

**Excellence
in Journalism**

Deadline writing

CLASS A

First Place

Steve Bandy

Marshall News
Messenger
Officer shooting

Second Place

Angela Weatherford

Athens Daily Review

Jury takes a little more than 2 1/2 hours
to return sentence

Honorable mention

Jessica Sanders

Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

Standoff ends as man surrenders to JP

Judges comments: This was not the longest story submitted in the Deadline Reporting category, but Bandy's entry was by far the most complete. In the second-day story about a former police officer apparently gunning down a trooper at a traffic stop, Bandy takes information from officials, public records, other news reports an eyewitness and the slain trooper's obituary. As the newspaper followed the story in the weeks after the shooting, the writer might have focused more on the narrative, but – on deadline – this reporting is great.

Judge: Allison Floyd, Athens Banner-Herald

Deadline writing

CLASS AA

First Place

Laura Elder

Galveston County

Daily News

Five rescued, one dead in boat
sinking

Second Place

Nathaniel Lukefahr

Brazosport (Clute) Facts
Dow Production, workers to be cut

Judges comments: This was the most compelling read of all the stories I judged. It was clearly written and well reported with good sources. The lead was engaging and the story was one that grabbed me from beginning to end. Great details.

Judge: Bob Zaltzberg, Bloomington, Ind., Herald

Honorable mention

Paul A. Anthony

San Angelo Standard-Times
Lawmen enter temple

Deadline writing

CLASS AAA

First Place

Jessica Langdon

Wichita Falls

Times-Record News

A ton of water

Second Place

Gabe Semenza

Victoria Advocate

It Was Mass Chaos

Judges comments: Strong story telling through the people who suffered through the high water. Excellent explanation of the "perfect storm" that created it and fine detail. I would guess readers could relate to what these people went through.

Judge: Dave Kotok, Omaha World-Herald

Honorable mention

Jared Taylor

McAllen Monitor

21 Dead in Prison Riot

Deadline writing

CLASS AAAA

First Place

**Scott Farwell,
Scott Goldstein,
Rachel Slade**

Dallas Morning News
15 die in crash of bus
Second Place

**Lindsay Wise, Dane
Schiller, Rosanna Ruiz**

Houston Chronicle
Crane collapse kills 4

Honorable mention

Staff

Dallas Morning News
A procession of painful goodbyes

Honorable mention

Staff

San Antonio Express-News
AT&T heads to Dallas

Judges comments: Beautifully told, largely through the eyes of survivors and families of those who died. Great description, excellent detail - a remarkable effort under deadline.

Judge: Penny Cockrell, The Oklahoman.

Features

CLASS A

First Place

Tyesha Boudreaux

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Where Hope Lives

Second Place

Robin Y. Richardson

Marshall News Messenger

Yearning for Zion

Honorable mention

Daniel Walker

Herald-Banner

F Bomb

Judges comments: It would have been easy to write this story and not make it seem this interesting. But with an active lead, it draws you in, and it explains the ins and outs – and the biggest, question of why – of a family involved in foster care. It also explains the need for foster parents through the eyes of the family.

Judge: Terry Rombeck, Lawrence Journal-World

Features

CLASS AA

First Place

Kevin Sieff

Brownsville Herald

Where Hope Lives

Second Place

Trish Choate

San Angelo Standard-Times

Yearning for Zion

Honorable mention

Laura Elder

Galveston County Daily News

F Bomb

Judges comments: A compelling read. This takes me deep inside a problem and shows how the impact of a political fight in Washington affects men and their families in Mexico, as well as businesses in the United States. The color and detail is what makes this a special read.

Judge: John Moore, Managing Editor, Ventura County Star

Features

CLASS AAA

First Place

Gabe Semenza

Victoria Advocate

Fatal Funnel

Second Place

Tommy Witherspoon

Waco Tribune-Herald

Open wide, Saddam

Honorable mention

Denise Malan

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

This is a church with no steeple; look
inside, see all the ...

Judges comments: An ambitious series that captured
real-life moments with great sensitivity.

Judge: Jill Williams, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

First Place

Brad Buchholz

Austin American-Statesman
Glimmers of grace

Second Place

Christopher Wynn

Dallas Morning News
Past Perfect

Honorable mention

Jeannie Kever

Houston Chronicle
Tale of determination

Honorable mention

Denise Gamino

Austin American-Statesman
Claire James survived Whitman's
bullet; the baby she carried didn't

Honorable mention

David Casstevens

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
After-school special

Features

CLASS AAAA

Judges comments: A moving essay that captures the qualities of one woman's life and its effects on, and meaning to, all those around her, through one person's eyes. It takes the reader inside the experience of victimhood and loss in a way seldom seen without bogging down in needless emotion. First-rate work.

Judge: Kevin McGrath, Wichita (Kan.) Eagle

Feature series

CLASS A

First Place

Michele Marcotte

Nacogdoches Daily
Sentinel

Elderly series-The Long Journey

Second Place

Jon Dustin Brooks

Marshall News Messenger
Uncommon Valor

Honorable mention

Terry Mathews

Sulphur Springs News-Telegram
Are we poor?

Judges comments: This was a great series that used vivid, in-the-moment writing and reporting to tackle some pretty heavy topics that pretty much every family must consider at some point. The stories all seemed to further the overall mission of the series. I was especially impressed by the sourcing – without finding excellent sources, the stories, and therefore the series, couldn't have been this good. Finally, this wasn't just about other people's stories – the paper did a good job of providing news-you-can-use tips and lists of resources so readers could truly gain something from the series

Judge: Terry Rombeck, Lawrence Journal-World

Feature series

CLASS AA

First Place

John Lowman

Brazosport (Clute) Facts

Myla's Way: Live. Learn. Love

Second Place

**Allen Essex, Fernando
Del Valle, Steve Sinclair**

Harlingen Valley

Morning Star

Uncommon Valor

Honorable mention

**Kevin Sieff, Laura B.
Martinez, Gary Long, Aaron
Nelsen, Emma Perez-
Trevino, Jose Borjon, Laura
Tillman**

Brownsville Herald

Are we poor?

Judges comments: An excellent job of taking me into the lives of this family and how they are dealing with the potential tragedy that they faced. There are tremendous small details in reporting that bring each of the characters alive to me, the reader, and compel me to continue reading. You answer my questions about her condition and how it happened without slowing down the narrative. I might have shortened the package by a day or so, but it probably worked fine at its length for your readership. But it makes me care about these people and their situation. Well done.

Judge: John Moore, Managing Editor, Ventura County Star

Feature series

CLASS AAA

First Place

Gabe Semenza

Victoria Advocate

Fatal Funnel

Second Place

Brandon Leonard

Victoria Advocate

Receipe for Life

Honorable mention

Denise Malan

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

This is a church with no steeple; look
inside, see all the...

Judges comments: Gripping retelling of this tragedy. The writer was able to get those involved to open up and provide such compelling details. Wonderful graphics. Very well thought out. .

Judge: Sue Ontiveros, Chicago Sun-Times

Feature series

CLASS AAAA

First Place

**Macarena Hernandez,
Gary Jacobson,
Holly Hacker,
Katherine Leal Unmuth**

Dallas Morning News

Hard Road to the Finish

Second Place

Eric Dexheimer

Austin American-Statesman

Billy's World

Honorable mention

Chuck Lindell

Austin American-Statesman

Court of family misery

Honorable mention

Jan Jarvis, Cary Darling,

Chris Vaughn

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Living with HIV

Judges comments: This series is an excellent, comprehensive look at immigrant students, told as a result of the incredible access the writers were granted – and what they did with it. Brilliantly researched and written, the series unfolds all the layers of the issue. The story of the principal on Day 4 is uplifting and builds the series to a wonderful ending on Day 5. It's hard to imagine readers not seeing this series and, perhaps for the first time, understanding the depth of the issue and, also perhaps for the first time, considering it an issue of people, not immigration politics. Excellent, and bravo.

Judge: Mike Marino, Florida Times-Union

Short features

CLASS A

First Place

Mary Rainwater

Palestine Herald-Press

Manners and a meal

Second Place

Jeff Walker

San Marcos Daily Record

Honorable mention

Angie Alvarado

Palestine Herald-Press

Judges comments: The writer tells a colorful story about a ballooning pioneer's career and accomplishments.

Judge: Stan Tiner, Editor, Biloxi (Miss.) Sun Herald

Short features

CLASS AA

First Place

John S. Mercurief

San Angelo

Standard-Times

INTO THE TUMBLEWEEDS: Lost
Maples a fall wonderland

Second Place

Gary Carter

Sherman/Denison Herald
Democrat

Talk Texan? Fixin' to.

Honorable mention

Aaron Nelsen

Brownsville Herald
Cutting Edge

Honorable mention

Candace Carlise

Denton Record-Chronicle
Program lays foundation of books

Judges comments: None given.

Judge: Nora Shoptaw, Skirt! Greensboro magazine

Short features

CLASS AAA

First Place

Chris Ramirez

Amarillo Globe-News

Pigs fly before Ike hits

Second Place

Brian Pearson

Tyler Morning Telegraph

Old School: Downtown Barbershop

Marks 50-Year Anniversary

Judges comments: Super lede -- it made me read on. I loved the descriptions of the friends of swine and the quotes you chose.

Judge: Dana Coffield, The Denver Post

Honorable mention

Celinda Emison

Abilene Reporter News

Brownwood Cries Out: Save our

Starbucks

Short features

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Vince Davis

San Antonio Express-News

Family helps nourish bodies and
souls....

Second Place

David Flick

Dallas Morning News

A different shade of blues

Honorable mention

Deanna Boyd

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Loose horse gets kick out of patrol car

Judges comments: A wonderful story, with excellent description and good news value. This is a short feature that says something truly meaningful about a part of life in San Antonio that, as in every big city, many want to overlook.

Judge: David Caudill, Cincinnati Enquirer, Features copy desk chief.

Spot sports

CLASS A

First Place

Brandon Ogden

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Sue Gunter

Second Place

Benny Rogers

Athens Daily Review
Sizzlin' Start

Honorable mention

Jon Dustin Brooks

Marshall News Messenger

Judges comments: Good lede. Solidly backed up. Ended nicely. Overall great story.

Judge: Bran Strickland, Aniston (Ala.) Star

Spot sports

CLASS AA

First Place

Joshua Buckley

Galveston County

Daily News

Out of bounds

Second Place

Bret Vito

Denton Record-Chronicle

15 UNT football players fail drug test

Honorable mention

Joel A. Erickson

Odessa American

Repeating themselves

Judges comments: Almost an unbelievable story about the taunts and interference a high school coach -- a winning high school coach -- had to endure from critical fans. A great read.

Judge: Barry Forbis, Rocky Mountain News.

Spot sports

CLASS AAA

First Place

Evan Ren

Abilene Reporter News

Playing this one for Paige

Second Place

Mike Forman

Victoria Advocate

Wallace gets first taste of NFL at
combine

Judges comments: Evan Ren handled a sad, sensitive situation very professionally. He captured the emotion of the day in great detail and gave readers an intimate sense of what the school, friends and family had to endure.

Honorable mention

Don Williams

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
Ex-Tech tennis player found dead

Judge: Pat McLoone, Philadelphia Daily News

Spot sports

CLASS AAAA

First Place

**Suzanne
Halliburton**

Austin

American-Statesman

A Horn once more

Second Place

Jonathan Feigen

Houston Chronicle

That's one big deal

Honorable mention

Brad Townsend

Dallas Morning News

Michael Phelps wins eighth gold

Judges comments: Great blend of behind-the-scenes detail and historical background on Texas' decision to offer the offensive coordinator job to former quarterback hero Major Applewhite and his decision to leave a great job at Alabama to take it.

Judge: Barry Forbis, Sports Editor, Rocky Mountain News

Sports features

CLASS A

First Place

Jon Dustin Brooks

Marshall News Messenger
IOC vote leaves Team USA on
farewell tour

Second Place

Dave Rogers

Baytown Sun
Future still in doubt for Outlaws

Honorable mention

Neal White

Waxahachie Daily Light
A rivalry with many sides

Judges comments: This feature is a perfect example of treating a local rivalry game like it's the biggest story in the world, which obviously it is to the readers of the Marshall News Messenger. The rich details make the story.

Judge: Randy Kennedy, Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register

Sports features

CLASS AA

First Place

Evan Mohl

Killeen Daily Herald
IOC vote leaves Team USA on
farewell tour

Second Place

Jeff Andrews

Denton Record-Chronicle
Future still in doubt for Outlaws

Judges comments: None given.

Judge: Colleen McDaniel, Sports Editor, Virginian Pilot

Honorable mention

Joel A. Erickson

Odessa American
A rivalry with many sides

Sports features

CLASS AAA

First Place

Lee Goddard

Corpus Christi

Caller-Times

Robbed by dementia

Second Place

Evan Ren

Abilene Reporter News

Colt Crazy

Honorable mention

Joey Richards

Abilene Reporter News

The Best

Judges comments: Lee Goddard's story on the dementia of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi athletic director Dan Viola was a poignant piece that was well-written and educational. I learned a lot about frontotemporal dementia and it scared the heck out of me. A very readable story about how the disease has changed Viola's life, with a lot of details that allow the reader to relate to what Viola and his family are going through.

Judge: Chet Fussman, Florida Times-Union

Sports features

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Barry Horn,

Albert Breer

Dallas Morning News

Frank Clarke

Second Place

Randy Riggs

Austin American-Statesman

Track keeper

Judges comments: Easily the winner in this category.
Great story, great reporting, great writing.

Judge: Josh Pichler, Cincinnati Enquirer

Honorable mention

Dan McCarney

San Antonio Express-News

Jose Robles got game

Sports column writing

CLASS A

First Place

Pete Garcia

Alice Echo-News Journal
Portfolio

Second Place

Dave Rogers

Baytown Sun
Portfolio

Judges comments: This columnist is clearly in touch with the readers he serves. He does a great job of offering a strong opinion without making the column about himself.

Judge: Randy Kennedy, Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register

Honorable mention

Kevin Gore

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Portfolio

Sports column writing

CLASS AA

First Place

Bob West

Port Arthur News

NCAA no more fan friendly than
NFL counterparts

Second Place

Eric Drennan

Temple Daily Telegram

What's behind lackluster performances
at latest state track and field meet?

Honorable mention

Richard Croome

Bryan-College Station Eagle
Covering the Aggies

Judges comments: Bob West has the kind of powerful voice every columnist should have. He's not afraid to challenge the big guys with solid argument and strong technique. His piece on the NCAA and money resonates. I wish it could be picked up in every paper. Ditto with the Clemens column. This may have been a very tough position to take in Port Arthur.

Judge: Bill Felber, Sports Editor, Manhattan (Kan.) Mercury

Sports column writing

CLASS AAA

First Place

Brice Cherry

Waco Tribune-Herald

Portfolio

Second Place

George Watson

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Westerners endure drunken-driving
lesson

Honorable mention

Adam Zuvanich

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

For Heisman vote

Honorable mention

Joel A. Erickson

Odessa American

When a score means more than it
might seem

Judges comments: Has all the elements you want to see out of your writers ... relevant to the community, inspiring, a talker, descriptive and touching.

Judge: Holly Lawton, Kansas City Star

Sports column writing

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Kevin Sherrington

Dallas Morning News
Portfolio

Second Place

Tim Cowlshaw

Dallas Morning News
Portfolio

Judges comments: A good combination of strong reporting and the human touch in one column, a sense of humor in another, and strong opinion in a third. A winning mix.

Judge: Reid Laymance, Sports Editor, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Honorable mention

Mike Leggett

Austin American-Statesman
Portfolio

General column writing

CLASS A

First Place

Jayson Larson

Athens Daily Review
Two tales of sportsmanship

Second Place

Karla DeLuca

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
You're the oldest, What Happened,
Don't feel obliged

Honorable mention

Kevin Lewis

Plainview Daily Herald
Under it all, a heart of gold

Judges comments: Larson doesn't try to dazzle readers with sophisticated literary devices and big words. He comes right at them with language and situations that feel familiar. His style might seem simple but he invariably leaves you nodding your head in agreement with him.

Judge: Rod Richardson, The Times (Shreveport, La.)

General column writing

CLASS AA

First Place

Fred Afflerbach

Temple Daily Telegram

Backroads, Waving a tradition on
rural backroads

Second Place

Donna Fielder

Denton Record-Chronicle

Brazen Bob and Macho Mike cover
Inhuman Ike

Judges comments: He did an exceptional job of using a theme -
- back roads -- that could be mundane to reflect on the human
condition while giving his readers an enhanced understanding
of the area in which they live.

Judge: -Bill McGoun, retired editorial writer, The Palm .

Honorable mention

Gene Powell

Odessa American

Honorable mention

Ken Brodnax

Odessa American

Honorable mention

Olga Pena

Killeen Daily Herald

Honorable mention

Heber Taylor

Galveston County Daily News

Honorable mention

Jim Fredricks

Conroe Courier

General column writing

CLASS AAA

First Place

Bruce Beck

Amarillo Globe-News
Portfolio

Second Place

M.B. (Marty) Richards

Wichita Falls Times-Record News
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Patrick Butler

Tyler Morning Telegraph
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Jon Mark Beilue

Amarillo Globe-News
Portfolio

Judges comments: Beck tells a great story and he gives readers the strong impression that he actually enjoys talking to them. The fact that he chooses to make the conversations so personal only enhances his work. In a category filled with strong, witty storytellers, Beck rises to the top.

Judge: Rod Richardson, The Times (Shreveport, La.)

General column writing

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Rod Dreher

Dallas Morning News
Portfolio

Second Place

Lisa Falkenberg

Houston Chronicle
Portfolio

Judges comments: Nice description, good use of self-deprecating humor, well written (soapbox derby). Dreher courageously wrestles with God and faith in his "chief of sinners" column. Like Jacob, I don't think he wins, but I admire him for trying. Excellent, strong column.

Judge: Peter Bronson, Cincinnati Enquirer

Honorable mention

Pam LeBlanc

Austin American-Statesman
Portfolio

Honorable mention

John Kelso

Austin American-Statesman
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Jacquielynn Floyd

Dallas Morning News
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Ken Rodriguez

San Antonio Express-News
Portfolio

Editorial writing

CLASS A

First Place

Daniel Walker

Greenville Herald Banner

A city killing its recovery process

Second Place

Karla DeLuca

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Prison gray, Water Power

Honorable mention

Karla DeLuca

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Gun Play, Perks Power, Power Plant

Judges comments: The author is a strong writer, pulling his readers in with interesting, easy-to-digest ledes that offer up the paper's opinion right away. Too often, editorials don't say much. That's not the case with Walker's work. The opinion is clear, strong and backed by fact. Not only does the author lament some of the problems facing his community, he proposes solutions. Using strong, declarative sentences, Walker persuades readers without being too preachy. Good work.

Judge: Dan Haley, Denver Post

Editorial writing

CLASS AA

First Place

Dolph Tillotson

Galveston County Daily News

A city killing its recovery process

Second Place

Mike Trimble

Denton Record-Chronicle

Call 911, Jeeves: It's a Ford

Honorable mention

Heber Taylor

Galveston County Daily News

Walking quorum out of step with law

Honorable mention

Diana R. Fuentes

Laredo Morning Times

Portfolio

Judges comments: Dolph Tillotson's clear, well-thought out vision for Galveston is a testament to the power and potential of the finest editorial writing. Tillotson's well-written editorial not only served as the groundwork for the city's future, but in the best tradition of editorial writing inspired and generated a community-wide discussion.

Judge: Joe Howry, Editor, Ventura County Star

Editorial writing

CLASS AAA

First Place

Editorial Board

Victoria Advocate

What else has City Council done without the public's knowledge?

Second Place

John Young

Waco Tribune-Herald
Portfolio

Honorable mention

John Kanelis,

David Henry

Amarillo Globe-News

Red light cams right for city; Ballot box gets boxed up; The show that never ends

Judges comments: Some strong writing, some clever. This paper is community-oriented and that's so increasingly rare as to be priceless.

Judge: Charlie Mitchell, The Vicksburg (Miss.) Post

Editorial writing

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Claudia Kolker

Houston Chronicle

Get the lead out; Can do;
Railroaded

Second Place

Jack Z. Smith

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Portfolio

Honorable mention

David Langworthy

Houston Chronicle

U.S. Senate; Furtive decision;
Magnetic attraction

Judges comments: Strong positions, well reported. Few cliches were used, which is good, because they need to be avoided like the plague. I especially liked the railroaded editorial, which appropriately held officials and institutions accountable.

Judge: Craig Klugman, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

Comment and criticism

First Place

CLASS A

Judy Morgan

Nacogdoches Daily

Sentinel

Soldier's war poems

Second Place

Jim Finley

Baytown Sun

Palin vs. Biden vs. the press

Honorable mention

Terry Mathews

Sulphur Springs News-

Telegram

Nothing to write home about

Honorable mention

Neal White

Waxahachie Daily Light

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Judges comments: In this very tough field, "Katrina poet" stands.

Judge: Kathleen McElroy, New York Times

Comment and criticism

First Place

CLASS AA

**Carlina
Villalpando**

Kerrville Daily Times
The Book of Ruth

Second Place

Diana Fuentes

Laredo Morning Times
Arsenic and Old Lace

Judges comments: A compelling, personal look at the Bible's Book of Ruth and its meaning for women today -- all triggered by an upcoming theatrical production. This entry goes beyond the surface and makes the reader think.

Judge: Elizabeth Cook, Editor, Salisbury (N.C.) Post

Honorable mention

Steve Alford

Lufkin Daily News
Latest installment on a vintage Indiana
Jones tale

Comment and criticism

CLASS AAA

First Place

Carl Hoover

Waco Tribune-Herald

Portfolio

Judges comments: Sharp observations, lively writing and a winning sense of humor. I'm also a sucker for strong leads and kickers.

Honorable mention

Stacy Horany Johnson

Wichita Falls

Times-Record News

Dull 'Wilderness ...

Judge: Steve Chapman, Chicago Tribune

Comment and criticism

First Place

CLASS AAAA

Gaile Robinson

Fort Worth Star-
Telegram
Portfolio

Second Place

Larry Ratliff

San Antonio Express-News
Movie reviews

Judges comments: Opinion that is informative and entertaining and obviously well-researched. King Tut "the Mick Jagger of antiquities," gets well past the dry bones of the exhibit. This was clearly the best.

Honorable mention

Judge: David Wells, Cincinnati Enquirer

Andrew Dansby

Houston Chronicle
Greed and grit...A style like no other ...
Rolling Stones

Business reporting

CLASS A

First Place

Matthew Stoff

Nacogdoches Daily
Sentinel

Oil and gas exploration

Judges comments: A timely enterprise. The specific details on how the industry affects the county made this a good read.

Honorable mention

Andrew Goodridge

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Dollars and Sentences

Judge: Tim Rausch, Augusta Chronicle

Business reporting

CLASS AA

First Place

Aaron Nelsen

Brownsville Herald

Bordering on Bad Times

Second Place

John Tompkins

Brazosport (Clute) Facts

Troubled Waters

Honorable mention

Jayna Boyle

San Angelo Standard-Times

Dark Times

Honorable mention

Charlene Vandini

Harlingen Valley Morning Star

Phone cloning

Honorable mention

Matthew Watkins

Bryan-College Station Eagle

Layoffs brings Rockdale to its knees

Judges comments: 'I really liked this story because it was compact, as required in smaller papers, yet it was very well-sourced and covered several aspects of how the Mexican economy affects border towns. I admire the effort made to give it a macro-scope that went beyond the town borders. A very good effort.'

Judge: Roger Hedges, assistant managing editor/business, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Business reporting

CLASS AAA

First Place

Brian Bethel

Abilene Reporter News
Where does our food come from?

Second Place

Kenneth Dean

Tyler Morning Telegraph
Are Gas Pumps Ripping Us Off?

Judges comments: A strong story that shows in-depth reporting isn't dead or limited to the biggest newspapers. It was a timely idea on an important subject and was executed well.

Honorable mention

Sean Gaffney

McAllen Monitor
Bumps in the Road

Judge: Kevin Shinkle, Associated Press

Business reporting

First Place

CLASS AAAA

Claudia Grisales

Austin American-
Statesman

Co-op records: posh travel, no
oversight

Second Place

L.A. Lorek

San Antonio Express-News
AT&T shift will hit a range of groups

Honorable mention

Jennifer Hiller

San Antonio Express-News
Henry Cisneros on the hot seat

Honorable mention

**Andrea Jares, Maria
Perotin**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
No Happy Home' for buyers

Judges comments: None given

Judge: Rodney Brooks, USA Today

Specialty reporting

CLASS A

First Place

Michele Marcotte

Nacogdoches Daily

Sentinel

Elderly-The Long Journey

Honorable mention

Dave Rogers

Baytown Sun

Oak Island: stories from a wasteland

Judges comments: The three pieces that I read from Michele Marcotte's six-part series on Alzheimer's, aging patients, and baby-boomer caregivers deserves this first place award for it's detailed anecdotal and scientific research. I found her pieces compelling, informative, and eloquently written. Her subjects were well chosen and their stories strongly convey the complexity of aging parents and the wide-reaching impact of Alzheimer's.

Judge: Laura Moran, Chicago Tribune

Specialty reporting

First Place

CLASS AA

Paul A. Anthony

San Angelo

Standard-Times

Judge's experience a match for
massive FLDS case

Second Place

Kevin Sieff

Brownsville Herald

Behind the Red Line

Judges comments: Journalism committed here, in the best traditions of patience, perseverance, and public service. This was, no doubt, the biggest story in Texas in 2008, and Paul Anthony gave it the best coverage imaginable.

Honorable mention

Judge: Frank Fellone, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Fred Afflerbach

Temple Daily Telegram

Little River Erosion

Specialty reporting

CLASS AAA

First Place

Elliott Blackburn

Lubbock Avalanche-
Journal
Hope Deferred

Second Place

Denise Malan

Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Portfolio

Judges comments: Excellent reporting. Writing is clear and riveting. These stories don't come along very often. Nice body of work.

Judge: Mark Hutchison, Daily Oklahoman

Honorable mention

Kenneth Dean

Tyler Morning Telegraph
Police reporting

Specialty reporting

First Place

CLASS AAAA

Sig Christenson

San Antonio

Express-News

Iraq War

Second Place

Wayne Slater

Dallas Morning News

Politics

Honorable mention

Jennifer Hiller

San Antonio Express-News

Business Writing

Judges comments: I applaud the Express-News for making a commitment to covering Iraq, and I applaud the quality of reporting. A clear, detailed, informative and interesting picture emerges of the war in Iraq. This is the best reporting I have read recently that helps me understanding how much progress has or hasn't been made in the war. The reporting also brings both Iraqi people and American soldiers to life.

Judge: Dennis Hetzel/Kentucky General Manager/The Cincinnati Enquirer

Spot news photography

CLASS A

First Place

Christy Wooten

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Second Place

Christy Wooten

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Judges comments: Spot news sweep by the amazing Christy Wooten. Excellent job of hustling to the scene to get a vantage point, likely inside the line, to capture the action.

Honorable mention

Christy Wooten

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Judge: Chris Todd, Clarion (Miss.) Ledger

Spot news photography

CLASS AA

First Place

Kevin M. Cox

Galveston County Daily News
Women rescued from amusement
ride

Second Place

Kevin M. Cox

Galveston County Daily News
Comeback Crawling

Judges comments: Galveston photographer Kevin Cox has demonstrated a strong understanding of the fundamentals of good photography. Both his first and second place images are compelling, capture emotion and are well framed. In what was a strong showing across Texas, his photography rises above and is worthy of the top prize.

Judge: Jim Lawitz, editor, Las Cruces (N.M.) Sun-News

Honorable mention

Al Key

Denton Record-Chronicle
Source of strength

Spot news photography

CLASS AAA

First Place

Nathan Lambrecht

McAllen Monitor

Defying Dolly

Second Place

Evan Lewis

Texarkana Gazette

Man removes storm debris

Judges comments: Good combination of the spot news and the human response to the spot news. The elegant framing with the floodwaters and the mom cradling her daughter and soggy son wading in front of the aqua house combines all the elements of good spot news photography.

Honorable mention

Jaime R. Carrero

Tyler Morning Telegraph

Lindale Area Fire- Up in Flames

Judge: Robin Daughtridge, Chicago Tribune

Spot news photography

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Jay Janner

Austin American-Statesman
Seeking Solace

Second Place

Laura Skelding

Austin American-Statesman
Ike brings high water

Honorable mention

Jay Janner

Austin American-Statesman
Returning to Ruins

Tom Pennington

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Wall of Fire

Smiley N. Pool

Houston Chronicle
Left Standing

Judges comments: Jay Janner's wrenching photo of a 7-year-old child at the funeral of his twin brother being embraced and comforted by his dad is gripping. I think it's hard to win a news category with a funeral photo because they are general news events. It can be like taking pictures of a play. Whether you mean to or not, you can be intrusive in a way that dehumanizes mourners at their most vulnerable moments. Janner transcends those pitfalls. This photo helps the community mourn. It's respectful. It's full of content, complex emotional reactions, four different layers of very telling body language and splashes of sunlight that keep the eye moving and seeing more, more, more. I'm surprised it didn't run on A1.

Judge: John Sale/AME Visuals/The Commercial Appeal/Memphis

Feature photography

First Place

CLASS A

Christy Wooten

Nacogdoches Daily
Sentinel

TakingADive, Kittenz

Second Place

Laura McKenzie

New Braunfels Herald-
Zeitung

Sausage Maker

Judges comments: Nature to Nurture is the winner due to the emotion evoking appeal of the main art.

Judge: Chris Todd, Clarion (Miss.) Ledger

Honorable mention

Laura McKenzie

New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung
Blond Ponytail

Feature photography

CLASS AA

First Place

Dave McDermand

Bryan-College Station Eagle
Tunnel vision

Second Place

Ricardo Segovia

Laredo Morning Times
Bullfighting

Judges comments: A beautiful feature photo, it's graphic, uses light and timing well evokes mood.... nicely done.

Judge: Eric Strachan, Senior Managing Editor, Naples Daily News.

Honorable mention

Jennifer Reynolds

Galveston County Daily News
Fantastic Fourth

Honorable mention

Dave McDermand

Bryan-College Station Eagle
What a view

Feature photography

CLASS AAA

First Place

Michael Schumacher

Amarillo Globe-News
Portfolio

Second Place

Nellie Doneva

Abilene Reporter-News
Portfolio

Judges comments: This photo took patience and thought. The timing was perfect and had the added element of the ghostly person in the distance. Well done.

Honorable mention

Alex Jones

McAllen Monitor
Portfolio

Judge: Dinah Rogers, New Orleans Times-Picayune

Honorable mention

Jerry Larson

Waco Tribune-Herald
Portfolio

Feature photography

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Sonya Hebert

Dallas Morning News
Saying Goodbye to Mom

Second Place

John Davenport

San Antonio Express-News
Feature Photo 1

Judges comments: Powerful. Moving. Real. Very real. The photographer captures the reality of what is to come with a resignation on the part of the little girl even as she reaches out to stay as connected as possible. Terrific photo.

Judge: Neil Brown, St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

Honorable mention

James Nielsen

Houston Chronicle
Endeavour Launch

Sports photography

CLASS A

First Place

Gary Martin

Fort Bend Herald

Gaining revenge

Second Place

Gary Martin

Fort Bend Herald

Paying the price

Honorable mention

Ashley Landis

San Marcos Daily Record

Secondary vertical photo of No. 11

Judges comments: Nice moment for a rundown play. Don't usually see good photos under this situation. Great body language and reactions from both players.

Judge: Alfredo Araiza, Arizona Daily Star

Sports photography

CLASS AA

First Place

Al Key

Denton Record-Chronicle
Gaining revenge

Second Place

Kevin Buehler

Odessa American
Paying the price

Honorable mention

Dan Dalstra

Brazosport (Clute) Facts
Secondary vertical photo of No. 11

Honorable mention (2)

Kevin M. Cox

Galveston County Daily News
Getting Defensive and Dethroned

Judges comments: Sometimes great pictures are about emotion and body language. This picture has both, with a celebrating team and a dejected player on the wrong side the score.

Judge: Eric Strachan, Senior Managing Editor, Naples Daily News.

Sports photography

CLASS AAA

First Place

Thomas Metthe

Abilene Reporter News

West Texas Shootout

Second Place

Thomas Metthe

Abilene Reporter News

Badgers take over in 2nd half

Judges comments: Judges felt this photo read quickly.

Judge: Kent Johnson, Atlanta Journal Constitution

Honorable mention

Evan Lewis

Texarkana Gazette

Soccer fight

Sports photography

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Bahram Mark Sobhani

San Antonio Express-News

Sports Photo 4

Second Place

Smiley N. Pool

Houston Chronicle

Drop Off Huo Liang

Judges comments: None given.

Judge: Neil Brown, St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

Honorable mention

Ralph Barrera

Austin American-Statesman

8 and 0 brother

Photojournalism

CLASS A

First Place

Christy Wooten

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Ivan, Aftermath

Second Place

Neal White

Waxahachie Daily Light

Honor Flight

Judges comments: Nice work on Ike's Aftermath. Consistently good composition with emphasis on the lead photo. Using the tree to frame the foreground with workers in the background took some thought.

Judge: Angela Pittenger and Alfredo Araiza, Arizona Daily Star

Honorable mention

Anita Miller, Ashley Landis

San Marcos Daily Record

Ivan, Aftermath

Photojournalism

CLASS AA

First Place

Joshua Scheide

Odessa American
Growing up too soon

Second Place

Kevin M. Cox,

Jennifer Reynolds

Galveston County Daily News
Comeback Crawling

Honorable mention

**Brian Connelly, Cynthia Esparza,
Patrick Dove**

San Angelo Standard-Times
Compound raided - A special report

Honorable mention

Barron Ludlum

Denton Record-Chronicle
Pops Idol

Judges comments: Excellent job of carrying readers through revealing moments without treating subjects like afterthoughts. A sensitive but relevant topic that was thoughtfully covered well.

Judge: Rod Richardson, Managing Editor, The Times (Shreveport, La.)

Photojournalism

CLASS AAA

First Place

**Jacob Croft Botter,
Kevin Green**

Longview News-Journal
Signs of faith

Second Place

Nathan Lambrecht

McAllen Monitor
Let It Ride

Judges comments: Great concept, well executed, showing elements of your community in a thematic photo essay.

Judge: Kent Johnson, Atlanta Journal Constitution

Honorable mention

Nathan Lambrecht

McAllen Monitor
The New Dogs

Photojournalism

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Sonya Hebert

Dallas Morning News
At the Edge of Life

Second Place

Laura Skelding, Jay Janner,
Kelly West, Deborah Cannon,
Rodolfo Gonzalez

Austin American-Statesman
Hurricane Ike Team Coverage

Honorable mention

Tom Fox

Dallas Morning News
Beijing Olympics

Honorable mention

Smiley N. Pool
Houston Chronicle
Hurricane Ike

Judges comments: Great access to a very emotional topic. Black and white images brought the emotion through even clearer. Great shot of casket going toward the light.

Judge: Tom Gilbert, Tulsa (Okla.) World

Headlines

CLASS A

First Place

Kendal Rogers

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Portfolio

Second Place

Sean McCrory

New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Bob Haenel

Fort Bend Herald
Portfolio

Judges comments: Headlines are creative and attention-getting. Heds accurately convey tone of stories. Quickly and effectively communicate gist of stories to readers. Coordinate well with art elements.

Judge: Brandye Alexander, (Former) news editor, The (Stockton, Calif.) Record

Headlines

CLASS AA

First Place

Stacy Faison

Lufkin Daily News
Portfolio

Second Place

Josh Owens

Denton Record-Chronicle
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Ralph Dice

Temple Daily Telegram
Portfolio

Judges comments: Obviously, you've got a great skill for writing clever headlines. ... Your snickers headline was the single best headline in the 2A group, and your ability to write great headlines from the police blotter (which often were little more than a headline themselves) was remarkable. There's little doubt in my mind that you deserve first place in this category.

Judge: George Tanner, Assistant News Editor, Rocky Mountain News

Headlines

CLASS AAA

First Place

Pedro Oliva

McAllen Monitor
Portfolio

Second Place

Will Leschper

Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Portfolio

Judges comments: In each of Oliva's work samples, all the display-type elements were complementary and appropriate to the subject.

Honorable mention

Erin Keck

Waco Tribune-Herald
Portfolio

Judge: Kent Johnson, Atlanta Journal Constitution

Honorable mention

Darren Nielsen

Abilene Reporter News
Portfolio

Headlines

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Dan Pritchett

Houston Chronicle
Portfolio

Second Place

Steve Schaeffer

Houston Chronicle
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Stephanie Milner

Houston Chronicle
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Mark Dooley

San Antonio Express-News
Portfolio

Judges comments: "GARBANZO JOURNALISM" sealed the deal. "... through the tiers" was a fine way to carry the idea through the deck head. Very nice work.

Judge: George Tanner, Assistant News Editor, Rocky Mountain News

News page design, individual

CLASS A

First Place

Kendal Rogers

Nacogdoches Daily
Sentinel
Portfolio

Second Place

Chris Lyons

Seguin Gazette-Enterprise
Portfolio

Judges comments: Very clean but creative designs. Art elements are attention-getting and given good play. Headlines work well with images. Pages are well-organized and effectively communicate the news of the day. All-text center packages are risky, but the “Change” CP is well-executed and a nice departure from traditional headline-photo-story layouts.

Honorable mention

Debi Ryan

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Portfolio

Judge: Brandye Alexander, (Former) news editor, The (Stockton, Calif.) Record

News page design, individual

CLASS AA

First Place

Michael Morris

Brazosport (Clute) Facts
Portfolio

Second Place

Brian Grant

Galveston County Daily News
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Albert Saldana

Harlingen Valley Morning Star
Portfolio

Judges comments: These pages are well organized and well executed. The solid structure gives them a light feel not often seen in papers this size. The story count/amount of information is high, but the pages do not feel overwhelmed. This designer has a good feel for the content, showing a more traditional approach for harder news and a lighter touch for feature packages. The "Live, Love. Learn" package is a great example. The typography, photo play and white space sets it off nicely, yet still ties it into the rest of the page. These pages accomplish the goal of any good designer, communicate an appropriate visual message that matches the tone of the stories. Very solid command of the design and how that helps enhance the paper's message.

Judge: Brian Clark, Assistant Design Director, Rocky Mountain News

News page design, individual

CLASS AAA

First Place

Randy Ferguson

Longview News-Journal
Portfolio

Second Place

Matt Weber

Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Kim Gorum

Waco Tribune-Herald
Portfolio

Judges comments: These three pages show that the designer has a sense of the news and how to use type and art. Randy Ferguson seems to have absorbed the centerpiece stories, reflected their meanings and balanced their displays with the news of the day. His clean, engaging designs also seemed to help reinforce the paper's redesign and reorganization of the front page. His readers and bosses should thank him.

Judge: Jason Morris, Chicago Tribune

News page design, individual

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Scott Ladd

Austin American-Statesman
Portfolio

Second Place

Jesus Maldonado

Houston Chronicle
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Chris Hanna

Austin American-Statesman
Portfolio

Judges comments: 'Lots of information made it onto these pages, but the designer found a way to package it so it didn't overwhelm the page. The oil drilling centerpiece merges the art and text elements with overlapping boxes, and stands out because of the information offered. The coverage of Ike gives much the same detail, but plays to coverage strengths, namely the photo of the destruction. The Texas-Oklahoma package has an energy to it thanks to the photos and headline placement, but the page still manages to work in other issues using the shaded boxes to set them off -- while providing a pillar-like support for the main photo package.'

Judge: Jeff Harkness, Assistant News Editor, The Cincinnati Enquirer

Feature page design, individual

CLASS A

First Place

Debi Ryan

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Portfolio

Second Place

Debi Ryan

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Debi Ryan

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Portfolio

Judges comments: 'The "Starting early" page stands out because of its reliance on solid design. There are few design "tricks" that draw attention to themselves but instead techniques that help the meaning of the story come through. The typography in the headline and text is uncomplicated and integrated well with the visuals; each is allowed the room that's needed to provide a clean, classic presentation. "The road ahead" is also one of the best pages in the competition.

Judge: Joe Hudson, Denver Post

Feature page design, individual

CLASS AA

First Place

Nikina Roberts

San Angelo Standard-Times
Portfolio

Second Place

Billie Dorman

Galveston County Daily News
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Maria Ponce-Martinez

Al Dia
Portfolio

Judges comments: This is a very fun set of pages that truly stand apart from the field. This designer does a lot with a little, and ends up with a very sophisticated look. The designs convey a sense of whimsy and appear to be breaking a lot of the rules, but underneath you realize there is a strict adherence to the fundamental rules of good design. The designer creates a wonderful blend of color and graphic elements and avoids the urge to overdo it. In short, great color, clean and crisp typography and strong graphic imagery.

Judge: Brian Clark, Assistant Design Director, Rocky Mountain News

Feature page design, individual

CLASS AAA

First Place

Bruno Garcia

McAllen Monitor
Portfolio

Second Place

Joaquin Herrera

210SA
Portfolio

Judges comments: Wow. Striking design and nice balance of words and photos. All of this entrant's designs were great, but this one really stood out.

Honorable mention

Brandon Garcia

McAllen Monitor
Portfolio

Judge: Michelle Smith, Kansas City Star

Honorable mention

Joe Landin

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
Portfolio

Feature page design, individual

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Jamie Huckaby

Dallas Morning News
Portfolio

Second Place

Sharon Kilday

Dallas Morning News
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Mike Sutter

Austin American-Statesman
Portfolio

Honorable mention

Lisa Veigel

Dallas Morning News
Portfolio

Judges comments: 'This page stops you -- its' a movie review that doesn't rely on studio handout art for big impact, instead using an illustration stripped down to its simplest form, working together with headline to get a message across. Great way to approach a design that could easily have been done by formula, but instead takes it beyond and is true to the theme.

Judge: Kathy Bogan, Design Director, Rocky Mountain News

Team page design

CLASS A

No award given

Team page design

First Place

**Miguel Collis,
Jamie Chase**

Brownsville Herald

Voters Guide, Spring Break Guide

Second Place

**Christian Schmidt,
Chris Hawkes**

Bryan-College Station Eagle

Heavy local news day

Judges comments: Incredibly well-packed with information without being overpowering. Something for everyone. Good use of color and breakout boxes.

Judge: Kelly Adams, Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

CLASS AA

Honorable mention

**Connie Harshman,
Gary Carter,
Edward Southerland,
Chris Jennings**

Sherman/Denison Herald Democrat
Henry Claret's letter

Honorable mention

**Stefanie Charles,
Tanya Ramirez, Julie Daffern, Joe
Rutland, Diana Fuentes**
Laredo Morning Times
It's not a dream

Honorable mention

**Ana Martinez and
Chris Hawkes**
Bryan-College Station Eagle
Breaking news

Team page design

CLASS AAA

First Place

Robert Zavala,

Gabe Semenza,

Kimiko Fieg, Chris Cobler,

Frank Tilley

Victoria Advocate

Fatal Funnel (Double Truck)

Second Place

Oscar Gonzalez Jr.,

Bruno Garcia,

Juan Luevano,

Andy Comer

McAllen Monitor

Yes, He Did!

Honorable mention

Jen Meehan, Todd Yates,

Jorge Vidrio, Stephanie Jordan,

Allison Ehrlich

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

June 29, 2008 - Your paper. Your world.

Judges comments: Of all the entries for team pages, this showed the most teamwork. It's clear that artists, designers, editors and reporters had to work together to pull all the elements together--and to pull off the vision for the artistic look.

Judge: Jason Morris, Chicago Tribune

Team page design

First Place

CLASS AAAA

Michael Hogue, Evan Grant, Jason Dugger

Dallas Morning News

Welcome to Texas

Second Place

Cynthia Wahl, Ross Hailey, Cathy Frisinger, Sarah Brubaker, Jeremy Cannon

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Indulge

Honorable mention

Kari Crane, Michael Currie, Steve Wilson

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Election 2008

Honorable mention

Nadya Shakoor, Mara Davenport, Buster Dean

Houston Chronicle
Year of the Rat, Feb. 2, 2008

Judges comments: This big old-fashioned map sprinkled with icons, text and drawings is the clear winner. The concept is creative - apply the state of the Rangers baseball team at mid-season to the State of Texas map and cleverly look through a Ranger lens at landmarks across the state. Teamwork is evident from the idea stage, through, drawing and completion. On the day this was published, I bet many readers spent more time devouring this page than all of the newspaper's section fronts combined.

Judge: John Sale/AME Visuals/The Commercial Appeal/Memphis

Infographics

CLASS A

First Place

Daniel Walker

Greenville Herald Banner
Portfolio

Judges comments: None given.

Judge: Joe Hudson, Denver Post

Infographics

CLASS AA

First Place

Miguel Collis

Brownsville Herald

Natural Habitat

Second Place

Ryan Henry

Brownsville Herald

Voters Wanted

Honorable mention

Rayanne Schmid

Kerrville Daily Times

Coming to theaters

Honorable mention

Ryan Henry

Brownsville Herald

A lot hangs on every word

Judges comments: This one stands out for two things: clarity and clean design that plays off the story theme well without being overwhelming. The color palate is just right -- doesn't shout green but does get the point across. The fact box on the left rail is clear in its typography and writing. And there's nothing better than a dominant image to focus your eyes long enough to take in all of the surrounding "habitat." Thanks for not overdoing it.

Judge: Donna Reed, Media General, Inc.

Infographics

CLASS AAA

First Place

Robert Zavala

Victoria Advocate

Feds Probe Crash

Second Place

None given

Judges comments: The Victoria entries stood out for their clear design and intuitive narrative. The use of colors was appropriate without being distracting.

Judge: Doris Truong, Washington Post

Honorable mention

Scott Fagner

Waco Tribune-Herald

Mapping the death toll

Infographics

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Alberto Cuadra

Houston Chronicle

50 years of exploration

Second Place

Michael Hogue,

Jim Landers

Dallas Morning News

Foot Notes

Honorable mention

Alberto Cuadra, Jay Carr

Houston Chronicle

A look inside the new Co-Cathedral

Honorable mention

Robert Calzada, Mary Coppinger,

Linda Scott, Don Tate II, Roberto

Villalpando

Austin American-Statesman

Staff entry

Judges comments: Love the arrangement of information "orbiting" around the NASA logo. Lots of layers and connections to be made between administrations, technological advances and specific missions. The photos of each event add depth and the fun of looking at a scrapbook.

Judge: Kathy Bogan, Design Director, Rocky Mountain News

Best blog

CLASS A

No award given

Best blog

CLASS AA

First Place

**Jeff Andrews,
Adam Boedeker**

Denton Record-Chronicle
“High Schools Blog”

Second Place

Denise Hoepfner

Lufkin Daily News
“Charm blog”

Judges comments: None given.

Honorable Mention

The Facts staff

“Hurricane Ike blog”

Judge: Barry Arthur, Arkansas Press Democrat

Best blog

CLASS AAA

First Place

J.B. Smith

Waco Herald-Tribune
Our Man Downtown

Second Place

210SA staff

210 SA
Alamode Blog

Honorable Mention

William Kerns

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Wendy Gragg

Waco Herald-Tribune

Gabe Semanza

Victoria Advocate

**Jennifer Lloyd, Jennifer
McInnis, Emily Messer**

210 SA

Judges comments: Nice design; good bio pic. Waco seems to be home to several great, personable writers and editors who let them express themselves in their blogs. JB paints a great pictures, and comes up with phrases his readers will remember (comeuppance from poultry? That's going to stick with me). I really got a sense of the city as well. Great, great use of photos.

Judge: Jennifer Ward, The Fresno Bee

Best blog

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Dwight Silverman

Houston Chronicle
“Tech blog”

Second Place

Tara Trower

Austin American-Statesman
“Mama Drama”

Judges comments: None given.

Honorable Mention

None awarded

Judge: Jeff Lindsey, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Best online package

CLASS A

First Place

Michele Marcotte

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Second Place

Beth Foley

Palestine Herald-Press

Renovation collection

Honorable Mention

Dave Rogers

Baytown Sun

Oak Island: Stories from a wasteland

Judges comments: None given

Judge: Will Sullivan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Best online package

First Place

Staff

Killeen Daily Herald

Eyes on Crime

Second Place

PJ Brown, Dan Dalstra,

John Lowman

Brazosport (Clute) Facts

Myla's Way July 6

Honorable mention

Brad Doherty,

Laura Tillman

Brownsville Herald

Rubio House - Inside the home where
three babies were killed

Honorable mention

Staff

Killeen Daily Herald

Hood Holiday Howdys

CLASS AA

Judges comments: This was not only the best-designed, it also was the most complete. Smartly packaged public service project. Navigation and interactivity both excellent. Kudos.

Judge: John Boogert, Online Editor, Rocky Mountain News

Best online package

CLASS AAA

First Place

Staff

Corpus Christi

Caller-Times

Hurricane Ike

Second Place

T.C. Baker, Gabe Semenza,

Bill Clough, Julie Zavala,

Robert Zavala

Victoria Advocate

Fatal Funnel

Honorable mention

Staff

Amarillo Globe-News

Pigskin Review

Judges comments: Fantastic coverage of a disastrous event in their backyard. Deep multimedia and quick reporting throughout the event raise this above all other packages to the first prize.

Judge: Will Sullivan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Best online package

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Staff

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Killer package

Second Place

**Lee Hancock,
Sonya N. Hebert**

Dallas Morning News
Edge of Life

Honorable Mention

Laura Weisman

Houston Chronicle
Houston Grows.com

Honorable Mention

Staff

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tony Hawk package

Judges comments: Excellent work, wonderful use of wide array of online tools. Compelling subject, easy to navigate. Great job!

Judge: John Boogert, Online Editor, Rocky Mountain News

Best photo gallery

CLASS A

No award given

Best photo gallery

CLASS AA

First Place

**Sarah Moore
Kuschell**

Killeen Daily Herald
Family mourns their fallen hero

Second Place

Dan Dalstra

Brazosport (Clute) Facts
Way family during therapy

Honorable mention

G. Daniel Lopez

Brownsville Herald
The trade of a taxidermist

Honorable mention

Patrick Dove

San Angelo Standard-Times
From the sidelines

Judges comments: A military funeral is not such a rare event these days, but this moving gallery of photos is set apart by the focus on the faces. The range of emotions from sadness to pride is shown on the faces of family, mourners and honor guard. A very strong group of individual images that make a cohesive whole.

Judge: Gary Kiefer, Managing Editor online, Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

Best photo gallery

CLASS AAA

First Place

Ronald W. Erdrich

Abilene Reporter News
Kin and Cancer

Second Place

Adam Wratten

McAllen Monitor
Weslaco Bullriders

Honorable mention

Adam Wratten

McAllen Monitor
Costumes at the Omnicon Anime and
Video Game Convention

Judges comments: Kin and Cancer demonstrates effective storytelling using consistently well-composed and compelling still photographs. The photographer captures the life elements and emotion of his father and family as they endure the experience together.

Best photo gallery

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Staff

Houston Chronicle

Best of Ike Photos

Second Place

Laura Skelding, Jay

Janner, Deborah

Cannon, Rodolfo

Gonzalez

Austin American-Statesman

Hurricane Ike

Honorable mention

Smiley Pool

Houston Chronicle

Photos from Beijing

Judges comments: This is an outstanding collection of images from before, during and after the hurricane. The sweeping storm scenes are dramatic, but the close-up focus on the people who were affected made this gallery the winner.

Judge: Gary Kiefer, Managing Editor online, Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

**Spanish-language
awards**

News

First Place

Jorge Luis Sierra

La Voz de Houston

Hispanos, n desventaja para recuperarse de desastre de Ike

Second Place

Constanza Morales

La Estrella (Dallas-Fort Worth)

'Defienden beneficios de educación bilingüe

Honorable mention

Juan Carlos Sánchez

El Nuevo Herald (Brownsville)

Busca Patria

Features

First Place

Jorge Luis Sierra

La Voz

Radigrafía del votante hispano de
Houston

Second Place

Carolina Amengual

La Voz

Gracias con el Corazón

Honorable mention

Patricia López y

Aurora Orozco

La Frontera

Instrumentos de Tortura

Sports

First Place

**Edgar Chrnko
Salas**

La Frontera

¿Qué? Tecos es superlíder

Second Place

Juan Carlos Sánchez

El Nuevo Herald

La historia perfecta

Honorable mention

Edgar Chrnko Salas

La Frontera

Tigres enjaulados

Opinion

First Place

**Alfredo Carbajal-
Madrid**

Al Día

Votantes tienen una cita con la
historia

Second Place

Héctor Pina

La Voz

Las Madres Adolescentes: Un reto que
debemos atender

Honorable mention

**Germán Fernández-
Moore**

La Voz

Una señal de alerta para los Juegos
Olímpicos

Headlines

First Place

Zulema Báez

El Nuevo Herald

'Mudo Testigo'

Second Place

Adan Guerrero

La Frontera

Ruta de Muerte

Honorable mention

Zulema Báez

El Nuevo Herald

Cae la 'lana'

**Excellence
in Journalism**

Star reporter of the year

CLASS A

First Place

Chris Cobb

New Braunfels
Herald-Zeitung

Judges comments: The way Cobb grabs the reader in the lede shows how he's thought through the story before he begins to write. With his diverse topics, thorough reporting and easy writing style, he serves the reader ... a goal for any journalist. Good job.

Judge: Allison Floyd, Athens (Ga.) Banner-Herald

Star reporter of the year

CLASS AA

First Place

Donna Fielder

Denton

Record-Chronicle

Judges comments: Very good investigative work that obviously had an impact. Donna Fielder's stories were detailed and thorough, showing a high level of research and a willingness to use other-than-official sources. She adroitly placed descriptive narrative, adding texture to the story without slowing it down and without overwriting it. I had a clear idea of who the police officer was, not whether he killed his wife, but a textured portrait and questions that needed to be raised about his wife's death. The greatest achievement for a reporter is to see direct action based on reporting in the Lozano case. Further Fielder's other articles prove that she is a talented writer and reporter who incorporates the most desirable journalistic skills. It's good that you're not naming a second place finisher. Our judges liked several of the other entries after Ms. Fielder. The entries by Paul Anthony, Rhiannon Meyers, Gary Long and John Tompkins all scored well.

Judge: Carl Redman, executive editor, and staff of the Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate

Star reporter of the year

CLASS AAA

First Place

Jeremy Roebuck

McAllen Monitor

Portfolio

Judges comments: The range of subjects was especially impressive -- from the inner workings of drug cartels to the life of hotel maids during spring break. Each story was consistent in its clarity, lively writing and thorough research. While the field of entries was strong, Mr. Roebuck's work stood out.

Judge: Todd Stone, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Star reporter of the year

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Emily Ramshaw

Dallas Morning News

Judges comments: Emily Ramshaw is a classic "star reporter." Her stories are diverse, but always hard-hitting and impactful. Whether exposing the bureaucratic morass after a hurricane, using public records to reveal mistreatment in psychiatric hospitals or group homes for the disabled, or blowing the whistle on wasteful spending, her nose for news is unerring. She zeroes in, digs and, almost inevitably, hits paydirt. A storyteller and a watchdog with a passion for society's forgotten people, Ramshaw is the sort of reporter every editor loves, every newspaper relies on, and every community needs.

Judge: Jack McElroy, editor, Knoxville News-Sentinel

Star photojournalist of the year

CLASS A

First Place

Christy Wooten

**Nacogdoches
Daily Sentinel**

Judges comments: 'I cannot remember the last time I saw 10 photographs that nailed the technical, the narrative and the intangible in each shot. Even photos that should be a cliché, like the boys jumping in the lake, showed technical skill with a human touch. But the fencers, the cops by the burning car, the baby's hand ... all I can say is wow. These aren't just flashy for art's sake; they are visual journalism at its best.'

Judge: Kathleen McElroy, New York Times

Star photojournalist of the year

CLASS AA

First Place

Stuart Villanueva

**Bryan-College Station
Eagle**

Judges comments: Excellent lighting, unusual vantage points and approaches make this the winning Star Photojournalist entry. Shots like the prostitute, the car wreck and the church moving set up the story, but facial expressions force the reader to go to the story for more.

Judge: Dan Herrera, Managing Editor, Albuquerque Journal

Star photojournalist of the year

CLASS AAA

First Place

Michael Zamora

Corpus Christi

Caller-Times

Judges comments: Zamora's eye for design and composition helped contribute to several diverse and unique photographs. I particularly liked the thought and framing on the two couples on the seawall. A nice juxtaposition. His attention to light is also noticeable in this selection of images. Zamora had two solid sports action shots as well as a nice sports feature moment at the conclusion of a football game. I think that what edged Zamora over the other entrants was the way he choose subtle moments to press the shutter. The investigator leaning over the cones and exhaling. The cadet in a line of cadets with a quick glance with her eyes to her right. The motorcycle club member with head down and hand on face. These very subtle elements show Zamora is paying close attention and getting more out of a situation. These are often typical, everyday assignments and Zamora shows a skill for turning the typical scene into something a little more with his choice of moments.

Judge: Mike Yoder, chief photographer, Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World

Star photojournalist of the year

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Smiley N. Pool
Houston Chronicle

Judges comments: 'This portfolio had the most consistently powerful single images and the best variety of assignments, demonstrating a wide range of skills from making news aerials to covering Olympic sports to portraiture. There are clean images and some images that reveal layers of emotion. There is really only one image that left me wondering why it was included, so the portfolio stands as the strongest for 11 images.'

Judge: Geri Migielicz/Director of Photography/San Jose Mercury News

Star designer of the year

CLASS A

First Place

Debi Ryan

**Nacogdoches Daily
Sentinel**

Judges comments: 'Ms. Ryan shows here an ability to handle news and feature pages with equal amounts of skill and creativity. The "Aftermath" cover has the potential to be a very busy one, with four stories and four photos, yet I thought it was handled well. I also liked the use of the barbed wire on the prison story. The features layouts seemed to flow smoothly without becoming too busy.'

Judge: Kevin Hecteman, The Record (Stockton, Calif.)

Star designer of the year

CLASS AA

First Place

M. Clare Haefner
Killeen Daily Herald

Judges comments: Very newsy. I loved the use of color, typography and photographs. I especially liked the pages from the Fort Hood Herald -- seeing the different front pages around the edges was a treat.

Judge: Kelly Adams, The Topeka Capital-Journal

Star designer of the year

CLASS AAA

First Place

Joaquin Herrera

210 SA

Judges comments: Obama: Nice typography and cover; Super Sunday: Great typography, clean images and illustration; Half-Assed: Eye-catching and irreverent illustrations. Good typography and organization. Useful information.

Judge: Rachel Conger, Albuquerque Journal

Star designer of the year

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Scott Ladd

**Austin American-
Statesman**

Judges comments: This portfolio stood out from a very strong field in terms of packaging, attention to detail and visual appeal. Designs were sophisticated and never forced. The pages were well packaged without being formulaic. Centerpiece efforts were enticing and provided balance and a strong sense of community. Delivered to readers was wonderfully vibrant personality. Well done!

Judge: Ken Amos, Design Director, Cincinnati Enquirer

Star investigative report of the year

CLASS A

First Place

Matthew Stoff
Nacogdoches Daily
Sentinel

Judges comments: Stories do a good job of educating readers about a complicated subject.

Judge: Stan Tiner, Editor, The Biloxi (Miss.) Sun Herald

Star investigative report of the year

CLASS AA

First Place

Jessica Savage

Lufkin Daily News

Davita Series

Second Place

Staff

Killeen Daily Herald

Eyes on Crime

Honorable mention

John Tompkins,

John Lowman

Brazoport (Clute) Facts

*Judge indicted, investigated,
resigns*

Judges comments: This excellent series shows the value of what can be done through dogged pursuit of a story and not giving up on public records requests. The newspaper served the community well in this controversy by staying on top of the ongoing coverage while pushing hard for information from public agencies that would shed light on what they knew about the problems with this facility. It was that coverage that fully enlightened the community about the dialysis center. Well done.

Judge: John Moore, Managing Editor, Ventura (Calif.) County Star.

Star investigative report of the year

CLASS AAA

First Place

J.B. Smith

Waco Herald-Tribune

Broken Promise Land

Second Place

Staff

Victoria Advocate

Fatal Funnel

Honorable mention

Brenda Bernet

Amarillo Globe-News

Paid to Leave

Judges comments: Good investigative journalism is about stories that otherwise would not be told. That's a big reason why first place goes to the series titled Broken Promise Land in the Waco Tribune-Herald. If not reporter J.B. Smith, you would have stop the stories of Eloy Francisco and the other immigrants who died in the Arizona desert in their attempts to find a better life in this country? Smith showed a dogged determination and much skill in telling those stories. I was enriched by reading them.

Judge: Thomas Cole, Albuquerque Journal

Star investigative report of the year

First Place

CLASS AAAA

**Darren Barbee,
Anthony Spangler,
Yamil Berard**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
John Peter Smith Hospital

Second Place

**Steve McGonigle,
Jennifer Emily**

Dallas Morning News
A Blind Faith in Eyewitnesses

Honorable mention

Susan Carroll

'Houston Chronicle
Elusive Justice

Honorable mention

Todd Bensman

San Antonio Express-News
Playground Safety

Judges comments: This series kept on giving. Each day delivered a new revelation about problems at JPS Health System, leading to an overhaul of how the hospital is run and care is delivered. The stories define public watchdog journalism at its best. Well done.

Judge: Eric Brown, city editor, Rocky Mountain News

Star breaking news report of the year

CLASS A

First Place

**'Michele Marcotte,
Christy Wooten,
Matthew Stoff,**

Tyesha Boudreaux
Nacogdoches Daily
Sentinel

Ike's Aftermath

Judges comments: Comprehensive coverage of Hurricane Ike showed this newspaper's ability to serve its community in a crisis while also telling the human side. Compelling design. Good to see multi-media components included.

Honorable mention

**Tyesha Boudreaux,
Christy Wooten**

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Body discovered in trunk

Judge: Ken Tingley, The Post-Star

Star breaking news report of the year

CLASS AA

First Place

Staff

Galveston County Daily News
Hurricane Ike

Second Place

Staff

San Angelo Standard Times
Compound raided

Judges comments: The paper's compelling coverage of Hurricane Ike, both in words and pictures, was incredible. Staffers were able to both inform readers of the area's condition, but also tell the stories of people coping with the devastation. The staff's Herculean effort to publish at a time when their readers needed them most also should be lauded.

Judge: Kevin Richardson, Business Editor, Jackson (Miss.) Clarion Ledger

Honorable mention

Staff

Sherman/Denison
Herald Democrat
Bus tragedy

Star breaking news report of the year

CLASS AAA

First Place

Staff

Victoria Advocate

It Was Mass Chaos

Second Place

Staff

McAllen Monitor

Defying Dolly

Judges comments: The writing is exceptional and the sidebar items and photography make for an incredible package. Considering the complete unexpected nature of the event, the staff showed great resilience.

Judge: Ed Johnson, Albuquerque Journal

Honorable mention

Staff

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Not in 100 Years

Star breaking news report of the year

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Staff

Houston Chronicle

*Hurricane Ike, Sept. 14, 2008
edition*

Second Place

Staff

San Antonio Express-News

AT&T heads to Dallas

Judges comments: Excellent writing, sets the scene vividly and pointedly delivers the news about the violations by the bus company.

Judge: Bob Stover, Florida Today

Honorable mention

Staff

Houston Chronicle

Sherman Bus Crash

**College Newspapers
of the year**

Newspaper of the year

DAILY

First Place

The Shorthorn

University of Texas,
Arlington

Second Place

Daily Skiff

Texas Christian University

Honorable mention

The Lariat

Baylor University

Honorable mention

The Daily Toreador

Texas Tech University

Judges comments: The Shorthorn fires on all cylinders. It balances hard and soft news, profiles and features, entertainment and opinion, with spacious presentations that showcase strong photojournalism, portraiture and illustrations. Its editors pay attention to the details in design, typography and white space. Thus its strong content comes shining through..

Judge: Ron Johnson, past president, College Media advisers; director, Indiana University Student Media

Newspaper of the year

NON-DAILY

First Place

The Talon

University of Texas
at Tyler

Second Place

The Flare

Kilgore College

Judges comments: The Talon reflected the best news judgment with strong front pages. ... Page 1 package on student who escaped from Sierra Leone was excellent. Pulse page definitely a plus. The spider bite package also was very informative. Strong editorial pages were also a plus. Photography was generally strong.

Judge: Robert Adams, journalism director, Western Kentucky University

Honorable mention

University Press

Lamar University

**Excellence
in Journalism**

**AP staffers
of the year**

● Writing

First Place

Jay Root

Austin

Judges comments: Root's entry stands out for displaying a clear commitment to watchdog journalism, the type that can lead to demands for greater transparency and accountability in government. It demonstrates both a knack for finding information that certain public officials would prefer to keep hidden - such as lawmakers' financial stake in a company doing business with the state, and details of a powerful state leader's personal fortune - and a willingness to confront those politicians directly with the findings.

Honorable mention

Alicia Caldwell

El Paso

Work such as Root's allows readers to make smarter choices and sometimes even persuades government officials to take a closer look at how they are policing themselves. At the very least, it reminds them that they are being watched.

Judge: Chuck Melvin, Assistant managing editor/business, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

● **Photography**

First Place

Matt Slocum

Second Place

Eric Gay

Honorable mention

LM Otero

Judges comments: None given.

Judge: Nick Lisi, director of photography, Syracuse (N.Y.) Post-Standard,

Community service

CLASS A

First Place

Staff

Seguin Gazette Enterprise
Hurricane Ike coverage

Second Place

Staff

Marshall News Messenger
Eyes on Crime

Judges comments: The Gazette Enterprise brought to light the potential dangers of the move and called attention to the issue, culminating in an end to the story that ultimately benefited the public.

Judge: Katherine Lee, Tuscaloosa News

Honorable mention

Staff

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Davita series

Community service

CLASS AA

First Place

Staff

Brazosport (Clute) Facts

Hurricane Ike coverage

Second Place

Natalie T. Hull, Don Bolding, Mason Canales, Justin Cox, Victor O'Brien, Kevin M. Smith, Joshua Winata, Tyrell Johnson, M. Clare Haefner, Steve Gietz, Sarah Moore Kuschell, David Morris

Killeen Daily Herald
Eyes on Crime

Honorable mention

Rick Smith

San Angelo Standard-Times
Hope for the holidays

Honorable mention

**Jessica Savage,
Andy Adams**

Lufkin Daily News
Davita series

Judges comments: Many news organizations were sent reeling by Hurricane Ike. The Facts, which serves Brazoria County, fought its way through the storm and its aftermath with the intelligence, grit and grace of much larger organizations, and provided a great service to its .

Judge: Rex Smith, Times-Union

Community service

CLASS AAA

First Place

**Rubi Reyes,
Editorial Board**

Victoria Advocate

Voter's University of Houston
Victoria Expansion

Second Place

**J. B. Smith, Cindy V. Culp,
Rowland Nethaway, Tommy
Witherspoon, Bill Whitaker**

Waco Tribune-Herald
Texas Ranger Museum bones

Honorable mention

Staff

Abilene Reporter News
Voter's Guide Election 08

Judges comments: As the Victoria Advocate itself noted, this was a decision that could "change the face of Victoria." At issue was the expansion of the University of Houston-Victoria from a two- to four-year institution. The newspaper, in simple and passionate language, championed this cause in its editorials. In the best tradition of community service, it provided that drumbeat of coverage that kept the issue out front for the public -- and decision-makers -- to see.

Judge: Carole Tarrant, The Roanoke (Va.) Times

Community service

First Place

CLASS AAAA

**Darren Barbee,
Anthony Spangler,
Yamil Berard**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
John Peter Smith Health System Fort
Worth

Second Place

**Steve McGonigle,
Jennifer Emily**

Dallas Morning News
A Blind Faith in Eyewitnesses

Second Place

Claudia Grisales

Austin American-Statesman
Pedernales Electric Co-op

Honorable mention

**Karisa King, John Tedesco,
Jaime Castillo**

San Antonio Express-News
Cozy Contracts

Judges comments: Among very strong competition, this series and the actions it prompted fought to the top of the stack. Taxpayer-funded hospitals, like public utilities, began in more idealistic times as services to improve lives and communities. Too often, as in the case of Tarrant County's hospital, they become insider fiefdoms that serve only a few. It took a newspaper's dedication to truth to learn why a cash-rich public hospital performed so poorly. This series performed a major public service. It showed why information about public health services should be public record. It brought to light a system that was failing in its tax-funded mission while chasing more affluent patients. And it produced positive change benefiting all taxpayers.

Judge: Sonny Albarado, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Team effort

CLASS A

First Place

Matthew Stoff, Christy Wooten, Michele Marcotte, Tyesha Boudreaux, Andrew Goodridge, Debi Ryan, Kendal Rogers, Keith Lansdale

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Hurricane Ike

Second Place

Nicole D. Perez, Ofelia Garcia Hunter, Mauricio Julian Cuellar Jr., Christopher Maher

Alice Echo-News Journal
March Primary alleged misconduct

Honorable Mention

Staff

Orange Leader
Hurricane Ike

Honorable Mention

Staff

Herald-Banner, Greenville
Meth Series

Judges comments: 'I was very impressed with the level of Hurricane Ike coverage from the Daily Sentinel. One of my favorite touches was the Evacuee Guide from the Sept. 12 edition -- I have to think that this information came in very handy for people who may have been new to town and were there under less-than-ideal circumstances. I also took note of the fact that the online folks had video to supplement the print and online stories, as well as large photo galleries from a staff photographer who traveled to the coastal areas. Excellent work all around.

Judge: Kevin Hecteman, The Record (Stockton, Calif.)

First Place

**Natalie T. Hull, Don Bolding,
Mason Canales, Justin Cox,
Victor O'Brien, Kevin M. Smith,
Joshua Winata, Tyrell Johnson,
M. Clare Haefner, Steve Gietz,
Sarah Moore Kuschell, David
Morris**

Killeen Daily Herald
Eyes on Crime

Second Place

Staff

Bryan-College Station Eagle
Ike's aftermath far from home

Honorable mention

Staff

San Angelo Standard-Times
Officials on FLDS

Honorable mention

Staff

Brazosport (Clute) Facts
Hurricane Ike coverage

Team effort

CLASS AA

Judges comments: Great graphics; love the faces of people. Wonderful to do in-depth work on a news topic. Strong, solid writing and headlines. Thoughtful story selection/development.

Judge: Julie Shirley, Executive Editor, Bellingham (Wash.) Herald

Team effort

CLASS AAA

First Place

Gabe Semenza, Bill Clough, Julie Zavala, Robert Zavala, Frank Tiley, T.C. Baker, Kimiko Fieg, Chelsea Delaney, Sarah Lim, Christina Burke, Chris Cobler, Tom Martinez

Victoria Advocate

Fatal Funnel

Second Place

Staff

McAllen Monitor

Defying Dolly

Honorable mention

Staff

Amarillo Globe-News

Pigskin Preview

Judges comments: Excellent package. The writing, photos and graphics all work well together to tell a compelling story. Nice touch to include editorial and guest opinions in the project. It is clear the Advocate staff spent a significant amount of time planning and collaborating to put together such outstanding journalism.

Judge: Hipolito Corella, Arizona Daily Star

Team effort

CLASS AAAA

First Place

**Steve McGonigle,
Jennifer Emily**

Dallas Morning News
A Blind Faith in Eyewitnesses

Second Place

Editorial Team

Dallas Morning News
Bridging Dallas' North-South Gap

Judges comments: An exemplary investigative effort initiated by staff members that blended creative techniques, data and analysis. Effort delivered strong human element, on top of findings that changed police/prosecutor procedures.

Judge: Randy Brubaker, Managing Editor, Des Moines Register

Honorable mention

Staff

Houston Chronicle
Hurricane Ike, Sept. 14

Honorable mention

**Steven Kreytak, Tony Plohetski,
Mike Ward**

Austin American-Statesman
Governor's Mansion Fire

Honorable mention

Staff

San Antonio Express-News
A Greener City

Honorable mention

Tim Madigan

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
To Catch a Killer series

Freedom of information

CLASS A

First Place

JoAnn Livingston

Waxahachie Daily Light
Election issue

Second Place

JoAnn Livingston

Waxahachie Daily Light
Crime and punishment

Honorable mention

JoAnn Livingston

Waxahachie Daily Light
Who is J.W. Dant?

Judges comments: The Waxahachie Daily Light staff is the pit bull that won't let go. They don't just use the Freedom of Information laws to reveal information. They also follow up the information with analysis and hard questioning in pursuit of the truth. This is the kind of dogged journalism that will save this industry.

Judge: Ken Tingley, The Post-Star

Freedom of information

CLASS AA

First Place

Donna Fielder

Denton Record-
Chronicle

Court records shed light on death

Second Place

**Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe,
Amy Dodd Thompson,
Lowell Brown**

Denton Record-Chronicle

Audit reveals cities snagged by Web

Honorable mention

Erin McKeon, Yvonne Mintz

Brazosport (Clute) Facts
Brazoria officers Nov. 7, 14, 18

Judges comments: The reporter's curiosity, determination and careful research resulted in justice for a community. Research and reporting forced public officials to do their jobs.

Judge: Mike Knaak, Managing Editor, St. Cloud (Minn.) Times

Freedom of information

First Place

CLASS AAA

Dan Kelley,

Denise Malan

Corpus Christi

Caller-Times

*When it comes to giving
information, who gives the green
light?*

Second Place

Gabe Semenza

Victoria Advocate

Law and Disorder

Honorable mention

Dan Kelley,

Denise Malan

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Is county agenda detailed enough?

Judges comments: Well researched with a variety of sources, showing once again that public officials tend to ignore or try and intimidate John Q. Public when it comes to open records. Keep holding them accountable, by all means.

Judge: Mark Hutchison, The Oklahoman

Freedom of information

First Place

CLASS AAAA

**Steve McGonigle,
Jennifer Emily**

Dallas Morning News
A Blind Faith in Eyewitnesses

Second Place

**Jaime Castillo, Karisa
King & John Tedesco**

San Antonio Express-News
Cozy Contracts

Honorable mention

**Darren Barbee,
Anthony Spangler,
Yamil Berard**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
JPS Health System

Judges comments: This is outstanding use of records to be the public's eyes and ears -- exactly the kind of work that only newspapers can provide their readers. The press for the records and the analysis of them reveal an astounding and troubling history in Dallas County, especially the use of one-person "showup" lineups and an overall blind allegiance to eyewitness accounts. The stories, too, are told well, not forgetting that their are human victims of the longstanding practices by police and prosecutors there.

Judge: Peter Bhatia, Executive Editor, The Oregonian

Online newspaper

CLASS A

First Place

Ryan Robinson,

Doug McDonough

Plainview Daily Herald

www.myplainview.com

Second Place

Staff

Sulphur Springs

News Telegram

Judges comments: Good use of video. ... Integrate multimedia and community resources to make them vital destinations for your audience. Your sports section is a good model.

Judge: Jonathan Kealing, Lawrence Journal-World

Online newspaper

CLASS AA

First Place

Staff

San Angelo

Standard-Times

gosanangelo.com

Second Place

Staff

Odessa American

www.oaooa.com

Honorable mention

Staff

Galveston County Daily News

Galvnews.com

Judges comments: This site uses clean design and intuitive navigation to lead users through the news and happenings of San Angelo. The scrolling centerpieces allow the staff to highlight multiple stories and rank importance of pieces of news, which is always difficult to accomplish online. The staff clearly has a dedication to breaking and updating news, as the homepage is also crammed with time-stamped updates. Very nice. The easy navigation and entry into stories via topic, popularity, multimedia or e-mail is also a nice touch.

Judge: Meg Martin, Online Editor, Roanoke (Va.) Times

Online newspaper

First Place

**Denise Nelson,
Clayton Hein**

Wichita Falls Times-
Record News
timesrecordnews.com

CLASS AAA

Second Place

Staff

Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Caller.com

Honorable mention

**Chris Cobler,
Terry Owen**

Victoria Advocate
VictoriaAdvocate.com

Judges comments: None given.

Honorable mention

Dewuan Davis
Abilene Reporter News
Reporternews.com

Judge: Jonathan Kealing, Lawrence Journal-World

Online newspaper

CLASS AAAA

First Place

**Kristi Kingston
and staff**

Austin American-
Statesman
Statesman.com

Second Place

Staff

Dallas Morning News
dallasnews.com

Honorable mention

Staff

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Star-Telegram.com

Judges comments: Austin just does it right. Between statesman.com and austin360.com, they provide their community with a variety of types of storytelling -- they always seem to be on top of the breaking news, and display it well -- as well as a variety of ways to enter stories. From Virtual Capitol to their homepage's featured video and most-commented articles, they allow folks to enter stories in some of the many ways people do enter stories online, which is not always from a text link on the homepage. And austin360 shows that they're the experts on the entertainment scene in their town. Both sites have clean design, easy, intuitive navigation, and a great vibe. They also show, in many ways, that the team involved with putting them together aren't afraid of trying technology as it comes along -- that they're willing to take the risk of failing to see what sticks. That's huge, and it provides their community with an incredible service. Nice work.

Judge: Meg Martin, Online Editor, Roanoke (Va.) Times

Newspaper of the year

SPANISH-LANGUAGE

First Place

**EL NUEVO
HERALDO (Valle
del Río Grande)**

Judges comments: None available

Newspaper of the year

CLASS A

First Place

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Judges comments: The Daily Sentinel stood out in its class by nearly every measure. Daily and Sunday front pages are anchored by strong enterprise and beat reporting. News coverage ran the range of public safety trends, criminal justice investigation, economic development and public institutions. Harder edged news is mixed with neighborhood and people stories that give the paper a sense of time and place in its community. The newspaper is consistently well-designed, making excellent use of photographs from section to section. Designers create points of entry well and use pullouts to aid readers not just visually, but also contextually in understanding stories. Opinion pages, particularly on Sunday, were resonant with voices locally and regionally. From front to back, this is a newspaper that evokes its community.

Judge: Metro Editor Cynthia Montgomery and assistant metro editors Doug Miller, Michael Gordon and Liz Chandler, Wichita (Kan.) Eagle

Newspaper of the year

CLASS AA

First Place

**San Angelo
Standard-Times**

Judges comments: Each newspaper that was reviewed in the AA class could each win for individual categories of reporting, design, photography and so on. But the newspaper that was the most consistent and stood above the rest in those same categories was the Standard-Times. Their coverage of the compound raid was something to be proud of for any newspaper. The special section on Sunday, April 13, 2008 was full of in-depth reporting, great photography and quality writing. As impressive as the special section was, their consistency in all three days is also impressive. The clean, simple design allows daily readers to get through the paper easily, but leaves the reader with a better understanding of what happened in their community.

Judges: Joe Hight, Matt Clayton, Daily Oklahoman

Newspaper of the year

CLASS AAA

First Place

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Judges comments: The Corpus Christi Caller-Times hits high notes on execution, style and newsmanship/enterprise in the three papers we judged. We liked the amount of staff written stories throughout the paper, as well as the paper's appearance. Photography is often very good to excellent, especially in the well-designed sports section. We liked the enterprise shown in the 'Doctor to Defendant' Sunday CP, but the staff also moved fast to cover a youth court judge who died on Saturday. The headlines are consistently well-done, even clever. Readers are treated to loads of local and community news, but not at the expense of important national and international stories. Bravo for maintaining separate sections for Local and Business news. Overall, this is a paper that feels plugged into its community and is smartly reported and edited.

Newspaper of the year

CLASS AAAA

First Place

Dallas Morning News

Judges comments: Very competitive field. Of all the entries in this category, The Dallas Morning News was most consistent throughout each section in providing hard-hitting news, lively writing and smart design - all three days. The A1 cover for Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008 is a great example of the perfect mix: a hard-hitting investigative piece on ricin at UT Southwestern Medical Center; a touching narrative about a young woman whose fiancé died while serving in Iraq; a solid local piece on television campaign ads in Texas before Super Tuesday; and a Super Bowl preview story that was much more interesting and informative than the usual run-of-the-mill previews. Other highlights: smart delegate map on the inside of the A section, especially for a graphic that had to be produced in black and white; great sports section design; smart centerpiece on the business section cover. Even in this time of intense financial pressures and dwindling staffs, readers of the Morning News are getting their money's worth. Very impressive effort across all three days submitted for judging..

Judge: Louis Graham, Memphis Commercial Appeal

Headliners awards

Star reporter of the year

First Place

Jeremy Roebuck

McAllen Monitor

Portfolio

Judges comments: Jeremy is a capable, excellent general-assignment reporter, skilled; he is someone who is able to take a complicated story and make it intelligible. His important reporting on smugglers, drug traffickers from Mexico, and his political story about "Dirt in the Delta" show his ability to get good quotes and write the kinds of stories citizens need to read.

Judge: Barbara S. Reed
Dept. of Journalism & Media Studies School of Communication Information and Library Studies Rutgers University

Star photojournalist of the year

First Place

Stuart Villanueva

Bryan-College Station

Eagle

Judges comments: Stuart consistently produces interesting, dramatic and original photography that grabs the reader's attention and draws them in to the stories he is covering . . . Stuart uses light, composition, perspective and lens choice to make dramatic photos of every day life that jump off the page for the readers of his paper and engage them in the news.

Judge: Jim Bourg, Reuters News Photography

Star designer of the year

First Place

Joaquin Herrera

210 SA

Judges comments: The Barack The Vote page is just a beautiful spread. The typography on the tab's cover and on the spread's first page provide readers with a fresh perspective on a topic that had been in the news cycle for quite a few days. The use of grids and color, along with the consistency throughout the spread show a true designer's touch is present. This designer understands the concepts and principles of graphic design.

Star investigative report of the year

First Place

J.B. Smith

Waco Herald-Tribune

Broken Promise Land

Judges comments: The competition was formidable, but Smith's four-part series "Broken Promise Land" presented a passionate, dramatic and emotional picture of the state of illegal immigration along the southern U.S. border. Smith's descriptive writing and ability to put faces on people who die anonymously was tremendous journalism.

Judge: Jim Schaefer, Detroit Free Press

Star breaking news report of the year

First Place

Staff

Houston Chronicle

*Hurricane Ike, Sept. 14, 2008
edition*

Judges comments: The very large staff produced extraordinary coverage of the community. It had great pictures, really superb in fact; much human interest material showing misery as well as how neighbors come through in a world of devastation. But more: there was information on how to clean up afterwards, with straight advice to readers on what to do (e.g., fallen trees and power lines)--and not to do.