info. Ad 3 – Good color, but not as creative as other two.

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### MEDINA VALLEY THE TIMES

**1. Medina Valley Times, Lytle:** Ad 1 – Vote No – Catches eye. Good typography. Ad 2 – Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Eye catching. Great use of artwork. Very creative. Ad 3 – Great ad. Very to the point, but still catches attention.

**2. The Clifton Record:** Ad 1 – Sweet Addiction – Good type placement. Be careful with photo cut-outs. Ad 2 – Fallfest – Eye catching. Great use of type, color and art. Ad 3 – Good design on Clifton Swirl logo.

**3. Mission Progress Times:** Ad 1 – Progress Times – Good creativity. Trendy with barcode scan. Original. Ad 2 – Dog Parade – Creativity good. Typography could use a little zing, but ad catches attention. Ad 3 – Good text placement.

**4. The Navasota Examiner:** Ad 1 – Team of Navasota – Good use of color and type. Ad 2 – Veterans Day – Very effective use of typography, illustrations. Ad 3 – The Office Bar – Good typography and use of photo.

Continued on PAGE 10



# Advertising

Continued from PAGE 9

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### IOWA PARK LEADER

**1. Iowa Park Leader:** Ad 1 – Pizza – Fresh. Like! Ad 2 – Green – Money! Ad 3 – Helmet/Protection – Nice idea. Very eye catching.  
**2. The Llano County Journal:** Ad 1 – Kayak – Loved the colorful paddles watching kayaks in photo. Ad 2 – Vote – It's adlag. What can you say? Ad 3 – Dentist – Eye catching color.  
**3. The Dublin Citizen:** Ad 1 – Loved the house subscription ad! Catches the eye and motivates to act. Ad 2 – No comments. Ad 3 – No comments.  
**4. Lake Country Sun, Graford:** Ad 1 – Gaines Bend – Very eye catching! Beautiful job! Ad 2 – Crude Art – Diamondback. Ad 3 – Thank You – Blah. You missed 3rd place by 2 points. This ad really hurt your score.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### THE ALBANY NEWS

**1. The Albany News:** Ad 1 – Very nice house ad. Ad 2 – Attractive, nice white space. Highlights door prize. Ad 3 – Sells service of night banking well.  
**2. Hico News Review:** Ad 1 – Mouth – Hilarious house ad! Ad 2 – Super Saturday – Eye catching. Ad 3 – Jerry – Another great house ad!  
**3. The Sachse News:** Ad 1 – Bra-tastic – No comments. Ad 2 – Cinco – Nice. Ad 3 – Detroit – Eye catching.  
**4. Muleshoe Journal:** Ad 1 – Trick or Treat – Nice use of color on pink paper. Ad 2 – Blow Out – Simple and to the point. Ad 3 – Muleshoe – Clock stresses deadline.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### Murphy Monitor

**1. Murphy Monitor:** Ad 1 – Classic Gardens – Good balance in ad. Ad 2 – Murphy Maize – Great typography and arrangement of copy. Original. Ad 3 – Pounds and Inches – Good use of artwork and type.  
**2. Red Oak Record:** Ad 1 – Red Oak Record – Good use of type and photo. Ad 2 – Gravely – Good typography. Small but to the point. Ad 3 – Growing Ideas – Good color use.  
**3. The Lake Cities Sun, Lake Dallas:** Ad 1 – Lake City Printing – Good illustration and typography. Ad 2 – Old Town Jewelers – Balance good. Red type on blue section doesn't pop. Ad 3 – Unicorn Lake – Tasteful. Good layout. Balanced.  
**4. The Eldorado Success:** Ad 1 – Schleicher Clinic – Good selling power and use of photo. Ad 2 – Creative use of photo. Gets attention. Ad 3 – Good originality.

## NEWS WRITING, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3

# Deep Education Cuts

Continued from PAGE 7

strom said.

"It is unrealistic to believe that with less funding and higher expenditures due to unavoidable constants – payroll, utilities, fuel, unfunded mandates, etc. – that we will be able to add to our educational focus at Palo Pinto.

"Instead, we will be fighting tooth and nail to maintain our current quality of service to the community, and it's going to be a tough fight," Cederstrom added. "Hopefully our elected officials will do the same for what is right for Texas children and communities."

Kuhn said they were told not to expect the situation to get much better.

"The Tea Party is accidentally throwing our children in the harbor. I guess if you're a lawmaker you can send your kids to private school, so why would you care if the public school in your neighborhood lays off the reading specialist or the drama teacher?" Kuhn speculated.

"Nevertheless, those of us committed to our public schools will respond to all of this by buckling down and doing all we can to give the children of our towns and cities the very best education we can provide, even if it's on a shoestring budget," he added. "We'll lean on our parent groups for help, but the Perrin Community Club and [Parent Teacher Organization] already give a lot for our students and school. My teachers already buy supplies out of their own pockets – I don't know how much

more Austin expects them to give. I just wish our legislators would have the gumption to admit that the current crisis is a gift from them."

#### How did we get here?

While many are quick to blame the economy, often saying a decrease in spending means fewer sales tax dollars and less state revenue, there are other reasons funding for public schools has plummeted.

Some in the public school oversight business have said lawmakers gambled and lost.

Beginning with the 2006-07 year, public school funding changed when Texas legislators reduced ad-valorem (or property) taxes by one-third and shifted the revenue source to a new franchise tax, explained Freeman.

Kuhn explained in a previous article that the 2005 school finance bill, also titled House Bill 1, provided property tax relief by telling schools they could no longer tax property owners at a maintenance and operations rate of \$1.50. Instead, he said the state lowered school districts' M&O rates to a maximum of \$1.04 per \$100 taxable property value and gave districts an option to ask voters for up to 13 cents more through a tax ratification election.

Initially, this move was to ease the amount property owners had to pay in taxes; however, Kuhn said many didn't see the relief because of a rise in property values.

To fill the public school finance gap left by the reduced property tax, the state would contribute revenue from the new franchise tax. But there were issues with the new franchise tax, according to Freeman.

"It wasn't substantive enough to replace the revenue lost by the one-third reduction in property taxes," he said. "It has been several billion dollars a year short – since it was put into place in the 2006-07 school year – over the last two biennium."

Kuhn said he has read articles in which state representatives attribute the revenue shortfall for public schools solely to the economy and "ignore this whole school funding boondoggle."

"Karr explained to us at the summit that the business community complained about the business franchise, or activity, tax," he added. "As a result, [legislators] built in a threshold of \$300,000, which they then changed to \$1 million in annual earnings, meaning most business don't pay the tax. As a result of these loopholes, most businesses don't pay this tax and it doesn't generate enough funding to replace the lost property tax revenue."

#### Make noise

Collins said he hopes citizens will create some noise and show up when their representatives and senators come to town, citing that Rep. Jim Keffer will be in town Friday.

Sen. Craig Estes, whose jurisdiction includes Parker, Palo Pinto and Jack counties, is a member of the Senate Committee on Finance.

"One of things to remember is [Moak Casey is presenting] basically three different scenarios on how the House-proposed budget might affect districts. However, the details are not sufficient enough. They are going on assumptions on three scenarios on ways the Legislature may approach the shortfall," explained Ray Freeman deputy executive director of the Equity Center, an Austin-based research and advocacy organization that promotes school finance equity and adequacy in Texas.

"Obviously, if the depth of cuts that are proposed are what finally happens, then it's going to be very detrimental to public education across Texas," he said. "That type of cut in state funding for public education is unprecedented and unheard of and will be a catastrophe for public schools."

Freeman said he hopes legislators will consider "moving forward for what's best for Texans."

"There are several things that can be done and a lot of different groups are working on ways to offset these shortfalls. We think there are several things legislators can do without being as detrimental to education and other areas like Health and Human Services," he said.



# Website

## Daily Division

### Corpus Christi Caller-Times

- 1. Corpus Christi Caller-Times:** Plethora of content. Extremely easy navigation. Very nice colors, layout, fonts, skin. Love crime map and related features. Superb site – what's not to love? Flash ads seem to move a little clunky, but they are well designed.
- 2. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** Love the day-long time stamps. Clean site. Good content. Add production dates to vids. Excellent vids.
- 3. The Kerrville Daily Times:** Attractive skin – nice use of color overall. Logical layout on homepage. Nice obit section. Clicking Videos in right rail gets 404 error – however, you can access elsewhere. Loads slowly. Good job with ads – better than most newspapers. Please include production dates with vids.
- 4. Victoria Advocate:** YourStreet! is interesting but loads slowly. Nice feature. Good police section. Years Ago is cool feature – the year being reflected upon should be in headline or first sentence. Special reports – cool, unique. Site loads slowly! Photos, video never did load. Seems to represent your community well. Site has personality.

## Semiweekly Division

### Beeville Bee-Picayune

- 1. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** Picture's Worth – cool. Good

calendar with lots of entries. Good vids. Nice site flow.

- 2. The Bastrop Advertiser:** Lots of meat on homepage display. On news page and similar pages good use and display of summary. Lala Wall Street Journal. Straight forward, clean, easy to navigate site.
- 3. The Pasadena Citizen:** Good ad placement on skin. Shouldn't there be a Local News under the news tab (even though this is accessible on homepage)? Straight forward, basic site. Clean layout.
- 4. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** Clear, clean, straight-forward site.

## Weekly Division A

### TYLER COUNTY BOOSTER

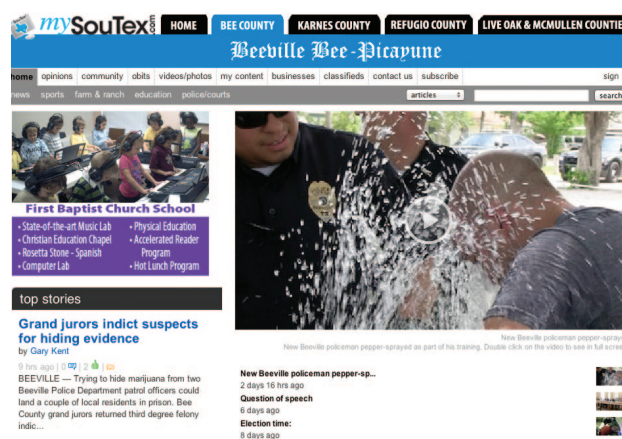
- 1. Tyler County Booster, Woodville:** Easy to navigate. Generally very clean site. Videos are nice – would like to see more.
- 2. Westlake Picayune, Austin:** Navigator bar needs redesign – is unattractive and doesn't look like navigator bar. Individual pages and sections are easily navigable. Clean layout. More multimedia would be nice.
- 3. Lake Travis View, Lakeway:** Ugly navigator bar – doesn't look like navigator bar. Obits and other sections need some white space between paragraphs. Straight forward. Could use more multimedia.
- 4. The Smithville Times:** Unattractive navigator bar that doesn't look like a navigator bar – that said, individual sections and pages are very easily navigable. Clean, simple layout. Straight forward.

## Weekly Division B

### THE BIG BEND Sentinel

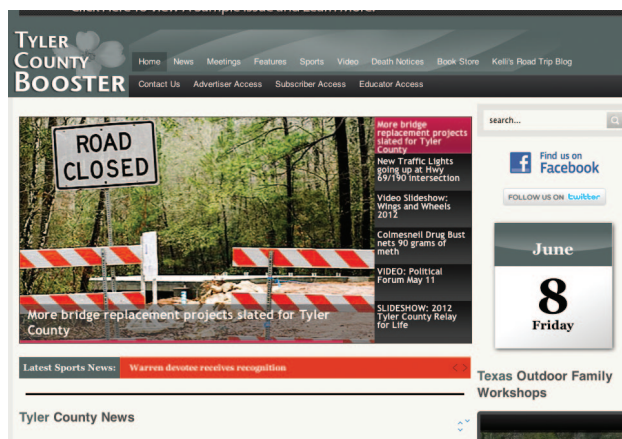
- 1. The Big Bend Sentinel, Marfa:** Good bilingual coverage. Nice multimedia. Good job with companion descriptions including dates. Obits need expanded headlines – they currently just list by last name only. Good sheriff's blotter. Nice blogs – how about more "local" blogs? Good archives. Homepage has awkward eye flow – other pages are better.
- 2. The Pearland Journal:** Good content, nice homepage layout. Logical layout. Page design doesn't wow me but quite effective (which is your goal). Ads are generic – need more calls to action. Good solid site. Very similar to Friendswood Journal – however, your layout is a little better – your execution is substantially better.
- 3. The Friendswood Journal:** Good content. Homepage layout needs more user-friendly layout. Ads are generic – need call to action. Very similar to Pearland Journal – their layout is slightly better with better execution. Text is errantly over some pics on homepage.
- 4. The Schulenburg Sticker:** Include dates with stories on homepage (i.e. I would like to see date before I click on story to help determine if I want to open). You prominently feature Footprints of Fayette – the piece is 3 months old – should be less prominent – same with State Capital Highlights, etc. NICE calendar! The word "copy" is chopped off in flag. Too much B&W. I hate the B&W ad with drop shadow – ugly. Generally, a good effective website.

FIRST PLACE,  
DAILY DIVISION  
Corpus Christi  
Caller-Times



FIRST PLACE,  
SEMIWEEKLY DIVISION  
Beeville Bee-Picayune

FIRST PLACE,  
WEEKLY DIVISION A  
Tyler County Booster



FIRST PLACE,  
WEEKLY DIVISION B  
The Big Bend Sentinel



# FeatureStory

Division 2  
Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

## BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

**1. Beaumont Enterprise:** "Is football fatal?" by Jon Styf – A compelling story, very well done. It gets your attention with the excellent lead. It holds your interest from beginning to end. "Father won't let murder case die" by Jessica Lipscomb – A well written, detailed story with a lot of facts. It holds your interest, that's for sure.

**2. Victoria Advocate:** "Fighting back, giving back" by J.R. Ortega – It tugs at your heart strings. Wonderful, great photos. So well written that you feel the mother's pain. "The pull of water" by Dianna Wray – A great story. Found his way back to his first love!

**3. The Kerrville Daily Times:** "A mother's gift" by Mark J. Armstrong – A strong story about a mother's love for her child, even if it meant death! "The last letter" by Mark J. Armstrong – A wonderful story about a soldier's last thoughts before he was killed in action.

**4. Corpus Christi Caller-Times:** "Selfless portrait" by Mark Collette – A well written story that told every detail in a compelling way. "Tradition rules at courtly occasion" by Jessica Savage – A good story about a tradition for the area.

Division 3  
Dailies Less Than 7,000

## JACKSONVILLE DAILY PROGRESS

**1. Jacksonville Daily Progress:** "Hometown girl at heart" by Marivel Resendiz – Good story. Maybe could have been 2 shorter stories, career and friends in Texas. I like her work and knew nothing about her. It was a good read. "Jacksonville's public relations guru" by Marivel Resendiz – I wish my reporters would find stories like this. You made me proud for those parents.

**2. Vernon Daily Record:** "From scrap to sculpture, artist's visions take form" by Joyce Ann Ashley – Excellent depiction of unusual artistry. "70th anniversary" by Daniel Walker – No comments.

**3. Seguin Gazette-Enterprise:** "D-Day injury didn't slow local veteran" by Ron Maloney – Good personal story of one who adapted to history's events as they touched him. "Cancer patients" by Jessica Limmer – No comments.

**4. Taylor Daily Press:** "Restoring treasures" by Amanda Sena – Good depiction of the dream of everyone over age 50. This is how dreams become reality. "Taylor café" by Amanda Sena – No comments.

Division 4  
Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

## HOOD COUNTY NEWS

**1. Hood County News, Granbury:** "No holding

her back" by Rick Mauch – A great, well written story about a determined individual. Good display and graphics. "Cheese made to please" by Mark Wilson – A good story with great photos – made me want to take a bite.

**2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** "Faith child" by Brandon Evans – A good story, well written. Also gave lots of facts. It holds your interest. "Rink rally" by Kristen Tribe – A wonderful story about a young girl beating the odds.

**3. The Fayette County Record, La Grange:** "The match of his life" by Jeff Wick – A good story about a good man who is beating the odds. "A literary legend" by H.H. Howze – I enjoyed reading about a man that I'm sure is a character.

**4. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** "Finding strength" by Bill Clough – A heartwarming story about a little girl that has a lot of courage and strength. "A mi hogar navideno" by Bill Clough – A good local story.

Division 5  
Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

## KILGORE NEWS HERALD

**1. Kilgore News Herald:** "Living legacy" by James Draper – Outstanding. This topic rarely written about but it should be. "Awesome" by James Draper – No comments.

**2. Round Rock Leader:** "Former students" by Marcial Guajardo – A topic rarely covered but worthy of a rearview mirror. "Surviving cancer" by Brad Stutzman – No comments.

**3. Lampasas Dispatch Record:** "Finding healing" by David Lowe – This one reflects the pain of actively being involved in history. "The little girl" by Lisa Carnley – No comments.

**4. The Bay City Tribune:** "Extreme couponing" by Jonnie Montalbo-Briseno – Readers need to see more of this. "Local deer" by Heather Menzies – No comments.

Division 6  
Large Weeklies

## Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post

**1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post:** "Transform a tragedy" by Cathy Collier – Great story. Could be shorter. "Four years later" by Cathy Collier – Good lead. Good story. Could be two-part series.

**2. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls:** "Heady stuff" by Daniel Clifton – Good feature & art. Good mix of the down and dirty side with the science. "Bryce" by Daniel Clifton – No comments.

**3. Pleasanton Express:** "Something wonderful" by Lisa Luna – Powerful story. Well done with very sensitive subject. "Enough" by Lisa Luna – No comments.

**4. The Freestone County Times, Fairfield:** "Conversations" by Karen Leidy – Nice work! Made me want to see his work. "Students" by Mary McDonald – No comments.

Division 7  
Medium-Large Weeklies

## HAYS FREE PRESS

**1. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** "Winery" by Sean Kimmions – Outstanding examination of back taxes as they affect multiple businesses. Well written and superbly illustrated. "Sassman" by Wes Ferguson – No comments.

**2. The Cuero Record:** "Living the dream" by Coy Slavik – Superb examination of the complicated effects of immigration in America and how it has become self-destructive. "Baros" by Glenn Rea – No comments.

**3. Frio-Nueces Current, Pearsall:** "Farm boy" by Marc Robertson – Superb recollection of effects of Vietnam on the life of a 21-year-old draftee. "Close-up" by Marc Robertson – No comments.

**4. The Hamilton Herald-News:** "Pancake family" by Maria Weaver – You can't beat this story for details on a baby's survival against all odds. "She's been to London to visit the Queen" by Maria Weaver – "No comments."

Division 8  
Medium Weeklies

## THE ARANSAS PASS PROGRESS

**1. The Aransas Pass Progress:** "Ghosts" (no by-line) – Very creative approach to a dull topic. Wonder who wrote it?? "Cancer survivor" by Amanda Torres – No comments.

**2. The Community News, Aledo:** "Labor of love" by Sandra Rousseau – Outstanding report of effects of a disease not many folks know much about. Excellent use of prose to describe its effects.

**3. Meridian Tribune:** "Veterans' Day" by Simone Wichers – A very good and detailed description of a part of World War II not much has been reported on for today's generation of readers. "Absolute magic" by Simone Wichers – No comments.

**4. Alpine Avalanche:** "Bringing health care" by Cindy Perry – Good report on a creative way to deliver health care screenings. "AMS students" by Amanda Tilley – No comments.

Division 9  
Small-Medium Weeklies

## COOPER REVIEW

**1. Cooper Review:** "Unknown identity" by Cindy Roller – Absolutely outstanding! "60 years" by Cindy Roller – No comments.

**2. Muenster Enterprise:** "Rebekah's trip" by Janet Felderhoff – Extraordinary job of reporting details of a foreign missionary experience. "Chris Valliere" by Janet Felderhoff – No comments.

**3. The Ozona Stockman:** "Learning to read" by Melissa Perner – Very good job of reporting details of a program critical to education and the future of



# FeatureStory

newspapers as well. "Methodist church" by Melissa Perner – No comments.

**4. Deport Times-Blossom Times:** "Holding on to life" by Nanalee Nichols – Good description of a vet's struggles to reclaim his life after losing his limbs. "Typhoon!" by Frank Stubblefield – No comments.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### THE BIG SANDY & HAWKINS JOURNAL

**1. Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal:** "Murder of three Hawkins students" by Seria Dassing – Terrifying subject matter graphically presented. Good graphics and vivid prose. "First effort" by Seria Dassing – No comments.

**2. Red Oak Record:** "Girl Scout" by Melanie Peterson – Success stories always ring the readers' bell, particularly when it's about a third grader. "Local residents" by Melanie Peterson – No comments.

**3. The Flatonia Argus:** "I remember my grandfather" by Celeste Quintero – Impressive presentation of family history facts using mystery to enthrall the reader. This story remains unfinished but that's its appeal. "Eaglesmith" by Celeste Quintero – No comments.

**4. Joshua Star:** "Isn't that a hoot?" by Brian Porter – Creative headline draws reader to the story. Good work. "JROTC" by Brian Porter – No comments.

## FEATURE STORY, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2

# 20 YEARS, NO ARRESTS

## Father won't let murder case die

BY JESSICA LIPSCOMB  
Beaumont Enterprise

It was a newspaper carrier, out on the streets early that Tuesday morning, who found the woman.

On the side of Interstate 10 in Vidor, a black Mercury Tracer was nose down in a ditch, resting on a culvert.

Kathy Fulton sat in the driver's seat, her head back on the headrest. The paper carrier told dispatchers there had been a car accident.

But that wasn't what happened.

Investigators didn't find any blood on the outside of her gray shirt or the fabric of her white jeans, but it had stained her hair and undergarments.

She was 34, blonde and dead.

The conclusion after an autopsy? Homicide.

The mother of two had been beaten and strangled, cleaned up and dressed in her clothes, and then placed in the car in a staged accident, the medical examiner said. It was May 14, 1991, the first day in the search for her killer, a case in which no arrests have ever been made.

### Who killed Kathy?

It's been 20 years, and James Fulton has spent each day, every day, thinking about what happened to his daughter.

Her daughters, Monica and Erin Page, for years flipped calendars from May to June, enduring a series of motherless Mother's Days.

And for 20 years, Dave Shows, then a Vidor patrol sergeant and now the chief, has walked into the department without an answer.

Most everyone can agree on this:

Kathy and her husband, Steve, had separated days earlier. On May 12, Mother's Day, they all went to the beach. Steve fried shrimp for dinner then spent his first night alone in a new apartment just across the

freeway.

On the night of May 13, Kathy and Steve drove separately to the girls' softball game. After the game, the kids went to sleep at the family house, and Kathy asked Steve to come over while she went out with girlfriends.

Instead, she went to Beaumont to meet a furniture salesman from San Antonio. They had sex at a Best Western.

That man, who volunteered for a polygraph and was cleared, said Kathy left around 2:30 a.m. Steve, who wasn't ever charged in the case, said she never came home.

Somehow, she ended up in her Mercury, redressed in the same outfit but missing her socks, earrings, watch and ring. Her makeup had been washed off.

The autopsy cleared some things up: she wasn't drinking or pregnant, or a casualty of a disease or sudden medical problem. There wasn't enough urine for a drug screen, but a blood test showed that Valium was the only thing in her system.

Still, there were questions.

The examination confirmed that Kathy had sex that night, though there was no sperm present. Two men said they had slept with her: the man from the hotel, who said he wore a condom, and Steve, who had a vasectomy performed months earlier.

Kathy was getting out of the shower before her date, Steve testified, and they'd had sex on the kitchen floor. She freshened up, but didn't take another shower, and headed out the door.

He never saw her alive again, he said.

### 'Everything went to hell'

On the morning she would die, things seemed to be going all right for Kathy Page. She was waiting tables at the Hoffbrau restaurant on 11th Street and taking classes at Lamar University. Although struggling with her strained marriage, she was trying to set things up so the girls

would have both mother and father in their lives.

Erin Page doesn't remember much about May 14 that year, or when she learned the death was a homicide. Her dad didn't talk about it, didn't take them to therapy, she said. They grew up estranged from Kathy's side of the family.

Each member of the family dealt with the loss separately. Steve would sit in the living room, Erin said, while she would sit in her bedroom. Monica went to a friend's house down the street. Their grief was private.

"When my mom died, everything went to hell," Erin said. "The craziness became normal."

### An 'Unsolved Mystery'

Kathy's father, James Fulton, said he got along with his son-in-law just fine while Steve and Kathy were married. He told the police they should be looking at someone else, not Steve, in their search for the killer. But after months without an end in sight, James started to piece together things that had happened since he learned about his daughter's death.

A grease stain on the home's carpet, the disappearance of Kathy's watch collection, the sexual encounter with Steve before Kathy left that evening. And why, her family wondered, would Steve not take a polygraph?

Ever since, James has done everything he could think of to convince the world that Steve killed Kathy.

He painted roadside signs. He put her story on "Unsolved Mysteries." He took out ads in the Vidorian newspaper in six-month increments. He paid for Interstate 10 billboards accusing the police department of botching the case.

He hired a private investigator, who got video footage of Steve kicking over flowers on Kathy's grave. Later, Steve pleaded guilty to desecration of a grave, paid a

\$500 fine and got three years' probation.

"This is an unusual charge," said Orange County's attorney, John Kimbrough.

"It's not related to the murder case in any way, but in my heart, I believe the case will be solved one day."

### No arrests

When Steve first was served with a civil lawsuit filed by the Fultons, he gave it to Erin to read. He said nothing.

"He just handed me the papers," she said. "And I remember reading them and asking him, 'They think you killed her?'"

That wrongful lawsuit ended in a mistrial. A second lawsuit ended in a hung jury. A third went to court in October 1999.

"I gather from questions in prior hearings that the theory is that Kathy came home, and somehow you found out she was having an affair and you killed her. Is that what happened?" Steve's lawyer asked during that hearing.

"No, sir," Steve testified. "It did not happen."

"Did you cry when you found out your wife had been killed?" asked the Fulton family's lawyer.

"No, sir, I didn't. When you receive shocking news..."

"Just answer the question," Steve was told. By a vote of 11 to 1, the jury found Steve liable in Kathy's death. It ordered him to pay \$150,000 to the Fulton family \$50,000 on his youngest daughter's behalf. The ruling was upheld on appeal.

James Fulton updated his billboards.

"Found Responsible for Wife's Death in Civil Court. Appeals Court Upheld Conviction. Pled 'Guilty' of Desecrating Her Grave. CRIMINAL CASE: NO ARRESTS!"

"This is my only option," James told The Enterprise in 1994. "I'll go this way from now. I'll keep the signs, put up bigger ones

See **NO ARRESTS**, PAGE 24



# HeadlineWriting

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2

**A star  
mangled  
banner?**

**Time of the Signs**

The force was with him:  
Holton left mark on LPD

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3

**Finally --  
a time of closure**

**Steeeeeriiiike!**

**Hay bale of a mess!**

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6

**Quote Le'Raven,  
Nevermore**

***Hill over Dale***

*June was hotter than ...  
oh, you know*

Division **2**  
Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

**1. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** "The force was with him..." – Good idea; jump headline also good – gives specific accomplishment of retiring officer. "Time of the signs" – Clever reversal of common saying fits story well; underline elaborates. "Star mangled banner?" – Excellent.

**2. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches:** "Packing for college" – Clever, creative when combined with "Bill would allow..." "Don't spare the rod" – No comments. "Crude tactics" – No comments.

**3. Lufkin Daily News:** "Cool 'gig'" – Not sure why quotation marks around "gig". "Nutcracker..." – Excellent play on words. "Runaway" – Clever; underline head well-constructed too, especially for tight measure.

**4. The Kerrville Daily Times:** "...being green" – Captures message of story quickly, clever. "Birds" – Leads reader into story nicely. "Local hooker..." – Clever. Under headline and use of single quotes alert reader to meaning of the word in this case.

Division **3**  
Dailies Less Than 7,000

Athens  
Daily  Review

**1. Athens Daily Review:** "Finally..." – The tone of this head-

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4

**Sermon on the mount up!**

*Critters stall road project,  
county ticked*

**Wait, does this make Census?**

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5

**Oh Snap!**

**Gas drives economic engine**

*Cain says he's not able*

line is just right for a story about resolution. "Steeeeeeriiiike!" – A very nice label head for the showcase photo sets the tone. "Hay bale..." – A play on words works wonders for this photo headline.

**2. Waxahachie Daily Light:** "DOPE" – If you're going to use a label or hammer head, make it big for IMPACT! It works well here. "Donkey dilemma" – Here's another centerpiece package with an effective large label head. "Time travelers" – Ditto for this feature.

**3. Mineral Wells Index:** "...bin Laden's demise" – An interesting headline leads reader into an equally interesting story. "Hail fire" – Draws the reader's eye to the photo and story. "The water didn't burn" – Sure to bring a smile to the reader's face.

**4. Brownwood Bulletin:** "Snow?" – The expectation of a white Christmas is promised in this hopeful headline. "Night out..." – The headline combo sets the scene for an unusual crime story. "A little hope..." A play on familiar phrasing makes this headline work.

Division **4**  
Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

THE  SUN

**1. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** "Sermon..." – Great feature headline with a play on a well-known phrase. "Critters stall..." Another smooth play on words. "Wait..." – The word "Census" always makes for a potential great headline, such as this one.

**2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** "Wipe out" – Dark humor can be effective in stories – a little goes a long way. "The



# HeadlineWriting

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7

Solar power to  
melt energy costs

**Confounding census  
to be contested**

**WATER FORUM IS  
ISSUE SOAKED**

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8

Rain brings out the ducks,  
brings together the trucks

**WALKER,  
TEXAS PAINTER**

**So much 'hogwash'**  
Myths abound feral hogs

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9

**Hunt firm's bee-line of aids  
makes champs**

*Buddy's buddies coming  
to see 'Buddy'*

Ingram VFD siren will provide  
blast from past

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10

**Saying hello to Howdy's**

***In church, testimony  
against Monarch***

*Fashion, unbridled*

chick..." – A spritely headline for an evergreen story. "Mail tampering..." – A clever play on words gets this judge's stamp of approval.

**3. Hood County News, Granbury:** "Pretty is..." – Commentary headlines can be tough but this example shines. "Mouth trap" – Graphics can provide a good hook for a feature story as in this example. "Swimming pools..." – The play off the "Beverly Hillbillies" works like a charm.

**4. Uvalde Leader-News:** "UCISD maintenance gets brush-off" – This headline does an effective job of leading readers into a serious news story. "Stages of grief" – An appropriate label head on a continuing problem for the region – drought. "Medical breakthrough" – This is a little too light in tone but still effective.

Division **5**  
Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

**Burleson★Star**

**1. Burleson Star:** "Oh snap!" – Catchy head is a real kick. "Gas drives economic engine" – Energy stories rarely make for good headlines – this is a notable exception. "Cain says he's not able" – A nice play on words. Makes for a memorable headline.

**2. Breckenridge American:** "Breck serves Dublin..." – Sports team nicknames have the source of good headlines – and bad – for many years. These 3 examples are very good. "Bad hare day" – No comments. "Just enough bangs..." – No comments.

**3. Kingsville Record & Bishop News:** "Game over" – This headline draws the reader into the story. "Kleburg County Adult Literacy Council does what's write" – Literacy

stories are not typical sources of catchy heads, but this one is. "Three keys to a successful burglary?" – This nicely juxtaposes a well-know real estate phrase with a crime story – nicely done!

**4. Kilgore News Herald:** "Suspect's teeth come back to bite her" – Crime stories are proof that truth is stranger than fiction. The headline here draws the reader into such a story. "Prank falls flat" – Vandalism is never funny and the headline combo here shows how serious it can be – and very effectively. "Death's décor" – Decorating cemeteries can provide details for good headstone headlines.

Division **6**  
Large Weeklies

**The Rockdale Reporter**

**1. The Rockdale Reporter:** "Hill over Dale" – A rare "natural" headline for a sports story. "Quote Le'Raven, nevermore" – Edgar Allen Poe is spinning in his grave. "June was hotter than..." – A great way to say the obvious – without saying it.

**2. Port Aransas South Jetty:** "She's got mail" – No comments. "Rain, rain, come this way" – No comments. "Getting down on getting high" – No comments.

**3. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post:** "City making vroom for bikers" – Great use of onomatopoeia. "Mo -11-11-11-y's Day" – Nice gimmick headline says it all. "City voters give pool issue a good dunking" – A different kind of voting outcome headline.

**4. Bandera Bulletin:** "Free falling form found unfilled" – Alliterative and amazingly alright. "House Bill 1086 dead in

the water" – Water headlines are standard fare in TX newspapers. This one is good. "Jacalito Burrito" – Nice feature headline, with more alliteration.

Division **7**  
Medium-Large Weeklies

**The Smithville Times**

**1. The Smithville Times:** "Water Forum is issue soaked" – Imagery works with water/drought theme. "Confounding census to be contested" – Nice alliteration. Not overpowering. "Solar power to melt energy costs" – Another very suitable image works in this headline.

**2. Westlake Picayune, Austin:** "Brice is right" – Very solid sports head. It just works! "Shoulder knees and toes" – Headline draws reader into story. "Hershey barred" – Another slick sports head.

**3. The Ellis County Press, Ferris:** "Mr. Sandman, nab me a thief" – Melodic phrasing on all 3 headlines was appropriate in each case. I just hope (s)he doesn't run out of titles any time soon. "Gone with the wind" – No comments. "Whole lotta shakin' goin' on" – No comments.

**4. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville:** "Eye on the pies" – A real groaner, but a tasty one. "iHappy" – iDon't know what to say about this label except to say it iWorks! "What?" – Single word label works with pair of related stories.

Continued on **PAGE 17**



# Editorials

## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

### ☆ GALVESTON COUNTY ☆ THE DAILY NEWS

**1. The Galveston County Daily News:** "There's just no way that was legal" by Heber Taylor – Championing citizens' rights of access to their government in one of the newspaper's most important roles in its community. Excellent watchdog journalism. Great public service. Strong approach, well written. "Public housing plan not so foolish" by Heber Taylor – Rather than piling on in the criticism of GHA the newspaper reassessed the issues and took a fair approach with good analysis, targeted the real issues.

**2. Odessa American:** "ECISD board should not have one voice" – Excellent job of holding public officials accountable while advocating for government transparency. Casual writing style, but effective. "Redistricting fireworks" – Good public service and educational piece.

**3. Midland Reporter-Telegram:** "Voters should have say" – Am sure the piece resonated with the community and championed the rights of citizens, voters and taxpayers. "Sex-ed program" – Newspaper willing to take a stand on a controversial issue on a subject that appears to be important in the community.

**4. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** "Smoking bans" – Strong editorial, solid argumentation, well written and fact-based. "Power plan" – Well thought-out commentary.

## Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

### HERALD BANNER

**1. Greenville Herald-Banner:** "True Heroes" – Excellent editorial on a heartbreaking and timely topic. I'm sure this was cut out and taped to refrigerators all over town. "Smart is sexy" – A reminder that in spite of the many ways there are to obtain news today, people still trust newspapers to have the facts.

**2. Ennis Daily News:** "Our worries are far from being over" – Excellent and timely editorial for 9-11 10th anniversary. Length was perfect. "EHS sex case accusations chill spirits" – Excellent editorial on tough subject.

**3. Brownwood Bulletin:** "Keeping up with budgets" – Point of editorial is lost – Good idea, though. "Get a handle on feral hogs" – Not a pretty sight – feral hogs running free up and down the highway! I would hate to hit one of those! Good editorial.

**4. Taylor Daily Press:** "A lot of nothing" – Good subject matter. May be too long – come to conclusion sooner. "Time to invest in Taylor" – Taxes are always a good topic for editorials. This editorial could have been broken into two or three perhaps?

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### THE SUN

**1. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** "City bond" – Nice to see the newspaper taking a strong position on a local issue and done with well thought-out explanation. "A call to farms" – Interesting approach to subject matter –

unique in category.

**2. Uvalde Leader-News:** "Child's death" – Poignant. "Liquor by the drink" – Controversial subject, pleased to see newspapers willingness to take a stand.

**3. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** "Uh-oh, City Hall" by Jeff Latcham – Casual writing style, but engaging. Good straightforward position. "DeRusse" by Jeff Latcham – Nice tribute.

**4. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** "Path to recovery" – Nice community service. "Governor ignored warning" – Making issue local and relevant. Good job.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### THE PERRYTON HERALD

**1. The Perryton Herald:** "School bond" – Detailed, authoritative writing and strong call to action on local issue. "Fireworks ban" – Good laudatory editorial with substance on issue to support kudos. Strong writing again!

**2. Lampasas Dispatch Record:** "Prayer service" – Good call to action and colorful, descriptive writing to support position. "City manager" – Strong writing with detailed background.

**3. Round Rock Leader:** "Hot check funding" – Well written, good authoritative position with supporting arguments for viewpoints. "Meals on Wheels" – Another strong editorial on local issue and watching where tax dollars are spent.

**4. Burleson Star:** "Grand jury" – Good local topic. A little wordy though. "Prairie dogs" – Good, reasoned approach to viewpoint. Nice ending.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### ★ The River Cities SUNDAY TRIBUNE

**1. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls:** "Redistricting" – Good culminating editorial. Strong writing. "Identity crisis" – Another example of strong writing supported by reasoned arguments to support viewpoint. Good call to action for city leaders.

**2. Citizens' Advocate, Coppell:** "Best and worst" – Good summary and tone. Might have explained better who was rude/haughty. "Council actions" – Strong call to action on P&Z.

**3. Port Aransas South Jetty:** "Port Authority" by MHJ – Good local topic and laudatory editorial. A little difficult to follow history of nomination though. "Transparency" by Phil Reynolds – Clean, concise writing. Strong tone.

**4. Pleasanton Express:** "Petition" by Sue Brown – Clear, informative position on local issue. "Initiative" by Sue Brown – Strong call to action in advance of meeting.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### Mount Vernon Optic-Herald

**1. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald:** "City administrator" by Susan Reeves – Good watchdog role for editorial. Strong, well-reasoned editorial. "City permit fees" by Susan Reeves – Another strong example of watchdog government and the taxpayers' money. The clear writing made a complex subject easy to understand.

**2. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville:** "Veterans Day" – Strong, vivid writing. Nice personal touch to what is an annual editorial topic. "Shop local" – Good call to action with numbers/analyses to back up viewpoint.

**3. The Navasota Examiner:** "Health" by Scott McDonald – Strong, personal editorial to share with readers. "Adolph Brown" by Scott McDonald – Vivid writing to capture reader and drive home editorial viewpoint.

**4. Westlake Picayune, Austin:** "Comments" by Ed Allen – Good explanation of commenting and how a community needs civility. "Noise issue" by Ed Allen – A little wordy by explanation, but a call to action nonetheless.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### Lake Country Sun

**1. Lake Country Sun, Graford:** "PK complex fire" by Mark Engebretson – Good tone. Strong call to action for community and structure of editorial was easy to follow. "River bill" by Mark Engebretson – Wow! Powerful writing and clear point of view.

**2. The Dublin Citizen:** "School discipline" by Mac McKinnon – A little wordy but point comes through. "Bonds for school renovations" by Mac McKinnon – Good supportive arguments on bond issue.

**3. Western Observer, Anson:** "NLRB" by Tiffany Waddell – Good subject but no link to local impact or community. "Memorial Day" by Tiffany Waddell – Good reminder about relevance of holiday.

**4. No 4th place awarded.**

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### ★ THE CLARENDON Enterprise

**1. The Clarendon Enterprise:** "Chamber" by Roger Estlack – Strong, reasoned arguments for editorial position taken. Good local topic for community leadership position taken through editorial. "Death of child" by Roger Estlack – Perfect tone for subject matter. Insight by use of FB helped put a human struggle/context for reader. Well done!

**2. The Albany News:** "City manager" – Strong leadership position. Good writing. Good call to action on finding new manager. "Graduation" – Loving tone and glimpse of human drama that all parents go through. Strong reader connection to topic.

**3. Crowley Star:** "Drilling" – Good use of bullets to support position. Strong call to action for council leadership. "Thanksgiving" – Nice tone for holiday editorial.

**4. The Ozona Stockman:** "Wildfires" by Melissa Perner – Good call to action and specific examples to support position. "Fireworks" by Melissa Perner – Great editorial! Hope the commissioners took the editorial to heart.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### Joshua★Star

**1. Joshua Star:** "Burn editorial" – Important local subject



# Editorials

clearly defined with strong writing and caution warning to community. Good job focusing on issues of importance to local community in both editorials. "Alcohol sales" – Very good use of segmenting multiple points of editorial. Easy to understand, informative and supports premise of why voters approved it. Well done!

**2. The Liberty Hill Independent:** "Fire department saga" – Well-written, well-reasoned editorial calling out resi-

dents who may have benefitted from the casting of the couple. Good structure to edit, especially powerful, bulleted points/questions. "Skin in the game" – Another strong local topic that makes readers think about government and its role.

**3. Alvarado Star:** "Veterans Day" – Nice local connection and use of sports vs. war heroes for editorial. Terrific tone in writing. "Voting/legislature bills" – Easy to understand with clear writing and reasoned supportive arguments for positions

taken.

**4. Wallis News-Review:** "President's visit" – Presented through personal border experiences – nice touch. Didn't link chuckling at president's remarks though, since there is no direct mention of how immigration goals connect with violence. "Fugitive" – Very strong writing with local call to action on notification. Very well done!

## EDITORIALS, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3

# SMART IS SEXY

## Newspapers at root of informed populace

GREENVILLE HERALD-BANNER

You may have seen the ads in the Herald-Banner declaring that "smart is the new sexy."

While it's clearly not describing people who work in the newspaper industry as attractive — there's a reason we use the same mugshots for a decade or more, after all — the role that newspapers play in society is certainly worth extra attention, which is why the Newspaper Association of America started the slightly provocative campaign.

Is smart sexy? You bet. And smart, engaged, influential people typically start their day not by checking banal

Facebook messages and Twitter updates, but by diving headfirst into the issues of the day by seeking out the most thorough, factual information they can find.

And there's no place better than a newspaper to do that.

Granted, we're not perfect. Anyone who picks up the Herald-Banner can tell that we make mistakes.

But we can very confidently say that the best, most fact-checked original reporting in America starts not with TV pundits or online bloggers, but with newspaper reporters. More often than not, it's stories reported first in newspapers that end up having the biggest impact.

Here's just one example:

The Penn State child sexual assault scandal, which has drawn outrage across the country and brought down the careers of some of the most powerful people in education and athletics, wasn't started by CNN, Fox News or the Huffington Post.

It was first reported by a young reporter at a relatively small newspaper. Sara Ganim, a 24-year-old crime reporter for the Patriot-News in Harrisburg, Pa., almost singlehandedly broke the the story that has turned stomachs across the United States and held people accountable at the highest levels of power.

It's reporters like Ganim, who are

employed at hundreds of newspapers all over the country, who provide the information that changes the world.

And it's proof that as we get deeper into the information age, the quality of information matters more and more.

We're proud to work in an industry that tries its best to provide the kind of authoritative information people need in a fast-paced, often confusing world.

We know that good, honest facts will always lead to better outcomes for our community, something that matters just as much here in Hunt County as it does in New York City or Washington, D.C.

It's a sexy thing indeed.

## HEADLINE WRITING, FROM PAGE 15

### Division 8 Medium Weeklies

#### Glen Rose REPORTER

**1. Glen Rose Reporter:** "Rain brings out the ducks..." – A very clever turn of phrasing makes the headline work. "Walker, Texas Painter" – Another cute turn of phrasing. "So much 'hogwash'" – Headline doesn't go wild over feral pigs – just the right tone for a serious feature.

**2. The Llano County Journal:** "Chamber hands out groovy awards" – No comments. "Deer hunting season shoots off this week" – No comments. "The bucks stop here" – No comments.

**3. The Castroville News Bulletin:** "Mathematically correct map doesn't add up" – A very nice turn of words makes this headline flow. "Wily Coyotes no match..." – Cartoon names and sports go together like birds of a feather. "Water rates headed up – but just a drop" – This head is all wet from first word to last – NICE!

**4. Refugio County Press:** "Woodsboro's water woes..." – Nice alliteration – but seems too light in tone for serious story. "Bobcats buckle Buckaroos" – A little alliteration goes a long way. "Bobcats bamboozle Bulldogs" – Ditto.

### Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

#### WEST KERR Current

**1. West Kerr Current, Ingram:** "Hunt firm's bee-line..." – Nice word play. "Buddy's buddies coming to see 'Buddy'" – Catchy phrasing. "Ingram VFD siren will provide blast from past" – One can almost hear the siren song in this head.

**2. The Sachse News:** "U won't be turning around on Hwy. 78" – U-turn headline very clever. Well-played. "Winded" – OK head, perhaps tries too hard. "City puts brakes on drive-thru beer sales" – Nicely written, eye-catching.

**3. Crowley Star:** "Most valuable essay" – Good use of graphic design to "light" up the hammer head – very effective. "Minister of the law" – Nice turn of words makes this headline go! "Fire department has hope (bowl)" – Good headline on local sports even draws reader into story.

**4. Muleshoe Journal:** "Muleshoe to compete with Wal-Mart for RV business" – Straight, no-nonsense headline. "High court rules against 'disrobing'" – Headline draws reader into story. "Wheels request comes up flat" – Nice turn of words on serious topic.

### Division 10 Small Weeklies

#### PFLUGERVILLE PFLAG

**1. Pflugerville Pflag:** "Saying hello to Howdy's" – Strikes just the right tone on a positive business story. "In church, testimony against monarch" – Clever play on words, but accurate! "Fashion, unbridled" – Nice use of double-meaning of word "unbridled".

**2. Alvarado Star:** "Beating boardom" – This play on words is emphasized by use of color text. "Sex cells" – A good use of a label head on a significant trend among teens. "Bottoms up, Alvarado!" – Almost too cute and positioned with photo below detracts from meaning.

**3. The Big Lake Wildcat:** "He started it, reported it...and fought it" – Nicely written headline – especially for one column. "Taxing issues" – An OK label head. "Is there a doctor in the house?" – Nice head on a fairly run-of-the-mill meeting story.

**4. The International, Presidio:** "Pending bill on aerial hunting..." – Clever head, almost too cute for a serious story. "Big Bend ultra..." – Nicely written head on an unusual sporting event. "City tests water for new pool" – Accurate, but little panache.



# FeaturePhotos



## ABOVE

SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 4

TENT REVIVAL: Oasis Church worshiper Elsa Lopez. Andy Sharp/The Williamson County Sun.

## RIGHT

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9

SPLISH, SPLASH! Two-year-old Cambree Smith and five-year-old Graci Smith run through the water in front of their house in Clarendon Monday afternoon. The girls were among many kids seen playing outside when the city received 0.1" of rain, temporarily lowering temperatures. so far this year, 49 days have had highs recorded at 100 degrees or more. Roger Estlack/The Clarendon Enterprise

## PAGE 19, CLOCKWISE

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8

Spring Break 2011. Kevin Hamilton/Iowa Park Leader

## THIRD PLACE, DIVISION 2

As he sits on a sofa in his West Odessa home, his old Bible on the table next to him, Santiago Hinojos talks of his service as a litter bearer (medic) in Europe during World War II. Hinojos, originally from Lajitas, landed on the beaches of Normandy with the Army and traveled across France, Belgium and Germany during his service, taking part in such conflicts as the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Ardennes. Mark Sterkel/Odessa American.

## SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 6

Pablo Martinez laughs as he cools off before entering the Cleveland public swimming pool on Campbell Street on June 16. Jason Fochtman/The Cleveland Advocate

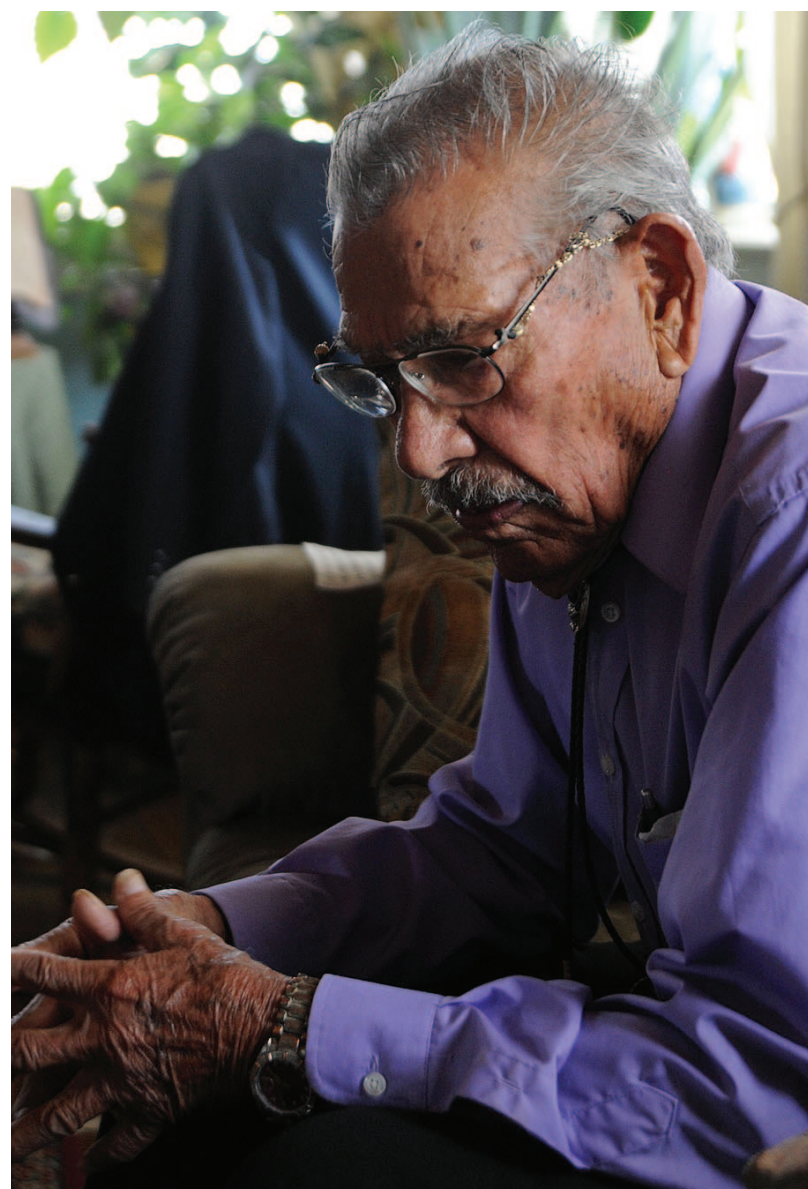
## SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 7

Unicycle football player Dane "Toilet Face" Walter, in yellow, struggles toward the end zone while Seth "MacS-eth" Neighbor, far right, and Alan "Corporal Punishment" Barnes try to stop him. Wes Ferguson/Hays Free Press.





# FeaturePhotos





# FeaturePhotos

## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

### ☆ GALVESTON COUNTY ☆ THE DAILY NEWS

- 1. The Galveston County Daily News:** "Dinner is served" by Kevin Cox – This photo had me awestruck! Great capture – very impressive! "Dogs rule the park" by Jennifer Reynolds – The shot with girl kissing the dog would have been my choice.
- 2. The Paris News:** "Fun at the fair" by Sam Craft – Great eye for a great shot! Love the colors. "Veterans" by Sam Craft – My favorite of your entries. Look at the shells still in the air! This was a close second.
- 3. Odessa American:** "The call of duty" by Mark Sterkel – Compelling spread! I hope you entered this for feature story! "Preschool Rodeo" by Heather Leiphart – Too stinking cute!
- 4. The Baytown Sun:** "Vietnam wall" by Albert Villegas – Very touching display. "We remember" by Albert Villegas – Fabulous photo. Great angle.

## Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

### SEGUIN GAZETTE ENTERPRISE

- 1. Seguin Gazette-Enterprise:** "Letting Go" by Felicia Frazar – This was a one-shot shot – and you did it! Great photo filled with emotion! "A Rare Sight" by Felicia Frazar – Tons of joy!
- 2. Athens Daily Review:** "Home at last!" by Jeff Riggs – Moving image. "Cancer survivors" by Art Lanler – Great photo. Makes the reader pause and then they have to read the cutline.
- 3. Brownwood Bulletin:** "Horse and carriage" by Steve Nash – Love the angle. "Freedom" by Steve Nash – Lots of fun!
- 4. Jacksonville Daily Progress:** "Field day fun" by Meagan O'Toole-Pitts – Full of color. Hard shot. Great job! "Christmastime" by Marivel Resendiz – Such joy!

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

- 1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** "Wise Reflections" by Joe Duty – Amazing eye for a great photo. Leaps and bounds ahead of your competition. "A Few Good Men" by Joe Duty – Compelling and moving! Very talented photographer!
- 2. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** "Taylor Festival" by Andy Sharp – Good eye for a great shot. "Tent Revival" by Andy Sharp – Great job capturing this in eye – excellent angle!
- 3. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** "The missing guest" by Bill Clough – Good shot. Busy page detracts from image. "Bug-gies" by Bill Clough – Great pics. Great spread.
- 4. Uvalde Leader-News:** "Landfill project" by Margaret Palermo – Not really a "feature" photo. "Neigh-sayer" by Margaret Palermo – Great shot. Not so great photo. Made me laugh.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### The Mexia News

- 1. The Mexia News:** "Splashing into summer" by Roxanne McKnight – Lots of muddy fun. "Thirsty birds" by Roxanne McKnight – Great shot. Good use of reflection. Also, a great way to tie in drought issues. We're all tired of pics of dried crops and creeks. This was very innovative.
- 2. El Campo Leader-News:** "Make Lemonade" by Meredith Bard – Great shot. Love the drive-up service! "Rodeo" by Jay Strasner – Great capture of expression.
- 3. Copperas Cove Leader-Press:** "Pink and Pancakes" by Azeita Taylor – The irony of a 5-year-old wanting to "Save the TaTas!" made this photo compelling. "Shattered Dreams" by Azeita Taylor – Gruesome. I hope they got the message. This is probably what all the other readers thought.
- 4. The Perryton Herald:** "Divers" by Gene Riley – Refreshing fun! "Mr. and Miss PHS" by Gene Riley – Confused ...

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post

- 1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post:** "Pow-wow Wonderment" by Lisa Treiber-Walter – Great photo. Shows his pride in his heritage! "True Grit" by Lisa Treiber-Walter – Good eye for a great shot – increase shutter speed to stop all the actions.
- 2. The Cleveland Advocate:** "Beating the Heat" by Jason Fochtman – Love this photo. Very close second place. "Halloween" by Jason Fochtman – Great job capturing the expression.
- 3. The Rockdale Reporter:** "Play Ball" by Mike Brown – This shot really shows their frustration. "Everything but cannons" by Mike Brown – Reader misses the irony of the cutline. Shot is too busy to be a feature shot.
- 4. Port Aransas South Jetty:** "What kind of fish is that?" by Leslie Willey Jr. – Priceless! "Carrying on" by Dan Parker – Great shot of kids and teamwork!

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### FRIO-NUECES Current

- 1. Frio-Nueces Current, Pearsall:** "Hog tied" by Marc Robertson – Photographer has a great eye for a good shot. "Finest hour ..." by Dean Smith – Love the teamwork in this photo – really tells a story.
- 2. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** "Unicycle underdogs" by Wes Ferguson – Great shot! I hope they didn't land on you! "Wiener by a nose" by Jen Biundo – Fabulous kicker – "Wiener by a nose" – love seeing the dogs leaping in the air.
- 3. The Smithville Times:** "Scary Saturday Stroll" by Denis McGinness – This photo frightened me, too! "Cool Smile" by Denis McGinness – Sweet treat of a photo.
- 4. The Ellis County Press, Ferris:** "God Bless America" by Megan Gray – Moving photo. "Butterflies and a Candy Corn Queen" by Megan Gray – Way to spot a shot.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### IOWA PARK LEADER

- 1. Iowa Park Leader:** "Spring Break 2011" by Kevin Hamilton – Fabulous use of a fabulous photo! Great job! "Gone fishing" by Kevin Hamilton – Great use of lighting.
- 2. The Springtown Epigraph:** "One Up, One Down" by Mark Campbell – Fabulous capture of expression. "Smoky Sunset" by Mark Campbell – Difficult capture and even more difficult to reproduce on newspaper. Great job.
- 3. The Community News, Aledo:** "Let Freedom Ring" by Randy Keck – Great photo – captures this veteran's joy! "And the winner is ..." by Randy Keck – Again, great job capturing the moment!
- 4. Irving Rambler:** "Floating dragons" by John Starkey – Interesting photo. Great colors. "Rocky Horror" by John Starkey – Wrong photo chosen! Photo of Dr. Frank-N-Furter is so much more compelling!

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### THE CLARENDON ☆ Enterprise

- 1. The Clarendon Enterprise:** "Splish splash!" by Roger Estlack – Delightful photo! Many of us in the South are all trying to find ways to beat the heat! "National Day of Prayer" by Roger Estlack – This photo speaks volumes as these elderly pray for our nation!
- 2. Cooper Review:** "Firemen" by Cindy Roller – This is the shot we all want! "Wheels" by Jim Butler – I wish I could have seen them "rolling!"
- 3. Deport Times-Blossom Times:** "Minute to win it!" by Liz Irwin – Great photo – should have run dominant. Too many photos on the front page can take away from an excellent pic. "In Memory and Honor" by Liz Irwin – This picture speaks a thousand words. Again, should have run dominant.
- 4. The Sachse News:** "Fiddlin' with the violin" by Patty Montagno – Way to capture the interest this child had. "Sachse Historical Museum" by Patty Montagno – Love the gun statue!

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### Alvarado★Star

- 1. Alvarado Star:** "Pumpkin Parade" by Tommy Brown – Great job capturing the energy and excitement this photo represents – by far the best feature photo in your division. "Giant gourd" by Candy McMichen – Kids and gourds – what's not to love?
- 2. Joshua Star:** "Splish, Splash" by Brian Porter – This photo reminds us how water fun is great for all ages! "Bo Peep" by Brian Porter – Wolf in sheep's clothing? This gal should have won an award for ingenuity!
- 3. The Big Lake Wildcat:** "Seamstress" by J.L. Mankin – This photo tells me she's been working with leather a long time! "Welcome home" by J.L. Mankin – Can't get enough of these photos!
- 4. Wallis News-Review:** "Marching band" by Johnny Griffin – Love the expressions and cutline. "Veteran's Day" by Johnny Griffin – Very moving!



# NewsPhotos

## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

### The Daily Sentinel

**1. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches:** "Life savers" by Andrew Brosig – Beautiful, emotional pic. Great composition. "Vehicle crash" by Andrew Brosig – Great composition/centerline. Great pics! This was the toughest division!

**2. New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung:** "The River Wild" by Laura McKenzie – Great symmetry. "Ban Stands" by Shawn Lewis – Great emotion. Good composition. Great pics! This was the toughest division! Good use of headlines.

**3. Odessa American:** "In Need of Assistance" by Heather Leiphart – Very sad. Evokes emotion. Good pic. "Wind whips up wildfires" by Albert Cesare – Raw emotion. Wonderful pic. Great pics! This was the toughest division.

**4. Victoria Advocate:** "4 Children Dead" by Todd Krainin – Wonderful photo. Great emotion, composition and light. "Two men injured ..." by Angeli Wright – Good composition. Great pics! This was the toughest division.

## Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

### Athens Daily Review

**1. Athens Daily Review:** "Henderson County wildfires!" by Lange Svehlak – Nice composition – foreground interesting as well as background. "Time of closure" by Jeff Riggs – Good composition.

**2. Jacksonville Daily Progress:** "Dangling worker" by Faith Harper – Great action (or lack thereof)! "Sunday wreck" by Janet Gregg – Tragic reality.

**3. Waxahachie Daily Light:** "Some gave all" by Chad Wilson – Touching. "After the fire" by JoAnn Livingston – Nice way to show town/fire area – good view. Don't like the headline on photo.

**4. Taylor Daily Press:** "Plane" by Mike Eddleman – Nice action. "Truck overturned" by Erin Green – Good composition. Would like to see larger.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN

**1. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** "Service set in stone" by Andy Sharp – Good composition. Tells of old veteran without showing face. "Morton embraces freedom" by Andrew McLemore – So compelling. Beautiful emotion.

**2. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** "Police save dog" by Gary Kent – Good composition. Shows story of dog/boy/police. "Reflection of service" by Jason Collins – Different way of showing face in reflection.

**3. The Bastrop Advertiser:** "Catastrophic" by Terry Hagerty – Awesome clouds/light. "Teacher of Year" by Eric Betts – Great emotion shown.

**4. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** "Construction worker killed" by Joe Duty – Good composition, color and emotion. "Murder charge" by Joe Duty – Different way of showing scene. Adds an unspoken barrier.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### Breckenridge American

**1. Breckenridge American:** "The Aftermath" by Rob Durham – Good composition. Unique, stark look for aftermath. "Floating Frontier" by Rob Durham – Fun and different look at a common dunking booth at a festival. Both pics are good.

**2. Copperas Cove Leader-Press:** "7-Eleven" by Azeita Taylor – Unique way of capturing news without action. Colorful. "Dismantling trees" by Azeita Taylor – No comments.

**3. Lamesa Press Reporter:** "Hot situation" by Russel Skiles – Good pic. "Overcome by heat" by Russel Skiles – Shows human emotion/relief.

**4. El Campo Leader-News:** "Losing Battle" by Shannon Crabtree – Nice fire photo. Good composition. "Holiday Delight" by Chris Filoteo – Average pic.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### THE SILSBEE BEE

**1. The Silsbee Bee:** "True Love Lost" by Gerry Dickert – Shows sadness of fatalities and emotion of first responders. "Murder in Kountze" by David Lisenby – Excellent capture of facial expressions and emotion of suspect.

**2. Pleasanton Express:** "House fire" by David Wickersham – Good illustration of raging fire and a single firefighter's efforts, which seem futile. "3-vehicle crash" – Good illustration of scene and damage to power line.

**3. The Bandera Bulletin:** "Sonic ride-thru" by Jessica Hawley-Jerome – Interesting perspective and use of light. "SOO-IE!!!" by Jessica Hawley-Jerome – Excellent capture of motion and escaping pig. Entertaining storytelling.

**4. Port Aransas South Jetty:** "Sand scenes" by Dan Parker – Humorous composition and expression on artist's face. "Relay For Life" by Dan Parker – No comments.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### Hays Free Press

**1. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** "Agony of defeat" by Cyndy Slovak-Barton – Excellent depiction of emotion and interaction between teammates. "Marine death" by Sean Kimmons – Excellent capture of sorrow for family with haunting photo of dead marine in casket.

**2. The Smithville Times:** "Welcome Home, Folks!"

by Denis McGinness – Excellent capture of family members' reaction and excitement of crowd. "Fundraiser for firefighters" by Denis McGinness – Nice colors/silhouettes of firefighters in motion wearing gear.

**3. The Navasota Examiner:** "Back in time" by Rosemary Smith – Interesting composition with large clock tower in foreground and tiny workers in background. Also shows progress of project. "Courtroom" by Rosemary Smith – Good capture of expression by the victim's father – composition difficult to achieve in courtroom.

**4. The Pittsburg Gazette:** "Child endangerment" by Susan Taft – Good composition shows police/police tape, as well as yard with toys and a baby stroller. "Fire" by Kim Cox – Depicts movement of firefighter in precarious situation, standing on a burning roof.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### Meridian Tribune

**1. Meridian Tribune:** "Fire/family" by Simone Wichers – Excellent capture of emotion and intensity of the moment. It's a shame this photo did not run larger on the page! "Memorial Library" by Simone Wichers – Photo illustrates work being done on library but is not clear on what is happening. Good incorporation of elements of construction: man with hard hat, scaffold, etc.

**2. Iowa Park Leader:** "Dangerous dry" by Kevin Hamilton – Interesting incorporation of local issue with masthead. Keeps focus on citizens affected. "Robertson/Langen" by Kevin Hamilton – Good depiction of boys' achievements and feeling of pride. Extra-large layout suggests larger than life, which may be a bit overblown for an academic event.

**3. The Community News, Aledo:** "Grand Opening" by Randy Keck – Captures anticipation in students' faces. "Together Again" by Katie Martinez – Heartwarming capture of father and son being reunited.

**4. Refugio County Press:** "Procession" by Kenda Nelson – Interesting incorporation of photo with masthead, but photo appears out of focus. "Lost pet" by Kenda Nelson – Powerful emotion on boy's face. Nice use of natural light.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### The Farmersville Times

**1. The Farmersville Times:** "Fire danger" by Wyndi Veigel – Composition is pleasing to the eye. Nice capture of color of sky and billowing smoke; perspective of sky against small person. "Hwy. 78 accident" by Wyndi Veigel – Good timeliness in response to scene, but overall composition lack creativity.

**2. DeLeon Free Press:** "A Hot Week" by Jon Awbrey – Excellent capture of motion. Detail of photo shows muscle of animal. Newsprint does not do the photo justice. "Fire" by Jon Awbrey – Good composition. Mist from water creates additional interest, as does second firefighter required to hold water hose.

Continued on PAGE 22



# NewsPhotos



SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 10

Assistant Fire Chief Robin Collins puts her gloves on as she prepares to apply chemically treated foam to a pit fire last Thursday. J.L. Mankin/The Big Lake Wildcat

Continued from PAGE 21

**3. West Kerr Current, Ingram:** “Holiday festivities” by Irene Van Winkle – Festive photo depicts holiday season. Overall composition lacks creativity, but good use of motion in children’s feet. “Connected!” by Irene Van Winkle – Interesting perspective and illustration of work being done.

**4. The Clarendon Enterprise:** “Those who served” by Kari Lindsey – Depicts patriotic event and solemn tone. “Fire-fighters/heat” by Anndria Newhouse – Nice capture of apparent heat of day, as evidenced by wiping face, red skin and sweaty shirts.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### THE ELDORADO SUCCESS

**1. The Eldorado Success:** “Fuentes fire” by Kathy Mankin – Great color. Nice silhouettes create interest. “Wreck” by Kathy Mankin – Good illustration of procedure of scene with deputy with notebook interviewing the driver.

**2. The Big Lake Wildcat:** “Fire” by J.L. Mankin – Great

composition and capture of Collins’ preparation. “Blood drive” by J.L. Mankin – Good contrast of facial expressions.

**3. Wallis News-Review:** “Grass fires” by Johnny Griffin – Good composition and use of foreground/background subjects. Water mist creates interest. “Utility truck” by Johnny Griffin – View of law enforcement behind truck gives good perspective in addition to damage the collision caused.

**4. The Flatonia Argus:** “FVFD training” by Celeste Quintero – Good composition and illustration of scene. A closer shot would have shown more faces. “TXDOT installs cameras” by Celeste Quintero – Nice perspective of building and contrast of large vehicle against small worker.



# NewsPhotos



## SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 8

Jerry Gilbert checks a dry stock tank Tuesday on his land north of Iowa Park. Of 10 tanks on his property, nine are dried up. Days before, he extracted two cows from this tank after they became mired neck-deep in mud. Kevin Hamilton/Iowa Park Leader



## THIRD PLACE, DIVISION 4

The wildfire that started on Sunday in Circle D Estates is seen at Cardinal Lane and Texas 21 on Sunday afternoon. County residents and emergency responders have spent days and nights since then coping with the ongoing destruction. Help has poured in from around the state and county. Most of this issue of The Advertiser is devoted to coverage of the fire.



# PageDesign

## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 or More

### ☆ GALVESTON COUNTY ☆ THE DAILY NEWS

1. **The Galveston County Daily News:** Each page features a unique design/graphic – no retread style.
2. **The Lufkin Daily News:** Good use of art and bold headlines.
3. **Midland Reporter-Telegram:** Gutsy move with that cartoon. Good use of design elements, especially in sports.
4. **The Kerrville Daily Times:** A lot of information is offered in those graphics.

## Division 3 Dailies 7,000 or Less

### BROWNWOOD Bulletin

1. **Brownwood Bulletin:** Good inclusion of varied design elements.
2. **Mineral Wells Index:** Interesting use of typography.
3. **Taylor Daily Press:** Strong photography.
4. **Waxahachie Daily Light:** Bold graphics/type.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### WILLIAMSON COUNTY THE SUN

1. **The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** Clean, simple and easy to read.
2. **Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** Bold design.
3. **Uvalde Leader-News:** Progressive front.
4. **The Highlander, Marble Falls:** Photo content lacking.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### KILGORE NEWS HERALD

1. **Kilgore News Herald:** Graphics/design features used well – breaks up page.
2. **Round Rock Leader:** Clean design. Good use of graphics.
3. **Copperas Cove Leader-Press:** Good graphics.
4. **The Bowie News:** Interesting design.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### THE RIVER CITIES SUNDAY TRIBUNE

1. **The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls:** Clean, varied design. Great photos.
2. **Park Cities People, Dallas:** Beautiful front.
3. **The Wylie News:** Good use of art/photos.
4. **Wilson County News, Floresville:** Interesting use of photos on front.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### Westlake Picayune

1. **Westlake Picayune, Austin:** Really interesting graphics with sports.
2. **Hays Free Press, Kyle:** Well-organized content.
3. **The Clifton Record:** Good use of graphics to break up page.
4. **Mission Progress Times:** Well-designed images.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### IOWA PARK LEADER

1. **Iowa Park Leader:** Some photos bleed into outlines.
2. **Alpine Avalanche:** Really good color.
3. **The Anahuac Progress:** Ruthlessly clean page.
4. **Refugio County Press:** Easy to read. Varied use of fonts.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### THE SACHSE NEWS

1. **The Sachse News:** Well organized and easy to read through.
2. **The Albany News:** Good use of graphics.
3. **The Jasper Newsboy:** Good use of text/typography/design elements.
4. **Mart Messenger:** Good use of graphics.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### Murphy Monitor

1. **Murphy Monitor:** Creative design and good use of art.
2. **Alvarado Star:** Supplemental graphics used pretty well.
3. **Red Oak Record:** Well shot/printed photos.
4. **The Liberty Hill Independent:** Clean, thoughtful layout.

## NO ARRESTS, Continued from PAGE 13

if I have to.”

### ‘I need a conviction’

For Chief Dave Shows, who was dispatched to the scene 20 years ago, Vidor’s only unsolved killing is a nagging presence, like a smudge on a pair of sunglasses. He wants the case solved. He wants the signs down. He wants James, who turned 80 this year, to find peace. But there are snags – no witnesses, for instance. “There’s elements to this offense that are missing,” Shows says vaguely. The department has “persons of interest,” he says, but the trouble is finding evidence to produce in court, proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Since it’s an ongoing investigation, records from the department remain sealed, even to the Fultons. James keeps six boxes of paperwork and tape recordings from his investigations. He estimates he’s spent about \$150,000 trying to find an answer. The girls moved to Alabama with Steve shortly after Kathy’s death. Monica, the younger of the two, died earlier this year at 27 from an accidental overdose, Erin said. “My mother was a person who really struggled in her life

and when she died, I feel like that turmoil really passed on to (Monica),” Erin said.

Steve is said to live somewhere on the outskirts of Houston. The Enterprise unsuccessfully tried two recent listings found in a records check. One message wasn’t returned. The man who answered a cell phone call said it was a wrong number.

“He’s running the streets right today,” Kathy’s father said last week, shuffling through boxes of newspaper clippings and old photos. “I need a conviction.”

### Justice delayed

Family members have different theories on what led to Kathy’s death.

Erin believes Kathy might have been killed by someone she dated or met at the Hoffbrau. She thinks her mom could have been doing drugs, and maybe the killer was someone who ran with that crowd.

“I think it had to do with probably her putting someone off and then for him to turn around and find out,” she says. “The last time she was seen was 2 a.m. leaving a hotel with a man. I’m sure immediately after that she was confronted.”

To this day, James Fulton believes three things: Kathy was

choked to death while being raped; her husband is responsible; and the Vidor Police Department did not conduct an effective investigation.

“If it would have been anywhere else, it would have been solved,” he says.

It’s a charge Shows and former detective Ray Moseley deny. The case was handled professionally, they say, and they still hope to close it.

“Justice delayed is better than no justice at all,” Shows says.

“We did everything we could do at that time,” Moseley says. “We spent night and day on that thing for several months.”

Could things have been done differently?

“I don’t want to go there,” Moseley says.

Erin, now the mother of two, doesn’t think her mother’s killer will ever be named. She said years after the crime, someone with the police told her they had been unsuccessful because they were inexperienced.

She’s realistic. She’s trying to let it all go. The damage is done, and knowing who did it won’t fix anything.

Besides, it was never about finding an answer. It was waking up one morning and not finding her mom. Kathy never came home.



# PageDesign

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10





# Column Writing

COLUMN WRITING, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10

## THE DIGNITY OF HARD WORK

BY BRAD STUTZMAN  
Pflugerville Pflag

Everybody ought to have my late friend Louie Wear's work ethic.

For the 20 or so years I knew him, as his tenant and his friend, Louie was a man who knew how to think on his feet. Even if thinking on his feet meant he was planning out his next project – as happened in his later years – while seated in a wheelchair.

He'd lost part of one leg years before, but that didn't stop Louie from swinging a hammer or dragging a paintbrush.

"Don't ever give up," he used to tell me, though of course there must have been times when he was saying this, aloud, to rally his own flagging spirits. "Once you quit tryin', you're through."

Louie had been raised for farming and ranching. But – as he told it, decades after the fact – you can't irrigate with your own sweat. Neither can you will the crops to grow.

Texas' epic drought of the 1950s, followed by a daughter being struck with polio, drove Louie out of full-time farming – although he was never without a vegetable garden and rarely without a couple of hogs around the old Andice homestead.

He took what work he could find and he worked – as he put it so well – "from can till can't."

At different times, Louie might have been driving a water truck for the highway department or running a beer joint. Always, he kept a hand in carpentry.

No honest work was beneath him and – John Wayne fan that he was – Louie would be proud to know he reminds me of a movie character Duke Wayne once played.

In the Western/comedy "McLintock," the ranch baron Wayne plays is forced to defend himself after a young whipper-

snapper he's hired takes a swing at him.

The younger man – from a newly arrived family of down-on-their-luck sodbusters – has swallowed his pride to practically beg for work. He has a widowed mother and younger siblings to support.

But he is embarrassed by his circumstances and fisticuffs ensue. The kid ends up knocked to the ground and then dusting off the seat of his pants.

"I don't know what got into me," the young man says. "I suppose I ought to thank you for giving me a job."

"Listen, sonny," Duke replies. "I don't give jobs. I hire men. You put in a fair day's work and I pay you a fair day's wages. That way, we can both keep our heads up."

That cinematic exchange – that line of dialogue ("I don't give jobs. I hire men.") has stayed with me over the years.

I think about it at this time of year, around Labor Day, but it's never really far from my consciousness.

For several years now, there's been a lot of talk about how foreign-born workers are coming to the United States and accepting jobs home-grown Americans are no longer willing to do – mowing lawns, digging ditches, plucking chickens and the like.

It's not that Americans have gotten lazy. That's not quite the right word to describe it.

It's about a change in values I have seen during my lifetime, as "menial job" has gone from being a contradiction in terms to a compound noun.

Two tragedies have unfolded here: It's about some of us thinking we're too good to get our hands dirty. And it's about some of us having no respect for people who do get their hands dirty.

About 10 years go, I was telling a family member who'd just turned 16

that I saw a certain grocery store was hiring overnight shelf stockers for \$10 an hour.

The boy had his driver's license. And he had access to a vehicle. But he also had an attitude.

So when I told him about the job, he rolled his eyes, and then I wanted to ring his neck.

One skates on thin ice, chastising the children of family members, but now – looking back – I regret that I held my tongue.

I regret I did not say what I was thinking. Which was: "Watch it, boy. I've done that work for half the wages and I've done it as a grown man."

I came across another example of this contempt for manual labor – this shift in our cultural values regarding work – during a Round Rock school board meeting I covered in the 1990s.

A guest speaker was addressing the school board, trying to sell trustees on the computer-in-every-classroom idea.

Without computer skills, the man said, high school graduates wouldn't be able to find any jobs, "except in construction."

"Why you arrogant offspring of a female dog," I thought. "Who are you going to get to build your house? A philosophy major?"

Back then – just before hooking up with the Leader – I'd been working in the low-skill end of the construction trade: hauling roofing shingles up a ladder here, tearing down an old shack there, filling sand bags for concrete foundation work somewhere else.

Sure, I had prior training and experience for the work I do now. But I was between newspaper gigs then. And besides, I wasn't born with a pen and notebook in my hands. I've had to work other jobs, until opportunities to prove myself as a writer presented themselves.

Although it is statistically true, that most people end up in the same economic class they were born into and grew up in, there is so much anecdotal evidence to the contrary that no one should ever give up the hope of making a better life.

Although some people will – for a variety of reasons – always have low-paying jobs, most people can improve their condition, either from within their own line of work or by moving to another line of work.

Sometimes these transitions are the link between one generation and the next. The Irish-American template comes to mind. The first generation off the boat dug ditches. Subsequent generations produced cops, priests, lawyers, judges and political leaders.

I presume the same pattern of progression will hold true for our modern-day Mexican immigrants.

A brief digression: The Spanish-speaking gentleman who cleans this office – when we are both here after 5 p.m. every Friday – recently told me he just became an American citizen. I am bursting with pride for him.

Sweaty, dirty, low-paying honest work still has dignity. Because the men and women who perform these jobs are human beings and so they – inherently – are born with a dignity others can neither add to nor detract from.

The way I was raised – the way a lot of people were raised – you don't measure a man or woman by the size of their bank account. Every honest, hard-working person deserves respect for what they do.

I am not sure that we – as an American people – really believe in that anymore.

And that's a shame.

Because Louie Wear and the Duke had it right.

Division 2  
Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

CORPUS CHRISTI  
Caller Times

1. **Corpus Christi Caller-Times:** "End of paddle" by Tom Whitehurst Jr. – This strongly makes its case against excessive punishment. I feel for the school official's children, as well. "Political" by Tom Whitehurst Jr. – Not as personal as the other column, but interesting.

2. **The Galveston County Daily News:** "A debt of grati-

tude" by Heber Taylor – I love the kind of stories/columns that exemplify what is special about some journalists. This falls into that category. "Notion" by Heber Taylor – Brave stand – One more of us should be taking up.

3. **Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** "Half-dugout" by Ray Westbrook – Both remembrances well told in a way that doesn't make the stories feel dated or make me feel old. "Don Garnett" by Ray Westbrook – Ironic that both columns begin with: "When - - was 12..."

4. **Midland Reporter-Telegram:** "Goin' to hell" by Shanna Sissom – Nice job capturing the end of a long dry spell. "Bin Laden" by Shanna Sissom – I didn't connect as personally with this one as with the drought-ending rain column.

Division 3  
Dailies Less Than 7,000

HERALD BANNER

1. **Greenville Herald-Banner:** "Life of dignity" by Carol Ferguson – Glad you were able to share this man's story. "Two days" – I learned something new here!

2. **Taylor Daily Press:** "Zodiac" by Mike Eddleman – Nice tongue-in-cheek piece. "Newspaper" by Mike Eddleman –



# Column Writing

Never let the public take what we do for granted.

**3. Athens Daily Review:** “Close to home” by Rich Flowers – The subject of too few brain cells does hit close to home for many of us. “Memories” by Rich Flowers – You had me at Mr. Magoo.

**4. Athens Daily Review:** “Closure” by Jeff Riggs – Good subject, but didn’t quite connect as personally as it might have. “Homecoming queen” by Jeff Riggs – This one established a more personal connection.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### HOOD COUNTY NEWS

- 1. Hood County News, Granbury:** “God” by Kathy Cruz – Clever handling of a politically sensitive topic. “Class of 2011” by Kathy Cruz – Good advice dispensed with humor.
- 2. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** “Assimilation” by Bill Clough – No comments. “Mares’ tails” by Bill Clough – Shocker at end of column.
- 3. Levelland & Hockley County News-Press:** “Marfa” by Stephen Henry – No comments. “Keys” by Stephen Henry – No comments.
- 4. Boerne Star:** “Spanking” by Elena Tucker – Sensitive handling of topic that never disappears – to spank or not to spank.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### Round Rock Leader

- 1. Round Rock Leader:** “The truth, elusive” by Brad Stutzman – Finally, personal columns about something (other than the writer). Easily the best in category. Excellent piece of journalism coupled with poignant commentary. “The only question” by Brad Stutzman – Obviously an editor that is in touch with the beats the newspaper covers.
- 2. Moore County News-Press, Dumas:** “...Honor a hero” by Michael Wright – Nice treatment of a happening of local significance and nice to read a columnist who writes about something other than himself. “Mission accomplished” by Michael Wright – Prefer local subject matter, but well written.
- 3. Round Rock Leader:** “Time for Armstrong” by Jon Garrett – Difficult for sports column to place in this category, but quality writing that is not self-absorbed. Would prefer local subject matter. “All Penn State” by Jon Garrett – Nice approach.
- 4. The Perryton Herald:** “We told you so” by Jim Hudson – Great job of writing about relevant issues rather than personal meanderings. “Long weekend” by Jim Hudson – Not as strong as other entry.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### THE Azle News

- 1. The Azle News:** “Chronicling one life” by Mark K. Campbell – Clear winner in this category (both columns). Great sense of humor and essay style. “Highway” by Mark K. Campbell – Beautiful. So sad. So well done. Can’t believe you ever had a career in anything but writing.

**2. The Rockdale Reporter:** “Traffic ticket” by Bill Martin – Nice sense of humor, essay writing style. “Fathers’ Day” by Bill Martin – Poignant but funny.

**3. Citizens’ Advocate, Coppel:** “Baseball” by Jean Murph – I worry when you have to announce in the lead that your subject is tongue-in-cheek. It should speak for itself. “Stripping” by Jean Murph – Hilarious lede on this one.

**4. The Wylie News:** “Electronics” by Judy Truesdell – Nice role-reversal piece. “See better” by Judy Truesdell – Made me smile. I always liked seeing Christmas lights with my “blurry” eyes.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### Hays Free Press

- 1. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** “Attack of the Tightly Righties” by Brenda Stewart – Good writing, entertaining. I love your fearlessness in putting your thoughts out there. “Religious animal” by Brenda Stewart – See above.
- 2. Frio-Nueces Current, Pearsall:** “Make quiche” by Marc Robertson – A very close second place here. Hard to decide between it and the first-place winner. Loved the “guy”, tenderness of this column. “Bendy bits” by Marc Robertson – Fun subject for anyone who has tackled DIY plumbing -- and those who haven’t.
- 3. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** “Pool” by Clint Younts – Best sense of humor in the bunch! “Summertime” by Clint Younts – No comments.
- 4. Lake Travis View, Lakeway:** “On the move” by Charles McClure – Nice way to personalize the trials of the biz. “Thermerstrook” by Charles McClure – A little harder for me to connect to...may be a regional thing.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### THE Springtown Epigraph

- 1. The Springtown Epigraph:** “Jump off the train” by Bob Buckel – No comments. “The Web” by Bob Buckel – No comments.
- 2. Meridian Tribune:** “The Hunter Within” by Brett Voss – Nicely descriptive and excellent defense of hunting. “Using our head” by Brett Voss – Well-researched piece about an issue that athletes and parents still don’t take seriously.
- 3. Glen Rose Reporter:** “Correction” by Kathryn Jones – A very transparent, candid look at a newspaper’s editorial side. Lots of anecdotes that were telling and excuses offered. “Jack Kilby” by Kathryn Jones – Great piece about a cutting-edge guy told at a time when all attention is on Jobs. Great timing for a really good read, giving Kilby his due.
- 4. Refugio County Press:** “LZ Joe” by Kenda Nelson – Good topic and heartfelt, but more observation instead of quotes would have made it better. “Painful farewell” by Kenda Nelson – A great, albeit sad story about a beloved dog, two cuts above the typical pet column.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### Deport Times BLOSSOM TIMES

- 1. Deport Times-Blossom Times:** “Hubby” by Cindy Baker Burnett – Very descriptive and great use of language. Very carefully written and shows she paid close attention (even if not good for hubby). “Mama a work of art” by Cindy Baker Burnett – Her columns read “quickly” – very smooth, humorous and poignant. Nice touch.
- 2. Muleshoe Journal:** “Tell-tale cup” by Larry Thornton – The Edgar Allan Poe reference perfect for this “mystery”. Says a lot in a few words. “Pastry Party” by Larry Thornton – Great sense of humor.
- 3. The Albany News:** “Alamo Tour” by Kathryn Stapp – Column starts strong and stays pedal-to-the-metal. Great storytelling. “Jesus is coming” by Kathryn Stapp – The best-written retrospective on Camping’s misfire I have read. Funny and original, and I love the headline.
- 4. DeLeon Free Press:** “I have a dog” by Jon Awbrey – Personal columns about dogs are a dime a dozen, but this one truly was funny. No punches pulled in telling about this dog does. “Texas Independence” by Jon Awbrey – Very informed, well-researched (and deserved) take on Texas Monthly’s PC take on a state history. Refreshing.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

### PFPLUGERVILLE PFLAG

- 1. Pflugerville Pflag:** “Thanksgiving” by Brad Stutzman – One of the best personal columns I have read in years, regardless of newspaper division. A wonderful, revealing look at decades of family get-togethers. Very effectively written. “Louie” by Brad Stutzman – A powerful endorsement of old-school work ethic that hammers the point home with plenty of humor that is fresh and original.
- 2. Anna-Melissa Tribune:** “First 5 decades” by Rodney Hays – Hays takes a fairly common theme – aging as it relates to health – and makes it fresh, funny and cautionary all at once. He makes both “good” and “bad” sound true. “Gabardine” by Rodney Hays – Now I know what “gabardine” is thanks to this undeniably manly yet insightful look at fashion. My wife keeps suggesting I consider buying some clothes at a thrift store, and now Hays has talked me into it.
- 3. The Bay Area Citizen, Houston:** “It’s beer” by Dana Guthrie – Guthrie takes a niche industry and makes a terrific opinion piece about it, offering a nifty by-the-numbers examination of how state laws work when it comes to minutiae. “TCEQ” by Dana Guthrie – I am not an environmentalist per se, but Guthrie makes a compelling, well-researched case for citizens to know what the heck is going on with their water supply and usage.
- 4. The Liberty Hill Independent:** “Girlfriend Day” by Renee Morgan – Before I started reading this, my first thought was “Great, a column about food. ZZZZ...” Instead, I got a delightful, anecdotal and fun look at what turned out to be a day not to be forgotten. Felt like I was there with her and her pal. “Meal good to go” by Renee Morgan – What a great way to offer another take on scouting and outdoor cooking. Morgan is funny in her own original way and I love her ability to improvise when it comes to food prep. Yes, this is a food column by a food expert, but it’s really a column more about people than what we eat.



# SportsPhotos



THIRD PLACE, DIVISION 6

HOT PURSUIT -- A couple of Woodville Eagles chase down a Hardin Hornets runner on the way to an Eagles 42-14 win over the Hornets at the Eagles Homecoming game Friday night. The Eagles had to make some quick adjustments to the Hornets changed offense. Jim Powers/Tyler County Booster.

Division **2**  
Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

## The Daily Sentinel

**1. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches:** "Baseball" and "Softball" by Andrew Brosig – Both photos were strong jubilation and winning moments. Good display helped.

**2. The Facts, Clute:** "Football" by Holly Parker – We really liked the peak action. We asked why this wasn't the dominant image on page. "Track" by Ryan Evon – Composition and shooting as a silhouette made for a dynamic image.

**3. Victoria Advocate:** "Heartbreaker" by Frank

Tilley – Very strong image, played well. Nice change of pace. "Football" by Angeli Wright – Good job of a receiver catching a ball. Daylight helped.

**4. The Galveston County Daily News:** "Volleyball" by Kevin Cox – Good emotion! "Soccer" by Kevin Cox – Compelling photo with emotion, team support and excitement.

Division **3**  
Dailies Less Than 7,000

Athens  
Daily  Review

**1. Athens Daily Review:** "On sidekick" by

Mickey Garcia – Good action of the "scrum" of the field. "Goal post dive" by Mickey Garcia – Nice action of the player diving for the goal line.

**2. Greenville Herald-Banner:** "Track/field" by David Claybourn – Nice emotion. "B-ball" by David Claybourn – Solid action, good technique.

**3. Seguin Gazette-Enterprise:** "Track" by Felicia Frazar – Peak emotion as he crossed finish line. "Basketball" by Felicia Frazar – No comments.

**4. Waxahachie Daily Light:** "Baseball" by Chad Wilson – Interesting composition. "Football" by Neal White – We liked the football player being

Continued on **PAGE 32**



# SportsPhotos



## CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

### SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 2

Brazoswood junior Mitchell Schuster practices the pole vault May 6 at Slade Field. Schuster is headed to state competition in Austin for his first year in the pole vault. Ryan Evon/The Facts.

### THIRD PLACE, DIVISION 4

The action was as hot as the temperature at the third annual Fayette County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo held over the weekend in La Grange. Arkansas Cover Girl, the IROC Rodeo Horse that had never been ridden in 20 years, was in fact ridden by La Grange's David Smith Saturday night. In addition to three nights of rodeo performances, the weekend of activities also included a downtown parade and nightly live music at the rodeo arena in Highway 609. Tom Wood/The Fayette County Record

### FOURTH PLACE, DIVISION 2

Clear Falls' Rebecca Watson, Alyssa Enneking and Morgan St. Germain celebrate a point in the fifth set during a Class 4A bi-district playoff match against El Campo on Tuesday at Ridge Point High School in Missouri City. Kevin Cox/The Galveston County Daily News.





# SportsCoverage

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



## Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

### Waco Tribune-Herald

- 1. Waco Tribune-Herald:** Great range of coverage for BU-OU game. No high school coverage, but this is a Sunday edition so understandable (11-2). Good range of coverage for May 13 issue – multiple sports and includes high school girls teams, youth sports.
- 2. Midland Reporter-Telegram:** Nice to see coverage of women's teams, both high school and Midland college. Good high school basketball coverage, both men and women.
- 3. Corpus Christi Caller-Times:** June 10 issue – all locally produced copy covers baseball but non-local stories provide a good range of coverage. May 15 coverage includes broader range of sports – baseball, softball, track & field.
- 4. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches:** Good feature on Damion James. Good range of coverage – not all football – stories on softball, outdoors, fishing.

## Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

### BROWNWOOD Bulletin

- 1. Brownwood Bulletin:** Outstanding produc-

tion. Friday Night Fast Forward is an easy category-winner on its own. Daily section looks great, too.

- 2. Waxahachie Daily Light:** Page design stands out. Great job on the stadium story.
- 3. Greenville Herald-Banner:** Good job on your gamers. Looks like you didn't miss a thing.
- 4. Athens Daily Review:** Like the writing styles on gamers. Good job on Budke-Serna story.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

- 1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** No comments.
- 2. Uvalde Leader-News:** No comments.
- 3. The Bastrop Advertiser:** No comments.
- 4. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** Writing is clear and pictures are crisp.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### Round Rock Leader

- 1. Round Rock Leader:** Ben Johnson page design looks great! Good writing, decent photography.
- 2. Kilgore News Herald:** Good photography

and Mitch Lucas' columns make these pages standouts.

- 3. El Campo Leader-News:** Well-written, quality coverage.
- 4. The Bowie News:** Good, thorough job of coverage.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### Park Cities People

- 1. Park Cities People, Dallas:** Just an excellent, thorough job.
- 2. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls:** Good writing, good layout. Love the 8/14 front, including roller derby story, and boldfacing names in outlines.
- 3. Hondo Anvil Herald:** Photography stands out, writing also top notch.
- 4. The Rockdale Reporter:** Writing, coverage well done. Great headline on Hayes story. Bill Martin's columns stand out.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### Westlake Picayune

- 1. Westlake Picayune, Austin:** Top-notch section. Good, to-the-point writing. Photos are

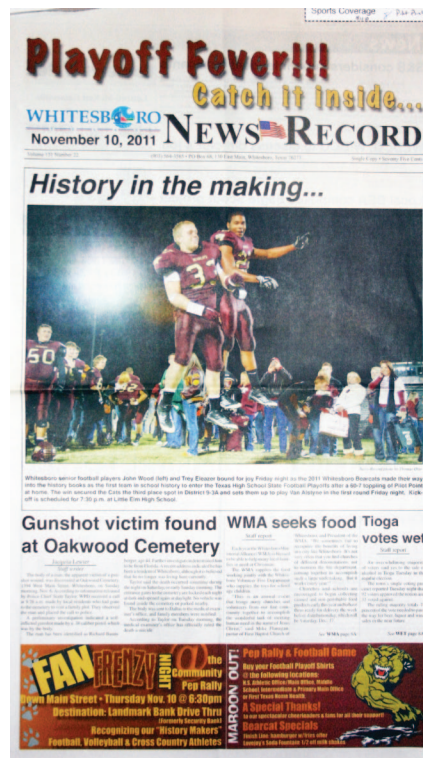


# SportsCoverage

## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10



## FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



- excellent.
- 2. Lake Travis View, Lakeway:** Max Thompson's writing is outstanding. Good photography. Like the Jernberg story (5/26). Good job on Cavalier game day.
  - 3. Hill County Community Journal, Kerrville:** Great job on playoff previews. Good section.
  - 4. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** Good, consistent writing. Not flashy but gets the job done. Great effort. Lots of work obviously involved here.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies WHITESBORO NEWS-RECORD

- 1. Whitesboro News-Record:** Good design and pictures that "pop".
- 2. Iowa Park Leader:** Oversized color photos are great!
- 3. San Jacinto News-Times:** Color photos are good. Stories could use more quotes.
- 4. The Springtown Epigraph:** Stories have a good, detailed flow and interesting quotes.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### The Princeton Herald

- 1. The Princeton Herald:** Well-written and

strong photography! Layout is clean and provides lots of material smoothly. The overall sports product gives reader an efficient package that is well-written, concise and thorough.

- 2. The Sachse News:** The use of big art is taken a bit larger than the equipment can clearly handle but the effect is still good. Layout is solid beyond first page and stories are well written for weekly format.
- 3. The Albany News:** Style issues on tourney phrases but writing is still good. Modular style is good but jumping bottom across 3 columns to top is a bit hard on the reader.
- 4. The Farmersville Times:** Good range of coverage, clean layout, headlines work. Writing is sound, leads could be stronger, record treatment looks like filler with variation in usage.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies THE JOURNAL PEARLAND

- 1. The Pearland Journal:** Excellent action shots. Writing is great, especially about the autistic student.
- 2. Murphy Monitor:** Action photos are high quality. Writing is concise.
- 3. Pflugerville Pflag:** Sports photos are very well done. Writing is clear and to the point.
- 4. Joshua Star:** Writing is concise. Photos compliment the stories well.



# SportsPhotos

Continued from PAGE 28

chased by the host of red jerseys.

## Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

### Beeville Bee-Picayune

- 1. Beeville Bee-Picayune:** "Football" by Bruce Harper – Good action – almost comical. "Wrestling" by Bruce Harper – Peak action of wrestler being thrown to the mat. Nice shot.
- 2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** "Silver wings" by Joe Duty – Great emotion as a runner finishes second place. "Stirring up the crowd" by Joe Duty – Good action but could have been cropped tighter.
- 3. The Fayette County Record, La Grange:** "Rodeo" by Tom Wood – Nice action. "Football" by Tom Wood – The image seems a little soft but good action.
- 4. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown:** "Baseball" by Russell Rinn – Nice action/could have been cropped tighter. "Soccer" by Russell Rinn – Nice action.

## Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

### THE PORT LAVACA WAVE

- 1. The Port Lavaca Wave:** "Football" by Kellie Whitaker – Key moment captured by the photographer. "Basketball" by Kellie Whitaker – Strong emotion as the players vie for the ball.
- 2. The Bowie News:** "Rodeo" by Ryan Evans – Strong image as the photographer captured the horse as he tightened up to stop the steer. "Football" by Ryan Evans – No comments.
- 3. The Mabank Monitor:** "Kid baseball" by Kerry Yancey – Good action of two lads at the base. "High school baseball" by Kerry Yancey – The peak action and baseball frozen in mid-air created drama.
- 4. Copperas Cove Leader-Press:** "Football" by Dennis Knowlton and "Basketball" by Allen Fisher – No comments.

## Division 6 Large Weeklies

### THE BANDERA BULLETIN

- 1. The Bandera Bulletin:** "Soccer" by James

Taylor – Great shot, peak action and also got the ball in. "Softball" by James Taylor – Great action. Could have cropped the photo from the left to make a better shot.

- 2. Park Cities People, Dallas:** "Soccer" by Chris McGathery – Great timing in showing the joy of victory. Strong shot. "Football" by Chris McGathery – Again, another shot with great timing.
- 3. Tyler County Booster, Woodville:** "Football" by Jim Powers – Great innovation in using panning to show the speed of the game. "Basketball" by Mitchel McCluskey – Photo needed cropping – need to get tighter on the action.
- 4. The Wylie News:** "Football" by Evan Ghormley – Great shot, great timing in getting the shot. "Baseball" by Shiela Haynes – Good shot, a little soft.

## Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

### Westlake Picayune

- 1. Westlake Picayune, Austin:** "Basketball" by Roy Mata – Good basketball action. "Tennis" by Roy Mata – Interesting tennis shot – not your usual shot. Good composition.
- 2. Hays Free Press, Kyle:** "Football" by Cyndy Slovak-Barton – Peak action at night – tough. Good composition. "Pole vault" by Cyndy Slovak-Barton – We liked the viewpoint this was taken from. Different approach.
- 3. The Cuero Record:** "Football" by Coy Slavik – Good action and composition. "Runners" by Coy Slavik – Love the expressions on the runners.
- 4. The Progress, Three Rivers:** "Football" by Mike Alexieff – Love that the shot includes the quarterback being sacked, plus ball in the frame about to be caught. Interesting shot. "Softball" by Bruce Harper: Girl winding up was okay – could have used more expression.

## Division 8 Medium Weeklies

### WHITESBORO NEWS-RECORD

- 1. Whitesboro News-Record:** "Baseball" by Thomas Otto – Interesting baseball photo as they scrambled for the ball. "Basketball" by Thomas Otto – No comments.
- 2. Eagle Lake Headlight:** "Football pass" by Douglas Beal – Good action as the ball heads

toward receiver's hand. "Track" by Lynda Beal – Good composition.

- 3. The Aransas Pass Progress:** "Football" and "Basketball" by Gregg Sanford – Same comment for both – Both strong, well-composed images. They were published much too small.
- 4. The Dublin Citizen:** "Softball" by Tesha Sojourner – Action was okay, but past the peak moment. "Basketball" by Tesha Sojourner – Should have been cropped to peak action. Good photo.

## Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

### The Sachse News

- 1. The Sachse News:** "Baseball" by Joe Diehl – One of the strongest sports images we saw from any division. "Volleyball" by Joe Diehl – Focus a little off, but effective.
- 2. The Princeton Herald:** "High school baseball" by Victor Tapia – We really liked the reach for the ball at second mid-air. Captured the action. "Softball" by Victor Tapia – Solid, nothing special.
- 3. The Farmersville Times:** "Football" by Victor Tapia – Good action on a pass that was broken up. "Baseball" by Victor Tapia – Solid technical image.
- 4. Tri County Leader, Whitehouse:** "Football" by Jim Jackson – Good action, needed cropping. "Football" by Jim Jackson – Same as above.

## Division 10 Small Weeklies

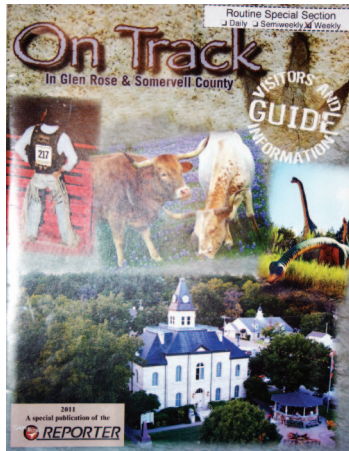
### Murphy Monitor

- 1. Murphy Monitor:** "Rough trip" by Roosevelt Jourbert – Good action and tight crop. "Football touchdown" by Roosevelt Jourbert – Peak action of runner scoring a touchdown. Photographer was in the right place.
- 2. The Liberty Hill Independent:** "Track" by Kathy Canady – Nice expression on the runner's face. It showed her determination. "High jump" by Kathy Canady – Good action/perfect timing.
- 3. Pflugerville Pflag:** "Wrestling" by Dawn Poole – Nice shot on an out-of-position wrestler. "Fumble" by Dawn Poole – This could have been better, but showed emotion after a fumble.
- 4. The Eldorado Success:** "Baseball" by Kathy Mankin – Nice victory/defeat photo. It told the reader who won and who lost. "Portrait of football player" by Kathy Mankin – This photo is very average. It caused the whole entry to be rated lower.



# Special Sections

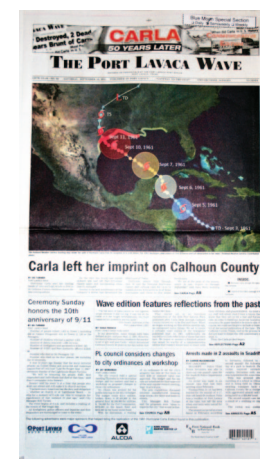
FIRST PLACE, ROUTINE WEEKLY B



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON DAILY



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON SEMIWEEKLY



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON WEEKLY A



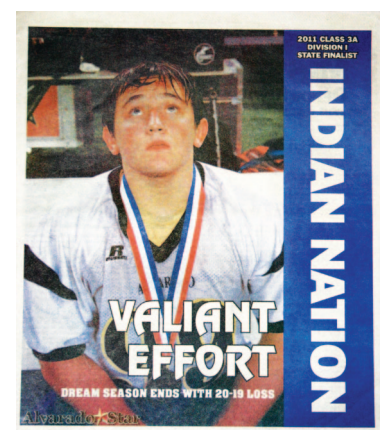
FIRST PLACE, ROUTINE WEEKLY C



FIRST PLACE, ROUTINE WEEKLY A



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON WEEKLY B



Continued from PAGE 3

## Blue Moon Special Sections Daily Division

### Midland Reporter-Telegram

- 1. Midland Reporter-Telegram:** This special section is gripping and ensures that on the anniversary of 9/11 your local heroes won't be forgotten. There were other 9/11 special sections in your division, but yours was about the people in your community who made (and are still making) sacrifices. Well done – and thank you for taking the extra effort.
- 2. The Facts, Clute:** What an amazing journey – to have been a part of this momentous occasion must be an honor. Only complaint is the font chosen is difficult to read—I don't know how the people in this section could possibly read it! Good use of photos and stories. Great job!
- 3. The Vernon Daily Record:** What a great job covering a momentous occasion for these men. This just goes to show you're never too old to do something GREAT!
- 4. Jacksonville Daily Progress:** Fabulous! I was awestruck by this production. The only reason it didn't take first was because this was written for your readers rather than

ABOUT your readers. I'm sure they enjoyed it – but it's not the keepsake editions places 1-3 were. Great job! You're onto something here. Partner with your local chamber(s) to reduce production costs.

## Semiweekly Division

### THE PORT LAVACA WAVE

- 1. The Port Lavaca Wave:** Compelling stories and photos! This commemorative edition is definitely deserving of first place. Congratulations on a job well done.
- 2. Kilgore News Herald:** A close second. This is a great project and one you should partner with your chamber of commerce on!
- 3. Breckenridge American:** Great photos combined with gripping stories make for a great section!
- 4. Wise County Messenger, Decatur:** Great ideas are born out of opportunity – great job!

## Weekly Division A

### Park Cities People

- 1. Park Cities People, Dallas:** Fabulous idea and

excellent job. I don't know the people, but I wanted to read where they were anyway. I loved this!

- 2. The Smithville Times:** Outstanding job.
- 3. Meridian Tribune:** Great way to pay tribute to a banner year. I bet a lot of eyes read this section. Good job!
- 4. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville:** A special section that matters! Great job. Names on outlines would make this better, more complete and probably would not have taken much more effort. A little color would have made this pop more. A feature or two about event, participants, etc. would improve section and more detail on photos would have put this section in top three.

## Weekly Division B

### Alvarado★Star

- 1. Alvarado Star:** No comments.
- 2. The Liberty Hill Independent:** No comments.
- 3. Wallis News-Review:** No comments.
- 4. Muenster Enterprise:** No comments.



# Sweepstakes *Winners*

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
2

☆ GALVESTON COUNTY ☆  
**THE DAILY NEWS**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
3

Athens  
**Daily**  **Review**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
4

**THE**  **SUN**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
5

**Round Rock Leader**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
6

The River Cities  
 **SUNDAY TRIBUNE**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
7

**Hays Free Press**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
8

**IOWA PARK LEADER**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
9

**THE ALBANY NEWS**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Division  
10

**Alvarado**  **Star**



# 2012 Contest Results by Newspaper

## DAILY

### Athens Daily Review

1. Routine Special Section
1. Headline Writing
1. News Photo
1. Sweepstakes
1. Sports Photo
2. Feature Photo
3. Column Writing
4. Column Writing
4. Sports Coverage

### Baytown Sun

4. Advertising
4. Feature Photo

### Beaumont Enterprise

1. General Excellence
1. Feature Story
2. News Writing
4. Sweepstakes

### Brownwood Bulletin

1. Page Design
1. Sports Coverage
2. Advertising
2. Sweepstakes
3. Routine Special Section
3. General Excellence
3. Editorials
3. Feature Photo
4. Headline Writing

### Clute, Facts

2. Blue Moon Special Section
2. Sports Photo

### Corpus Christi Caller-Times

1. Community Service
1. Best Website
1. Column Writing
2. Feature Story
3. Sports Coverage

### Ennis Daily News

2. Editorials

### Galveston County Daily News

1. Editorials
1. Feature Photo
1. Page Design
1. Sweepstakes
2. Column Writing
4. Sports Photo

### Greenville Herald-Banner

1. General Excellence
1. Editorials
1. Column Writing
2. Sports Photo
3. Sports Coverage
3. Sweepstakes

### Jacksonville Daily Progress

1. Feature Story
2. General Excellence
2. News Writing
2. News Photo
4. Blue Moon Special Section
4. Feature Photo
4. Sweepstakes

### Kerrville Daily Times

3. Advertising
3. Best Website
3. Feature Story
4. Headline Writing
4. Page Design

### Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

1. Headline Writing
2. Best Website
3. Column Writing
4. News Writing
4. Editorials

### Lufkin Daily News

2. Page Design
3. Headline Writing

### Midland Reporter-Telegram

1. Blue Moon Special Section
2. Sports Coverage
3. Editorials
3. Page Design
4. General Excellence
4. Column Writing

### Mineral Wells Index

1. News Writing
1. Sports Photo
2. Page Design
3. Headline Writing
4. General Excellence

### Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

1. News Photo
2. General Excellence
2. Headline Writing
2. Sweepstakes
3. Community Service
4. Sports Coverage

### New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

2. Community Service
2. News Photo

### Odessa American

1. Advertising
2. Editorials
3. Feature Photo
3. News Photo

### Paris News

2. Advertising
2. Feature Photo

### Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

1. Feature Photo
3. Advertising
3. Feature Story
3. Sports Photo
4. News Writing

### Taylor Daily Press

2. Routine Special Section
2. Column Writing
3. News Writing
3. Page Design
4. Feature Story
4. Editorials
4. News Photo

### Vernon Daily Record

2. Feature Story
3. Blue Moon Special Section

### Victoria Advocate

1. News Writing
2. Feature Story
3. General Excellence
3. Sports Photo
3. Sweepstakes
4. Community Service
4. Best Website
4. News Photo

### Waco Tribune-Herald

1. Sports Coverage
3. News Writing
4. Routine Special Section

### Waxahachie Daily Light

1. Advertising
2. Headline Writing
2. Sports Coverage
3. News Photo
4. Page Design
4. Sports Photo

## SEMIWEEKLY

### Alice Echo-News Journal

2. General Excellence

### Bastrop Advertiser

1. Community Service
2. Best Website
3. News Photo
3. Sports Coverage

### Bay City Tribune

3. Routine Special Section
4. Feature Story

### Beeville Bee-Picayune

1. Best Website
1. Sports Photo
2. News Photo
2. Column Writing
3. News Writing
3. Editorials
3. Sweepstakes
3. Feature Photo
4. Feature Story

### Boerne Star

4. Column Writing

### Bowie News

2. News Writing
2. Sports Photo
4. Page Design
4. Sports Coverage

### Breckenridge American

1. News Photo
2. Headline Writing
3. Blue Moon Special Section

### Burleson Star

1. Headline Writing
3. Community Service
4. Editorials

### Copperas Cove Leader-Press

2. News Photo
3. Feature Photo
3. Page Design
3. Sweepstakes
4. Advertising
4. Sports Photo

### Decatur, Wise County Messenger

1. Feature Photo
1. Sports Coverage
2. Routine Special Sections
2. General Excellence
2. Sweepstakes
2. Feature Story
2. Page Design
2. Sports Photo
2. Headline Writing
4. Community Service
4. Blue Moon Special Section
4. Best Website
4. Editorials
4. News Photo

### Dumas, Moore County News-Press

1. Advertising
2. Column Writing

### El Campo Leader-News

2. Feature Photo
3. Advertising
3. Sports Coverage
4. News Photo

### Georgetown, Williamson County Sun

1. General Excellence
1. News Writing
1. Sweepstakes
1. Editorials
1. Page Design
1. News Photo
1. Headline Writing
2. Feature Photo
3. Advertising
4. Sports Photo
4. Sports Coverage

### Gonzales Inquirer

1. Routine Special Section
2. Advertising
4. News Writing

### Graham Leader

2. News Writing

### Granbury, Hood County News

1. Feature Story
1. Column Writing
2. Community Service
2. Advertising
3. Headline Writing
4. Routine Special Section
4. General Excellence
4. News Writing
4. Sweepstakes

### Kilgore News Herald

1. General Excellence
1. Feature Story
1. Page Design
2. Blue Moon Special Section
2. Sweepstakes
2. Sports Coverage
4. Headline Writing

### Kingsville Record & Bishop News

3. Headline Writing

### La Grange, Fayette County Record

3. Feature Story
3. Sports Photo
4. Advertising

### Lamesa Press Reporter

3. News Photo

### Lampasas Dispatch Record

2. Editorials
3. Feature Story

### Levelland & Hockley County News-Press

3. Column Writing

### Mabank Monitor

3. Sports Photo

### Marble Falls, Highlander

1. Advertising
3. General Excellence
4. Page Design

### Mexia News

1. Feature Photo
3. News Writing

### Pasadena Citizen

3. Best Website

### Perryton Herald

1. Editorials
4. Feature Photo
4. Column Writing

### Port Lavaca Wave

1. Blue Moon Special Section
1. News Writing
1. Sports Photo
4. Sweepstakes

### Round Rock Leader

1. Column Writing
1. Sports Coverage
1. Sweepstakes
2. Feature Story
2. Page Design
3. Editorials
3. Column Writing
4. General Excellence

### Uvalde Leader-News

2. Editorials
2. Sports Coverage
3. Page Design
4. Headline Writing
4. Feature Photo

### Wharton Journal-Spectator

3. General Excellence

## WEEKLY

### Albany News

1. General Excellence
1. Advertising
1. Sweepstakes
2. Routine Special Section
2. Editorials
2. Page Design
3. Column Writing
3. Sports Coverage

### Aledo, Community News

1. General Excellence
2. Feature Story
3. Routine Special Section
3. Feature Photo
3. News Photo
4. Sweepstakes

### Alpine Avalanche

2. Page Design
4. Feature Story

### Alvarado Star

1. Blue Moon Special Section
1. News Writing
1. Feature Photo
1. Sweepstakes
2. Alvarado Star
2. Page Design
3. General Excellence
3. Editorials

### Anahuac Progress

3. Page Design

### Anna-Melissa Tribune

2. Column Writing

### Anson, Western Observer

3. Editorials

### Aransas Pass Progress

1. Feature Story
3. Sports Photo

### Austin, Westlake Picayune

1. Page Design
1. Sports Coverage
1. Sports Photo
2. Best Website
2. Headline Writing
2. Sweepstakes
4. Editorials

### Azle News

1. General Excellence
1. Column Writing

### Bandera Bulletin

1. Sports Photo
3. News Photo
4. Headline Writing

### Big Lake Wildcat

2. News Photo
3. Headline Writing
3. Feature Photo
4. News Writing

### Big Sandy & Hawkins Journal

1. Feature Story

### Castroville News Bulletin

3. Headline Writing

### Clarendon Enterprise

1. Editorials
1. Feature Photo
4. Routine Special Section
4. News Writing
4. News Photo
4. Sweepstakes

### Cleveland Advocate

2. News Writing
2. Feature Photo

### Clifton Record

2. Routine Special Section
2. Advertising
3. Community Service
3. Page Design

### Cooper Review

2. Editorials
2. Feature Photo

### Coppell, Citizens' Advocate

2. Editorials
3. Column Writing

### Crowly Star

1. News Writing
2. General Excellence
3. Headline Writing
3. Editorials
3. Sweepstakes

### Cuero Record

2. Feature Story
3. Sports Photo
4. News Writing

### Dallas, Park Cities People

1. Blue Moon Special Section
1. Sports Coverage
2. Page Design
2. Sports Photo
3. General Excellence
3. Sweepstakes
4. Routine Special Section

### DeLeon Free Press

2. News Photo
4. Column Writing

### Deport Times-Blossom Times

1. Column Writing
3. Feature Photo
4. Feature Story

### Dublin Citizen

2. Editorials
3. Advertising
4. News Writing
4. Routine Special Section
4. Sports Photo

### Eagle Lake Headlight

2. Sports Photo

### Eldorado Success

1. General Excellence
1. News Photo
3. News Writing
4. Advertising
4. Sports Photo
4. Sweepstakes

### Fairfield, Freestone County Times

1. Advertising
4. Feature Story

### Farmersville Times

1. News Photo
3. Sports Photo
4. Sports Coverage

### Ferris, Ellis County Press

4. Feature Photo

### Flatonía Argus

3. Feature Story
4. News Photo

### Floresville, Wilson County News

4. Page Design

### Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post

1. Feature Story
1. Feature Photo
3. Headline Writing

### Friendswood Journal

2. News Writing
3. Best Website

### Glen Rose Reporter

1. Routine Special Section
1. Headline Writing
3. News Writing
3. Column Writing

### Goldthwaite Eagle

2. Routine Special Section

### Graford, Lake Country Sun

1. Editorials
4. Advertising

### Hamilton Herald-News

4. Feature Story

### Hico News Review

2. Advertising

### Hondo Anvil Herald

3. Sports Coverage

### Houston, Bay Area Citizen

3. Column Writing

### Houston, Jewish Herald-Voice

1. Routine Special Section
4. Community Service

### Ingram, West Kerr Current

1. Routine Special Section
1. Headline Writing
3. News Photo

### Iowa Park Leader

1. Advertising
1. Feature Photo
1. Page Design
1. Sweepstakes
2. News Photo
2. Sports Coverage
4. General Excellence

### Irving Rambler

4. Feature Photo

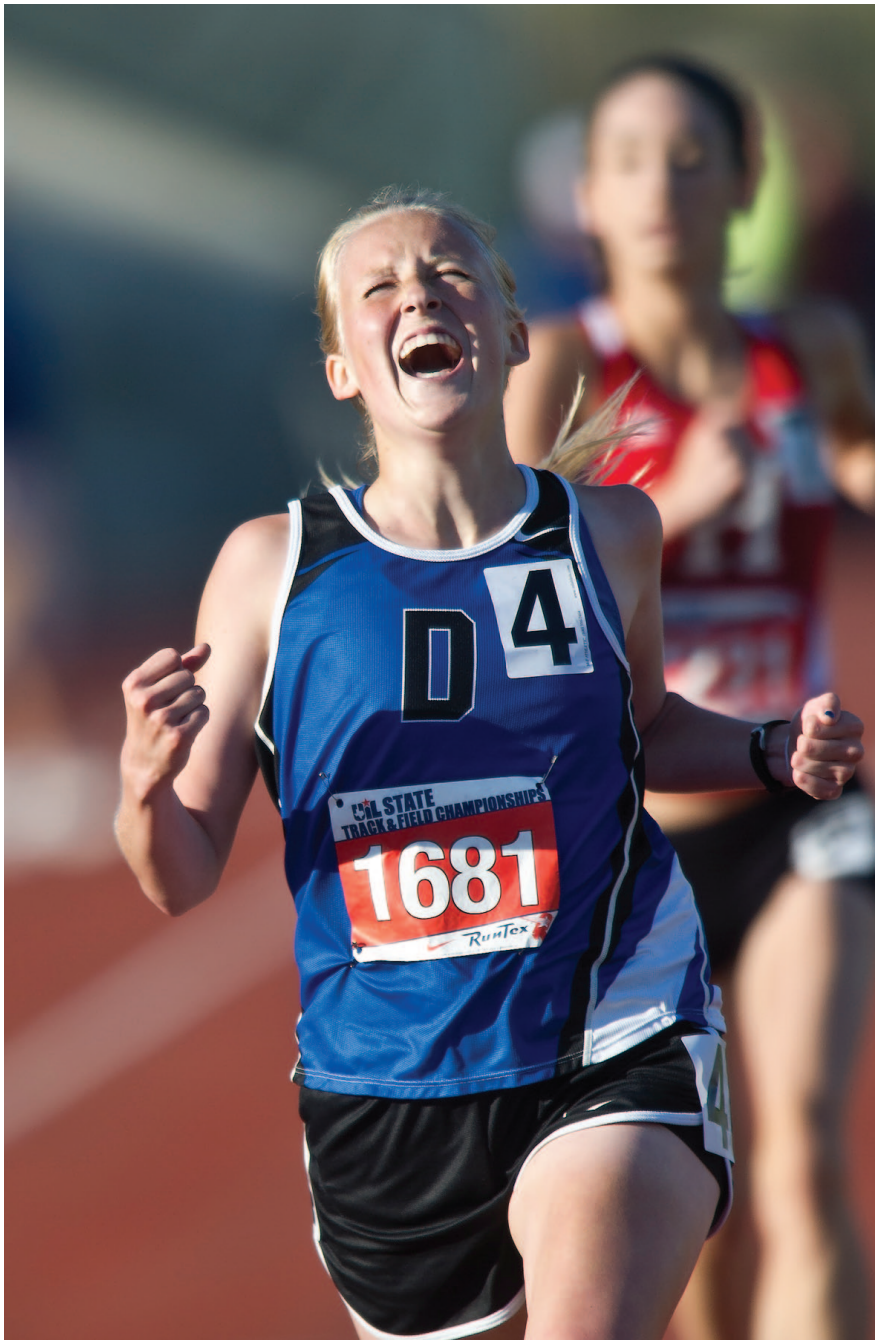
### Jasper Newsboy

3. Page Design
4. General Excellence

### Joshua Star

1. Editorials
2. Feature Photo
4. General Excellence





**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT**

SPORTS PHOTO, SECOND PLACE, DIVISION 4  
SWEET EMOTION: Decatur's Hanna Galloway yells and lets out her emotions after taking second place in the Class 3A 3,200 finals in Austin Friday. Joe Duty/Wise County Messenger.

SPORTS PHOTO, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7  
Westlake's Angelica Martinez, left, leaps into the lane against Austin High's Alyssa Serna during the Chaps' district setback Friday. Martinez had nine points in the loss, which knocked the Chaps to 1-6 in 15-5A play and 8-20 overall. Austin High is in third place and a game behind Del Valle and Akins for the district lead. Roy Mata/Westlake Picayune.

NEWS PHOTO, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7  
AGONY OF DEFEAT: Hays High senior Joel Young can't suppress his sorrow after the Rebels lost their area playoff game against Cedar Park 42-0 Friday. The Rebels, under new coach Blake Feldt, made their deepest playoff run since 2006. Cyndy Slovak-Barton/Hays Free Press.