
IOWA JOURNALISTS HONORED AT 2025 IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION CONVENTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa City Daily Iowan was named Iowa Newspaper Association's 2025 "Newspaper of the Year." The award was announced during the association's Awards Ceremony on February 6.

Presentations were made to winners of the 2025 Iowa Better Newspaper Contests, which the Kansas Press Association judged. Approximately 3,200 entries in dozens of categories were judged by class, based on circulation. Class I is for newspapers published once a week with 755 circulation and under, Class II is for newspapers published once a week with circulation 756 to 1,260, Class III is for newspapers published once a week with 1,261 circulation and above, Class IV newspapers published more than once a week 3,750 and under; Class V newspapers published more than once a week 3,751 and above circulation.

Winners in all contest categories are listed below.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE CONTEST WINNERS

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Ackley World Journal, Third Place- West Branch Times & Tama-Toledo News Chronicle; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Third Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa Review, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- Dyersville Commercial; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Spencer Daily Reporter; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Des Moines Register

BEST OF CLASS ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Ackley World Journal, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Stuart Herald, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader, Third Place- Decorah Leader; Class IV: First Place- Independence Bulletin Journal, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Clinton Herald; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

SPECIALTY REPORTING CONTEST WINNERS

HARRISON "SKIP" WEBER INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING AWARD

Davenport Quad-City Times- Tom Loewy, Anthony Watt, Thomas Geyer, Katelyn Metzger
Southeast Iowa Union Washington Evening Journal- Kalen McCain

GENEVIEVE MAUCK STOUFER OUTSTANDING YOUNG IOWA JOURNALISTS AWARDS

Creston News Advertiser- Cheyenne Roche
Sioux City Journal- Caitlin Yamada

BILL MONROE BEST SPECIAL DIGITAL PROJECT

Des Moines Register

KEN FUSON BEST WRITING AWARD

Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Erik Hogstrom

EDITORIAL CONTEST WINNERS

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

Class I: First Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle, Second Place- Greenfield Adair County Free Press, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Bloomfield Democrat, Third Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Third Place- Spencer Daily Reporter; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Davenport Quad-City Times, Third Place- Sioux City Journal

BEST FRONT PAGE

Class I: First Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News, Second Place- Moravia Union, Third Place- West Branch Times; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat; Class III: First Place- Eldridge North Scott Press, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Atlantic News-Telegraph; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Davenport Quad-City Times, Third Place- Des Moines Register

BEST SPORTS SECTION

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Ackley World Journal, Third Place- Jewell South Hamilton Record-News; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Cascade Pioneer; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Eldridge North Scott Press, Third Place- Dyersville Commercial; Class IV: First Place- Newton News, Second Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Sioux City Journal, Third Place- Des Moines Register

BEST FEATURE PAGE(S)

First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Ackley World Journal, Third Place- Earlham Echo; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Third Place- Mapleton Press; Class III: First Place- Kalona News, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Third Place- Spencer Daily Reporter; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Des Moines Register

COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Class I: First Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer, Second Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle, Third Place- Greenfield Adair County Free Press; Class II: First Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat,

Second Place- Vinton Newspapers, Third Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka; Class III: First Place- Eldridge North Scott Press, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Davenport Catholic Messenger; Class IV: First Place- Iowa City Press-Citizen, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Third Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Sioux City Journal, Third Place- Indianola Independent Advocate

COVERAGE OF EDUCATION

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal, Second Place- Calmar Courier, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Second Place- Elkader Times-Register, Third Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka; Class III: First Place- Eldridge North Scott Press, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil; Class V: First Place- Iowa Capital Dispatch, Second Place- Des Moines Register, Third Place- Iowa State Daily

COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal, Second Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer, Third Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune; Class II: First Place- Vinton Newspapers, Second Place- Cascade Pioneer, Third Place- Stuart Herald; Class III: First Place- Dyersville Commercial, Second Place- Kalona News, Third Place- Estherville News; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Newton News; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Des Moines Register

COVERAGE OF BUSINESS

Class I: First Place- West Branch Times, Second Place- Ackley World Journal, Third Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Cascade Pioneer, Third Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Kalona News, Third Place- Dyersville Commercial; Class IV: First Place- Newton News, Second Place- Carroll Times Herald, Third Place- Iowa City Press-Citizen; Class V: First Place- Corridor Business Journal, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Davenport Quad-City Times

COVERAGE OF COURT AND CRIME

Class I: First Place- Calmar Courier, Second Place- West Branch Times, Third Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle; Class II: First Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat; Class III: First Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader, Second Place- Estherville News, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW; Class IV: First Place- Creston News Advertiser, Second Place- Southeast Iowa Union Washington Evening Journal, Third Place- Iowa City Press-Citizen; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Sioux City Journal, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald

BEST SPECIAL SECTION- EDITORIAL

Class II: First Place- Remsen Bell Enterprise, Second Place- Postville Herald, Third Place- Newell Buena Vista County Journal; Class II: First Place- Mapleton Press, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Elkader Times-Register; Class III: First Place- Waverly Newspapers, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial, Third Place- Decorah Leader; Class IV: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Ottumwa Courier, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Corridor Business Journal, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

TOTAL NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Ackley World Journal, Third Place- West Branch Times; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Eldridge North Scott Press, Third Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Davenport Quad-City Times, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal; Class II: First Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Third Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat; Class III: First Place- Harlan Newspapers, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW; Class IV: First Place- Creston News Advertiser, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

BEST HEADLINE WRITING

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal, Second Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle; Class II: First Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- Eldridge North Scott Press; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Third Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Sioux City Journal, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- West Branch Times, Third Place- Ackley World Journal; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Estherville News, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Newton News; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

DIGITAL CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Class I: First Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle, Second Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Cascade Pioneer; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers, Third Place- Eldridge North Scott Press; Class IV: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Ames Tribune, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Indianola Independent Advocate, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

BEST VIDEO

Class I: First Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann, Second Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Andrew Smith, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Marissa VanWingen; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Ayrton Breckenridge, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Mike Day, Tom Eckermann, Mark London, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Bailey Cichon

BEST SLIDESHOW

Class I: First Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann, Second Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann, Third Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Third Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat- Erin Sommers; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Second Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar Third Place- Iowa City Press-Citizen- Julia Hansen; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Jordan Barry, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Ayrton Breckenridge, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Grace Smith, Ayrton Breckenridge

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Class I: First Place- West Branch Times; Class II: First Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Elkader Times-Register; Class III: First Place- Hampton Chronicle, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial, Third Place- Decorah Leader; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Ames Tribune, Third Place- Iowa City Press-Citizen; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Des Moines Register

BEST PODCAST

Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Randy M. Cauthron, TJ Murphy, Cody Marble; Class V: First Place- Sioux City Journal- Bruce Miller, Terry Lipshetz, Second Place- Corridor Business Journal- Nate Kaeding, Logan Schultz, Third Place- Des Moines Register- Chad Leistikow, Tyler Tachman, Dargan Southard

MARKETING CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWSPAPER MARKETING

Class I: First Place- Manilla Times, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Akron Hometown, Second Place- Westside Observer, Third Place- Westside Observer; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW; Class IV: First Place- Carroll Times Herald, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan

WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWS STORY

Class I: First Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann, Second Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Ruby McAllister, Michael Davis, Third Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Jamee Pierson; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Seth Boyes, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Nathan Countryman, Third Place- Clarion Wright County Monitor- Amanda Rink; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- William Smith, Second Place- Davenport Catholic Messenger- Barb Arland-Fye, Third Place- Decorah Leader- Zach Jensen; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Brandon Hurley, Second Place- Iowa City Press-Citizen- Ryan Hansen, Third Place- Ames Tribune- Celia Bocker; Class V: First Place- Iowa Capital Dispatch- Clark Kauffman, Second Place- Des Moines Register- Michaela Ramm, Third Place- Des Moines Register- Virginia Barreda

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal- Becky Schipper, Second Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Ruby McAllister, Third Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Justin Rust, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Seth Boyes, Third Place- Central City Linn News- Laura Drummy; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Third Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Andrew Smith, Scott Stewart, Second Place- Creston News Advertiser- Cheyenne Roche, Third Place- Le Mars Sentinel- Tom Lawrence; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Grace Nieland, Second Place- Sioux City Journal- Jared McNett, Third Place- Davenport Quad-City Times- Tom Loewy, Anthony Watt, Thomas Geyer

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY

Class I: First Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Ruby McAllister, Second Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Ruby McAllister, Third Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber; Class II: First Place- Garner Leader- Rebecca Peter, Second Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka- Laura Drummy, Third Place- Cascade Pioneer- Erin LaBelle; Class III: First Place- Dyersville Commercial- Dave LaBelle, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers- Elizabeth Bingham, Third Place- Waverly Newspapers- Elizabeth Bingham; Class IV: First Place- Oelwein

Daily Register- Taylor Nohrenberg, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- David Borer, Third Place- Newton News- Christopher Braunschweig; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- F. Amanda Tugade, Noelle Alviz-Gransee, Second Place- Des Moines Register- F. Amanda Tugade, Virginia Barreda, Third Place- Des Moines Register- Susan Stapleton

BEST PERSONALITY FEATURE STORY

Class I: First Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet, Second Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Robert Maharry, Third Place- Ackley World Journal- Becky Schipper; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Seth Boyes, Third Place- Central City Linn News- Laura Drummy; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Second Place- Burlington Beacon- William Smith, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- William Smith; Class IV: First Place- Carroll Times Herald- Sarah Stortz, Second Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Sara Jordan-Heintz, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Austin Heinen; Class V: First Place- Davenport Quad-City Times- Gannon Hanevold, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Elijah Decious, Third Place- Davenport Quad-City Times- Gannon Hanevold

BEST SPORTS STORY

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Joel Kellar, Second Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid, Third Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Scott Byers, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Doug Calsbeek; Class III: First Place- Eldridge North Scott Press- Ross Shinberg, Second Place- DeWitt Observer- Ross Eberhart, Third Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Scott Spurgeon; Class IV: First Place- Le Mars Sentinel- Jerry Giese, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Dana Becker, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Peter Burtnett; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- Randy Peterson, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- KJ Pilcher, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Tim O'Neill

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Class I: First Place- Perry Chief- Sean Cordy, Second Place- Ackley World Journal- Corey Meints, Third Place- Solon Economist- Joel Kellar; Class II: First Place- Elkader Times-Register- Willis Patenaude, Second Place- Mapleton Press- Jenna Comes, Third Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Ryan Suchomel; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Scott Byers, Second Place- Decorah Leader- Denise Lana, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- Joe Geren; Class IV: First Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Jake Ryder, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Nick Lowrey, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Marissa VanWingen; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- KJ Pilcher, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Danny Miller, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Matt McGowan

BEST SERIES

Class I: First Place- Fredericksburg Review- Amanda Strain, Second Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber, Third Place- Fredericksburg Review- Amanda Strain; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Tom Lawrence, Second Place- Mapleton Press- Staff, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Seth Boyes; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW-

Aleisa Schat, Third Place- Estherville News- Amy H. Peterson; Class IV: First Place- Clinton Herald- Jenna Blount, Carie Kuehn, Eric Schwiezer, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Doug Bailey, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Robert E. Oliver; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- Lee Rood, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Michelle London, Third Place- Waterloo Courier- Maria Kuiper, Holly Hudson, Melody Parker, Chris Zoeller

EXCELLENCE IN EDITORIAL WRITING

Class I: First Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley, Second Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley, Third Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Nathan Countryman, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Staff, Third Place- Westside Observer- Janine Kock; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Tom Lawrence, Second Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Karen Spurgeon, Third Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Scott Stewart, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Jane Curtis; Class V: First Place- Davenport Quad-City Times- Tom Martin, Second Place- Des Moines Register- Lucas Grundmeier, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Amy Gilligan, Allie Hinga

MASTER COLUMNIST

Class I: First Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley, Second Place- Greenfield Adair County Free Press- Caleb Nelson, Third Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Jonathan Meyer; Class II: First Place- Akron Hometown- Dodie Hook, Second Place- Mapleton Press- Jenna Comes, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Doug Calsbeek; Class III: First Place- Dyersville Commercial- Mike Putz, Second Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes, Third Place- Guttenberg Press- Caroline Rosacker; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Randy M. Cauthron, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Jane Curtis, Third Place- Clinton Herald- Chris Baldus; Class V: First Place- Sioux City Journal- Nick Hytrek, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Chris Espersen, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Natalie Nye

BEST SPORTS COLUMNIST

Class I: First Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer- Troy Hyde, Second Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber; Class II: First Place- Vinton Newspapers- Jeff Holmes; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Scott Byers, Second Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Scott Spurgeon, Third Place- Waverly Newspapers- Nick Thompson; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Randy M. Cauthron, Second Place- Atlantic News-Telegraph- Brian Rathjen, Third Place- Creston News Advertiser- Cheyenne Roche; Class V: First Place- Davenport Quad-City Times- Dave Selvig, Second Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Eric Pratt, Third Place- Des Moines Register- Chad Leistikow

BEST CONTINUING COVERAGE

Class I: First Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann, Second Place- Greenfield Adair County Free Press- Caleb Nelson, Third Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer- Jamee Pierson; Class II: First Place- Sigourney News-Review- Casey Jarmes, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Sarah Weber, Doug

Calsbeek, Third Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Nathan Countryman; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Second Place- Kalona News- TJ Rhodes, Third Place- Manchester Press- Jake Bourgeois, Mike Putz, Laura Drummy; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Nonpareil Staff, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Randy M. Cauthron, Nick Lowrey, Third Place- Clinton Herald- Jenna Blount, Chris Baldus; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Grace King, Tom Barton, Second Place- Iowa Capital Dispatch- Clark Kauffman, Third Place- Sioux City Journal- Staff

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWS PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid, Second Place- Danbury Review- Lynn Buth, Third Place- Avoca Journal Herald- Donald Nielson; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Elkader Times-Register- Audrey Posten, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Sarah Weber; Class III: First Place- Dyersville Commercial- Dave LaBelle, Second Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta, Third Place- Dyersville Commercial- Erin LaBelle; Class IV: First Place- Clinton Herald- Chris Baldus, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer, Third Place- Clinton Herald- Carie Kuehn; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Emily Nyberg, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Cody Blissett, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Jim Slosiarek

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Avoca Journal Herald- Donald Nielson, Second Place- Avoca Journal Herald- Donald Nielson, Third Place- Ackley World Journal- Becky Schipper; Class II: First Place- Stuart Herald- Kristy Lonsdale, Second Place- Stuart Herald- Kristy Lonsdale, Third Place- Westside Observer- Nicholas Hansen; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Mikaela Mackey, Third Place- Harlan Newspapers- Renée Brich; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Kent Bailey, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Corey Meints, Third Place- Iowa City Press-Citizen- Julia Hansen; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Cody Blissett, Second Place- Waterloo Courier- Jeff Reinitz, Third Place- Des Moines Register- Zach Boyden-Holmes

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal- Corey Meints, Second Place- Danbury Review- Lynn Buth, Third Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid; Class II: First Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat- Sandy Rutherford, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Joel Kellar, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs; Class III: First Place- Estherville News- David Swartz, Second Place- Eldridge North Scott Press- Ross Shinberg, Third Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Scott Spurgeon; Class IV: First Place- Ottumwa Courier- Kyle Ocker, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- David Borer, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- Zach Boyden-Holmes, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Nick Rohlman, Third Place- Waterloo Courier- Chris Zoeller

BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Joel Kellar, Second Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Troy Hyde, Third Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Josh Harrell, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Jeff Bylsma; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta, Second Place- DeWitt Observer- Ross Eberhart, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Second Place- Ottumwa Courier- Kyle Ocker, Third Place- Newton News- Troy Hyde; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Savannah Blake, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Ayrton Breckenridge, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Grace Smith

BEST NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber, Second Place- Dallas County News- Allison Ullmann, Third Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Joel Kellar, Third Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka- Laura Drummy; Class III: First Place- Dyersville Commercial- Erin LaBelle, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial- Erin LaBelle, Third Place- Manchester Press- Erin LaBelle; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Sondra Hookfin, Second Place- Clinton Herald- Chris Baldus, Third Place- Keokuk Daily Gate City- Chris Mills; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Dave Kettering, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Dave Kettering, Third Place- Davenport Quad-City Times- Roy Dabner

BEST PHOTO STORY

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal- Becky Schipper, Second Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid, Third Place- Perry Chief- Allison Ullmann; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Third Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Justin Rust; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Rylan Howe, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial- Dave LaBelle, Third Place- Dyersville Commercial- Dave LaBelle; Class IV: First Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Jake Ryder, Wendy Witt, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Staff, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Corey Meints; Class V: First Place- Iowa State Daily- Tyler Coe, Jacob Rice, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Grace Smith, Third Place- Sioux City Journal- Hannah Schuh

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Class I: First Place- Moravia Union- Stacy Baty, Second Place- Oakland Herald- Donald Nielson, Third Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Jeff Bylsma, Third Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka- Laura Drummy; Class III: First Place- Guttenberg Press- Austin Greve, Second Place- Decorah Leader- Becky Walz, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta; Class IV: First Place- Ottumwa Courier- Kyle Ocker, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer, Third Place- Le Mars Sentinel- Allen Hamil; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Stephen Gassman, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Nick Rohlman, Third Place- Des Moines Register- Cody Scanlan

ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS

BEST AD FEATURING GROCERY/FOOD/ENTERTAINMENT

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen, Second Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen; Class II: First Place- Hawarden Independent/Ireton Examiner- Carissa Frohwein, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Stuart Herald- Jonathon Lonsdale; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Camryn Reinking, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Kaylena Engel, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Chelsea Parks; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Brent Lennard, Second Place- Clinton Herald- Kayla Tegeler, Shanelle Yahn, Third Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Rhonda James; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Heidi Owen, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Chad Willenborg, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Staff

BEST AD FEATURING FINANCIAL, INSURANCE OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Brent Lennard, Second Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley, Third Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley; Class II: First Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat- Sandy Rutherford, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Elizabeth Myers, Third Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Elizabeth Myers; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Kayla Thompson, Second Place- Estherville News- Taylor Nissen, Third Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Kayla Thompson; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Cheri Dirks, Brent Lennard, Second Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Rhonda James, Third Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Rhonda James; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Heidi Owen, Second Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Leanne Darr, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Andy Kamentz

BEST AD FEATURING FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS, APPLIANCES OR HARDWARE

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen, Second Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Beth Olsen; Class II: First Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat- Sandy Rutherford, Second Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat- Sandy Rutherford, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Christina Sorenson; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Samantha Ludeking, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Elizabeth Myers, Third Place- Waverly Newspapers- Carrie Wright; Class IV: First Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Staff, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Trevor Christensen, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Cheri Dirks, Bailey Primus; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Nick Carolan, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Staff, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Wendy Vosberg

BEST AD FEATURING AUTOMOTIVE, BOATS, AIRCRAFT, TIRES, GASOLINE, ETC.

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Beth Olsen; Class II: First Place- Stuart Herald- Jonathon Lonsdale, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Elizabeth Myers, Third Place- Hawarden Independent/Ireton Examiner- Alexis Rolfes; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Kayla Thompson, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers- Carrie Wright, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Elizabeth Myers; Class IV: First Place- Clinton Herald- Clinton Herald SalesStaff, Shanelle Yahn, Second Place- Iowa

Falls Times Citizen- Joy Walker, Beth Olsen, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Trevor Christensen; Class V: First Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Dana Lantz, Michelle Colshan, Second Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Jody Kayser, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Wendy Vosberg

BEST AD FEATURING MISCELLANEOUS

Class I: First Place- Remsen Bell Enterprise- Jennifer Vondrak, Second Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Joy Walker, Brent Lennard, Third Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley; Class II: First Place- Stuart Herald- Jonathon Lonsdale, Second Place- Stuart Herald- Jonathon Lonsdale, Third Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Heidi Owen; Class III: First Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press- Brooke Till, Erica Mohr, Brittany Nopar, Second Place- Harlan Newspapers- Nori Griffith, Mike Kolbe, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press- Brooke Till; Class IV: First Place- Independence Bulletin Journal- Carrie Hendricks, Second Place- Clinton Herald- Staff, Shanelle Yahn, Grow Clinton, Third Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Rhonda James; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Staff, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Andy Kamentz

BEST SPECIAL SECTION ADVERTISING

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen, Catherine Bilskie, Second Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Joy Walker, Brent Lennard, Third Place- Solon Economist- Staff; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Heidi Owen, Second Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Staff; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Staff, Second Place- Estherville News- Taylor Nissen, Third Place- Wapello Republican- Brittany Nopar; Class IV: First Place- Independence Bulletin Journal- Carrie Hendricks, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Staff, Third Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Rhonda James, Nick Manwarren; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Heidi Owen, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Heidi Owen

BEST ADVERTISING SERIES OR CAMPAIGN FEATURING ANY SERVICE OR MERCHANDISE CATEGORY

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen; Class II: First Place- Hawarden Independent/Ireton Examiner- Kira Spaans, Alexis Rolfes, Second Place- Stuart Herald- Jonathon Lonsdale, Third Place- Westside Observer- Heather Edmonds; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Samantha Ludeking, Second Place- Estherville News- Taylor Nissen, Third Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Sydney Callen; Class IV: First Place- Clinton Herald- Kayla Tegeler, Shanelle Yahn, Grow Clinton, Second Place- Clinton Herald- Clinton Herald Sales Staff, Shanelle Yahn, Jasmine Hundertmark, Third Place- Clinton Herald- Shanelle Yahn, Clinton Herald; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Andy Kamentz, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Jodi Dodd, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Wendy Vosberg

BEST ADVERTISING IDEA FOR A COMMUNITY PROMOTION OR EVENT

Class I: First Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Rhonda James, Second Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Brent Lennard; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun-, Second Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat- Sandy Rutherford; Class III: Sandy Rutherford, Abbielle Point, Erin Sommers; First Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader- Brooke Till, Second Place- Harlan Newspapers- Marissa Wingert, Tami

Schechinger, Third Place- Manchester Press- Tiffany Lott; Class IV: First Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican- Rhonda James, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Joy Walker, Mark Wohler, Third Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- SR Staff; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Jodi Dodd, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Heidi Owen, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Jodi Dodd

BEST AD FEATURING AGRICULTURE

Class I: First Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Bailey Primus, Second Place- Ackley World Journal- Cheri Dirks, Beth Olsen; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Christina Sorenson, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Christina Sorenson, Third Place- Hawarden Independent/Ireton Examiner- Chelsea Parks; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Kayla Thompson, Second Place- Estherville News- Taylor Nissen, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press- Brooke Till; Class IV: First Place- Clinton Herald- Andrew Price, Shanelle Yahn, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Christina Sorenson, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Cheri Dirks, Mark Wohler; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Andy Kamentz, Second Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Leanne Darr, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Wendy Vosberg

BEST WEB ADVERTISEMENT

Class II: First Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka- Kara Honn, Danielle Potkonak; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Trevor Christensen, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Jennifer Williams, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal- Trevor Christensen; Class V: First Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Jes Nemechek, Second Place- Sioux City Journal- Staff, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Marty Corfman

BEST AD DESIGNER

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Heidi Owen; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun- Carissa Frohwein, Second Place- Hawarden Independent/Ireton Examiner- Alexis Rolfes, Third Place- Hawarden Independent/Ireton Examiner- Kira Spaans; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Kayla Thompson, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers- Carrie Wright, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Elizabeth Myers; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Bailey Primus, Second Place- Independence Bulletin Journal- Carrie Hendricks, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Beth Olsen; First Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Michelle Colshan, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Seth Smith, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Melissa Salis

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