Best Feature Photo
Division 5: Daily newspapers
2018 Better Newspaper Contest
By Casey Page, Billings Gazette

Titled: Young Dancers
**MNACalendar**

**November**
1. Deadline to return your 2019 MNA Rate and Data Survey
2. Montana general election
3. Montana Newspaper Foundation 2019 Internship Grants open for application
4. Member Educational Opportunity: Online Media Campus: Five in 24: Ideas on How to Grow Your Business
   Register at [http://onlinemediacampus.com/](http://onlinemediacampus.com/)
5. Deadline to submit articles for the November Press Pass newsletter
6. Federal holiday: Thanksgiving Day
7. MNA office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Day holiday

**December**
4. Montana Newspaper Foundation 2019 Internship Grant application deadline
14. Deadline to submit articles for the December Press Pass newsletter
20. Montana Newspaper Foundation 2019 Internship Grant winners announced
24 - 25. MNA office will be closed for the Christmas holiday
25. Federal holiday: Christmas Day
31. MNA office will close at noon for New Year’s Eve

**January**
1. Federal holiday: New Year’s Day
1. MNA office will be closed for the New Year’s holiday
3. 2019 MNA Better Newspaper Contest is open for entries
7. Start of the Montana Legislative Assembly
18. Deadline to submit articles for the January Press Pass newsletter
18. MNA and MNAS Board of Directors’ meeting in Helena

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**THANK YOU RENEWING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

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To advance and sustain the news publishing industry in Montana.

Jim Rickman, Executive Director | jim@mtnewspapers.com
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October 26, 2018
To view all the first-place winners of the 2018 Better Newspaper Contest, please visit the following link:

Assistant Professor Jason Begay joined the faculty at the University of Montana School of Journalism in 2010 after spending six years as a full-time reporter for The Navajo Times in Window Rock, Ariz.

He teaches courses in reporting and diversity and co-teaches the school's award-winning Native News Project, which produces an annual publication and website that covers issues facing Montana tribal communities. He has served on the board of directors for the Native American Journalists Association as its vice president, treasurer and president.

Jason is a 2002 graduate of the School of Journalism. He won a prestigious New York Times internship, and worked as a reporter for Portland's Oregonian before returning to his home, the Navajo reservation on the Arizona-New Mexico border, to work for The Navajo Times. Jason grew up in Gallup, N.M., and interned for the Times at age 19. As a journalism student at UM, he interned at newspapers in Duluth, Minn., and Oakland, Calif.

He earned a Masters in Business Administration in 2015.
Montana minimum wage change

Montana’s minimum wage is going up 20 cents to $8.50 an hour, starting on Jan. 1. Voters passed an initiative in 2006 that requires the state’s minimum wage be adjusted annually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers. The Department of Labor and Industry estimates 8,200 Montanans, or 1.8 percent of the workforce, received hourly wages of less than $8.50 in 2018.

On most days, do you have a traditional newspaper that you make a habit to visit or read either in print or online?

Based on 3,850 responses
Weighted according to U.S. Census figures for gender and age, 18 and older
© CivicScience 2018

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE 2019 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Our 2019 Better Newspaper Contest is only 10 weeks away. Now is the time to prepare by collecting and selecting your best work from 2018. Look for rules and any contest changes in December.

The contest will be open for your entries on Thursday, January 3, 2019, and close on Wednesday, February 13, 2019.
Tyler Miller steps down in Helena and Butte, is replaced by Anita Fasbender

Tyler Miller, publisher of the Independent Record in Helena and the Montana Standard in Butte, has stepped down from that position to pursue other opportunities in the Helena area. He will be replaced by Anita Fasbender, who joined the Independent Record in 1991 as a district manager and promotion marketing coordinator. She was also circulation director and regional advertising services manager before being named regional operations director in 2012.

Miller was named regional publisher for Helena and Butte in 2013. “For the past five years I have had the opportunity to work alongside great individuals to produce a fantastic product,” Miller said in a press release from Lee Enterprises Tuesday. “I love local journalism, and I’m very proud of what we have been able to produce. I thank Lee Enterprises for the great opportunity and support.”

Fasbender graduated from Montana State University in 1991. She has been involved in Rotary since 2010 and was a member of the Women’s Leadership Network from 2003 to 2012, including a stint as president from 2008 to 2010. She has three children.

“I am humbled and blessed to be asked to lead these teams of bright, passionate employees,” she said in Tuesday’s press release. “I’m excited about this new opportunity. I look forward to putting out the most comprehensive news coverage in the communities we serve and meeting the needs of our advertisers through our broad variety of media platforms.”

2019 Montana Newspaper Foundation Internship Grant Program

What is the internship program?
The Montana Newspaper Foundation (MNF) Internship Grant Program helps train tomorrow’s professionals by providing grants to member newspapers.

How much is the grant and how many are awarded?
$1,500 will be awarded to three successful newspapers.

When can I use the internship grant?
The grant can be used (and the money will be awarded) in 2019. We encourage successful applicants to begin the intern recruitment process early.

What is the application deadline?
December 4, 2018

When will grants be announced by the MNF?
December 20, 2018

What is the obligation of my newspaper?
Each newspaper selected for the grant must agree to at least match the $1,500 award by the MNF for the intern’s compensation. In addition to compensation, interns may receive institutional credit, if their school allows it. Interns are to be considered an employee of the newspaper.

Interns must be students enrolled in an accredited post-secondary academic, professional or vocational program. In-state schools, especially students of the U of M School of Journalism, should be given first preference. A profile and photo of the intern is required to be provided by the newspaper. Awarding grants to relatives of a selected newspaper’s owners or employees is prohibited.

The application form is at this link: https://www.mtnewspapers.com/2018-montana-newspaper-foundation-internship-grant-program/

Next steps?
Please email your completed application form to Jim Rickman: jim@mtnewspapers.com on or before the application deadline of December 4, 2018.
Mike Gulledge has been named the interim publisher of the Missoulian and Ravalli Republic, effective Oct. 1.

“Mike is an energetic and thoughtful leader. We are extremely fortunate to have him serve as interim publisher,” said Nathan Bekke, vice president of consumer sales and marketing and group publisher for Lee Enterprises, the Iowa-based media company.

Gulledge’s assignment is temporary; he will serve until a permanent replacement is found.

Billings Gazette sports editor Jeff Welsch has been promoted to executive sports editor of Lee’s four Montana daily newspapers.

In his new role, Welsch will coordinate sports coverage through the Missoulian, Helena Independent Record and Montana Standard in Butte as well as 406mtsports.com, Lee’s new flagship sports online site. He will work with the sports editors at the other papers to plan coverage and deliver stories of interest across Montana.

The local sports editors will continue to work with the communities to gather information and plan stories, reporting to their respective editors and Welsch jointly.

“We’re lucky to have Jeff take on this additional role because of the way he understands and knows sports throughout Montana,” said Mike Gulledge, then publisher of The Billings Gazette and the Missoulian, and group publisher for Lee Enterprises. “He helped develop and champion 406mtsports. This is just another way for Lee to leverage its presence to make all the newspapers stronger.”

Welsch has been with The Gazette since July 2014 and had previously been the sports editor of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

The MNA is reminding members to double-check their legal advertising and public notices to make sure the “MNAXLP” code is on the page or with the ad. This includes all liner and display, legal and public notice ads.

The “MNAXLP” code allows the MNA to digitally transfer legal advertising and public notices to our critical public notice website: http://www.mtpublicnotices.com/mna/legals/

If you have any questions on the process, please contact Jim Rickman, executive director, at (406) 443-2850, or jim@mtnewspapers.com
Organization of American Historians announces new resource for members of the media

Journalists seeking fresh, fast, and thoughtful insight from the nation’s foremost historians can now consult a database of experts assembled by the Organization of American Historians.

It is available here: www.americanhistoryexperts.org.

Over 650 historians are ready to comment on current events and can provide a quick quote on deadline or schedule a longer conversation to place complicated issues in historical context. The database is available to all members of the media—local, national, and international; broadcast, print, and online—and the OAH curates it on a regular basis as topics develop and new, diverse historians emerge ready to add their voices to the conversation.

Journalists will find bios for each historian and examples of their previous work with the media. They can search by categories that cover all subjects and eras of U.S. history including politics, civil rights, women, race relations, immigration, religion, business and capitalism, environmental protection, monuments and memorials, agriculture and food, presidents, constitutional law, and sports.

“As both an organization and as individual members, the OAH strongly encourages the wide discussion of historical questions,” said OAH executive director Katherine Finley. “A free and open press is crucial to these discussions in our society today.”

This free database was made possible by the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

2019 MNA Rate and Data Survey is now available

The annual Rate and Data Survey is the ultimate tool used by the MNA to accurately represent our membership for advertising and other services.

With 85 member newspapers, we enjoy the challenge of processing the hundreds of details involved in print and digital advertising as we strive to develop easy-to-understand presentations and proposals for our potential clients. Our goal is to respond to our client advertising requests within 24 hours, making the information in the Rate and Data Survey an invaluable administrative tool for the MNA staff.

We ask for your commitment to fully complete the survey, which consists of five (5) tabs, and return it to the MNA office by November 1. And, as always, we welcome your updates at any time to help us accurately represent your newspaper.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please contact Stacy with questions at (406) 443-2850 or stacy@mtnewspapers.com. The survey is also available for members to access from the MNA website: MNA 2019 Rate and Data Survey.
Covering homicide

By Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma
A Project of Columbia Journalism School

When covering homicide, a reporter must approach the incident with caution, sensitivity and tact.

Reporting on homicide is difficult no matter what stage you are at in your journalistic career. A homicide may result from a mass shooting, a murder, intimate partner violence that led to a death or an accident that led to a death.

Family, friends, and colleagues of victims of homicide will be in a fragile state so it’s important to handle the news gathering process professionally and sensitively. Covering homicide also requires significant knowledge of the case at hand, and of crime and legal terms.

College newspaper editors and advisors should have a protocol or plan in place for mobilizing staff in the event that a homicide occurs on campus. If you don’t have a plan in place now, create one. Identify how your staff will gather information, what should be covered, and how to encourage self-care practices and coping mechanisms throughout the process. Student journalists will be better prepared for how to report on these situations if they follow the tips outlined below.

NEWSGATHERING AND REPORTING STAGE

Remember this is about a person. When covering a homicide, remember the event is not simply another crime statistic; it’s about a human being – someone who was a friend, a daughter or son, a mother, or a colleague to someone. It’s important to tell the story from a human perspective.

Get details on the case. Check police records and find out as much as you can about the situation from police. Has the crime been classified a homicide or something else? Keep in mind that police records may not always be accurate. Misinformation is possible and common. Always corroborate your information with other sources. Don’t rush to publish, especially in a breaking news moment, unless you have fully vetted the information.

Be familiar with terminology. With any crime, there are several important terms to be aware of. Every state will have different laws and terms related to crime. Be sure you know the meaning of the terms you are using in your story before you publish.

For sources – go beyond the typical. Contact counselors, support groups, advocacy groups, and legal experts. They can provide different perspectives or dimensions on the homicide.

Add context/history. Look at the context of this homicide in relation to others that have occurred in the community, on campus or off campus. Have homicides been increasing or decreasing? Have local programs helped or hindered prevention efforts? Identify local statistics that place the event in better context for the reader.

Be careful when you approach your sources – be transparent, calm and soft-spoken. Identify who you are, what organization you represent, what will happen with the information you collect from the interview, how it might be used in the story and when it will appear in publication. Tell them why you want to talk with them. If they are open to an interview, then proceed. If not, then leave your contact information with them and ask them to contact you anytime if they would like to talk. If they are not interested in talking, or willing to speak on the record, there will be another opportunity to find a different source.

Let your subjects have some control. People who have undergone a traumatic situation often seek ways to regain control in their lives after they have lost control. One way to assist with this is to provide them an opportunity to make some decisions in the interview process – for example, where they would like to sit, what photos or images they would prefer you use, when they would like to stop or take a break, etc. These small accommodations can go a long way.

The story will be complex. Keep in mind that victims and survivors often may have complicated past experiences; regardless, they should never be blamed for what happened.

Reporter Dave Cullen, who covered the Columbine shootings and wrote a book on the subject, suggests some key points:

- Be aware of the kind of sources you interview. When it comes to witnesses, find out exactly how they knew the suspect(s). Did they know them for a long time or only during a certain period of life (as a child, teenager, adult, etc.). Their knowledge of the suspect(s) and their interaction with them may be frequent, or not, and can impact what information, and the kind, you can obtain from the source.
- Don’t fall victim to assumptions, false conclusions or stereotypes. Gather information from all sources but be careful to not take witnesses’ assumptions or conclusions about the suspect as fact – as it is all speculation. Don’t try to predict or assume motives or the character of the suspect. Don’t characterize the suspect, victims or survivors to stereotypes – there is no general profile. Every case and situation is different.

Don’t present the suspect as a loner or outcast. As Cullen states, this perception is often a myth.

Continued on Page 10
WRITING THE STORY

Watch what you write. Sources may have biased views on a situation or person. Be careful not to perpetuate biases or replicate biased tones into your story. Instead, supplant the information from your source with context about the bigger picture. For example:

Instead of simply quoting a friend of an alleged abuser saying: “He is so gentle and mellow. I do not think he is capable of hurting anyone,” begin with:

“As is often the case when domestic violence strikes a community, people close to [name of abuser] could not believe that the person they knew so well was capable of committing a crime. ‘He is so gentle and mellow. I do not think he is capable of hurting anyone,’ said [abuser’s friend. However, it is not unusual for men who offend at home to show a different, kinder face to the public, says domestic violence expert [name.]”

Instead of just quoting a family member of an abuser who killed both his wife and children as saying: “He took them with him because he loved them so very much,” put the quote in context by adding that abusive relationships are often romanticized by victims, family and close friends; and that friends and family may see early warning signs as indicators of a close and loving relationship.

Be careful about who you identify in your story. Remember that it is never OK to share information that can reveal the location or identity of a victim unless authorized by the victim.

Remember your audience. Remember who will be reading your story. If you are publishing in a campus publication and your audience is students, faculty and staff, keep this in mind as you write. The makeup of your audience will always inform your approach to an extent and help shape the story.

If you have experienced trauma yourself, acknowledge your own trauma history; don’t ignore it. If you are covering a homicide and it triggers memories of a personal trauma, some difficult emotions may surface. Don’t ignore them. Find an outlet such as a friend or advisor to talk to or a journal to write in to help with coping.

Provide resources. Are there warning signs that the general public can be aware of to prevent something like this from occurring again? For those directly/indirectly impacted by the event, what kind of help could they seek?

Be sure to offer helpful information in a sidebar or bulleted list. This information might include hotlines, warning signs, names of support groups or other entities that can provide help, etc.

Prepare sources for publication of story. When you find out when your story will be published, inform your sources so they can be emotionally prepared when it comes out. You don’t want them to be taken by surprise.

Be ready for feedback. Consider the online feedback you may receive after the story is published and the possible backlash that can occur. If you are using an online commenting system, have a procedure in place for how you and your editor/advisor will handle comments that may expose the victim(s).

Talk with your friends, family, advisor or editor. Don’t bottle up your emotions. Don’t forget that covering traumatic events can have an impact on you, the reporter, as well. It is important to find ways to talk about the experience with your friends, family, advisor or editor. They may have gone through something similar and/or can just be a listening ear of comfort. You should not bottle up your feelings, but instead share your experience as a way of coping with covering such a difficult event.
SALES AND DIGITAL MARKETING SUPPORT

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