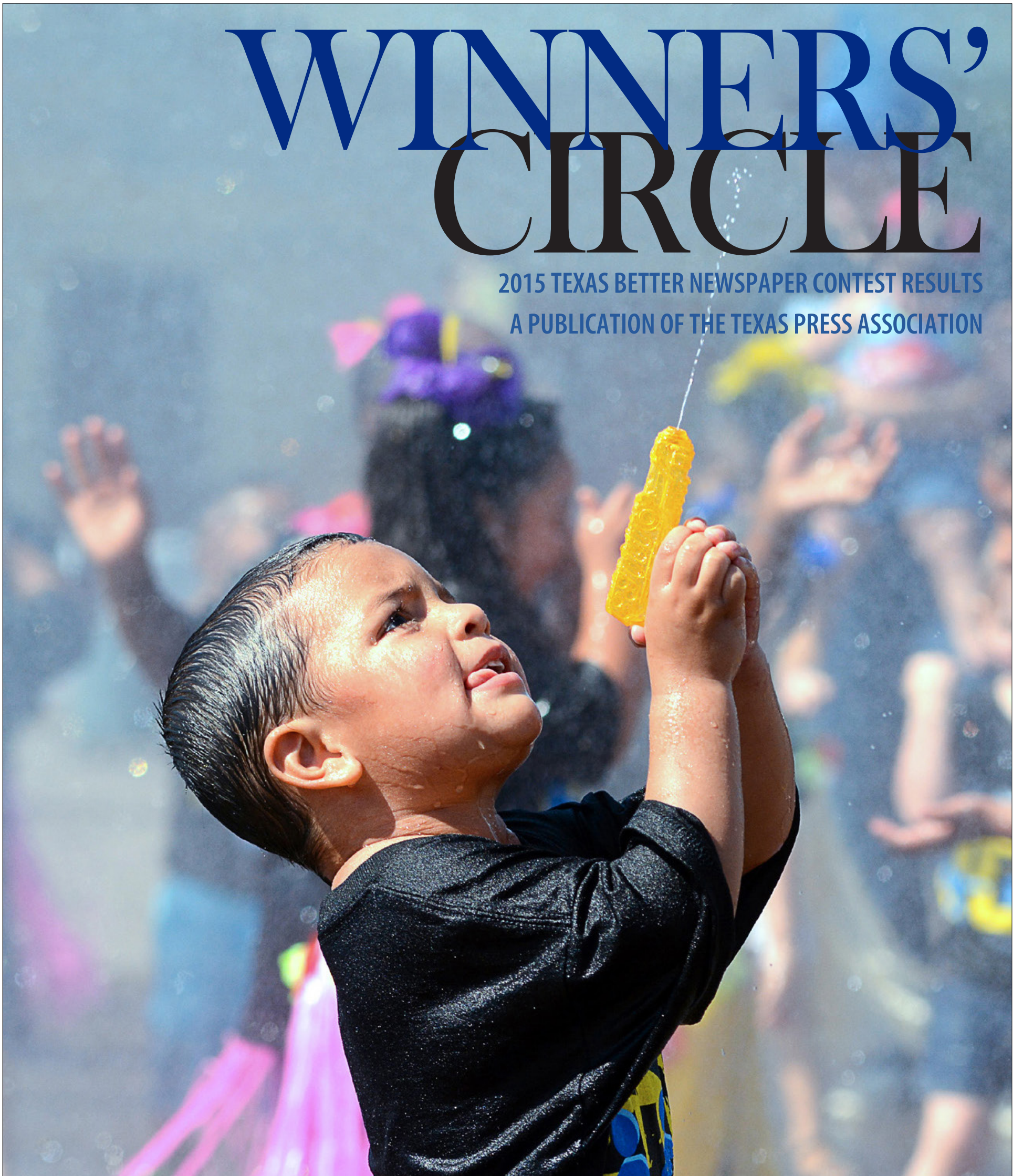


# WINNERS' CIRCLE

2015 TEXAS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RESULTS

A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION





## Winners' Circle

### TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Austin, Texas 78704  
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## About the Cover Photo

### FEATURE PHOTO, DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE

#### J.L. MANKIN | THE BIG LAKE WILDCAT

FIGHTING WATER WITH WATER — Gavin Daniels tries to give the Big Lake Volunteer Fire Department a taste of their own medicine during Big Lake Head Start's end of school water party. The kids enjoyed a beach themed party with limbo, water gun fights, scooter races and a tattoo station. The event was capped off with the kids getting sprayed down by members of the BLVFD from one of their brush trucks.

## About the Texas Better Newspaper Contest

This year 140 newspapers submitted 1,490 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 83 weeklies entered and there were 16-17 newspapers each in Divisions 6 through 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 and Best Website) - 1st Place: 100 points; 2nd Place: 75 points; 3rd Place: 50 points; and 4th Place: 25 points. The awards were announced June 20, 2015, at the Westin Austin at The Domain in Austin, Texas.

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. The 2015 contest was judged by the Maryland Delaware DC Press Association as part of the annual Better Newspaper Contest swap.



# 2015 Better Newspaper Contest Results by Newspaper

**Albany News**  
1st Editorial  
2nd Headline Writing  
2nd Page Design  
4th General Excellence

**Aledo, The Community News**  
1st Column Writing  
1st Feature Photo  
1st Feature Writing  
3rd General Excellence  
4th Headline Writing  
4th Sports Coverage  
4th Sports Photo

**Alice Echo-News Journal**  
4th Advertising

**Athens Daily Review**  
1st General Excellence  
1st Page Design  
3rd Advertising  
4th Feature Writing

**Austin Business Journal**  
2nd News Writing

**Austin, Westlake Picayune**  
1st Headline Writing  
1st Sports Coverage  
2nd General Excellence  
2nd Page Design  
3rd Editorial  
3rd Feature Photo  
4th Feature Writing

**Azle News**  
1st Editorial  
2nd Sports Photo  
3rd Column Writing  
3rd News Photo  
3rd Sports Coverage

**Bandera Bulletin**  
1st News Photo  
3rd Editorial  
3rd Feature Photo

**Baytown Sun**  
1st Feature Writing  
3rd Sports Coverage

**Beeville Bee-Picayune**  
1st Column Writing  
2nd General Excellence

**Belton Journal**  
2nd Sports Coverage

**Big Bend Sentinel**  
2nd Editorial  
2nd General Excellence  
2nd News Photo  
3rd Best Website  
4th Advertising  
4th Column Writing

**Big Lake Wildcat**  
1st Feature Photo  
1st News Photo  
2nd Best Website  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd News Writing  
2nd Sports Photo  
3rd Editorial  
3rd Page Design  
4th Advertising

**Boerne Star**  
1st Advertising  
4th Headline Writing

**Bowie News**  
1st Editorial  
1st Feature Writing  
1st Sports Coverage  
2nd Advertising  
2nd Best Website  
4th News Photo

**Brookshire, The Times Tribune**  
4th General Excellence

**Brownwood Bulletin**  
2nd Sports Coverage  
3rd Best Website  
3rd Sports Photo  
4th General Excellence

**Bullard Banner News**  
1st News Writing  
1st Sports Coverage  
2nd Page Design  
3rd Column Writing  
3rd Feature Writing

**Cameron Herald**  
2nd General Excellence

**Canadian Record**  
1st News Writing  
2nd Advertising  
2nd Editorial  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd News Photo  
2nd Routine Special Section  
3rd General Excellence  
4th Best Website  
4th Column Writing

**Carthage, Panola Watchman**  
4th Blue Moon Special Section

**Castroville News Bulletin**  
4th Routine Special Section

**Cedar Park, Hill Country News Weekender**  
1st Column Writing  
3rd News Writing  
4th Feature Photo

**Clarendon Enterprise**  
2nd Editorial  
2nd Sports Coverage  
3rd Feature Photo  
3rd Headline Writing  
3rd News Photo  
4th Column Writing  
4th Page Design

**Cleveland Advocate**  
2nd Feature Writing  
3rd News Writing

**Clifton Record**  
2nd Headline Writing  
2nd Sports Photo  
3rd Blue Moon Special Section  
3rd Page Design  
4th News Photo  
4th News Writing

**Clute, The Facts**  
1st Sports Coverage  
2nd Advertising  
2nd Headline Writing  
3rd Column Writing

**Conroe, The Courier**  
1st Feature Photo  
3rd News Photo  
4th Sports Photo

**Cooper Review**  
3rd News Photo  
4th Advertising

**Cuero Record**  
1st Sports Photo  
2nd Advertising  
3rd Feature Writing  
3rd Sports Coverage

**Decatur, Wise County Messenger**  
1st Best Website  
1st Blue Moon Special Section  
1st Sports Photo  
2nd Column Writing  
2nd Feature Photo  
2nd General Excellence  
2nd Sports Coverage  
3rd Headline Writing  
4th Feature Writing  
4th News Photo  
4th News Writing

**Denton Record-Chronicle**  
3rd Headline Writing  
4th Blue Moon Special Section

**Dublin Citizen**  
4th Advertising  
4th Sports Coverage

**Eastland County Today**  
1st Community Service

**El Campo Leader-News**  
1st Advertising  
1st Sports Photo  
2nd Routine Special Section  
3rd Community Service  
3rd Sports Coverage  
4th Feature Photo

**Eldorado Success**  
1st Advertising  
1st Best Website  
1st Editorial  
2nd News Photo  
3rd General Excellence

**Elgin Courier**  
1st Blue Moon Special Section  
3rd Editorial

3rd Headline Writing  
4th Feature Photo

**Fairfield, Freestone County Times**  
1st News Writing  
4th Editorial

**Farmersville Times**  
1st Feature Writing  
1st General Excellence  
1st Page Design

**Ferris, The Ellis County Press**  
1st Advertising  
3rd Sports Photo  
4th Editorial

**Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post**  
1st Column Writing  
1st Page Design  
1st Routine Special Section  
2nd Editorial  
2nd General Excellence  
3rd Sports Photo

**Galveston County Daily News**  
1st Blue Moon Special Section  
1st General Excellence  
1st Page Design  
1st Routine Special Section  
1st Sports Photo  
2nd Best Website  
2nd Feature Photo  
3rd Community Service  
3rd News Photo  
4th Feature Writing  
4th Headline Writing

**Georgetown, Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun**  
1st Editorial  
1st Feature Photo  
1st General Excellence  
1st News Photo  
2nd Advertising  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd Page Design  
3rd News Writing  
3rd Routine Special Section  
3rd Sports Photo

**Gladewater Mirror**  
2nd Column Writing  
2nd Community Service  
4th Blue Moon Special Section  
4th Editorial

**Glen Rose Reporter**  
1st Routine Special Section  
1st Sports Coverage  
1st Sports Photo  
3rd Feature Writing  
3rd News Photo  
4th Headline Writing  
4th News Writing

**Goldthwaite Eagle**  
1st Advertising  
4th Feature Photo

**Goliad Advance-Guard**  
2nd Sports Photo  
4th News Photo

**Gonzales Inquirer**  
3rd Editorial  
3rd Feature Photo

**Graham Leader**  
1st General Excellence  
3rd Page Design

**Granbury, Hood County News**  
1st Column Writing  
2nd Headline Writing  
2nd News Writing  
3rd Advertising  
3rd Editorial  
3rd Feature Photo  
3rd Feature Writing  
3rd General Excellence  
3rd News Photo  
3rd Sports Coverage  
4th Page Design  
4th Sports Photo

**Grapeland, The Messenger**  
2nd Page Design  
3rd Advertising  
3rd Column Writing

**Greenville, Herald-Banner**  
2nd General Excellence  
3rd Headline Writing  
4th Page Design

**Hamilton Herald-News**  
4th Page Design

**Hico News Review**  
3rd News Writing

**Houston Business Journal**  
1st Blue Moon Special Section  
1st General Excellence  
2nd Best Website  
3rd Page Design  
3rd Routine Special Section  
4th News Writing

**Houston, Jewish Herald-Voice**  
1st News Writing  
2nd Feature Photo  
3rd Feature Writing  
4th Editorial  
4th General Excellence  
4th News Photo

**Huntsville Item**  
1st Sports Photo  
3rd Feature Writing  
3rd Page Design  
4th Column Writing  
4th Headline Writing

**Ingram, West Kerr Current**  
1st Advertising  
2nd News Writing  
4th Headline Writing

**Iowa Park Leader**  
1st Column Writing  
1st Feature Photo  
1st News Photo  
3rd Advertising  
3rd Page Design  
4th Sports Photo

**Jacksboro Gazette-News/Jack County Herald**  
2nd Community Service

**Katy Times**  
3rd Editorial  
3rd Headline Writing  
4th Community Service

**Kerrville Daily Times**  
2nd Sports Photo  
4th Editorial  
4th News Writing

**Kerrville, Hill Country Community Journal**  
1st Sports Coverage  
1st Sports Photo  
2nd Blue Moon Special Section  
2nd News Photo  
3rd General Excellence

**Kilgore News Herald**  
1st Headline Writing  
1st News Writing  
2nd Feature Photo  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd Sports Photo  
3rd News Photo  
4th Editorial

**Kingsville Record & Bishop News**  
3rd Headline Writing  
4th Feature Writing

**Kyle, Hays Free Press**  
1st Editorial  
1st Headline Writing  
1st Page Design  
2nd Column Writing  
2nd Feature Photo  
2nd Sports Coverage  
4th Feature Writing

**Lake Travis View**  
1st Feature Writing  
1st General Excellence  
1st Page Design  
2nd Headline Writing  
2nd Sports Coverage  
4th News Writing

**La Grange, The Fayette County Record**  
1st Feature Writing  
1st Headline Writing  
1st News Writing  
1st Page Design  
1st Routine Special Section  
1st Sports Coverage  
3rd Best Website  
3rd Blue Moon Special Section  
3rd Column Writing  
4th Advertising  
4th Editorial

4th Feature Photo  
4th General Excellence

**Lamesa Press Reporter**  
1st News Photo

**Lampasas Dispatch Record**  
2nd Column Writing  
4th General Excellence  
4th News Writing

**Liberty Hill Independent**  
2nd Editorial  
3rd Feature Writing  
3rd News Writing  
3rd Routine Special Section  
4th Sports Coverage

**Liberty, The Vindicator**  
3rd Sports Photo

**Lindsay Letter**  
4th Sports Photo

**Longview News-Journal**  
2nd Column Writing  
3rd Feature Writing  
3rd Page Design  
4th Sports Coverage

**Lubbock Avalanche-Journal**  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd News Writing  
3rd Editorial  
3rd Routine Special Section  
4th Best Website

**Lufkin Daily News**  
4th Advertising

**Lytle, Leader News**  
3rd Advertising  
4th General Excellence  
4th Page Design

**Lytle, Medina Valley Times**  
1st General Excellence

**Madisonville Meteor**  
2nd Column Writing  
3rd Sports Coverage

**Marlin Democrat**  
3rd General Excellence

**Marshall News Messenger**  
1st Advertising  
2nd Page Design  
3rd Editorial  
3rd General Excellence  
4th News Photo

**Meridian Tribune**  
1st Headline Writing  
2nd Blue Moon Special Section  
2nd Feature Photo  
2nd News Writing  
2nd Sports Coverage  
3rd Column Writing  
3rd Routine Special Section

**Mexia News**  
2nd Editorial

**Mineral Wells Index**  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd News Photo

**Mission, The Progress Times**  
3rd Headline Writing

**Mount Pleasant, Daily Tribune**  
1st Column Writing  
3rd Feature Photo  
4th Editorial

**Mount Vernon Optic-Herald**  
2nd News Writing  
4th Blue Moon Special Section

**Muleshoe Journal**  
4th Editorial

**Murphy Monitor**  
1st General Excellence  
1st Page Design  
2nd Feature Photo  
3rd Sports Photo  
4th Feature Writing

**Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel**  
1st Editorial  
2nd Blue Moon Special Section  
2nd News Photo  
2nd Page Design  
3rd Advertising  
3rd Sports Photo

4th Column Writing

**New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung**  
1st Advertising  
4th Routine Special Section

**Odessa American**  
2nd Sports Coverage  
4th Community Service

**Olney Enterprise**  
2nd Column Writing  
3rd Advertising  
3rd Blue Moon Special Section  
4th News Writing  
4th Routine Special Section  
4th Sports Coverage

**Orange Leader**  
3rd Feature Writing

**Ozona Stockman**  
1st Editorial  
1st Feature Photo  
1st News Photo  
1st Routine Special Section  
3rd Advertising  
3rd Page Design  
4th Column Writing

**Paris News**  
4th Feature Photo

**Pleasanton Express**  
3rd Advertising  
3rd Feature Photo  
4th Feature Writing  
4th Sports Coverage

**Port Aransas South Jetty**  
1st Advertising  
1st Feature Photo  
1st News Photo  
3rd Community Service  
4th Column Writing  
4th Headline Writing  
4th Page Design

**Port Lavaca Wave**  
2nd Blue Moon Special Section

3rd News Writing  
4th Headline Writing  
4th Routine Special Section

**Presidio International**  
1st Feature Writing  
2nd General Excellence  
3rd Best Website  
4th Headline Writing

**Princeton Herald**  
2nd Feature Photo  
3rd Sports Coverage

**Quannah Tribune-Chief**  
1st Column Writing

**Red Oak Record**  
1st Sports Photo  
2nd Advertising  
2nd Headline Writing  
3rd Sports Coverage

**Round Rock Leader**  
1st Feature Photo  
4th Sports Coverage  
4th Sports Photo

**Sachse News**  
4th Page Design

**San Marcos Daily Record**  
4th News Writing

**Sealy News**  
1st Sports Coverage  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd Page Design  
3rd Column Writing  
3rd News Photo  
4th Best Website

**Seguin Gazette**  
1st Editorial  
1st Headline Writing  
1st News Photo  
2nd Feature Photo  
2nd News Writing  
2nd Sports Photo  
4th Sports Coverage

**Silsbee Bee**  
1st Feature Writing  
2nd Advertising  
2nd Column Writing  
2nd Headline Writing  
4th Sports Photo

**Springtown Epigraph**  
1st News Writing  
2nd Advertising  
2nd Feature Writing  
2nd News Photo  
2nd Sports Photo  
3rd Column Writing  
4th Feature Photo

**Stephenville Empire Tribune**  
3rd Sports Coverage

**Tahoka, Lynn County News**  
2nd Headline Writing  
4th General Excellence

**Taylor Daily Press**  
1st Sports Coverage  
2nd Headline Writing  
3rd Column Writing

**Terrell Tribune**  
1st Page Design  
2nd News Photo  
3rd General Excellence  
3rd Sports Photo  
4th Best Website  
4th Column Writing  
4th Community Service

**Three Rivers, The Progress**  
3rd News Writing

**Tyler Morning Telegraph**  
1st Column Writing  
1st Community Service  
1st Headline Writing  
1st News Writing  
2nd Routine Special Section  
3rd Feature Photo  
3rd General Excellence

**Uvalde Leader-News**  
1st Community Service  
2nd Editorial  
2nd News Photo  
2nd Sports Photo  
3rd Page Design  
4th Column Writing  
4th Sports Coverage

**Van Horn Advocate**  
1st Headline Writing  
4th News Photo

**Vernon Daily Record**  
1st Feature Writing  
1st News Writing  
2nd Advertising

**Victoria Advocate**  
1st Best Website  
1st Feature Photo  
1st News Photo  
2nd Community Service  
2nd Editorial  
2nd General Excellence  
3rd Blue Moon Special Section  
3rd News Writing  
4th Page Design  
4th Sports Photo

**Waxahachie Daily Light**  
2nd Column Writing  
2nd Editorial  
3rd News Writing  
4th Advertising  
4th Feature Photo

**Wharton Journal-Spectator**  
2nd Headline Writing  
2nd News Writing  
2nd Sports Coverage  
4th Page Design

**Whitehouse, Tri County Leader**  
1st Sports Photo  
2nd Routine Special Section  
4th News Photo

**Woodville, Tyler County Booster**  
1st Best Website  
2nd Routine Special Section

**Wylie News**  
1st Headline Writing  
2nd Page Design  
4th Advertising  
4th Feature Photo  
4th Routine Special Section

**Yorktown News-View**  
3rd Feature Photo



# Advertising

## DIVISION 2, 1ST PLACE



**A-TAN**  
ASIAN BISTRO  
& SUSHI BAR

*Made fresh to Order!*  
Full Bar • Daily Happy Hour Specials  
Affordable Prices

Come to our Premier Sushi Bar & watch head sushi Chef Mike Yeh prepare custom sushi rolls at your request. We infuse classic Japanese foods with other Asian cuisines to offer a unique experience you can only enjoy here at A-Tan

...  
**FEATURING FRESH SUSHI  
AND MUCH MORE!**  
...

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
LUNCH 11:00-3:00  
DINNER 4:00-9:30

**FRIDAY**  
LUNCH 11:00-3:00  
DINNER 4:00-10:30

**SATURDAY**  
12:00AM-10:30PM

**SUNDAY**  
12:00AM-9:30PM

1528 EAST COMMON ST.  
830.620.1888  
WWW.ATANSUSHIBAR.COM

## DIVISION 3, 1ST PLACE

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# Digital

DISCOVERY DAY

June 18, 2014 • Noon - 1:00 PM  
Visual Arts Center @ Marshall Chamber of Commerce

*Topics of Discussion*

- What do I need to know about Google, Facebook, and YouTube?
- Why is mobile so important?
- How do people find my business online?

*Included At No Cost to You!*


- Each attendee will receive a FREE digital review of their web presence.
- A complimentary lunch


**RSVP now!**

- Reserve your seat by calling 903-927-5975 or emailing [jbryant@marshallnewsessenger.com](mailto:jbryant@marshallnewsessenger.com)

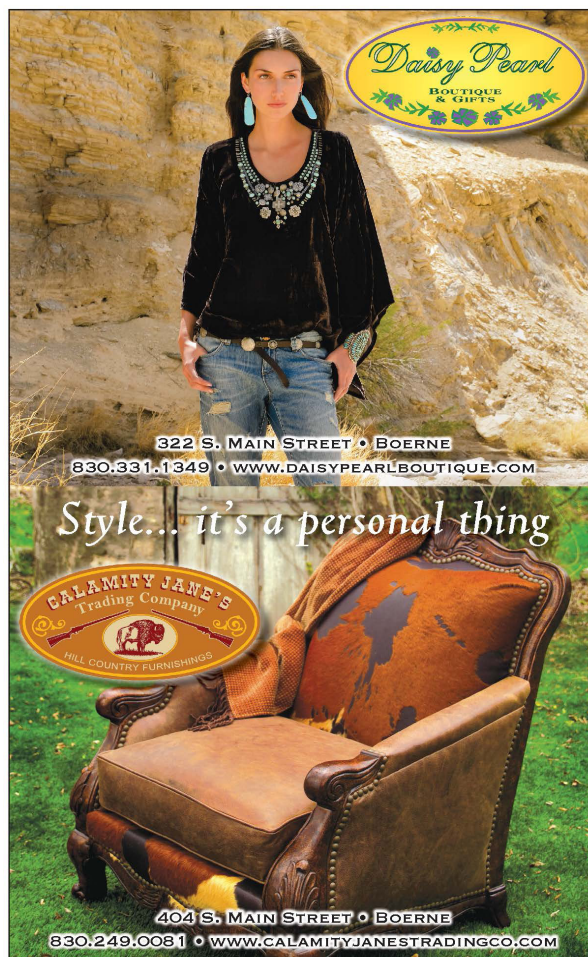
*Why Attend?*

The Digital Discovery Day presented by Advocate Digital Media is a must-attend event for anyone in the Marshall area who is trying to steer their business/brands through this constantly changing media scene. Digital media is an integral part of consumers' lives and their habits include viewing content and connecting with people wherever, however and whenever they want. With this rapid growth, many have questions and this seminar will provide you with valuable answers.





## DIVISION 4, 1ST PLACE



**Daisy Pearl**  
BOUTIQUE  
& GIFTS

322 S. MAIN STREET • BOERNE  
830.331.1349 • WWW.DAISYPEARBOUTIQUE.COM

*Style... it's a personal thing*

**CALAMITY JANE'S**  
Trading Company  
HILL COUNTRY FURNISHINGS

404 S. MAIN STREET • BOERNE  
830.249.0081 • WWW.CALAMITYJANESTRADINGCO.COM

### Division 2

1. New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung - *Herald-Zeitung Ads*: Very clean ads. Nice use of mirroring graphics and bright colors in the Landmark advertisement. A-Tan photos give the reader a quick look at the restaurant without leaving home. Nice job.
2. The Facts, Clute - *Passion Play/Dr. Stewart/Breakfast in Bed*: Passion Play ... Eye catching layout with complimentary colors. Adding map is a nice touch for out-of-towners. Dentistry ad is a nice departure from most clinical-looking medical advertisements.
3. Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - *Appleby Sand Mercantile Cafe Double Truck/Rex Perry Full Page/Annual English Tea*: Nice use of color and photos of food in Appleby Sand Mercantile Cafe, but too much verbiage. Love the large photo dominating Rex Autoplex. Brings reader to the ad.
4. Lufkin Daily News - *Like an uncut diamond*: Southland ad is clean, catchy phrase. Lufkin Jewelry ... nice large photo showcasing jewelry and again, clean and to the point.

### Division 3

1. Marshall News Messenger: The Digital Discovery Day ad is very colorful and eye popping, draws you in to read and possibly want to attend the event.
2. Vernon Daily Record - *Make Vernon Great*: Love the idea of businesses praising each other and putting coupons out. Gives customers something to look forward to and want to read.
3. Athens Daily Review: Bridal ad is eye catching and has great photography.
4. Waxahachie Daily Light - *Waxahachie Autoplex/Carlisle/Mac Haik*

### Division 4

1. Boerne Star - *Calamity Jane's/Daisy Pearl, The Green Bull, Daisy Pearl/Calamity Jane's*
2. Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun - *Zounds/Walnut Springs/The Jeweler*
3. Hood County News - *Safari Under the Stars/Please Help Me/Merry Christmas*
4. The Fayette County Record

## DIVISION 5, 1ST PLACE



coming soon to  
**Greek Bros.**  
OYSTER BAR & GRILL  
Est. 1985

# PARMALEE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015  
TICKETS SALES BEGIN ON  
THURSDAY NOV. 6, 2014

WWW.GREEKBROS.COM • WWW.PARMALEE.COM

 **133 S. Mechanic, El Campo**  
**(979) 543-1757** 

BOOK RESERVATIONS ONLINE BEGINNING NOV. 6.  
Also, check out our website to view our menu and see additional upcoming entertainment!

### Division 5

1. El Campo Leader-News - *Greek Bros' Parmalee/WCEC's Line-men/Vonderau's F-150*
2. The Bowie News
3. The Messenger, Grapeland - *Walmart/HEB ad/Bella, Christmas in July sale/Walmart, back to school ad*
4. Alice Echo-News Journal - *Veteran's Day/Cross Cowboy Church/Jim Wells County fair*

### Division 6

1. Port Aransas South Jetty - *E-Z-GO, Stingrays Game Plan & Stingrays Line Up*
2. Silsbee Bee
3. Pleasanton Express - *Clowning Around - South Texas Regional Medical Center/Paisley's Rodeo Ad/Paisley's Snowflake Sale*
4. The Wylie News - *Cloud nine/Lafons/Taste of Wylie*

### Division 7

1. Goldthwaite Eagle: These three submissions are definitely the most unique of all the ads submitted -- but that's a good thing. If they grabbed my attention, they likely grabbed the attention of readers. The blood/knife theme is certainly a different approach, but it's a sure attention-getter. The fingerprint ad is very clean and gets the point across without unnecessary wordiness. The beach-themed house ad is both clever and cleanly designed.
2. Cuero Record - *Keep Cuero Beautiful/Weber Motor Company/Cuero Nursing and Rehabilitation Center*: All the ads have a very clean design. The recycling ad is informative and well-designed. The car ad takes an interesting approach -- focusing on a local athlete rather than the product itself. That's certainly a way to get the reader's attention and earn some community goodwill for the business. The blood drive ad is small but effective, and the black background makes it stand out.
3. Leader News, Lytle - *Lytle State Bank/Lytle Freedom Festival/Carrie Moy campaign*: Nice job throughout the entry. I especially like the Freedom Festival ad, which is sharply designed and makes good use of the stock photo.



# Advertising

## DIVISION 6, 1ST PLACE



**STINGRAYS**  
TAP HOUSE AND GRILL  
**SPRING BREAK**  
**LINE UP**

3/4 Swingrayz  
3/7 Bushbullit  
3/8 Melissa Brooke Band  
3/9 John Boyd  
(lead vocals Passing Strangers)  
3/12 Bryan Matlock  
3/14 Kara and the Dam Band  
3/15 Kara and the Dam Band  
3/17 Swingrayz  
(St. Patrick's Day Party)  
3/21 Bryan Matlock  
3/22 John Eric  
3/29 John Eric

**KARA & THE DAM BAND**  
**MARCH 14th & 15th**

**PORT A'S FINEST SPORTS BAR**  
WITH AWESOME FOOD!  
IN-HOUSE SMOKED RIBS

BRICK OVEN PIZZAS  
24 TAPS OF BEER  
OVER 20 DIFFERENT BOTTLED BEERS

COME SEE 2 REAL CORVETTE STINGRAYS ABOVE THE BAR

**NO COVER... ALL AGES WELCOME**

OPEN 11AM-11PM 7 DAYS A WEEK 401 Beach St. **361-749-BATS**  
**STINGRAYSTAPHOUSE.COM** PORT ARANSAS, TX (Across from the track field) (2287)

## DIVISION 7, 1ST PLACE

Don't you wish your daughter's swimsuit covered her...

Like  
**Goldthwaite Eagle**  
Covers Mills County?  
Subscribe TODAY  
325-648-2244  
GoldthwaiteEagle.com

## DIVISION 8, 1ST PLACE



*Waxahachie Spring Showcase*  
Arts, Crafts & Unique Gifts

**March 14-15**  
Waxahachie Civic Center

Friday, March 14  
5 - 8 p.m.  
Saturday, March 15  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Vendors Book Your Booth Now!!**

10 x 10 booths **\$200**

**817-659-9249**  
info@ggaproductions.org - www.ggaproductions.org

## DIVISION 9, 1ST PLACE



**LOW BRANCH!**

"I wish someone would hire **Texas Tree Service** to trim these trees."

At Texas Tree Service we specialize in cutting down dead trees, clearing overgrown fields, and removing flammable vegetation around your home.

**Texas TREE SERVICE**  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
830-896-7080

\* Tree Trimming  
\* Removal & Sculpting  
\* Cedar Removal  
\* Land Clearing  
\* Stump Grinding  
\* Bucket Truck & Crane

Prompt FREE Estimates - Senior Citizen Discount  
Licensed & Insured - We carry G.L. & workers' comp. for your protection.

## DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE



**EXPERIENCE THE BAT TORNADO**  
at the  
**Devil's Sinkhole**  
**State Natural Area**

Tours begin at the  
**Rocksprings Visitors Center**

New e-mail: devilssinkhole@swrtexas.net  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

**830-683-2287**

4. **The Big Bend Sentinel** - Shanna Elmore/Marfa Elementary 3rd graders/Reading of the Fallen Heroes: The campaign ad takes a less-is-more approach, and the clean design makes it effective. The third-graders ad is a nice, community-centered ad. The Reading of the Fallen Heroes ad is very readable and clean.

## Division 8

Lots of eye-catching advertisements. Nice job.

1. **The Ellis County Press**: Clean use of graphics and color in political advertising. Waxahachie Spring Show ... really nice large ad, wording is to the point. Pleasing

2. **The Canadian Record**: Nice concept using texts for City Drug. Creative layout and graphics in the second drug store ad.

3. **Iowa Park Leader** - ken's pizza/read to feed/andy's: Eye catching graphics brings reader right to Ken's Pizza advertisement. Read to Feed, an excellent community-minded house ad with nice graphics.

4. **The Dublin Citizen** - Bradberry Builders Supply/Bayer Ford/Erath County Officials Christmas Ad: Bold photos and layouts. Crisp color and graphics in Bradberry Builder advertisement. Christmas greeting ad uses a nice mix of cutout graphics and photos.

## Division 9

1. **West Kerr Current** - O Young M.D./Dairy Queen/Texas Tree Service
2. **Springtown Epigraph** - First Baptist Church/Wild West Festival/Springtown Flowers
3. **Ozona Stockman** - Graduation Ad/Congrats Vivian/Christmas Cards
4. **Cooper Review** - Everything Unique/The Flower Patch/Enloe State Bank

## Division 10

1. **Eldorado Success** - Thank You for the Rain/Experience the Bat Tornado/Holiday Greeting
2. **Red Oak Record**
3. **The Olney Enterprise**
4. **Big Lake Wildcat** - Cornerstone Garden/First Baptist Church Trunk or Treat/Santa Rita Festival



# Column Writing

## DIVISION 9, 1ST PLACE

### Prose & Cons

By CAROL ANN WHITMIRE, EDITOR

#### Locusts, snakes, frogs...what's next?

If someone called the office to report a sighting of Moses wandering around in the wilderness of Hardeman County, it would no longer come as a surprise to me.

I mean, think about it. We have an abundance of grasshoppers, which some say are akin to the locusts that plagued the Egyptians and Israelites, as told in Exodus.

And, goodness me, I've heard some chilling tales about all the snakes crawling about in the tall weeds and in vacant houses and yards in Quanah.

Then, just when you think flies, lice, boils, hail, and waters turned to blood may come next, we get herds of baby frogs!

I describe them as "herds" because when we water the garden at my house, the baby frogs gather in small herds trying to outrun the water hose. (You'd think they would like it, but they seem not to.)

Earlier this summer, the frogs showed up both at my house and at the newspaper office.

I thought they had disappeared at the office, but Thursday morning when we had the unseasonably cool and wet weather, at least a half dozen froggies were waiting on the sidewalk when I opened up.

But, a short time later, LaCresha Jackson came running into my office to report that a young boy had come along, gleefully scooped up all our frogs, and taken off with them! A frog-napping!

Suddenly, I felt very sad. I certainly didn't want to adopt the frogs and give them names, but I felt a loss nonetheless. Searching behind the flowerpots and newspaper rack, I discovered one lone froggie that had been missed.

Golly, I bet he misses all his buddies, I thought.

But it wasn't long before the frog-napper, Dylan Holder, came back with bucket in hand to finish the job. I wanted to be mad at him, but I couldn't. Not when I experienced the enthusiasm he had for his frog collecting. He was bubbling over with details of catching the frogs in the basement window wells at the courthouse. I had not known the frog invasion was quite so widespread. (Later, LaCresha's dad, Larry, told me he had to be careful when pulling into the driveway at the Quanah Housing Authority so he wouldn't run over any frogs. So they've pretty much been all over town.)

Asked what he was going to do with all those frogs, Dylan said he had a friend who loves frogs and likes to raise them. I have to admit I wondered if this friend also loved to go fishing with his frog pals, but I didn't ask.

Anyway, Dylan had all sizes of frogs, from little ones that barely covered a fingertip, all the way up to "Big Daddy." Well, he was "Big Daddy" until Dylan turned him over, looked closely, and then changed the frog's name to "Big Momma."

After I got Dylan to pose for a few pictures with his frogs, he dashed off to find more. He returned late in the afternoon to show us a couple of new finds: a salamander and what Dylan called a "tip-nosed" frog. Of course, I first heard that as "techno" frog, so Dylan really had to straighten me out. He started to bring the bucket into the newspaper office, but we hurriedly went out on the sidewalk instead. I could just picture a turned over bucket of frogs and salamanders in the office.

Not that we didn't have an episode or two with runaway frogs. With people coming in and out all day to get that week's edition of the paper, a baby frog once got loose at the front counter. I searched around for something to scoop him up to put him back outdoors, but couldn't find anything suitable. So, I backed my ears and scooped him up in my hands and started towards the door.

Ha! That frog leaped out and down to the ground before I made one step. So, I chased and scooped him up again and this time I cupped my hands both under and over him. He danced a fair jig before I got him out the door and planted back on the sidewalk. My hands could still feel him the rest of the day, no matter how many times I washed them.

Unfortunately, with all the ins-and-outs through the front door, we eventually discovered a squished frog in the doorframe. But I don't think it was the frog I had put back outside.

We've probably had some unfortunate incidents with frogs at home, too. It's hard to mow the yard or operate a string trimmer without some close calls.

With the warmer (hotter!) weather and with puddles of water drying up, the frogs seem to have taken to cover and disappeared. (Those that Dylan didn't get!) Maybe they've dug down into the moist earth and gone into hibernation until the next big rain.

Or until some Moses/Dylan comes along to stir them up again!

#### Division 2

1. Tyler Morning Telegraph - *Weighing In*
2. Longview News-Journal - *Phil Latham columns*
3. The Facts, Clute - *BISD bond battle/Playing word games*
4. Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - *Kim Foli*

#### Division 3

It was a pleasure to read all the columns and to peek into the personal lives, moments and writing of all of the writers. I'm reminded again and again of the universality of human emotions and nature.

1. Daily Tribune, Mount Pleasant - *Gary Borders*: A controlled, personal piece that avoids the usual traps of sentimentality.
2. Waxahachie Daily Light - *"Son, it will be OK"/Thanksgiving traditions: Part II*: It's not easy losing a father. It's not easy writing about losing a father. But life -- and writing -- are tough, noble things. Well done.
3. Taylor Daily Press - *Thompson's Thoughts: Don't wait until it's too late*: A thoughtful and sincere approach to a painful event.
4. Huntsville Item - *Rita Haldeman*: A reminder that it is also the small moments that shape and comfort us in the face of large, serious events. Plus, she got a Harley!

#### Division 4

When writing a column writing style is important, and I think everyone had a strong writing style here. Kathy Cruz and Tex were both really strong writers with clear voices. Content also mattered, and I was impressed with the way some people used their column space to put a local spin on bigger issues.

1. Hood County News - *A mother's message/Sepia tones*: The first column showed how to tackle a difficult subject in a way that makes the issue personal to the reader through details. The second column was a simple story, beautifully written.
2. Wise County Messenger: The first column was a fun read. The second really nicely brought a global issue home by using the "boogiemán" metaphor.
3. The Fayette County Record - *Merry Christmas From Grandpa Tex/Tex Talks Writing, Anger and his Recent Accident*: While the content seemed a bit unfocused, this writer has an amazing style that made me feel like I was sitting down next to him and talking.
4. Uvalde Leader-News - *Lousy kids/Diaper bag disaster*: These were two cute stories about everyday disasters, and they were well written.

#### Division 5

Such a tough category to judge! Excellent entries!

1. Beeville Bee-Picayune - *We could all use a coach/He opened his mouth*: Great, great, great!
2. Lampasas Dispatch Record - *Time for tissues and Ziplock bags/Looks can be so deceiving*: Laughed out loud. Fun reads, great headlines.
3. The Messenger, Grapeland - *A Glimmer of Hope/Does Baseball Matter*: Good headlines; liked the style and topic. Great wrap up: "does baseball matter? The answer to that is yes - now more than ever."
4. Terrell Tribune: Well written opinions on current topics.

#### Division 6

The varied group of entries in this category, be they on national issues or local topics, provided perspectives with wit, emotion and conversational flow.

1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post: The emotional yet intelligent commentary on life in small town Texas allows any reader to come along for the journey and empathize with great stories and strong points.
2. Silsbee Bee
3. Azle News - *Here's why we didn't go home the other day/Running it up the flagpole and saluting*

(?) it

4. Port Aransas South Jetty - *For the pain of it/Get to the root of the problem*

#### Division 7

Each of these entries proves that small-town journalism need not equal small-town writing.

1. The Community News - *Erasing History/Life is Good*: Readers want to identify in some way with what they read, a truth not lost on this columnist. While his self certainly shines through his writing, it's impossible to not momentarily see an issue through his eyes. A joy to read!
2. Hays Free Press - *Play now, Pay later/Aw, baby, it's cold up there*: Clint's humor is infectious.
3. The Sealy News - *Celebrating a life well lived/Touching the past to share with the future*: These columns had purpose and emotion, not a bad combination!
4. The Big Bend Sentinel - *Six and a half minutes of fame/I love cats and dogs, but Millie was a real bitch*: The writing here draws the reader in with emotive descriptions and touching humor. Very entertaining.

#### Division 8

It was an honor and a pleasure to participate in judging this category. The entries were good, but choosing between first and second place was difficult. The quality of those entries and writers is excellent.

1. Iowa Park Leader - *Food For Thought/I Just Called*: Thank you for eloquently addressing closed-minded way we approach the issue of supplemental food assistance. The statistics you shared in "I just called" kept me giggling through the entire column, and shaking my head in agreement. I look forward to reading you again.
2. Madisonville Meteor - *Difficult times caused by lack of faith/In mourning of a lost friend*: "Difficult Times" was a compelling and interesting look at an overlooked issues in American society. It provided food for thought. The obituary for your father-on-law was moving. I am sorry that your family lost such a wonderful man. I bet you have a loyal following.
3. Meridian Tribune - *Thankless Coaching/Old West*
4. The Canadian Record - *On the Cusp*

#### Division 9

1. Quanah Tribune-Chief: Well written, interesting and hilarious. Having accompanying photos was a nice touch and certainly brought the reader into the column. Well done. Koch column was informative, well researched and interesting. Easy to tell writer is a natural story teller.
2. Gladewater Mirror - *The Almond Joy Theory/Time to CSI this political mystery*: Turtlelink was a hilarious take on a much too common problem. I'm sure many readers have been in the writer's shoes. Nice job of explaining the papers Letter To The Editor Policy by outing a bogus letter. Hope they found the culprit.
3. Springtown Epigraph - *Please: Take time to look twice for motorcycles/About the big comma debate*: Motorcycles: Nice heartfelt column. Brings comma debate out front. Well written with pros and cons. Nice explanation of the origin of the Oxford Comma. Both columns had a natural flow.
4. Ozona Stockman - *A roller coaster journey/Ice bucket challenge*: Writer brings attention to national ALS Challenge, while at the same time opening the reader's eyes to the statistics of ALS. Interesting read.

#### Division 10

1. Hill Country News Weekender - *The news is often frustrating, depressing/An Abundance of Caution*
2. The Olney Enterprise - *Mindi's Message*
3. Bullard Banner News - *Time catches up with us all/Remembering our nation's heroes*
4. Clarendon Enterprise - *School Days Ahead.../Farewell to Kitty...*



# Editorials

## DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE

### In the Interest of Justice

BY RANDY MANKIN

I was more than a little frustrated last week upon learning that charges filed in County Court against Dr. Lloyd Barlow had been dropped. The fact that they were dismissed more than two months earlier was even more frustrating, especially since I had regularly inquired about the status of the case and was always told that it was pending.

Dr. Lloyd Barlow is a physician who was practicing medicine and delivering babies at the YFZ Ranch during the time that FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs and several of his male followers were sexually abusing underage girls.

DNA evidence collected from Jeffs and eight of his male followers was used to directly connect them with children born to several of the YFZ girls.

Dr. Barlow can offer none of the excuses that the courts have heard from other FLDS defendants — the tired and thread worn arguments about his strict fundamentalist upbringing and a lack of formal education. No, the doctor was highly educated and had been groomed since childhood to go out into the world and get a top-notch education so that he could return and practice medicine among his people.

As part of his education, Dr. Barlow was required to study medical ethics and medical jurisprudence as he learned about a physician's moral and legal responsibilities.

Because of this, the doctor knew full well that he was required to report any indecency with or sexual abuse of the girls in his care. His diploma from the University of Utah School of Medicine required it. His medical licence from the State of Utah required it. His Texas medical license re-

quired it. The rules of common sense and common decency required it.

Still, the doctor chose to look the other way and do nothing.

One of the girls Dr. Barlow cared for was the child bride of Leroy Jessop. It was DNA collected from her baby that served as the linchpin in the case that sent him to prison for 75 years.

Her case was one of the three in which Schleicher County grand jurors chose to indict Dr. Barlow in 2008.

Let us not forget that those early grand juries and trial juries were under heavy security because of threats, real or perceived, against anyone who challenged the authority of Warren Jeffs.

I have some understanding of this. You see, Kathy and I received death threats when we first started reporting the FLDS/YFZ Ranch story in 2004.

So, to casually dismiss the judgement of those grand jurors who believed that Dr. Barlow should stand trial, is an absolute insult to them.

I realize that the allegations brought against Dr. Barlow were not felony charges. They were Class B misdemeanors. But each of them carried the potential for six months in jail.

Dr. Barlow was released from the Schleicher County Jail on July 29, 2008, almost immediately after being booked in. His \$15,000 bond was posted by Jenkins Action Bail Bond of San Angelo.

The bond was amended in November of that year by then-County Judge Johnny Griffin. The change allowed Dr. Barlow to travel out of state on the promise that he would return and stand trial. It was the last time that anyone at the courthouse ever saw him.

I have many questions about all of this. Chief among them is why County Attorney Clint Griffin and County Judge Charlie Bradley didn't simply order the bail bondsman to

produce his client or forfeit the bond?

And, why was it exactly that a warrant was never issued for Dr. Barlow?

I heard Clint Griffin's explanation that he didn't know where to find Dr. Barlow. But, if a warrant is issued, it stays in the system until a subject is apprehended, or until he slips up and gets stopped for speeding, or jaywalking.

As for the difficulty in finding the doctor, it took my wife Kathy about ten minutes on the Internet last week to determine that Dr. Lloyd Barlow currently holds an Arizona medical license.

I also heard Judge Bradley explain that he didn't realize that the charges he dropped were for failure to report abuse. What is the bigger concern here, that the judge didn't know what he was doing, or that he knew and didn't care?

After all, the document that he signed stated that the action to dismiss the charges was taken "In the interest of Justice."

Every person employed at our school from superintendent to bus driver is bound by law to report suspected child abuse. So are those who work at the hospital, clinic and nursing home, including the doctors. The same holds true for every person in any position of authority.

Why then was Dr. Barlow given a pass?

I know there are those hereabout who want the whole FLDS/YFZ Ranch story to go away. So do I.

But, you should understand that there are also some among us who never wanted the story told in the first place.

And, they certainly didn't want to see any of it end up in the courthouse.

I have just one more question. If and when the time comes that you must seek justice for your child or grandchild, to whom will you turn?

#### Division 2

The entries are impressive. It is good to know that the First Amendment is alive and well in Texas. My congratulations for all the entrants. Good work.

1. **Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel** - *Gout Participation and Low Scores*
2. **Victoria Advocate**
3. **Lubbock Avalanche-Journal**

4. **Kerrville Daily Times**: These go to the heart of the relationship between the citizens and the governments that are supposed to be their servants. Clear, logical and forcefully written. A good public service.

#### Division 3

My decisions came down to picking pieces that did more than look at the surface of a difficult topic. The stories delved into the topics, backing up opinion with facts from good sources.

1. **Seguin Gazette** - *Embarrassment can't be a shield/Steelworker's death touches us all*: First entry: I think you did a good job drawing me in with a quick, interesting lede. I love that you use the AG opinion to back up what you are saying. Second entry: The detailed picture you painted takes your metaphor of steel being Americas spine to a new, better level. What a well written tribute to a death I'm sure was difficult for your community.
2. **Waxahachie Daily Light** - *Moratorium needed on sludge/TRA decision step in right direction*: The first entry was very factual, and clearly laid out what was being done, why, and the case of people being impacted by dumping sludge onto fields. It clearly denotes a problem and suggests a solution, the moratorium. The second entry nicely sums up the action taken, but my favorite part is that it not completely solved, and that action is needed on the state level, and then it suggests an action there.
3. **Marshall News Messenger**: I thought the piece about the bond issue was pretty informative, I would have just put the part about the importance of coming days a bit higher up, then explained what has happened so far. I really liked the editorial on

election issues. I think you did a good job of clearly laying out the infractions and explaining why they are unacceptable. Great job!

4. **Daily Tribune, Mount Pleasant** - *Gary Borders*: I just really thought this piece was really fun and an interesting look at issues that can be impacted by the Internet and TV, such as excessive anger. I thought it was clever.

#### Division 4

The first- and second-place entries, in particular, do a good job of informing readers on complex topics and commanding strong arguments based on the facts.

1. **Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun** - *A just punishment/Back to core mission*: The writers stake out clear positions on hot-button issues and make their points well.
2. **Uvalde Leader-News** - *Enough street jawing/Costly death penalty*: These editorials are persuasive and cover issues that everyone no doubt was talking about.
3. **Hood County News** - *He's just a kid, Deja vu*: These editorials feature a clear, strong voice on local topics.
4. **The Fayette County Record** - *"Fair Another Success" and "Government Regulations"*: Writer provides her own spin on topics.

#### Division 5

1. **The Bowie News** - *Editorials by Barbara Green*
2. **The Mexia News** - *Time for some bonding/Wrong then, wrong now*
3. **Gonzales Inquirer** - *Race issues won't go away with smokescreen*
4. **Kilgore News Herald**

#### Division 6

The best of this category gave compelling arguments to local issues, even taking national perspectives and bringing them to the community level, thereby crafting a compelling argument.

1. **Azle News** - *Doing the right thing for everyone/*

*Earthquakes: Facts versus fervor*: The strong emotional writing style, along with strong structure and constructive argument style, made these submissions model editorials.

3. **Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post**
2. **Katy Times** - *Vote for KISD bond/Kolkhorst most qualified candidate on ballot...*
4. **Jewish Herald-Voice** - *Global anti-Semitism poses personal threat/IS is radical Iran in the making*

#### Division 7

1. **Hays Free Press** - *An inch can mean a lot/Let's get tough on those too tough on crime*
2. **The Big Bend Sentinel** - *Marfas parking, traffic issues/Somber times for Fort Davis students and their families*
3. **Bandera Bulletin** - *What dreams shall come/What would Jesus do?*
4. **Freestone County Times**

#### Division 8

1. **Albany News** - *Walmart construction and community involvement*: The editorials were on a subject of local significance and they were well-reasoned.
2. **The Canadian Record**: Calling to task governmental bodies is an important part of an editorial. These two submissions do a good job of making points on two seemingly hot issues.
3. **Elgin Courier** - *The curious case of (not against) Rick Perry/Making enemies of our fellow countrymen*: Generally, I like editorials to be local but these were well written and deserve to be recognized.
4. **The Ellis County Press** - *Brain & body/Abstaining*: Well written and to the point.

#### Division 9

1. **Ozona Stockman** - *Vote for School Bond/Change is needed*: Both editorials submitted did a good job of presenting facts and figures to support a call for action.
2. **The Liberty Hill Independent** - *A message to*

*the class of 2014/Liberty Hill, your future is calling*

3. **Westlake Picayune** - *Best to wait for November for bond/West Lake Hills tackles tree problem*
4. **Gladewater Mirror** - *Courtesy trumps politics .../Vote YES for our childrens' future*

#### Division 10

Strong local voices that advocate for their readers' interests. All of the editorials left me with an understanding of what issues are important to each newspaper's readers. These communities all have excellent advocates and watchdogs keeping those in power honest.

1. **Eldorado Success** - *In the Interest of Justice/Immigration Done Correctly*: The passion comes clear off the page in tone and conciseness of both editorials. One is a piece-by-piece takedown of the criminal justice system, the other uses an effective personal story to make a larger point about immigration. You may not agree with the opinions, but you have no doubt where he stands and why.
2. **Clarendon Enterprise** - *---effect of crosses, signs/Boards should keep processes open*: I'm a sucker for anyone championing open meetings and public information, and this is a classic example that clearly highlights the absurdity. The other editorial is a smart look at the intersection of freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the bottom line.
3. **Big Lake Wildcat** - *No comparison between YFZ Ranch seizure and Bundy/BLM standoff/Adult supervision in short supply... on the border and in the White House*: "No comparison" gives the significant contrasts between the two cases in very clear language. The immigration editorial criticizes President Obama without being petty or juvenile while also offering another way. Both nicely written.
4. **Muleshoe Journal** - *Are Changes Ahead For MAHD?/The Party No One Knew About*: These struck me not so much as editorials but good analysis and the bigger picture of recent news in Muleshoe. Both pieces help the reader understand What It Means and What Is Next.



# General Excellence

## DIVISION 2, 1ST PLACE



**THE DAILY NEWS**  
Galveston County  
Sunday, January 19, 2014  
Total: 10,000  
Published: 10,000  
\$2.00

### Fear of fever

Health care groups worry about an end of the antibiotic age

By MICHAEL A. SMITH

Pharmaceutical companies are worried about the end of the antibiotic age. The reason is simple: Antibiotics are the most important class of drugs in the world. They are the only class of drugs that can kill bacteria. Without antibiotics, many common infections would be fatal. But the use of antibiotics has led to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which are becoming more and more common. This is a major public health threat. Health care groups are worried about the end of the antibiotic age. They are calling for action to prevent the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.



IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM  
1 in 5 patients responsible for 20 percent of cases

Today's weather  
65° Sunny  
50° Clear

Index  
Bullish: 100  
Bearish: 100  
Neutral: 100

Coming Monday  
The Daily News will be published on Monday, January 20, 2014.

Local Forecast  
Friday, 10/17: 65°-75°  
Saturday, 10/18: 65°-75°  
Sunday, 10/19: 65°-75°

Weather Stats  
The Daily News has been published for over 100 years.

News in Brief  
Young County gets a new name.

Local Forecast  
Friday, 10/17: 65°-75°  
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News in Brief  
Young County gets a new name.

## DIVISION 3, 1ST PLACE



**Commissioners study roads**  
Athens, Georgia  
January 19, 2014  
\$2.00

### Commissioners study roads

County has paid more than \$90K for defense

By JEFFREY WAY

The county has paid more than \$90,000 for defense attorneys to represent it in a lawsuit filed by a former employee. The lawsuit alleges that the county's former employee was sexually harassed by a county official. The county's defense attorneys are arguing that the county is not responsible for the actions of its former employee. The county's defense attorneys are also arguing that the county is not responsible for the actions of its former employee.



IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM  
1 in 5 patients responsible for 20 percent of cases

Today's weather  
65° Sunny  
50° Clear

Index  
Bullish: 100  
Bearish: 100  
Neutral: 100

Coming Monday  
The Athens Daily Review will be published on Monday, January 20, 2014.

Local Forecast  
Friday, 10/17: 65°-75°  
Saturday, 10/18: 65°-75°  
Sunday, 10/19: 65°-75°

Weather Stats  
The Athens Daily Review has been published for over 100 years.

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Young County gets a new name.

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## DIVISION 4, 1ST PLACE



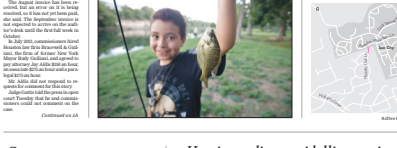
**THE SUN**  
Galveston, Texas  
September 28, 2014  
\$2.00

### Thrift delays roadwork

County has paid more than \$90K for defense

By JEFFREY WAY

The county has paid more than \$90,000 for defense attorneys to represent it in a lawsuit filed by a former employee. The lawsuit alleges that the county's former employee was sexually harassed by a county official. The county's defense attorneys are arguing that the county is not responsible for the actions of its former employee. The county's defense attorneys are also arguing that the county is not responsible for the actions of its former employee.



IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM  
1 in 5 patients responsible for 20 percent of cases

Today's weather  
65° Sunny  
50° Clear

Index  
Bullish: 100  
Bearish: 100  
Neutral: 100

Coming Monday  
The Sun will be published on Monday, September 29, 2014.

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Friday, 10/17: 65°-75°  
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## DIVISION 5, 1ST PLACE

### THE GRAHAM LEADER

Vol. 135, No. 21 (Single Copy) \$2.00  
Published: 10,000  
\$2.00

#### Petition for vote to dissolve hospital district fails

By BOB ROSE

The Graham Leader has received a petition from a group of residents who want to dissolve the hospital district. The petition was signed by 100 residents. The hospital district is a small area in the city of Graham. The residents who signed the petition are arguing that the hospital district is not needed. They are also arguing that the hospital district is a waste of money.

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## DIVISION 6, 1ST PLACE

### HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 6, 2014 • VOL. 45, NO. 25 • \$5.00

#### WHAT MAKES A CEO

Tall. Oldest child. Addictive personality. Optimistic. Possibly psychopathic. We can talk diversity, but most CEOs have much in common. Here's what makes them tick.

44% Chance of first-born children becoming a CEO

33% Chance of a middle child becoming a CEO

5% How much more valuable a company is if its CEO runs a startup

23% Chance the baby of the family will become a CEO

2



# General Excellence

DIVISION 8, 1ST PLACE

DIVISION 9, 1ST PLACE

DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE

OLYMPIAN FINDS SUCCESS AT PINCOTON TOURNAMENT – SPORTS, 1B

The Farmersville Times

• Farmersville, Texas, Thursday, August 21, 2014      Serving Farmersville and East Collin County Since 1885      • 2 Sections, 10 Pages, 75¢

CONTACT US:  
713-243-4377  
www.farmersvilletimes.com

**Local program ends in Farmersville ISD**

The 2014 school year will be the last for the Farmersville Independent School District. The district will be merged with the Farmersville ISD, which will be the last year for the district. The district will be merged with the Farmersville ISD, which will be the last year for the district.

**Meet the teacher to be**

For the 2014-2015 school year, the Farmersville Independent School District will be looking for a teacher to be the 2014-2015 teacher of the year. The district will be looking for a teacher to be the 2014-2015 teacher of the year.

**Rebuilding center closed for Labor Day holiday**

The Farmersville Rebuilding Center will be closed for the Labor Day holiday. The center will be closed for the Labor Day holiday.

**Baybrook Tech rolls into new building, Aug. 23**

The Baybrook Technology Center will be moving into its new building on August 23. The center will be moving into its new building on August 23.

**Emergency services respond to wrecks**

Emergency services responded to a multi-vehicle accident on Highway 125 near Highway 125. The accident occurred on Highway 125 near Highway 125.

Cavaliers attempt to take down Westlake. 01

LAKE TRAVIS VIEW

Thursday, September 25, 2014      Vol. 29, No. 39      lakeviewnews.com      Association of the Austin Newspaper Editors

**BEE CAVE**

**Lakeway**

**City proposes tax increase**

By Judy Taylor

LAKEWAY CITY COUNCIL has approved a 1.5 percent increase in the city's property tax rate, which will take effect on January 1, 2015. The increase is necessary to fund the city's operations and to pay for the city's debt.

**Adopted vs. effective tax rates**

The city's adopted tax rate is 1.5 percent, which is higher than the effective rate of 1.4 percent. The effective rate is the rate that the city actually pays, which is lower than the adopted rate.

**FLOODING**

Heavy rain has caused flooding in the Lake Travis area. The flooding is caused by heavy rain that has fallen over the area.

**LTHS readies for big project**

The Lake Travis Health System is preparing for a major project. The project is a major project that will involve the construction of a new building.

**Deputy's body found**

The body of a deputy was found in a wooded area. The deputy was found in a wooded area.

**Rescuers depend on mutual aid**

Rescuers depend on mutual aid to provide assistance. Mutual aid is a system of mutual aid that provides assistance to those in need.

**KEEP CALM AND COME ALONG**

Open House

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 10:30am - 12:00pm

Visit www.abernorthinternational.org or call (512) 343-8160 for more details

PESH GRADUATION SECTION WILL PUBLISH JUNE 5TH

Murphy Monitor

The official newspaper of the city of Murphy

Volume: 10 Issue: 19      Wylie, Texas      Thursday, May 29, 2014      • CAS Media Publications      • 3 Sections, 16 Pages, 75 cents

**Run-off election for Councilmember Place 5 set for June 21**

Early voting begins June 9

Southwestern

Early voting for the run-off election for Councilmember Place 5 will begin on June 9. The run-off election will be held on June 21.

**Wylie man arrested**

Road rage preceded fatal accident

From Staff Reports

A Wylie man was arrested after a fatal accident. The accident occurred on Highway 125 near Highway 125.

**PESH Graduation scheduled for June 11**

Westbourne Band and participants

The PESH Graduation will be held on June 11. The graduation will be held on June 11.

**Division 2**

1. **Galveston County Daily News** Just what I'd want a local paper to be -- bright, informative, handsome, good use of photos, lots of locally produced content about important and local things. Even the local obits seemed laid out with care and attention.

2. **Victoria Advocate:** Terrific handling of breaking news and interesting, edgy, eye-catching display page design that employed photos and graphics to full effect. Strong story selection.

3. **Tyler Morning Telegraph**

4. **None Selected**

**Division 3**

These are nice, solid, local, salt-of-the-earth papers, but the Athens Daily Review and Herald-Banner are definitely a cut above the rest. Story quality and selection, with attendant graphics, really tipped it for Athens. But the newswiness, story quality and a very fine, updated A3, full of need-to-know information, made the Herald-Banner stand out.

1. **Athens Daily Review**

2. **Herald-Banner, Greenville**

3. **Marshall News Messenger**

4. **Brownwood Bulletin**

**Division 4**

Each of the papers in this category is strongly focused on local and appears committed to sharing the names and faces of its community members with readers. Some papers were stronger in terms of writing and layout, but all the entrants appear to serve their communities well.

1. **Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun:** The Sun is loaded with clearly written local news that offers several entry points throughout. Lots of local faces too. Strong layouts in Sports and Life add to the overall package.

2. **Wise County Messenger:** The Messenger staff knows when/how to blow the doors off when it has a big story. Multi-story approach explores all angles. Great A1 layouts, strong use of maps get and

hold your attention. I also loved the extensive focus on local sports. One caveat: I was uncertain about the approach to the justice of the peace story given that she caused the accident that killed others after driving erratically for a time. I saw that the autopsy said she had no alcohol in her system.

3. **Hood County News:** Strong presentation throughout elevates the whole package. Good centerpiece grabs the attention of readers.

4. **The Fayette County Record:** Well-written local stories pull the reader into A1, really give a sense of the community.

**Division 5**

The Graham Leader was far and away superior to every other entry. The layout and design is sophisticated and readable, and ledos are solid and the story concepts interesting and engaging. Kudos!

1. **The Graham Leader**

2. **Beeville Bee-Picayune**

3. **Terrell Tribune**

4. **Lampasas Dispatch Record**

**Division 6**

All the papers are doing a good job at keeping their communities informed. Papers like these remind us that small papers have a purpose: To be the scrapbook of its area. Good job overall.

1. **Houston Business Journal:** Nice updated look over all, gives readers easy access to news stories. Feels contemporary with its magazine style.

2. **Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post:** If you only have use for color on certain pages, make a statement. The front cover was such a wow factor that it elevated the paper as a whole.

3. **Hill Country Community Journal**

4. **Jewish Herald-Voice**

**Division 7**

A very strong competition. Each of the entries was a joy to judge.

1. **Medina Valley Times:** Eye-catching design and

breadth of community coverage showcase the best of small-town journalism.

2. **The Big Bend Sentinel:** Great headlines. Breadth of community coverage. Weakness of design is the only thing that kept this entrant from winning.

3. **The Community News:** Eye-popping photography draws the reader in.

4. **Leader News, Lytle:** Breadth of coverage, as well as variety of sections, provide a lot of options for the reader.

**Division 8**

1. **Farmersville Times:** With a good, clean layout and solid reporting on local stories and issues, the Farmersville Times is deserving of the General Excellence honor.

2. **The Cameron Herald:** The Cameron Herald appears to be a great all-around community newspaper, keeping its readers well informed about local issues.

3. **The Canadian Record:** The Canadian Record included great feature stories.

4. **Albany News**

**Division 9**

There were many very good entries in this category. But the Lake Travis paper stood heads and shoulders above the rest.

1. **Lake Travis View:** Well edited. Great use of color. Layout makes the paper more readable. Diversity of coverage is encouraging. Overall, simply heads and shoulders above the rest.

2. **Westlake Picayune:** Well laid out. Good coverage.

3. **The Marlin Democrat**

4. **Lynn County News**

**Division 10**

I was impressed with the range of newspapers and with the fiercely local attachment they have to their communities. The best newspapers clearly

don't shy away from a fight. Sports is often a strong point, and there are some good local photographers on Texas papers. If there is one area for improvement that applies to everyone, it's to try to break free from the acres of gray on long stories, particularly on inside pages. I found myself longing for something as simple as subheads. I didn't try to call these entries up on a mobile device, but newspapers need to realize that that's where we're headed.

1. **Murphy Monitor:** The monitor is attractive and well-designed, and its stories are informed, well-written and helpfully presented. A story on a new phase of development was accompanied by a map showing each of the planned lots. The feature pages are engaging and well designed, and in both news and sports the paper has an eye for giving good space to good photographs. One area for improvement: Right now some of reporting is softer than it needs to be; an accident story buried the lead - road rage - although the headline writer correctly fastened on it.

2. **The Presidio International:** The International is gray and it won't win many design awards. But its well-written and well presented and shows excellent news judgment. It has its fingers on the pulse of its community, both Anglo and Latino.

3. **Eldorado Success:** The Success reads authoritatively and even-handedly. Its sports pages are above average. The one are that's crying out for improvement is design, which is functional -- but so gray!

4. **The Times Tribune, Brookshire:** The Times Tribune has attitude -- you can tell that just by looking at the front page. Its political coverage shows it isn't afraid of a scrap. It could be better if it had more home-grown news and relied less on syndicated features and handouts.



# Feature Writing

## Mexico's Mennonites

### An oasis grows in Chihuahua



(staff photos by ALBERTO TOMAS HALPERN)

*El Oasis colony president, Peter Rempel, stands in a chili pepper field, one of many vast fields where produce is grown and shipped across the globe.*

DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE

## Mexico's Mennonites

By SASHA von OLDERSHAUSEN

In September, The International and The Big Bend Sentinel took a look at Mexico's thriving Mennonite community, spanning the state of Chihuahua. This story represents one of a four part series. Stay tuned in coming weeks for more on this industrious community.

Some 50 miles southwest of the border town of Ojinaga, Mexico, a Mennonite agricultural community

– invisible to most – is thriving in the middle of the desert.

To get there, you drive from the outskirts of the city into the Chihuahuan desert along a two-lane highway simply known to those who drive it as the “new road.” The landscape is stark and arid.

A railroad track that traces its course from Chihuahua to Ojinaga runs parallel to the road. Then, a sign: “Oasis,” it reads. Here you turn left, and suddenly the landscape changes.

Verdant and impeccably tidy crops paint the landscape green like swathes of Astro-Turf laid down in the sand. Irrigation systems, poised like cranes, span across the rows of crops. This is Oasis.

The Mennonite agricultural community of Oasis – a compound comprised of 16 “colonias” that represent some 4,000 people living on 231,852 acres of land – is an agricultural hub, only two decades old.

Most of what the Mennonites grow at Oasis is cotton, which accounts for 72,221 acres of their total land usage, but other crops include beans, peppers, peanuts, watermelon, wheat and corn. One of Oasis' eight cotton gins is the second biggest gin in the world. Their products are exported as far as Japan and China, but most of them end up in Mexico and the United States.

In fact, the cooperative represents a substantial economic enterprise for both sides of

CONTINUED PAGE 11

#### Division 2

This category contained many fine group entries and a couple of entries where one story was much stronger than the other. Among the top six entries, making a choice was difficult because all were evenly matched. The judge tips his hat to all these writers for a job well done!

**1. Baytown Sun - Faith helps Cove family cope with tragedy/Waiting for justice:** Excellent writing. Both stories drew me in and kept me interested from start to finish.

**2. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** Excellent writing and reporting on two very different subjects.

**3. Longview News-Journal - Shade Tree Fellowship/Memorial Day mother:** Well reported, written and presented.

**4. Galveston County Daily News - International match/Ashes to ashes:** Two very interesting and informative stories.

#### Division 3

In another life I was a features writer, so this category is close to my bones. Thank you for the opportunity to read such riveting and skillful entries. So much of the human condition cannot be fenced in by news articles alone. Hail to feature writing, now and forever.

**1. Vernon Daily Record:** A moving piece that maintains its momentum and emotional power throughout. Congratulations.

**2. Mineral Wells Index - Jacob's Fight/Memories Burned Deep:** An ambitious, sympathetic but not sentimental telling of a young's medical ordeal.

**3. Huntsville Item - Stephen Green:** An arresting lay-out draws readers into a familiar storyline but skillfully localized.

**4. Athens Daily Review:** A simple gesture is showcased by simple, solid storytelling - a reminder that all life is not pain and loss.

#### Division 4

The first and second place entries were both excellent and should make these newsrooms proud — these were very vivid and memorable stories.

**1. The Fayette County Record - LITTLE LEAGUERS, BIG DREAMS/GRAVE TASK AT LAKE FAYETTE:** The story concepts and writing were just a hair better than my second place choice this was a really close call. The grave digger story had an unbelievably great lede, really impressive writing. And the Little League story is fun and memorable.

**2. Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun - Into the Light/Kindness Matters':** Both of these stories were vivid and well-written. The Kindness story was heartbreaking and made me cry. My only complaint and knocking it from top spot was that it didn't include any one defending the bullies - it was just the mom's story. But a very compelling one, and well-written.

**3. Hood County News - Feud/Back in the game:** Fun and vivid concepts for these stories.

**4. Wise County Messenger:** Sharp writing.

#### Division 5

**1. The Bowie News - Built from Scratch/Making his own music:** Well-told stories about interesting people the reporters went out to find. Good journalism.

**2. Kilgore News Herald**

**3. The Orange Leader - A bunch of busy bees/Train Tickets**

**4. Kingsville Record & Bishop News - Faces Never Forgotten/From Bishop to Bishop, Flat Stanley makes his way to small Texas town"**

#### Division 6

**1. Silsbee Bee:** Meagan Moore did an excellent job of telling Michelle Page's story on her lung transplant and Daniel Elizondo helped the reader understand the pain the Jeffcoat's felt after losing their house and how they fought to rebuild their lives.

**2. Cleveland Advocate - Cleveland area Marine reunites with combat dog:** Vanesa Brashier did an outstanding job with her two feature stories. Yes she was fortunate with two lovable topic such as a Marine reuniting with his combat dog and two siblings uniting after 50 years, but Brashier was able to pull out the emotion of these two stories.

**3. Jewish Herald-Voice - TWIN POWERS: Bel-laire siblings share a special bond on diamond/From Rolling Rabbi to half-marathon finisher:** These are two great stories submitted by Matt Samuels. He did a great job of telling the up and downs of the Oretsky twins as ball players and focused on the strengths and struggles of Rabbi Annie Belford as a half marathon runner

**4. Pleasanton Express - This Rumor is good news/ Missing Uncle Tom:** An inspiring story of the Kemps and their Diabetes Alert Dog and a nice story of the life of Uncle Tom Santillian.

#### Division 7

Lots of interesting entries.

**1. The Community News - Getting to Gallows Road/He's a Fighter:** Interesting, well developed, easy to read, complete

**2. The Sealy News - Burttschell Ranch a place for second chances/Skydiving company soars over Sealy:** Interesting, easy read

**3. Cuero Record - A return to fame/Catching up with an Olympian:** Interesting, held my attention, nice people features

**4. Hays Free Press - Project SEARCH gives one family new hope/Living dignified while memories fade**

#### Division 8

Very weak category overall...all stories needed more development, less verbiage and more creative ledes.

**1. Farmersville Times - BrotHERhood of service/No more mail for Mel:** good writing

**2. The Canadian Record:** nice pkg

**3. Glen Rose Reporter - Love at first bite**

**4. None Selected**

#### Division 9

The entries were as diverse as they were colorful, all providing strong insights into unique community members and their lives. The recognized entries took these assets a step further, utilizing beautifully crafted writing and strong presenta-

tions to weave their narratives.

**1. Lake Travis View - Confident combat/Joyful Horse:** Each story provided a great chronology of compelling stories, rich with quotes and detail. Particularly high praise is given to the lede of the martial arts story, which gave spirited account that brought the reader into a gripping tale.

**2. Springtown Epigraph - Where there's a Will (Spiekerman) there's a way/Not every hero wears a cape**

**3. The Liberty Hill Independent - Mother holds onto faith, positive memories after losing son in Le-ander crash/A devoted husband and father, Canady helped shape the future for Liberty Hill**

**4. Westlake Picayune - Hike in Spain a grief journey/Honoring a beloved coach, teacher and mentor**

#### Division 10

The awarded publications displayed pieces that captured their subjects' essences. They did what good features do best: used solid detail, strong structure and crisp writing to weave a great narrative about their communities.

**1. The Presidio International - Casa Hogar co-founder Teda Neill celebrates 102nd birthday in Ojinaga/Mexico's Mennonites series:** An in-depth, detailed look at a community and the issues facing it on a micro and macro level. Solid reporting and explanation of things many readers may not have been aware of.

**2. Big Lake Wildcat - Back-to-Back-to-Back State Champ/Big Lakes Little Free Library**

**3. Bullard Banner News - BHS Art in hallways/Boy Scouts**

**4. Murphy Monitor - Local girl beats odds against incurable disease/Author turns grief into triumph**



# Feature Writing

## El Oasis



Students learn German, English, and Spanish, in addition to their other subjects at a schoolhouse in the Mennonite community of El Oasis.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

the border, and one that is often overlooked by the United States.

At the colonia "El Oasis," the original colony founded in 1994, The Big Bend Sentinel/The International toured with the colony's current president, Peter Rempel, a tall, smiling man with gold teeth.

Stepping out of the car onto the concrete parking area of the colony's offices – owing, perhaps, to the sheer enormity of the facilities – you are immediately struck by the sense that this is no simple farming operation, but rather a state-of-the-art agribusiness.

Inside the headquarters, an information center with a kiosk displayed colorful pamphlets about the facilities. Upstairs, there was a space to hold conferences, and the back offices contained several cubicles for those personnel tasked with internal affairs, including a desk for the colony's accountant. All employees wore matching uniforms of salmon-colored, short-sleeved, button down shirts.

Outside, a pair of steel silos cast shadows on a long line of semi trucks. Rempel directed us into the storage facilities, where massive concrete stalls – designated by number – contained different varieties of pesticides.

Virtually all of Oasis' seed, fertilizer and pesticides, said Rempel, come from agrochemical behemoth Monsanto, headquartered in the United States. And 80 percent of the equipment necessary for production – tractors, irrigation systems, and their parts – invariably makes the trip from West Texas across the border into Mexico.

Still, despite the fact that there is so much interactional trade across the Presidio-Ojinaga border, few if any retail studies have analyzed the purchasing power of Mexican citizens in this border city. In fact, the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD), which in July published its own "Retail Trade Area Gap/Opportunity Analysis" that took into account this cross-border activity, was one of the first of its kind to do so.

Though the United States may be in the dark about this border activity, the potential capital of the Mennonite community is no surprise to Mexico. The town of Cuauhtémoc – with a total population of 154,639 as of 2010, close to a third of which are Mennonites – ranks third in economic importance in the state of Chihuahua. A nearly 25-mile

stretch called "Corredor Comercial Mennonita," or the "Mennonite Commercial Corridor" in that town is home to hundreds of commercial businesses, the vast majority of which are Mennonite-owned.

And at Oasis, the government subsidizes the purchase of irrigation systems by Mennonites.

The cost of an irrigation system for each pivot – the unit of measurement for parcels of land, which measure approximately 200 acres each – is approximately \$80,000, half of which the Mexican government will front in the form of a grant so long as the purchaser installs a water meter on their land. They do so because above all, the Mennonites of Mexico are known for their industriousness.

"The secret to the Mennonites' success," Giesbrecht said, "is their work ethic and pioneer spirit."

Large grain storage facilities, like the ones pictured above, pocket the agriculture community of El Oasis.

Presidio businessman Jake Giesbrecht, center, discusses business management with the administrators of the agrobusiness companies in El Oasis.

The history of the Mennonites traces back to a group of people in the German and Dutch-speaking parts of Central Europe, who were involved in the Protestant Reformation, and led by the teachings of Menno Simons, an Anabaptist religious leader of the sixteenth century. Escaping persecution, groups of Mennonites fled and established colonies in Russia, and later in Germany. Since that time, the Mennonite community has been known for its migrate-and-settle patterns.

As of 2012, there were 1.7 million Mennonites worldwide, with approximately 100,000 residing in Mexico. Many of Mexico's Mennonites emigrated from Canada in the 1920s, and are dual citizens of Mexico and Canada.

Since its inception in 1994 – originally an 8,648-acre parcel of land purchased by three pioneer Mennonites – Oasis has grown to over 25 times its original size. Now, its infrastructure includes schools, where future generations of Mennonites are taught Spanish, German and English, in addition to their other subjects.

But the success of this agricultural project also comes at a cost—namely, water, which Mexico has not much to spare. In recent years, the water scarcity issue has become so severe that in 2010, the Mexican government issued an ad campaign in Mexico City entitled, "The City May Run Out of Water." At present, agriculture accounts for 77 percent of water use in the country, according to the "Centro Virtual de Información del Agua," or the The Virtual Center for Water Information.

Like much of Mexico, Oasis depends on underground aquifers for water. Each 200-acre pivot uses between 800 and 1,000 gallons of water per minute, 24-hours a day, six months out of the year.

Farmers drill their own wells, and while they are required by federal law to keep water meters, Rempel said that the government does little to regulate it. Now, the water is depleting, and fast.

"The reason why they're not regulating this area is because it's an isolated aquifer," Giesbrecht said. It's not affecting any other aquifers, so the government is saying 'You're just mining the water.'"

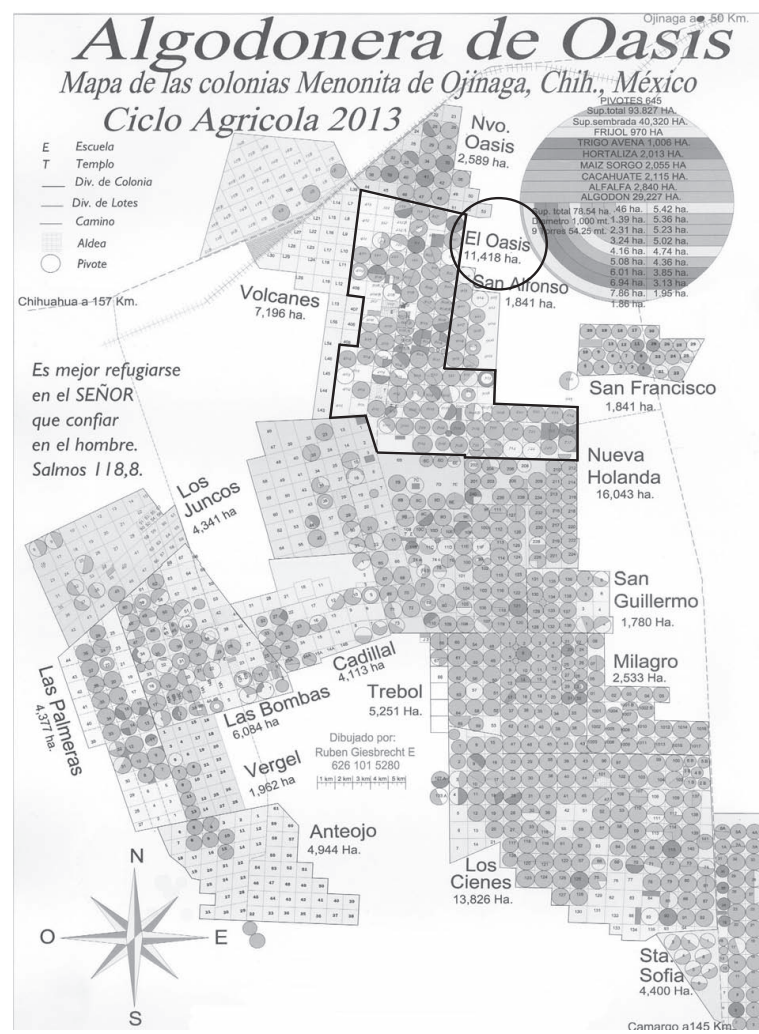
He added, "It's negative big-time. It's way in the red. There's no way it's going to recharge."

As new communities of Mennonites have settled at Oasis, the competition for water among has become fierce among them. Since the water flows in a specific direction, the location of land plays a crucial role in access to water. A map of Oasis shows swathes of fallow land in the westernmost part of the agricultural compound because of limited access to water.

Giesbrecht added that while the Mennonites are eager to regulate their water consumption at a local level so that the distribution of water resources does not only benefit the few who own larger territories of land, it is mostly out of their hands since water consumption is regulated by the federal government in Mexico.

But the threat of depleting water is an ominous specter for those at Oasis. What happens when the water runs out? "When they can't go any farther, they leave," Giesbrecht said. "They explore the next frontier."

He added, "There's already a group from Cuauhtémoc going to Argentina."





# HeadlineWriting

DIVISION 8, 1ST PLACE

## Freeze gets cold shoulder

*Commissioners disagree regarding hiring freeze for country treasurer's office*

DIVISION 4, 1ST PLACE

### I'd Like to Buy a Vowel



Lights get replaced on the H-E-B sign in La Grange on Monday. Behind each of the large letters are several small bulbs.  
Photo by H.H. Howze

DIVISION 7, 1ST PLACE



PHOTOS BY DAVID WHITE  
Upon opening the Wild Flour Cakery in April 2012, co-owner Amanda Rickman dreamed of growing her start up business along Main Street in Burda. But high costs, along with understaffing, undermined the once popular shop. Now, Rickman hopes her story helps those who may be thinking of opening their own small business.

## Running out of dough

*Sweets not enough to sustain cakery*

DIVISION 9, 1ST PLACE

## WILL DODGEBALL DELIVER?



Gabe Duran carries the ball down the field for the Chaps during a scrimmage last week. PAUL BRICK FOR WESTLAKE PICAYUNE

Fans will get their first look at Todd Dodge's Chapparals team tonight.

#### Division 2

1. **Tyler Morning Telegraph:** "There's no business like throw business" and "Finnish first to finish" were particularly clever headlines. They draw readers in and relate well to the stories. Well done!
2. **The Facts, Clute** - *Home schooled; Snakes on a Plain; After taking 2 routs, Cats face harder road*
3. **Denton Record-Chronicle** - *Cold December*
4. **Galveston County Daily News**

#### Division 3

1. **Seguin Gazette** - *Monster movie sex sparks scuffle/Profanity, nudity, sound swamps homes:* The kind of headlines that make someone stop to pick up a paper as they're walking down the street.
2. **Taylor Daily Press** - *A fetish fore feet, Weighting on a champion, Taylor made*
3. **Herald-Banner, Greenville**
4. **Huntsville Item**

#### Division 4

1. **The Fayette County Record** - *I'd Like to Buy a Vowel/Ladies First/Beer Truck Gets Tipsy:* Outstanding use of headlines that are catchy and go along with their photo. The "I'd Like to Buy a Vowel" headline goes along with the replaced sign. The "Beer Truck Gets Tipsy" headline with a photo put the Fayette County Record in first place.
2. **Hood County News** - *Cleanup/Holy cow/Lawman: She had to eat and run:* Three clever headlines. Clean up on Aisle 9 was a strong headline.
3. **Wise County Messenger:** The "One for the Record Books" helped support a strong photo.
4. **Boerne Star** - *Tale of 2 superintendents/City reneges/Early fireworks:* Clever headlines for hard news, but not much originality.

#### Division 5

1. **Kilgore News Herald:** Groaned out loud--excellent headlines.
2. **Wharton Journal-Spectator** - *Lending a helping hoof/Faix machine/The weight is over:* Great puns!
3. **Kingsville Record & Bishop News** - *Proposed cell phone ban gets poor reception in Driscoll/City aims to snuff out e-cigarette use by minors/Concrete costs not set in stone for city*
4. **Port Lavaca Wave** - *Travis staff says 'we want Moore'/Ended on a high note: The perils of band camp/PLPD rolls out new bike patrol program*

#### Division 6

1. **The Wylie News** - *Where theres smoke, theres ire/Extending smoking restrictions snuffed out/Hula Hoop Hype:* Clever, easy to read headlines that inform readers what to expect.
2. **Silsbee Bee:** Good job at making headline stand out from the rest of the copy on the page.
3. **Katy Times** - *This small-town girl sees the big picture/Time for Rise to Shine/It's a real Mickey Mouse operation:* Nice work bringing the headlines together with the stories.
4. **Port Aransas South Jetty** - *Longhorns steered wrong/Bye, bye bags/Cha-ching!:* Good use of color to grab attention for the sports submission. Bags headline pretty much says it all.

#### Division 7

- There were many good headlines in this category! The top entries were a very close call!
1. **Hays Free Press** - *Cain is able to find a home/Running out of dough/Is it time to bail out the jail?*
  2. **The Clifton Record** - *Steeling Supplies/Saving Shot/Apocalypse Then*

#### 3. Progress Times, Mission

4. **The Community News** - *Who you gonna call/Pie Splats/Diamond Jubilee*

#### Division 8

A lot of good, interesting headlines throughout the entries. I think they all were effective in getting the reader's attention but also making the reader want to read the story.

1. **Meridian Tribune** - *Court Jesters/Freeze gets cold shoulder/Sensible Synergy:* These headlines are catchy and clever without trying too hard or taking away from the story. "Freeze gets cold shoulder" is cute and explains the story in four words, which is all you can ask for in a headline.
2. **Albany News** - *Somebody's type/What's the buzz/Can you hear me now?:* "You're always somebody's type" was one of my favorite entries. It makes you think but also works perfectly with the photo and subhead.
3. **Elgin Courier** - *Three Elgin Neighbors All Seeing Double/Wild-Cats Win/The Curious Case of (Not Against) Rick Perry:* I liked the use of different fonts and colors in the football story. Editorial headline was the best of all op-ed entries I saw. Thought provoking and made me want to read the column.
4. **Glen Rose Reporter** - *Love at first bite:* I enjoyed the food theme, and "Love at first bite" is one those simple yet always-effective puns.

#### Division 9

1. **Westlake Picayune** - *Hit the brakes/How great are these lakes/Will Dodgeball deliver:* I thought the two sports headlines here were really strong, both in how clever they were and in getting across the point through the use of a good subhead.
2. **Lake Travis View** - *Chief of change/Talent*

*pool runs deep for couple/Keys to success:* "Chief of change" was nice in its alliteration, but didn't have a ton of impact. The other two were really clever, without being too on the nose as far as puns.

3. **Lynn County News** - *Big Bang Theory/We've been everywhere, man!/It's a Wonderful Life:* I like that you included something different with the story about where the paper has been photographed, though it was a lot to take in at the top of the story.

4. **West Kerr Current** - *Wrestling gets .../Bulldogs take .../Shocking new ...:* Your sports headlines were really nice, accurate while still clever. The third one about the venison was clever but it didn't really get the point across right away and read a little bit like an ad.

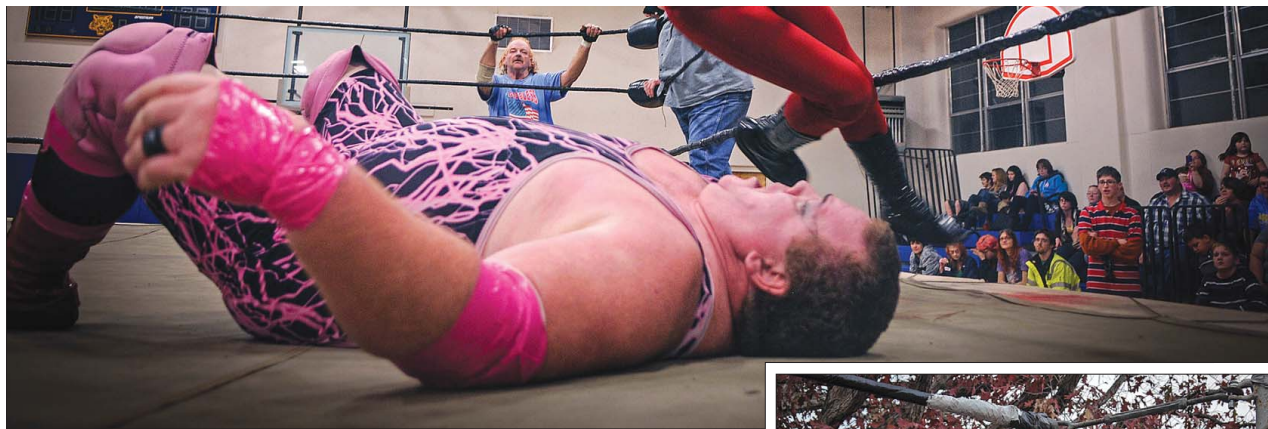
#### Division 10

1. **The Van Horn Advocate** - *'Really?/Bird's Eye View:* Clever and nice layout.
2. **Red Oak Record:** Solid pun use.
3. **Clarendon Enterprise** - *Here kitty... /Judgement Day/Pear of Pickers:* The kitty one is definitely a "Hey Martha" headline even though it's a little bit in bad taste.
4. **The Presidio International** - *Mayor seeks to darken the night sky/Racing to meet the light/Polls opened Monday in 'Somewhere County':* Solid effort on all entries.



# HeadlineWriting

DIVISION 2, 1ST PLACE



OVERTON RESIDENT AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER "Cowboy" Mike Andrews performs an elbow drop on Max Muscle at a charity wrestling show on Saturday at the Leonard Elementary School gymnasium in front of a crowd of about 50 people in Leonard. Find more photos from the show in Sunday's Discover section.

DEREK KUHN/STAFF

## THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE THROW BUSINESS

Pro wrestling runs deep in ETexas family

BY DEREK KUHN  
dkuhn@tylerpaper.com

Professional wrestling and Texas have a storied history with two families — the Funks from Amarillo and the Von Erichs from Dallas — being at the forefront of the squared-circle. The Funks are still training wrestlers and promoting shows in the panhandle, while tragedy notoriously befell the Von Erichs in the late '80s and early '90s.



BEAUMONT NATIVE AND ASPIRING GRAPPLER Wes Watkins performs a corner splash on his instructor professional wrestler "Cowboy" Mike Andrews during a training session in Mike's backyard ring on Dec. 7 in Overton.



DIVISION 5, 1ST PLACE

## Dude in drag skirts offense

By JAMES DRAPER

news1@kilgorenewsherald.com

A would-be cowgirl was out-of-luck at a downtown retailer this week when his unwanted advances and harassment got him the boot and a harsh reprimand

from Kilgore police.

At first, "We thought this was a joke," says Lucky Cowgirl Boutique employee Sierra Wiseman, the initial calls starting about 11 a.m. Tuesday — a high-pitched voice on the phone asked her to put someone to work for the day with chores in

the store. "I'm expecting a kid to come." When the door opened soon after, about 11:45, "A 50-year-old man walks across (the room). He is decked out in leather. He comes in, has a collar on, a leash. It was just creepy. Very, very freaky."

Clad in knee-high red leather boots, garters and stockings, a skirt, leather jacket, black wig and make-up (besides the collar), the man was apparently acting out a fantasy as he made the rounds of several

"I think he got the message that he needs to 'cease and desist' ... It might not be illegal, but it definitely does cause alarm." Sgt. Richard Stanley

See WARNING, Page 5A

DIVISION 6, 1ST PLACE

## Where there's smoke, there's ire

By Chad Engbrock

news@csmediatexas.com

Wylie now has a new smoking ordinance and will look at how it affects other parts of the community in a future workshop.

At the May 13 council meeting, the change to the city's smoking ordinance caused the

DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE

## 'REALLY?'

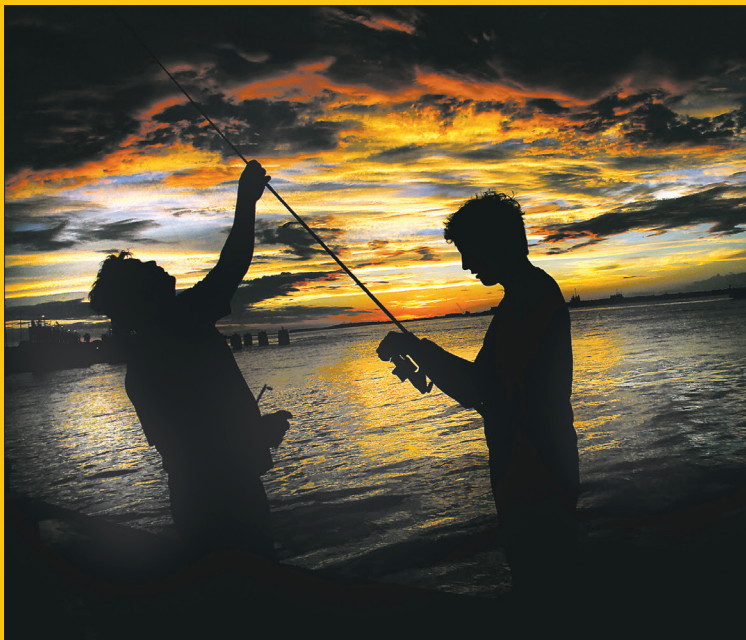




# FeaturePhotos

## DIVISION 6, 1ST PLACE

### Father and son



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN PARKER

Frank Guzman of San Antonio, left, checks a rod and reel held by his 18-year-old son, Reagan, while the two fish from the bulkhead at Roberts Point Park at sunset on Friday, Aug. 29. They were among thousands who traveled to Port Aransas for the Labor Day weekend, despite weather that sometimes was a little on the rainy side. (Check out more photos on page 1B to see more photos shot during the three-day weekend.)

## DIVISION 2, 1ST PLACE



FRANK TILLEY/  
FTILLEY@VICAD.COM  
Ten-year-old Parker Jackson has a special relationship with his mother, who home-schools her son. Parker is autistic and faces unique challenges like other challenged children who want to participate in athletics. Parker is extremely affectionate and finds comfort in a soft touch of his mother's hair or a quick whisper.

## DIVISION 3, 1ST PLACE



Staff photo by Jason Fochtman

Sandie Pullen sings during the "Living the Dream" program in celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at The Woodlands Methodist Church. Hundreds of worshippers came to pay tribute to celebrate King's contribution to the civil rights movement.

## DIVISION 7, 1ST PLACE



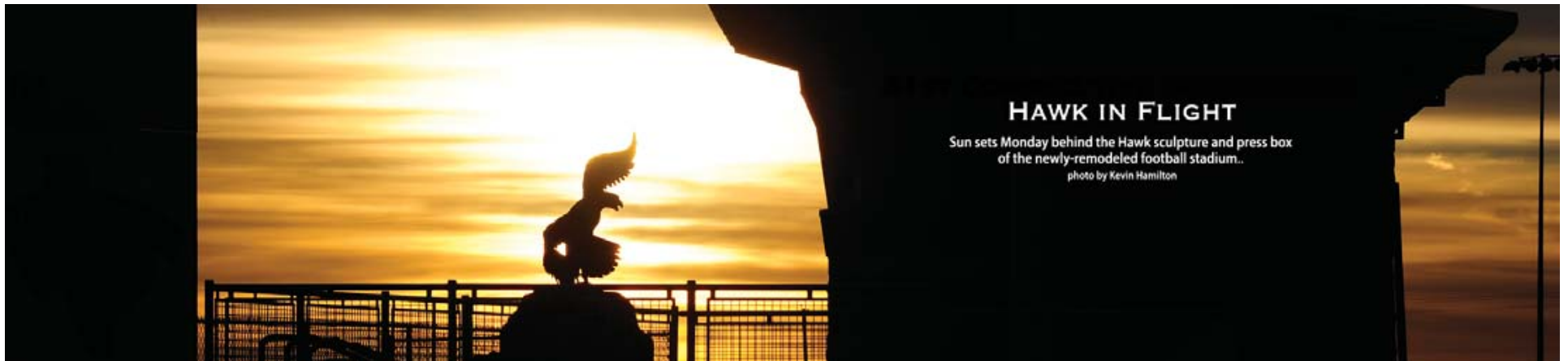
KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Twenty students aboard a limousine bound for Aledo High School Promenade include (from left) Matthew Fanning and Lara Garton, (from right) Nadia Hogan, Quade Parker, Phillip Elam and Jessie Chruscielski.



# FeaturePhotos

## DIVISION 8, 1ST PLACE



### HAWK IN FLIGHT

Sun sets Monday behind the Hawk sculpture and press box of the newly-remodeled football stadium..

photo by Kevin Hamilton

#### Division 2

First place was a clear winner. Although it is a quiet image, there's a real moment going on between the mother and son that's very touching.

##### 1. Victoria Advocate

2. Galveston County Daily News - *A good ole time/In Galveston, a dancer leaps as the lights come on*

##### 3. Tyler Morning Telegraph

##### 4. The Paris News

#### Division 3

There were several good single photo entries that were weakened by the second photo. Hard to not let ghastly page design and use of mortised cutlines effect judgement.

1. The Courier, Conroe - *MLK Praise/Storm Coming*: Nice use of light/composition in MLK shot, good composition story-telling image in storm shot.

2. Seguin Gazette - *Art In Motion/Mutton To See Here*: Two good photos that need tighter crops.

3. Daily Tribune, Mount Pleasant - *Gary Borders*: Nice two-photo entry, stand-alone cutlines are weak though, ride photo could have been cropped tighter.

4. Waxahachie Daily Light - *Festival of Trees/Chris Cox*: Treeshot could have been cropped tighter, portrait is a nice, simple, well-executed portrait with cutline that tells the whole story.

#### Division 4

1. Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun - *Bubly in blue/The Full Monty*: Solid edits. First image is fun, second image has an interesting, ominous feel to it.

2. Wise County Messenger: Not too crazy about the first image, but the second is well composed and well set.

3. Hood County News - *One of the good guys/Got you babe*: First image is nice, but could use a tighter crop.

4. The Fayette County Record - *Water Slide/Animal Antics*

#### Division 5

A few good moments. More attention to cropping needed. Some photos did not match caption info.

1. Round Rock Leader - *The Bright Light Social Hour at SXSW/Homecoming surprise*: Good reaction to announcement of the homecoming queen.

2. Kilgore News Herald: Facial expression makes for a good picture.

3. Gonzales Inquirer - *Chicken on the Loose*: Flying chicken and faces was a fun moment for readers.

4. El Campo Leader-News - *How About This One?/All I Want for Christmas*

#### Division 6

1. Port Aransas South Jetty - *Doggone fun/Fa-*

*ther and son*: hands down, clear winner. great creativity and artistry, and use of color

2. Jewish Herald-Voice - *Ritual Rewind/Latkes with Laykie*: great creativity to draw in readers

3. Pleasanton Express - *Joy of Summer*: great action shot

4. The Wylie News - *Spoonful of Summer/Saluting our heroes*: nice fun, pix.

#### Division 7

1. The Community News - *Prom/Water skiing Squirrel*: Photographer should be commended for finding a different sort of angle for prom coverage, which undoubtedly can get boring year after year. The reflection on the ceiling catches the readers eye, and the cramped conditions provide a good juxtaposition to the perceived glamour of a limo. The uniqueness of the squirrel photo stops the reader in his tracks, and the photographer did a great job framing the unusual scene with the kids reactions in the background.

2. Hays Free Press - *Remembering the fallen/Santa arrives, city lights up*: Both photos are framed very well. The gravesite photo is touching. In addition, the photographer should be commended for finding a different take on the usual kids in front of the tree photo.

3. Bandera Bulletin - *Focused and Determined/Tiny Cowgirl*: The race photo is well-composed and does a good job capturing the look of determination on the kids faces. The cowgirl photo is a nice depiction of everyday life in a small Texas town.

4. Goldthwaite Eagle - *Little Light/Wounded Warrior Welcome*: The candle photo is very strong and captures a moving moment. The Wounded Warriors photo is solid, but perhaps could have been improved if the photographer found a way to better isolate the subjects from the busy background.

#### Division 8

Lots of entries. Enjoyed viewing photographs. Would enjoy reading more names in captions.

1. Iowa Park Leader - *Hawk in Flight/Costumes and Songs*: Excellent job of capturing hawk in flight. Nice layout of captions within photo. Not too intrusive. Very cute photo of children singing songs.

2. Meridian Tribune - *Fire Day/Christmas Ornament*: Good job of capturing the emotions of the children in both photos ... one of fun and amusement ... the other of concentration. Captions would have read much better if both children had been identified.

3. Yorktown News-View - *To the bitter end/It's going to be a bumpy ride*: Good job of capturing action at the time. Captions would read better with subjects' named.

4. Elgin Courier - *Queen Sowpreme/For the Ages*: Crisp, clean dancer photo. Nice use of color in caption headline. Excellent play on words with Queen

Sowpreme ... shows hilarity of contest.

#### Division 9

Weakest category that was judged, although a few good moments that made them winners.

1. Ozona Stockman - *Splashing the day away/Say 'Squeeze'*

2. Princeton Herald - *They did it - dancing photo, Dennis Lockman/all in good fun - Josephine Brown, lollipop*

3. Westlake Picayune - *Finding a prize egg at the Egg-Stravaganza/Wild Basin is a resource for spectrum of students*

4. Springtown Epigraph - *Angelic Acrobatics/Get Set*

## DIVISION 5, 1ST PLACE



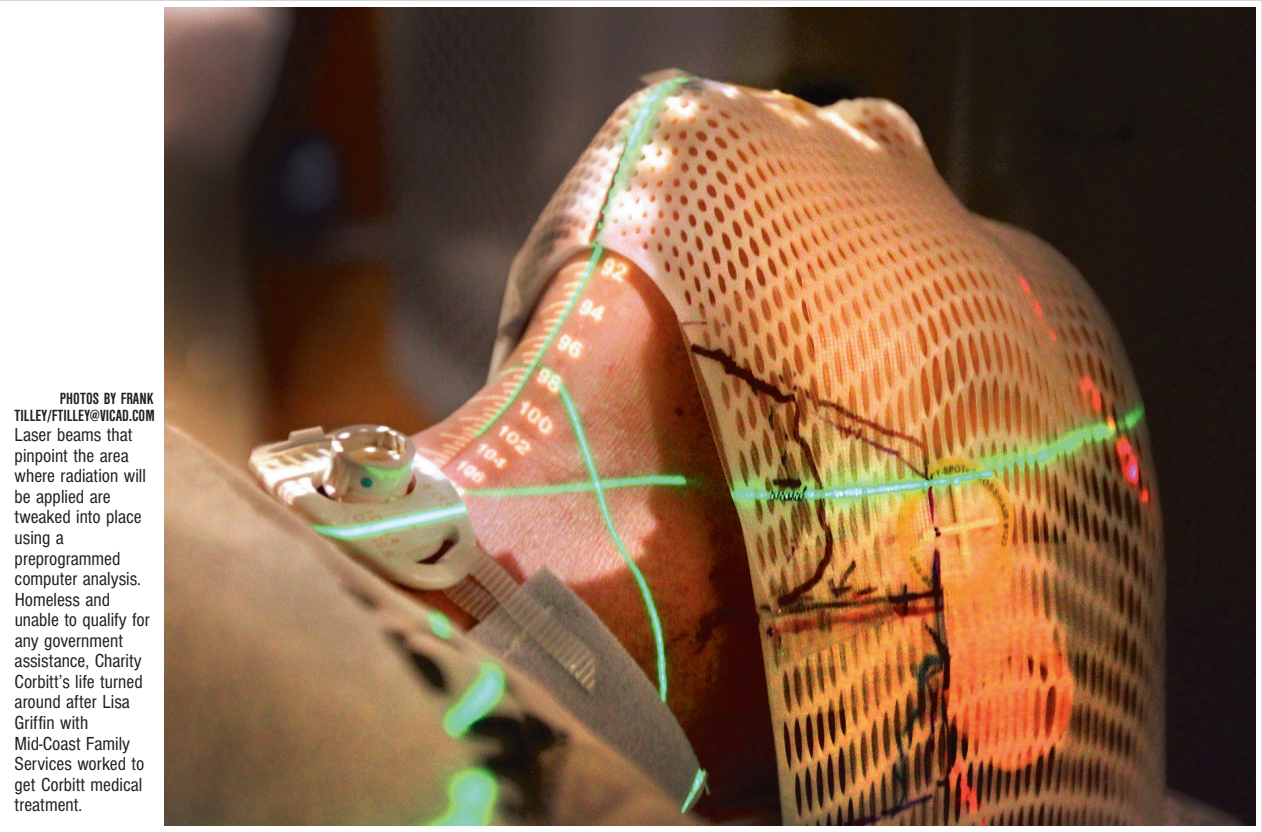
### Homecoming surprise

Annie Schwanke was a bit surprised upon hearing her selection as homecoming queen. Besides her is her dad, Doug Schwanke. Round Rock High School hosted homecoming festivities last week, culminating in the coronation of the homecoming king and queen during the Dragons-Westwood football game Oct. 31. HENRY HUEY FOR ROUND ROCK LEADER



# NewsPhotos

## DIVISION 2, 1ST PLACE



PHOTOS BY FRANK TILLEY/FTILLEY@VICAD.COM  
Laser beams that pinpoint the area where radiation will be applied are tweaked into place using a preprogrammed computer analysis. Homeless and unable to qualify for any government assistance, Charity Corbitt's life turned around after Lisa Griffin with Mid-Coast Family Services worked to get Corbitt medical treatment.

## DIVISION 7, 1ST PLACE



Iconic longhorns are led down Main Street during the annual Labor Day Parade in Bandera, commemorating the legendary cattle drives through Bandera from 1874-1894.

BULLETIN PHOTO/Jessica Hawley-Jerome

## DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE



Big Lake Volunteer Fireman Mitch Dieter fights an early morning blaze that destroyed the Reyes' family home located at 308 S. Texas Avenue in Big Lake. Dieter camped out on the south east corner of the home and kept water flowing between the Reyes' home and a neighboring trailer house just feet away. Smoke could be seen coming out of the neighboring home at one point, but the Big Lake Volunteer Fire Department managed to contain the fire to the 308 S. Texas address. There were nine people in the house at the time of the fire. All escaped with some suffering minor injuries.

J.L. MANKIN | BIG LAKE WILDCAT

### Division 2

Great impact from the football scene. It really grabs the attention and then when you read the caption it's even more compelling. The double fatal accident in the 2nd place entry is an equally strong news photo with a lot of emotion.

- 1. Victoria Advocate
- 2. Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel – LogTruck-Fatal/ WreckOnBridge
- 3. Galveston County Daily News - Standoff/ Bomb hoax traps shoppers
- 4. None Selected

### Division 3

Great balls of fire, lots big fire photos, but not a lot of dramatic photos. Overall a good category. 1. Seguin Gazette - SPD motorcycle officer recovering/ Vacant mobile home goes up in flames: Good storytelling composition on crash, dramatic ball of fire. This one has people in it, better than others.

- 2. Mineral Wells Index - Disappearing Lakes/ Lightning Strikes Twice: Good storytelling composition on drought photo, dramatic fire photo, not a lot of action, but good f/8 and be there shot.
- 3. The Courier, Conroe - Media Storm/ Crash from Above: Good use of different angle in both shot.
- 4. Marshall News Messenger: Nice composition on historic building shot, nice moment and composition with Marine, but not overwhelming.

### Division 4

First place demonstrated a level of thought

into the final edits. Images are straight to the point. Second place shows an ability to get there for the shot. Third place fills the frame well and fourth is just solid breaking coverage.

- 1. Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun - Memorial Day 2014/Hats off to historic graduation: Nice, tight edits. Solid emotion.
- 2. Uvalde Leader-News - Border agent detained/Major accident leaves one dead: Nice job being there for the moment. Second image is very intriguing.
- 3. Hood County News - Fully engulfed/ Crash and rescue: Good composition filling the frame with smoke.
- 4. Wise County Messenger

### Division 5

Some great images and moments. Spot news is alive in Texas 1. Lamesa Press Reporter - Intense Blaze/ Deadly Crash: Good to see a photog step up to the scene.

- 2. Terrell Tribune
- 3. Kilgore News Herald
- 4. The Bowie News - Plane crash/ water plant rescue

### Division 6

1. Port Aransas South Jetty - Beating heat/ To the rescue: There were several accident photos submitted in this category. Both of these photos stood out from the rest though because they weren't just a snap shot of an accident, but the photographers creativity and skill were evident as well. That coupled with the on-the-scene respond needed to take these photos is why they have been awarded first place.



# NewsPhotos

## DIVISION 6, 1ST PLACE



### To the rescue

STAFF PHOTO BY DAN PARKER

A HALO Flight helicopter ambulance lands on State Hwy. 361 at the scene of a head-on collision that sent several people to the hospital on Wednesday, March 12.

## DIVISION 4, 1ST PLACE



-ANDY SHARP

East View High School graduating senior Mo'Keysha Shanklin hugs her cousin, Colby Shanklin, after she received her diploma Saturday morning at the GISD Athletic Complex. She was one of 352 graduates receiving a diploma at East View High's first ever commencement.

## DIVISION 5, 1ST PLACE

**2. Hill Country Community Journal - Hot Night/Stepping Stones:** These photos stood out among the rest of being a higher quality. The Stepping Stones picture especial demonstrated creativity in story telling.

**3. Azle News - Foam for the flames/Massive down-pour:** These photos display the photographers fast response time and ability to get close to the scene.

**4. Jewish Herald-Voice - Mega Mitzvah/Naturalized Citizens:** These pictures are great captures of moments.

### Division 7

**1. Bandera Bulletin - Head 'em up/Rollover on 12th:** Great composition on the longhorns, with several of them staring their big eyes the photographer's way and the sun casting long shadows of their long horns on the pavement.

**2. The Big Bend Sentinel - Marfa demonstrators/scoreboard:** I like the low-angle feel of the photo of the demonstrators, with their signs framed against the sky.

**3. The Sealy News - School board accepts ALS challenge/Got this under control:** Great composition capturing a fun moment and fearful looks on the participants faces.

**4. The Clifton Record - Wreck/House Fire:** Solid police/fire photos.

### Division 8

Handful of good spot news pictures offset large group of mediocre general news pictures.

**1. Iowa Park Leader - House Fire/Fire meets water:** Good job by photographer getting access and making strong photos.

**2. The Canadian Record:** Picture variety showed readers the story in single images.

**3. Glen Rose Reporter - SCFD saves rural residences:** Photographer did good job getting to events and making good news photos.

**4. Goliad Advance-Guard**

### Division 9

Not a strong category, photos look like what you'd expect from small newspapers.

**1. Ozona Stockman - Fast burning trailer/Road department burns:** Ordinary fire photos, but much better than other entries

**2. Springtown Epigraph - LaJunta Fire/Jay Bird Lane Wreck:** Decent fire photo, I'm assuming the car in background of wreck photo is one involved in wreck, cutline should have said so.

**3. Cooper Review - fire/wind:** Damage photo is boring, but nice fire photo.

**4. Tri County Leader - Friday Afternoon crash.../Body found in Whitehouse:** photos tell the stories, but lack drama.

### Division 10

First place was clear winner, helped by appropriately dominant play in the layout. Other winners demonstrated solid news photography skills.

**1. Big Lake Wildcat - Not All is Lost/St. Margaret of Cortona: Taking up His Cross:** Fire photo was best in category - top-notch spot news photo.

**2. Eldorado Success - This one was only a toy/Lightning Strike Claims Bumgardner Home:** Second place showed two examples of solid photo reporting.

**3. Clarendon Enterprise - 'Breaking' news/Challenge accepted:** Good observation by the photographer to get the people looking into broken storefront.

**4. The Van Horn Advocate - Frontier Days/1914 or 2014?:** Both photos had possibilities.



### INTENSE BLAZE

Firefighters Chris Rose, Brian Beck and Jason Wiley attack the flames that engulfed the Stacy Hinkle residence at 1512 North 8th Street on Saturday morning. The fire was caused by a cook stove left on during the

night to provide heat for the residence, which did not have an operating heater, according to Lamesa Fire Chief Larry Duyck.

Russel Skiles/Press-Reporter



# NewsWriting

## DIVISION 5, 1ST PLACE

### Murder in the Desert

*West Texas trio arrested in killing of Kilgore man*

By JAMES DRAPER

Trey Sands was buried under a pile of rocks, a lonely grave among deserted hills and crags near Terlingua.

Heartbroken and horrified, the 28-year-old Kilgore man's parents are nevertheless relieved his body has been recovered, relieved his beloved dog has been returned, relieved his suspected killers have been arrested.

November was a month of steadily building despair for the family as confusion about Trey's late-October disappearance finally prompted an investigation and, within a week, an end.

"It takes your heart, just losing him," Trey's father, Sandy Sands, said Thursday morning.

Weeping alongside his wife, Dorothy, Sandy shuddered to think of the parents of murdered children whose bodies are never found.

Finally, this week, "There is closure. We felt better last night just knowing they found the body.

"He's gone. that's all you can say. We've got memories."

A 2005 Kilgore High School graduate, Trey moved from Kilgore to the small community of Alpine earlier this fall: a plan to resume coursework at Stephen F. Austin State University hadn't panned out in August, and he was looking for new experiences (and hunting grounds) in West Texas.

"Well, you don't have a wife and you don't have kids and if you want to go on an adventure this is the time to go," Sandy told his son. Come mid-September,

"We hugged and kissed and he starts to leave. I said, 'Big boy, let me tell you something.'

I said, 'You're going to a place where you're the outsider. Daddy can't get you out of trouble there. If you get out there and act a fool and make those people mad, they'll kill you. You have to watch your back when you go.'

Trey moved in with hometown buddy, Ross Edmonds.

Finding work on a fencing crew, he and his parents grudgingly accepted his new home was a void on the cellular coverage, a fact of life in the wilderness around Terlingua Ranch. Some jobs would mean a communications blackout of several days, and a week or more stretched between calls home.

"He was talking about how pretty it as out there and how he was looking forward to deer season," Sandy said. "We said, 'Well, we hope you'll be happy out there.'

Soon, though, Trey grew restless.

He fired a gun into the air outside a bar Sept. 29 and was arrested on a Deadly Conduct charge, bonding out for \$20,000 a day later.

But he was remorseful, Sheriff Ronny Dodson said this week, and avoided the hangout. He was no trouble after that initial run-in with the law.

On a trip to Austin for a bachelor party, Trey learned of a job opportunity in San Antonio, potential work as a welder.

Prompted by a "long time, no hear" text from Mom Oct. 24, the young man called back and talked about the chance in the fabrication shop. Then, "I'll call you next week."



SANDS

Trey didn't respond when his parents called with news his big sister, Kara, had won the election for Nueces County Clerk. He didn't respond to texts from anyone.

Edmonds, in and out of town with work, grew more and more worried at his roommate's absence.

Reaching out to the Brewster County Sheriff's Department Nov. 14, Sandy said

conflicting stories – Trey hadn't passed through the Terlingua DEA checkpoint, he'd found a new girlfriend – appeased the family's fears for a time.

Too long, yes, but still too late.

Initially parked at the place they shared, Edmonds returned from a trip to find Trey's truck was gone. Relieved, "At least we know he's there somewhere," Sandy said at the time. "Maybe he's coming this way for Thanksgiving."

Sandy and Dorothy received a certified letter from Trey's bonding company.

His payments on the bond had dried up. His last trip to make a payment, Oct. 28, he told the attendant he was just getting back into town but would soon be moving to San Antonio.

Thanksgiving came and went: No Trey.

Kara's mounting fears mirrored her parents'.

"She starts running stuff up and gets the phone bill,"

CONTINUED PAGE 19

#### Division 2

The entries showed a great range – from compelling coverage of breaking news to to deeper investigations that gave voice to ordinary people. The photographs and design combined to give the entries even more power, and obviously moved readers.

**1. Tyler Morning Telegraph:** The Morning Telegraph's reporting exemplified one of the most important tenets of journalism: to shine a light on problems, and to push for results. The writing was clear and colorful, and the photos and design helped to create a compelling package. Best of all, the reporting changed lives.

**2. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** The Avalanche-Journal showed initiative in questioning officials about the way inmates are being treated. It highlighted a disturbing trend, gave a voice to people who had none, and held authorities accountable.

**3. Victoria Advocate:** Powerful writing and compelling quotes about a community tragedy.

**4. Kerrville Daily Times:** Clear writing about complex issues.

#### Division 3

**1. Vernon Daily Record**

**2. Seguin Gazette** - *Sunny with a chance of sausage/ Crews battle blaze for hours*

**3. Waxahachie Daily Light** - *Waxahachie ISD faces threats/Children speak of accident*

**4. San Marcos Daily Record** - *18-wheeler rolls into river/Tubing season spreads local law enforcement thin*

#### Division 4

**1. The Fayette County Record** - *Board Room Drama: Packard Calls Schulenburg Court a Joke/ Hunt for New York City Triple Murder Suspect Ends Here*

**2. Hood County News** - *Click jailed/Judges let*

*Pate keep her job*

**3. Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun** - *Lone Star charts sustainable future/ Wolf land legacy persists in deal*

**4. Wise County Messenger**

#### Division 5

Good submissions. Winning entries didn't just attend the meeting; they went the extra mile to find sources, statistics and background. A good lead catches a reader's attention every time.

**1. Kilgore News Herald:** Excellent enterprise on a touchy subject with loose ends, for both stories.

**2. Wharton Journal-Spectator** - *Clinic cutting back its services/Gas leak disrupts downtown:* Good enterprise, good writing, talked to the people.

**3. Port Lavaca Wave** - *Death list found in bottle/Wiggins under investigation:* This is important community news. You made the calls and knocked on some unsettling doors.

**4. Lampasas Dispatch Record** - *Four dead, 16 injured after rampage at Fort Hood/CEO of rocket testing business meets with Briggs community:* Important news and good, thorough writing.

#### Division 6

**1. Jewish Herald-Voice** - *Chanukah miracle in prison/Houston activists counter anti-Israel demonstrators:* Compelling topics, well-written in a thoughtful, insightful manner

**2. Austin Business Journal** - *Remote CEOs: What's it like managing a company from thousands of miles away?:* Well-written, thoroughly-researched pieces on seldom-covered topics

**3. Cleveland Advocate** - *Texas has nowhere but prison for most mentally ill convicts:* Timely, important topics, well-written and covered in depth

**4. Houston Business Journal:** Interesting, well-written takes on timely topics

#### Division 7

**1. Freestone County Times** - *Guilty Verdict/Local Hero*

**2. Mount Vernon Optic-Herald** - *ETMC to close/Raley muder*

**3. The Progress, Three Rivers** - *Big dreams helping out small town kids/Good times had, great stories told*

**4. The Clifton Record** - *Tables Turn/Crimson Tide*

#### Division 8

**1. The Canadian Record:** Excellent reporting on two extraordinary events. The photography and graphics helped enhance the writing, but where is Laurie Brown's byline?

**2. Meridian Tribune** - *War Games/Forever 15:* The reporter is also a great photographer who captures the scene with images and words. The NATO exercise story was exceptional.

**3. Hico News Review** - *City Council debate over EDC members gets a little testy/City Marshal submits resignation, Council appoints Eller as interim:* There is a lot going on with this city council and the reporter has made a complicated situation easier to understand.

**4. Glen Rose Reporter** - *Temporary removal:* It's rare to run across a story like the one involving the hospital board member. The reporter intertwined background and facts with a lot of quotes to tell an interesting story.

#### Division 9

**1. Springtown Epigraph** - *Dog shooting causes international uproar/Slain toddler found south of Springtown:* Immense detail in first submission. Second submission had a wonderful lede and was a beautiful illustration of a tragic story. Both good reads.

**2. West Kerr Current** - *Top HCAF .../Blaze destroys ...:* First entry was very well written and sets up why readers should care. Second is also well written with plenty of facts up front and enough history for readers to understand the damage done.

**3. The Liberty Hill Independent** - *Williamson's petition cost taxpayers/Teens' brush with death draws town support:* Both stories show the reporters' knowledge of the area and readers' concerns.

**4. Lake Travis View** - *Boy hit by lightning still in hospital/Residents: New home leaves little room for view:* "Boy hit by lightning" story includes good national stats and a look at what's next, but didn't really have an intriguing lede. Both stories take a little too long to get to their main points, but both include very good information that I think the readers would appreciate.

#### Division 10

**1. Bullard Banner News** - *It was complete horror/ It was like I was in a washing machine:* The article about the NYPD officer's account of the days following 9/11 was a very compelling piece. The accompanying photographs really enhanced the story.

**2. Big Lake Wildcat** - *NOT ALL IS LOST/ '12 Mile T' set to explode:* The article with family members recounting the events leading up to and during the fire was nicely crafted story.

**3. Hill Country News Weekender** - *Winter Break absences cost LISD nearly \$200K/New charges filed in Colton Turner case:* The article about absences brings to light an important financial issue facing the school district and community.

**4. The Olney Enterprise** - *Olney man faces six charges in shooting/VBS flyers cause controversy at OES*



# NewsWriting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Sandy recalled.

Trey had made 25 calls in the week leading up to Halloween, to friends and regular contacts.

"It stopped on the 31st," and his last text – to a contact nicknamed "Country" – was on Oct. 30, looking for an update about an upcoming hunting trip.

According to Sandy, Edmonds received a call from Trey's boss – the 28-year-old's truck was parked at the residence of a coworker and running buddy, Keith Allen McWilliams. The typically-messy vehicle was "completely cleaned out and polished."

Building steam on their private investigation, the family reached some early conclusions: Trey does not clean his truck. He does not, as a witness confirmed, get his gear together, load up his guns and his dog, then abandon his first hunting trip of the season for a new gal.

"Trey didn't leave with a girl. If he's going hunting he's going to hunt," Sandy said. "He can find a girl any day, but he can't hunt any day."

Where's Gauge, Trey's dog?

Where are his keys, for that matter – they were missing from Edmonds' place and his roommate's things had obviously been shuffled around.

"One day just runs into another day," Sandy said Thursday, as curiosity turned to anxiety and turned to despondency.

Out there, "It's sand and rocks and brush and canyons and rough cactus. That's what you're searching in. You can't find him. If we can't find him—the guy that killed him—we won't find him."

That, according to Dodson, is what finally transpired this week.

Taking up the investigation in late November, his department's focus settled on McWilliams and deputies detained their "person of interest" for questioning Monday. Released the same day, the 49-year-old Alpine resident was back in custody Wednesday and pointing Dodson to Trey's grave.

It was a long drive.

Any search is, Dodson said. He has eight deputies covering a county of 6,198 square miles. Serving a warrant in person could mean a round-trip of hours.

With the sheriff behind the wheel, McWilliams navigating, the Dodge 4-wheel-drive pick-up turned into the desert, headed for the rough, hilly terrain. About 60 miles south of Alpine, the pair left the paved road for another 20 miles to an area called Cedar Springs on the sprawling Terlingua Ranch.

They found Trey's haphazard cairn Thursday evening.

It was just the first crime scene, Dodson confirmed. He won't speak to motive, but his department has developed a loose timeline for the murder and tracked down the suspected killers: McWilliams, 42-year-old Terlingua resident Rhonda Joy Bloom and Charles Levi Morrow, 30, of Benbrook.

The group went out together Oct. 30th, Dodson noted. Trey was likely killed shortly after midnight Oct. 31.

"They were all together on this evening," Dodson said Thursday morning though, at the time, he couldn't describe the links between the four beyond Trey and McWilliams' work-friendship.

"I guess they were at one of the local American Legions.

They left all together to a residence on Terlingua Ranch

where this apparently occurred."

The house is owned by Bloom's brother – "He wasn't even in the area at the time," Dodson said. "Works in the oilfield." – and it was there Trey was shot to death.

According to Dodson, the alleged killers moved Trey's body 20 miles into the desert to bury him.

Dodson booked McWilliams, a convicted felon, into the Brewster County Jail at 11 p.m. Wednesday. Bloom had been arrested about 3:30 p.m. that day, and authorities caught up with Morrow around noon Thursday in Stanton, about 180 miles away.

"The only way we could have ever found this body, one of these three would have had to show us where it's at," Dodson said.

The three suspects are facing second degree murder charges. A forensic examiner in Lubbock is responsible for Trey's autopsy.

News of the crime has rocked two communities.

Trey worked a stint at Chandler Elementary School last year, coaching Physical Education students and dipping his toe in teaching.

Achieving celebrity status among his young charges, it was the kindling of a career for the young man, Mike Vallery said. Trey called a while back, the longtime Kilgore High School head coach and athletic director added, and he took the opportunity to coach his former student again.

You'd make a great football coach, he told the 28-year-old.

"He was a great person with a big heart and nobody worked any harder than Trey did. He loved the game of football. It showed in his passion for the game,"

Vallery said Wednesday. He advised the Bulldog alum to finish his college education: "Being an aide and coaching, he wouldn't be able to make a living like he deserves to make and wants to make. If he'd get his degree, he'd get a coaching job anywhere. That's how much I thought of him, not just as a coach but as a person, the way that he genuinely cared for people."

There's a lifetime bond between a coach and his players, between teammates on a state championship squad, Vallery added, and he knows the deep loss the members of the 2004 team are feeling.

"They didn't only lose a teammate, but they lost a great friend, and it's a shame for something like this to happen and a young man like him to lose his life,"

'Coach Val' said. "Trey Sands was a special one, not only to me, to our entire coaching staff and for my family.

"It's amazing to me because I've never known anybody that didn't like Trey Sands... I really don't know what else to say except I know we're all shocked. We were hoping there would be some good come out of this.

Thankfully, we know now what has happened."

Bill Slagle, one of Trey's teammates the state championship year, said he's saddened, disappointed to see his childhood friend come to such a terrible end.

The pair met in seventh grade, and Trey's in-your-face friendship was a welcome relief to the new kid in school.

"He was one of the first guys that I befriended when we moved to Kilgore," he explained. "To me Trey was one of the most gregarious people I ever met in my entire life. Never met a stranger, always friendly to everybody.

We played football together – I never really met anybody who was as intense and hardworking as he was."

An attorney in Dallas, Slagle has watched the story un-



Keith Allen McWilliams



Rhonda Joy Bloom



Charles Levi Morrow

fold on social media and online news the past week and, while mourning Trey, he's been gratified to see the outpouring of condolences from friends and strangers.

"He was a very unique guy and somebody it doesn't surprise me was very memorable and cherished by a lot of folks," Slagle said. Whatever its end, "He lived a full and rich life and brought a lot of joy and happiness to folks."

Sandy's lost track of the days. During the final stretch, Trey's parents anxiously awaited every update from Kara, on the ground in Alpine more than 600 miles away, keeping the fire lit under the investigation.

"We've talked to her every hour of the day or night you can think of," Sandy said, praising his daughter's dogged determination to find her brother. "If it hadn't been for Kara going out there I don't know what would have happened."

Relieved that Trey, in time, will be headed home, there are still dozens of questions lingering. What really happened? Where are his guns? Why?

It looks, Sandy says, like Trey was excited about heading out on a hunting trip, eager for the season to start.

He left and never returned.

"We are continuing the investigation as we speak," Dodson said Thursday morning.

Justice will come, Sandy echoed.

"Time will help," Rusk County Justice of the Peace Jerdy Wolverton told his friend.

Until then, and after, Trey's family and friends are left with memories.

He loved his friends, Sandy said. If you messed with them, you messed with him.

"He had a lot of them," Dorothy added. "He never met a stranger.

"He saw the good in everybody and he was naive. He trusted everybody."

Tall and gangly, Trey was still young, his father said, apt to load up his dog, drive out to the deer lease and manage to get his truck stuck in the mud in the middle of the night, watching the sunrise as he waited for someone to come give him a pull.

"He liked pretty girls. He always wanted something planned that he could look forward to," Sandy said, and his teaching certificate was the next big goal: "He wanted to do something. He wanted to coach. He loved little kids. Old people loved him."

Trey will always be "No. 2," Sandy added, stories from his son's years on the Bulldogs football team a warm thought Thursday.

"You live in the memories. It's what you do," he said.

The memories stopped in that last phone call Oct. 24.

"We can't go forward. All our memories go back.

"We've got some good ones."



# PageDesign

## DIVISION 2, 1ST PLACE

Lifelong learners commit their memories to paper » B1  
Becker, Dawson draw opponents early in League City council elections » A3

GALVESTON COUNTY  
**THE DAILY NEWS**  
Sunday, July 27, 2014  
Local (Older) Newspaper  
Publishing Since 1882  
galnews.com

**PUBLIC SAFETY: The cost/benefit question**

### How many cops?

Galveston spends \$346 per resident on police. League City spends \$180. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing.

Work in the city but live elsewhere! Live and work in the city! Live in the city but work elsewhere!

**GALVESTON** Galveston's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$346 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing. Galveston's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$346 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing.

**BOCA RATON, FLA.** Boca Raton's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$346 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing. Boca Raton's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$346 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing.

**LEAGUE CITY** League City's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$180 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing. League City's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$180 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing.

**LINCOLN, NEB.** Lincoln's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$346 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing. Lincoln's police department is one of the most expensive in the state, with a cost of \$346 per resident. But experts say that statistic is flawed way to measure police staffing.

**Experts say look at a range of measures**

The cost per resident statistic is more useful than officers per thousand, but both statistics are flawed because the denominator is population who sleep there. Consequently, tourist destinations are badly represented by both statistics.

**Local News** | Police staffing and revenue added to list of long-running debate in Galveston

**Today's weather**  
81 Mostly sunny with a chance of rain 8-10  
90 Mostly sunny with a chance of rain 8-10  
91 Mostly sunny with a chance of rain 8-10

**Index**  
Business Board Ad 18  
Obituaries 20  
Sports 21  
News 22  
Classifieds 23

**Inside**  
Galveston Island's favorite summer hangout  
Palm Beach  
Lazy River • Tower Slides • Wave Pool  
800-507-4870  
MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY  
10-11 PM  
VISIT WEBSITE FOR DANCE SCHEDULE

## DIVISION 3, 1ST PLACE

**FLOORS4U**  
Live in Style!  
Granite Countertops  
\$10.00 sq. ft. INSTALLED  
903-890-0012 HARRIS

**Athens Daily Review**  
Serving Henderson County  
Athens, Texas  
Athens Chamber of Commerce

**ATHENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP BANQUET**

**Celebrating Athens**

**Holdredge named Citizen of the Year**  
David Holdredge

**Large Business of the Year**  
TVCC

**Small Business of the Year**  
Harrington-Smith

**Ambassador of the Year**  
Kim Walker

**McKee takes reins to lead Chamber**

**Unemployment drops to 2008 low**

**Theft continues in Athens**  
Property owners encouraged to take precaution

**22 Injured in Wreck**

**FPP Lauded for Ash Recycling Program**

## DIVISION 4, 1ST PLACE

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2014

**THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD**  
La Grange, Texas 75845  
Volume 92, Number 41  
One Dollar per Copy

**INSIDE**

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Fried Steak Dinner**

**Golden Girls**  
La Grange Softball Team Wins State Title; Special Section Inside

**One of LHS' Largest Classes, 155 Strong, Get Diplomas**

**Honor Grads Announced at Ceremony**

**Weather Watch**

**Inside Today**

**22 Injured in Wreck**

**FPP Lauded for Ash Recycling Program**

**Division 2**  
In the telling of local and statewide stories, all four awarded papers have utilized creativity, design skill and innovative thought to package their publication's content in original and exciting ways. From investigative pieces to elections, all winners made readers want to, well, read on and should be congratulated on their solid efforts.

- Galveston County Daily News:** The use of clean and simple, yet effective graphic elements on every page helped enrich content and assist in story telling. Particularly worth noting was the use of graphics and pictures on the cops package, a beautifully designed story.
- Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel:** The margin between second and first place was razor-thin. These pages are cleanly designed and provide the reader with solid points of emphasis, attracting the eye to the various content areas on the page.
- Longview News-Journal**
- Victoria Advocate**

### Division 3

Overall, good entries for papers who have to do a lot with a little. Nice graphics and use of white space helps with the design of the pages.

- Athens Daily Review:** I enjoyed the page design on the front and clean pages throughout.
- Marshall News Messenger:** Nice graphic on front. Enjoyed layout throughout.
- Huntsville Item**
- Herald-Banner, Greenville**

### Division 4

- The Fayette County Record**
- Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun**
- Uvalde Leader-News**
- Hood County News**

### Division 5

- Terrell Tribune**
- The Messenger, Grapeland**

- The Graham Leader**
- Wharton Journal-Spectator**

### Division 6

- Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post**
- The Wylie News**
- Houston Business Journal**
- Port Aransas South Jetty**

### Division 7

- Hays Free Press:** Not a single weak spot in the entire entry. Every page is very readable, and I like the clean, modern typography. A1 is laid out nicely, with a big story to catch the readers eye. The infographic is a nice touch and something not seen in any of the other entries. In sports, the three-photo progression of the slide is both creative and informative. I also like the cutout on the features page because it provides a different, more casual feel that's fitting for that section.
- The Sealy News:** A1 is very strong with a large photo and headline to draw the readers attention to the lead story. Sports, too, makes good use of big art. If there's a weak spot to the entry, it's the Opinions page, which feels a bit cluttered. But, overall, a very solid entry.
- The Clifton Record:** A1 is designed nicely, with a large photo and headline to draw the readers attention to the lead story. Sports, too, has a creative design; I like the way the lead story is laid out. Often, multiple photos can make the story look cluttered, but this page was executed well. In Features, the page would have been much stronger had the largest photo been moved above the headline.
- Leader News, Lytle:** Solid layouts throughout the entry. A1 is strong, with an obvious lead story to draw the reader's eye. I would suggest adding hairlines between the stories to increase readability.

### Division 8

- Farmersville Times:** Clean design sets this

- newspaper apart from the others. They use their visuals, subtle text treatments and design elements to create appropriate hierarchy. The interior pages showcase nice photography and sidebars. It's really the little touches here and there that bring together an attractive, unified page.
- Albany News:** Call outs at the top of the page showcase the interior content well. Overall, the pages have good hierarchy and the graphic touches set off the type well. Typography could use some uniformity. For example, on the sports page there is a sidebar with game details. Those varying font treatments clash. Stick with simple, clean font treatments for a more professional look.
  - Iowa Park Leader:** Interesting alternative lead photo, however the placement is confusing. You inherently think the story below the masthead is related to that image, which is not the case. Good use of sidebars to offset information. Great large photo on the sports page.
  - Hamilton Herald-News:** The top of the page is nice with the cutout. It's a great way to use art in a different way. The font choices are all over the place in the design. Create uniformity with fewer fonts for a cleaner look. Also, avoid awkward photo crops/layout like the super skinny photo on the front page. Less is more when it comes to the sports page. While it is great to have lots of images, choosing fewer, quality images would be best.

### Division 9

- Ok, so I hesitated before giving first and second place to the same design team. Quite simply, I think their approach makes the View and the Picayune stand out from their peers. I work for a newspaper about the same size as the ones in this competition; the struggle for us all, I think, is to give readers a newspaper that looks so appealing they can't wait to pick up, instead of just turning round and saying "the paper's here, honey."
- Lake Travis View:** The View's design is colorful, attractive, thoughtful and engaging, and it

looks like a newspaper whose design was thought out from cover to cover. The blue section labels are clear and useful. This was the best sports page, and story on the police department community day shows how even a partial page can be made attractive.

- Westlake Picayune:** Petcasso is simply the most fun feature page in this entire category. The Picayune's pages are neat, the use of color and photos is attractive, and this is another paper whose design is thought through from first page to last.
- Ozona Stockman:** This is a paper whose design drew me in and made me feel welcome. There are some lovely surprises, such as the little artsy illustrations dropped in on the editorial page. Strong sports photos. One thing to watch: the front-page story play made a routine feature seem almost as important as big fire.
- Sachse News:** The News is a paper to watch. The Valentine's day front-page was fun; it didn't quite come off, but as with other features in this paper, it shows some flair. The lifestyle page was very strong. I'd take the best elements of this paper and use them as the basis for a front-to-last page rethink.

### Division 10

- All the winners had well organized, easy-to-read designs making it inviting for the reader. Note: also liked the Red Oak Record but unsure of how to rank as the paper does not have an editorial page (one of the required elements) and instead included a school page.
- Murphy Monitor:** Nice, clean, eye-catching design, attractive
  - Bullard Banner News:** Clean, organized design, lots of faces
  - Big Lake Wildcat:** Easy to read, filled with news the community cares about
  - Clarendon Enterprise:** Makes the most of small spaces



## DIVISION 7, 1ST PLACE

[illegible]

## DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE

[illegible]



# Special Sections

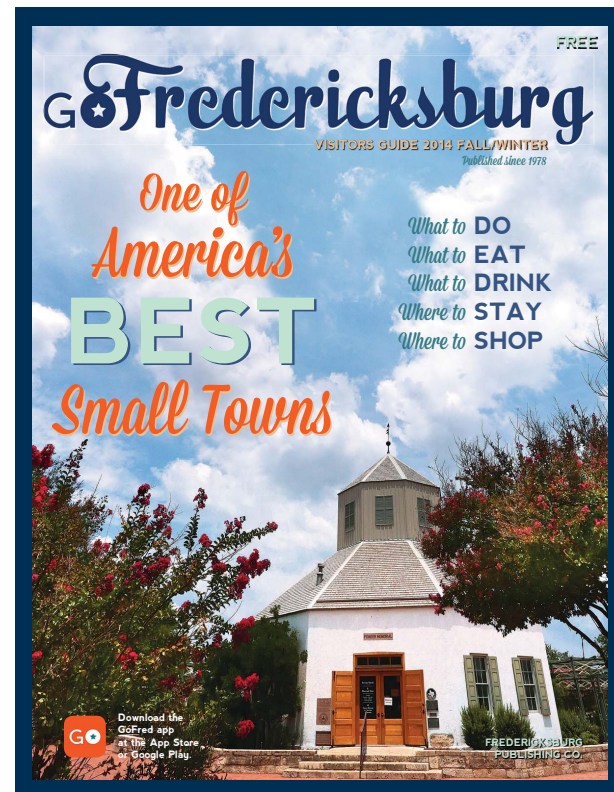
ROUTINE, DAILY,  
1ST PLACE



ROUTINE, SEMIWEEKLY,  
1ST PLACE



ROUTINE, WEEKLY A,  
1ST PLACE



## ROUTINE SPECIAL SECTION

### Dailies

1. **Galveston County Daily News** - *Coast Monthly* - November 2014: Unique content, best production values.
2. **Tyler Morning Telegraph** - *Football Accelerated*: Best production values among the football previews.
3. **Lubbock Avalanche-Journal** - *A-J's Football Fever*: Great story on the teen dad.
4. **New Braunfels, Herald-Zeitung** - *Shine Magazine*

### Semi-weeklies

1. **The Fayette County Record** - *Fayette County Record 2014 Visitors Guide*
2. **El Campo Leader-News** - *Experience El Campo Visitors/Newcomers Guide*
3. **Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun** - *The Guide to Georgetown*
4. **Port Lavaca Wave** - *Relay for Life*

### Weeklies A

1. **Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post** - *Go-Fredericksburg Visitor Guide*
2. **Tyler County Booster** - *Discover Tyler County 2014*
3. **Houston Business Journal** - *Best Places to Work*
4. **The Wylie News** - *In and Around magazine*

### Weeklies B

Every detail of the Glen Rose visitors' guide was attended to: It was pretty, clean, well organized, full of useful detail and well written. The Canadian Record's Pigskin Preview was also quite well done, although the gold pages were a bit over the top. Display of the athlete photos were particularly inspired. The field fell off quickly from there.

1. **Glen Rose Reporter** - *On Track Visitors and Newcomers Guide*
2. **The Canadian Record** - *Pigskin Preview*
3. **Meridian Tribune** - *Friday Night Lights: 2014 Bosque County Football Preview*
4. **Castroville News Bulletin** - *Visitor's Guide*

### Weeklies C

Some tough decisions to be made here, as this was a strong group of entries. And such a great variety of themes -- sports, schools, hunting, rodeo, flashbacks. Difficult at times to judge them against each other.

1. **Ozona Stockman** - *2014 Hunting Guide*: After reading this section, we feel we now know everything we need for a hunting trip -- and we're city folk! Good, informative articles, helpful tips, recipes, and nice use of photos and graphics.
2. **Tri County Leader** - *Fall Sports Preview*: Great, comprehensive sports preview section. Like that it was more than just team photos and rosters, but also had some analysis for the varsity squads. Great spread on the bands, and didn't forget cross country and tennis.
3. **The Liberty Hill Independent** - *Back to School 2014*: Couldn't think of anything needed to know for the upcoming school year that wasn't included in this special section. Very nice-looking overall package.
4. **The Olney Enterprise** - *2014 Relay for Life of Olney*: Good stories, good photos, tight theme. Some touching moments portrayed through words and photos. Had ads that also supported the subject of the special section.

## BLUE MOON SPECIAL SECTION

### Dailies

1. **Galveston County Daily News** - *Galveston 175*: This publication was beautifully designed, making excellent use of historic photographs. Articles were crisp and did not overwhelm the reader with information. Nice job!
2. **Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel** - *Analog East Texas Vol. 1*: Stunning photography and a compelling, artistic design!
3. **Victoria Advocate** - *White Christmas*: Very unique idea for a special section.
4. **Denton Record-Chronicle** - *Football 2014*

### Semi-weeklies

1. **Wise County Messenger** - *Twice as Nice*: Fine chronicle of an important event.
2. **Port Lavaca Wave** - *Snow Memories*: Nice look back at a rare event in that community.
3. **The Fayette County Record** - *Golden Girls: La Grange Softball Team Wins State*: Good and complete coverage.
4. **The Panola Watchman** - *Sports special section*: Plenty to look at here.

### Weeklies A

1. **Houston Business Journal** - *Houston's Ship Channel is big business*: This section was outstanding. The layout was professional, crisp and incredibly visually appealing. I loved that the stories included both history and future, and I thought the addition of the Q-and-A's and the "Day in the Life" breakdown were a great change of pace. Well done.
2. **Hill Country Community Journal** - *Four Way Test Essay Contest*: I thought this was a really neat way to get the paper interacting with and supporting the community. It was laid out well and easy to follow, especially the pages of essays with their ranking and author's bios.

3. **The Clifton Record** - *Wanted: To Protect & Serve Bosque County*: This was a fun, clever way to introduce the new officers. I really liked the old western theme that ran throughout and the way you incorporated some history in as well. There were a few pages that looked text heavy and a bit busy.
4. **Mount Vernon Optic-Herald** - *Courthouse rededication*: I liked your cover and the history you had through out, but a lot of the pages were text heavy and hard to follow with the ad stacks you had to work around. The content was good, though, and I liked the inclusion of the old ads on the last few pages.

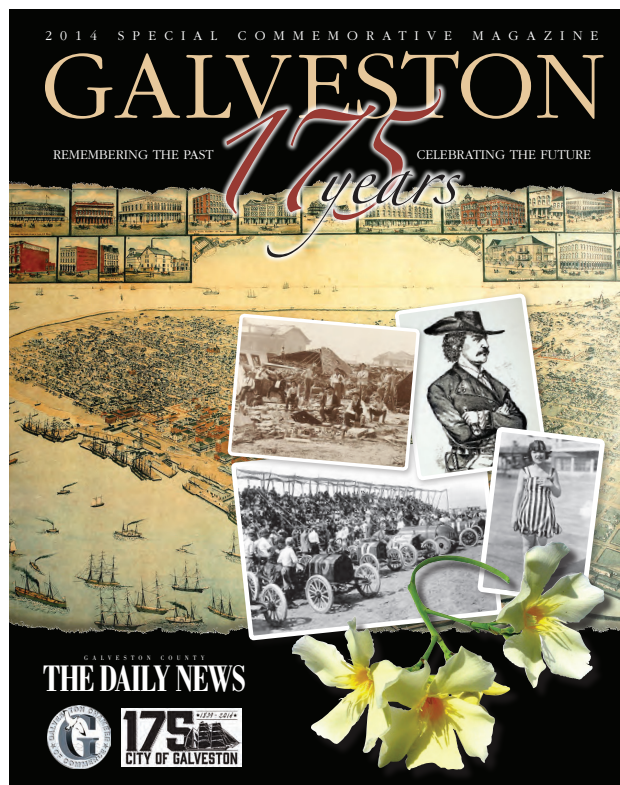
### Weeklies B

- Difficult decision - all entries were well-composed and obviously thought out.
1. **Elgin Courier** - *Honoring local veterans*: Theme is compelling, pictures are well-composed, combination of pictures and student compositions adds to impact for the reader.
  2. **Meridian Tribune** - *German Heritage*: Theme is unique, pieces are well-written and well-thought out.
  3. **The Olney Enterprise** - *Electricity Then & Now: Celebrating 75 years with the Fort Belknap Electric Cooperative*: Theme is unique and timely and provides context to a topic few consider. Insightful and interesting.
  4. **Gladewater Mirror**: Theme is timely, articles are well-written, thorough and useful to readers.

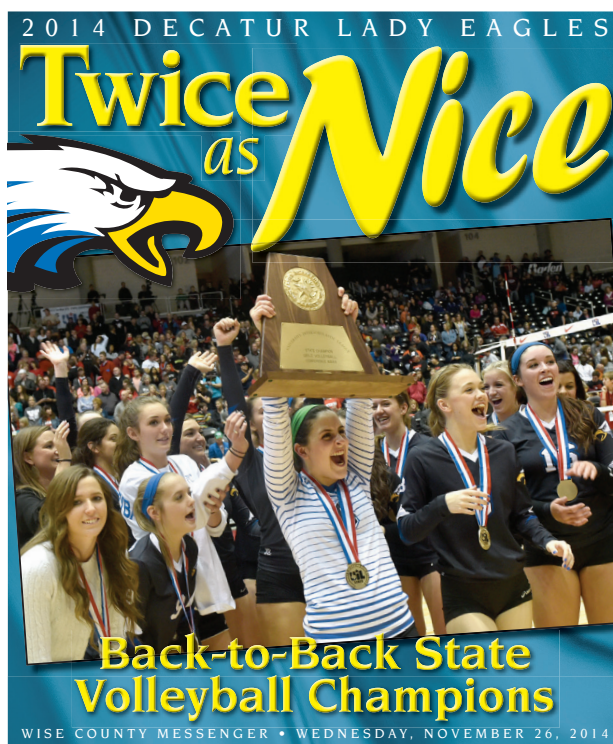


# Special Sections

BLUE MOON, DAILY,  
1ST PLACE



BLUE MOON, SEMIWEEKLY,  
1ST PLACE



BLUE MOON, WEEKLY A,  
1ST PLACE



BLUE MOON, WEEKLY B,  
1ST PLACE



# Community Service

## Dailies

The entries showed newspapers at their best -- driving the community conversation and pressing officials to take action.

1. **Tyler Morning Telegraph** - *Could you live without water?:* Compelling reporting that got results -- and changed lives. Well reported and well told.

2. **Victoria Advocate** - *Victoria police officer investigated for tasing 76-year-old driver/chief apologizes:* The Advocate used one man's troubles to expose broader problems in the police department.

3. **Galveston County Daily News** - *Galveston Bay Oil Spill:* A true team effort to keep readers updated about a major oil spill. A great combination of words, photos and graphics.

4. **Odessa American:** A very personal look at a vanishing group of Americans.

## Semi-weeklies

1. **Uvalde Leader-News** - *Library's funding deficit, triumph:* The editorial board was proactive in support of the library, while acknowledging the challenges faced by the council. Nicely done!

2. **Jacksboro Gazette-News/Jack County Herald** - *Tax series*

3. **El Campo Leader-News** - *Shattered Dreams Community Service Project*

4. **Terrell Tribune** - *Art Walk*

## Weeklies

This was such a hard section to judge. There was FOIA requests for a little girl's death, saving a food band, showing the community the lack of community housing, school bonds, cancer survivors and more. These entries show that the local newspaper continues to be the heart of the community.

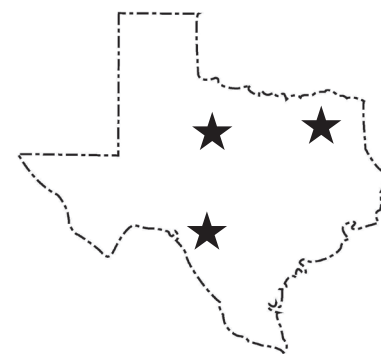
1. **Eastland County Today:** Newspapers are the community watchdog. And when there are no answers for a little girl's death, the newspaper became her voice. It showed the community that everyone matters, making it the top of all community service.

2. **Gladewater Mirror** - *Saving Manna House:* This newspaper saw a need and rallied the community for support. What a way to save such an important aspect for everyday community members.

3. **Port Aransas South Jetty** - *Affordable housing series:* A roof over your head is one

of the three most important things in life. And this newspaper showed that affordable housing was needed.

4. **Katy Times** - *The Katy ISD Bond issue:* Realizing that reporting was doesn't enough the first time and knowing that the community needed the project for its long-term goals makes this a winner.













# Website

Dailies

**1. Victoria Advocate:** The clean color palette and layout make this site easy to navigate on all devices. The most commented section is a great touch to promote trending topics. The large video widget is a great way to promote multimedia content. The news grid is good but lacks hierarchy. It would be great if one or more of the items were larger than the others. They would also benefit greatly from thumbnails.

**2. Galveston County Daily News:** The masthead and flag graphic at the top of the page are eye catching and present the newspaper well. There is a lot of uneven white space across the site that throws off the balance. The horizontal grouping of stories is a good way to feature content, but should be set off in some way either with a header, tool lines, color blocking, etc.

**3. Brownwood Bulletin:** The white space, clean lines and fonts give the site a modern look. There is a lack of hierarchy at the top of the page with both of the headers being the same font size and weight. It would be beneficial to signify which is more important so the reader knows where to look. There are so many pop up/takeover ads on the site that it is a distracting user experience. Using video the video widget is a great way to promote multimedia, however the widget was broken when using the site. The photo galleries section is nice and clear. It would be great if there were more space for the

headline as they get cut off easily.

**4. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal - *lonestarvariety.com*:** This site stood out with it's bold, modern color palette. The site design is simple but easy to navigate. It would be good to even the length of the page by including more stories in the feed. Work on standardizing the feel of the page with unified fonts and button styles. Also, this site could benefit from white pace between items in the center skinny column.

Semi-weeklies

**1. Wise County Messenger:** The clean, modern design of this site set it apart from the rest. The breaking news section is a good way to keep the most important, most relevant news at the top of the page. It would be good to limit the characters that show here, because it is a little long. The slider adds a nice visual to the page. The overall layout is easy to navigate with the clear section headers. It would be nice to see a better incorporation of multimedia on the site, especially video. Also, it would be good to surface your social media accounts with icons to increase social engagement. In our changing media environment, it is especially important to make sure you are serving your digital audience is the most effective way. It would be smart to make the site responsive to mobile devices to improve the reading experience and therefore increase the retention rate of those users.

**2. The Bowie News:** Nice, clean masthead and navigation structure. Develop the top, red navigation more to make it more useful. The calendar and weather widgets are good for user engagement. It would be nice to see a better incorporation of multimedia on the site, especially video. The overall structure is easy to navigate. It would be good to use varying thumbnails for obits to avoid repetition. When I looked on the site, there was a placeholder ad on the side. Make sure you are either fill all of your units with house ads if there are holes or eliminating the ad position from the page.

**3. The Fayette County Record:** Very nice masthead and navigation. I like that it is tabs that respond to which page you are on. The slider on the top of the page could use an arrow so that the user can interact a little easier with the order of the stories. The use of the sidebar to highlight the paper and special sections is a great way to get your other products to the forefront. It would be great to see a better incorporation of multimedia including video on the site. Also, it would be good to surface your social media accounts with icons to increase social engagement.

**4. Terrell Tribune:** The navigation is clear, but could stand to be a little larger in font size. There are a lot of moving elements with the animated ads and breaking news bar. Due to those competing elements, it's hard to find a center of focus. The "In the spotlight" section is a good place to highlight break-

ing news, although the shown tags are unnecessary. I like that the organization puts an emphasis on video by placing it high on the page, but like to see it relate to the accompanying story. The overall white space on the page is unbalanced, especially on the bottom of the site. Work on creating a consistent column system so your information looks more organized. Also, it would be good to surface your social media accounts with icons to increase social engagement.

Weeklies A

All websites keeping up to date. Biggest problem is use of space, too much junk or too much whitespace.

**1. Tyler County Booster:** clean, easy to navigate

**2. Houston Business Journal:** slick site, easy read

**3. The Big Bend Sentinel:** simple but effective

**4. The Sealy News:** big try

Weeklies B

- 1. Eldorado Success
- 2. Big Lake Wildcat
- 3. The Presidio International
- 4. The Canadian Record

# Sweepstakes Winners

|                                     |     |                                       |     |                          |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| Division 2                          |     | 3. Terrell Tribune                    | 300 | Division 9               |     |
| 1. Galveston County Daily News      | 475 | 4. El Campo Leader-News               | 275 | 1. Lake Travis View*     | 475 |
| 2. Victoria Advocate                | 450 |                                       |     | 2. Westlake Picayune*    | 475 |
| 3. Tyler Morning Telegraph          | 400 | Division 6                            |     | 3. Springtown Epigraph*  | 475 |
| 4. Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel       | 375 | 1. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post | 400 | 4. Ozona Stockman        | 425 |
|                                     |     | 2. Port Aransas South Jetty           | 375 |                          |     |
| Division 3                          |     | 3. Silsbee Bee                        | 350 | Division 10              |     |
| 1. Seguin Gazette                   | 550 | 4. Hill Country Community Journal     | 325 | 1. Big Lake Wildcat      | 550 |
| 2. Marshall News Messenger          | 300 |                                       |     | 2. Bullard Banner News   | 375 |
| 3. Athens Daily Review*             | 275 | Division 7                            |     | 3. Murphy Monitor*       | 350 |
| 4. Vernon Daily Record*             | 275 | 1. Hays Free Press                    | 550 | 4. Clarendon Enterprise* | 350 |
|                                     |     | 2. The Community News                 | 425 |                          |     |
| Division 4                          |     | 3. The Sealy News                     | 350 |                          |     |
| 1. Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun | 725 | 4. The Big Bend Sentinel              | 275 |                          |     |
| 2. Hood County News*                | 650 |                                       |     |                          |     |
| 3. The Fayette County Record*       | 650 | Division 8                            |     |                          |     |
| 4. Wise County Messenger            | 525 | 1. The Canadian Record                | 475 |                          |     |
|                                     |     | 2. Iowa Park Leader                   | 425 |                          |     |
| Division 5                          |     | 3. Meridian Tribune                   | 375 |                          |     |
| 1. Kilgore News Herald              | 500 | 4. Glen Rose Reporter                 | 350 |                          |     |
| 2. The Bowie News                   | 400 |                                       |     |                          |     |

*\*Tiebreaker rules: contestants with the highest placement in the general excellence category are given precedence.*



# SportsPhotos

**Division 2**  
1st place was a clear winner. His two entries demonstrated the agony of defeat and the joy of victory.  
**1. Galveston County Daily News** - *Time runs out/Back to state*  
**2. Kerrville Daily Times**  
**3. Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel** - *ThePileUp/TheCatch*  
**4. Victoria Advocate**

**Division 3**  
Strong category, tough decisions to be made, best of what I've seen so far.  
**1. Huntsville Item** - *Joshua Yates: LSU Peak action, photo and headline work perfectly together. Strong celebration photo.*  
**2. Seguin Gazette** - *Up for grabs/Zone Champions: Good basketball action, coach in the background makes the shot, good celebration shot*  
**3. Brownwood Bulletin** - *Still Unbeaten/Victory for the Ages: Good football, tighter crop would have made it better, excellent celebration photo*  
**4. The Courier, Conroe** - *Victory and Defeat/Whatever It Takes: Good soccer reaction photo, needed to crop a bit from bottom, good football action.*

**Division 4**  
**1. Wise County Messenger:** Nice mix of emotion and action.  
**2. Uvalde Leader-News:** Solid overall action and keeping the ball in frame.  
**3. Williamson County Sun/Sunday Sun** - *Air*

*Herbert/Hester wins:* Well composed, nice job keeping all limbs accounted for in the first one.  
**4. Hood County News** - *Airborne battle, Jax among giants*  
**Division 5**  
Some good moments, tight action shots. We like the play some of these papers gave.  
**1. El Campo Leader-News** - *March 5: Close Calls/May 3: Dugout Explosion*  
**2. Kilgore News Herald**  
**3. Terrell Tribune**  
**4. Round Rock Leader** - *Definitely, the Warriors are in/Substitute goalie saves the day*

**Division 6**  
Overall, a great selection of photos. First place selection stood out, but choosing second-through-fourth place was tough. There were some "easy" action shots, but most showed good anticipation and timing by photographer.  
**1. Hill Country Community Journal** - *Sweep: Tivy sweeps series against S.A. Brennan with two wins/Champion holds off Tivy: Sharp focus, great color and good composition. Action is outstanding; shot of collision at home plate is simply awesome.*  
**2. Azle News** - *7 on 7/Hornet Nation: Love that shot of player catching touchdown pass was not only a nice shot, but was of the game-winning play. No real on-court action in volleyball shot, but crowd behind alert player makes up for it.*  
**3. Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post:** Really like the way headline relates to volleyball shot; ball

looks out of reach, just as team's hopes proved to be. Great expressions on faces of hurdler, shotput-ter.  
**4. Silsbee Bee:** Great timing on shot of runner being tagged out by flying infielder. Little fuzzy, but that appears to be because it's a night game.

**Division 7**  
Overall weak category with one great exception.  
**1. Cuero Record** - *Bi-district win over Rio Hondo/D'Anthony Hopkins makes tall leap: Two good photos together carried this to the top.*  
**2. The Clifton Record** - *Out At Home/Brick Wall: Baseball photo was right moment and position, and football picture was decent.*  
**3. The Vindicator** - *Cheerleader shadow: Single photo was category's best, but the rules require two photos. Too bad.*  
**4. The Community News** - *High Jump/Baseball Celebration: Pretty good baseball celebration at the mound, but the high jump photo was just average.*

**Division 8**  
Category generated a lengthy discussion, fueled by debate over superb images weakened by sub-par secondary photos.  
**1. Glen Rose Reporter** - *In good hands: Great peak action on softball and well-done collection of on- and off-court volleyball photos.*  
**2. Goliad Advance-Guard:** Both pictures are solid, clean, and well-cropped pictures.  
**3. The Ellis County Press:** Weak basketball photo dragged down the top sports single. Too bad.

**4. Iowa Park Leader** - *Bulldog Headache/Hawks soar to bi-district win: Quarterback dive is good action, but overall a busy photo. The gang-tackling picture pulled the entry downward.*  
**Division 9**  
Weak category. No 3rd or 4th place finishers.  
**1. Tri County Leader** - *Going the distance/White-house hosts Wildcat Relays*  
**2. Springtown Epigraph** - *Out at First/District Champ*  
**3. None Selected**  
**4. None Selected**

**Division 10**  
Winners stood out easily above the rest of entries. Muleshoe Journal had strong photo entries, but oddly written cutlines dropped them out of contention.  
**1. Red Oak Record:** Excellent soccer photo, good action, face in basketball shot.  
**2. Big Lake Wildcat** - *Goodloe High Jump/Crushing Block: Good high jump photo, tighter crop would have improved it. Don't often see a photo built around a block, this one works.*  
**3. Murphy Monitor** - *Getting Through/Awkward, indeed: Like the face in the wrestling photo, a tighter crop would make it better, technically good basketball.*  
**4. Lindsay Letter** - *Sweet victory/State bound: Two good celebration photos*

## DIVISION 10, 1ST PLACE



**The Hawks' Goalie, Russell Brown,** went out to block a corner kick shot and after knocking the ball away found a defender's head between his hands. Brown gently helped the defender to the turf (sort of). The Hawks went on to win 3-2.

## DIVISION 7, 1ST PLACE



Cuero's D'Anthony Hopkins (30 carries for 213 yards and 3 TDs) makes a tall leap over Yoakum Bulldogs in attempt to score during regional playoffs at Memorial Stadium in Victoria on Nov. 28. PHOTO BY TIM O'MALLEY/THE CUERO RECORD



# SportsPhotos

DIVISION 9, 1ST PLACE



Leader Photo/Jim Jackson

The Whitehouse track teams hosted the Wildcat Relays Thursday, March 27, in Whitehouse. Corsicana won the junior varsity boys and girls division, Chapel Hill won the varsity girls division, and Kilgore captured the varsity boys division. Hallsville, Pine Tree and Jacksonville also participated in the meet.

DIVISION 4, 1ST PLACE



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**THE END** — Matt Cedrone kneels in the end zone after Decatur's two-point loss in quadruple overtime against Stephenville Friday night. The loss ends the Eagles' season.

DIVISION 6, 1ST PLACE



Photo by Stuart Curyus

**TIVY'S JACOB NEAL** survives a violent collision at home plate to score during the Antlers' 12-6 win over San Antonio Brennan Saturday in Class 4A bi-district playoff action at San Antonio's Wolff Stadium. With the victory and a 3-2 win over the Bears in more playoff action Friday at Antler Field, Tivy completed a two-game sweep of the series while improving to 19-10-2 on the year.

DIVISION 2, 1ST PLACE



Clear Falls' Madison Gibson, left, Kayla Hayes, center, and Naomi Jean, right, celebrate after winning the fifth set of the Region III 6A Final on Saturday afternoon at the Aldine ISD M.O. Campbell

Center in Houston. The Lady Knights defeated the Mustangs to claim the Region III 6A title and advance to the state tournament next weekend. Photos by KEVIN M. COX/The Daily News