

Winners' Circle



2011

TEXAS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST
SPONSORED BY THE TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

COVER PHOTO BY DAVID LIENBY / THE SILSBEE BEE

NEWS PHOTO / DIVISION 6 / SECOND PLACE

WHERE'S THE FIRE? — A representative from the Texas Forest Service surveys a forest fire near Little Big Horn in which over 40 acres were burned. Dry conditions contributed to this and many other fires since a countywide burn ban went into effect.

Winners' Circle

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About the Texas Better Newspaper Contest

This year 176 newspapers submitted 1,784 entries in the Texas Better Newspaper Contest. The contest is broken down into 10 divisions in which newspapers compete against papers of similar circulation size.

Weeklies compete under a unique division system in which the total number of weekly entrants is divided into five divisions based on descending circulation — this year 116 weeklies entered so there were 24 newspapers each in Divisions 6-7, 22 in Division 8 and 23 each in Divisions 9-10.

Dailies and Semiweeklies compete in fixed circulation breaks: Division 1 Dailies 100,000 or More (compete in General Excellence only); Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999; Division 3 Dailies Less Than

7,000; Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More; and Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less.

First place winners receive plaques and second through fourth place winners earn certificates. Sweepstakes points are earned for each division, except Division 1, based on point accumulation in contest categories (excluding Community Service & Special Sections) - 1st Place: 100 points; 2nd Place: 75 points; 3rd Place: 50 points; and 4th Place: 25 points. The awards were announced June 18th at TPA's 132nd Summer Convention in Rockwall.

The Winners' Circle is an annual publication saluting the Better Newspaper Contest winners. Judges' comments on first through fourth place winners are reprinted along with samples of winning entries.

Community Service

Daily Division

★STEPHENVILLE★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

- 1. Stephenville Empire-Tribune**, "12 Non-profits of Christmas" Wow! Not only creative in concept but what a great follow-up on story writing.
- 2. The Kerrville Daily Times**, "Salvation Army's Ray & Joan Kroc Center" Wow. Good following a long project. Congratulations on a wonderful investment into your community.
- 3. Beaumont Enterprise**, "Breast Cancer Awareness" Pink is eye-catching, worth saving.
- 4. The Facts, Clute**, "Reinitiation of Public Comment Period in Governmental Body's Open Meetings" Good reporting.

Semiweekly Division

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

- 1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur**, "Uncovering

Effects of Gas Drilling in Wise County" Scrapbook presentation well done. Excellent coverage and followthrough. Interesting reading as story kept unfolding something new. Good photo illustrations captured each part well. And packaging all this into a video - outstanding! Kudos to your news team for working hard on this story and presenting it in a reader-friendly way. No doubt you have put the spotlight on this industrial issue and helped some of your readers along the way. Bravo!

- 2. Hood County News, Granbury**, "Support Our Troops - Adopt One!" Outstanding idea, great coverage! Definitely a win-win for your community and these soldiers. Great story packaging and your scrapbook of entries was well executed. Now that's what I call great community service! I hope you continue to feature the men and women of the armed services for many years to come and rally your readers to get involved on another project of goodwill.
- 3. Polk County Enterprise, Livingston**, "Commerce Center College Opening" Wow! Amazing what can be done when a community works together on a project. High-fives to your editorial staff for keeping focus of the project and getting local faces in the paper to encourage more community support and donations. No doubt your efforts to keep your readers talking about this and finding answers to their questions helped encourage a positive outcome for everyone involved. I hope you will revisit the Center one year after the opening to see how

things have progressed. Great job!

- 4. The Bastrop Advertiser**, "Breast Cancer Support Group Meeting" Excellent project! Way to step up and bring a service to your community. Nice to see advertiser support for such a project. Here's hoping your "pink pages" edition grows in support year after year. Best of luck on your new publication - nice tie-in to your ongoing community service project, too.

Weekly Division

Refugio County Press

- 1. Refugio County Press**, "Refugio Turbulent Year" Great coverage start to finish. Nice work! Very interesting to read.
- 2. The Canadian Record**, "Home Sweet Slum" Great project, beautifully done. Nice pictures, great coverage.
- 3. The Smithville Times**, "Smithville Community Gardens" Wonderful project, wonderful coverage, complete coverage. Beautiful pictures.
- 4. Mart Messenger**, "Mart Community Project" Good project, great coverage, nice pictures.

Special Sections

Routine Special Sections

Daily

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

- 1. Victoria Advocate**, Loved the "people" stories as opposed to the usual business profiles. Layout & design excellent. Thank you for taking the time to make this section.
- 2. Lufkin Daily News**, I really like the theme: Everyone Counts & Timeless.
- 3. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches**, Good recognition of community. Good advertising support.
- 4. Waxahachie Daily Light**, Dawn of a New Season football preview. Theme able to follow. Missing some advertising dollars.

Semiweekly

The Bowie News

- 1. The Bowie News**, Montague County: The Guide. Outstanding publication! Excellent division of topics, nice layouts for each category, awesome color, interesting photos with captions and informative maps! I couldn't stop reading! Sounds like a great place to visit. Kudos to your staff for a user-friendly, comprehensive guide. Congrats on the 1st place!
- 2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur**, Welcome to Wise. Kudos to the staff that produced this informative publication! It's obvious they know how to design a nice niche publication. Good flow of category topics. Easy-to-read content. Applause to your ad staff on the variety of advertisers and

production department on eye-catching layouts. Wishing page 8 welcome message could have been either page 3 or 5 to introduce the product. After reviewing, I am ready to get to Wise!

- 3. Copperas Cove Leader Press**, Excellent publication all around, very well organized. The welcome on page 10 is great - a step away from the typical welcome, which was very refreshing. The photos of city council members was a good touch. Well written, provides just the sort of information a visitor or newcomer needs. Ads were well done with good variety. If I could offer one suggestion, it would be to get some people in the photos rather than just buildings, for example: someone coming in or out of the library. Otherwise, great job!
- 4. Alice Echo-News Journal**, Great cover photo! Colorful, action-oriented and not too crowded. The two profiles in the middle separating the sections is really nice. The writing is well done, engaging and informative. Some ads seem a bit crowded with information, which makes them hard to read, but I know you don't always or can't always control that.

Weekly A

THE NUECES COUNTY RECORD STAR

- 1. The Nueces County Record Star, Robstown**, High school football guide - Good stories looking at different angles of the game. Great pics. Useful for the sports fan & well done. Really like the summary of area teams, pp. 27-29.
- 2. The Llano County Journal**, Hunting guide - Great variety of story topics. Pics are small but working with tab size, they're nicely featured.
- 3. Fort Worth Business Press**, Energy report - Interesting photos & a great layout. Tackles a big issue and covers it well.

- 4. Aransas Pass Progress**, Area guide - Good intro on page 3. A nice overview of the area. Good listings with parks & lodging. Nice idea to include a bird list.

Weekly B

LAKE TRAVIS VIEW

- 1. Lake Travis View, Austin**, High school football guide - An in-depth preview. Nice way to break it down. Interesting breakdown of big games & nice to see a bit on the opposing teams. Great pics.
- 2. The Rockdale Reporter**, High school football guide - Great pics! Fund idea, but consider making it more clear on the cover what it's all about. Like the breakdown of schedule/ roster/ stats. Nice idea to include team records.
- 3. Westlake Picayune, Austin**, High school football guide - Like the theme. Nice pics. Maybe mix up the layout of a bit. Many pages look the same. Great preview game by game & nice retrospective on the 2009 season.
- 4. The Canadian Record**, High school football guide - Nice cover, great pics, in-depth coverage.

Weekly C

Hill Country COMMUNITY JOURNAL

- 1. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville**, Fall sports guide - Nice action pics. Like the way you mixed it

Continued on PAGE 33

General Excellence

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

- 1. Victoria Advocate, Front pages are eye-catching and flow well.** They give a wealth of info at first glance. The writing is excellent as well as the special sections. Great job!
- 2. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Fabulous front pages and masthead.** Great content, photos and artwork. Special sections were awesome too! Great product - well done!
- 3. The Facts, Clute, Great front pages and lots of local content.** Really love the masthead! Really enjoyed Brazos column!
- 4. Beaumont Enterprise, Great writing in both papers.** Local stories on front page were eye-catching and brought the reader in. Specialty pages were full of great photos and stories too! Great job!

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

HERALD BANNER

- 1. The Herald Banner, Greenville, Great front pages and great use of photos and artwork.** Tons of local coverage and very easy to read. The flow of this paper is excellent!
- 2. Waxahachie Daily Light, Great welcome Home section with great use of photos.** Great writing and lead-ins. Bold headlines on front page are eye-catching. Love the local coverage. Really enjoyed "Welcome Home"! Great job!
- 3. Henderson Daily News, Great front pages.** "Sports Champions" was eye-catching. Enjoyed the large photos on the

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3



"Family" page.

- 4. Athens Daily Review, Clean and organized layout with easy-to-read headlines.** I loved the front pages. Local stories catch the reader's eye.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

- 1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur, Headlines caught the reader's attention!** Stories were very well written. Great front page!
- 2. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown, Beautiful photos and terrific writing.** A well-rounded paper with tons of local coverage! Great job!
- 3. Hood County News, Granbury, Loved your special section and the photos were beautiful.** The entire look and feel of the paper was terrific. Easy to navigate and diverse stories.
- 4. The Highlander, Marble Falls, Loved the Sports Preview section!** Great stories on many local happenings with terrific photos to match!

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

- 1. Kilgore News Herald, Clean, good looking layout.** Great news coverage. Well rounded and informative.
- 2. The Terrell Tribune, Great front page layout.** Nice size photos and diverse stories. Good job!

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



- 3. The Canyon News, Great options for specialty pages.** Stories are well written and there seems to be something for everyone! Good job!

- 4. Andrews County News, Great use of photos on front page.** Nice photos throughout and enjoyed all of the local stories.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Park Cities People

- 1. Park Cities People, Dallas, Very well done.** Layout & design propels this paper into the winners' circle. Good use of strong photos. Great local coverage. We like this paper a lot!
- 2. The Silsbee Bee, This is a bold paper - there's a lot going on on page ones, but they work.** Cold Case: Good enterprise coverage. No opinion page? Great local paper.
- 3. Burnet Bulletin, Very well done.** Liked the green color coordination throughout paper. Everything flows nicely. I would prefer fewer posed photos, but other than that, not too many bad things to say.
- 4. Wilson County News, Floresville, Very clean layouts on page 1.** Sept. 22 page 1 copy well packaged. Lack of indent on ledes is unfortunate. Great job on a well-done community paper.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

THE RIVER CITIES SUNDAY TRIBUNE

- 1. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble**

General Excellence

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10



Falls, Sharp-looking newspaper. Clean, professional community paper. The July 4 edition is much stronger than Sept. 12. Did editors change? Great opinion page. It's like judging two different newspapers because the quality varies from July 4 to Sept. 12.

2. Clay County Leader, Henrietta, Good mix of stories on page 1. Strong photos, not too many posed. Nice story/photo packaging. I liked this newspaper. Great page ones.

3. The Sealy News, County fair photos are nice, along with some sports. Nice overall paper. Some ledes are too wordy.

4. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville, Ronald McDonald cutout well-executed - can be risky. Good/average because you take risks. Leds can be too long - get punchier. Excellent sports section. Strong action pics. Great job covering your community.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

The Ellis County Press

1. The Ellis County Press, Ferris, Page layout & design is excellent, but it comes across as busy and hard to read. Where should my eye go? It's a paradox. A less-busy front page would have earned an "excellent" for the front page.

2. The Llano County Journal, Good, solid community newspaper. Clean design. Writing could be improved with stronger editing.

3. Tri County Leader, Whitehouse, Great layout. Stronger photos, more consistently would help overall score. Good local coverage.

4. The Canadian Record, Unique front page. Tabloid format well-executed.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

The Waller County NEWS CITIZEN

Serving Waller County for 115 Years

1. The Waller County News Citizen, Hempstead, Corruption Eruption - coverage & layout knocks our socks off. Great work. The only weakness, if any, is photography. Great

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



newspaper. Your community is well served.

2. The Albany News, Dec. 9 "Albany Dominates" didn't mention football until mid-story when it mentioned defensive lineman. Sports photos were either great or average. Great sports page.

3. Sachse News, Great photo selection for page 1 - the football ones. Use of cheesy wind turbine clipart is unfortunate and diminishes page 1 photo on front of May 20 edition.

4. Van Alstyne Leader, Good variety of stories. Leds are long and boring. Big mugshots, could be smaller. May 7 issue main photo and smaller photo has same guy in red.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

THE JOURNAL PEARLAND

1. Pearland Journal, Outstanding photos, well used to anchor pages. Great job! The Xtra doesn't hold up to the quality. Sports photos & layout earns "excellent" for specialty pages.

2. Friendswood Journal, Nice looking, well-composed paper. Good range of coverage. Well written. Photos could be stronger. Well done.

3. Dripping Springs Century-News, Great photography, great selection & use of photos. Great job there! Tighter writing and editing would benefit this nice-looking publication. Excellent page designs, especially page 1. Inside pages need the same attention as page 1.

4. The Bay Area Citizen, Houston, Inconsistent quality in specialty pages. Strong design, good photos, enjoyable headlines. Great newspaper!

NewsWriting

Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

ENTERPRISE

- 1. Beaumont Enterprise**, "Tape tells all" by Amy Moore and "A sinister echo" by Amy Moore and Beth Rankin: No comment.
- 2. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal**, "Bright lights, big debate in city" and "City shelter euthanized illegally" by Elliott Blackburn: No comment.
- 3. The Galveston County News, Galveston**, "Similac recall" and "22 cars derail" by Chris Paschenko: No comment.
- 4. New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung**, "So bizarre" by Greg Bowen and "CEO got \$1 million payment" by Chris Cobb: No Comment.

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

DAILY NEWS

- 1. Henderson Daily News**, "SE Rusk County residents report multiple area crimes" by Matthew Prosser: Well researched. "Lawsuit alleges Martin Lake power plant pollution violations" by Matthew Prosser: Clean, concise, balanced.
- 2. Taylor Daily Press**, "Taylor stunned by TC decision" by Mike Eddleman: Interesting story, well told, about higher education facility dispute.
- 3. Mineral Wells Index**, "Ex-jailer turned jailee" by Christin Coyne: Great research and well written. "Putting Salvador to rest" by Christin Coyne: Heartbreaking, but not manipulative. A real pro at work.
- 4. San Marcos Daily Record**, "SMART team saves life of trapped river kayaker" by Anita Miller: Great writing and a good story to tell. "Swarmed" by Anita Miller: Good coverage of terrifying story and the good news aftermath.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

THE SUN

- 1. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown**, "Fatal flight began at Georgetown airport" by Esther Robards-Forbes: Top-notch coverage of a story with an endless stream of sources. You put them together expertly here, starting with a solid lead and well-researched narrative. "Hermine hits city hardest" by Rachel Slade and Jamaal E. O'Neal: Same as above. Great lead, compelling stories, well researched. Kudos.
- 2. The Highlander, Marble Falls**, "Divisive issue" by Miles Smith: Nice work. Well researched, well explained, sorted and mapped out well with plenty of voices for balance and the numbers box is a bonus.
- 3. The Boerne Star**, "Inquest hearing" by Dave Pasley: Solid background work, compelling story. Well researched and good use of quotes. Explanation of what an inquest hearing is should be moved up, but it's a small point. Well done. "Police cooperation" by Dave Pasley: Another strong thoroughly researched piece. It's clear you have an eye for detail. One suggestion: for these 35-inch-plus stories, use subheads inside story or break them up a bit. Helps readers get through the

story. Excellent.

- 4. El Campo Leader-News**, "Cotton, soy farmers" by Brenda Sommer: Important story for the region, but only one source/voice here? I'm sure it's affecting more farmers. Needed more here. "Fireman's widow" by Barry Halvorson and Shannon Crabtree: Perhaps the strongest story in the whole bunch, but a great job sorting through it all. Well researched with few stones left unturned. Wow!

Division 5 Semiweeklies Less Than 4,000

LEADER PRESS

- 1. Copperas Cove Leader Press**, "Email sparks controversy" by Jennifer Holden: Fun turn of a story that at first glance looks innocuous. Nice work to play up more than two sides. Nice job. "Phone book Fracas" by Tim Orwig: Nice lead, fun first quote, enterprising story. Well done.
- 2. Kilgore News Herald**, "Arson suspects arrested" by J. Louise Larson: Solid piece of reporting here. Like a lot of these kinds of stories, though, it feels like a lot of back-slapping and hand-shaking, and little news. "Lawsuit" by James Draper: Well-written piece here. It gets the nuts and bolts up front and follows with appropriate balance, then delves deeper. Even though one side is willing to talk, it feels fair and yet gives clarity and voice to what's going on. Well done.
- 3. Lampasas Dispatch Record**, "Truck strikes bridge" by Jim Lowe: Solid, straight lead. The whole story, however, is a police report. It feels like Trooper Washko wrote this, not the reporter. Not a single quote beyond the report seems to be here. Good follow of a big event though. "Boater arrested" by David Lowe: Solid lead. Nice. Solid work here on what I imagine is the talk of the town. Would have liked to see more information about the victim, but you may have covered that in a previous story. Consequences of being convicted should be up higher in story.
- 4. The Mexia News**, "Lockdown at Sims" by Michael Dillin: Solid story with pertinent details. "Breaking the silence" by Michael Dillin: Compelling. For a straight news story, I'd indicate who the "Moon brothers" are closer to the lead; they are called "Moon brothers" in the third graph, then named in the ninth. First person kind of works here. Feels like this should be in Features category a little, but very compelling.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

SOUTH JETTY

- 1. Port Aransas South Jetty**, "Bullies, be gone" by Dan Parker: Good lead, thorough examination of subject, well-timed localization of national story and plenty of voices. Nice work. "Shooting death" by Dan Parker and Phil Reynolds: Well done with the delayed lead. Solid construction of timeline inside the story, with good quotes following the essentials. Nice job.
- 2. The Silsbee Bee**, "Lumberton PD arrests" by Gerry Dickert: Interesting story with a nice, delayed lead. A solid piece. "That's McNasty" by Gerry Dickert: Great headline, solid delayed lead and nice way of finding the impact on readers.
- 3. Hays Free Press, Kyle/Buda**, "Chatleff sends jobs south" by Jen Biundo: Solid lead, well-covered piece about the loss of a hometown business. Nice tie-in of U.S. statistics at the end. "Child dies" by Sean Kimmons: Would have liked to see a quote moved up here, but otherwise a solid piece of reporting

with good information about home daycares to give perspective. Nice use of quotes and quite balanced.

- 4. Park Cities People, Dallas**, "Club events" by Josh Hixson and Dan Koller: Well done, taking a strong look at a single incident with several players involved. Good to look beyond the facts - a 15-year-old with alcohol level of 0.40 - and putting it in perspective (10-11 drinks). Nice.

Division 7

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

Medium-Large Weeklies

- 1. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls**, "Devoe from death row" by Thomas Edwards: Compelling story, well researched, shows all sides. "Judge sentences" by Daniel Clifton: Great info. Solid story.
- 2. Freestone County Times, Fairfield**, "Sexual assaults" by Mary McDonald: Good take on court story. A bit too much personal feeling from reporter. "Masked burglars" by Nora Carroll: Interesting story on what may have ended up just another part of police log.
- 3. The Big Bend Sentinel, Marfa**, "Mexico's violence creeps close" by David Rigoberto, Reynoso Atayde and Sterry Butcher: Compelling, lacks singular voice and style. "After second Marfa" by Sterry Butcher: Great story on how smaller communities tend to live and let live.
- 4. No Award Presented.**

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

Springtown Epigraph

- 1. The Springtown Epigraph**, "Spy pen" by Edwin Newton: Good news reporting, great use of quotes. "Group protests" by Carolea Hassard: Solid well done story of a boring, boring subject.
- 2. The Canadian Record**, "Home sweet slum" by Laurie Ezzell Brown: Good story. Seems more like a feature. "Report from Haiti" by Laurie Ezzell Brown: Ditto.
- 3. The Ellis County Press, Ferris**, "Local biz" by Megan Gray: Good reporting of local day-to-day news. "District 4" by Megan Gray: I guess local government officials are just as crazy in Texas as in Washington.
- 4. Lake Country Sun, Grafard**, "Boy, 9" by Mark Engbretson: Wow, good job handling a touchy subject. "Over 100" by Mark Engbretson: The other story made up for the failings of this one.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

Current

- 1. West Kerr Current, Ingram**, "Besieged county budge nears vote" by Irene Van Winkle: Very good lead! Sense of urgency to story. Thought jump was unusual, but that's not writer's fault. Would have liked to have seen direct quote sooner in story. "Rescues" by Irene Van Winkle: Good narrative and storytelling. Direct quote was eight paragraphs deep into story. Very thorough account of event.
- 2. The Ozona Stockman**, "Judge rules in favor of county" by Melissa Perner: Missed which district the judge was from, but otherwise, solid story and reporting effort. "Ozona citizens file federal lawsuit" by Melissa Perner: Very good

NewsWriting

story. Very thorough job in explaining the issue of the lawsuit. Good quotes and use of sources.

3. The Albany News, "City, VFD, work through conflict" by Melinda Lucas: Good story but lead could have been clarified. Source of conflict was not fully explained until later in story. Good quotes. "TAKS tampering results" by Melinda Lucas: Another good story. Still had to read deep into the story.

4. The Farmersville Times, "No raises for city employees" by Wyndi Veigel: Direct quote is seven paragraphs in. Should be sooner. Otherwise, solid reporting. "Citizens show support for dismissed librarian" by Wyndi Veigel: Interesting story with good quotes.

Division 10 Small Weeklies International

1. The International, Presidio, "Border patrol" by Tom Haines: Well done. Captivating reading for those of us that don't live along the border. A great service to those folks, your readers, that do. "Shipping season" by Tom Haines: Colorful storytelling, good padding and great quotes. Another great service to your readers.

2. Pflugerville Pflag, "Plane crash" by James Rincon: Wonderful job of finding a local thread to tell a larger story. "Anthony Graves" by James Rincon: Fascinating story that can't help but grab hold of readers and not let go. Ripe for multiple follow-ups!

3. The Big Sandy & Hawkins Journal, "Senator visit" by Seria Dassing: Great lead. Writing helped hold readers' attention to an otherwise routine visit by a politician. "Truck overturns" by Seria Dassing: Another great lead that brings the reader into the story and keeps him or her reading until the end.

4. Keene Star, "Wayne Tomblinson" by Paul Gnadt: Nice tribute story. Solid writing. "Huguley considers a partner" by Paul Gnadt: Great lead! Nice job of explaining an important issue for readers.

NEWS WRITING, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4

Fatal flight began at Georgetown airport

Two dead, 13 injured after enraged man flies plane into IRS offices

ESTHER ROBARDS-FORBES
The Williamson County Sun

As Joseph Stack left Georgetown Municipal Airport in his Piper Dakota single-engine plane on Thursday morning, the flying conditions were ideal: clear blue skies and low winds.

But, according to an apparent suicide note, there was a storm raging inside Joseph Stack's head.

As he glided south from Georgetown, a fire was consuming the North Austin home he shared with his wife and her daughter — smoke was darkening the bright morning sky and foreshadowing the tragedy that would befall an Austin office building just minutes after his takeoff.

Beth Jones was driving south on U.S. Highway 183 in Austin when she saw the small, light-colored plane flying low.

"When you're watching it, you just don't think it's actually going to happen," Ms. Jones said.

The plane was so close she could see the pilot.

"He looked calm," she said.

At 9:56 a.m., the plane belonging to Andrew Joseph Stack III, 53, plowed into the side of the Echelon I office building on Research Boulevard, where nearly 200 employees of the Internal Revenue Service were just beginning their day. Witnesses said the plane

seemed to be going at full speed when it hit the building, injuring 13 people, two of them seriously, and killing one person in the building and the pilot.

Across town, fire crews were working to put out a blaze at Mr. Stack's home on Dapplegrey Lane, located in the Scofield Farms neighborhood near the intersection of Parmer Lane and Metric Boulevard. The home that Mr. Stack shared with his wife and young daughter was destroyed, but they were not injured.

Georgetown airport

The Georgetown Municipal Airport is once again quiet, following a chaotic scene Thursday as local, state and federal law enforcement agencies scoured a hanger on the north side of the airport for clues and possible dangerous materials.

Local and federal authorities confirmed that Mr. Stack took off from the Georgetown Airport at about 9:40 a.m. Thursday. Because the weather conditions were favorable, he was not required to file a flight plan, a common operating procedure for the airport.

R.L. Quinn, owner of Awesome Aviation at the Georgetown airport, said that he saw Mr. Stack shortly before takeoff. Mr. Quinn was driving his golf cart by the wash rack where Mr. Stack's plane was idling.

"I didn't know the guy, I was more familiar with the airplane because I see it go by pretty regularly," Mr. Quinn said. "I hesitated to see if he was going to move. When I turned, he let me go first. I gave a little wave and he gave one back. I found out later it was the same plane that crashed into that building."

He had no idea that he would likely be the last person to see Mr. Stack alive, aside from the witnesses that saw him crash his plane into the building.

Shannon Thomas, air traffic manager for the Georgetown Municipal Airport, said that Mr. Stack followed all of the correct procedures during taxi and takeoff and that he did receive clearance to leave the airport.

After reaching a four-mile distance from the Georgetown airport, pilots are no longer required to communicate with the tower and are only required to stay 1,000 feet from the ground and more than 1,000 from obstacles like buildings and cellular towers.

The crash site

About 9:55 a.m. calls were received by authorities about a suspiciously low-flying aircraft. At 9:56 a.m., Mr. Stack's plane plowed into the side of the building, which sits just a few feet from the frontage road of southbound U.S. 183.

Megan Riley, a 24-year-old employee at the World Market across from the crash site, said that she was on break around 10 a.m. when she noticed a plane flying in low.

"It was coming in from the northeast and it was about 50 feet off the ground; it nearly clipped the power lines and trees," Ms. Riley said. "The plane flew over, dropped out of sight and that's when I heard the explosion."

Ms. Riley said she wasn't concerned when she first saw the plane and thought it might be someone playing a joke. She grew up on military bases and saw low-flying aircraft all the time.

When she heard the explosion, she ran through the store to the front, where a team of firefighters, who had been at the store to oversee a drainage issue, were pulling on their gear to respond to the building, which was now on fire.

After the crash, she said she has a moment of panic as she saw a set of miniblinds fly out of a broken window on one of the building's upper floors. She was reminded for a horrible moment of video footage after the World Trade Center attack and seeing people jump from the burning towers.

The casualties

Officials confirmed late Thursday

See PLANE CRASH, PAGE 10

Advertising

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

The Kerrville DAILY TIMES

- 1. The Kerrville Daily Times, Ad 1:** Point of ad is clear, nicely done. Ad 2: Good use of typography and graphics to coordinate ad theme. Ad 3: Nice organization of art and typography.
- 2. Victoria Advocate, Ad 1:** Ad looks busy, needs better organization and variety with point sizes. Ad 2: This ad is organized but the subject is hard to discern. Ad 3: The ad is nice looking, main points should be bolder.
- 3. The Paris News, Ad 1:** More interesting layout and use of subheads would help convey idea. Ad 2: Use of notes is creative but doesn't work for emphasis of ad. Ad 3: Nice looking ad.
- 4. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches, Ad 1:** Background too dark, artwork styles too different. Ad 2: Nice art, could use better typography. Ad 3: Very hard to read. Name and type of business is lost in the ad.

Division 3 Dailies 7,000 or Less

Dailies 7,000 or Less

- 1. Waxahachie Daily Light, Ad 1:** Good color, heading and background tie the ad together nicely. Clean layout. Ad 2: Photo is clear but needs more effort to tie elements together. Ad 3: Very well done. The ad is simple and to the point.
- 2. Stephenville Empire-Tribune, Ad 1:** Heading ties

in well with optical ad, nice artwork. Ad 2: Very well done ad. Artwork ties in with background. Nice and simple. Ad 3: Business information should be larger, perhaps showing the hours.

- 3. Brownwood Bulletin, Ad 1:** Stack of coins draws attention. Would make the "stash the cash" information larger

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3



to tie in with the heading. Ad 2: Well designed ad, good use of a variety of tones to make it interesting. Ad 3: This ad is right to the point and has just enough information.

- 4. Plainview Daily Herald, Ad 1:** Ad could have more interesting layout. Ad 2: Main art should tie in more with "Cowboy Days." Ad 3: Ad has nice flow though layout.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

- 1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur, Ad 1:** Great use of color! Ad 2: Very effective design & heading. Ad 3: Good use of artwork & typography.
- 2. The Highlander, Marble Falls, Ad 1:** Very well done! Good use of color and theme throughout! Ad 2: Nice ad, good color. Ad 3: Tasteful use of color. Nice organization of material!
- 3. Hood County News, Granbury, Ad 1:** Nice ad! Ad 2: Very creative concept! Ad 3: Great looking ad. Good use of vertical space, excellent color and typography!
- 4. The Graham Leader, Ad 1:** Clever ad, very well done. Ad 2: Heading draws the reader in. Ad 3: Great layout and color really calls attention to the ad.

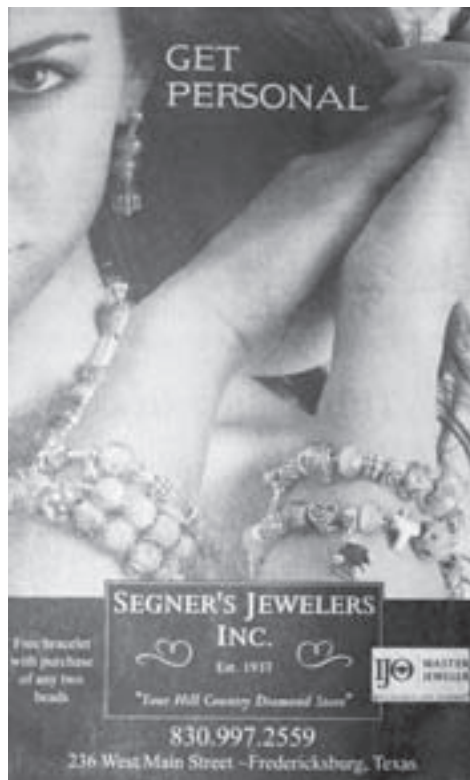
Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

THE TERRELL TRIBUNE

- 1. The Terrell Tribune, Ad 1:** Simple, to the point & effective! Ad 2: Good color attracts attention to the ad. Ad 3: To

Advertising

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



the point, clean layout.

2. Lamb County Leader, Littlefield, Ad 1: Wonderful color photos tie in very well with artwork. Ad 2: Good, clean ad. Ad 3: Simple and to the point.

3. The Light and Champion, Center, Ad 1: Great color! Ad 2: Nice use of border and good color. Ad 3: Simple & elegant!

4. Copperas Cove Leader-Press, Ad 1: Good choice of farm artwork and color. Ad 2: Use of pink draws attention to ad, along with other bright colors. Ad 3: Exciting rodeo art makes ad stand out.

Division 6 Large Weeklies



1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, Ad 1: Interesting layout and good color combinations. Ad 2: Artwork and color work well for theme of the ad. Ad 3: Excellent artwork and layout. Less is more with simple text.

2. Wilson County News, Floresville, Ad 1: Lovely ad, great color and nice layout. Ad 2: Nice use of graphics and color - very clean layout. Ad 3: Nice art, classy layout.

3. Burnet Bulletin, Ad 1: Very bold and powerful statement. Great typography on heading. Ad 2: Good organization for a small ad. Ad 3: Excellent graphic, nicely designed!

4. Pleasanton Express, Ad 1: Very readable for a dark ad. Ad 2: Just the right amount of art and text for a small ad. Ad 3: Elegant simplicity, very nice!

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies



1. Clay County Leader, Henrietta, Ad 1: Good color scheme. Smaller text should have one space after punctuation. Ad 2: Excellent ad. Great play on words and wonderful graphic. Ad 3: Very nicely done. Vertical ads are hard to fill creatively. This one really works!

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



2. The Clifton Record, Ad 1: Helmet is a very effective background for ad. Ad 2: Very nice heading with great colors. Ad 3: Good incorporation of graphic with heading. Ad has good layout.

3. Progress Times, Mission, Ad 1: Wonderful photo. Very clear layout. Ad 2: Excellent graphic. Heading is a good lead-in to the ad. Ad 3: Good layout but summer graphic would work better.

4. Medina Valley Times, Lytle, Ad 1: Nice contrasting photos. Ad 2: Great colors make ad stand out. Ad 3: Good color and graphic works well.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies



1. Castroville News Bulletin, Ad 1: Nice organization of services offered. Ad 2: Colors and fonts used create excitement for the sale. Ad 3: Interesting layout and good colors used to tie in with photos.

2. The Canadian Record, Ad 1: Attractive artwork creates a good background for the ad. Ad 2: Good colors and interesting reading. Ad 3: Interesting layout.

3. The Llano County Journal, Ad 1: Great color, very attractive ad layout. Ad 2: Good background, simple spot color works well. Would limit fonts to two per ad. Ad 3: Photo works well for ad background, nice clean layout.

4. The Meridian Tribune, Ad 1: Nice play on words. Ad 2: Layout works well with artwork. Would make sure text

Continued on PAGE 10

Advertising

Continued from PAGE 9

is clearer. Ad 3: Well-organized layout. Would make sure black overprints on background rather than knocks out address and phone number.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

The Farmersville Times

- 1. The Farmersville Times**, Ad 1: Excellent, well designed, good layout! Ad 2: Creative use of photo and incorporating text. Ad 3: Interesting arrangement of products.
- 2. The Albany News**, Ad 1: Great color! Simple yet effective. Ad 2: Color attracts attention to ad. Ad 3: Good, clean layout, nice color.
- 3. The Princeton Herald**, Ad 1: Simple, effective design. Ad 2: Nice clean layout. Would substitute the hard to read display font. Ad 3: Good background with interesting layout. Would move information at bottom more to the right.
- 4. The Waller County News Citizen, Hempstead**, Ad 1: Bright colors attract attention. "Limited Time" band hard to read. Ad 2: Great color and artwork. Outstanding design. Ad 3: Good artwork.

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10



Division 10 Small Weeklies

Murphy Monitor

- 1. Murphy Monitor**, Ad 1: Ad has clever approach to weight loss. Nicely done! Ad 2: Good color and nice heading. Prices should be larger. Ad 3: Layout works well for restaurant ad. Calls attention to lunch specials.
- 2. The Clarendon Enterprise**, Ad 1: Very clean, concise layout. Good flow of ad and great color! Ad 2: Fund heading makes ad stand out. Photos could be clearer. Ad 3: Bright pink heading calls attention to ad. Black text on green should be overprinted.
- 3. The Big Sandy & Hawkins Journal**, Ad 1: Creative approach to sig ads. Great color and artwork. Ad 2: Interesting graphic for 4th of July ad. Bursts could tie in better. Ad 3: Good color. Ad would be better with larger photos and more compact text.
- 4. The Lindsay Letter**, Ad 1: Excellent looking ad works well with background photo. Ad 2: Good, bright colors. Font is too busy for entire ad. Should be used only for heading. Artwork should be larger. Ad 3: Nice, simple layout. Hangers get lost in background. Sans serif font would work better for body text.

NEWS WRITING, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4

Plane Crash: Nothing unusual about takeoff

Continued from PAGE 7

that they had recovered Mr. Stack's body and a second body, possibly that of a missing IRS employee that had been unaccounted for during much of the day Thursday.

Thirteen people were injured in the crash, mostly with burns and smoke inhalation. Two people were hospitalized; one was taken to University Medical Center Brackenridge with smoke inhalation and the other had to be taken to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio in serious condition with burns.

Fire crews worked through much of the night Thursday and into Friday morning putting out the numerous fires in the building started by the crash and collecting evidence in the case. Even hours after the crash, acrid smoke still poured from the twisted and blackened front of the building.

The manifesto

Officials at the site of the crash were unable to confirm that Mr. Stack's actions were motivated by a disagreement with the Internal Revenue Service, but a note left on the website registered to Mr. Stack and dated the morning of the crash points to a deep-seated hatred of the federal agency.

"I saw it written once that the definition of insanity is repeating the same process over and over and

expecting the outcome to suddenly be different," Mr. Stack wrote in what appears to be part suicide note, part manifesto. "I am finally ready to stop this insanity. Well, Mr. Big Brother IRS man, let's try something different; take my pound of flesh and sleep well."

He signed the letter "Joe Stack (1956-2010)."

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo refused to define the crash as an act of terrorism, saying that it was a criminal act of one individual, but adding, "Would you be terrified if you saw a plane flying at you? I'm going to let you choose what to call it."

Chief Acevedo praised the emergency response and said, "You see how bad it could have been if the response had not been as good."

Tales of heroism inside the building and by those passing by, who rushed to rescue people trapped in the burning building, are still emerging.

The hangar

Georgetown airport was shut down Thursday afternoon and Austin Police Department's Bomb Squad and Federal Bureau of Investigation officials began examining a hangar rented by Mr. Stack and a vehicle he had left at the airport. Flights at the airport were canceled for several hours and sections of the airport were evacuated.

Roads around the airport were shut down briefly

Thursday.

Witnesses at the Georgetown airport said that law enforcement officials used a robot to investigate a plastic-wrapped drum in the hangar.

Beth Jenkins, owner of Pilot's Choice Aviation at the Georgetown airport, said that she was out flying on a training run with a student when she heard about the airport being shut down.

"We had to land in Taylor and hang out for awhile," Ms. Jenkins said.

She eventually arranged for someone to drive her and her student back to Georgetown. When they arrived at the airport, she and her student were unable to retrieve their cars, which were behind locked gates.

Ms. Jenkins said she recognized Mr. Stack's photo and had seen him around the airport, and that he had bought maps from Pilot's Choice.

She expressed concern that Mr. Stack's actions will affect the rules for general aviation in the future.

"I think this will affect general aviation everywhere. Usually laws come about because something happens. We'll have to wait and see," Ms. Jenkins said. "There is anger," she added, among the close-knit aviation community at the Georgetown airport at Mr. Stack and his actions.

Chief Acevedo said that nothing was found at the airport and that it was cleared late Thursday afternoon. Flights resumed Thursday night.

Website

Daily Division

New Braunfels Herald Zeitung

1. **New Braunfels Herald Zeitung**, Great website and I'm impressed by your economic model.
2. **Taylor Daily Press**, Great! A website that's simple to navigate and has people talking (posting comments)! Bravo!
3. **Victoria Advocate**, You guys are fearless. Bravo for being so ambitious with video.
4. **Mineral Wells Index**, Really good website. Classified search bar at top is the best idea I've seen in quite a while.

Semiweekly Division

The Bastrop Advertiser

1. **The Bastrop Advertiser**, First-rate website. I must admit I wondered why "news" is beneath "the fold."
2. **Beeville Bee-Picayune**, Excellent website. I can understand why you get so many visits - tons of news & photos.
3. **The Highlander, Marble Falls**, Nice - ambitious and well-written.
4. **The Canyon News**, Finally, a website that is simple to navigate. Bravo! Resist all efforts to clutter it up.

Weekly Division A

Hays Free Press

1. **Hays Free Press, Kyle/Buda**, Reminds me of the LA Times website. Great layout. Photo use is excellent. Easy navigation. Ads are not too obnoxious like they tend to be on other news websites.
2. **The Smithville Times**, Great, except for blank space in lower right-hand corner of page.
3. **The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls**, Great. Keep content fresh.
4. **Pearland Journal**, Dominant news photo should go with top story.

Weekly Division B

The Ellis County Press

1. **The Ellis County Press, Ferris**, Some blank space on page. Takes away from design quality.
2. **Westlake Picayune, Austin**, Ads are a little obnoxious but the rest is good.
3. **Mission Progress Times**, Newsflash bar is good. Site would be improved with larger photos.
4. **The Waller County News Citizen, Hempstead**, Banner ad is bigger than the website name on the top.



FIRST PLACE, SEMI-WEEKLY DIVISION ▶



FIRST PLACE, WEEKLY DIVISION B ▶

◀ FIRST PLACE, DAILY DIVISION



◀ FIRST PLACE, WEEKLY DIVISION A



FeatureStory

Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

- 1. Victoria Advocate**, "Dream Street" by Gabe Semenza: This could've been a boring story about some city visit. Instead, it's a vibrant, well-written informative story with lots of elements and great layout! "In the driver's seat" by Erica Rodriguez: Wow! Awesome lead, great story, great subject, great presentation, great information. Did I mention great?
- 2. Beaumont Enterprise**, "Lonely deaths" by Kyle Peve-to: Great story about a heart-breaking subject. Love the sidebar. "The final score" by Jon Styf: Another tear jerker! Great entries from this paper. I love the lead, and the rest of the writing.
- 3. Laredo Morning Times**, "Suicide prevention" by Julie Daffern: Nicely written story about a painful topic. "The death of a child" by Cesar G. Rodriguez: Really well done. Love the writing and the timeline.
- 4. New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung**, "Buckey" by Greg Bowen: Well written. Really interesting story. "An actual miracle" by Autumn Phillips: Great lead, nice writing, well done!

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

Waxahachie Daily Light

- 1. Waxahachie Daily Light**, "Saving grace" by Rebecca Hertz: Great lead! Really well-done story. Lots of info. "Band of brothers" by Neal White: Another great lead. Loved the story and the subject.
- 2. San Marcos Daily Record**, "The traits" by Anita Miller: Cool and quirky story, nicely done. "Chance encounter" by Anita Miller: Well-written and interesting story.
- 3. Athens Daily Review**, "Bridge reopening" by Art Lawler: Well-written feature about what could've been a boring topic. "Football coach" by Rich Flowers: Interesting story. Nicely done.
- 4. Stephenville Empire-Tribune**, "Helping in Haiti" by Amanda Kimble: Interesting read. Nicely done. "Fighting for Mikayla" by Sara Vanden Berge: Good, solid story about an interesting subject.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

- 1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur**, "Flight for survival" by Brandon Evans: A great lead! Loved the writing, loved the headline, if there were more photos, it would have been better overall. "Voice of God" by Mandy Bourgeois: Great lead, great subject, great layout. I loved this story!
- 2. Hood County News, Granbury**, "Pioneer spirit" by Mark Wilson: Great story with excellent presentation. "Color blind" by Rick Mauch: I love the lead! Great story with great presentation.
- 3. The Highlander, Marble Falls**, "Scruffy Knight" by Geoff West: Great lead, nicely written story, good presentation, great subject. "Lawman's odyssey" by Geoff West: Great subject. Really in-depth look at this man and what drives him. Good presentation.
- 4. El Campo Leader-News**, "Little hero" by Brenda Sommer: I love the lead. Nicely written. I like the photos side by side. Good subject. "Steelman retires" by Shannon Crabtree:

Nicely written story. I wanted a better second photo.

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

THE TERRELL TRIBUNE

- 1. The Terrell Tribune**, "He's got class" by Michael Gresham: Great lead. Tight, solid writing. Good display that makes the story better. Nice job! "Hidden gems" by Don Johnson: Great lead! I wanted to shop there within the first three graphs! Love the layout.
- 2. Lampasas Dispatch Record**, "Western author" by David Lowe: Nice lead, solid story, great subject. "Survivor Africa" by David Lowe: Love the lead! I felt like I was on the vacation with this woman.
- 3. The Bowie News**, "Creating memories" by Barbara Green: I really like the writing style. "An unbroken circle" by Barbara Green: Great subject matter. Good job in getting the family to talk to you. Nicely done!
- 4. The Jack County Herald, Jacksboro**, "War between the states" by Jana Lynn Rupe: Great lead! Nice pictures, but could've been displayed better. "More bang for your buck" by Kim Gibby: Nicely written story. However, the photo made me like the story less.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Hays Free Press

- 1. Hays Free Press, Kyle/Buda**, "Cell dogs" by Sean Kimmons: Great story. Really moving subject. Well written and great presentation. "The Milligan Trio" by Jen Biundo: The opening graphs just pull you in to this really well-done story. Love the pictures, too.
- 2. Park Cities People, Dallas**, "Fun rules" by Eric Nicholson: Nicely written and very well-presented story. "Crew accepts all" by Georgia Fisher: Really well-done story with great presentation.
- 3. Port Aransas South Jetty**, "Ghost stories" by Phil Reynolds: Great lead! Fun story. Well written. "At long last" by Dan Parker: Nicely done, but I wanted to see the rest of the story (series)!
- 4. Wilson County News, Floresville**, "Serving tastes of several generations" by Nannette Kilbey-Smith: Good lead. Well-written story. "Secrets revealed" by Nannette Kilbey-Smith: Nicely done.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

LAKE TRAVIS VIEW

- 1. Lake Travis View, Austin**, "Even keel" by Devin Monk: Nicely written story. Good photos. "Focus on the finish" by Devin Monk: Great subject. Well done.
- 2. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls**, "Heart to heart" by Connie Swinney: Good, solid story. Good choice of subject and story elements. "Broken glass, common stone" by Daniel Clifton: Love the lead! Love the pics - a job well done here!
- 3. Bandera Bulletin**, "Medina cafe" by James Taylor: Love the lead! Nice, colorful story about a colorful character. "Hospital in a box" by James Taylor: Nicely written, timely story.
- 4. The Pittsburg Gazette**, "Maria Chavez" by Kim Cox: Nicely done profile. Love the presentation! "Farmstead Mu-

seum" by Susan Taft: Again, love the presentation! Good, solid piece about what could have been a boring topic.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

Refugio County Press

- 1. Refugio County Press**, "Principal Leslie Garza" by Kenda Nelson: I love follow-ups, and this is a great one to do, 31 years after the fact! Nice job. "Land of the free" by Kenda Nelson: Good, solid profile.
- 2. The Canadian Record**, "Coming home - Part 1 and Part 2" by Laurie Ezzell Brown: Great profiles, both of them. However, both were too long, in my opinion.
- 3. Iowa Park Leader**, "The bone diggers" by Kevin Hamilton: Tons of cool info. Nicely written. "Ponder's plan" by Kevin Hamilton: Good, solid feature.
- 4. Pilot Point Post-Signal**, "Winning the race" by Veronica Hamlett: Solid lead. Nice photos. Good story length. "Technology and tombstones" by Veronica Hamlett: Great display - a solid piece that's a good read.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

PALACIOS BEACON

- 1. Palacios Beacon**, "Postmaster Joe" by Ryan West: Great lead. Nicely done story. "A hero and his family" by Bert West: One soldier comes home alive - the other one isn't. I loved the two of these stories as one entry. Good stuff.
- 2. The Hometown Press, Winnie**, "Cracking a cold case" by Scott Reese Willey: Well-written story about an interesting subject. "He's history" by Scott Reese Willey: Nice mix of story and Q&A.
- 3. Van Alstyne Leader**, "Teenager celebrated" by Rodney Hays: Really nice lead. Well-done story. "Music within" by Rodney Hays: Interesting read/profile.
- 4. Mart Messenger**, "Brother Bill" by Bill Reynolds: Nicely written story. I felt like I got to know the subject, even though he's gone. "Cosby Show" by Bill Reynolds: Also well written. Nice profile.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

The Lake Cities Sun

- 1. Lake Cities Sun, Lake Dallas**, "The Queen bakes cakes" by Anthony Scott: Great lead. Nice layout. "Jay Jay Sanchez" by Anthony Scott: A boxing story? Oh yeah! A really well-done one. Great writing.
- 2. The Bay Area Citizen, Houston**, "Magician" by Chuck Hlava: Great lead. Well-written story. Nicely done. "Filmmaker" by Chuck Hlava: Good solid writing. Interesting subject.
- 3. Dripping Springs Century-News**, "Church celebration" by Anne Drabicky: Nicely done feature. Great presentation. "Horseplay" by Anne Drabicky: Another well-done story. Great subject.
- 4. The Leonard Graphic**, "75 years" by Ava Barlow: Love the lead, but would've made it two graphs. Nice story. "The bicycle man" by Ava Barlow: Nice lead in to an interesting story. Well done!

FeatureStory

FEATURE STORY, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2

'In the Driver's Seat'

Son, father find different vehicles for living with crippling, deadly disease

ERICA RODRIGUEZ
Victoria Advocate

Tanner Fox wipes cheese from the corners of his mouth and contemplates life.

His dark eyes are soft and hopeful, as he stares from behind the wheel of the new family car, a place he's been able to occupy for only a couple of months.

"I've kind of learned how to be a man at such a young age," he said, pausing at a fast-food drive-thru to break from driving. "I could probably help kids or young adults with it."

Tanner's learner's permit means much more to him than to the typical teen. It means giving his disabled father the one thing that ebbs away more rapidly each day: his freedom. At 16, Tanner is a Victoria East sophomore driving headlong into an uncertain future.

"I guess I'm just along for the ride," Tanner said, taking another bite of greasy hotdog. "Whatever my dad needs me to do, I'll do it. ... OK, I guess I'll just be the chauffeur."

During the past two years, Tanner has cared for his 42-year-old father, Craig Fox, who lives with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The motor-neuron disease eats away nerve cells that control voluntary muscles, slowly killing them. The disease is fatal. There are few treatments and no cure.

The average lifespan for someone with the disease is two to five years. Fox was diagnosed with the rare disease a little more than two years ago. He is one of four people in the Crossroads known to have it.

Tanner lost his mother to heart failure in 2005, three years before his father's ALS diagnosis. After that, sleep and

health at times came second for Tanner as he watched his father slowly lose his strength. He has helped his father button a shirt, cook his little sister breakfast or turn on the TV, all the while braving depression and adolescence until, finally, the whole family moved into Fox's parents' home last November.

A year after the move, Tanner has learned to re-focus on growing up. His grades have picked up, he's learning to drive, and he's found a desire to help people as a psychologist or counselor.

"I would hate for a kid to be going through the same stuff that I'm going through," he said. "That would probably be the one thing that I could not cope with. The exact same situation just running into my office just 10 years after I start my practice. I would probably just lose it."

Tanner re-buckles his seat belt and drives away carefully so as not to rattle his two most regular passengers, his disabled father and 71-year-old grandfather.

While Tanner is learning to drive his own set of wheels, his father confronts a different sort of freedom.

'ANOTHER STEP'

Fox watched from his recliner as a grinning salesman rolled a black-and-blue power wheelchair into his living room like a new bike. He hardly spoke as the man explained the high-tech sensors that would let him steer the machine at the tilt of his head.

His mother, Peggy, and his father, W.J., squinted as the man explained the computer and motor that powered the vehicle.

The chair cradled his 315-pound

frame as Brandon Edmondson, the wheelchair man from Houston, buckled him down.

Fox paused and asked his mother to wipe his face, something impossible for his dead-weight arms.

ALS has stolen his strength. His shoulders, once broad and looming, now poke out bony and immovable from the sides of his shirt. His left leg, which once kicked footballs for Victoria High School Stingarees, won't support his weight for long.

He holds fiercely to the abilities that remain.

"To get out of this chair, to go sit down at the table, getting fed, get something to drink. Everything is up to the caretaker," he said.

"Then, you only got your legs."

Learning to drive the chair could mean taking a roll outside without caretakers or shopping easier, but Fox doesn't see it that way.

"I don't know if it bothers me as much as it's another step, you know. I don't want to end up in a wheelchair," he said. "If I still got my legs, I still got my legs."

In the street, Edmondson jogged alongside Fox as he jolted around using the head controls as erratically as any student driver.

The wheelchair is the only vehicle Fox can legally drive. He lost his driver's license shortly after trying to renew, and he couldn't lift his arm to the counter to sign for it. After the license was gone, he couldn't have insurance or a car in his name, which is why Tanner's new driving means so much to the family.

"We'll be more independent to go and do whatever we want to do. Him

to drive us around, me and Bailey," he said, referring to his 12-year-old daughter. "Of course, Bailey's going to probably have a blindfold," he added, smirking.

'IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT'

Tanner's struggles have given birth to determination and focus. Tanner stays updated on stem cell research, which could mean a cure for his dad, and thinks often about his dream of helping others.

"I can help someone probably through that," he said, about his own struggle as a caregiver. "But I would like it not to happen, which is why I'm praying for the money that we're raising everyday all over the country for ALS, and I'm praying that stem cells works out."

Peggy Fox, like any wise grandmother, has noted Tanner's subtle changes.

"He has matured as a student," she said. "He has matured as a 'I've-got-to-start-thinking-about-my-future' kind of thing."

While the family continues prayers for a cure, each member looks to the future. Fox makes plans to take his family on a cruise in the spring; his parents anticipate a Christmas getaway; and Tanner stays focused on the things he thinks really matter - like Titans football, his rapping hobby and discovering his own identity.

"I'm starting to find myself very slowly..." Tanner said. "Just very slowly trying to figure it out just one step and one day at a time. I'm in the driver's seat here and, metaphorically, my life."

HeadlineWriting

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2

Lock and Load

Aww, Shucks

Lost in Translation

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3

‘Water’ you in for?

Why the Y?

**Cemetery changes
grave concern**

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5

Sweetwater gives Bucks
a 36-33 bitter taste

***Munday was trouble
on Tuesday***

*Blizzards freeze Bucks
in final minutes*

Division **2**
Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

1. **Lubbock Avalanche-Journal**, Aww, Shucks; Lock and Load; Lost in Translation: All were excellent. There's a touch of sophistication to all.
2. **The Facts, Clute**, The Rickey-Lake Show; Que Through Five; Wildcats meet their better half: No comments.
3. **The Kerrville Daily Times**, Water Logged; Tiger Tamers; Stronger than Steele: Great! A real attention-grabber.
4. **Victoria Advocate**, Cello Goodbye; Lord in the ring; You're fired, you're hired: No comments.

Division **3**
Dailies Less Than 7,000

TAYLOR DAILY PRESS

1. **Taylor Daily Press**, ‘Water’ you in for?; Why the Y?; Cemetery changes grave concern: No comments.
2. **Waxahachie Daily Light**, Joint effort: Great banner. Long way to jail: No comment. Not-cho cash: Funny!
3. **Athens Daily Review**, Gettin’ ready to ‘dance’: Nice cowboy vernacular. Decorators do it for fall: Great. A perfect bit of tongue in cheek. McKee does it again - like MADD: Nice, striking pun.
4. **Plainview Daily Herald**, Leaks limit PHS flushes: Concise and accurate. Ex-editor takes college beat: Accurate. Grant carries strings that bind like chains: Nice!

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4

**A doctor is
in the house**

*D’oh! GOP says
\$5 million donut
buy was a typo*

**VW full of more than
just Fahrvergnügen**

Division **4**
Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

THE SUN

1. **The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown**, D’oh! GOP says \$5 million donut buy was a typo: Headline had me laughing. A doctor is in the House: Nice work capturing story. VW full of more than just Fahrvergnügen: Fun headline!
2. **Wise County Messenger, Decatur**, Belly up: Nice play on words. A new reason to :): Very creative and fun. Shuffle board: No comment.
3. **El Campo Leader-News**, Hornets score big with new board; Forecast for EC’s mosquitos? Foggy; ‘Coke’ in cooler chills travel plans: No comments.
4. **The Highlander, Marble Falls**, Supporting a cure; Country musician’s popularity is second to Nunn; Bird is the word: Clever “Supporting a cure” head!

Division **5**
Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

Breckenridge American

1. **Breckenridge American**, Blizzards freeze Bucks in final minutes; Sweetwater gives Bucks a 36-33 bitter taste; Munday was trouble on Tuesday: Headlines sum up the sports stories nicely. The play on words works.
2. **The Terrell Tribune**, Claus for celebration; It all adds up; Heart of the matter: Headlines are a clever play on words and tell the story. Nice work!

HeadlineWriting

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6

Central Park gardener
moving on to new digs

Flood strings flung

MCFLATTENED

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7

Hair today, gone tomorrow

STAMPING OUT HUNGER

SISD trustees
taxed over TAKS

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9

**Course language
leads to reprimand**

**THE LEASE
THEY CAN DO**

*On your mud,
get set, GO!*

3. Kilgore News Herald, Double-O Santa: Fun story and good headline. No transportation without representation: Accurate, but fun. Poultry love: No comment.

4. Lampasas Dispatch Record, Losing grip: Tells the story and goes with the pic. Nice work! Birdwatchers' hobby more than a lark; Boater arrested: No comments.

Division **6**
Large Weeklies

Azle News

1. The Azle News, Flood stings fling: Short and sweet. Central Park gardener moving on to new digs: Clever. McFlat-tened: No comment.

2. Fort Worth Business Press, A Streetcar Undesired: Clever and fun. Teamwork: Tells the story. Bugging out: Short and sweet.

3. Port Aransas South Jetty, What's up? Dock.; Ooh, la, la? Oh, no, no!; Yippee-yi-yo-coyote: Fun to read aloud. Subheads help tell the story.

4. Park Cities People, Dallas, Pharmacy Drops Scripts, Keeps Sips; Meet Park Cities' Most Arrested Man; Fourth Festivities on Fifth Were First-Rate: Pharmacy headline fun and clever.

Division **7**
Medium-Large Weeklies

SEALY NEWS

1. The Sealy News, Stamping out Hunger; SISD trustees

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8

A cut above

He's going to dog
it in retirement

Oil's not well

taxed over TAKS; Hair today, gone tomorrow: Heads do well to help the story.

2. Westlake Picayune, Austin, Lewis & Spark; Dog-gone good gig; Private, aye: Heads are fun and creative. Like the short and simple.

3. The Cameron Herald, Frozen dreams; It's not easy being green; Tuck it: "Frozen dreams" sum it up nicely.

4. The Big Bend Sentinel, Marfa, The ballad of 100.1; Parents can't stomach MISD's closed campus lunch policy; One enchilada shy of a combination plate: All are well throughout.

Division **8**
Medium Weeklies

Pilot Point Post-Signal

1. Pilot Point Post-Signal, A cut above; Oil's not well; He's going to dog it in retirement: Clever and creative. Nice work.

2. The Springtown Epigraph, 127 Hours is a different sort of cliffhanger: Like the play on words with "cliffhanger". Water plant on tap: Tells the story. The Road Now Taken: No comment.

3. Refugio County Press, Getting the kinks out; Bobcats boot-scoot Buckaroos with blistering speed; Fields of streams: No comments.

4. Iowa Park Leader, Arno's nose knows: Fun and goes well with the story. A team to ponder: Nice play on words. All heads are short and sweet. Hale to Austin: No comment.

Continued on **PAGE 17**

Editorials

Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

The Kerrville
DAILY TIMES

- 1. The Kerrville Daily Times**, Veterans deserve better: Great package! Memorial Day: Moving without smarm.
- 2. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal**, LP&L: Great piece. Love your format. Taxpayer Certainty Act: Your readers are very well served. Superior work!
- 3. The Lufkin Daily News**, Appraisal District: Crisp and smart. Liquor license: Excellent take on the issues.
- 4. New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung**, Justice Center: A well-reasoned sober response to an outrageous policy. Flooding: Well researched and well written.

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

HERALD BANNER

- 1. The Herald Banner, Greenville**, It's More Than A Game: Perfect. Speak Up: Again, perfect.
- 2. Waxahachie Daily Light**, City liability: Great lead. Very strong editorial. Wearing thin: Would like a little more background on why new dress menu is needed.
- 3. Henderson Daily News**, City streets, The lead gets right to the point and the editorial continues this strong, pointed tone throughout. Civic Center: Very upbeat.
- 4. Brownwood Bulletin**, Gadgets: No comment. K2: Important subject matter.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

THE BOERNE STAR
Proudly serving Boerne and Kendall County since 1906

- 1. The Boerne Star**, Be part of the solution; It's no time for grandstanding: Both of these are what I think every editorial should be - concise, to the point and giving a call to action. Great job!
- 2. Round Rock Leader**, Wilco needs to mend fences: I like the lead, even though it's a bit long. Good subject. Unrightable wrong: Powerful - nicely written. Great subject.
- 3. Hood County News, Granbury**, Courage: Nicely written - great points made. Justice for all: Great piece of writing. I like the added timeline.
- 4. The Highlander, Marble Falls**, What for downtown: Strong writing. Bullying: Concise, to the point. Nicely done.

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

THE TERRELL TRIBUNE

- 1. The Terrell Tribune**, School district funding: Concise and to the point. Nicely done. TPD grant application: Strong opinion piece. Love the conciseness.
- 2. The Canyon News**, Support seniors; Minding your manners: Both of these are concise, to the point and have clear calls to action. Nicely done!
- 3. The Perryton Herald**, High Tech Law: Clear and concise. Good, solid effort. Uninsured drivers. Clear call to action. Good job.
- 4. Breckenridge American**, Tenaska Center: Clear and concise. Nicely done. New gym, new jail: Nicely written, but missing a clear call to action, so to speak.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Hays Free Press

- 1. Hays Free Press, Kyle/Buda**, Open the park: Nice lead, straight forward, concise, good call to action. Your right to write: Short and to the point. Nicely done.
- 2. The Rockdale Reporter**, A shame; The civil way: I really like the conversational writing style in both of these! Nicely done.
- 3. Port Aransas South Jetty**, Trustees' transparency: Concise, nicely done! Resume padders: Good, solid job. Reads a little more like a column, but it was good.
- 4. Citizens' Advocate, Coppell**, Drill testing: Concise and to the point. North Lake "Enable": I like the numbered, specific points. Nicely done.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

Frio-Nueces Current

- 1. Frio-Nueces Current, Pearsall**, Who decides?" Straight-forward, to-the-point point of view. Did you read the label?: Hilarious! I love it.
- 2. Westlake Picayune, Austin**, Wear seatbelts: Nice turning this and other local news into a strong editorial. Good length. ESD bond package: Strong, concise and to the point.
- 3. The Nueces County Record Star, Robstown**, Rural areas need ESD: Strong and concise. Like the pull quote. School district: To the point. Nicely done.
- 4. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls**, Marble Falls sports complex: Nicely done, but too long in my opinion. Textbook revisions: Great lead - nicely written, but again too long in my opinion.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

The Dublin
Citizen

- 1. The Dublin Citizen**, Giving up rights: Clear, concise and to the point. Your vote: Same as above, but clearer call to action. Both are well done!
- 2. Lake Country Sun, Graford**, Who do ya like?: Great lead, well written, clear call to action. Talking heat: Wow! Controversial topic handled well.
- 3. Pilot Point Post-Signal**, Council's frustrated: I like the conversational writing style. Potholes: Again, great writing style, although this one is a bit long, in my opinion.
- 4. De Leon Free Press, Jon Q. Public**: Nice writing style, like the "wink" ending. Tax hike signs: Kind of odd to be on the front page, but nice writing style and clear call to action.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

THE ALBANY NEWS

- 1. The Albany News**, County needs new jail; A Class Act?: Both of these are clear, concise and have a clear call to action. Nicely done.
- 2. Muleshoe Journal**, Tough decision ahead: Nice lead! Clear and concise. 'We the people...': I like the conversational writing style of both of these entries.
- 3. The Ozona Stockman**, Watch those texts; Thin texting line: Both of these are strong, clear and well written, but both were a bit long in my opinion.
- 4. Mart Messenger**, Back trackin': Concisely written, but the overall length was a bit much, in my opinion. Good amount of public info! You can make a difference: On the long side, but I like the writing style. Good call to action.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

The Overton Press

- 1. The Overton Press**, Candidate needs to focus: Good impactful piece, nicely written, tight and direct. Crack problem: I love the lead, love the writing, great opinion.
- 2. The Clarendon Enterprise**, Man thwarts plan: Tight concise writing, good call to action. Participate in government: Great subject, tightly written, nicely done.
- 3. Keene Star**, Buy local: Great topic, nicely done, good call to action. Schools: Concisely written, nice wrap up at the end. Well done.
- 4. Joshua Star**, ESD owes you answers; We believe: Both of these are really local and well done. I love "the issue" - "we say" beginning! Both seemed too long to me, though.

Editorials

EDITORIALS, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10

Crack problem could be over for sidewalks

The Overton Press

Back before video games turned generations of youngsters into home-bound marshmallows, children played outside and said, "Step on a crack and break your mother's back." And we'd do our best not to step on that crack, 'cause we loved our mamas.

Unfortunately, with the sad state of the sidewalks in downtown Overton, dear old Mom would be in traction no matter how carefully we tiptoed.

That could change if this city receives grant money from the Texas Department of Agriculture. At last week's city council meeting, the elected leaders of this town approved resolutions laying

the groundwork for applying for these funds.

We appreciate their looking for new ways to improve our town. And thanks to those who serve with the Overton Municipal Development District, giving \$45,000 to the city for its part in matching funds to apply for this state grant. Yes, OMDD's money is really our money paid through sales taxes, but in some towns one would think the funds belonged to a select few with the miserly way they dole out the dollars.

If this project comes to fruition it will not only improve the looks of downtown but, more important, the functionality. Our sidewalks are not only cracked and caving in, some of them

are a random height and difficult for older and handicapped people to use. We have had customers tell us if they cannot find a parking spot in front of the lower portion of the sidewalk, they do not even stop. Imagine: not only is this situation making life more challenging and uncomfortable for people, but we are turning away paying customers. That is not something a small town like Overton can afford to do.

The main challenge - if Overton's application is approved - will be proper oversight. We cannot allow iffy subcontractors to poke along with this construction, delaying progress and driving away potential customers. Just ask business owners in Kilgore and Gladewater

who lost money because - rather than only demolishing a piece of a sidewalk, repairing it and then going on to the next portion - these crews tore up pavement on both sides of the street. In Gladewater, at least two businesses close.

That said, we will keep an open mind and look forward to downtown improvements.

Every sidewalk will not be replaced - just those that are in the worst shape. As long as the money lasts, so will this project. Our sidewalks will not be refurbished overnight; but they did not deteriorate that quickly either so we are willing to wait for the progress we caught a glimpse of at the May 20 meeting at city hall.

Headline Writing

Continued from PAGE 15

Division **9**
Small-Medium Weeklies

The Princeton Herald

1. The Princeton Herald, Course language leads to reprimand: Love double meaning. Really made me want to ready the story. The lease they can do: Clever play on words. Subhead to clarify lease would be helpful. On your mud, get set, GO!: Made me wish I was there.

2. The Farmersville Times, Show and tails: Cute use of "Show and tell". Many meanings to headline. Subhead clarifies story. We've got friends in Lowe's places: Great play on Lowe's and friends helping friends. Gets the point across easily. A Christmas to Remember: Love the subhead. Really drives home feeling of event, holidays.

3. Muleshoe Journal, Cake ace tries cooking with gunpowder: Wish I could hav emet Duff! Clever play on baking powder. Mules unable to bread down Wall: Provides good mental image of a physical challenge while expressing results of the game. Should students be on grass?: Clever double meaning. Draws readers in.

4. The Waller County News Citizen, Hempstead, Fair weather brings fair success: A little bland but

expresses point of the story. Weekend Civil Warriors: Nice play on "Weekend Warriors". Quickly gets across topic of page. Panthers have a prayer with Bible at the plate: Very clever. Gets point across.

Division **10**

THE JOURNAL
FRIENDSWOOD

Small Weeklies

1. Friendswood Journal, Drought Ends Reign: Sort of poetic. Overly Lionized: Works on a couple levels. Guarding Tess: Cute movie reference.

2. Murphy Monitor, Mom and Pop stores move home: Nice, somewhat poignant. Aviary Park off to flying start, but some feathers still ruffled: Makes me want to ready story. Cornucopia of contests highlights Maize Days events: Speaks for itself. I'm a sucker for corny headlines.

3. Keene Star, Residents want to grow the economy: A phrase I normally hate. Fund may assist residents soaked with water bill: Clever, will probably appeal to reader. Fun times no more: Clever, nice impact.

4. The Lindsay Letter, Classic Freeze Out: Descriptive of shooting and weather. Pulling from the past: Nice acknowledgment of historic tractors. Money - it's a class: Can't go wrong with a song reference, also descriptive.

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10

Guarding Tess

Drought Ends Reign

OVERLY LIONIZED

FeaturePhotos



ABOVE:
First Place, Division 8, Kevin Hamilton, Iowa Park Leader - Sunset as storm clouds from the remnants of Hurricane Hermine roll through Iowa Park.

RIGHT:
First Place, Division 4, Joe Duty, Wise County Messenger, Decatur - SMOKE SCREEN - A custom-crafted aerobatic bi-plane called the Oracle Challenger 3 buzzed the Wise County Courthouse Wednesday morning. The stunt plane will be in action this weekend at the Fort Worth Alliance Air Show.

PAGE 19, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

- 1) Second Place, Division 8, Laurie Ezzell Brown, The Canadian Record - On the slopes after the snow.
- 2) First Place, Division 3, Amber Pompa, The Herald-Banner, Greenville - Brittany Sisk, Austin Haas and Marshall Haas go down the yellow, sun-heated slide at the Monkey Maze at the Hunt County Fair Friday afternoon after traveling through the mirror maze on the first level.
- 3) First Place, Division 5, Don Johnson, The Terrell Tribune - Tony Browning and Arturo Lee check out the view from a window in Burnett Elementary's new playground equipment. School officials held a special ribbon-cutting for the new play area Thursday. The equipment was funded by federal stimulus money.
- 4) Second Place, Division 2, Frank Tilley, Laredo Morning Times - Tony Browning and Arturo Lee check out the view from a window in Burnett Elementary's new playground equipment. School officials held a special ribbon-cutting for the new play area Thursday. The equipment was funded by federal stimulus money.



FeaturePhotos



FeaturePhotos

Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

Laredo Morning Times

1. Laredo Morning Times, photographer Ulysses S. Romero. Photo 1 "Decked Out" dazzling excellent job. Photo 2 "Good Luck" captured a great moment.

2. Victoria Advocate, photographer Angeli Wright: "Of Noble Character" best emotion of any shot. Photographer Frank Tilley: "Festival of Sacrifice" great reproduction, awesome colors & balance.

3. The Beaumont Enterprise, photographer Pete Churton, "School of Mullet" solid shot, seen it before too many times. Photographer Giuseppe Barranco, "Dog and Lizard" great moment, odd crop and too dark.

4. The Galveston County Daily News, photographer Kevin Cox, "Booked Solid" amazing reproduction and color, but otherwise just another parade photo. Photographer Jennifer Reynolds, "Warming Up for the Rodeo" great shot, excellent reproduction, cliched.

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

HERALD BANNER

1. The Herald Banner, Greenville, photographer Amber Pompa. Photo 1 "Shattered" great photo, great composition. Photo 2 "Final Day" solid, three kids break up photo well.

2. Brownwood Bulletin, photographer Steve Nash. Photo 1 "Reunion" great composition. Photo 2 "New Aquatic Center" good moment.

3. Brenham Banner Press, photographer Melissa McCaghren. Photo 1 "Carnival" good photo, too much dead space. Photo 2 "Paying Off the Bet" fun moment distracting background.

4. San Marcos Daily Record, photographer Anita Miller. Photo 1 "9-11 Remembered" good photo, OK composition. Photo 2 "Bird's Eye Perspective" great shot, fun photo after reading the outline.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur, photographer Joe Duty. Photo 1 "Raising Cayne" great family portrait. Good job. Photo 2 "Wise on the Fly" unique perspective, wonderful shot.

2. The Bastop Advertiser, photographer Terry Hagerty: "Ouch!" captured great moment. Photographer Andy Ross: "What Is That Stuff?" great emotion, solid picture.

3. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown photographer Bryce Harper. Photo 1 "Snowfallen Angels" great perspective. Photo 2 "Way to Goose's Heart" What is he doing to that goose? Interesting pic.

4. Hood County News, Granbury, photographer Mary Vinson. Photo 1 "Snowball" not the best composition but good timing and good emotion. Photo 2 "Ready for Play" great emotion, wonderful moment.

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

THE TERRELL TRIBUNE

1. The Terrell Tribune, photographer Don Johnson. Photo 1 "Let's Hear It for the Band" nice perspective. Photo 2 "A Brand New Perspective" cool photo captured emotion well.

2. Kilgore News Herald, photographer Aaron May. Photo 1 "Dazzling Dancing Rangerettes" reproduction not great and image not dominant. Photo 2 "Poultry Love" great photo does everything right.

3. Andrews County News, photographer Sam Kaufman. Photo 1 "Dognapping Incident" not a great photo but follows rules of photography. Photo 2 "Special Service" similar to first photo, not much emotion.

4. Breckenridge American, photographer Rob Durham. Photo 1 "Winter Wonderland" not a great photo but nice to see a different angle. Photo 2 "Catch Air" good photo, better if wakeboard not cropped.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Park Cities People

1. Park Cities People, Dallas, photographer Chris McGathay: "Freshman Off to Fast Start" color off but captured good moment. Also, fold distorted face. Photographer Christina Baremy: "Dancing Shoes" Great light and color, good framing. Well done.

2. The Silsbee Bee, photographer David Lisenby: "Where There's Smoke" interesting colors. Too bad her face is right on the fold. Photographer Gerry Dickert "First Impressions" great emotions, wonderful picture.

3. Port Aransas South Jetty, photographer Dan Parker. Photo 1 "Cold Wave" color seems muddy, solid pic. Photo 2 "Dolphin Duo" good picture, odd framing.

4. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, photographer Lisa Treiber-Walter: "Hair-raising" color looks off, good emotion. Photographer Danny Hirt "A Mighty Proud Camel" good pic, arguably the best on its page.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

CLAY COUNTY LEADER

1. Clay County Leader, Henrietta, photographer Matt Kelton. Photo 1 "Rodeo Queen" good blur on background with focus on queen makes pic pop. Photo 2 "Somber Moments" not the best framing but a good, emotional shot.

2. Progress Times, Mission, photographer Doug Young: "Personal Trainer" solid photo but nothing special. Should be pics like this in every issue. Photographer Edwina P. Garza "Valley AIDS Council" great pic for the story it's telling. Very emotional.

3. Frio-Nueces Current, Pearsall, photographer Dean Smith: "Long, Dusty Trail" tells a good story but boring composition. Photographer Manuel Azocar III "The Wild Ones" happy kids playing always a safe bet. Why are both of these pics hiding under the fold?

4. Lake Travis View, Austin, photographer Devin Monk. Photo 1 "Stemming the Stings" good setup for photo. Poor reproduction and placement killed it. Photo 2 "Springfest" composition only alright. No dominance on the page makes it hard to notice.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

IOWA PARK LEADER

1. Iowa Park Leader, photographer Kevin Hamilton. Photo 1 "Runner on Bridge" great light, excellent framing, no outline. Photo 2 "Train at Sunset" great light, great framing, great photo.

2. The Canadian Record, photographer Laurie Ezzell Brown. Photo 1 "After Storm" not the best composition but very good photo. Photo 2 "Color of Fall" crisp, clear photo with great composition.

3. The Ellis County Press, Ferris, photographer Megan Gray: "War Birds on Parade" well set up shot but harsh light on typical subject. Photographer Tia Mogged "Big Bang in the City" best reproduction I've seen so far.

4. Pilot Point Post-Signal, photographer Keith Magee. Photo 1 "He's Got the Look" OK photo not the best composition. Photo 2 "A Tall Order" cute pic. Try moving around for a better angle.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

The Waller County NEWS CITIZEN

Serving Waller County for 115 Years

1. The Waller County News Citizen, Hempstead, photographer Joe Southern. Photo 1 "United Way Kicks Off" average photo, color looks off. Photo 2 "Slurping Up Good Times" caught a great moment.

2. The Farmersville Times, photographer David Jenkins: "Prayers Answered" caught a good moment but poorly framed. Photographer Wyndi Veigel "Celebrating Big Win" great moment, great pic, distracting outline.

3. Palacios Beacon, photographer Ryan West. Photo 1 "Battling Smoke" good fire photo but typical. Photo 2 "Diving to the Endzone" great photo, great moment.

4. Deport Times - Blossom Times, photographer Tony Corso: "Think Basketball" good job capturing emotion of moment. Photographer Liz Irwin "Student and Snowflakes" fun picture but not very original.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

Century-News

1. Dripping Springs Century-News, photographer Anne Drabicky. Photo 1 "Boot-scootin' Good Time" made attempt to find different angle and it paid off. Photo 2 "Dorothy Martin" solid photo. Reproduction was lacking.

2. The Big Sandy & Hawkins Journal, photographer Seria Dassing. Photo 1 "Winona Christmas Parade" pay attention to where light is coming from. This would have been the best photo. Photo 2 "Chilton Cemetery" good shot, follows most rules of photography.

3. The Overton Press, photographer Charlotte Heldenbrand. Photo 1 "Ice Is Nice" great pic. Would have scored better if not submitted with second photo. Photo 2 "Kids Cheering" people like pictures of their kids in the paper. Not the best shot.

4. The Alvarado Star, photographer Christopher Amos. Photo 1 "Home Without Hope" very nice photo. Headline within photo is distracting. Photo 2 "A Rare Sighting" outline makes photo more exciting but composition is very typical.

NewsPhotos



Second Place, Division 6, Dan Parker, Port Aransas South Jetty - Port Aransas teenagers run through flood water inundating Avenue D, near Gulf Street, as heavy rains soaked Port Aransas on Sunday, Sept. 19. Flooding was a pain for some but supplied fun for others, as many took to the waters with boogie boards and kayaks. From left are Connor Collins, Carlie Munoz, Bridget Aycock, Shea Rogers, Fallon Zollars, Cody Angel and Katie Samudio.

Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

The Daily Sentinel

- 1. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches**, photographer Andrew Rogers. Photo 1 "World Cup" Great focus. Photo 2 "Slick Roads" Excellent composition.
- 2. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal**, photographer Zach Long. Photo 1 "Loving the moment" Awesome. Photo 2 "Escapee" Great shot.
- 3. The Paris News**, photographer Sam Craft. Photo 1 "Stand-off" Great photo! Photo 2 "Car wreck" Wish it wasn't so hard to see what is going on.
- 4. The Facts, Clute**, photographer Christy Wooten. Photo 1 "Fatal blaze" Dramatic angle. Shows extent of damage well. Photo 2 "Hags" Good framing, focus. Wish it was printed bigger.

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

Plainview Daily Herald

- 1. Plainview Daily Herald**, photographer Richard Porter. Photo 1 "Snow" Good framing. Photo 2 "Search" Good tight focus.
- 2. The Banner-Press, Brenham**, photographer Melissa McCaghren. Photo 1 "BSSLC" Good, candid photo. Photo 2 "Parham" Good use of framing in an otherwise uninteresting photo.
- 3. San Marcos Daily Record**, photographer Anita Miller: "Plucker's" No comment. Photographer Rowe Ray: "Amkon" Good photo, Shows flames, smoke, firefighters and victims well.
- 4. Taylor Daily Press**, photographer Tricia Rosetty: "City Hall" Very innovative. Photographer Jason Schaefer: "Grain Spill" Would be better if taken from front of truck.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

THE SUN

- 1. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown**, photographer Ben Trollinger. Comments for both photo 1 "Espinosa" and photo 2 "Maldonado": Trollinger is a serious talent. Wow.
- 2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur**, photographer Joe Duty. Photo 1 "Trapped" Crisp and dramatic. Photo 2 "A Mother's Goodbye" Absolutely heartbreaking.
- 3. Beeville Bee-Picayune**, photographer Jsaon Collins. Photo 1 "Bucking bronco" The expression is priceless. Photo 2 "Kiss" Good in every way. Moving and from a novel perspective.
- 4. Hood County News, Granbury**, photographer Mary Vinson. Comments for both photo 1 "Fire" and photo

Continued on PAGE 22

NewsPhotos



First Place, Division 10, Anndria Newhouse, The Clarendon Enterprise - SHAZAM! - Lightning strikes from above during a thunderstorm that swept through the area Monday night. The storm officially dropped 2.64 inches in Clarendon, although some residents reported as much as 4.0 inches. Howard-wick residents received between 1.75 and 2.5 inches, while Hedley was reporting between 0.25 and 0.75 inches.

Continued from PAGE 21

2 "Arrested": Vinson does a great job of capturing the human element.

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

THE TERRELL TRIBUNE

1. The Terrell Tribune, photographer Michael Gresham. Photo 1 "Fly fishing" Great shot, particularly for the cover. Photo 2 "Firefighters" Interesting choice of subjects, and very interesting and atmospheric shot.

2. Copperas Cover Leader Press, photographer Tim Orwig: "Raising roof" Novel perspective and composition. Photographer Larry Hauk: "Baby/wreck" Odd juxtaposition - I liked it.

3. The Bowie News, photographer Barbara Green: "Fu-

neral" Dignified, and nice composition. Photographer Ryan Evans: "Water catches fire" Wow - what a story!

4. The Canyon News, photographer James Barrington: "Final Piece" Great subject. Photographer Brad Raburn "Fire" Very dramatic.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Fredericksburg Standard

1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, photographer Lisa Treiber-Walter: "Showering kisses" Great photo! Composition is excellent. Love the faces, the expressions, the intimacy. Photographer Jessica Bailey: "Crash landing" Very dramatic. Wish shutter stopped action a little more to reduce blur.

2. Port Aransas South Jetty, photographer Dan Parker. Photo 1 "Wet 'n Wild" Very fun picture. Very unique look at how the flood impacted locals. Good focus. Photo 2 "Mardi Gras" Not as unique, but still fun and colorful.

3. The Silsbee Bee, photographer David Lisenby. Photo 1 "Bus wreck" Focus would do better on front subjects. Photo 2 "Fire" Outline needs name, date. Photo is excellent.

4. Park Cities People, Dallas, photographer Christina Barany: Cool, but would be improved if the motorcycle weren't so blurred. Not date in outline. Photographer Chris McGathey: "Vet" Good framing.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

CLAY COUNTY LEADER

1. Clay County Leader, Henrietta, photographer Matt Kelton. Photo 1 "Firefighter" Great photo! Perfect focus. Photo 2 "Grass fire" Good composition.

2. Westlake Picayune, Austin, photographer Dane Anderson: "Car flips" Great photo! Lots going on but not overwhelming. Sets the scene well. Photographer Ed Allen: "Problem intersection" Photo clearly and effectively illustrates issue. Great!

3. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls, photographer Daniel Clifton. Photo 1 "Welcome home, soldier" Great composition. Photo 2 "Mustangs rally" Good.

4. The Hamilton Herald-News, photographer Ginger Lanmon: "Fire" Very dramatic. Good framing. Reflection on firefighters is slightly distracting. Photographer Maria Weaver: "Game warden" Very personal photo. Good.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

Pilot Point Post-Signal

1. Pilot Point Post-Signal, photographer Keith Magee: "Flood" Photo shows damage well. Reproduction is a little blurry. Photographer David Lewis: "Fire" Great shot. Shows magnitude of the fire, very dramatic.

2. Lake Country Sun, Graford, photographer Mark Engebretson. Photo 1 "Heavy rains" Photo shows scope of impact very well. Reproduction is a little dark. Photo 2 "Car" Wow! Good shot. Framing and angle work well.

3. The Llano County Journal, photographer Michael Freeman. Photo 1 "Don't look down" Very cute. Good clarity close-up. Photo 2 "Dove season" Good angle. Wish you could see more of Mabery's face.

4. Refugio County Press, photographer Kenda Nelson. Photo 1 "Giant balloon" Great perspective on the balloon. Men are in strange positions. Photo 2 "Pot bust" Great framing!

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

PALACIOS BEACON

1. Palacios Beacon, photographer Ryan West. Photo 1 "Fire" Great composition. Photo 2 "In a rut" Vertical works well for this shot.

2. The Hometown Press, Winnie, photographer Scott Reese Willey. Photo 1 "Carnival" Captures emotion well. Photo 2 "Calf scramble" Photo stops action well, captures the struggle.

3. Mart Messenger, photographer Karla Reynolds: "Mirror image" Very creative! One photo looks greener than the other. Photographer Blake Kocian: "Football" Photo stops action well.

4. The Waller County News Citizen, Hempstead, photographer Joe Southern. Photo 1 "Vehicle fire" Great description. Photo 2 "Sheriff" Good composition.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

THE CLARENDON Enterprise

1. The Clarendon Enterprise, photographer Anndria Newhouse: "Shazam!" Incredible photo. Photographer Roger Estlack: "Close call" Very exciting photo. Shows seriousness of crash, yet remains tasteful.

2. The Overton Press, photographer Charlotte Heldenbrand: "Peanut brittle" Good description in outline. Good framing. Photographer J.M. Jones: "Fire" Good framing, focus.

3. The Lindsay Letter, photographer Kathy Floyd. Photo 1 "Smelly water" Photo makes a jar of water interesting. Great! Photo 2 "Don't go yet" Tugs at heartstrings.

4. Dripping Springs Century-News, photographer Anne Drabicky. Photo 1 "Zoo babies" Good framing. Photo 2 "Hello, H-E-B" Head and finger cut off in front. Could be improved by cropping.

NewsPhotos



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

1) First Place Division 6, Lisa Treiber-Walter, Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post - Showering kisses on their father, Texas National Guardsman Kalyn Wehmeyer of Fredericksburg are daughters, Erin (left), 2, and Kelaiah, 3, shortly after he disembarked one of three buses bringing members of the 536th Brigade Support Battalion Echo Company home last Thursday from their nearly year-long tour in Iraq. More photos from the community's "Welcome Home" event on A8.

2) Second Place, Division 4, Joe Duty, Wise County Messenger, Decatur - A MOTHER'S GOODBYE - Gina Walters of Decatur clutches an American flag handed to her by a Marine before the burial of Sgt. Zachary J. Walters at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery Friday. During a memorial service at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home in Irving, friends, family and fellow soldiers relayed the character and loyalty of Walters.

3) First Place, Division 7, Matt Kelton, Clay County Leader - Jolly Volunteer Fire Fighter Trey Ozee carries a cat away from a house fire in Henrietta Dec. 23. Homeowners Doug and Vicki Dancer were away when the fire broke out. Home at the time was Betty Cordova, mother of Vicki Dancer, and a home health nurse. Both escaped without injury when passers-by beat on the windows and door to warn the two. Cordova was taken to Clay County Memorial Hospital for observation. Several pets were also in the house. The fire is believed to have been caused by an electric space heater under the carport.



PageDesign

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



Division 2 Dailies 7,000 or More

The Daily Sentinel

1. **The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches**, Great!
2. **Victoria Advocate**, Front-page photo is great. Excellent photos.
3. **Laredo Morning Times**, Border violence design is very strong.
4. **The Kerrville Daily Times**, Sports cover is great. Savor cover lacks innovation but photos are great.

Division 3 Dailies 7,000 or Less

DAILY NEWS

1. **Henderson Daily News**, Well-rounded pages with

strong dominant art, good use of subheadlines and nice eye-pleasing graphics. Even the spot color on the "family" page works. Nice work here!

2. **San Marcos Daily Record**, Nice, bold headline for front, although in a rack or on a table that's all anyone will see. Not crazy about four different kicker heads (green, blue, orange, brown), but definitely different. Don't like a purple headline in sports that matches the masthead of the section. Mostly good photos, especially on page 1 and 1B. Nice MLK design - a little choppy but good. Good use of the rail for calendar. The pull text in syndicated column throws me off. You have a lot of font changes on heads, a little hard on the eyes.
3. **The Herald Banner, Greenville**, Bold, risky treatment of the park story on page 1. Points for the attempt, though I'm not sure the spot-color style works for me. With a car for a teaser, there are zero faces on the front page. Sports photo is strong but lonely - that right side needs a bug or a box, a graphic, something. Opinion page mapped out well, but I'd like to see Letters for the Editor start here. Were there any to run? Do they normally start here? Feature = two big static

photos scream for a face or action. Otherwise solid.

4. **Brownwood Bulletin**, Loved the football "yardlines" graphic behind the scores on page 1. Not crazy about all 4 photos on the front being static - 2 homecoming shots, 2 mugs. Front a bit choppy. Liked the kickers above the football stories to separate them from one another. Op-ed page is solid.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More HOOD COUNTY NEWS

1. **Hood County News, Granbury**, Good continuity in the layouts, but also unique characteristics for each section, great graphic effect for "Life" section.
2. **The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown**, Clean, modern look of these pages is very appealing and makes this newspaper stand out.
3. **Wise County Messenger, Decatur**, Continuity in the page headings but also variety in the layouts, creative use of graphics and photos.
4. **Uvalde Leader-News**, Clean, easy to read layout with variety in the different sections.

PageDesign

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10



Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

- 1. Kilgore News Herald**, Creative use of graphic shapes and typography along with art and photos make this paper interesting!
- 2. The Terrell Tribune**, Creative layouts and interesting color and graphics make this paper outstanding!
- 3. The Canyon News**, Clean orderly layouts make this paper easy to read. Great photos on the front page help to tell the story.
- 4. Wimberly View**, Coordinating the cut-out photo and wrap-around text on page creates interest. Layouts are well organized.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Park Cities People

- 1. Park Cities People, Dallas**, Very clean, neat, easy-to-ready layout. Typography consistently good. Creative with page setups.
- 2. Wilson County News, Floresville**, Good variety in page layouts. Great use of color and pleasing typography.
- 3. The Azle News**, Creative layouts keep pages interesting. Interesting datelines tie sections together. Bright photos on page 1 very appealing.
- 4. The Rockdale Reporter**, Creative layouts, especially the sports page make this paper unique.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

THE CLIFTON RECORD

- 1. The Clifton Record**, Great color and well-organized layout are highlights of this paper. Creative sports page outstanding design. (Limit reverse text to small areas as it is very challenging to read.)
- 2. Westlake Picayune, Austin**, Good use of color and creative art and text on page 1 make this paper interesting to read.
- 3. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls**, Variety in column widths keep the page layouts interesting and make it easy to read.
- 4. The Progress, Three Rivers**, Creative treatment of photos adds interest to this paper.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

The Canadian RECORD

- 1. The Canadian Record**, Well-designed tab. Great graphics and good use of white space.
- 2. Meridian Tribune**, Use of the butterfly on page 1 is creative and creates continuity on the page. Nice consistent look throughout the paper.
- 3. Pilot Point Post-Signal**, Wonderful photo on page 1 with great color. This paper has a clean, organized look and is easy to read.
- 4. Lake Country Sun, Graford**, This paper has a very consistent look that ties the sections together.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

The Ozona Stockman

- 1. The Ozona Stockman**, Even without color, this publication stands out. The well-designed layouts with good use of white space and creative sports page add interest.
- 2. The Farmersville Times**, Great color and interesting layouts are highlights of this paper.
- 3. The Eldorado Success**, Beautiful masthead and innovative photo and text draw the reader in to a well-designed publication.
- 4. The Albany News**, This publication has consistent good looks throughout. Good use of photos and graphics helps to create interest on the pages.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

The Big Lake Wildcat

- 1. The Big Lake Wildcat**, Sharp photos and clean straight-forward layout make this publication interesting.
- 2. The Clarendon Enterprise**, Great typography and organized layout are trademarks of this publication.
- 3. Murphy Monitor**, Creative use of graphics and text help to divide the pages into interesting spaces.
- 4. Joshua Star**, Good color and great layout sets this publication apart.

Column Writing

COLUMN WRITING, FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6

So, Who's The Old Guy?

TERRY COLLIER

Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post

It finally happened.

I was out at the driving range the other day, working on my forever-erratic golf swing, when a couple of kids came up the hill riding in a dune buggy.

As their vehicle wheeled by on the park road, I overheard the driver yell to his buddy, "Hey look - old guy playing golf."

I didn't think much of it until I looked around to discover that there wasn't anyone else on the driving range.

Ouch.

To be candid about it, I have to admit that there've been a few hints lately that time has been marching on.

Like the other day when someone came into my office and saw a portrait on my desk of our daughter who, as they say, is certainly not hard on the eyes.

"My, but your *grand*-daughter is pretty!" he said.

Double-ouch.

Somewhere between my formative years and today, I seem to have crossed the great divide of mid-life and now find that I'm closer to the jumping-off place than most folks.

It's just that I don't really feel like I've entered my seventh decade.

For one thing, it only seems like yesterday when, as a kid, I was shocked to hear that my older cousin Billy - one of

the many descendants of a large farm-era family - had turned 35 years old. It's been a long time since 35 seemed old.

And another thing - it wasn't all that many years ago that I started noticing an occasional strand of white mixed in with the brown hair that fell on the cape around my shoulders while getting my ears lowered at the local boutique.

It's now been quite some time since there's been any brown at all littering the floor around the chair where I sit at that hair salon.

Still, there's a perfectly logical explanation for that and it has nothing to do with age. According to my mom, there's a streak of prematurely gray hair running through the genetic chains on both sides of our family. So there.

Just the other day, another of my many cousins, Fred, stopped by the office to say "hello" and I saw that family trait glowing in all its glory atop his head: a full crop of white hair!

I immediately felt better - and younger.

At least there's hair of some kind still shading my pate, even if it's getting about as thin as when I began this long ride some 63 years ago.

However, I must concede that there *is* one thing that I've noticed in recent years which, if only a little, may legitimize the advancing age issue: I can't eat nearly as much as I did in my younger years and still get away with it. These

days, there would be a definite cause-and-effect penalty were I to down a couple of crème-filled rolls at one sitting as I once did back in my 20s.

Consequently, around our household these days, we've tried to cut down on *what* we eat as well as *how much* we eat. For instance, no "seconds" any more, less red meat, more fruits and vegetables (which sometimes make up a meatless dinner) and a limit of one beer per day (for medicinal purposes, of course).

And, while the jury is still out on the success of the waistline wars, all this healthy eating seems to have helped hold off advancing years in the exercise department. Thanks to this new natural vitamin intake, these aging bones can still carry their owner around the school track in the pre-dawn hours, although some early-risers might classify his jog as resembling more of a fast walk than an authentic gallop.

Still, I believe I've got a few good miles left in me yet. As Augustus McCrae said in author Larry McMurtry's epic novel, *Lonesome Dove*, "I'm not ready to take up the rocking chair just yet."

I confess, however, that one of the things which have changed in recent times involves sleep. Staying up late and getting up early is a lot more challenging now than it was a little while ago. Whereas in our youth we used to

be going strong well past midnight, today I find myself nodding off on the couch whenever I get still for more than 15 minutes.

Another thing is that people who don't really look any younger than I am have been holding the door open for me lately and have even started giving me the same "Sir" treatment that I've been extending to my elders all these years. It would appear that the tables have begun to turn.

And then there's the restaurant wait-staffer who points out the senior specials on the menu or the movie ticket window kid who automatically allows the senior discount without me ever having to ask for it (which I would never do because that deal is, after all, for old folks).

Even so, lately I've been getting a few blank looks from the younger set when, in the course of conversations, I mention topics like Howdy Doody, S&H Green Stamps, Red Skelton, Speedy Alka-Seltzer, Brownie cameras, Tinkertoys and even The Beatles. It makes me wonder what else they're not teaching those kids in history class these days!

But despite the funny looks, all in all, I'm still feeling pretty good about dealing with this age thing. That's not to say, however, that I'm looking forward to the day when some joker blurts out: "Good grief - Don't tell me you're still driving!"

Division **2**
Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

1. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Ray Westerbrook, subject 1, *Woman's Diaries*: Great! Westerbrook writes what every community newspaper should have - telling and personal poetic stories of the people who formed the community. Impeccable. Subject 2, *Montelongo*: Another home run.

2. The Galveston County Daily News, Heber Taylor, subject 1, Charlie Wilson: great story and concisely told! Subject 2, Zarko Franks: I'm sure Zarko would have approved.
3. Victoria Advocate, April Brandon, subject 1, *Baby Showers*: Wow! A funny columnist who's actually funny. Well done. Subject 2, *Getting Married*: no comment by judge.
4. The Beaumont Enterprise, Mike Smith, subject 1, *Bridge cracks*: Smith does what a good columnist should do, even when the subject is seemingly dull. Subject 2, *Traffic Light*: he makes it readable. "There are no bad stories - there are only bad writers."

Division **3**
Dailies Less Than 7,000

Daily Light

1. Waxahachie Daily Light, Neal White, subject 1, Facebook: Informative on what can be a technical topic, but handled in a breezy style. Very well done. Subject 2, *Monument*: Moving without being maudlin.
2. Brownwood Bulletin, Gene Deason, subject 1,

Column Writing

Anniversaries: Excellent reminder. Subject 2, Toilets: We take clean water for granted. Thanks for a well-written, well-researched piece.

3. Stephenville Empire-Tribune, Sara Vanden Berge, subject 1, Shock & Awe: Wow! A grown-up! And well said! Subject 2, Tax Ballot: concise and balanced.

4. Athens Daily Review, Rich Flowers, subject 1, February: Great down-home voice and common sense. Subject 2, Dandy Don: Sports heroes mean a lot to a great many of us. Well said!

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

Uvalde Leader-News

1. Uvalde Leader-News, Craig Garnett, subject 1, Grandparents Day: Very entertaining column. Writing is really fun to read. Subject 2, Holiday Cheer Fails to Save Vendor: Poor Kaspar! We passed this one around our newsroom and everyone who read it loved it! Great read and engaging writing.

2. The Boerne Star, Elena Tucker, subject 1, However Insignificant She Might Seem: I cried when I read this! Wonderful writing and a very sad tale. Great job engaging the reader. Top-notch work! Subject 2: Yearning to Yell, Having No Voice: Great writing. Again, engages the reader.

3. The Bay City Tribune, Heather Menzies, subject 1, Dinner Chat With Andrea White: Great column idea and well written. How fun to read about what the candidates are eating. Heather Menzies and Amanda Heard, subject 2, Bell Serves Up Gumbo and Fun: Fun read! Lead was a little weird, though, with "JCP pct. 1" stuck in the middle. Could have introduced her as Justice of the Peace Jeanette Bell and picked up with the politicking in the 2nd graph.

4. Wise County Messenger, Decatur, Brandon Evans, subject 1, We Need to Say Goodbye to High Speed Pursuits: Really nice writing, but in a couple of places, overwritten, e.g., "shared together on this tiny green and blue planet hurtling through empty space." Subject 2, Listening to the Sun: Loved it! Loved the writing. Again, a tiny bit of overwriting. Expert word craftsmanship.

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

1. Kilgore News Herald, Linda K. Ballard, subject 1, In Memory Of: Very good and personal obit. Subject 2, It's Gonna Be Fine: Graceful writing start to finish and very engaging topic.

2. The Monitor, Mabank, Katherine Veno, subject 1, Most Difficult of Goodbyes: A touching story, very graceful writing and a wonderful tribute to your mother. Subject 2, Learning to Coast: Lovely story rich with descriptions. I can see that red mud!

3. The Perryton Herald, Jim Hudson, subject 1, Water Votes: Very good explanation of a very complicated subject, water. Subject 2, Surprise Visit: What a fun read! Nice story, colorful writing and well crafted.

4. The Terrell Tribune, Michael Gresham, subject 1, Serve Up a Little Social Interaction: Silent lunchroom? What are they thinking? Very good topic and well written opinion piece. Subject 2, Making Tough Decisions: Great topic and a very good explainer on what has to be a very controversial issue.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Fredericksburg Standard

1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, Terry Collier, subject 1, Road Trip With Charmin: Very entertaining and clever; flows great. Subject 2, Dealing With Being an Old Guy: Lots of funny examples from daily life, flows great.

2. Citizens' Advocate, Coppell, Jean Murph, subject 1, Allowing One to Blossom: good advice. Subject 2, Try to Persevere: no comment by judge.

3. Mineola Monitor, Gary Edwards, subject 1, Cell Phones: We all feel this way. Subject 2, Politics and Thrones: He connects with readers.

4. Hays Free Press, Kyle/Buda, Brenda Stewart, subject 1, Because He's Black: Ready for syndication. Subject 2, A Time for War: Gutsy.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

Westlake Picayune

1. Westlake Picayune, Austin, Ed Allen, subject 1, Good Departing Writers an Editor's Nightmare: Great lead, great style, taking the reader along the journey with you. Good writers can become great under the tutelage of a generous editor. Congrats on your former employee's recognition. He surely learned well from you. Well written. Bravo! Subject 2, Battle With Obesity: Great lead. Instant comradery builder. Nice touch of humor. Humility in your writing raises quality & style of writing. Again - Bravo.

2. The Pittsburg Gazette, Roy Knox, subject 1, Well Worth the Wait: Excellent lead. Drew my attention immediately. I liked how you pointed out that kids need a good example. Very well written. The sudden topic change made me laugh. Great job. The switch to the pedicures was refreshing & engaging. Subject 2, Don't Mess With Texas: Well written; a logically & well laid out opinion. The concluding bits of information are a unique approach to concluding the column. I think I like it! Great lead, great handing of a potential political bomb. Enjoyed the style of writing. Keep it up.

3. The Cameron Herald, Bill Crist, subject 1, Can Two Simple Words Really Sum It All Up?: Yes indeed! I appreciated the consideration Mr. Crist put into how these two words bring out the best and worst. Great, simple lead. Subject matter drew me in and hooked me. Thumbs up for subject matter, quality and style of writing. Subject 2, Bureaucratic Red Tape: Lead assumes familiarity with Harley, but quickly drawn into the story and caring about the issue. Presented in a well balanced manner. Well written.

4. The Goldthwaite Eagle, Tammarrah Pledger, subject 1: It's All Her Idea: I enjoyed your writing. Keep it up. You have a unique, feminine voice that others in your community can look up to and follow your gentle example of how generations may be a real ray of sunshine to the other. Subject 2, Tammy's Take on It: Your observations of southern Texan quirks is a lot of fun, especially for the southerner. Personal enjoyment aside, the lead was intriguing. I wanted to see what you were celebrating. The style, light humor, is very nice. Great quality.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

Eagle Lake Headlight

1. Eagle Lake Headlight, Cindy Klopsteck, subject 1, Black Cat: The story pulled me all the way through. Great read and good writing. Subject 2, Frances: Powerful writing and beautifully crafted, start to finish.

2. Bandera County Courier, Mike Baker, subject 1, Editor's Note: Very fun to read. A little hard to follow with the initials but funny, good writing. Subject 2, Give Me Credit: Love it! Funny and well crafted from start to finish.

3. Iowa Park Leader, Kari Collins, subject 1, Garanimals: Very fun read. I like your humble humor and I'll bet your readers enjoy it also. Subject 2, Habanero Jelly: Very engaging writing and fun to read. What a mean trick, though. I liked the colorful ramblings about the bee garb & Mrs. Johnson's cooking. Well crafted, start to finish.

4. The Olney Enterprise, Mindi Kimbro, subject 1, Reading a Thing of the Past: Very good writing. A little preachy though. Subject 2, Cookies and Icing and Cakeballs Oh My: Very bright and lively writing and a fun column to read.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

The Hico News Review

1. The Hico News Review, Jerry McAdams, subject 1, Found Tractor: Delightful tale all the way through. I really enjoy your writing style. Subject 2, Stingy City Not Taking Out Ad: Very engaging. clear up here in Washington I feel like I am getting a glimpse of your town.

2. The Eldorado Success, Randy Mankin, subject 1, Ray Crazywolf: An engaging story with colorful writing about a colorful character. Subject 2, Caprock: Nice going along on your Texas road trip.

3. The Menard News and Messenger, Dan Feather, subject 1, Motorbike and Paper Route: Nice, readable tale. Fun to read. Subject 2, Television: A trip down memory lane. Another fun one.

4. Val Alstyne Leader, Rodney Hays, subject 1, State of the Union: no comment by judge. Subject 2, Olympics: Funny! Funny! Filled with little surprises, like running over the principal's cat still not a sport.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

THE FREER PRESS

1. The Freer Press, Mauricio Julian Cuellar Jr., subject 1, Immune to Violence: An honest account of what a journalist faces after years on the job. Subject 2, Julianna: Powerful. Perfectly written.

2. The Anna-Melissa Tribune, Jeremy A. Corley, subject 1, World's Greatest Dad: Same comment as with entry in Van Alstyne Leader - excellent. Subject 2, Fireworks and Football: Loved the part about your boys!

3. The Clarendon Enterprise, Roger Estlack, subject 1, Quran Burn Plan: well written. Subject 2, Mother's Day: What a wonderful tribute to your mom.

4. Pflugerville Pflag, Chris Grant, subjects 1 and 2, When Do They Sleep? and The Big Four-O: Fun to read writing style.

SportsPhotos



First Place, Division 6, Chris McGathay, Park Cities People, Dallas - WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE - SMU football players Kenneth Acker (21), Mark Voosen (53), Chris Banjo (23), Robert Lloyd (39), and Cole Beasley (11) emerge from the tunnel before Saturday's win over Washington State.

Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

The Daily Sentinel

1. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches, photographer Andrew Rogers: "Basketball pass (color)" Great detail on faces - white jersey a bit washed. Photographer Andrew Brosig: "Basketball shot (b/w)" Sharp - nice texture. Best of class. We connect to this photo.

2. Laredo Morning Times, photographer Ulysses Romero. Photo 1 "Football" Crop sets the goal-line scene clear. Right place at right time. Second place based on two together. Photo 2 "Soccer" Frozen action! Nice! Cutline should say who

had the ball in this shot. Still, this photo makes me ask, 'What were they doing?', and that is good. It makes the reader think.

3. The Galveston County Daily News, photographer Kevin Cox. Photo 1 "Football shower" You saw this coming. Cutline - lot of empty space in second line you could have used for more game info. Photo 2 "Volleyball" Sharp - I can count her teeth! These shots are both something we've seen before, but are well done.

4. The Facts, Clute, photographer Holly Parker. Photo 1 "Basketball" So good, I turned the page upside down to see the defender's eyes! Use of word 'flies' in cutline is a cliché. Photo 2 "Track" I can count the eyelets on his shoes. Wish I could see his actual eyes. Basketball photo was first or second best of all we've seen, but track photo is just okay, so it's fourth place overall. Good job!

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

The Banner-Press

1. The Brenham Banner-Press, photographer Melissa McCaghren. Comments for both Photo 1 "Football" and Photo 2 "Volleyball spike": Good, solid action; crisp, well composed.

2. The Herald Banner, Greenville, photographer David Claybourn. Comments for both Photo 1 "High jump" and Photo 2 "Hoops": Solid, well composed and crisp. Well done!

3. Taylor Daily Press, photographer Scott Casey: "Football" Solid shot, crisp and composed. Photographer Mike Craven: "Track" Solid track shot - would have made bigger

Continued on PAGE 32

SportsPhotos



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

1) First Place, Division 2, Andrew Brosig, The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches - Dragon senior Arsenio Hall, left, puts up a shot under pressure from Center junior Cameron Cloudy in the second half of the opening game in the consolation bracket Wednesday during the final day of play in the Suddenlink Dragon Classic at Nacogdoches High School.

2) First Place, Division 8, Veronica Hamlett, Pilot Point Post-Signal - Jay Whetsell preps to do a 360-degree spin on his wakeboard while surfing Ray Roberts Lake.

3) First Place, Division 4, Mary Vinson, Hood County News, Granbury - NOT FALLING FOR IT - Granbury's Ryan Luedeker keeps his balance while Cleburne's Tyler Chappell takes a tumble during the latter stages of the 800-meter run at Friday's Johnny Perkins Relays at Granbury Middle School field. Chappell was trying to pass Luedeker on the inside and slipped on the track's dropoff. Luedeker won the event for the Pirates' lone gold medal in the varsity meet. The Pirates finished third, while the Lady Pirates were fifth.

SportsCoverage

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 2



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 3



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 4



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 5



Division 2 Dailies 7,000 to 99,999

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

- 1. Victoria Advocate**, Most entries in this category are all about football so it is difficult to judge a full week of coverage. Still, your community level briefs are better than most. Design - top left Inside box, black, could use larger teaser words. It would work.
- 2. Laredo Morning Times**, Contest rules - seems like some byline stories were crossed out. Texas football is king so kudos for placing a volleyball story top of page. Design makes good use of white space. Strong headlines. Strong effort, great range of sports.
- 3. The Kerrville Daily Times**, Lot of space used to recap "best moments" of a season. Was it worth it? It does help with "range of coverage" points. "Hot Shots" is a hot feature. Should you tease a website photo gallery on this page? I like the big headlines. Strong package throughout.
- 4. The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches**, Range of coverage is great with outdoors & kids & men and & women. Headline style is one of the best in category. Text leads are great - snappy & get readers involved. Photos are good - can't say as good as some other papers. Tough competition in category!

Division 3 Dailies Less Than 7,000

Plainview Daily Herald

- 1. Plainview Daily Herald**, Skillful writing utilizing many short sentences for emphasis. Exceptional range of coverage.
- 2. The Herald Banner, Greenville**, Meticulous design extends well beyond the section page.
- 3. San Marcos Daily Record**, Many examples of clever writing in a section overflowing with strong coverage. Avoid color headlines.
- 4. Brownwood Bulletin**, Exceptional advance game stories. Beautifully designed pages.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

- 1. Wise County Messenger, Decatur**, Overuse of bold 6-column headlines. Photos were exceptional. Stories provided insight and relevance of wins and losses.
- 2. Hood County News, Granbury**, Well-crafted stories with short, punchy leads are a pleasure to read.
- 3. The Bastrop Advertiser**, Attractive pages, good use of color. Stories combine good detail with keen analysis.
- 4. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown**,

Outstanding design demonstrates careful planning. One swimmer photo carried no identification in outline.

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

Lampasas Dispatch Record

- 1. Lampasas Dispatch Record**, Exceptional writing gives readers a good understanding of the games!
- 2. Kilgore News Herald**, Writers and headline writers should pay more attention to subject-verb agreement: "Sabine sweep Eagles"; "...basketball are mowing down ..."
- 3. Lamesa Press Reporter**, Well-written stories provide readers with much more than just a play-by-play report.
- 4. The Terrell Tribune**, Well-crafted pages. Page 6B was missing!

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Fredericksburg Standard

- 1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post**, You devote exceptional space to provide coverage of a wide range of sports activities. Excellent emotion displayed in many of your images. Readers benefit from your professionalism.
- 2. Katy Times**, Clean appearance to well-designed pages. Headlines carry impact.
- 3. Hays Free Press, Kyle/Buda**, Very clean and orderly appearance to your pages.

SportsCoverage

FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 6



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 8



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 9



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 10



FIRST PLACE, DIVISION 7



4. The Rockdale Reporter, Pay more attention to possessives and collective nouns.

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

Hill Country COMMUNITY JOURNAL

- 1. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville,** The Journal places an extraordinary emphasis on sports and does it extremely well. Readers should feel fortunate to have both quality and quantity.
- 2. Westlake Picayune, Austin,** Readers could not ask for more complete and competent sports coverage.
- 3. Lake Travis View, Austin,** Many outstanding images enabled this entry to stand out among other publications judged.
- 4. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls,** Impressive variety of stories. Your readers are treated to more than just play-by-play reports.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies



- 1. Glen Rose Reporter,** Photos emphasizing emotions gave impact to your pages.
- 2. The Springtown Epigraph,** Hooray for the short, snappy leads. They make stories more interesting.
- 3. Pilot Point Post-Signal,** Good emphasis on

upcoming games rather than detailed rehashing of past games.

4. Iowa Park Leader, Effective blend of quotes and play-by-play in game stories. Exemplary use of strong photos.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

The Hometown Press

- 1. The Hometown Press, Winnie,** Avoid illustrations that block type (pp. 1, 4-15).
- 2. The Farmersville Times,** No comments by judge.
- 3. Sachse News -** no comments by judge.
- 4. The Albany News,** Game stories show good mix of play-by-play and quotes.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

Murphy Monitor

- 1. Murphy Monitor,** Exceptionally well-written football stories. Many strong photos, but avoid filling space with many lackluster images.
- 2. Pearland Journal,** Exceptional writing elevated this entry.
- 3. Pflugerville Pflag,** Good mix of game coverage, news and opinion plus features.
- 4. Crowley Star,** Well-written stories.

SportsPhotos

Continued from PAGE 28

impact with bigger use on page.

4. Stephenville Empire-Tribune, photographer Nathan Bural. Photo 1 "Football" Nice moment, well composed. The eyes make all the difference. Photo 2 "Basketball" Solid, crisp shot.

Division 4 Semiweeklies 4,001 or More

HOOD COUNTY NEWS

- 1. Hood County News, Granbury**, photographer Mary Vinson. Photo 1 "Volleyball" Slightly out of focus but great action. Solid cutline info. Photo 2 "Track" Well composed, solid "moment." Great cutline info. Well done!
- 2. The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown**, photographer Bryce Harper: "Boys Basketball" Loved this shot and how it was used. Didn't see a cutline for photo, left me wanting to know who subject is. Photographer Russell Rinn: "Girls Basketball" Great action and emotion.
- 3. Beeville Bee-Picayune**, photographer Bruce Harper. Photo 1 "Football" Solid action here. Would like a couple of names of players in shot besides the subject. Photo 2 "Wrestling" Loved the 'tweak' to the angle, gives shot a totally new feel. Needs name of subject's opponent in cutline.
- 4. The Fayette County Record, La Grange**, photographer Tom Wood. Photo 1 "Soccer kick" Not crazy about the crop, but face on subject is great, reproduction is solid and composition is good. Photo 2 "Basketball" Action here helps shot despite lack of crispness and so-so cutline. Nice.

Division 5 Semiweeklies 4,000 or Less

THE TERRELL TRIBUNE

- 1. The Terrell Tribune**, photographer Dan Johnson. Photo 1 "Football catch (color)" Great moment. Only wish it was bigger. Photo 2 "Football juggle (b/w)" Fantastic pic that puts this entry over the top. Wonderful action, great moment. Nice job!
- 2. The Bowie News**, photographer Ryan Evans. Photo 1 "Football" Solid work; crisp, well-composed action. Photo 2 "Basketball" Nice shot.
- 3. Kilgore News Herald**, photographer Lester Murray: "Tennis" Solid. Photographer Aaron May: "Football circle" May have placed this higher with face of assistant coach talking. Otherwise a nice moment here.
- 4. Lamesa Press-Reporter**, photographer Russel Skiles: "Football" Nice action. Photographer Dwight Heins: "Softball" Solid shot; wish it was used a bit bigger.

Division 6 Large Weeklies

Park Cities People

- 1. Park Cities People, Dallas**, photographer Chris McGathey. Photo 1 "Volleyball" My favorite single pic of the bunch. Well composed, great moment, nice cutline. Photo 2 "Football" Solid shot here, nice kicker. Could be used bigger!
- 2. Port Aransas South Jetty**, photographer Dan Parker: "Basketball practice" Wonderful shot. Crisp, well composed with good cutline and great color. Love it! Photographer Karen Collins: "Basketball shot" Solid action shot. Red eye hurts this shot a bit, but great action overcomes.
- 3. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post**, photographer Cathy Collier. Photo 1 "Volleyball" Great moment, complete cutline info. Well done. Photo 2 "Football" Solid action.
- 4. The Silsbee Bee**, photographer Gerry Dickert: "Basketball" Great moment! Wish this was used bigger! Photo cut needs defenders' names, but otherwise a real winner. Nice. Photographer Brent Guidry: "Football" Fantastic shot; needs to be used bigger! Much bigger!

Division 7 Medium-Large Weeklies

Hill Country COMMUNITY JOURNAL

- 1. Hill Country Community Journal, Kerrville**, photographer Stuart Cunyus. Photo 1 "Football" Great moment – captured the hit! Photo 2 "Softball" Nice perspective in this shot. Crisp, clean. Nice!
- 2. The Bandera Bulletin**, photographer James Taylor. Photo 1 "Rodeo" Great action and fun. Watch typos in cutlines! Photo 2 "Volleyball" Great shot! Wonderful crowd expressions and a very unusual take on a standard assignment.
- 3. Progress Times, Mission**, photographer Doug Young. Comments for both Photo 1 "Basketball" and Photo 2 "Football": Good crisp clean shots with good action. Cropped well. Only wish these were used a big bigger (if possible).
- 4. The Nueces County Record Star, Robstown**, photographer Pete Garcia: "Baseball" Nice, crisp and clean photo. Action is framed well. Photographer Anthony Ruiz: "Basketball" Nice, unexpected shot. The moment is better than the shot. May have been even better to see his emotions just after this pic.

Division 8 Medium Weeklies

Pilot Point Post-Signal

- 1. Pilot Point Post-Signal**, photographer Mark Lewis: "Football" Nice capture of key action in game. Way to be on the spot at the right time! Photographer Veronica Hamlett: "Wakeboarding" Nice, crisp shot of a non-traditional sport.

- 2. Iowa Park Leader**, photographer Kevin Hamilton. Comments for both Photo 1 "Football" and Photo 2 "Volleyball": Good crisp shots with essential action. Used big. That's a very good thing with these pics.
- 3. Refugio County Press**, photographer Neil Tucker. Comments for both Photo 1 "Football dive" and Photo 2 "Football run": Solid shots, strong action with good cutlines.
- 4. Glen Rose Reporter**, photographer Nathan Bural. Photo 1 "Football cheer" Nice capture of key moment in game. Photo 2 "Football frustration" Cutline needs way more information, but a nice photo, something different.

Division 9 Small-Medium Weeklies

The Princeton Herald

- 1. The Princeton Herald**, photographer Victor Tapia. Photo 1 "Basketball" Clean, crisp photo. Good cutline information, well used on page. Photo 2 "Baseball" Another crisp, clean shot. Nice angles.
- 2. The Waller County News Citizen, Hempstead**, photographer Ted Fuller. Photo 1 "Football horizontal" Nice action! Well composed and cropped. Well done. Photo 2 "Football vertical" Quirky shot. A little similar to first shot and could be used much bigger, but nice pic!
- 3. The Hometown Press, Winnie**, photographer Scott Reese Willey. Comments for both Photo 1 "Volleyball" and Photo 2 "Track": Solid, clean pics! Both of these work well on the page.
- 4. The Eldorado Success**, photographer Kathy Mankin: "Basketball" Nice moment right when player is fouled – not an easy shot. Background is a little distracting. Photographer J.L. Mankin: "Softball" Nice capture of 'pre-action' action. Eyes are key.

Division 10 Small Weeklies

The Big Lake Wildcat

- 1. The Big Lake Wildcat**, photographer J.L. Mankin. Photo 1 "Basketball" Nice big vertical that's clean and crisp. Photo 2 "Football" Nice moment captured here. Well composed and cropped.
- 2. Pflugerville Pflag**, photographer Dawn Poole. Photo 1 "Wrestling" Neat picture! Cropped well and used well on the page. Photo 2 "Football" Nice capture of odd moment.
- 3. The Bay Area Citizen**, photographer Kar Hlava. Comments for both Photo 1 "Football chase" and Photo 2 "Football tackle": Solid action; clean and crisp, well used on the page. I'd like to see something other than two nearly identical shots though.
- 4. Joshua Star**, photographer L.J. Rafael. Photo 1 "Softball" Focus is soft but nice capture of action. Photo 2 "Soccer" Nice moment. Crisp, clean and works well on page.

Special Sections

FIRST PLACE, ROUTINE WEEKLY B



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON DAILY



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON SEMIWEEKLY



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON WEEKLY A



FIRST PLACE, ROUTINE WEEKLY C



FIRST PLACE, ROUTINE WEEKLY A



FIRST PLACE, BLUE MOON WEEKLY B



Continued from PAGE 3

up with the layout. Position chart was a good idea.

2. The River Cities Sunday Tribune, Marble Falls, Fall sports guide - Nice cover & intro to start it off. Good articles and a clean layout. Could use some more action photos.

3. Bandera County Courier, Area guide - Nice intro. Great all-encompassing guide.

4. Meridian Tribune, Area guide - Like the index with pictures, but page numbers are hard to read. Nice articles & good information.

Blue Moon Special Sections

Daily Division

The Facts

1. The Facts, Clute, Men of Honor - Beautifully done. A good range of stories and great pictures. Mr. Lowman did a lot of work.

2. San Marcos Daily Record, 100 years of Boy Scouting - Cute cover! Nice layout to include lots of pics. Good variety of local stories mixed with facts. Well done!

3. Kerrville Daily Times, Centennial edition - Nice layout, especially like page 5. More than just a retrospective. I like how you include articles on today's business.

4. The Paris News, Softball state champions - Great pics. Like the "For the Record" summary.

Semiweekly Division

HOOD COUNTY NEWS

1. Hood County News, Granbury, Winningest coach in history - Great pics. Nice way to get to know someone beyond what the community typically knows them as. Good bullet points.

2. Wise County Messenger, Decatur, Rodeo champion - Nice, open layout. Great photos. Nice way to feature local heroes.

3. Burleson Star, Left-handers' day - Fun idea & you found way to apply it locally. Especially thought the sports feature was a good idea.

4. The Bastrop Advertiser, Wildfire - Nice coverage from all angles. Great mix of hard news & features. Good pics.

Weekly Division A

THE JOURNAL PEARLAND

1. Pearland Journal, Football state champions - Excellent photography, excellent editorial, lovely and eye-catching ads. Very well done. Three cheers for Pearland.

2. Port Aransas South Jetty, Centennial celebration - Wow! Great ad support. Lots of great info. Like the advertiser index. A bounty of diverse & interesting articles. We are impressed.

3. The Progress, Three Rivers, Annual storyfest - Nice map on page 7. Interesting articles. Good editorial support. Concise schedule. Nice work! Ads could use more artistic flair.

4. Sachse News, Municipal complex dedication - Puzzle theme is well done, not overdone. Pulls section together nicely.

Weekly Division B

Wilson County News

1. Wilson County News, Floresville, Happy 150th - Sesquicentennial is a mouth full. (Not a bad thing.) Solid ad line, well researched, some pages are too ad-heavy without using editorial.

2. Park Cities People, Dallas, High school graduation - Creative, fun, interesting facts.

3. Lake Travis View, Austin, Football state champions - Excellent photography, eye-grabbing, great ad line, all-time team is fascinating.

4. Alvarado Star, Left-handed day - Thought this was unique until I saw the other three Media News Group newspapers running the same idea.

Sweepstakes *Winners*

1st
Division
2

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

1st
Division
3

Waxahachie

Daily Light

1st
Division
4

WISE COUNTY

MESSENGER

1st
Division
5

THE TERRELL TRIBUNE

1st
Division
6

Park Cities People

1st
Division
7

Westlake Picayune

1st
Division
8

The Canadian

RECORD

1st
Division
9

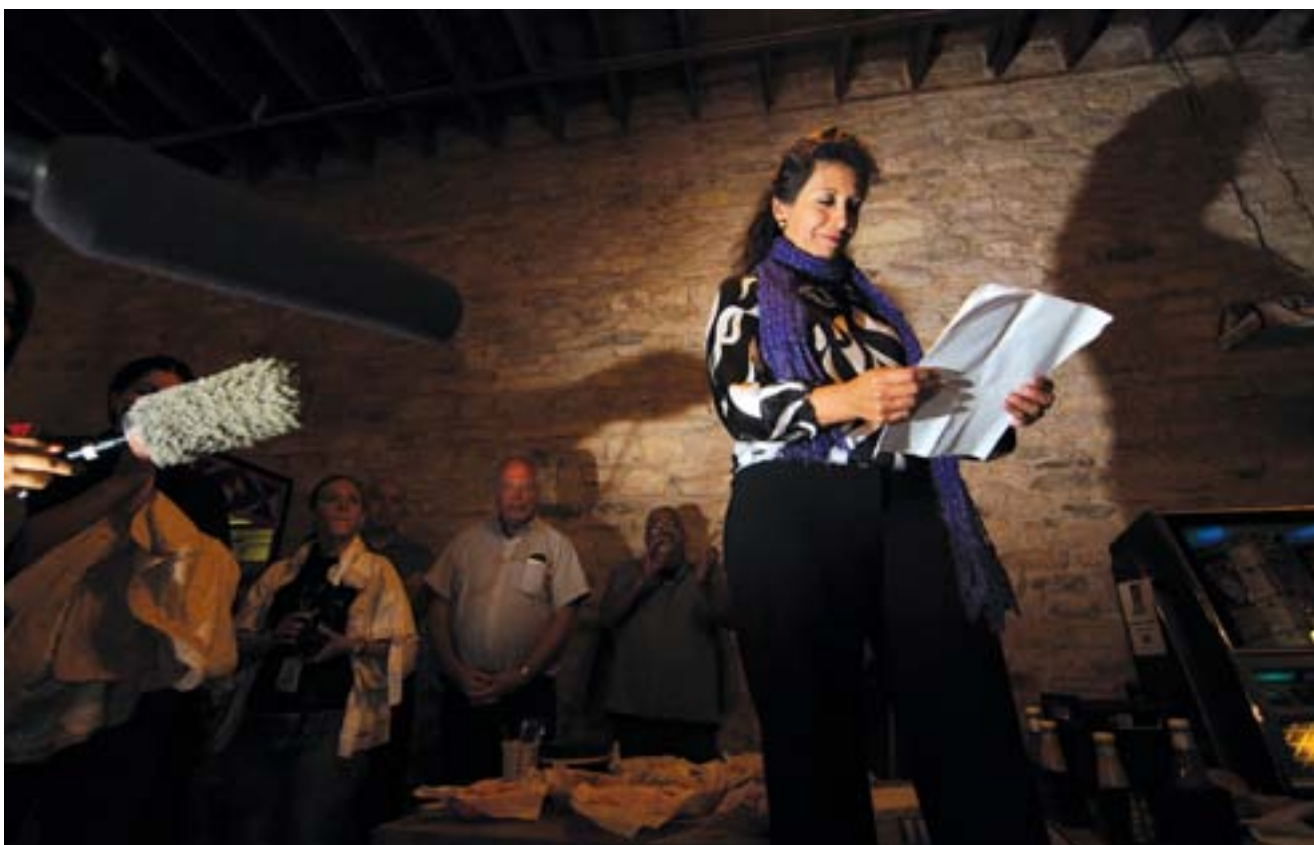
The Farmersville Times

1st
Division
10

THE CLARENDON ★
Enterprise

2011 Better Newspaper Contest Results by Newspaper

DAILY							
Athens Daily Review 3rd. Headline Writing 3rd. Feature Writing 4th. Column Writing 4th. General Excellence	4th. Editorial 4th. Feature Photo 4th. News Writing		1st. Editorial 1st. Feature Writing 1st. Feature Photo 1st. Sports Photo 2nd. General Excellence 2nd. Headline Writing 2nd. Page Design 4th. Editorial 4th. Sports Coverage	3rd. Column Writing 3rd. Headline Writing	Frio-Nueces Current 1st. Editorial 3rd. Feature Photo	Menard News and Messenger 3rd. Column Writing	3rd. Advertising
Beaumont Enterprise 1st. News Writing 2nd. Feature Writing 3rd. News Photo 4th. Column Writing 4th. General Excellence	Paris News 3rd. Advertising 3rd. News Photo 4th. Blue Moon Special Section	Burleson Star 3rd. Blue Moon Special Section	Canyon News 2nd. Editorial 3rd. General Excellence 3rd. Page Design 4th. News Photo 4th. Website	Canadian Record 1st. Page Design 2nd. Advertising 2nd. Feature Writing 2nd. Feature Photo 2nd. News Writing 2nd. Community Service 4th. General Excellence 4th. Routine Special Section	Glen Rose Reporter 1st. Sports Coverage 4th. Sports Photo	Meridian Tribune 2nd. Page Design 4th. Advertising 4th. Routine Special Section	Progress, Three Rivers 3rd. Blue Moon Special Section 4th. Page Design
Brenham Banner-Press 1st. Sports Photo 2nd. News Photo 3rd. Feature Photo	Plainview Daily Herald 1st. Sports Coverage 4th. Advertising 4th. Headline Writing	Copperas Cove Leader-Press 1st. News Writing 2nd. News Photo 3rd. Routine Special Section 4th. Advertising	Uvalde Leader-News 1st. Column Writing 4th. Page Design	Castroville News Bulletin 1st. Advertising	Hays Free Press 1st. Editorial 1st. Feature Writing 1st. Website 3rd. News Writing 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Column Writing	Mineola Monitor 3rd. Column Writing	Progress Times, Mission 2nd. Feature Photo 3rd. Advertising 3rd. Sports Photo 3rd-B. Sports Photo
Brownwood Bulletin 2nd. Column Writing 2nd. Feature Photo 3rd. Advertising 4th. Editorial 4th. Sports Coverage	San Marcos Daily Record 2nd. Feature Writing 2nd. Page Design 2nd. Blue Moon Special Section 3rd. News Photo 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Feature Photo 4th. News Writing	El Campo Leader-News 3rd. Headline Writing 4th. Feature Writing 4th. News Writing	Williamson County Sun 1st. Headline Writing 1st. News Photo 1st. News Writing 2nd. General Excellence 2nd. Page Design 2nd. Sports Photo 3rd. Feature Photo 4th. Sports Coverage	Citizens' Advocate, Coppell 2nd. Column Writing 4th. Editorial	Hico News Review 1st. Column Writing	Muleshoe Journal 2nd. Editorial 3rd. Headline Writing	Refugio County Press 1st. Feature Writing 1st. Community Service 3rd. Headline Writing 3rd. Sports Photo 4th. News Photo
Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches 1st. News Photo 1st. Page Design 1st. Sports Photo 3rd. Routine Special Section 4th. Advertising 4th. Sports Coverage	Stephenville Empire-Tribune 1st. Community Service 2nd. Advertising 3rd. Column Writing 4th. Feature Writing 4th. Sports Photo	Fayette County Record 4th. Sports Photo	Wimberly View 4th. Page Design	Clarendon Enterprise 1st. News Photo 2nd. Page Design 2nd. Advertising 2nd. Editorial 3rd. Column Writing	Hill Country Community Journal 1st. Sports Coverage 1st. Community Service 1st. Routine Special Section 4th. General Excellence	Murphy Monitor 1st. Advertising 1st. Sports Coverage 2nd. Headline Writing 3rd. Page Design	River Cities Sunday Tribune 1st. General Excellence 1st. News Writing 2nd. Feature Writing 2nd. Routine Special Section 3rd. News Photo 3rd. Page Design 3rd-A. Website 4th. Editorial 4th. Sports Coverage
Facts, Clute 1st. Blue Moon Special Section 2nd. Headline Writing 3rd. General Excellence 4th. News Photo 4th. Sports Photo 4th. Community Service	Taylor Daily Press 1st. Headline Writing 2nd. News Writing 2nd. Website 3rd. Sports Photo 4th. News Photo	Graham Leader 4th. Advertising	Wise County Messenger 1st. Advertising 1st. Feature Writing 1st. Feature Photo 1st. General Excellence 1st. Sports Coverage 1st. Community Service 2nd. Headline Writing 2nd. News Photo 2nd. Routine Special Section 2nd. Blue Moon Special Section 3rd. Page Design 4th. Column Writing	Clifton Record 1st. Page Design 2nd. Advertising	Iowa Park Leader 1st. Feature Photo 2nd. Sports Photo 3rd. Column Writing 3rd. Feature Writing 4th. Headline Writing 4th. Sports Coverage	Nueces County Record-Star 1st. Routine Special Section 3rd. Editorial 4th. Sports Photo	Rockdale Reporter 2nd. Editorial 2nd. Routine Special Section 4th. Page Design 4th. Sports Coverage
Galveston County Daily News 2nd. Column Writing 3rd. New Writing 3rd. Sports Photo 4th. Feature Photo	Victoria Advocate 1st. Feature Writing 1st. General Excellence 1st. Sports Coverage 1st. Routine Special Section 2nd. Advertising 2nd. Feature Photo 2nd. Page Design 3rd. Column Writing 3rd. Website 4th. Headline Writing	Highlander 2nd. Advertising 2nd. Page Design 3rd. Feature Writing 3rd. Website 4th. Editorial 4th. General Excellence 4th. Headline Writing	WEEKLY	Crowley Star 4th. Sports Coverage	Joshua Star 4th. Editorial 4th. Page Design 4th. Sports Photo	Olney Enterprise 4th. Column Writing	Sachse News 3rd. General Excellence 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Blue Moon Special Section
Henderson Daily News 1st. News Writing 1st. Page Design 3rd. Editorial 3rd. General Excellence	Waxahachie Daily Light 1st. Advertising 1st. Column Writing 1st. Feature Writing 2nd. Editorial 2nd. General Excellence 2nd. Headline Writing 4th. Routine Special Section	Hood County News 1st. Page Design 1st. Sports Photo 1st. Blue Moon Special Section 2nd. Feature Writing 2nd. Sports Coverage 2nd. Community Service 3rd. Advertising 3rd. Editorial 3rd. General Excellence 4th. Feature Photo 4th. News Photo	Albany News 1st. Editorial 2nd. Advertising 2nd. General Excellence 3rd. News Writing 4th. Page Design 4th. Sports Coverage	De Leon Free Press 4th. Editorial	Katy Times 2nd. Sports Coverage	Ozona Stockman 1st. Page Design 2nd. News Writing 3rd. Editorial	Sealy News 1st. Headline Writing 3rd. General Excellence
Herald-Banner, Greenville 1st. Editorial 1st. Feature Photo 1st. General Excellence 2nd. Sports Coverage 2nd. Sports Photo 3rd. Page Design		Jack County Herald 4th. Feature Writing	Alvarado Star 4th. Feature Photo 4th. Blue Moon Special Section	Deport Times-Blossom Times 4th. Feature Photo	Keene Star 3rd. Editorial 3rd. Headline Writing 4th. News Writing	Palacios Beacon 1st. Feature Writing 1st. News Photo 3rd. Feature Photo	Silsbee Bee 2nd. Feature Photo 2nd. General Excellence 2nd. News Writing 3rd. News Photo 4th. Sports Photo
Kerrville Daily Times 1st. Advertising 1st. Editorial 2nd. Community Service 3rd. Blue Moon Special Section 3rd. Headline Writing 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Page Design	SEMIWEEKLY	Kilgore News Herald 1st. Column Writing 1st. General Excellence 1st. Page Design 2nd. Feature Photo 2nd. News Writing 2nd. Sports Coverage 3rd. Headline Writing 3rd. Sports Photo	Anna-Melissa Tribune 2nd. Column Writing	Dripping Springs Century-News 1st. Feature Photo 3rd. Feature Writing 3rd. General Excellence 4th. News Photo	Lake Cities Sun 1st. Feature Writing	Park Cities People 1st. Feature Photo 1st. General Excellence 1st. Page Design 1st. Sports Photo 2nd. Feature Writing 2nd. Blue Moon Special Section 4th. Headline Writing 4th. News Writing 4th. News Photo	Smithville Times 3rd. Community Service
Laredo Morning Times 1st. Feature Photo 2nd. Sports Coverage 2nd. Sports Photo 3rd. Page Design 3rd. Feature Writing	Alice Echo-News Journal 4th. Routine Special Section	Lampasas Dispatch Record 1st. Sports Coverage 2nd. Feature Writing 3rd. News Writing 4th. Headline Writing	Aransas Pass Progress 4th. Routine Special Section	Dublin Citizen 1st. Editorial	Lake Country Sun 2nd. Editorial 2nd. News Photo 4th. News Writing 4th. Page Design	Pearland Journal 1st. General Excellence 1st. Blue Moon Special Section 2nd. Sports Coverage 4th-A. Website	Springtown Epigraph 1st. News Writing 2nd. Headline Writing 2nd. Sports Coverage
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal 1st. Column Writing 1st. Headline Writing 2nd. Editorial 2nd. General Excellence 2nd. News Photo 2nd. News Writing	Andrews County News 3rd. Feature Photo 4th. General	Lamesa Press Reporter 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Sports Photo	Azle News 1st. Headline Writing 3rd. Page Design	Eagle Lake Headlight 1st. Column Writing	Lake Travis View 1st. Feature Writing 1st. Routine Special Section 3rd. Sports Coverage 3rd. Blue Moon Special Section 4th. Feature Photo	Pflugerville Pflag 2nd. News Writing 2nd. Sports Photo 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Column Writing	Tri County Leader 3rd. General Excellence
Lufkin Daily News 2nd. Routine Special Section 3rd. Editorial	Bastrop Advertiser 1st. Website 2nd. Feature Photo 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Community Service 4th. Blue Moon Special Section	Lamb County Leader-News 2nd. Advertising	Bandera Bulletin 2nd. Sports Photo 3rd. Feature Writing	Eldorado Success 2nd. Column Writing 3rd. Page Design 4th. Sports Photo	Leonard Graphic 4th. Feature Writing	Pilot Point Post-Signal 1st. Headline Writing 1st. News Photo 1st. Sports Photo 3rd. Editorial 3rd. Page Design 3rd. Sports Coverage 4th. Feature Writing 4th. Feature Photo	Van Alstyne Leader 3rd. Feature Writing 4th. Column Writing 4th. General Excellence
Mineral Wells Index 3rd. News Writing 4th. Website	Bay City Tribune 3rd. Column Writing	Light & Champion 3rd. Advertising	Bandera County Courier 3rd. Routine Special Section	Ellis County Press 1st. General Excellence 1st-B. Website 3rd. Feature Photo 3rd. News Writing	Llano County Journal 2nd. General Excellence 2nd. Routine Special Section 3rd. Advertising 3rd. News Photo	Pleasanton Express 4th. Advertising	Waller County News Citizen 1st. Feature Photo 1st. General Excellence 2nd. Sports Photo 4th. Advertising 4th. Headline Writing 4th. News Photo 4th-B. Website
New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung 1st. Website	Beeville Bee-Picayune 2nd. Website 3rd. News Photo 3rd. Sports Photo	Monitor, Mabank 2nd. Column Writing	Bay Area Citizen 2nd. Feature Photo 3rd. Sports Photo 4th. General Excellence	Fort Worth Business Press 2nd. Headline Writing 3rd. Routine Special Section	Lindsay Letter 3rd. News Photo 4th. Advertising 4th. Headline Writing	Port Aransas South Jetty 1st. News Writing 2nd. Sports Photo 2nd. Blue Moon Special Section 2nd. News Photo 3rd. Editorial 3rd. Feature Writing 3rd. Headline Writing	Wilson County News 1st. Blue Moon Special Section 2nd. Advertising 2nd. Page Design 4th. Feature Writing 4th. General Excellence
	Boerne Star 1st. Editorial 3rd. Column Writing 3rd. News Writing	Mexia News 4th. News Writing	Big Bend Sentinel 3rd. News Writing 4th. Headline Writing	Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post 1st. Advertising 1st. Column Writing 1st. Sports Coverage 3rd. Sports Photo 4th. Feature Photo	Goldthwaite Eagle 4th. Column Writing	Princeton Herald 1st. Headline Writing 1st. Sports Photo	
	Bowie News 1st. Routine Special Section 2nd. Sports Photo 3rd. Feature Writing 3rd. News Photo	Perryton Herald 3rd. Column Writing 3rd. Editorial	Big Lake Wildcat 1st. Page Design 1st. Sports Photo	Freer Press 1st. Column Writing	Hamilton Herald-News 4th. News Photos		
	Breckenridge American 1st. Headline Writing	Polk County Enterprise 3rd. Community Service	Big Sandy & Hawkins Journal 2nd. Feature Photo 3rd. Advertising 3rd. News Writing	Friendswood Journal 1st. Headline Writing 2nd. General Excellence	International, Presidio 1st. News Writing		
		Terrell Tribune 1st. Advertising	Burnet Bulletin 3rd. Advertising 3rd. General Excellence		Hometown Press 1st. Sports Coverage 2nd. News Photo 2nd. Feature Writing 3rd. Sports Photo		
			Cameron Herald		Mart Messenger 3rd. News Photo 4th. Editorial 4th. Feature Writing 4th. Community Service		
					Medina Valley Times 4th. Advertising		



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

1) Feature Photo, First Place, Division 2, Ulysses S. Romero, Laredo Morning Times - Anna Galo, portraying Martha Washington, rehearses Thursday for the WBCA 2010 Colonial Pageant & Ball at the Laredo Civic Center on Friday. At left is real-life husband John Galo as George Washington.

2) Feature Photo, First Place, Division 7, Matt Kelton, Clay County Leader - Katie Joe Blanscet of Henrietta salutes the crowd at Tex Rickard Memorial Arena Sept. 17 after being named the 2010 Pioneer Reunion Rodeo Queen. Blanscet received several awards for earning the title, including a two-horse slant trailer from Burns Ranch and Scaling and Company.

3) News Photo, First Place, Division 4, Ben Trollinger, The Williamson County Sun, Georgetown - District 52 State Representative Diana Maldonado, a Democratic incumbent, delivers her concession speech at the Democratic watch party in Round Rock on Tuesday night. Republican challenger Larry Gonzales defeated her decisively with nearly 58 percent of the vote. Ms. Maldonado served only one term as state representative. She was the first woman and the first Hispanic to represent Williamson County in the state legislature.