IOWA JOURNALISTS HONORED AT 2026 IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION CONVENTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa Falls Times Citizenwas named Iowa Newspaper Association's 2026 "Newspaper of the Year." The award was announced during the association's Awards Ceremony on February 5.

Presentations were made to winners of the 2026 Iowa Better Newspaper Contests, which the Minnesota Newspaper Association judged. 3,164 entries in dozens of categories were judged by class, based on circulation. Class I is for newspapers published once a week with 700 circulation and under, Class II is for newspapers published once a week with circulation 701 to 1,300, Class III is for newspapers published once a week with 1,301 circulation and above, Class IV newspapers published more than once a week 2,500 and under; Class V newspapers published more than once a week 2,501 and above circulation.

Winners in all contest categories are listed below.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE CONTEST WINNERS

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- West Branch Times, Third PlaceColfax Jasper County Tribine; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun; ClassIII: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Waverly Newspapers; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Ames Tribune, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Des Moines Register, Third Place- Clinton Herald

BEST OF CLASS ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Remsen Bell Enterprise, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Cascade Pioneer, Second Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Independence Bulletin Journal, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Clinton Herald

SPECIALTY REPORTING CONTEST WINNERS

A-MARK PRIZE FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

First Place- Lee Rood- Des Moines Register
Second Place- Monica Cordero- Investigate Midwest
Third Place- Sarah Weber- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat

HARRISON "SKIP" WEBER INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING AWARD

Marissa Payne- Des Moines Register
Eli McKown- Des Moines Register
Roxy Ekberg- Iowa City Daily Iowan

KEN FUSON BEST WRITING AWARD

Mike Day- Dubuque Telegraph Herald

COMMUNITY JOURNALIST

First Place- Maria Kuiper- Waterloo Courier
Second Place- Seth Boyes- Decorah Leader
Third Place- Konrad Strzalka- Dubuque Telegraph Herald

EDITORIAL CONTEST WINNERS

BEST EDITORIAL PAGE(S)

Class I: First Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- West Branch Times; 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- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Eldridge North Scott Press; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Third Place- Spencer Daily Reporter; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Des Moines Register, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald

BEST FRONT PAGE

Class I: First Place- Hull-Sioux County Index Reporter, Second Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle, Third Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Ackley World Journal; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- DeWitt Observer, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Class IV: First Place- Le Mars Sentinel, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Waterloo Courier

BEST SPORTS SECTION

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune, Third Place- Greene Recorder; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka, Third Place- Ackley World Journal; Class III: First Place- Kalona News, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Eldridge North Scott Press; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Second Place- Le Mars Sentinel, Third Place- Ottumwa Courier; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Marshalltown Times-Republican, Third Place- Clinton Herald

BEST FEATURE PAGE(S)

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald, Third Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal Ne; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Ackley World Journal, Third Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers, Third Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Third Place- Spencer Daily Reporter; Class V: First Place- Sioux City Journal, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan

COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Class I: First Place- West Branch Times, Second Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer, Third Place- Calmar Courier; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Third Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat; Class III: First Place- Manchester Press, Second Place- DeWitt Observer, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Second Place- Creston News Advertiser, Third Place- Newton News; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Davenport Quad-City Times

COVERAGE OF EDUCATION

Class I: First Place- Reinbeck Sun-Courier, Second Place- West Branch Times, Third Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune; Class II: First Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka, Second Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Cascade Pioneer; Class III: First Place- Jefferson Herald, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- DeWitt Observer; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Iowa Capital Dispatch, Third Place- Sioux City Journal

COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE

Class II: First Place- Estherville News, Second Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka, Third Place- Ackley World Journal; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial, Third Place- Decorah Leader; Class IV: First Place- Newton News, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Iowa Capital Dispatch, Third Place- Investigate Midwest

COVERAGE OF BUSINESS

Class I: First Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Third Place- Ackley World Journal; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial, Third Place- Kalona News; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Third Place- Newton News; Class V: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Corridor Business Journal

COVERAGE OF COURT AND CRIME

Class I: First Place- Calmar Courier, Second Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph, Third Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Third Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Manchester Press; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune, Second Place- Newton News, Third Place- Creston News Advertiser; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Des Moines Register

BEST SPECIAL SECTION- EDITORIAL

Class II: First Place- Hull-Sioux County Index Reporter, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald; Class II: First Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Mapleton Press; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- Manchester Press; Class IV: First Place- Ottumwa Courier, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Iowa State Daily

TOTAL NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Hull-Sioux County Index Reporter, Third Place- West Branch Times; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Third Place- Hawarden Independent/Ireton Examiner; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- Eldridge North Scott Press; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Third Place- Ottumwa Courier; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Davenport Quad-City Times, Third Place- Sioux City Journal

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Class II: First Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Second Place- Mapleton Press, Third Place- Ackley World Journal; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- , Third Place- ; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Des Moines Register, Third Place- Iowa State Daily

BEST HEADLINE WRITING

Class I: First Place- West Branch Times, Second Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Ackley World Journal, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat, Third Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun; Class III: First Place- Eldridge North Scott Press, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- ; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- ; Class V: First Place- Fort Dodge Messenger, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Des Moines Register

BEST USE OF GRAPHICS

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- West Branch Times, Third Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Second Place- Akron Hometowner, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Third Place- Waverly Newspapers; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Second Place- Newton News, Third Place- Le Mars Sentinel; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Sioux City Journal, Third Place- Investigate Midwest

DIGITAL CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Class I: First Place- Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News, Second Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Bayard News Gazette; Class III: First Place- Manchester Press, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers, Third Place- Decorah Leader; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Fort Dodge Messenger, Second Place- Decorah News, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald

BEST VIDEO

Class II: First Place- Central City Linn News- Brett Newtson, Second Place- Central City Linn News- Brett Newtson; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Second Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Elaine Loring-Jass; Class V: First Place- Iowa State Daily- Jacob Rice, Chris Aukes, Second Place- Clinton Herald- Chris Baldus, Third Place- Des Moines Register- Cody Scanlan

BEST SLIDESHOW

Class I: First Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber; Class II: First Place- Cascade Pioneer- Beth Lutgen, Don Zieser; Class III: First Place- Manchester Press- Dave LaBelle, Mika McCool, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial- Liz Sleper, Dave LaBelle, Jake Bourgeois, Third Place- Manchester Press- Liz Sleper, Dave LaBelle, Jake Bourgeois; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Second Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Third Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar; Class V: First Place-

Iowa City Daily Iowan- Emma Calabro, Jordan Barry, Cody Blissett, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Isabella Tisdale, Cody Blissett, Third Place- Davenport Quad-City Times- Katelyn Metzger

BILL MONROE BEST SPECIAL DIGITAL PROJECT

First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Riley Dunn

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Class I: First Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle, Second Place- West Branch Times; Class II: First Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat, Second Place- Bayard News Gazette, Third Place- Hampton Chronicle; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Ames Tribune; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Iowa State Daily x

BEST PODCAST

Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Elaine Loring-Jass; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Erin Murphy, Bailey Cichon, Second Place- Corridor Business Journal- Nate Kaeding, Logan Schultz, Third Place- Iowa State Daily- Kayde Sheaffer, Pavle Markovic, Brett Twelmeyer, Ford Griffith

MARKETING CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWSPAPER MARKETING

Class I: First Place- Manilla Times, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Westside Observer, Second Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Third Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun; Class III: First Place- Eldridge North Scott Press, Second Place- Decorah Leader; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Atlantic News-Telegraph; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan

WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWS STORY

Class I: First Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Michael Davis, Second Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Jamee Pierson, Third Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet; Class II: First Place- Estherville News- Amy H Peterson, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Stewart Chisham, Third Place- Elkader Times- Register- Audrey Posten; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Denise Lana, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Brett Twelmeyer, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- Chris Faulkner; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Celia Brocker, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Scott Stewart, Third Place- Newton News- Christopher Braunschweig; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald-

Chris Gray, Second Place- Des Moines Register- Virginia Barreda, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Grace Nieland, Megan Woolard

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY

Class I: First Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet, Second Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Jamee Pierson; Class II: First Place- Albia Monroe County News- Krystal Fowler, Second Place- Mount Vernon- Lisbon Sun- Nathan Countryman, Third Place- Sheldon Mail- Sun- Justin Rust; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Justin Rust, Kaylee Bandstra, Brett Twelmeyer, Sandra Jenson, Second Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Tom Lawrence; Class IV: First Place- Newton News- Christopher Braunschweig, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Elaine Loring- Jass, Third Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Randy M. Cauthron; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- Nick El Hajj, Second Place- Iowa City Press- Citizen- Ryan Hansen, Third Place- Marshalltown Times Republican- Lana Bradstream

BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY

Class I: First Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald- Tristian Taylor, Second Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Christopher Braunschweig, Third Place- Lake City Calhoun County Phoenix- Cassandra Kyser; Class II: First Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Karen Spurgeon, Second Place- Vinton Newspapers- Amy Stourac, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Russ Mitchell; Class III: First Place- Kalona News- Cheryl Allen, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- Chris Faulkner; Class IV: First Place- Creston News Advertiser- Nick Pauly, Second Place- Ames Tribune- Ronna Faaborg, Third Place- Oelwein Daily Register- Taylor Nohrenberg; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Vanessa Miller, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Olivia Cohen, Third Place- Marshalltown Times Republican- Robert Maharry

BEST PERSONALITY FEATURE STORY

Class I: First Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet, Second Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Sara Jordan- Heintz, Third Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Jonathan Meyer; Class II: First Place- Cascade Pioneer- Dave LaBelle, Second Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Karen Spurgeon, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Russ Mitchell; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Justin Rust, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- William Smith; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Ronna Faaborg, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Elaine Loring- Jass, Third Place- Newton News- Christopher Braunschweig; Class V: First Place- Sioux City Journal- Bruce Miller, Second Place- Des Moines Register- Lily Smith, Third Place- Davenport Quad- City Times- Gretchen Teske

BEST SPORTS STORY

Class I: First Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Jake Ryder, Second Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer- Troy Hyde, Third Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer- Troy Hyde; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon- Lisbon Sun- Ryan Suchomel, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- CJ Eilers, Third Place- Sigourney News- Review- Mark Shafer; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- Chris Faulkner, Second Place-

Eldridge North Scott Press- Ross Shinberg, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Justin Rust; Class IV: First Place- Le Mars Sentinel- Allen Hamil, Second Place- Newton News- Troy Hyde, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Austin Heinen; Class V: First Place- Waterloo Courier- Chad Harberts, Second Place- Des Moines Register- Travis Hines, Third Place- Marshalltown Times Republican- Jake Ryder

BEST SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Class I: First Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Troy Hyde, Second Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Ruby McAllister, Third Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer- Troy Hyde; Class II: First Place- Ackley World Journal- Corey Meints, Second Place- Mount Vernon- Lisbon Sun- Ryan Suchomel, Third Place- Vinton Newspapers- Jeff Holmes; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- Joe Geren, Second Place- Eldridge North Scott Press- Ross Shinberg, Third Place- Waverly Newspapers- Cole Negen; Class IV: First Place- Creston News Advertiser- Cheyenne Roche, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Marissa VanWingen, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Elaine Loring- Jass; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Jeff Johnson, Second Place- Iowa City Press- Citizen- Marc Ray, Third Place- Davenport Quad- City Times- Ben Hutchens

BEST SERIES

Class I: First Place- Moravia Union- Vicki Baty, Stacy Baty, Second Place- Avoca Journal Herald- Melissa Nielson, Third Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Jamee Pierson; Class II: First Place- Greenfield Adair County Free Press- Caleb Nelson, Second Place- Estherville News- Amy H Peterson , Aubree Koop Hansen, Third Place- Greenfield Adair County Free Press- Caleb Nelson; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat; Class IV: First Place- Washington- Southeast Iowa Union Washington Evening Newsng News- Kalen McCain, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman- Journal- Robert E. Oliver, Jane Curtis, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- Michaela Ramm, Second Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Kelli Bloomquist, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Michelle London, Elizabeth Kelsey

EXCELLENCE IN EDITORIAL WRITING

Class I: First Place- Hartley Sentinel- The Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley, Second Place- Montezuma Record- Derek Bates; Class II: First Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Sarah Weber, Second Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Karen Spurgeon, Third Place- Sheldon Mail- Sun- Staff; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Tom Lawrence; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Scott Stewart, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Elaine Loring- Jass, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Marissa VanWingen, Justin Ites; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- Lucas Grundmeier, Second Place- Davenport Quad- City Times- Tom Martin, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Amy Gilligan, Allie Hinga

MASTER COLUMNIST

Class I: First Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Sean Dengler, Second Place- Montezuma Record- Simone Bates, Third Place- Solon Economist- Milli Gilbaugh; Class II: First Place- Clarion Wright County

Monitor- Amanda Rink, Second Place- Mount Vernon- Lisbon Sun- Dan Brawner, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Russ Mitchell; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes, Second Place- Jefferson Herald- Rick Morain, Third Place- Eldridge North Scott Press- Erin Gentz; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman- Journal- Jane Curtis, Second Place- Creston News Advertiser- Cheyenne Roche, Third Place- Creston News Advertiser- Nick Pauly; Class V: First Place- Clinton Herald- Chris Baldus, Second Place- Sioux City Journal- Nick Hytrek, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Amy Gilligan

BEST SPORTS COLUMNIST

Class I: First Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer- Troy Hyde; Class II: First Place- Mapleton Press- Jenna Comes, Second Place- Bloomfield DemocratScott Spurgeon; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Scott Byers, Second Place- Kalona News- Paul Bowker, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- Joe Geren; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter- Nick Lowrey, Second Place- Creston News Advertiser- Cheyenne Roche, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Justin Ites, Marissa VanWingen; Class V: First Place- Des Moines Register- Travis Hines, Second Place- Iowa State Daily- Pavle Markovic, Third Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Eric Pratt

BEST CONTINUING COVERAGE

Class I: First Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Ruby McAllister, Second Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Jamee Pierson, Third Place- Tama-Toledo News Chronicle- Ruby McAllister; Class II: First Place- Cascade Pioneer- Mike Putz, Second Place- Clarion Wright County Monitor- Amanda Rink, Third Place- Osceola Sentinel- Tribune- Candra Brooks; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Aleisa Schat, Second Place- Decorah Leader- Zach Jensen, Seth Boyes; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Celia Brocker, Second Place- Ottumwa Courier- Kyle Ocker, Chad Drury, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman- Journal- Jane Curtis, Robert E. Oliver; Class V: First Place- Davenport Quad- City Times- Nina Baker, Tom Loewy, Sarah Watson, Olivia Allen, Second Place- Des Moines Register- Stephen Gruber-Miller, Brianne Pfannenstiel, Marissa Payne, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Emily Andersen

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

BEST NEWS PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid, Second Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Ruby McAllister, Third Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber; Class II: First Place- Central City Linn News- Rollin Banderob, Second Place- Cascade Pioneer- Jake Bourgeois, Third Place- Sheldon Mail- Sun- Justin Rust; Class III: First Place- Dyersville Commercial- Dave LaBelle, Second Place- Decorah Leader- Denise Lana, Third Place- Manchester Press- Dave LaBelle; Class IV: First Place- Ottumwa Courier- Kyle Ocker, Second Place- Newton News- Christopher Braunschweig, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Cody Blissett, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Savannah Blake, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Savannah Blake

BEST BREAKING NEWS PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Hartley Sentinel Everly/Royal News- Nicholas Pedley; Class II: First Place- Albia Monroe County News- Becky Maxwell, Second Place- Stuart Herald- Jon Lonsdale, Kristy Lonsdale, Dan Dickinson, Third Place- Sheldon Mail- Sun- Justin Rust; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovetta, Second Place- Decorah Leader- Zach Jensen, Third Place- Decorah Leader- Zach Jensen; Class IV: First Place- Creston News Advertiser- Nick Pauly, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Corey Meints; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Dave Kettering, Second Place- Sioux City Journal- Tim Hynds, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Cody Blissett

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Traer North Tama Telegraph- Ruby McAllister, Second Place- Holstein Advance- Brent Harm, Third Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Third Place- Bloomfield Democrat- Scott Spurgeon; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Charlie Hildebrand, Third Place- Dyersville Commercial- Don Zieser; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Second Place- Le Mars Sentinel- Allen Hamil, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Savannah Blake, Second Place- Des Moines Register- Cody Scanlan, Third Place- Waterloo Courier- Chris Zoeller

BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid, Second Place- Colfax Jasper County Tribune- Troy Hyde, Third Place- West Branch Times- Gregory Norfleet; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun- Joel Kellar, Second Place- Orange City Sioux County Capital Democrat- Maggie McEwen, Third Place- Corydon Times- Republican- Jesse Simmons; Class III: First Place- DeWitt Observer- Ross Eberhart, Second Place- Eldridge North Scott Press- Ross Shinberg, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Rylan Howe; Class IV: First Place- Ottumwa Courier- Kyle Ocker, Second Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Third Place- Ottumwa Courier- Kyle Ocker; Class V: First Place- Waterloo Courier- Chris Zoeller, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Stephen Gassman, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Cody Blissett

BEST NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid, Second Place- Reinbeck Sun- Courier- Ruby McAllister, Third Place- Solon Economist- Chris Umscheid; Class II: First Place- Central City Linn News- Laura Drummy, Second Place- Cascade Pioneer- Dave LaBelle, Third Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs; Class III: First Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial- Dave LaBelle, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Rylan Howe; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Savannah Blake, Second Place- Clinton Herald- Christopher Baldus, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Savannah Blake

BEST PHOTO STORY

Class I: First Place- Avoca Journal Herald- Donald Nielson, Second Place- Prairie City PCM Explorer- Jamee Pierson, Third Place- Earlham Echo- Todd Weber; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- Matt Heinrichs, Second Place- Cascade Pioneer- Dave LaBelle, Third Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka- Rollin Banderob; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader- Seth Boyes, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Roy Tucker, Third Place- Decorah Leader- Denise Lana, Zach Jensen, Seth Boyes; Class IV: First Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer, Second Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer, Third Place- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil- Joe Shearer; Class V: First Place- Davenport Quad- City Times- Katelyn Metzger, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald- Mike Day, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan- Staff

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Class I: First Place- Oakland Herald- Donald Nielson, Second Place- Reinbeck Sun- Courier- Ruby McAllister, Third Place- Scranton Journal- Dustin Teays; Class II: First Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News- CJ Eilers, Second Place- Anamosa Journal Eureka- Rollin Banderob, Third Place- Ackley World Journal- Becky Schipper; Class III: First Place- Dyersville Commercial- Dave LaBelle, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Justin Rust, Third Place- Burlington Beacon- John Lovretta; Class IV: First Place- Ames Tribune- Nirmalendu Majumdar, Second Place- Oskaloosa Herald- Kyle Ocker, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Marissa VanWingen; Class V: First Place- Waterloo Courier- Chris Zoeller, Second Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Jim Slosiarek, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Savannah Blake

ADVERTISING CONTEST WINNERS

BEST AD FEATURING GROCERY/FOOD/ENTERTAINMENT

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- Hull-Sioux County Index Reporter; Class II: First Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Second Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat, Third Place- Estherville News; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Third Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

BEST AD FEATURING FINANCIAL, INSURANCE OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald; Class II: First Place- Ida County Courier, Second Place- Rock Rapids Lyon County Reporter, Third Place- Ackley World Journal; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Third Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Second Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan, Third Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette

BEST AD FEATURING FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS, APPLIANCES OR HARDWARE

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- ; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Second Place- Estherville News, Third Place- Pocahontas Record-Democrat; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Third Place- Waverly Newspapers; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Fort Dodge Messenger

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

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Estherville News, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Third Place- Stuart Herald; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Second Place- Dyersville Commercial, Third Place- Decorah Leader; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Fort Dodge Messenger, Third Place- Fort Dodge Messenger

BEST AD FEATURING MISCELLANEOUS

Class I: First Place- Remsen Bell Enterprise, Second Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald, Third Place- Lake City Calhoun County Phoenix; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Second Place- Estherville News, Third Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun; Class III: First Place- Keosauqua Van Buren County Register, Second Place- Harlan Newspapers, Third Place- Bellevue Herald-Leader; Class IV: First Place- Independence Bulletin Journal, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Iowa City Daily Iowan

BEST SPECIAL SECTION ADVERTISING

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Hull-Sioux County Index Reporter, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Cascade Pioneer, Second Place- Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Third Place- Rock Rapids Lyon County Reporter; Class III: First Place- Waverly Newspapers, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers, Third Place- Dyersville Commercial; Class IV: First Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald

BEST ADVERTISING SERIES OR CAMPAIGN FEATURING ANY SERVICE OR MERCHANDISE CATEGORY

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, Second Place- Bloomfield Democrat, Third Place- Westside Observer; Class III: First Place- Waverly Newspapers, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- Keosauqua Van Buren County Register; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal; Class V: First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Clinton Herald

BEST ADVERTISING IDEA FOR A COMMUNITY PROMOTION OR EVENT

Class I: First Place- Solon Economist, Second Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Estherville News, Second Place- Sheldon Mail-Sun, Third Place- Mapleton Press; Class III: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Third Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Spencer Daily Reporter, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Clinton Herald

BEST AD FEATURING AGRICULTURE

Class I: First Place- Hull-Sioux County Index Reporter, Second Place- Solon Economist, Third Place- Solon Economist; Class II: First Place- Stuart Herald, Second Place- Estherville News, Third Place- Ida County Courier; Class III: First Place- Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Second Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW, Third Place- Sioux Center News; Class IV: First Place- Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Clinton Herald, Third Place- Fort Dodge Messenger

BEST WEB ADVERTISEMENT

Class I: First Place- Lake City Calhoun County Phoenix, Second Place- Inwood West Lyon Herald, Third Place- Lake City Calhoun County Phoenix; Class I: First Place- Rock Rapids Lyon County Reporter, Second Place- Central City Linn News, Third Place- ; Class II: First Place- Decorah Leader, Second Place- Decorah Leader, Third Place- ; Class IV: First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Third Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen; Class V: First Place- Clinton Herald, Second Place- Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Third Place- Clinton Herald

BEST AD DESIGNER

Class I: First Place- Lake City Calhoun County Phoenix- Danielle Potkonak, Second Place- Solon Economist- Catherine Bilskie; Class II: First Place- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun- Heidi Owen, Second Place- Elkader Times- Register- Kim Corpian, Third Place- Rock Rapids Lyon County Reporter- Ashley Huisman; Class III: First Place- Sheldon N'West Iowa REVIEW- Camille Visser, Second Place- Waverly Newspapers- Carrie Wright, Third Place- Sioux Center News- Camille Visser; Class IV:First Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Mark Wohlert, Second Place- Iowa Falls Times Citizen- Beth Olsen, Third Place- Independence Bulletin Journal- Carrie Hendricks; First Place- Cedar Rapids Gazette- Seth Smith, Second Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Nick Manwarren, Third Place- Fort Dodge Messenger- Michelle Colshan

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