

2018 Montana Newspaper Association Better Newspaper Contest

| Circulation Division   | Code | Category Name            | Award        | Organization            | Entry Title  | Comments  | Credits                        |
|--|------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 101  | Best News Story          | First Place  | Boulder Monitor         | Science, public pressure   | This story may not have eclipsed the other news of the day - a suicide of a murder suspect - but its importance to the community and Jan Anderson's reporting can't be overstated. These types of stories need to be told, no matter how much time has passed. The lead lays out what's ahead, but teases just enough that I wanted to read on. The closure - I can only imagine - Pvt. Gruber's family felt in some ways parallels the closure the Monitor staff must have felt having this off its to-do list (dating back to 2015). Well done. | Jan Anderson                   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 101  | Best News Story          | First Place  | Dillon Tribune          | Straugh v Straus   | Sometimes the best story on a page is not the top story. M.P. Regan handled a complex issue with aplomb. He clearly laid out the background and helped readers navigate through the spat. Also: Kudos to the Tribune for making sure the goings-on in city hall continue to get noticed.  | M.P. Regan                     |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 101  | Best News Story          | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus    | Six Days Alone   | Great read; more importantly, a great ending to what could have been a tragedy. Charlie weaves in a nice mix of quotes with facts and pertinent information. Some of the descriptions were clear enough that I could picture the situation in my mind's eye. Well done.   | Charlie Denison                |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 101  | Best News Story          | First Place  | Flathead Beacon         | A City's Path Forward  | Deeply researched and sourced, well-written analysis of Kalispell's revitalization plans, accompanied by excellent explanatory timelines, photos and conceptual drawings.   | Dillon Tabish                  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 101  | Best News Story          | First Place  | Montana Standard        | Mercury and an old mill  | Deep, well-written examination of the complexities involved with the cleanup of a former silver stamp mill, the source of mercury in nearby waters.   | Susan Dunlap                   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 101  | Best News Story          | Second Place | Stillwater County News  | VIP Pence  | Fun story; timely. Big time comes to small town(s). Lead and lead-in are great. Good mix of quotes and flavor of the setting. I also liked the fact that the story answers some questions that popped into my mind early on about the Secret Service and how it handles such side shows.  | Marlo Pronovost                |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 101  | Best News Story          | Second Place | Tobacco Valley News     | Teen treks miles in snow to help stranded driver                             | Nikki Meyer's account of a heroic teen was compelling. Good for her for making sure a good deed did not go unnoticed. Good lead and lead-in. Cute photo. Well done.   | Nikki Meyer                    |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 101  | Best News Story          | Second Place | Belgrade News           | A COMMUNITY MOURNS   | A fitting tribute to a hero. Good display; good use of photos. Multiple sources. The story aptly captures one aspect of the town's healing process after a tragedy. Good job.   | Sam Weber                      |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 101  | Best News Story          | Second Place | Flathead Beacon         | Secrets to a City's Success  | A well-researched deep dive into comparisons between Kalispell, Bend, Bozeman and Missoula on the economic development front.   | Dillon Tabish                  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 101  | Best News Story          | Second Place | Bozeman Daily Chronicle | Montana's crisis   | Excellent analysis of Montana's child abuse crisis as seen through the eyes of a woman whose granddaughter died due to abuse.   | Gail Schontzler                |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 101  | Best News Story          | Third Place  | Clark Fork Valley Press | Plains' Spiekermeier to haul Capitol Christmas Tree                          | Erin does a nice job on a unique, feel-good story. Great subject matter. Plenty of quotes. The only question I wanted answered was: Who was the driver who delivered the tree 30 years ago? (Lends itself to a sidebar.) good job!  | Erin Jusseaume                 |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 101  | Best News Story          | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha         | Bee rustlers nab 488 hives   | Good reporting. Good writing. Great impact. Melody Martinsen works in enough background info and facts to show the importance of what may appear to some as a ho-hum theft. Hopefully this small business survived. Perhaps the reporting helped. Good job and congrats, Melody.  | Melody Martinsen               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 101  | Best News Story          | Third Place  | Lewistown News-Argus    | Animal Abuse   | I don't like cats, but using Diamond was a good idea to flush out what could have otherwise been a mundane story. Well written. Good use of quotes. Actually, when all was said and done, I kind of grew fond of Diamond. I'm sure others did too, which hopefully helped bring more attention to his and other cats' plights.  | Jenny Gessaman                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 101  | Best News Story          | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon         | Divided We Plan  | Took on a big controversy over land-use planning between a city and county that has been brewing for over a decade.   | Tristan Scott                  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 101  | Best News Story          | Third Place  | The Missoulian          | Spencer aims to grow movement  | This profile of Montana native Richard Spencer takes a comprehensive look at the origins and trajectory of the National Policy Institute and the alt-right movement.  | Keila Szpaller                 |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | First Place  | Mineral Independent     | Man rescued from Clark Fork River near Superior                              | A great story that was won by comments from the victim and the inclusion of several voices and all the pertinent info. I got a good picture of what the area looked like and how everything went down.  | Kathleen Woodford              |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | First Place  | Yellowstone County News | Two suspects arrested, stolen car totaled, cases linked                      | The story had me at the edge of my seat. Good job by the reporter of talking to all sides and listening well. The interview with the homeowner/victim was a vital part of this story. A good job injecting the timeline into the story as well. Nice use of online too.   | Judy Killen , Jonathan McNiven |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus    | Grizzlies Come to Central Montana  | The lead was tightly written, as was the entire story, which drew my interest right away. The reporter talked to sources on all sides and got many voices in there, leaving me with no unanswered questions.  | Jenny Gessaman                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | First Place  | Flathead Beacon         | Century-Old Chalet Falls Victim to Glacier Park Wildfire                     | Solid coverage of a real tragedy in the park , bolstered with good background about why the chalet was important to so many people.   | Justin Franz                   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | First Place  | Bozeman Daily Chronicle | Gianforte charged with assault   | Very thorough coverage, with solid enterprise reporting, all pulled together under extremely tight deadline conditions -- and a story that made national news. This was the standout entry in a very competitive category.  | Staff                          |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Second Place | The Big Timber Pioneer  | Captured   | The story has all the necessary information and was written in a way that walked us through what happened. Lots of voices made this an interesting read.  | Mackenzie Reiss                |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Second Place | The Western News        | It's a damn shame  | The photos, taken by the reporter, could not possibly be better. Great job in getting vital quotes and information into the story. Glad the editors saw fit to play the photos well.  | John Blodgett                  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus    | Burned Out   | The reporter was descriptive enough that I felt I was there. She handled the controversial details -- the firefighters may have been less aggressive than they should have been -- well. It was put together well and was interesting to read.  | Deb Hill, Jenny Gessaman       |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Second Place | Livingston Enterprise   | Fleshman Creek fire  | Good coverage of a fast-moving wildfire that answers all the questions readers were likely to have. Terrific photos as well.  | Dwight Harriman                |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Second Place | The Missoulian          | Sperry Chalet burns down   | A good example of strong reporting under tight deadline conditions, with just the right amount of background reporting on why the chalet was special.   | Gwen Florio, Jayme Fraser      |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Third Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer  | Small plane hits river   | The reporter got lots of voice into the story and wrote it in a compelling way.   | Olivia Keith                   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Third Place  | Tobacco Valley News     | Homes evacuated after lightning storm lights fires                           | Good job of getting lots of voices and information into the story and presenting this in a way that was compelling to read.   | Nikki Meyer                    |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Third Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review  | Community leaders react to BNSF announcement                                 | A difficult story to write on deadline, but all the important facts are there. Additional voices, including the people most affected, were missing that that held this story back a bit.  | Jason Stuart                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon         | Authorities: Overseas Hackers Seeking to Extort Community with Cyber Threats | Good enterprise coverage of a complicated and fast-moving story, which got even more complicated when the Beacon did an interview with the culprits behind the cyberthreats.  | Dillon Tabish                  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 102  | Best Breaking News Story | Third Place  | Independent Record      | 5.8 magnitude earthquake rattles Helena area                                 | The earthquake occurs right around midnight, and this very strong story with details around the state is online three hours later. Very impressive work. Well done. Though I did find a small mistake: In your lede you say "Hardin's girl's basketball team" list the title but "they didn't go down without a fight." "They is plural in this case, but "team" is singular. The story should have said either "it didn't go down without a fight" or talk about how the team's players took second. You can't use both.                         | Andrew Turck                   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 103  | Best Sports Story        | First Place  | Big Horn County News    | So close   |   |                                |

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|--|-----|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 103 | Best Sports Story         | First Place  | Tobacco Valley News      | Lions win first-ever wrestling team state title                         |   | Nikki Meyer                |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 103 | Best Sports Story         | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | PRCA Riding High  |   | Charlie Denison            |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 103 | Best Sports Story         | First Place  | The Missoula Independent | At what cost: Does Missoula really want a return to Hauck?              | Liked the way the reporter put the hiring of the football coach into a broader social and university context.   | Susan Elizabeth Shepard    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 103 | Best Sports Story         | First Place  | Independent Record       | Coaches ready to add shot clock to prep basketball                      | Thorough. Great enterprise in conducting survey. Bold, captivating head and art treatment. Good use of data from other sources  | Troy Shockley              |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Second Place | Big Horn County News     | Bulldogs skin Panthers  | A fun read, though I wish you'd had the quote from the Belgrade coach, and didn't have to lift it from the Bozeman Chronicle.   | Jim Eshleman               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Second Place | Dillon Tribune           | Dawgs down Diggers  |   | M.P. Regan                 |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Second Place | Belgrade News            | Schlauch scores twice as Panthers post 4-0 victory (story on left side) |   | Daniel Chesnet             |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | The Legacy of Coach J   | Fine overview of the coach's career. Good use of former athletes as sources.  | Myers Reece                |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Second Place | The Missoulian           | Jud Heathcote built up Montana's program, not just the Grizzlies        | Great sourcing and research. Covered all the bases. Excellent links to Montana established  | Frank Gogola, Bob Meseroll |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Third Place  | Big Horn County News     | Lady Bulldogs use new players, cut down Laurel in three sets            | Switching from the Laurel game to the Golden Eagles game and back was a bit confusing.  | Andrew Turck               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Third Place  | Whitefish Pilot          | Lady Dogs finish on high note at divisional                             |   | Daniel McKay               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Third Place  | Belgrade News            | Belgrade beats four-time defending champs to earn first crown           |   | Daniel Chesnet             |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Beau's Final Bull   | Solid profile on major bull rider. Good detail on family ties, career highlights and injury history.  | Dillon Tabish              |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 103 | Best Sports Story         | Third Place  | Independent Record       | Montana is behind cheerleading times                                    | Excellent topic. Well-balanced report. Lots of nuances caught.  | Troy Shockley              |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 104 | Best Feature Story        | First Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | Ovando World Renowned   | This is a very nice feature about a small town's role in a big bicycle race. The tale is interesting, the characters pop. A quote from a featured woman would have made a good headline: 'A lot of little trail magic.' A couple of incorrect or misused words keep this from a higher score. | Micah Drew                 |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 104 | Best Feature Story        | First Place  | Tobacco Valley News      | Club members pitch in to restore Model T                                |   | Nikki Meyer                |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 104 | Best Feature Story        | First Place  | Anaconda Leader          | 'She's an Inspiration!' How J'da Lemm has charmed our community         |   | James S. Rosien            |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 104 | Best Feature Story        | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Mind Games  | Wonderful story, localized, about a national issue. Covers all the bases, makes it personal and compelling. Very hard to get a kid to open up in a case like this. Well done.   | Justin Franz               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 104 | Best Feature Story        | First Place  | Daily Inter Lake         | Zip Rhoades spent just one year in Kalispell, but was never forgotten   | A haunting story, tender and informative. An example of why local journalism matters. No one who reads this will forget this man and time he spent in the community. An unexpected story. No news. No drama. The long-lasting power comes from the story of a man, a time and a place.        | Frank Miele                |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Second Place | Stillwater County News   | Surviving the Holocaust   | This is a very inviting and well told story of a local woman and her Holocaust-survivor mother. The writing is sure and tight and the organization pulls the reader through easily.   | Mario Pronovost            |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Second Place | Whitefish Pilot          | Pole to Pole  |   | Daniel McKay               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Second Place | Belgrade News            | Crickets... It's what's for dessert                                     |   | Sam Weber                  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Second Place | The Missoula Independent | No Good Answers   | Powerful piece that shows the role of good journalism in a community. In this case, the one place a victim could turn to for answers to haunting questions. Excellent reporting.  | Kate Whittle               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Second Place | Great Falls Tribune      | Chasing broken Montana homestead dreams in the Missouri Breaks          | A wonderful use of using the writer as a storyteller. But not just about the writer, but all who made the journey to a life they hoped to find.   | Kristen Inbody             |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Third Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer   | Full circle   | Good feature, terrific photos, nicely written, excellent lede. One complaint: the use of first name instead of last after first reference.  | Mackenzie Reiss            |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Third Place  | Whitefish Pilot          | Artist sculpts statues honoring Thai king                               |   | Daniel McKay               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Third Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | It all started with one bale  |   | Deb Hill                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Third Place  | The Missoula Independent | Rummel's Remains  | Captivating piece about something unusual and local. Excellent link between the past and the present.   | Erika Fredrickson          |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 104 | Best Feature Story        | Third Place  | Bozeman Daily Chronicle  | Accepting Sam   | Great reporting and access that comes from building trust with Sam's family. A thoughtful story that makes readers confront their own beliefs.  | Nick Ehli                  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | First Place  | Whitehall Ledger         | Remembering Coach Loomis  | Easily the best of the bunch. Well structured with great quotes.  | Jack Smith                 |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | First Place  | Lake County Leader       | Lady Bison capture National Championship                                | Excellent story. Nice use of a single player's story that expands into one about the team as a whole.   | Jason Blasco               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | Giving Back   | Top notch subject and a well-told story.  | Doreen Heintz              |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Life After Racing   | Fantastic lede!   | Molly Priddy               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Journeys of Hope  | A compelling and comprehensive story  | Jeff Welsh                 |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | Second Place | The Big Timber Pioneer   | Shooting for the top  | This is a good story and deserves this recognition, but keep the focus on your subject for the early going. All the stuff about the brother could come later. Give her a chance to stand on her own first. I always want to see a quote from the subject in the first three graphs.           | Mackenzie Reiss            |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | Second Place | Carbon County News       | Courting trophies with the Cortner trio                                 | Well done. Only suggestion is leading with the anecdote about the girls playing as children.  | Alastair Baker             |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | Second Place | Sidney Herald            | More than a game  | Well-composed story. Gets a little heavy-handed in the "looking down from on high" department, but it was difficult to tell if that was the result of the writing or the interview subjects.  | Bill Vander Weele          |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story | Second Place | The Missoula Independent | Point Man   | It felt like I was really there   | Skylar Browning            |

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| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story     | Second Place | The Missoulian           | Playing through the pain: Missoula Big Sky's Lowder strong on volleyball court, through tragedy  | Loved the hook  | Kyle Houghtaling   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story     | Third Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | 35 Years of OSCR   | Lots of territory covered in this exhaustive piece. Could have been even better by moving quotes up in the story and talking about what makes this particular trail unique. | Andi Bourne  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story     | Third Place  | Lake County Leader       | Poison resident, Stanford alum to be inducted into Hall of Fame  | Well done story with a subject willing to be himself. Harder to achieve than you make it look.  | Jason Blasco   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story     | Third Place  | Belgrade News            | Making A Movement (story featuring Gabby Weber)  | Very well done story.   | Daniel Chesnet   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story     | Third Place  | Valley Journal           | Dances with Bulls  | Must have been an intense interview!  |  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 105 | Best Sports Feature Story     | Third Place  | Daily Inter Lake         | The Beast Inside (Dec. 17, 2017)   | Great writing and photos!   | Mackenzie Reiss  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | First Place  | Mineral Independent      | Afterschool Program Series   | Well-written collection of stories about after-school programs being offered to help children throughout the county.  | Kathleen Woodford  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | First Place  | Whitefish Pilot          | Nocturnal puzzle   | Nicely written story about puzzle rooms reaching Montana. Interweaving national stats with local information was well done. By far best entry in category.                  | Daniel McKay   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | First Place  | Belgrade News            | BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION SKYROCKETING YET AVALANCHE DEATHS ARENT   | Well-researched and well-written story about avalanche deaths. Good hard news trend story. Kudos to reporter for recognizing the trend and fleshing it out.                 | Sam Weber  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | First Place  | The Missoula Independent | Spreading the Word   | Masterful, authoritative writing. A seamless blend of personality profile and deep dive into a fascinating and still-taboo industry.  | Sarah Aswell   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | First Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | The Arbiters of Change series  |   | Sarah Dettmer  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Second Place | The Big Timber Pioneer   | The Smart lifestyles   | Nicely personalized story regarding a weight-loss program.  | Stephen Kalb-Koenigsfeld                                   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Second Place | Silver State Post        | Modern day pioneers  | Extensive feature on modern-day pioneer family.   | Michael Stafford   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Second Place | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Glendive named most romantic   | Fun trend story. Good job getting the local comments to localize the odd findings of Glendive being a romantic city. Nice, tight read.                                      | Jason Stuart   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Second Place | The Missoula Independent | Buggin' Out  | Terrific writing that takes us deep inside a strange and interesting subculture. Excellent layout.  | Alex Sakariassen   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Second Place | The Missoulian           | China series   |   | Robert Chaney  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Third Place  | Mineral Independent      | Library Series   | Well-written stories about four events that occurred at the library. Writer worked hard to establish that increased offerings in the library constitute a trend.            | Kathleen Woodford, Kathleen Woodford, Kathleen Woodford,   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Third Place  | Tobacco Valley News      | Travelers book alternative lodging through online sites  | Well written story about Montana businesses using internet sites to rent out their rooms.   | Nikki Meyer  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Third Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Residents join the hidden rock craze   | Well-written story about rock craze invading community. Good quotes and fun illustration.   | Cindy Mullet   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Third Place  | The Missoula Independent | The Cuddler  | A clear-eyed, non-judgmental examination of a weird and wonderful social trend.   | Kate Whittle   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 106 | Best Lifestyle Coverage       | Third Place  | Daily Inter Lake         | Black in the Flathead  |   | Lynnette Hintze, Frank Miele                               |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | First Place  | Big Horn County News     | Graduation journey local students succeed in dog biz   |   | Andrew Turck   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | First Place  | Dillon Tribune           |  |   | M.P. Regan   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | First Place  | Belgrade News            | Belgrade trustees back down on reform  |   | Michael Tucker   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Ten Years in the Books   | Excellent distillation of a broad topic. As an outsider with no knowledge of the community, I felt that I understood its evolution by the end of the article.               | Dillon Tabish  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | First Place  | Bozeman Daily Chronicle  | Expanding horizons   | A well-written, clearly outlined look at an important issue. Good use of graphics.  | Gail Schontzler  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Second Place | Big Horn County News     | One step at a time   |   | Andrew Turck   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Second Place | Whitefish Pilot          | Coaches provide writing guidance for students  |   | Daniel McKay   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus     | All in or all out  |   | Jenny Gessaman   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | 100 Years of 4-H Guns in Schools (Two Part Series)   | Good treatment of young people dealing with their emotions for their animals. An ambitious attempt at one of the most important topics in education today.                  | Molly Priddy   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Second Place | Billings Gazette         |  | Please continue digging.  | Matt Hoffman   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Third Place  | Mineral Independent      | St. Regis School works kinks out of new 'Summit Base Camp' teaching platform   |   | Kathleen Woodford  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Third Place  | Dillon Tribune           | Shipman humorous solo state champ  |   | J.P. Plutt   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Third Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | Newspapers in Education  |   | News-Argus Staff   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Third Place  | Livingston Enterprise    | One-room schoolhouse   | Interesting to read how a small community, isolated from the outside world, educates its children.  | Liz Kearney  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 107 | Best Education Coverage       | Third Place  | Daily Inter Lake         | FVCC: 50 Years of Higher Education   | A great read, with great use of historic photos. Good work tracking down the people who made this important project happen in an underserved community.                     | Lynnette Hintze, Kathryn Houghton, Andy Viano, Frank Miele |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage | First Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | 2017 Rice Ridge Fire   |   | Andi Bourne, Nathan Bourne, Micah Drew                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage | First Place  | Silver State Post        | Grant success; Main Street Master Plan funded; Ideas wanted; public input wanted; Lots of discussion had; Master plan; Tax idea floated; BID proposal soon to get vote |   | Michael Stafford, Tom Mullen                               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage | First Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | BNSF layoffs, hiring   |   | Eric Killelea, Jason Stuart                                |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Upstream Coal Contaminants Rushing into Montana  |   | Tristan Scott  |

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|--|-----|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | First Place  | Bozeman Daily Chronicle   | Montana's Crisis  |  | Gail Schontzler                  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Second Place | Stillwater County News    | Commissioners and Spectrum talk mold, money and time  |  | Marlo Pronovost                  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Second Place | Carbon County News        | Chronic Wasting Disease   |  | Eleanor Guerrero                 |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus      | Fire Season   |  | News-Argus Staff                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Second Place | The Missoula Independent  | Housing insecurity in Missoula  |  | Derek Brouwer                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Second Place | Great Falls Tribune       | Coverage from Montana's worst fire season since 1910  |  | Sarah Dettmer, Karl Puckett      |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Third Place  | Blackfoot Valley Dispatch | UBMC Cleanup  |  | Roger Dey                        |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Third Place  | Laurel Outlook            | Laurel's mayoral race   |  | Kathleen Gilluly                 |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Third Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review    | Intake  |  | Jason Stuart                     |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Third Place  | The Missoula Independent  | Budget cuts and mental health care in western Montana   |  | Alex Sakariassen                 |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 108 | Best Continuing News Coverage      | Third Place  | Billings Gazette          | Coverage of the bankruptcy of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings   |  | Clair Johnson                    |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | First Place  | Blackfoot Valley Dispatch | Swan Renaissance  |  | Hope Quay                        |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | First Place  | Choteau Acantha           | Rescued! Searchers locate guide student in wilderness   |  | Melody Martinsen, Nancy Thornton |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus      | Lewistown women put on gator hunting clinic...  |  | Charlie Denison                  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | First Place  | Flathead Beacon           | Lessons from Night of the Grizzlies   | A well-wound narrative that draws the reader in and captivates through what could otherwise have been a typical turn through historical fact.  | Justin Franz, Tristan Scott      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | First Place  | Daily Inter Lake          | Montana vs. Muscels   | An excellent look behind the scenes at a complex issue, with great investigative reporting on the people charged with handling it.   | Patrick Reilly                   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Second Place | Seeley Swan Pathfinder    | Bow Hunt Brings Down Record Wapiti  |  | Sigrid Olson                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Second Place | Choteau Acantha           | Grizzlies in Spring: Man photographs seven bears at reservoir, (main) and FWP signs at fish access sites warn about bear presence (sidebar) |  | Nancy Thornton                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus      | First Deer  |  | Jacques Rutten                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Second Place | The Missoula Independent  | The White Lady  | The turf wars of wolves is always compelling, but this story does a great job balancing their struggle for survival and the human interests involved.  | Alex Sakariassen                 |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Second Place | Bozeman Daily Chronicle   | In search of a backpack   | A beautiful story that illuminates the inherent danger of exploring the outdoors, and the struggle of a family still coping with loss.   | Michael Wright                   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Third Place  | Big Horn County News      | Down to a silver  |  | Andrew Turck, Jim Ehleman        |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Third Place  | Silver State Post         | Students learn a lot on the ranch   |  | Cathy Harding                    |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Third Place  | Lewistown News-Argus      | Crystal Lake Ski Area   |  | Jacques Rutten                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon           | Power of the Owl  | An excellently-written story that pulls the reader in and leaves a longing for more.   | Tristan Scott                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 109 | Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award | Third Place  | Great Falls Tribune       | A hunt with heroes  | This story highlights an often-overlooked community of disabled veteran hunters, balancing their present and past for a compelling read.   | Sarah Dettmer                    |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | First Place  | Stillwater County News    | School expressed interest in old hospital last October  | This story was the most reported on in the category, with multiple stories exploring the case of the old hospital building. It included many different voices and was an important story for the readers.  | Marlo Pronovost                  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | First Place  | The Western News          | Resigning Chamber president falsified resume  | This story was clearly important to the readers by examining a prominent member of the community. Strongly written with lots of in-depth reporting. Key was the reporter reaching out to his former institution to get their say, while also providing space to the man in question. | John Blodgett                    |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | First Place  | Belgrade News             | Keeping up with growth is a full-time job in Belgrade   | This story won because it was able to strike a balance between big, statistic-filled ideas and a humanizing touch. Hearing directly from those affected made it a more powerful narrative.   | Freddy Monares                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | First Place  | The Missoula Independent  | Green is the new Gray Area  | This in-depth article was an examination of a complex issue of significance to the state, highlighting and exploring the tensions due to flawed policies and rules.  | Hunter Pauli                     |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | First Place  | Montana Standard          | Through the Meat Grinder: Federal harassment of Montana meat plants   | A thoroughly reported examination of a flawed inspection system and its consequences for real people.  | David McCumber                   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | Second Place | Big Horn County News      | Pryor family's legal battle with FBI returns to Ninth Circuit   | Difficult topic to address as there was a lot of detailed reporting that was done, including examinations of court documents. Does a good job, through strong writing, of showcasing the struggles the family faces.   | Andrew Turck                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | Second Place | Whitefish Pilot           | Place to call home  | This story was able to balance the detailed data with a humanizing touch. Rather than overwhelm readers with the numbers, it included stories of people struggling to buy a home in the difficult market. Well written and reported.   | Heidi Desch                      |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus      | Help Wanted   | Well-written piece that told a story many readers would want to know, who is going to fill the job vacancies? Deep reporting with relevant statistics.   | Deb Hill                         |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | Second Place | Flathead Beacon           | A Safe Place for Dylan  | While not at first glance a traditional investigative piece, the story of this family exposes the gaps in the safety net for Montanans.  | Molly Priddy                     |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | Second Place | Billings Gazette          | Giantz series   | These articles take an in-depth look into the flaws of a decades-old prosecution and its lifelong consequences for not just the convicted but the accuser.   | Jayne Fraser                     |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | Third Place  | Big Horn County News      | Zoned out   | Well written story that had lots of statistics and data for readers. The topic was important because the writer showed how the decision would effect businesses and their clients.   | Andrew Turck                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism      | Third Place  | Silver State Post         | College truths  | Strong hook to the story, flips reader's preconceived ideas about why the school closed and then goes on with strong reporting about the truth. Well written entry that took on topic that would be interesting to the community   | Michael Stafford                 |

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| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism           | Third Place  | Belgrade News            | County, city say Law and Justice Center problem won't go away  | The story did a good job showing through the graphics and the writing how all of the options compare to each other. Good depth of reporting, well-placed quotes.  | Freddy Monares           |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism           | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Under Pressure, Glacier Park Loosens Boating Restrictions  | This article delved into issues raised by a sensitive internal memo, going beyond the memo with reporting to highlight a key issue for users of Glacier National Park.  | Tristan Scott            |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 110 | Best Investigative Journalism           | Third Place  | The Missoulian           | Emergency meeting at St. Pats  | Deep reporting with multiple on-the-record sources paint a picture of dysfunction at an important institution for residents.  | David Erickson           |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | First Place  | Stillwater County News   | Losing one of our own  | Thank you for sharing Carrie with readers. Lovely tribute to a well loved co-worker. Nicely written.  | Mario Pronovost          |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | First Place  | Silver State Post        | By giving it a name and a label, it was given even more power  | It takes a ton of courage to go public with a personal battle. Kudos to you for taking it on, but more importantly, talking about your depression in real terms everyone can understand.  | Dick Geary               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | Farewell Mr. Gore  | What else can you do with unending winter weather but laugh! Thanks for making me laugh out loud and relating to all your trials and tribulations with the clothing side of winter. Great read.   | Deb Hill                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | First Place  | The Missoula Independent | Long Way from Home   | Brooks tackles the issues in the case of Audemio Orozco-Ramirez well. A thoughtful piece.   | Dan Brooks               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | First Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | Merciful flight indeed   | Scott Mansch does a great job of capturing the heartache and gratitude of the Johnson family.   | Scott Mansch             |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Second Place | Whitehall Ledger         | Naughty Winter Drivers   | So many thoughts in this column made me laugh. Winter driving does bring out the best (and worst) of people! Nicely done.   | Jack Smith               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Second Place | Tobacco Valley News      | Returning the kindness   | Wonderful reminder of the truly good people that are still out there. Very uplifting read.  | Nikki Meyer              |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus     | Life lessons at a lemonade stand   | I never fail to stop when I see a lemonade stand! You captured the grit of entrepreneurship, but also the heart-warming feel of a job well done, now let's go play. Thanks for the great read!  | Jacques Rutten           |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | Pleasing Everyone and No One   | Brown does a good job of spelling out the inconsistencies and local implications of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's positions.  | Kellyn Brown             |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Second Place | Billings Gazette         | Gavel This Down, Sen. Daines   | Darrell Ehrlick's column on Montana's Sen. Steve Daines is clear and compelling. Nicely done.   | Darrell Ehrlick          |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Third Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | Hometown   | The road home is never long! You made me pine for my own small hometown. Nicely done.   | Heather Layman           |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Third Place  | Silver State Post        | The river beats electrified shower heads for bathing   | Wonderful cultural education! In total, I truly enjoyed all your columns. They're wonderfully written with just the right touch of humorous education.  | Dick Geary               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Third Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | 100 happy days   | Nicely written accounting of living in the moment. I especially liked your motivation/challenge stemming from social media and how you stayed the course for all 100 days. Inspiring!   | Charlie Denison          |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Fishing with Fire  | Appreciated the personal insight coupled with the broader implications of the wildfires. Nice work.   | Myers Reece              |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 111 | Best Column Writing                     | Third Place  | Billings Gazette         | Regarding Confederate monuments, it's time to knock 'em all down   | Another strong Ehrlick column on an issue reverberating not only nationally but at home.  | Darrell Ehrlick          |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | First Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer   | A toast to the football team   | Good wrap-up of a season, nice personal writing style, good recap and including the comment from coach for context helps. Only drawback is lack of at least a mugshot or column logo for better visual presentation.  | Stephen Kalb-Koenigsfeld |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | First Place  | Silver State Post        | Staying alert increases bird sightings   | Good use of personal tale and observations about specific birds, both interesting enough to draw in readers. Nice pace, informs without being academic.   | Gary Swant               |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | The Proper Way to Make Sausage   | Good commentary on public lands issues from hunter/outdoors perspective. Tackles legislative process without getting bogged down in jargon.   | Rob Breeding             |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | First Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | Stitt firing evidence of a 'cutthroat business'  | This column makes good use of both personal opinion and quoted material from others to explain, or at least chronicle the controversial coach firing. Writing is lively and draws the reader in. Nice peek inside the politics of college sports.   | Scott Mansch             |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Second Place | Whitehall Ledger         | Thanks for Everything  | This is a nice tribute to seniors on the team, and gives a feel for the personal side of small-town football.   | Jack Smith               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Second Place | Silver State Post        | A habitat specialist   | Information-packed piece for birders but also of interest to the casual observer. Puts habitat peril and other issues into local context.   | Gary Swant               |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Second Place | Havre Daily News         | We love our high school hoops the way it is  | Good local perspective to address a polarizing issue, takes a strong stand while blending in personal observation and experience with the teams.  | George Ferguson          |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Second Place | The Missoulian           | Olympic-hopeful wrestler Barrett Stanghill staying hungry in Hungary   | Columnist captures detail that brings the athlete's accomplishments into focus without fawning. The writing is concise but colorful, and makes the reader root for "our" guy.   | Bill Speltz              |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Third Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | Morrell Lookout  | Good first-person account of the trek, would be even better if some of the history and overview info was woven into the column itself. At a Glance could be tightened into more easy to access graphic style.   | Micah Drew               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Third Place  | Silver State Post        | It's a Blue Jay invasion   | Readable. Takes a common sighting misconception and explains without making readers feel dim. Good pix, presentation also.  | Gary Swant               |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Third Place  | Havre Daily News         | No All-Conference for Fowler is a travesty   | Takes a strong stand in defense of this player, and doesn't overdo it.  | George Ferguson          |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 112 | Best Sports and Outdoors Column Writing | Third Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | Confederates in the gulch, cribbage in the canyon  | Good travel piece, makes the reader want to hit the road. Breezy first-person mixed well with background tourism info. Print version marred by confusing layout of text on front, remedied in the other version.  | Kristen Inbody           |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 113 | Best Editorial                          | First Place  | Big Horn County News     | Simply Biased  |   | Jim Eshleman             |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 113 | Best Editorial                          | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Amended mug shot bill needed to die, Marsys Law ballot issue violates constitution, Montana should not venerate hate |   | Melody Martinsen         |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 113 | Best Editorial                          | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | Editorials by Deb Hill   |   | Deb Hill                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 113 | Best Editorial                          | First Place  | Havre Daily News         | Our View: All Three  | Well thought-out and engaging, this editorial sets an agenda on a local topic and takes the extra step in serving readers by providing contact information for legislators.   | Editorial Board          |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 113 | Best Editorial                          | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | How I-183 can hurt Montanans; Bringing Indian foster kids home; Distress in Montana SOS office                       | These editorials use clear and concise writing and strong wording to set an agenda on topics of impact to readers. The Secretary of State and I-183 editorials take on issues that affect a broad group of Montanans, and the foster child editorial shines a spotlight on a niche but important topic and makes a clear case for a way to help children. Excellent work. | Pat Bellinghausen        |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 113 | Best Editorial                          | Second Place | Whitehall Ledger         | Power of 11  |   | Jack Smith               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 113 | Best Editorial                          | Second Place | Silver State Post        | Our view   |   | Michael Stafford         |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 113 | Best Editorial                          | Second Place | Glasgow Courier          | Call to Conservatives  |   | James Walling            |

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| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 113 | Best Editorial              | Second Place | The Missoula Independent  | "Etc." editorials  | Breezy, succinct writing and an accessible layout surely pull in readers who might otherwise skip over this important content that puts the news in context. The point of view is clear and consistent, and it boldly informs readers. | Brad Tver                                      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 113 | Best Editorial              | Second Place | Montana Standard          | Legislature editorials   | These editorials use direct and clear reasoning, along with breezy writing, to address issues of great importance to Montanans.  | David McCumber                                 |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 113 | Best Editorial              | Third Place  | Boulder Monitor           | Editorial on MIAs  |  | Jan Anderson                                   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 113 | Best Editorial              | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha           | Legislature should fund Heritage Center project. Please vote for 2-mill library levy, FCC should not repeal net neutrality.        |  | Melody Martinsen                               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 113 | Best Editorial              | Third Place  | Lewistown News-Argus      | Editorials by Jacques Rutten   |  | Jacques Rutten                                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 113 | Best Editorial              | Third Place  | Livingston Enterprise     | Editorials by Justin Post  | These editorials employ clear and concise writing to educate and inform readers about subjects that surely will affect them.   | Justin Post                                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 113 | Best Editorial              | Third Place  | Billings Gazette          | Stick with issues not insults; Representative or not, it's still a matter of trust; City Council got it wrong on medical marijuana | These editorials set the agenda on important topics. The medical marijuana editorial, in particular, is especially convincing in its logic.  | Darrell Ehrlick                                |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | First Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer    | Little Learner's biggest hearts  | This is a nice headline that with the underline conveys the point of the feature. The little-big juxtaposition works. The writer's other two examples are serviceable.   | Stephen Kalb-Koenigsfeld                       |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | First Place  | Whitefish Pilot           | Nov. 1, 2017   | The Whitefish Pilot staff submitted three entries. The best is this fine collection of four front-page headlines on Nov. 11, including a feature and three news stories. Each captures the story succinctly and accurately.            | Whitefish Pilot staff                          |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | First Place  | Belgrade News             | Belgrade cheers changes to liquor license laws   | Good headline, but disqualified for failing to include three examples in the entry. NO FIRST-PLACE AWARD   | Belgrade News                                  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | First Place  | Flathead Beacon           | Gridlock with a View, Mind Games, Toughest Town in Montana   | Three good headlines whose verve adds something to the stories, especially when combined with their smart underlines. Good stories help, such as the interesting historical piece on The toughest town in Montana.                     | Justin Franz                                   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | First Place  | The Missoulian            | Sports headlines   | Terrific group of sports headlines -- creative, fun and right on the money   | Kyle Houghtaling                               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | Second Place | Laurel Outlook            | Variance request goes up in smoke  | Laurel Outlook's Kathleen Gilluly submitted six headlines. Her top three -- "Variance request goes up in smoke," "Shots, pot top city meeting," and Carl George attacked by ants," -- merit this second-place award.                   | Kathleen Gilluly                               |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | Second Place | Flathead Beacon           | Navigating the New West; Oh, the Places We'll Grow; Banking on the Backdrop  | These are all promising, stylish headlines but it's difficult to judge their aptness without seeing the stories they top.  | Kelvin Brown                                   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | Second Place | Montana Standard          | strong voices  | This is a good collection relying on the use of partial quotes. Those work best for the second and third stories, but all draw in the reader and give the stories a spark.   | Sandra Mellott                                 |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | Third Place  | Carbon County News        | LOW VISIBILITY, HIGH MISERABILITY  | This entry by the Carbon County includes headlines by two staffers. Their catchiness, such as "Low visibility, high miserability," earn the third-place award.   | Alastair Baker                                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | Third Place  | The Missoula Independent  | "Rot and Roll," "Green is the New Gray Area," and "Follow the Moneyed"   | Two of these Green is the new gray area and Follow the moneyed achieve the goals of aptness and creativity. The third example feels like it's trying to hard to be cool, and it doesn't work.  | Brad Tver                                      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 114 | Best Headline Writing       | Third Place  | Montana Standard          | shocking   | These are all straight news heds. The second and third, especially, demand the reader's attention with clarity and concision.  | Sandra Mellott                                 |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 201 | Best Front Page             | First Place  | Big Horn County News      | Big Horn County News Week 34   |  | Jim Eshleman                                   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 201 | Best Front Page             | First Place  | The Herald-News           | HN Week 45   |  | Darla Downs                                    |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 201 | Best Front Page             | First Place  | Belgrade News             | Park Fracas  | Great photos of breaking news. Nice symmetry in the design.  | Belgrade News                                  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 201 | Best Front Page             | First Place  | Valley Journal            | Deck collapse injures more than 50   | Innovative and unique.   | Rob Zolman, Summer Goddard                     |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 201 | Best Front Page             | First Place  | Montana Standard          | Wildfire smoke   | Nice layout and story selection.   | Montana Standard staff                         |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 201 | Best Front Page             | Second Place | Blackfoot Valley Dispatch | July 13, 2017  |  | Roger Dey                                      |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 201 | Best Front Page             | Second Place | The Western News          | It's a damn shame  | Breaking news photos. Classy design.   | John Blodgett                                  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 201 | Best Front Page             | Second Place | Belgrade News             | Levy   |  | Belgrade News                                  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 201 | Best Front Page             | Second Place | Valley Journal            | Dances with Bulls  | Great photos.  | Summer Goddard, Nicole Tavenner                |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 201 | Best Front Page             | Second Place | Daily Inter Lake          | Waterton-Glacier Dark Sky (April 29, 2017)   |  | Matt Baldwin                                   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 201 | Best Front Page             | Third Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer    | Shooting for the top   |  | Mackenzie Reiss                                |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 201 | Best Front Page             | Third Place  | Silver State Post         | Front page   | Solid layout and stories.  | Michael Stafford, Christina Bledsoe, Jane Harr |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 201 | Best Front Page             | Third Place  | The Montanian             | O' Christmas Tree  |  | Tracy McNew, Ashley South, Angie Wetherell     |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 201 | Best Front Page             | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon           | Oh the Places We'll Grow!  | That's fun.  | Steve Larson                                   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 201 | Best Front Page             | Third Place  | Great Falls Tribune       | Montana reservations became dumping grounds for predatory priests  |  | Andy Harper                                    |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Big Horn County News      | Crow Fair 2017   | Great page. Engaging, colorful photos, nice frames and header. Beautiful 'photo album' of the fair.  | Jim Eshleman, Andrew Turck                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Whitefish Pilot           | Town & Country Nov. 8, 2017  | This entry tells a good story with words and photos. It is designed with a lot 'air', so it's not too cramped. Excellent job.  | Daniel McKay                                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus      | Veterans Edition   | This hits all the points one would expect. Good use of the silhouette. Good job all around.  | Megan Manley                                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design | First Place  | The Missoula Independent  | Healing waters   | The illustrations make this story come alive. The story is intriguing. It is all matched by the design and layout. In a year of strong, strong entries, this takes first place. Congratulations.                                       | Kou Moua                                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Montana Standard          | Getting classy   | Interesting story. Gourmet in the middle of Montana...who knew? Now we all do...great story enhanced by wonderful photos and professional layout. Congratulations.   | Montana Standard staff                         |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design | Second Place | Big Horn County News      | Little Bighorn Days/Crow Native Days   | Beautiful. To the uninitiated, this page would convince them to want to attend this event. Great use of the main photo.  | Jim Eshleman, Andrew Turck                     |

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|--|-----|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Second Place | Silver State Post         | Page layout   | This spread has a nice symmetry/good header. Story and names of responders makes a reader linger on the page, which is also good for the advertisers.  | Christina Bledsoe          |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Second Place | Belgrade News             | tree trimming   | Creative use of the Christmas tree art. Eye-catching, which IS the point.  | Belgrade News              |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Second Place | The Missoula Independent  | A Star Aligns   | A little creativity can take a pedestrian feature onto the next level. Great photo.  | Kou Moua                   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Second Place | The Missoulian            | Territory: Sunday, March 5, 2017  | From the ashes of a tragedy your team has created a spread that is important to your readers. I enjoyed the story very much; my experience was made better by the photos and the layout.   | Ashley Klein, Kurt Wilson  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Third Place  | Blackfoot Valley Dispatch | A Little Bit Western  | Good arrangement of photos. Good captions, easy to navigate. Design invites the reader to linger over the page, which is good for the advertisers.   | Roger Dey                  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Third Place  | Silver State Post         | Page layout   | This is just a good layout for a story/information most people find boring. It is produced for maximum impact. Good job.   | Michael Stafford           |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Third Place  | Belgrade News             | The End   | A lot of information presented in various ways. The reader can pick and choose what to read according to what is interesting to them. Nice job.  | Belgrade News              |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon           | Secrets to a City's Success   | This was so nice we stole the idea for our own newspaper. Great ideas foster good design as do photographs that illustrate the story. This was a year of very strong entries for this category, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places essentially tied. Keep up the good work. | Steve Larson               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 202 | Best Page Layout and Design        | Third Place  | Daily Inter Lake          | The King and I (Sept. 24, 2017)   | What an honor for this Montanan artist. The use of a large photo of the sculpture was a bold, but good choice. There were many top-notch layouts. You should be proud of your achievement.   | Matt Baldwin               |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Big Horn County News      | School & Activities   |  | Barb Eben                  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Whitefish Pilot           | March 1, 2017   |  | Daniel McKay               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review    | Red Devil wrestling   |  | Jamie Ausk Crisafulli      |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Havre Daily News          | The Career  |  | George Ferguson            |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | First Place  | Daily Inter Lake          | Roller Derby: For the Fun of It   |  | Matt Baldwin               |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Second Place | Big Horn County News      | Bite em at State, Bulldogs!   |  | Jim Eshleman               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Second Place | Dillon Tribune            | Sports page   |  | Dillon Tribune             |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Second Place | Flathead Beacon           | Best of Preps Cover   |  | Steve Larson               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Second Place | Bozeman Daily Chronicle   | Four for 4  |  | Chris Kerr                 |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Third Place  | Big Horn County News      | Lodge Grass Indians Homecoming 2017                                       |  | Jim Eshleman, Andrew Turck |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Third Place  | Whitefish Pilot           | Dec. 13, 2017   |  | Daniel McKay               |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Third Place  | Havre Daily News          | Deja Blue   |  | George Ferguson            |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 203 | Best Sports Page Layout and Design | Third Place  | Daily Inter Lake          | The Beast Inside (Dec. 17, 2017)  |  | Matt Baldwin               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 204 | Best Graphic                       | First Place  | Whitefish Pilot           | Whitefish Housing   | Classic, clean graphics.   | Heidi Desch                |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 204 | Best Graphic                       | First Place  | Belgrade News             | County Commissioners frustrated with land exchange agreement for landfill | Readers enjoy detailed maps.   | Michael Tucker             |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 204 | Best Graphic                       | First Place  | Flathead Beacon           | Top Jobs  | Packed in a lot of info in that space. Well done.  | Sharilyn Fairweather       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 204 | Best Graphic                       | First Place  | Great Falls Tribune       | Guns in Montana   |  | Andy Harper                |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 204 | Best Graphic                       | Second Place | The Herald-News           | 2016 Year in Review Graphic   |  | Darla Downs                |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 204 | Best Graphic                       | Second Place | Belgrade News             | THIS IS THE BEST DECISION   |  | Belgrade News              |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 204 | Best Graphic                       | Second Place | Flathead Beacon           | Fate of the Affordable Care   |  | Steve Larson               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 204 | Best Graphic                       | Second Place | Great Falls Tribune       | Great Falls on who we are   |  | Andy Harper                |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 204 | Best Graphic                       | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha           | Prevent Cyber Threats   |  | Melody Martinsen           |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 204 | Best Graphic                       | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon           | Economic Indicators   |  | Steve Larson               |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 204 | Best Graphic                       | Third Place  | Billings Gazette          | Possible Timetable for Colstrip Power Closures                            |  | Staff                      |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 301 | Best News Photo                    | First Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder    | Fire Bears Down on Seeley Lake  | There were a few wildfire photos entered in this category, but this one stood out because of the moment that was caught with the plane dropping the fire retardant against showing the magnitude of the fire.  | Nathan Bourne              |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 301 | Best News Photo                    | First Place  | The Herald-News           | Dousing The Flames  | Nice photo for a difficult lighting situation.   | Tyler Manning              |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 301 | Best News Photo                    | First Place  | Havre Daily News          | A summer thunderstorm hits  | Nice photo that was different and stood out from the other entries.  | Colin Thompson             |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 301 | Best News Photo                    | First Place  | Independent Record        | Fighting the Fire Near Homes  | In a category that had a lot of photos of wildland fires, this one stood out because it was a different and showed originality.  | Thom Bridge                |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Second Place | Blackfoot Valley Dispatch | D&D Foodtown cleanup  | Nicely composed photo, it draws the viewer into the action of the people cleaning up the aisle.  | Roger Dey                  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Second Place | The Western News          | It's a damn shame   |  | John Blodgett              |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Second Place | Havre Daily News          | Fire burns 8000 acres - top right   |  | Melody Roberts             |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Second Place | Great Falls Tribune       | Rancher At A Loss   | Nice angle that gives a birds eye view the fire's devastation.   | Rion Sanders               |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Third Place  | Blackfoot Valley Dispatch | Arrastra/Park Creek fires at night, Aug. 18.                              | A pretty photo made out of a devastating event.  | Roger Dey                  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Third Place  | Hungry Horse News         | Sprague Fire Blooms   |  | Chris Peterson             |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Third Place  | Livingston Enterprise     | Heading for safer ground  |  | Nate Howard                |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 301 | Best News Photo                    | Third Place  | The Missoulian            | Firefighter at night  |  | Tommy Martino              |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 302 | Best Sports Photo                  | First Place  | Mineral Independent       | Volleyball: "Clark Fork Mountain Cat senior Kenzie Mueller"               | Solid game action.   | Kathleen Woodford          |

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|--|-----|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | First Place  | The Western News        | An Incredi-bull ride   | Great rodeo action.  | John Blodgett         |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | First Place  | Belgrade News           | Soccer photo of keeper diving for ball.                                |  | Daniel Chesnet        |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | First Place  | Livingston Enterprise   | High flying cowboy boot  |  | Hunter D'Antuono      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | First Place  | Independent Record      | Lost Hat   |  | Thom Bridge           |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Second Place | Big Horn County News    | Extreme Days Tug-of-War  | This is a great moment.  | Andrew Turck          |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Second Place | The Western News        | Libby Loggers vs Clark Fork baseball                                   | Well-captured unusual action.  | Paul Sievers          |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Second Place | Belgrade News           | Belgrade's Ty Atwood sliding into third base.                          |  | Daniel Chesnet        |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Second Place | Flathead Beacon         | Championship Embrace   |  | Greg Lindstrom        |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Second Place | Billings Gazette        | Hillclimb  |  | Bronte Wittpenn       |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Third Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder  | Impossible Dream goes to Throw Lance Vossler                           | A nice rodeo shot, the horse's face adds a lot.  | Nathan Bourne         |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Third Place  | Whitefish Pilot         | Whitefishs Hallie Schelling races ahead during the SOM snowshoe sprint | Very nice action photo.  | Daniel McKay          |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Third Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review  | Snowball   |  | Jamie Ausk Crisafulli |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Third Place  | Livingston Enterprise   | Bareback rodeo rider   |  | Hunter D'Antuono      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 302 | Best Sports Photo   | Third Place  | The Missoulian          | Stealing second  |  | Tommy Martino         |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | First Place  | Big Horn County News    | Just break the silence   |  | Andrew Turck          |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | First Place  | Hungry Horse News       | Moonrise Kingdom   |  | Chris Peterson        |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | First Place  | Glasgow Courier         | Close Call With a Glacier Grizzly                                      |  | Mary Kate Teske       |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | First Place  | Livingston Enterprise   | Fearless rider   |  | Hunter D'Antuono      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | First Place  | Billings Gazette        | Young dancers  |  | Casey Page            |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Second Place | Seeley Swan Pathfinder  | Fishing at Sunset  |  | Nathan Bourne         |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Second Place | Dillon Tribune          | Powerful moment  |  | J.P. Plutt            |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus    | What?  |  | Megan Manley          |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Second Place | Flathead Beacon         | Northern Lights  |  | Justin Franz          |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Second Place | Daily Inter Lake        | Into the Vortex (on the ladder)  |  | Aaric Bryan           |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Third Place  | Big Horn County News    | Pryor activity bash  |  | Andrew Turck          |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Third Place  | Hungry Horse News       | Moose Grass?   |  | Chris Peterson        |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Third Place  | Anaconda Leader         | Black Hole Sun   |  | James S. Rosien       |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon         | Hawk   |  | Greg Lindstrom        |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 303 | Best Feature Photo  | Third Place  | Independent Record      | Around the Fire  |  | Thom Bridge           |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | First Place  | Clark Fork Valley Press | The Voice of Rodeo   | Nice angle (composition) and even though there's a little too much red, I think, it is still a good portrait of this guy.  | Erin Jusseaume        |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | First Place  | Whitefish Pilot         | Sunti Pichetchaiyakul works on a sculpture                             | Composition-wise, a great photo. The hand's a little bright, but otherwise, technical quality is good. Expression tells the story.                                 | Daniel McKay          |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus    | Tractor Boy  | Great expression, good composition and technical quality. A winner!  | Jenny Gessaman        |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | First Place  | Flathead Beacon         | Best of Preps  | The technical skill isn't what makes this a great portrait photo, but it helps.  | Greg Lindstrom        |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | First Place  | The Missoulian          | Proud American   | Great photo. Checks all the boxes for this category.   | Kurt Wilson           |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Second Place | Big Horn County News    | Promoting cultural exchange  | Great expressions, a natural "pose" that makes it an attention-getter.   | Andrew Turck          |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Second Place | Laurel Outlook          | Django the chocolate lab   | I don't know if this was a "lucky" shot, but considering the topic, it's a prize-winner. Eyes and paw tell us all we need to know.                                 | Chris McConnell       |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Second Place | Belgrade News           | I GOT NO SECRET, I JUST LIVE   | Good photo, composition-wise and technically, except for the unfortunate appendage at the end of his nose... But it's still a place-winner.                        | Freddy Monares        |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Second Place | Flathead Beacon         | Sundays with Polar Bear Rick   | This tells us all we need to know: that we're perfectly happy to see him do this. Great environmental portrait.  | Greg Lindstrom        |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Second Place | Montana Standard        | Larry Hoffman portrait   | Great environmental portrait.  | David McCumber        |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Third Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer  | Art Sell and his flags   | It would be helpful (for the judge) to see a cutline on this, but it's a great shot (once I figured out that was a steamer and not just glare).                    | Mackenzie Reiss       |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Third Place  | Silver State Post       | Just the right blend   | Nice composition. Interesting photo. It doesn't move me quite like the other two winners, but it's an excellent shot.  | Michael Stafford      |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Third Place  | Glasgow Courier         | Red Thumbs at the Coffee Shop  | Composition makes this better than the average snapshot-portfolio. Stuff on table tells readers why they're looking at her.  | Mary Kate Teske       |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Third Place  | Livingston Enterprise   | WWII United States Marines Corps veteran                               | The setting gives this the edge over the competition and there was some good stuff in fourth and fifth. Good job of setting this up.                               | Hunter D'Antuono      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 304 | Best Portrait Photo | Third Place  | Billings Gazette        | Football linebacker  | Love the creativity in setting up this portrait. Only thing I'd like to see is a football field (goalposts? lines?) in the background. This looks like a ... park? | Casey Page            |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 401 | Best Online Ad      | First Place  | The Ekalaka Eagle       | Ekalaka Eagle House Ad   | eye catching, compelling   | Eric Lovce            |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 401 | Best Online Ad      | First Place  | Choteau Acantha         | Hodgskiss Seed Growers Meeting   | nice graphic; good use of bright green to attract attention  | Jeff Martinsen        |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 401 | Best Online Ad      | First Place  | Flathead Beacon         | Mountain Valley Foods  |  | Sharilyn Fairweather  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 401 | Best Online Ad      | First Place  | Daily Inter Lake        | Izaak Walton   |  | Shawn Withrow         |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 401 | Best Online Ad      | Second Place | The Ekalaka Eagle       | Pub Winter Hours   | good use of graphic  | Eric Lovce            |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 401 | Best Online Ad      | Second Place | Choteau Acantha         | Women's Golf League  | This is just a happy ad that I think people will read.   | Sandra Doglakos       |



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| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 401 | Best Online Ad                                       | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | Jesco Contest                                     |  | Tyler Thorney                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 401 | Best Online Ad                                       | Second Place | Great Falls Tribune      | Nice to Meet You - Madison Smokehouse             |  | Joe Addy                         |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 401 | Best Online Ad                                       | Third Place  | The Ekalaka Eagle        | Days of '85 Ad                                    | stands out   | Eric Lovce                       |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 401 | Best Online Ad                                       | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Mountain Front Market, Seeds                      |  | Sandra Doglakos                  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 401 | Best Online Ad                                       | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Village Greens                                    |  | Steve Larson                     |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 401 | Best Online Ad                                       | Third Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | Vintage Seller                                    |  | Joe Addy                         |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | First Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer   | Special summer sale                               | Good call to action, very readable, and good use of white space. This ad accomplishes a lot with little.   | John Henry Hasekline             |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Frontline Ag, Hunt For Savings                    |  | Jeff Martinsen                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | First Place  | Belgrade News            | Estate Sale-Arnold                                |  | Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman    |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | First Place  | The Missoula Independent | Hide Sole   |  | Indy Staff                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Central Heating                                   |  | Staff                            |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Second Place | The Ekalaka Eagle        | Halloween cards at Stieg                          | A great memorable ad, very stylized while remaining legible.   | Eric Lovce                       |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Second Place | Choteau Acantha          | Mountain Front Market, Bug Spray                  |  | Jeff Martinsen                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Second Place | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Grill season                                      |  | Michella Dey                     |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Second Place | Havre Daily News         | Master Sports                                     |  | Advertising Staff                |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Second Place | Independent Record       | Capital Sports                                    |  | Lisa Kuntz                       |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Third Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer   | Fidget spinners                                   | A very straightforward ad, grabs your attention well.  | John Henry Hasekline             |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Third Place  | Silver State Post        | Anaconda Liquor Store                             |  | Tom Mullen                       |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Third Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | Olson's Superlube/Pickup Guy                      |  | Terrri Selph, Alice Neal         |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Third Place  | The Missoula Independent | Butterfly Herbs                                   |  | Indy Staff                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 402 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise black & white | Third Place  | Independent Record       | Bob Kolar Diamond Dream                           |  | Lisa Kuntz                       |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | First Place  | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Asparagus is Here!                                |  | Lisa Larson, Juli Hindahl        |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | First Place  | Silver State Post        | Sunshine Station - mmmm                           | Simple, to the point. Conciseness might be the most underrated aspect of quality print ads. Quality of the cutout could be better, but I don't mind the soft edge here as it feels all fluffy like a cloud of biscuit goodness. Could improve type treatment at bottom. Text with an outline on it is hard to read. Could have done blue text on a yellow background at bottom. Nice!  | Tom Mullen                       |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | First Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Black Beauty                                      | The image of the product is the best thing here. Gold is a fitting accent color and references the blanket draped off the bed. The gold could've been incorporated more, and the typography improved drastically.  | Elizabeth Kaiser                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Great Bear Festival                               | Vibrant color scheme, Typography matches well with look and feel of imagery. The level of hierarchy is almost there, just subtle suggestions... I feel FESTIVAL should be in the same font treatment as "GREAT BEAR", that would eliminate one complete level of hierarchy, and increase impact of the communication. Well done!   | Sharilyn Fairweather             |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | First Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | Boat Show - Wallace Marine                        | While this ad uses low brow, retro elements like starbursts and the clipart fish, it does it in an effective way, interacting with the article text in a dynamic manner. The yellow bursts against the blue grab the reader's eye and demand attention. Some things to improve: Readability of the location is an issue. The ad is a little busy, I don't see a need for the photo of the motor. Maybe make the Yamaha logo black or white against the blue (non-white background). Well done!   | Deanna Small, Scott Sanford      |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Second Place | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | Nothing says "I Love You" like a Winter Adventure |  | Nathan Bourne                    |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Second Place | Hungry Horse News        | Mack Days   | Lots of info to convey here and you do a great job separating the hierarchy. Great color scheme and strong normative typography. Well done!  | Kurt Hannah                      |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus     | Wier Furniture                                    | The colors are bright and vibrant. Some of the elements are close to lining up but far enough to tell that they don't line up. It should be consistent.  | Dearlene Hodik, News-Argus Staff |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | Mule Deer Foundation Banquet                      | This ad is nearly perfect. The composition is strong and dynamic. Color scheme is effective and typography done well. Great imagery. Some minor suggestions: The dark horizontal bar at lower left distracts me. I think if it was the same dark blue as the shadows in the mountains, it would feel right. The banquet logo feels too tight to the mountain's peak. I think giving it some more space on top and bottom to float in the clouds would be more pleasing to the eye. Too much tension in that spot at the moment. Well done! | Sharilyn Fairweather             |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Second Place | Daily Inter Lake         | McGough & Co.                                     | This ad has dynamic composition and typography. The red brushstroke against the black really pops. Angles of the champagne bottle and diamond strands move the viewer's eye throughout the ad. Well done!  | Shawn Withrow                    |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Third Place  | Mineral Independent      | We carry the feed you need!                       | Lots of info is conveyed here but it doesn't feel like it. Great job on the hierarchy of info. To be more effective I would probably eliminate one of the images, and make one significantly larger than the rest. Good job!   | Lisa Larson                      |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Frontline Ag, Gifts                               |  | Jeff Martinsen                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Third Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | American Ford                                     |  | Elizabeth Kaiser                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Wag Race  | Great typography and color scheme, great imagery. Here are some minor suggestions: The background seems like an afterthought. It would be nice to see maybe a subtle background image overlay or texture? The justified type makes for some overly generous word spacing on the "Proceeds" and "Sign Up" text, I would increase the font size on those lines. Well done!   | Dwayne Harris                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 403 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Merchandise color         | Third Place  | Independent Record       | Silver Star Steak Company                         | The powerful image of the steak is what makes this ad successful. This ad would score higher points if it had a better headline. The typography could also use improvement. There are too many font families at work here.   | Lisa Kuntz                       |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white    | First Place  | The Ekalaka Eagle        | Church Schedule                                   |  | Eric Lovce                       |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1, 251 to 2,000.       | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white    | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Boone and Crocket, Camp                           |  | Jeff Martinsen                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white    | First Place  | Belgrade News            | Experienced Carpenters                            |  | Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman    |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white    | First Place  | The Missoula Independent | Big Sky Breakout                                  |  | Indy Staff                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white    | First Place  | Independent Record       | R&K Trucking                                      |  | Rebecca Bruno                    |

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| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Second Place | The Ekalaka Eagle        | Got Weevil?  |  | Eric Lovce                                      |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Second Place | Choteau Acantha          | Log Cabin, Easter                                  |  | Jeff Martinsen                                  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Second Place | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Kind caring and complete family dentistry          |  | Michella Dey                                    |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Second Place | The Missoula Independent | Sydney Seyfert                                     |  | Indy Staff                                      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Second Place | Great Falls Tribune      | Legacy of Compassion - Croxford's                  |  | Deanna Small                                    |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Third Place  | The Ekalaka Eagle        | Mother's Day at Wagon Wheel                        |  | Eric Lovce                                      |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Third Place  | The Herald-News          | Wolf Point Cold Weather Bus Stops                  |  | Darla Downs                                     |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Third Place  | Belgrade News            | Manhattan Elementary School                        |  | Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman                   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 404 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services black & white | Third Place  | Independent Record       | Clearwater Montana Properties                      |  | Rebecca Bruno                                   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | First Place  | The Ekalaka Eagle        | Courthouse Open House                              |  | Eric Lovce                                      |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | First Place  | Hungry Horse News        | Historic Tamarack 2                                |  | Brenda Ritter                                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | First Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | One end of the community to the other              |  | Michella Dey, Chad Knudson                      |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | First Place  | Valley Journal           | Best of Montana                                    |  | Nicole Tavenner                                 |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Realty Billings                                    |  | Staff   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Second Place | Mineral Independent      | Sprinkler Blowouts                                 |  | Lisa Larson                                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Second Place | Choteau Acantha          | Log Cabin, New Years Eve                           |  | Sandra Dogiakos                                 |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus     | Let us get in your head                            |  | Terri Selph, Stephanie Prater                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | Irish Whiskey Event                                |  | Dwayne Harris                                   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Second Place | Billings Gazette         | Mint Smartwash                                     |  | Staff   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Third Place  | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Mother's Day Dining                                |  | Lisa Larson, Juli Hindahl                       |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Fire Department, Answer the Call                   |  | Sandra Dogiakos                                 |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Third Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Welcome to the 70s                                 |  | Michella Dey                                    |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Third Place  | Havre Daily News         | Valley Furniture                                   |  | Stacy Mantle                                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 405 | Best Ad to Sell or Promote Services color         | Third Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | Drive Home - 1st Ave Autobody                      |  | Melissa Horacek                                 |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | First Place  | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Chicks-n-Chaps Sanders County Fair                 | Clearly visible who the sponsor is both at the top and bottom. You know just what you are looking at. Great use of color and photos  | Erin Jusseume                                   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | First Place  | Lake County Leader       | Halloween Safety Game                              | Absolutely love this! Its so clever, different and fun. Very colorful, demands attention. Taking time to look through each sponsor, the extras included into each was an extra bonus. Well done!             | Kurt Hannah, Missy Steinebach                   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | First Place  | Belgrade News            | Shop Local in Belgrade                             | Nicely done. Each business offers a holiday promotion to shop local. Perfect fit for the shop local message.   | Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | First Place  | Havre Daily News         | Good Luck Golf                                     | Nice focus on the team. I like the look of this ad with the green off to the side. Unique and stands out.  | Stacy Mantle                                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | So Long 2017 - BG SWAT                             | This page is exact to its title. Each business offers something for New Years and celebration. There is nothing on this page that does not belong. Attention grabbing, makes you want to make plans for fun! | Staff   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Second Place | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Sanders County Fair PRCA Rodeo 2017                | Sponsor is clearly visible, fitting for the page. Nice use of photo variety and colors, everything flows well together.  | Erin Jusseume                                   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Second Place | Hungry Horse News        | Good Luck Wildcats                                 | Nice and bold, the sponsors each stand out with room in between each to grab attention.  | Shawn Withrow, Kim Varga, Caleb Sims, Brenda    |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Second Place | Belgrade News            | Winter Automotive Repair Guide                     | Nice to see each business is specific to automotive with no duplicate product/services. Eye catching with the photo of what can happen when not prepared.  | George Hoffman, Becky Sheehan                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Second Place | Havre Daily News         | Good Luck Swimmers                                 | Great use of photos and colors, perfect for the page. You know exactly what you're looking at. Eye catching  | Stacy Mantle                                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Second Place | Great Falls Tribune      | Adopt-A- Pet                                       | Very heart warming. Love the photos of each pet with details about each. Including where to go makes it easy for the reader. Great page.   | Great Falls Tribune Classified                  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Third Place  | Big Horn County News     | Veterans day pages                                 | I love the look of these, the recognition of individuals the use of photos make this very touching. I think the sponsor could have stood out a little more.  | Jim Eshleman, Britt Eben                        |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Third Place  | Yellowstone County News  | Worden Christmas Stroll                            | I like that this page has a title and a little explanation of what this page is. Nice variety and each fits the page purpose.  | Tracy Kern                                      |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Third Place  | Belgrade News            | Good Luck Belgrade Panthers Page                   | Attractive, nice layout. Could use a tad more color, overall well done.  | Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Third Place  | Havre Daily News         | Honor Our Vets                                     | Heart warming and personal. Loved the use of photos and especially the handwritten notes from children. Very nice touch  | Stacy Mantle                                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 406 | Best Sponsor Page                                 | Third Place  | Billings Gazette         | "Back the Blue" - BG Retail Promo                  | This just screams support. Love the massive amount of businesses on this page. Very colorful, each business stands out in their own way.   | Staff   |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | First Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer   | Heading out of town, but want to stay in the loop? | Headline and art relate the best to each other compared to all other entries.  | John Henry Haseltine                            |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | First Place  | Silver State Post        | Stand Out  | Clearly the best ad in the bunch. Good art. Strong headline. Great impact.   | Christina Bledsoe                               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | I found a job                                      | Best of the bunch. Strong art and headline make this a must read.  | Megan Steiner                                   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | First Place  | Havre Daily News         | Thank You Community Strong                         | Great ad. Wonderful layout and use of tremendous and powerful art. Good copywriting as well. Only thing I can't tell for sure is if this ad is from the newspaper. I'm assuming it is.                       | Stacy Mantle, Pam Burke, Peggy Ray              |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | First Place  | Independent Record       | Heart of the Community                             | Great ad. Good use of art. I really like the paper folded in a heart. Nice job on copywriting as well.   | Anita Fabsbender, Jenean Kujawa, Becky Stanton, |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | Second Place | The Big Timber Pioneer   | Hosting a community event?                         | Pretty close between this and first place. I just liked the other ad more.   | John Henry Haseltine                            |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | Second Place | Silver State Post        | Don't Let Your Competitor Get Your Work            | Good use of dominant art and attention getting headline.   | Christina Bledsoe                               |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus     | Friday the 13th                                    | Good use of art and timeliness of ad make it attention getting.  | Meagan Steiner, Denise Williams                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | Second Place | The Missoula Independent | Local news   | Clean. Impactful. Reader gets the message without having to think about it. I'm stealing this idea for my own papers. Good work.   | Indy Staff                                      |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad                     | Second Place | Daily Inter Lake         | Multi-Media Marketing                              | The art and the headlines grabbed me. Immediate impact of ad should make a business owner think about this offer.  | Shawn Withrow                                   |

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| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad          | Third Place  | The Big Timber Pioneer   | Local news is our focus                      |  | John Henry Haseltine                                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad          | Third Place  | Silver State Post        | Great News                                   | Clean and well organized ad. Headline needs to be more of a benefit statement.   | Christina Bledsoe  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad          | Third Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Color me safe                                |  | Michella Dey   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad          | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Greatness Revealed - Best of Preps           | Well designed ad that is impactful. Headline is the best!  | Steve Larson   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 407 | Best Newspaper Promotional Ad          | Third Place  | Bozeman Daily Chronicle  | Prime Awards                                 | A lot going on in this ad which is almost too busy. Dominant art saves this ad and makes an immediate impact. Well organized and it gets the message across.   | Matthew Gasbarre   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Funds for Finnley Benefit                    | Great photo and extremely eye catching with the headline of the ad. Great layout. Great use of the white fade. Super clean ad.   | Sandra Doglajos  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | First Place  | The Montanian            | Deer Eating Ad                               |  | Tracy McNew, Ashley South, Angie Wetherell               |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Glacier Preserved                            | Great use of the vertical photo and keeping the layout clean, simple. Great job.   | Steve Larson   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Be Informed - BG Retail                      | This is one of the best ads I have seen. Great use of the photo and creative idea with using it in BW and the info in color. Great work. Super ad that I am going to steal the idea for my paper!      | Staff  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | Second Place | Phillips County News     | TY Fire                                      | Great job with the photo cutout and the use of the secondary photo of the fire station building. Clean ad for how much info is in the ad.  | Mark Hebert  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | Second Place | The Montanian            | Deer/Unicorn Ad                              |  | Tracy McNew, Ashley South, Angie Wetherell               |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | Second Place | Havre Daily News         | Thank You Community Strong                   | Very powerful photo. Good use of the image   | Stacy Mantle, Pam Burke, Peggy Ray                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | Second Place | Billings Gazette         | Holiday Gift Guide - BG SWAT                 | Great layout with a ton of merchandising photos. It looked very professional, straight out of a magazine. Very creative idea.  | Staff  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha          | The Edge, Staff                              | Love this ad. Great staff photo and loved the longer ad size instead of more square.   | Sandra Doglajos  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | Third Place  | Havre Daily News         | Valley Furniture                             | Good job with the layout and creative of all the photos. Many photos to be used can be challenging and you kept it clean and got a lot of photos in.   | Stacy Mantle   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 408 | Best Use of Local Photography in an Ad | Third Place  | Great Falls Tribune      | Get your Audience                            | Clean ad with great photo as base and magazine as the added pop. Good job.   | Scott Sanford  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Farmers Union Insurance                      |  | Jeff Martensen   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | First Place  | Glendive Ranger-Review   | Garden center coming soon                    |  | Chad Knudson   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Glacier National Park Posters                |  | Sharilyn Fairweather                                     |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Nana's Bloomers                              |  | Staff  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Second Place | Choteau Acantha          | Frontline Ag                                 |  | Jeff Martensen   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Second Place | Lewistown News-Argus     | Buy Local                                    |  | Jacques Rutten   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | Best of Preps - Greatness Revealed           |  | Steve Larson   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Second Place | Billings Gazette         | Montana HotSpring Spas                       |  | Staff  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Third Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Mountain Front Market, Customer Appreciation |  | Jeff Martensen   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Third Place  | Belgrade News            | Wagner Nursery                               |  | Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman, Denise Buchner            |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Third Place  | The Missoula Independent | Mellow Mood                                  |  | Indy Staff   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 409 | Best Marketing Campaign                | Third Place  | Daily Inter Lake         | Snappy's 70th Anniversary Campaign           |  | Shawn Withrow  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 501 | Best Website                           | First Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | Seeley Swan Pathfinder                       | They were the most organized with a payroll. Needs more color than just the white background. If they can customize their design they will stand out more.   | Andi Bourne, Nathan Bourne                               |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 501 | Best Website                           | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | The Choteau Acantha Newspaper                | Excellent LARGE photos, contrasting colors, and searchable classifieds.  | Staff  |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 501 | Best Website                           | First Place  | Lewistown News-Argus     | www.lewistownnews.com                        | Basic design. Good use of color.   | News-Argus Staff   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 501 | Best Website                           | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | flatheadbeacon.com                           | BEST DESIGN I'VE SEEN SO FAR. Love the sticky navigation bar, colorful design and graphics!  | Flathead Beacon Staff                                    |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 501 | Best Website                           | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Billings Gazette website                     | Wonderful use of sticky navigation, layout and design  | Staff  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 501 | Best Website                           | Second Place | The Kalaka Eagle         | www.ekalakaagle.com                          | Good design. Didn't care for the red separator lines, they were distracting, but overall nice.   | Eric Lovec   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 501 | Best Website                           | Second Place | Hungry Horse News        | Hungry Horse News website                    | Good LARGE photos in stories. Need more photo previews. Basic design but good.   | Chris Peterson, Jeremy Weber                             |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 501 | Best Website                           | Second Place | Livingston Enterprise    | The Livingston Enterprise website            | Basic but nice distinction and gray background to highlight modular layout.  | Harriman, Liz Kearney, Sam Hill, Neil Healy, Nate Howard |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 501 | Best Website                           | Second Place | Independent Record       | www.helenair.com                             | Basic design, good large photos.   | Staff  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 501 | Best Website                           | Third Place  | Big Horn County News     | Big Horn County News                         | If they can customize their design they will stand out more. Overall nice.   | Staff  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 501 | Best Website                           | Third Place  | Laurel Outlook           | The Laurel Outlook                           | Great keeping purple branding but there were hardly any photos and the photos that were there were small and sometimes cropped incorrectly. "LOCO Girls Season ends" also couldn't get behind payroll. | Evan Bruce   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 501 | Best Website                           | Third Place  | Havre Daily News         | Havre Daily News                             | Best cookie cutter design.   | Staff  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 501 | Best Website                           | Third Place  | The Missoulian           | Missoulian website                           | No classifieds, but good use of that basic design.   | Staff  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 502 | Best Video                             | First Place  | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Touring the Christmas Kenworth               | Good to have image of the reporter, but you should never shoot video vertically.   | Erin Jusseume  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 502 | Best Video                             | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | The Choteau Acantha                          | I liked the documentary-style that this took.  | Sandra Doglajos  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 502 | Best Video                             | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Making It: Part 2                            | Amazing production. Fantastic editing.   | Bronte Wittpenn  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 502 | Best Video                             | Second Place | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Sheep Gap makes a run for Plains             | Never shoot video vertically. Need to show the reporter in an interview.   | Erin Jusseume  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 502 | Best Video                             | Second Place | Laurel Outlook           | Parade of Lights                             | Would have liked to see some narration and a better angle of the parade.   | Evan Bruce   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 502 | Best Video                             | Second Place | Billings Gazette         | Hope for Forest Grove                        | Amazing production. Fantastic editing.   | Ashlen Renner  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 502 | Best Video                             | Third Place  | Laurel Outlook           | Driver wreaks havoc                          | Almost no narration. Just a guy walking around with a camera.  | Evan Bruce   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 502 | Best Video                             | Third Place  | Billings Gazette         | NASA Astronaut Frank Borman                  | Amazing production. Fantastic editing.   | Meg Oliphant   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 503 | Best Digital Presentation              | First Place  | Choteau Acantha          | Choteau Christmas Stroll Map                 | Easy to use, definitely has the information people will be asking for. Nice advertising tie-in as well with the print ad embeds.   | Sandra Doglajos  |

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|--|-----|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 503 | Best Digital Presentation      | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Help Wanted   | Interesting topics with fun and colorful graphics that help tell the story.  | Beacon Staff   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 503 | Best Digital Presentation      | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | Of the 60 reported rapes in 2016, none were charged           | Important story, cleanly told with animated graphics, nice photos and easy to scroll layout.   | Preston Stahley  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 503 | Best Digital Presentation      | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | The 2017 Food Issue   |  | Beacon Staff   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 503 | Best Digital Presentation      | Second Place | The Missoulian           | Summer of fire and smoke                                      | Love the dramatic, large scale photo and video layout. Nice wrap up piece for a massive news event.  | Chase Doak, Tommy Martino                                  |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 503 | Best Digital Presentation      | Third Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Best of Preps Winter 2017                                     |  | Beacon Staff   |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 503 | Best Digital Presentation      | Third Place  | Billings Gazette         | Out of the shadow: A child rape survivor's story              | The audio soundbites are a nice touch throughout.  | Chase Doak   |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | First Place  | Dillon Tribune           | Beaver Illustrated  | Great package of stories and photos highlighting a big event in the community (though, apparently, not the first!).  | Dillon Tribune   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | First Place  | Valley Journal           | Farm & Ranch  | Great selection of articles, art. Reader-friendly and informative, with nice mix of features and straight news/information pieces.   | Valley Journal Staff                                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | First Place  | Billings Gazette         | 40 Under 40   | Though we saw a lot of these "40 Under" publications in this competition, this one stands out in terms of organization, layout, presentation AND the fact that you tell us who the person is (beside their name) right off the bat. Quality publication.   | Staff  |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | Second Place | The Herald-News          | Twenty Under 40   | Very nice. I'd be interested in knowing (1) who the writers were, and (2) how the honorees were chosen.  | Tyler Manning, Darla Downs                                 |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | Second Place | Valley Journal           | Montana Summer  | Well-organized, with plenty of original feature-type articles in addition to listings. Great art. Quality printing.  | Valley Journal Staff                                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | Second Place | The Missoulian           | Corridor August 2017 - Fairs & Festivals                      | Nice combo of local lifestyle news and entertainment info, well-laid out (although it's too bad you couldn't get the Guitar Fest on a double truck), scope of content and readability. Nice job!   | Ashley Klein, Tyler Wilson, Adam Potts                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | Third Place  | Dillon Tribune           | Agriculture Today   | Nice selection of articles pertaining to the topic.  | Dillon Tribune   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | Third Place  | The Missoula Independent | Explorer 2017   | Lots of helpful stuff for those inclined to outdoor recreation. Like the "fun" feel to it.   | Brad Tyer, Erika Fredrickson, Alex Sakariassen, Joe Weston |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 601 | Best Newspaper Special Section | Third Place  | Daily Inter Lake         | Summer Scorched: Montana fire season one for the record books | This made the top three because it is an excellent job of doing what newspapers should: inform the public of what's happening around them, in this case something a little more grim than entertainment or lifestyle activities that dominated most of the rest of the entries. But it does a great job of recapping a difficult period and it included some great art. It will be kept a lot longer by readers than the entertainment guides, as high quality as they are. I will add that I would like to see a map depicting where the fires occurred (and dates) a visual representation of the scope of this thing. | Staff  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | First Place  | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Sanders County Fair Pictorial                                 | Nice commemorative piece, great ad support and design. Pictures told story of events and emotions of fair, would have liked to see a column explaining when it happened and any memorable highlights. Photos a little dark, but overall well done.   | Lisa Larson , Erin Jusseume                                |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | First Place  | Laurel Outlook           | The Explorer  |  | Evan Bruce   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | First Place  | The Madisonian           | Summer 2017 The Loop  |  | Caitlin Avey, Abigail Dennis, Erin Leonard, Rachel         |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | First Place  | Flathead Beacon          | Flathead Living Winter 2017-18                                |  | Staff  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | First Place  | The Missoulian           | Montana Magazine May/June 2017                                |  | Adam Potts, Kurt Wilson, Kathy Best, Gwen Florio           |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Second Place | Clark Fork Valley Press  | Montana to D.C. The People's Tree                             | Excellent idea for section, well designed and use of banner ads worked well. Photos way too many and too small to effectively tell story, would have liked more of a photo essay feel than try to squeeze in so many photos. Love the concept.   | Lisa Larson , Erin Jusseume                                |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Second Place | Dillon Tribune           | Discover Dillon and Southwest Montana                         |  | Dillon Tribune   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Second Place | Belgrade News            | Fair Game Hunting Guide                                       |  | Michael Tucker, Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman              |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Second Place | Flathead Beacon          | Glacier Journal 2017  |  | Staff  |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Second Place | Billings Gazette         | Magic Magazine - August/September Issue                       |  | Staff  |
| Division 1: Weekly newspapers with circulation of 1,250 or less.           | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Third Place  | Seeley Swan Pathfinder   | Best of the Valleys   | Simple layout, good choice of paper stock for "keeper piece." No ad support evident, unless the businesses who won paid to play. Print quality better than the higher placed entries. Nice community piece.  | Micah Drew, Andi Bourne, Nathan Bourne                     |
| Division 2: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,251 to 2,000.        | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Third Place  | Dillon Tribune           | College Success Guide   |  | Dillon T   |
| Division 3: Weekly newspapers with circulation from 2,001 to 4,500.        | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Third Place  | Belgrade News            | Celebrate Agriculture-Ag Appreciation Week                    |  | Michael Tucker, Sam Weber, Becky Sheehan, George Hoffman   |
| Division 4: Weekly and daily newspapers with circulation of 4,501 or more. | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Third Place  | Valley Journal           | Montana Summer  |  | Valley Journal Staff                                       |
| Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7 day).                                  | 602 | Best Niche Publication         | Third Place  | Billings Gazette         | Big Sky Bride - Fall/Winter Issue                             |  | Staff  |