Best Feature Photo
Division 3
2017 Better Newspaper Contest
By Matt Baldwin, Whitefish Pilot

Titled: Out with a splash
Judge’s Comment: So much going on here to comment on, but the skis, the drink, the outfit, the expression - awesome.
MNA Calendar

February
1  Begin accepting nominations for the 2018 Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame, Master Editor/Publisher Award and Distinguished Service Awards
7  2018 Better Newspaper Contest is closed for entries at 10:00 pm
9  Deadline to submit articles for the February Press Pass newsletter
15 Member Educational Opportunity: Online Media Campus: Video Strategies for Newsrooms to Grow Audience - Register at http://onlinemediacampus.com/
19  Federal holiday: Presidents’ Day
23  U of M School of Journalism RSVP deadline for the Job & Internship Fair

March
9  U of M School of Journalism Job & Internship Fair
11-17 National Sunshine Week
16  Deadline to submit articles for the March Press Pass newsletter
22  U of M School of Journalism High School Journalism Day
23  Nomination deadline, 2018 Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame, Master Editor/Publisher Award and Distinguished Service Awards

April
15 Montana Corporation Annual Report filing deadline with the Montana Secretary of State
19  U of M School of Journalism Dean Stone Lecture
20  MNA and MNAS Board of the Directors’ meeting - Don Anderson Hall, U of M School of Journalism
20  U of M School of Journalism Dean Stone Banquet
20  Deadline to submit articles for the April Press Pass newsletter

May
18  Deadline to submit articles for the May Press Pass newsletter
28  Federal holiday: Memorial Day
28  MNA office will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday

June
5  Montana primary election
14  MNA and MNAS Board of Directors’ Meeting - Big Horn Resort, Billings
15  Deadline to submit articles for the June Press Pass newsletter
14, 15 MNA office will be closed for the annual convention
15, 16 133rd MNA Annual Convention - Big Horn Resort, Billings
16  2018 MNA Better Newspaper Contest Awards Banquet - Big Horn Resort, Billings
Big mountain style

Magazine names Whitefish snowboarder one of best in the world

By Matt Reichenbach

17.

This is terrain where you can’t mess up.

Robinson creates a number of cool moves for skiing here to advance his career path.

 Judge’s Comments:

Simple, clean layout with strong images.

To view all the first-place winners of the 2017 Better Newspaper Contest, please visit the following link:

Thank you renewing Associate Members

Gold Level
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Silver Level
MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC

Bronze Level
AARP Montana TownNews.com
Online solutions. Bottom-line results.

New Associate Member
MONTANA CONTRACTORS ASSN.
Quality People. Quality Projects.

New Associate Member
eTYPE® SERVICES

New Associate Member
MT²P

New Provisional Member
LONE PEAK LOOKOUT

Welcome
James Brown Law Firm
### 2017-2018 Montana Newspaper Association Officers and Board of Directors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Darla Downs</td>
<td>The Herald-News, Wolf Point</td>
<td>653-2222</td>
<td><a href="mailto:herald@nemont.net">herald@nemont.net</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>Scott Squillace</td>
<td>Livingston Enterprise</td>
<td>222-2000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:controller@livent.net">controller@livent.net</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Vice President</td>
<td>Tyler Miller</td>
<td>Independent Record, Helena</td>
<td>447-4000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tyler.miller@helenair.com">tyler.miller@helenair.com</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Jacques Rutten</td>
<td>Lewistown News-Argus</td>
<td>535-3401</td>
<td><a href="mailto:publisher@lewistownnews.com">publisher@lewistownnews.com</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNAS President</td>
<td>Jeff Martinsen</td>
<td>Choteau Acantha</td>
<td>466-2403</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tetonads@3rivers.net">tetonads@3rivers.net</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNAS Vice President</td>
<td>Jim Durfey</td>
<td>Livingston Enterprise</td>
<td>222-2000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jdurfey@livent.net">jdurfey@livent.net</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Cindy Sease</td>
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<td>582-2616</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csease@dailychronicle.com">csease@dailychronicle.com</a></td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Kellyn Brown</td>
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<td>257-9220</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@flatheadbeacon.com">editor@flatheadbeacon.com</a></td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>George Hoffman</td>
<td>Belgrade News</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ghoffman@belgrade-news.com">ghoffman@belgrade-news.com</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Stacy Mantle</td>
<td>Havre Daily News</td>
<td>265-6795</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smantle@havredailynews.com">smantle@havredailynews.com</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Jim Strauss</td>
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<td>791-1435</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jstrauss@greatfallstribune.com">jstrauss@greatfallstribune.com</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Dick Crockford</td>
<td>Dillon Tribune</td>
<td>683-2331</td>
<td><a href="mailto:publisher@dillontribune.com">publisher@dillontribune.com</a></td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Larry Abrahamson</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:larry.abramson@umontana.edu">larry.abramson@umontana.edu</a></td>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>Daily Inter Lake, Kalispell</td>
<td>755-7000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rwweaver@dailylinterlake.com">rwweaver@dailylinterlake.com</a></td>
<td>2019</td>
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### 2017-2018 Montana Newspaper Association Committee Chairs

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<tr>
<td>Legal &amp; Legislative Affairs</td>
<td>Nick Ehli</td>
<td>Bozeman Daily Chronicle</td>
<td>582-2647</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nehli@dailychronicle.com">nehli@dailychronicle.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Newspaper Contest</td>
<td>Kellyn Brown</td>
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<td>257-9220</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@flatheadbeacon.com">editor@flatheadbeacon.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Glendive Ranger-Review</td>
<td>377-3303</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rrpub@rangerreview.com">rrpub@rangerreview.com</a></td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
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### 2017-2018 Montana Newspaper Foundation Officers and Board of Directors

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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<td>535-3401</td>
<td><a href="mailto:publisher@lewistownnews.com">publisher@lewistownnews.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>Jim Rickman</td>
<td>Montana Newspaper Association</td>
<td>443-2850</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jim@mtnewspapers.com">jim@mtnewspapers.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td>The Herald-News, Wolf Point</td>
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<td>466-2403</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tetonads@3rivers.net">tetonads@3rivers.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director-at-large</td>
<td>John Sullivan</td>
<td>Yellowstone Newspapers</td>
<td>222-2000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:execoffice@livent.net">execoffice@livent.net</a></td>
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### Montana Newspaper Association Press ID cards

The Montana Newspaper Association provides Press ID cards (credentials) as a no-cost service to our Professional Members.

1. Press IDs are for newspaper journalists, photographers, newsroom staff, correspondents, reporters
2. Allow four days for processing and mailing
3. Electronic IDs are available same day
4. Press IDs expire three years from date of issue/renewal

When placing an order, please e-mail the following:
1. A current JPEG photo as an attachment and please ID the person in the photo (Beth - red sweater, etc.) if you are requesting multiple passes
2. Include the job title

Guidelines for picture content:
1. The picture should be a close-up showing your head and shoulders
2. Pay attention to the background and setting…a solid color background works best
3. The Press ID is a photo identification: remove hats, sunglasses and be sure to look straight on
Geoff Hamill named managing editor of the Madisonian and West Yellowstone Star

Geoff grew up in the Appalachian Mountains of western Maryland, where he loved exploring the dense forests of the Monongahela National Forest, just across the border in West Virginia. He moved to Louisiana at the age of 20 to join the Merchant Marines, where he worked as a deckhand on a tugboat in the oil fields of the Gulf of Mexico for two years.

Giving up the seafaring life, Geoff enlisted in the Army in 1981. He served three years as an enlisted man at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, where he continued his outdoor adventures in the mountains and canyons of southern New Mexico.

After three years as an enlisted man, Hamill attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, where he earned a B.A. in history, and an Army commission as a second lieutenant through the university’s ROTC program.

Geoff completed Airborne and Ranger training and served 12 years as an infantry officer, including two combat tours in Somalia. He requested a voluntary separation and left active duty in 1995, after which he served in the Army Reserves for several years, including a one-year assignment teaching ROTC at Penn State University in State College.

Using veteran’s educational benefits, Geoff attended the University of Pittsburgh and earned a J.D. in law, after which he worked as a real estate specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Geoff was drawn back to the mountains of West Virginia and moved to Pocahontas County in 2005, where he was surrounded by his beloved “Mon” National Forest. He started his career in journalism as a staff writer with The Pocahontas Times in Marlinton, where he won several first-place awards for reporting, feature writing and photography. Geoff moved on to become the news director for Allegheny Mountain Radio, where he worked for two years, and then returned to newspaper work as the Bath County editor for The Recorder, in Monterey, Virginia.

Longing to return to the West and find a spot as a small-town editor, Geoff found the perfect opportunity when The Madisonian offered him the position last November. He made the cross-country trek with his dog, Smokie, and started as the editor of The Madisonian and The West Yellowstone Star in December.

Geoff is engaged to his long-time girlfriend from Germany, Astrid Fait, who will be visiting Montana for the first time in April.

Montana Newspaper Foundation awards 2018 Internship Grants

Internships offer great opportunities for students with a passion for the newspaper industry and our Montana Newspaper Association professional members. Students gain relevant firsthand experience and use their internship experience to secure good jobs, and MNA members build relationships that may lead to job candidates.

The Montana Newspaper Foundation is pleased to announce members receiving a $1,500 grant:

Annie Wooden, publisher, Sanders County Ledger
Internship program: Reporting and design

Darla Downs, publisher, The Herald-News
Internship program: Editorial and design

Nick Ehli, managing editor, Bozeman Daily Chronicle
Internship program: Reporter

Eric Lovec, publisher, Ekalaka Eagle
Internship program: All aspects of a weekly newspaper

The Montana Newspaper Foundation is a 501 C organization, governed by a board of trustees, whose purpose is to raise, accumulate and disperse funds in support of annual scholarships and for member education.
THE 2018 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST IS NOW OPEN FOR YOUR ENTRIES

New for 2018!

- **Best Breaking News Story**
  – now includes digital submissions
- **Best Investigative Journalism**
- **Best Sports & Outdoors Column Writing**
- **Best Graphic**
- **Best Portrait Photo**
- **Best Online Ad**
- **Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad**
- **Best Marketing Campaign**
- **Best Digital Presentation**

The rules and category descriptions for the 2018 MNA Better Newspaper Contest can be found at the following link: [http://www.mtnewspapers.com/better-newspaper-contest/](http://www.mtnewspapers.com/better-newspaper-contest/)

The entry deadline is Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Our 2018 contest will be judged by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

The awards banquet will be held during the 133rd MNA Annual Convention on Saturday, June 16, at the Big Horn Resort in Billings.

Questions? Please contact Jim Rickman, executive director, at 443-2850 or jim@mtnewspapers.com

Montana documentary Dark Money featured at Sundance

A film exploring Montana’s modern and historic battles against anonymous corporate campaign contributions will be featured at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.

After the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling struck down as unconstitutional a federal law prohibiting corporations and unions from making expenditures relating to federal elections, Montana’s top court ruled that the state could still limit corporate contributions and cited the state’s early history of election buying – arguments the U.S. Supreme Court rejected.

From the Sundance website: Dark Money / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Kimberly Reed, Producer: Katy Chevigny) — “Dark money” contributions, made possible by the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling, flood modern American elections – but Montana is showing Washington D.C. how to solve the problem of unlimited anonymous money in politics.

Among those interviewed for the documentary is Montana Free Press Editor/Founder John S. Adams. More information about the Montana Free Press can be found at: [www.montanafreepress.org](http://www.montanafreepress.org)

Home Ground Radio interview with the Last Best News

Brian Kahn, the host of Home Ground Radio, interviews Ed Kemmick and David Crisp of the Last Best News about their venture into developing a sustainable web-based news site.

Listen at [http://www.homegroundradio.org/episodes](http://www.homegroundradio.org/episodes)
A happy new year, from the new guy in town

By Chris Aiken, Big Timber Pioneer

I can’t think of a better, more challenging way to begin 2018 than with a new job in a new home. Anyone who has moved around a bit knows what a humbling experience it can be to join a new community. There is no law requiring members of the community to accept you as one of their own. Without the bonds of locality, one must trust in the broader bonds we share as Americans and as people.

I’ve been at the mercy of Big Timber for exactly one week now, and it has been truly invigorating. Warmth, charity and new fellowship seem to await me at every turn. Still, a number of folks have asked what brought me all the way from Springfield, Mo., up to Big Timber, Mont.

On one hand, I am not 100 percent sure. Fast-forward several inches of snow (as I write, the snowstorm is well into its second day) and the question takes a philosophical turn: What did bring me here?

I am tempted to tell folks that it was the Internet. Besides containing a strong kernel of truth, the response also raises eyebrows. Say it aloud and it sounds somewhat irresponsible: I moved to Montana in the middle of winter at the behest of a global computer network.

Of course, it’s only the partial truth. I found the reporting job online, then interviewed with editors and publishers at Yellowstone Newspapers. When they offered me the job I closed my eyes and visualized the Crazies. My alpine skis, leftover from my days as a Colorado man, stared longingly from the far corner of my Missouri bedroom. Rust had gathered on the stainless steel edges, a symptom of Midwestern humidity. Outside it was mid-December and above 60 degrees.

I said yes.

Big Timber is lucky to have a thriving local newspaper — they are becoming increasingly rare in Big Timber-sized towns. I am even luckier to be a part of The Pioneer. We are a relatively new news team, but we have ingenuity and pluck. Whether it’s covering breaking news or unearthing stories old and untold, my aim is to be readable, accessible, relevant and, above all, honest. If I am to succeed, I’ll need your input and your feedback every step of the way.

How journalism pays

This story from the Middletown Transcript, Middletown, Delaware, was reprinted in the Dec. 27, 1882, issue of the River Press, Fort Benton. Special thanks to Tim Burmeister, contributing editor of the River Press, for providing the article.

Four hundred dollars per year is said to be the average salary paid to the editors, reporters and printers of the United States, engaged on newspaper work. Young men, you who are longing to join the band of public opinion moulders, just think of that. Four hundred dollars a year for the best slice out of your life! Hadn’t you better stick to the farm, the counting-room, or learn a good trade that, when you become tolerably proficient in it, will pay you remunerative wages? Hundreds have learned that “moulding public opinion” is a mighty poor business. Moulding stove lids pays much better and don’t cause half the wear and tear on the moulder’s system. A good many people think newspaper work is just as easy as falling down on ice or finding a girl’s lip in the dark. We used to think so ourself, but that was when we were a bigger fool than we are now.

We knew a young man once out west who for two years longed for a place on a newspaper as a reporter, and at last he got it. The first day he was required to report a horse race, a temperance meeting, and a fire seven miles out of town. After he had done all this, the managing editor told him he might write a Washington letter, giving a summary of the political situation at the national capital, and then he could go out and get some points on the pork market for the next day’s paper. He wanted to know of the managing editor how in the dread future he could write a Washington letter at a point seven hundred and fifteen miles from the national capital, and when he had never been there in his life. The managing editor coolly replied that “if he couldn’t write a letter from any point in the known world on fifteen minute’s notice, he’d better quit the newspaper business before he disgraced it.” He resigned that same evening, and went back to his old time, independent ten-dollar-a-week air, and never asked to be a journalist again.

Some men seem to be born to do newspaper work, and they will do it if they have to live on cold hash and button their coat up to their chin while their only shirt is in the wash. And they will be just as happy, too, as the son-in-law of monopolist with a bad cough. They would never be contented at any other calling, even if it paid them ten thousand dollars a year and fire-wood. All others should keep out of the journalistic field.
SALES and MARKETING

Congratulations to the top producers of our 2017 Statewide Advertising Program. 2017 was another very lucrative year for MNA members selling advertising into our statewide program.

Congratulations to our top selling members!

Display Advertising
1. Yellowstone County News, Huntley
2. Glasgow Courier
3. Boulder Monitor
4. Glendive Ranger-Review
5. Choteau Acantha

Classified Advertising
1. Western News, Libby
2. Stillwater County News, Columbus
3. Sanders County Ledger, Thompson Falls
4. Lewistown News-Argus
5. Daniels County Leader, Scobey

All MNA Professional Members have an opportunity to participate in our statewide advertising programs.

The programs provide your customers the extended reach of our huge Montana print and digital audience at an incredible value. No other media can match the distribution and value of our advertising programs. Your newspaper benefits financially from the sale and a quarterly shared dividend program as approved by the Montana Newspaper Advertising Service board of directors.

For more information on our statewide advertising programs, please contact Stacy Wirtz at 443-2850 or stacy@mtnewspapers.com.

A reminder on the use of “Super Bowl” in an ad

The NFL controls all marketing and proprietary rights with respect to the Super Bowl. According to federal law the NFL retains the exclusive right to control marketing of the Super Bowl and all of its associated trademarks. These trademarks include the phrases “Super Bowl,” “Super Sunday,” “National Football League,” “NFL,” and the NFL shield and all Super Bowl logos.

The NFL also owns the trademarks for “National Football Conference” and “NFC” as well as “American Football Conference” and “AFC.” Without the express permission of the NFL, marketers and advertisers may not use these terms in their promotions.

Running promotions or advertisements designed to create the appearance of a relationship between the newspaper and/or its advertisers and the NFL or Super Bowl is risky and possibly illegal.

ADS CANNOT CONTAIN:
“Super Bowl”
“Super Sunday”
“NFL”
“NFC” or “AFC”
Any specific team name or nickname. Any NFL logo or uniform.

ADS CAN CONTAIN:
“The Big Game”
“The Football Championship Game”
The date of the game
The names of the teams’ home cities
A generic football picture or graphic