tractive and offer plenty of interest points for readers.”

CLASS 02 - COMMUNITY SERVICE
Division A

1st Place: Oaklawn Independent, Janice Hunt. A Walk Around Oaklawn: “Easily the best among the entries. Every small town newspaper in America should do this. It is incredible in every way of community service. Take a bow. You deserve it!”

2nd Place: Oaklawn Independent, Janice Hunt. It’s about more than coffee: “This story reaches out to the community, defines the new space well and invites the community to action. Job well done.”

3rd Place: The Lexingtonian, Kavahn Mansouri, DeAsia Paige. Raw sewage leaks into Centreville homes: “Nice package and interesting idea. A question, however, is how did you pick the few restaurants that were featured in your series from the list of hundreds that were up or delivery? Not all of the 16 were mentioned, if I counted and tallied correctly.”

Honorable Mention: Daily Southtown, Tinley Park, Zak Koese. Zak Koese reporting on COVID-19 problems at large grocery store. Facility and changes that followed

Division B

1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Staff. Sup- porting small local restaurants: “Nice package and interesting idea. A question, however, is how did you pick the few restaurants that were featured in your series from the list of hundreds that were up or delivery? Not all of the 16 were mentioned, if I counted and tallied correctly.”

2nd Place: The Hinsdalean, Jim Stoloff. Display your community support: “Good idea, even if it was ‘borrowed’ as you noted in the reference to the U of I fraternity. Did you run more house ads, or just the one in your contest? If you can run 50-70 support signs and raising almost $3,000 was a home run!”

3rd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, IL. 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage: “In a year with so many negative impacts because of COVID-19, I find it interesting that you choose to enter something that many — if not most — counties and parishes in the United States had some sort of exhibit or display. Other than news stories, you support the 100th anniversary through a revenue-generating page.”

Division C

1st Place: The Times, Ottawa. “The layout is very crisp. Very powerful storm coverage, and the stories keep me intrigued. Overall really good scope of coverage.”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign-Urbana. “Providing coverage of COVID is every newspaper’s responsibility, but this team made it so much more than that. Moving beyond basic reporting of cases, facts and figures, the staff made a decision to communicate with community members, creating a #Centrilliniogo2gether campaign and adopting a mindset that sharing readers’ stories was just as crucial. Great job introducing the effort to the community and excellent job delivering personal stories in a variety of engaging, impactful formats.”

2nd Place: The Telegraph, Alton, Staff. Truly Local: “This is a great community service campaign, and a great example of listening to residents and filling a need.”

Division D

1st Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Staff. COVID community service: “Offering coverage of COVID is every newspaper’s responsibility, but this team made it so much more than that. Moving beyond basic reporting of cases, facts and figures, the staff made a decision to communicate with community members, creating a #Centrilliniogo2gether campaign and adopting a mindset that sharing readers’ stories was just as crucial. Great job introducing the effort to the community and excellent job delivering personal stories in a variety of engaging, impactful formats.”

2nd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights. “Solid lineup of local news, sports, and feature articles, accompanied by a variety of community correspondents. Strong editorials. Layouts are attractive and offer plenty of interest points for readers.”

CLASS 03 - LOCAL EDITORIAL
Division A

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign-Urbana. “Offering coverage of COVID is every newspaper’s responsibility, but this team made it so much more than that. Moving beyond basic reporting of cases, facts and figures, the staff made a decision to communicate with community members, creating a #Centrilliniogo2gether campaign and adopting a mindset that sharing readers’ stories was just as crucial. Great job introducing the effort to the community and excellent job delivering personal stories in a variety of engaging, impactful formats.”

2nd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights. “Solid lineup of local news, sports, and feature articles, accompanied by a variety of community correspondents. Strong editorials. Layouts are attractive and offer plenty of interest points for readers.”

3rd Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale. The Southern Editorial Board. A new chapter for SHUC: “Good editorial that explains Southern Illinois University-Carbondale’s impact on the surrounding community and the need for a steady hand who can provide stability in the chancellor’s office.”

Honorable Mention: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Editorial Board. Remember: “This Memorial Day is a poignant, well done.”

Division B

1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lan- nom. On-street dining is just an idea — but a good one: “The lead is a little cliche, but that gives way to a well-written and researched plea for the city to pass a ordinance beyond the box, or at least outside the restaurant.”

3rd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, IL. “A foreclosed building on an ill-advised policy change by the local school board. …It’s a solid read.”

2nd Place: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lan- nom. On-street dining is just an idea — but a good one: “The lead is a little cliche, but that gives way to a well-written and researched plea for the city to pass a ordinance beyond the box, or at least outside the restaurant.”

3rd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, IL. “A foreclosed building on an ill-advised policy change by the local school board. …It’s a solid read.”

2nd Place: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lan- nom. On-street dining is just an idea — but a good one: “The lead is a little cliche, but that gives way to a well-written and researched plea for the city to pass a ordinance beyond the box, or at least outside the restaurant.”

Division C

1st Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, IL. “We don’t know if COVID-19 is here yet: “The Register-Mail makes a powerful case for more transparency from local institutions on COVID-19 infection and transmission data. Rather than cite chapter and verse of public records law, the editorial writer focuses on how journalists can do a better job in presenting news. It may be a bit optimistic in thinking people will seek out other viewpoints for their own, at least in the present climate.”

Honorable Mention: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lan- nom. On-street dining is just an idea — but a good one: “The lead is a little cliche, but that gives way to a well-written and researched plea for the city to pass a ordinance beyond the box, or at least outside the restaurant.”

3rd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, IL. “A foreclosed building on an ill-advised policy change by the local school board. …It’s a solid read.”

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3rd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, IL. “A foreclosed building on an ill-advised policy change by the local school board. …It’s a solid read.”
CLASS 19 - PHOTO SERIES Division A
1st Place: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown, Brian DeLoche. Shucks!

CLASS 19 - PHOTO SERIES Division B

CLASS 19 - PHOTO SERIES Division D
1st Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Clay Jackson. In Touch With Nature

CLASS 19 - PHOTO SERIES Division E
1st Place: Rockford Register Star, Scott P. Yates. On the front line fighting COVID-19
**Division F**

**1st Place:** Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Sun-Times editorial board. **Title:** Strife on the streets and police reform editorial. **Award:** Positions on regional issues are strongly stated with vivid language that grabs the reader’s attention. Details support well-reasoned arguments without distracting from their clarity. Memorable. **2nd Place:** Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, John Lampinen. **Award:** A strong call to action on a local issue, backed up by details, clear explanations of the issues and the large community impacts, and well reasoned arguments. **Honorable Mention:** Chicago Sun-Times, Lorraine Forte. “Kids belong in school (real school) despite pandemic” editorials, Lorraine Forte. “Strong calls to action on a local issue, supported by details, clear explanations, and well reasoned arguments.”

**CLASS 04 - NEWS REPORTING - SINGLE STORY**

**Division A**

**1st Place:** Kendall County Record, Yorkville, Lucas Robinson. Kendall County jail numbers show improvement: “Blue ribbon reporting, writing in a crowded field of 31. The quotes early, the attention the art captures – it is excellent journalism rather than what it might have been, meaningful, thoughtful and important stats. Well done, and congratulations!”

**2nd Place:** Oregon Republican Reporter, Earlene Hinton. Ogle County tornado: “Nice work! What a frightening time for those residents, and their stories are shared. Also attention to detail on the storm itself. This one is clearly among those that stands out in a category of 31.”

**3rd Place:** Oakland Independent, Janice Hunt. Time capsule found during demolition of church building: “As fascinating a story among the 31 in this category that there was, and the author keeps us reading to the end. The money-winner photo of the phone as the newspaper of that day – don’t you love how wide it is? – is read to the crowd gathered is a wonderful touch in the presentation. Nice work!”

**Honorable Mention:** The Harrisburg Register, Travis DeNeal. Pope County family finds Civil War-era belt buckle: “Readers can rejoice when, in the past year, their authors can bring them the positives from the pandemic. This story fits that bill, and the author has done a wonderful job of telling it. It is interesting, unique, and something readers need to know about. From a category of 31 entries, this is well done!”

**Division B**

**1st Place:** Cook County Chronicle, Chicago, Eric R. Olson. “Wishbone: A true story of one’s old wishbone is brought to life in this heart-breaking”: “Good, detailed reporting and profile on the sad, tragic death of a young Good Samaritan and dad who was only trying to help others.”

**2nd Place:** The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Mary (Galer) Herschelman. Hillsboro Man On Scene At Smartphone Shooting: “Good reporting and information from first-person witness regarding tragic shootings by troubled employee at a local company.”

**Award:** The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Mary (Galer) Herschelman. Eight-Week Window A Struggle For Businesses: “Story apes conveys how the COVID-19 shut-down was affecting local business.”

**Honorable Mention:** The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom. Hinsdaleans coping with COVID-19: “Good details and reporting with need-to-know information for readers on how the onset of the pandemic is affecting local entities and everyone’s day-to-day lives.”

**Division C**

**1st Place:** Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Chuck Fieldman. Local mental health experts on challenges dealing with pandemic.

**2nd Place:** Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Chuck Fieldman. Oak Brook keeps legal action as option over red-light camera.

**3rd Place:** Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Chuck Fieldman. Local pizza place becomes legendary over one of its menu items.

**Honorable Mention:** Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Chuck Fieldman. Elmhurst girl practices violin to raise money for COVID-19 efforts.

**Division D**

**1st Place:** Herald & Review, Decatur, Tony Reid, Analisa Trofimuk. Years of neglect.

**2nd Place:** The Beacon-News, Aurora, Katelyn Jones. Granting killer Bruce Lindsall the right to die: “Great job on covering this tragedy and giving the readers a real sense of what happened.”

**3rd Place:** Rockford Register Star, Kevin Haas. 78-year-old doesn’t take 5 years to get justice: “This story brings the frustration with the slow pace of the justice system into the forefront and also combines the effects of COVID.”

**Honorable Mention:** The News-Gazette, Champaign, Jeff D’Alessio. Marine’s WW II remains recovered, returned home: “A well-written story of paying tribute to a local veteran.”

**Division E**

**1st Place:** The State Journal-Register, Springfield, Staff of The State Journal-Register. Bunn-O-Matic shooting: “Great job on covering this tragedy and giving the readers a real sense of what happened.”

**2nd Place:** Springfield, Staff of The State Journal-Register. Bunn-O-Matic shooting: “An overlooked situation is addressed in this well-researched and researched story.”

**Honorable Mention:** The News-Gazette, Champaign, Jeff D’Alessio. Marine’s WW II remains recovered, returned home: “A well-written story of paying tribute to a local veteran.”

**Division F**

**1st Place:** Chicago Sun-Times, Frank Main, Jon Seidel. “The reporters took a deeper look at a heralded act and raised serious questions.”

**2nd Place:** Chicago Sun-Times, Lynn Sweet. “The politics of violence in Kankakee.”

**3rd Place:** The Hinsdalean, Suzanne Wysmaw. “This entry took a clear, concise approach to a huge question looming over Kenosha and the nation. The reporter gathered strong voices to tell these stories.”

**CLASS 06 - LOCALIZED NATIONAL STORY**

**Division A**

**1st Place:** Oakland Independent, Janice Hunt. Nearly too late for honor: “This story epitomizes a localized national story – a local sailor on a boat that received a national honor and a variety of historic photos to tell this story.”

**2nd Place:** The Navigator, Albion, Amy Winter. What’s it like on the frontlines: “A compelling story of a local nurse on the front lines of New York of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Could have used fewer quotes and it needed info on how she got to that hospital, but other than that a good story.”

**3rd Place:** The Sidell Reporter, Suzanne Woodward. Autism Awareness Month: “This story puts a local face on a disease that affects many nationwide. Nice and varied photos of the youths.”

**Honorable Mention:** The Woodstock Independent, Tricia Carzoli. Veterans suicides decline locally: “Good story about local efforts to help veterans.”

**Award:** The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Mary (Galer) Herschelman. Hillsboro Man On Scene At Smartphone Shooting: “Good reporting and information from first-person witness regarding tragic shootings by troubled employee at a local company.”

**3rd Place:** Chicago Sun-Times, Stefano Esposito. ‘25 years later, Fox River Grove Metra-school bus crash still haunts engineer, other survivors;’ “There is a beautiful written account that places a reader squarely in the center of an avoidable disaster, then demonstrates what has changed to repeat it.”

**Honorable Mention:** Belleville News-Democrat, Alexis Cortes. Granite City crime-free housing rules dispute future of even those accused of crime: “An admirable job prying into the unintended consequences of a law that obviously needs revisiting. Memorable and artfully told.”

**CLASS 05 – NEWS REPORTING – SERIES**

**Division A**

**1st Place:** Oregon Republican Reporter, Jeff Helfrich, Earlene Hinton. Storm hits Fox River Grove: “Awesome story, really outstanding work telling the story of a terrible storm in a unique way.”

**2nd Place:** Oregon Republican Reporter, Lee Bey. “It’s day In adjusts, thrives despite COVID-19 mitigations: “A fun, hyper-local way of telling the story of how a business is thriving during a difficult time.”

**3rd Place:** The Sidel Reporter, Suzanne Woodard and Rinda Maddox. “Interesting story of how a potentially tragic moment turned out OK. Love the sidebar headline.”

**Honorable Mention:** The Woodstock Independent, Susan W. Murray. County’s COVID-19 death toll: “Nice job localizing a major story throughout the country.”

**Division B**

**1st Place:** The Greenville Advocate, Steven Stilt. Hickman murder trial: “Well-written and presented nicely. Your series was written so as to allow me to feel that I was in the courtroom, following the testimony. This is what news-reporting is all about.”

**2nd Place:** Kane County Chronicle, St. Charles, Brenda Schory. Abandoned dog finds new home: “One of those feel-good stories: "It shouldn’t take 5 years to get justice." This series aptly conveys how the COVID-19 shut-down was affecting local business.”

**3rd Place:** Cook County Chronicle, Chicago, Kevin Beebe. News Reporting Series: “Nice package on the numbers. Engaging and engrossing.”

**Honorable Mention:** The Hinsdalean, Staff. “A strong call to action on a local issue, backed up by details, clear explanations, and well reasoned arguments.”

**Division C**

**1st Place:** Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Karen Ann Cullotta, Genevieve Esposito. City crime-free housing rules displacement: “Position on regional issues are strongly stated with vivid language that grabs the reader’s attention. Details support well-reasoned arguments without distracting from their clarity. The stories were compelling and captured the issues surrounding the child’s death and detailed the tragic life of this child.”

**2nd Place:** Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Amanda Marrazzo. Burrito Express murder: “This was a well-written series of stories that brought attention to a possible wrongful conviction. Great job.”

**3rd Place:** Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Katie Smith, Amanda Marrazzo, Cassie Buchman. Fallout from the murder of 5-year-old AJ Freund: “This was a great job of covering a difficult case. The stories were compelling and captured the issues surrounding the child’s death and detailed the tragic life of this child.”

**Division D**

**1st Place:** The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Megan Jones. Escaping killer Bruce Wally. “25 years later, Fox River Grove Metra-school bus crash still haunts engineer, other survivors;’ “There is a beautiful written account that places a reader squarely in the center of an avoidable disaster, then demonstrates what has changed to repeat it.”

**Honorable Mention:** Belleville News-Democrat, Alexis Cortes. Granite City crime-free housing rules dispute future of even those accused of crime: “An admirable job prying into the unintended consequences of a law that obviously needs revisiting. Memorable and artfully told.”

**Division E**

**1st Place:** Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Amanda Marrazzo, Burrito Express murder: “This was a well-written series of stories that brought attention to a possible wrongful conviction. Great job.”

**2nd Place:** Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Afghanistan.”

**3rd Place:** Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Amanda Marrazzo, Burrito Express murder: “This was a well-written series of stories that brought attention to a possible wrongful conviction. Great job.”

**Division F**

**1st Place:** Chicago Sun-Times, Frank Main, Andy Grimm. “Long delays for justice: “This package made a strong case for action on a major problem and got results.”

**2nd Place:** Chicago Sun-Times, Lynn Sweet. “The politics of violence in Kankakee.”

**3rd Place:** Chicago Sun-Times, Frank Main. “The unintended consequences of the federal First Step Act.”

**Honorable Mention:** Chicago Sun-Times, Tim Novak, Lauren FitzPatrick. Cook County Land Bank Authority investigation: “The reporters shed light on troubling financial ties within this program.”
CLASS 20 - SPOT NEWS PHOTO Division A
1st Place: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown, Brian DeLoche. Turning up the volume

CLASS 20 - SPOT NEWS PHOTO Division B
1st Place: The Greenville Advocate, Dave Bell. Paving parade

CLASS 20 - SPOT NEWS PHOTO Division D
1st Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. River rescue.

CLASS 20 - SPOT NEWS PHOTO Division E
1st Place: Rockford Register Star, Scott P. Yates. Fire destroys Loves Park apartment building
Division B


2nd Place: Hinsdale Leader, Ken Knut- son. Fires in the west spark man into action; “Very good interview about being a rookie wildland firefighter.”

3rd Place: Des Plaines Journal, Lauren Barry. Protests & Why: “Good work. All related to the George Floyd death, all different.”

Honorable Mention: Kane County Chronicle, St. Charles. Eric Schelkopf. Protestors march down Route 38: “Interesting use of photos with the quotes attached.”

Division C


2nd Place: Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Pioneer Press staff. In political climate often filled with vitriol, high school civic teachers see hope: “A nice survey of various high school teachers to respond to an increasingly polarized national debate.”

3rd Place: Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Kaiitl恩 Edquist, Genevieve Bookwalter. National movement comes to Glenview, Evanston: “Fact-based protest coverage that includes a good variety of local voices.”

Division D

1st Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Matt Koester. Families cope in tragic aftermath of overdoses: “Poignant story that gives a national tragedy a local focus, Well written with good use of quotes.”

2nd Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale, Molly Parker. JALC suspends diversity activities: “Well sourced with a lot of effort to show all sides of the story.”

3rd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. ‘You’re gonna’ start seeing Blacks speaking up”: “Fantastic portrait of a local man.”

Honorable Mention: Breeze Courier, Taylorville, Owen Lasswell. Taylorville protest postponed: “A good examination of national event with a local connection.”

Division E

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Jeff D’ Alessio. Tribute to John Barry. “Worthy of being honored, the unique campaign, Jeff D’ Alessio. Tribute to John Barry. ”

2nd Place: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Kelsey Rettyke, Katie Finlon. Sycamore water woes: “Lead levels, city denial lead to class action lawsuit: “Great use of the Freedom of Information Act. This story would have been what it became without using it.”


Division F

1st Place: The Herald-News, Joliet, Bob Okon. City of Joliet government beat reporting by Bob Okon: “Bob Okon’s stories were informative and entertaining at the same time. Making government stories relevant and interesting is a tough balance. And Okon did a great job.”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Mary Schenk. Crime and courts: “The stories were compelling and well-written and well-researched. Mary Schenk did a great job of telling the stories of the individuals involved and the impact on their lives.”

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Anthony Zilis. Champaign-Urbana school boards: “This was a well-written group of stories that touched upon some subject matters that are not always at the forefront in education coverage.”

Honorable Mention: News-Tribune, La Salle, Tom Collins. Tracking the Peru Mall’s future: “Nice coverage of an issue many communities are facing. There was lots of good information in this stories, and a great job of letting the community know what was happening.”

Division F

1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Tom Schuba. Tom Schuba full government beat reporting on marijuana legalization: “Tightly focused, thorough and gritty reporting on a developing industry that needs scrutiny.”

2nd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Marnie Pyke. Transportation Beat Coverage: “These stories had bite, made good use of public records, and gave a voice to a segment of public transporta- tion riders who especially depend on well running systems.”

3rd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Nader Issa. Nader Issa, Chicago schools beat coverage: “Well-rounded and deeply reported coverage from...”
CLASS 20 - SPOT NEWS PHOTO Division F
1st Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Rick West. Protest Prayer

CLASS 21 - GENERAL NEWS PHOTO Division A
1st Place: Palatine Journal & Topics, Shawn Clisham. In Remembrance

CLASS 21 - GENERAL NEWS PHOTO Division B
1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Jim Slonoff. Science can be a laughing matter

CLASS 21 - GENERAL NEWS PHOTO Division C
1st Place: Journal & Topics Media Group, Shawn Clisham. Breathe In, Breathe Out
**CLASS 9 - BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING**

**Division A**

1st Place: DeKalb, Eddie Carifio. “Completely un-Honorable Mention: detail the life of Abron”

“This story wasn’t what I was expected – it really extensive piece with a lot of good descriptions that brought this story to life. “


3rd Place: Kendall County Record, Yorkville, Lucas Robinson. “It’s still a shock”: Remembrance, ‘unjustified’ New restrictions to new restrictions: “Good length, told a nice story broken up by subheads.”

**Honorable Mention: Oregon Republican Reporter, Jeff Heflich. COVID-19 impact on farms, businesses: “Good package. The pics and story tell a good story and attract the reader. Wish it got the other side (business owners who aren’t com-”

**Division B**

1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom. Flatten the curvature: “Every newspaper in America covered the local business impacts of COVID-19. This one is a stellaa example of a doing it well. You top it off with great quotes and some clever ledes.”

2nd Place: The Hinsdalean, Ken Koutson. Hinsdale openings bring fresh offerings: “This lively, local piece showcases diver-”

3rd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Mary (Galer) Herschelman. Gardens Grow Despite Pandemic Outbreak: “A delightful feature filled with details that looks at something positive that came out of the pandemic. The perfect quotes really sell this piece.”

**Honorable Mention: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Mary (Galer) Herschelman. Eight Week Window A Struggle For Businesses: “Although this article takes its time getting to the heart of the matter, it localizes a pressing national issue with a diversity of sources.”

**Division C**

1st Place: Sauk Valley Media, Brian Weidman. Gone fishin’ for good: Bunny’s Bail Shop, a local institution, set to close its doors Oct. 8: “I love the details and de-scriptions that brought this story to life.”

2nd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Matt Koester. Making a model city for solar & NEI solar projects on the rise: “A really extensive piece with a lot of good information for readers. The effort put into the article is clear.”

3rd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Matt Koester. Steve Abrams’ barber shop center for Black progress in Galesburg: “This story wasn’t what I expected – it went beyond a typical closure story to detail the life of Abron”

**Honorable Mention: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Eddie Carillo. “Completely un-expected”: Pawn shops seeing surprising results during stay-at-home order: “This story took me by surprise and piqued my interest. The reporter foun-”

**Division D**

1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom. “I’m angry and disheartened for each and every one of them.”

2nd Place: News-Tribune, La Salle, Tom Collins. “I’ve never seen it this busy: “Not only do I love the theater’s idea”

3rd Place: Journal Star, Peoria, Phil Lu- ciano. After 33 years, No Susie at Susie’s: “A touching tribute of a beloved high-school athlete.”

**Honorable Mention: The Times, Ottawa, Brent Badger. Eagle 6 hopes idea takes off: “Not only do I love the theater’s idea”

**Honorable Mention: The Times, Ottawa, Brent Badger. Eagle 6 hopes idea takes off: “Not only do I love the theater’s idea”

**Division E**

1st Place: Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Cassie Buchman, Drew Zimmer- man. “Emotional, devastating”: Former Bozes employees, FightBack patients dis-cuss closures, layoffs: “My heart ached for those interviewed for this story, both the employees and the clients they served. The story was very, very well done and showed the far-reaching impacts of the mismanagement through personal stori-”

2nd Place: News-Tribune, La Salle, Tom Collins. “Not only do I love the theater’s idea”

3rd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Tom Quinlan. Bob Frisk: Our so-”

**Honorable Mention: Cook County Chronicle, Chicago, Bill Dwyer. John Prine.”

**Division F**

1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Maureen O’Donnell. “Longtime sound engineer for Stevie Wonder, Lane Tech grad,”

2nd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Mark Brokaw. “Not intended to laugh but then COVID claimed him.”

3rd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Tom Quinlan. Bob Frisk: Our so-“

**Honorable Mention: Belleville News-Democrat, Carolyn P. Smith. East St. Louis community mourns after death of longtime educator and politician.”

**CLASS 11 - SPORTS NEWS**

**Division A**

1st Place: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Kaleb Carter. Three DeKalb wrestlers take second for DeKalb. “Struggles make a way.”

2nd Place: Chicago Tribune Media Group, Staff. “Last Dance” coverage package.

3rd Place: The Edwardsville Intelligencer, Matt Kamp. Edwardsville baseball – Ti-gers top Warriors in summer scrimmage.

**Honorable Mention: Chicago Sun-Times, Maureen O’Donnell. “Pioneering sportscas-”

**Division B**

1st Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Car-”

2nd Place: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Connor Wood. Community remembers: Jason Tanner embodied spirit of Carbondale to many people.”

3rd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. Tom Wilson knew all the drummers.

**Honorable Mention: Sauk Valley Media, Brian Weidman. Sauk Valley basketball community mourns loss of referee.”

**Division C**

1st Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Car-”

2nd Place: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Connor Wood. Community remembers: Jason Tanner embodied spirit of Carbondale to many people.”

3rd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. Tom Wilson knew all the drummers.

**Honorable Mention: Sauk Valley Media, Brian Weidman. Sauk Valley basketball community mourns loss of referee.”

**Division D**

1st Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Car-”

2nd Place: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Connor Wood. Community remembers: Jason Tanner embodied spirit of Carbondale to many people.”

3rd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. Tom Wilson knew all the drummers.

**Honorable Mention: Sauk Valley Media, Brian Weidman. Sauk Valley basketball community mourns loss of referee.”

**Division E**

1st Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Car-”

2nd Place: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Connor Wood. Community remembers: Jason Tanner embodied spirit of Carbondale to many people.”

3rd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. Tom Wilson knew all the drummers.

**Honorable Mention: Sauk Valley Media, Brian Weidman. Sauk Valley basketball community mourns loss of referee.”

**Division F**

1st Place: Evanston basketball star Ryan Bost, 20, high-school athlete. “Last Dance” coverage.”


**Honorable Mention: The Times, Ottawa, Brent Badger. Eagle 6 hopes idea takes off: “Not only do I love the theater’s idea”

**Division G**

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-”

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-”

**Honorable Mention: Daily Herald Group, Staff. “Last Dance” coverage package.

**Division H**

1st Place: Glen Ellyn Suburban Life, Joshua Welge. “Super feeling: Montini is head-”

2nd Place: Daily Herald Group, Staff. “Last Dance” coverage package.

3rd Place: The Times, Ottawa, Brent Badger. Eagle 6 hopes idea takes off: “Not only do I love the theater’s idea”

**Honorable Mention: Daily Herald Group, Staff. “Last Dance” coverage package.

**Division I**

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-”

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-”

**Honorable Mention: Daily Herald Group, Staff. “Last Dance” coverage package.

**Division J**

1st Place: Illinois Press Association
CLASS 21 - GENERAL NEWS PHOTO Division D
1st Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. Distant farewell

CLASS 21 - GENERAL NEWS PHOTO Division E
1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Robin Scholz. COVID concert

CLASS 21 - GENERAL NEWS PHOTO Division F
1st Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Brian Hill. Centenarian’s COVID Birthday
Cabin Together.
The Journal-News, Hillsboro, 3rd Place:

2nd Place:
The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom. "This band of brothers. " Du Quoin Evening Call, Renee Trappe. "This story conveys not only the deaths: "This story conveys not only the

Division B Honorable Mention: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Connor Wood. "A well-reported human interest story

CLASS 12 - SPORTS FEATURE Division Daily

1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Stefano Esposito. "25 years later, Fox River Grove Metra-school bus crash still haunts engi-

ners, other survivors: "This well-crafted story gave me chills. The writer is an excellent storyteller. Great job!"

description in this story. Upsetting in places. I'm sure it took an emotional toll on the writer."

3rd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Maureen O'Donnell. "A faithful caretaker of the "faithful departed": "I enjoyed reading this story. There are many stories in the ad

sections of our papers if we only follow up on them! Good storytelling skills."

Honorable Mention: Chicago Sun-Times, Caroline Hurley. "When pandemic hit, a Chicago jazz icon's world fell apart": "Nice story a lot of us probably

needed to read."

CLASS 14 - FEATURE WRITING - PERSONALITY PROFILE Division A

1st Place: The Sidell Reporter, Rinda Maddox. And, saw it is...

2nd Place: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown, Brian DeLoche. Local retired soldier earned 'the walk' at Arlington.

3rd Place: Oakland Independent, Janice Hunt. Bumper crop of appreciation."

Honorable Mention: Ledger-Sentinel, Orange, Mark Lazansky. "My life belongs to this community": Kristi Vest reflects on small towns, park district.

Division B

1st Place: The Niles Bugle, Mark Gregor-

py. Pandemic can’t stop Crest Hill native from singing.

2nd Place: The Hinsdalean, Ken Knutson. Lifelong wish granted.


Honorable Mention: The Greenview Ad-
vocate, Dave Bill. Phil Davis comfortable in secondary role.

Division C

1st Place: Journal & Topics Media Group, Dion Martorano. Lights Out For Hol-
day, Steve Greenberg. "Basket cases at Wrigley Field": "Fun read about something even my grandparents (life-
long Cubs fans) hated."

Honorable Mention: Herald & Review, Decatur. Joey Wagner. The story of 'JetLife' and how it pushes Illinois junior Ayo Dosunmu: "This is a terrific story of

exploring a hashtag on social media and

finding the details behind it. Great job."

Honorable Mention: The News-Gazette, Chama-

cles. "A touching tribute. I appreciated the many voices included in the article."

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-
paign, Bob Asmussen. You’re a miracle: "the story had me enthralled. My mouth was hanging about the nurse bring-
ing her back to life."

Honorable Mention: The Herald-News, Joliet, Felix Sarver. Bank robber had 'rock career' plans: "I was glued to the story from the start – a good telling of an un-
usual situation."

Division D

1st Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. "It’s how you treat people that means a lot."

2nd Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Tony Reid. How Kate Kurtz spent 5 years

prosecuting justice for Macou County kids.

3rd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Jay Redfern. ‘I absolutely tighten when I 

see the police.’"

Honorable Mention: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Connor Wood, Shimkus reflects on 24 years in Congress.

Division E

1st Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. "It’s how you treat people

that touches on a few issues, but from a humanizing lens."

Division F

1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Rachel Hinton, Ashlee Rezin Garcia, Brian Rich. "Resentment, reunion and romance": "An emotional story with a

grabber of a lede, mixing a global trauma with a local love story. A very satisfying, feel-good read.

2nd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Maureen O’Donnell. "A faithful caretaker of the "faithful departed": "A detailed portrait that

tugs at the most stubborn heart, especially imagining a three-way polka dance in the afterlife."

3rd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Caroline Hurley. "When pandemic hit, a Chicago jazz icon’s world fell apart": "I enjoyed getting to know Erwin Helfer, and the story had me rooting for his recovery and musical life. I especially appreciated his hospital room jokes."

Honorable Mention: Belleville News-Democrat, Kelsey Landis. Ed-
wardsville's "George Floyd" protest was peaceful because this 17-year-old made it so: "A touching portrait of a peace seeker working in the midst of violence and confusion. The story did a great job in explaining this movement’s motives to those who mistake them."

CLASS 15 - EDITORIAL PAGE Division Daily

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Cham-
paign, Staff. "These are attractively designed pages with a good mix of well-written content."

2nd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Sun-Times editorial page staff. Chicago

Sun-Times editorial page: "These are attractively designed pages with a good mix of well-written content."

3rd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Jim Slusher, Editorial Board.

Daily Herald Opinion Page.

Honorable Mention: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Tom Martin. The Register-Mail Editorial Page.

Division Non Daily

1st Place: The Woodstock Independent, Susan W. Murray. Service dogs to the rescue.

Division B

1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lan-
mon. "I just love this story. It hits home on every level. It doesn’t take long into the story for you to want to

know the athlete succeeded. And how she

took long into the story for you to want to

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CLASS 22 - FEATURE PHOTO Division B
1st Place: The Greenville Advocate, Dave Bell. Sunset silhouette

CLASS 22 - FEATURE PHOTO Division A
1st Place: The Sidell Reporter, Rinda Maddox. Beck Sisters Walking Hogs

CLASS 22 - FEATURE PHOTO Division C
1st Place: The MidWeek, Dekalb, Katrina J.E. Milton. Bundles of Joy
prices, fewer options for meat lovers as coronavirus closes more Illinois meat-packing plants: “This topic deserved more national attention. Great job.”

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Anthony Zilis. Where the buffaloes roam: “Great way to localize a national issue.”

Honorable Mention: The Telegraph, Alton, David Blanchette. Digital Dirt: “This topic never gets old. There needs to be more national attention on technology and agriculture.”

Division Non Daily

1st Place: The Woodstock Independent, Tricia Carzoli. “They know this is a gamble”: “Enjoyed the read.”


Honorable Mention: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown, Brian DeLoche. Shuckt: “Enjoyed the read. Nice story with good art.”

CLASS 17 – ORIGINAL COLUMN

Division A


2nd Place: The Marion Republican, Holly Kee. Holly Kee columns: “The writer did a good job of finding hope within a world of gloom.”

3rd Place: Beecher City Journal, PJ Ryan. Pokin’ Along With PJ.

Honorable Mention: The Woodstock Independent, Paul Lockwood. Snell the roses even if through a mask: Facing human racism today.

Division B

1st Place: Cook County Chronicle, Chicago, Irv Leavitt. Original Column: “Irv Leavitt’s column is a pleasure to read, offering detailed perspective that is both thought-provoking and a tribute to people and matters worth a closer look.”

2nd Place: Des Plaines Journal, Todd Wessell. Time To Shed Light On Library: ComEd, Do What’s Right: “Todd Wessell shines light on community issues that matter — a covered-up bed bug problem at the local library and its overreac-tive banishment of a retiree accused of carrying a magazine from its designated room, as well as shenanigans by the local electric company talking about burying power lines for children’s safety in a park.”

3rd Place: The Greenville Advocate, Dave Bell. Dave Bell columns – March 10, Sept. 29, and Dec. 29 Advocate: “Dave Bell’s columns are thoughtful, detailed and relevant to the times.”

Honorable Mention: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom. Pamela Lannom: “Pamela Lannom relates well to readers with her columns. I especially enjoyed her detailed content about why the newspaper is sticking by its practice of publishing names in police reports.”

Division C

1st Place: Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Georgia Garvey.

2nd Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Chris Coates. Chris Coates columns: “Easy to read, easy to relate to, and enjoyable. I’d bet readers look forward to his musings. I sure would.”


Honorable Mention: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Kelsey Rettke. To Barry Schrader, for passing the baton.

Division D

1st Place: The Herald-News, Joliet, Bill Wimbiscus. Columns by Bill Wimbiscus: “Bill Wimbiscus’ very ‘Midlife Circus’ columns are a delight. His expansive vocabulary and quick wit are pressed into service in send-ups of everyday absurdities that resonate with the reader.”

3rd Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. Rooftop arrest. The Telegraph, Alton, Staff. Days: “I wish the top photo on the second page had been placed on the first — it was by far the best.”

Honorable Mention: Daily Chronicle, Brian DeLoche. Shuckt: “Enjoyable photos to view, on a very well laid-out page.”

Division E

1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Ben Pope. Chicago Sun-Times, Ben Pope. Chicago Sun-Times, A selection of 3 sports columns

Honorable Mention: Chicago Sun-Times, Steven Greenberg. Steve Greenberg, Chicago Sun-Times, a selection of 3 columns

Division Non Daily

1st Place: Bureau County Republican, Princeton, Kevin Hieronymus. Kevin Hieronymus columns: “Very personable and well-written. The focus on sports outside of the mainstream of stick and ball is a great addition. A great formula.”

2nd Place: The Commercial-News, Danville, Chad Dare. Chad Dare sports columns: “Solid storytelling; writing style is easy to follow with an everyday approach.”

3rd Place: The Woodstock Independent, Rog er Sanders. Blowin’ Smoke.

Honorable Mention: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Kyle Hershelman. Center and Guard: “Columns are easy to digest and tays into the hometown vibe – outstanding.”

CLASS 19 – PHOTO SERIES

Division A

1st Place: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown, Brian DeLoche. Shuckt.

2nd Place: The Pantagraph, Bloomington, Randy Kindred. Randy Kindred columns.

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Robin Scholz. Urbana High School during remote learning.

Honorable Mention: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Robin Scholz. Fr tightest.

CLASS 20 – SPORT NEWS PHOTO

Division A

1st Place: The Greenville Advocate, Dave Bell. Paving parade: “Not a typical sports news photo, but that’s the point, right? These two paving workers are so non- phrased by the photographer you could be having a chat anywhere.”

2nd Place: The Hinsdalean, Jim Slonoff. Transformer finals: “Not a lot of excitement shown here, but it’s a nice character study of a first responder doing his job. So often photographers focus on the fire — because it is a powerful image — and not on other surrounding.”

3rd Place: Republic-Times, Waterloo, Alan Dooley. After the Storm: “The dog here pays no attention to the destruction behind him. It makes for a nice contrast in what otherwise would have been a routine picture.”

Honorable Mention: Kane County Chronicle, St. Charles, Eric Schelkopf. Aurora on fire after protests: “An interesting contrast of law enforcement officers seemingly unaffected by the burning debris behind them.”

Division B

1st Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. River rescue.

2nd Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. Gunshot victim.

3rd Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. Body of driver.


Division C


2nd Place: Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Matthew Appgar. Essential Workers: The First Front Line.

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Robin Scholz. High School during remote learning.

Honorable Mention: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Robin Scholz. Frtightest.

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CLASS 22 - FEATURE PHOTO Division E
1st Place: Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Matthew Apgar. Fishing at sunrise

CLASS 22 - FEATURE PHOTO Division F
1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Tyler Lariviere. 'My kind of town'

CLASS 22 - FEATURE PHOTO Division D
1st Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Clay Jackson. Fall on Lake Decatur
moment and framing the image."

3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Robin Scholz. Sad goodbye: “Maybe look like a pretty simple shot, but the framing and angle of the image are what makes this shot good. A reporter or photographer might have easily captured this at another angle, but wouldn’t have shown the same emotion.”

Honorable Mention: Rockford Register Star, Scott P. Yates. Fire at former Atwood industrial building in Rockford: “I’m not sure if there was a barrier keeping the photographer in a certain location, but this could have easily been first place with slightly different framing.”

Division F

1st Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Rick West. Protest Prayer: “The composition of the photo is amazing and creates a very moving image.”

2nd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Ashlee Rezin Garcia. ‘Police, protesters clash outside looted store, No. 2’ Ashlee Rezin Garcia: “This is a great photo because it shows the emotions being felt on both sides.”

3rd Place: Belleville News-Democrat, Derik Holtmann. Saugat warehouse fire: “From the framing of the image, you can tell just how massive this fire was. And you can almost feel the struggle firefighters were having in fighting it.”

Honorable Mention: Chicago Sun-Times, Tyler Lariviere. Tyler Lariviere, “My kind of town: ‘Great work by the photographer to capture the right moment showing the wall of officers with the words in the background.”

CLASS 21 - GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Division A

1st Place: Palatine Journal & Topics, Shawn Clisham. Hand in Hand. Shawn Clisham: “It’s a vividly upbeat image making the most of the conditions of the workout were. ”

2nd Place: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Clay Jackson. Justice Walk. "The emotion on the woman’s face is so clear that you don’t even need a caption to understand this photo."

3rd Place: The State Journal-Register, Springfield, Justin Fowler. The Mayor, COVID-19, and the Mask: “Catching the市长 with just the right moment with his hand bowed and the chart showing the significant increases in COVID tells the story. Great insight by the photographer.”


Division B

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Robin Scholz. COVID concert: “The contrast between the two people in this image is incredible. It clearly shows the emotional side of social distancing.”

2nd Place: Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Mark Appar. Black Lives Matter rally in Fox River Grove: “The emotion on the woman’s face is so clear that you don’t even need a caption to understand this photo.”

3rd Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale, Isaac Smith. Housing issues: “This image truly shows life, but it is captivating in every way. There is something that draws you to it and it couldn’t have been framed better.”

Honorable Mention: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Steven Davis. Small Town Hoops: “It would have been so easy to have taken this photo from a “normal” angle. Excellent work to show just how dedicated the athlete was and what the conditions of the workout were.”

Division C


2nd Place: NewsTribune, LaSalle, Scott Anderson. Drive-Through Graduation: “Photo skillfully sums up a challenging year for students and graduates alike. It’s a vividly upbeat image making the most of the opportunity.”

3rd Place: NewsTribune, LaSalle, Tom Sistik. Social Distanced Diplomas: “Creative shot showing what it was like to graduate during the pandemic.”

Honorable Mention: Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Mark Appar. Fishing at sunrise: “Beautiful shot and effort to capture early- rising fisher-people with the sunrise.”

Division D

1st Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Clay Jackson. Victory lap: “I’ve seen a lot of these type photos but this one had an element of emotion to it. The technical aspects — the cropping, the reflection on the car’s hood, the vivid colors — are great. As for the subject, the woman’s expression is one the young lady is kind of teary-eyed, plus the fact that she’s thanking her teachers, gives it feeling. Nice reminder of what COVID has done to our normal routines.”

Honorable Mention: The Hinsdalean, Tori O’Dell. Sewing Skills Continue To Pay Off For Tucker: “There is a very earthy, organic quality to this shot but also something very joyful. The woman sewed and her genuine smile, the old sewing machine, even the florescent lights all contribute. A lot of emotion for a posed shot. Excellent.”

2nd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Bethany Martin. Mathews Learns To Lego During Break: “This shot just made smile. The old Legos, the cat and the cat box in the background, and the simple smile on Mary Ellen’s face. Simplicity sometimes just works in photography.”

Honorable Mention: The Telegraph, Alton, John Jackson. Fall on Lake Decatur: “In a competition of excellent photos, this image still stood out. Not only is it a fascinating shot, but all of the things around the pelican are just as alluring as the bird itself. Excellent job.”

2nd Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. Leaf me alone: “What an absolutely wonderful angle the take the photo. It shows everything necessary and makes the common place interesting. Beautiful image.”

3rd Place: The MidWeek, DeKalb, Clay Jackson. Winterfest: “The photo is excellent, but the white bear was a little out of place.”

Division E

1st Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Richard Brian. Centenarian’s Birthday: “It would have been so easy to have taken this photo from a “normal” angle. Excellent work to show just how dedicated the athlete was and what the conditions of the workout were.”

2nd Place: Kane County Chronicle, St. Charles, Sandy Bressner. Empty churches: “The lighting, the austerity setting, and that feeling we’ve all had during COVID of emptiness and confusion all came to me as I kept coming back to this photo. Gorgeous.”

Honorable Mention: The Hinsdalean, Jim Slonoff. Victory lap: “I’ve seen a lot of these type photos but this one had an element of emotion to it. The technical aspects — the cropping, the reflection on the car’s hood, the vivid colors — are great. As for the subject, the woman’s expression is one the young lady is kind of teary-eyed, plus the fact that she’s thanking her teachers, gives it feeling. Nice reminder of what COVID has done to our normal routines.”

Division F

1st Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Rick West. Protest Prayer: “The composition of the photo is amazing and creates a very moving image.”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Derik Holtmann. Walking through sunflowers. “A reporter or photographer might have easily captured this at another angle, but wouldn’t have shown the same emotion.”

Honorable Mention: Belleville News-Democrat, Derik Holtmann. A military wave.

CLASS 23 - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY

Division A

1st Place: Oakland Independent, Janice Hunt. Retiring police chief: ‘A very telling portrait. The town he has watched over since 1989 sits in the background, but the focus is on the man himself. Well-framed photo!’

2nd Place: The Lexingtonian, Laurie Sleet. Photographer Jerry Druhan: “Creative idea to spotlight those that are normally the ones spotlighting others. Great narrative, with Jerry Druhan’s posing in front of his life’s work.”

3rd Place: The Woodstock Independent, Tricia Carzoli. Fall Guy: “It’s always good to look back at a landmark that brought certain areas to national prominence. The benefit of having the original stunt man from the scene makes this photo stand out.”

Honorable Mention: Oakland Independent, Janice Hunt. Mun’s word: “Clever headline. Foilage is always welcome on what can be otherwise-drab pages in a newspaper.”

Division B

1st Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Bethany Martin. Mathews Learns To Lego During Break: “This shot just made smile. The old Legos, the cat and the cat box in the background, and the simple smile on Mary Ellen’s face. Simplicity sometimes just works in photography.”

2nd Place: The NewsTribune, LaSalle, Scott Anderson. Drive-Through Graduation: “Photo skillfully sums up a challenging year for students and graduates alike. It’s a vividly upbeat image making the most of the opportunity.”

3rd Place: Belleville News-Democrat, Derik Holtmann. Vote and dance.

3rd Place: Belleville News-Democrat, Derik Holtmann. Walking through sunflowers. “A reporter or photographer might have easily captured this at another angle, but wouldn’t have shown the same emotion.”

Honorable Mention: Belleville News-Democrat, Derik Holtmann. A military wave.

Division C

1st Place: The MidWeek, DeKalb, Katrina J.E. Milton. Bundles of Joy: “This photo has strong human interest, and does a great job capturing the mother’s tired smile.”

2nd Place: The MidWeek, DeKalb, Katrina J.E. Milton. Polarpalooza: “Tough shot in the snow! Great job capturing the toddler’s expression of concentration.”

3rd Place: The MidWeek, DeKalb, Katrina J.E. Milton. Valentine’s Day: “Great subject! The angle really captures her happiness.”

Division D


2nd Place: The Telegraph, Alton, John Badman. Leaf me alone: “What an absolutely wonderful angle the take the photo. It shows everything necessary and makes the common place interesting. Beautiful image.”

3rd Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale, Isaac Smith. Housing issues: “This image truly shows life, but it is captivating in every way. There is something that draws you to it and it couldn’t have been framed better.”

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CLASS 23 - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division A
1st Place: Oakland Independent, Janice Hunt. Retiring police chief

CLASS 23 - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division B
1st Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Tori O’Dell. Sewing Skills

CLASS 23 - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division C
1st Place: The MidWeek, DeKalb, Katrina J.E. Milton. The Holbrooks.

CLASS 23 - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division D
1st Place: The Telegraph, Alton, Jeanie Stephens. The man is nonstop.
1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Jim Slonoff. I believe I can fly: “Good shot. I like the title. Really interested to know what the story is about.”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Sandy Bressner. Seniors helping seniors: “An important subject that reflects how the country has dealt with seniors in the COVID-19 pandemic. Nice shots.”

3rd Place: Kendall County Record, Yorkville, Shea Lazansky. Gallery: Drive through different video clips. Very good interview with personal information, followed by stats and showed how this touches so many lives and that the community is so welcoming. Great job!”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champion, Anthon Zilis. Behind the scenes of Champaign County’s early voting: “This was almost number one. Great job capturing the scenes of the George Floyd protests. Well done.”

3rd Place: Rockford Register Star, Scott P. Yates. Images from four months of protests in Rockford: “A dramatic photo essay of various protests. Photos showed imaginative angles, expressions and situation. Good cutlines to explain the scenes.”

Division Daily

1st Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale, Staff. Southern Illinois reacts to the death of George Floyd: “A host of stunning photos of the George Floyd protests. Well done.”

2nd Place: Rockford Register Star, Scott P. Yates. Images from four months of protests in Rockford: “A dramatic photo essay of various protests. Photos showed imaginative angles, expressions and situation. Good cutlines to explain the scenes.”

3rd Place: Rockford Register Star, Scott P. Yates. On the front line of one Rockford hospital’s COVID-19 response: “Nice photos of the front lines of hospital workers in the midst of the pandemic. Told the story of their day well.”

Honorable Mention: The Register-Mail, Galesburg, William Weaver IV. Black Lives Matter Protest. Behind the scenes: “The white photos – the subtle color message heightens the drama of the protests. A nice variety of shots.”

Division Non Daily

1st Place: Sandwich Record, Shea Lazansky. Over 2,000 join Black Lives Matter rally in Sandwich: “A nice variety of photos showing what our country has been going through politically in the past year.”

2nd Place: Kane County Chronicle, St. Charles, Sandy Bressner. Seniors helping seniors: “An important subject that reflects how the country has dealt with seniors in the COVID-19 pandemic. Nice shots.”

3rd Place: Kendall County Record, Yorkville, Shea Lazansky. Gallery: Drive through different video clips. Very good interview with personal information, followed by stats and showed how this touches so many lives and that the community is so welcoming. Great job!”

2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champion, Anthon Zilis. Behind the scenes of Champaign County’s early voting: “This was almost number one. Great job capturing the scenes of the George Floyd protests. Well done.”

3rd Place: Rockford Register Star, Scott P. Yates. Images from four months of protests in Rockford: “A dramatic photo essay of various protests. Photos showed imaginative angles, expressions and situation. Good cutlines to explain the scenes.”

Honorable Mention: Rockford Register
CLASS 23 - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division E
1st Place: Journal Star, Peoria, Matt Dayhoff. Homelessness in Peoria

CLASS 23 - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division F
1st Place: Belleville News-Democrat, Derik Holtmann. Danielle Washington

CLASS 24 - SPORTS PHOTO Division A
1st Place: The Harrisburg Register, Michael “Spyder” Dann. Bombs away

CLASS 24 - SPORTS PHOTO Division B
1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Jim Slonoff. I believe I can fly
CLASS 24 - SPORTS PHOTO Division C
1st Place: Journal & Topics Media Group, Dion Martorano. A Blast Of Color

CLASS 24 - SPORTS PHOTO Division D
1st Place: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Mark Busch. Touchdown dive

CLASS 24 - SPORTS PHOTO Division E
1st Place: Journal Star, Peoria, Matt Dayhoff. Peoria Fight Club
Division D
1st Place: Journal-Courier, Jacksonville, David C.L. Bauer.
2nd Place: The Telegraph, Alton, Ron DeBrock.
3rd Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale, Shawn Anglin.

Division E
1st Place: Quincy Herald-Whig, Thorn Compton. Sports headlines: “I enjoyed the use of names in ways that make sense with each story. The headlines didn’t feel forced.”
2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Alex Kobryn. A shot in the arm: “Good use of play on words without being too complex or overbearing.”
3rd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Mike Goebel. Lent’s coming — fast: “I especially enjoyed the seeds in the group headline.”

Honorable Mention: Journal Star, Peoria, Dean Muellerleile. Headlines: “The use of key words in ‘piece and calm’ was a good connection.”

Division F
2nd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Amanda Erd.
3rd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Kevin Dollare.

Honorable Mention: Chicago Sun-Times, Paul Saltzman.

CLASS 33 - SPORTS SECTION
Division A
1st Place: Bureau County Republican, Princeton, Kevin Hiebert. “Class of the field. Excellent ideas, clean look making it easy for readers to move their eyes and catch on to a story. I like this being my town’s sports section.”
2nd Place: The Hawkland Independent, Janice Hunt. “Taking advantage throughout the newspaper of a team’s historic advance is a sign of success throughout the chain of command. Good choice. And the coverage matches the idea. Advertising, too. Definitely a clip-and-save among the families.”
3rd Place: The Woodstock Independent, Sandy Kucharski. “Excellent work. The community can be proud of its sports section, and those putting it together. Many hometowns throughout the country would love to have this effort.”

Honorable Mention: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown, Don Chippman. “This is a sports section that readers can enjoy, a rundown on what happened and who made it happen. Definitely a names-and-faces kind of section, and those are the best kind.”

Division B
1st Place: The Commercial-News, Danville, Chad Dare.
2nd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Staff.
3rd Place: The Hinsdalean, Staff.

Honorable Mention: The Greenwich Advocate, Roger Sanders.

Division C
1st Place: Journal & Topics

Media Group, Staff.

Division D
1st Place: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Staff. “Love the large-photo designs on the front pages. Clean design and layout throughout, even the gate page.”
2nd Place: The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale, Staff. “Outstanding story: ‘Carterville gets past Nashville’ ... great photos/outs.”
3rd Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Matthew Flaten, Joey Wagner, Justin Conn: “Jaheem the dream – well done.”

Honorable Mention: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Staff.

Division E
1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Matt Daniels. “The year-end recap is an exhaustive undertaking ... almost overwhelming, but in the end just right. Good enterprise content and what had to be an empty notebook for the Illinois writer after the Nebraska game.”
2nd Place: Journal Star, Peoria, Staff. “Good feature on Bradley hoops and the boy with half a heart made for a good balance with stock game coverage. Splitting rankings into big-school/small-school was also something unique in this group.”
3rd Place: The Times, Ottawa, JT Pedelty. Charlie Ellerbrock, Brian Hossey: “Tons of local content; I wish I had that many writers and photographers at my own place! Design was good, although having photos cut into print columns wasn’t necessary; photos were easily editable.”

Honorable Mention: Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Staff. “Decent enough mix of local sports magazine on the shelves. Great design, good mix of coverage, a reporting and writing that’s worthy of a top market like Chicago. In a digital-first world, the Sun-Times still puts up a best foot forward in print. Congrats!”
2nd Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Sports Staff: “This is a really good sports section, smartly designed and well-written. Not easy to pull off in these days of de-emphasizing print. And with few ads, that’s a lot of space to fill by a talented and prolific staff.”

Division F
1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Sun-Times sports staff. “These sections draw local sports magazine on the shelves. Great design, good mix of coverage, a reporting and writing that’s worthy of a top market like Chicago. In a digital-first world, the Sun-Times still puts up a best foot forward in print. Congrats!”
2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Staff. At Home: “Truly beautiful photography and sleek, inviting design throughout, both editorial and advertising packages.”
3rd Place: Quincy Herald-Whig, Deborah Gertz Hursay, Cody Bozarth. Farm & Field: “A good-looking section.”

Honorable Mention: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Jeff D’Alessio, Mike Goebel. Best of the Decade.

CLASS 34 - SPECIAL SECTIONS
Division A
1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Sun-Times sports staff. “This special section was exactly that - special. Good layout, good advertising support, and great stories. Wonderful reading that the community will enjoy.”

Division B
2nd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Staff. Full Home Improvement: “Good story to anchor the section. Looks like your sales team did too well, would have liked seeing a couple of those inside photos bigger.”
3rd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Staff. Salute To Veterans: “Good cover and I am sure your readers loved all the old photos.”

Division D
1st Place: Journal-Courier, Jacksonville, Staff. 20 Under 40: “Great idea for a special section, especially during COVID, when making connections within the community is even more important. The layout and Q&A format makes it easy to read, good photos, love the quotes as headlines. Good variety of people featured.”
2nd Place: Journal-Courier, Jacksonville, Staff. Baseball preview: “Great-looking section; very eye-catching. Loved the cover. Everything fans need to know before the season, but also a great memento the players can be proud to have and save.”

Division E
1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Staff. Tribune to Lou Henson: “Great tribute section and fan keepsake. Strong layout and good photography.”

Division F
1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Staff. At Home: “Truly beautiful photography and sleek, inviting design throughout, both editorial and advertising packages.”
2nd Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Staff. Baseball preview: “Great-looking section; very eye-catching. Loved the cover. Everything fans need to know before the season, but also a great memento the players can be proud to have and save.”

CLASS 35 - BEST WEBSITE
Division Daily
1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Sun-Times staff. chicagotribune.com: “Visually appealing site with a great mix of content, well-organized and easy to navigate.”
2nd Place: Journal Star, Peoria, Staff. pjsar.com: “Easy-to-navigate site with a good selection of content.”
3rd Place: Chicago Tribune Media Group, staff. chicagotribune.com: “I love the Favorite Sections menu and Subscrib er Favorites menus.”

Honorable Mention: The News-Gazette, Champaign, staff. news-gazette.com: “Love the ease of finding newsletters and that there is a separate tab for COVID news. I also really like that all multimedia content is easily accessible.”

Division Non Daily
1st Place: Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Emma Zelewsky, chicagolawbulletin.com: “This polished, professional website is an attractive showcase for reporting and commentary on the law. Art elements accompanied all stories in the current slot on the day reviewed. The CLDB People section with head shots and boldfaced names is a good feature. Landing pages present the content well; good use of labels and headings as organizational tools. Including journalists’ photos with their titles, phone numbers and email addresses on the staff contact page is a nice touch that more news sites should come.”
2nd Place: Republic-Times, Waterloo, Scott Woodsall, Corey Saathoff, Chris Otten: “RepublicTimes.net is bold, splashy and engaging, with large photos drawing readers into each story. Good taxonomy; this judge particularly liked the recent story previews that populate when you mouse over a category in the ‘News’ drop-down menu. Intermingling birth, engagement and anniversary announcements with obituaries under the heading of ‘Milestones’ feels inappropriate. Otten is a distinct type of content that should comprise a separate category. The newspaper’s ambitious digital and social media efforts are evident, and the site is strongly dependent, Staff.”
3rd Place: Cook County Chronicle, Chica go, Staff. “Good example of an effective ‘megosite’ incorporating news from multiple publications. Navigation between Chronicle properties is seamless and the branding is consistent while offering a sense of place on local landing pages. Featuring only two categories — the main news stack and the state news rail — makes the home page feel sparse. Site-wide, taxonomy is limited to news from each of the 13 counties and landing pages under the ‘Government’ type of ‘Government’ tab. The Chicago website could benefit from more differentiation of content, such as categories for crime and courts, education, agriculture, lifestyles, etc.”
CLASS 24 - SPORTS PHOTO Division F
1st Place: Daily Herald Group, Arlington Heights, Mark Welsh. Rush for Glory

CLASS 25 - SPORTS PHOTO - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division NonDaily

CLASS 25 - SPORTS PHOTO - PORTRAIT/PERSONALITY Division Daily
1st Place: Sauk Valley Media, Alex T. Paschal. Making a splash
Honorable Mention: The Journal-News, Hillsboro, Staff: “Large headlines and smooth navigation make the journal-news.net a reliable resource for online readers. Website is clean and uncluttered, making the latest news and sports stories easy to find. Local ads are displayed prominently. A greater emphasis on visuals — preferably local art, but even stock photos if necessary — would help draw readers in and make the home page more attractive.”

CLASS 36 - PUBLIC NOTICE JOURNALISM AWARD

Division All

1st Place: Daily Chronicle, DeKalb, Katie Finlon. Hunter Properties contests Special Service Area proposal.

CLASS 37 - EDITORIAL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Division Daily

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champaign, Jay Simpson: “This competition was close until I got to Jay’s column. Wow. It’s compelling and well written, insight-ful, honest. It sucks you in. A window into Black culture at a time when we need that window open. Throw out all of the ‘didn’t go to journalism school’ or ‘The News-Gazette took a big hype’ hype. Jay is a natural and an up-and-comer, and readers are the winners.”

2nd Place: The Telegraph, Boulder Hill: “Determined follow-up to a government agency that found through Freedom of Information Act requests.”

3rd Place: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Brian Misenick: “Brittany had a nice writing style and a good mix of coverage. For a rookie, she tackled coronavirus coverage for her paper in a smart, impressive way.”

Honorable Mention: The Beacon-News, Aurora, Megan Jones: “To be fair, the only thing that kept Megan from winning is that she’s been in the business three years, not exactly a rookie. But her depth of coverage of social issues and the like has her on a path to do really great things in this business.”

CLASS 38 - COVID-19 NEWS COVERAGE

Division Daily

1st Place: Chicago Tribune Media Group, Stacy St. Clair, Inside Illinois’ COVID wards and testing centers: “Superbly written and reported, these firsthand accounts of the massive toll COVID-19 has taken on the health care community and their patients. But the stories do more than just paint a picture of a pandemic. They provide context and history to help the audience understand the policy decisions that led us here and work at it will take to get us out.”

2nd Place: Belleville News-Democrat, DeAsia Paige, Kelsey Landis. COVID-19 exposes more inequities between Black and white people in St. Clair County: “This excellent reporting uses data and the stories of those impacted to highlight important disparities across multiple aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also effectively provides the history to put the reality of these disparities for communities of color in context and helps readers understand why the toll of this disease hasn’t been equally applied to all.”

3rd Place: Chicago Tribune Media Group, Staff. COVID-19’s far-reaching impacts on local residents and businesses: “These heartfelt portraits of community members and icons lost amid the pandemic serve as an important demonstration of the impact of COVID-19. These obituaries go above and beyond to tell the stories of these people’s lives and their impacts on their friends, family and fans.”

Division Non Daily

1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Pamela Lannom & Ken Knutson. Flattening the curve: “Effective use of a weekly feature to spotlight local residents and businesses making the most of a dire situation.”

2nd Place: Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago, Genevieve Bookwalter. For those already dealing with health issues, COVID-19 adds to the worry: “Compel-ling reads from early in the pandemic.”


CLASS 39 - COVID-19 SPORTS COVERAGE

Division Daily

1st Place: Journal Star, Peoria, Dave Em- inian, Nick Vlahos, Stan Morris: “Strong hard-news entry on COVID reporting. Thought this entry’s use of quotes from students, coaches and administrators presented the best. Overall, it felt like there was true emotion (the Peo- ria School Board content was particularly impactful and showed the reporter was ready for the key moments).”

2nd Place: Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale, Staff: “Good points of view on the Goveville reaction to cancellation story and the Saluki bubble story, but the radio announcer story hit home best for me. Unique perspective that no one else mentioned in any other entry. Good thinking.”

3rd Place: Breeze Courier, Taylorville, Robert G. & Field of Digital Design: “This is a neat idea and was, by far, the most outside-the-box entry in this cate- gory. I would have liked to have seen the text have more breaks – lineup cards would have been perfect for this. But the ingenuity here is impressive. Wonder how long it would have taken to do a whole season with local teams?”

Honorable Mention: The Telegraph, Alton, Pete Hayes and Greg Shashack: “Good stories to write in this community, and easy to read. But the depth doesn’t quite get to the level of others in this field.”

Division Non Daily

1st Place: The Hinsdalean, Ken Knutson and Pamela Lannom: “A well-selected se- ries of articles that tracks the high school sports impact on themes of the pandemic over the entire scope of 2020.”


3rd Place: Oakland Independent, Janice Hunt. Taking one for the team: “A fun story of an unexpected career move and its benefit for a school community.”

Honorable Mention: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown, Don Chipman. The COVID impact on local sports: “Good, thoughtful reporting on a level of sports action is often overlooked, as well as a timely commentary.”

CLASS 40 - Robert M. Cole Award for BEST SCHOOL BOARD COVERAGE

Division Daily

1st Place: The News-Gazette, Champa-gny, Anthony Zilis. Champaign, Urbana schools: “Good coverage and well written articles on a variety of complicated, local education issues. A great way of explain- ing detailed issues in compelling, easy to read format while included the board and district perspective.”

2nd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Lauren FitzPatrick, Chicago Sun-Times: “Superbly written, insightful articles and analysis. The depth of reporting and the community dialogue were great.”

3rd Place: Breeze Courier, Taylorville, Owen Lasswell. Taylorville School Board coverage: “Good, continuous coverage of the issue. All stories were clear and concise, and easy to read and included various sides of the issue.”

Division Non Daily

1st Place: Coal City Courant, Ann Gill. Coverage of Unit 1 Coal City School Dis-trict: “Excellent contribution to commu-nity understanding of governance work and issues facing district (especially Dres-den closing), with knowledge, clarity, and depth. Well explained, written, and presented. An asset to community knowl-edge and dialogue of issue and impact.”


3rd Place: The Woodstock Independent, Lauren Fitzpatrick. COVID-19 and bond debt: “Great coverage, depth, and analysis, especially the work on construction bond issue. Well-presented, clear, and infor-mative.”


CLASS 41 - Maurice Scott Award for BEST COVERAGE OF TAXATION

Division Daily

1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Tim Novak, Lauren FitzPatrick. Coverage of the Illinois Land Bank Authority investigation, Tim Novak, Lauren FitzPatrick.


3rd Place: Centralia Morning Sentinel, Connor Wood. Centralia sales tax refer- endum.

Division Non Daily

1st Place: The Woodstock Independent, Larry Lough. How do you want to pay for streetlights?

2nd Place: Kendall County Record, Yorkville, Katie Finlon. Coverage of the Kendall County Board OKs property tax late fee, interest relief for residents.

CLASS 42 - Knight Chair Award for BEST INVESTIGATIVE/ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Division A

1st Place: The Braidwood Journal, Jennifer Glasscock. Braidwood Police Department helicopter unit: “A classic watchdog story on what police funding by a government agency that found through Freedom of Information requests what even a city alderman did not know.”

2nd Place: Ledger-Sentinel, Oswego, Katie Finlon. Coverage of the death of Kerrigan Rutherford, 6-year-old girl from Boulder Hill: “Determined follow-up to the death of child that revealed horrible living conditions and a lack of action by a state agency that had been repeatedly alerted to the dangerous situation.”

Division B

1st Place: Herald & Review, Decatur, Tony Reid. Macon County Jail health care: “An investigation that went far beyond the usual court reporting and showed the value of Freedom of Information Act requests.”

2nd Place: The Pantagraph, Bloomington, Staff. Out of the shadows: Spotlight on sex crimes: “A strong enterprise story that kept up on peril of the pandemic: child abuse – in the public eye.”

Division C

1st Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Frank Main, Andy Grimm. “Long delays for justice,” Frank Main, Andy Grimm: “An excellent series of stories on trial delays that go on for years, depriving defendants of their rights and freedom and place financial and emotional hardships on their families.”

2nd Place: Chicago Sun-Times, Tim Novak, Lauren FitzPatrick. Kendall County Land Bank Authority investigation, Tim Novak, Lauren FitzPatrick. “Superb reporting on the Cook County Land Bank Authority: Textbook investigative reporting on corrupt quasi-government agencies that seldom receive the scrutiny they deserve.”

3rd Place: Belleville News-Democrat, Alexis Cortes. Granite City crime free housing investigation: “Solid reporting on a housing issue more important than ever.”

Honorable Mention: Belleville News-Democrat, Kai Sahn Mansouri. Raw sewage invades the homes of Illinois’ poorest residents. Why hasn’t it been fixed? “Excellent community watchdog reporting.”
David B. Kramer Memorial Trophy
Oakland Independent
2nd Place: The Woodstock Independent
3rd Place: Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown
4th Place: The Sidell Reporter
The David B. Kramer Memorial Trophy was established in 2014 by the Kramer family in memory of the late publisher of the Gibson City Courier and the other Kramer weekly newspapers. It is awarded to a Division A weekly newspaper.

Harold and Eva White Memorial Trophy
The Hinsdalean
2nd Place: The Journal-News, Hillsboro
3rd Place: The Greenville Advocate
4th Place: Kane County Chronicle, St. Charles
The Harold and Eva White Trophy is awarded to a Division B weekly newspaper. It was established in 1990 and contributed by SUN Publications, a division of Copley Newspapers, in honor of Harold and Eva White, former publisher of SUN Publications in Naperville.

William Loomis Memorial Trophy
Pioneer Press Media Group, Chicago
2nd Place: The MidWeek, DeKalb
3rd Place: The Telegraph, Alton
4th Place: Illinois Times, Springfield
The William Loomis Memorial Trophy is awarded to a Division C weekly newspaper. It was established in 1949 in memory of William W. Loomis, former publisher of the LaGrange Citizen.

Patrick Coburn Award of Excellence
Daily Chronicle, DeKalb
2nd Place: The Register-Mail, Galesburg
3rd Place: The Telegraph, Alton
4th Place: Herald & Review, Decatur
The Patrick Coburn Award of Excellence is awarded to a Division D daily newspaper. It was established in 2011 and contributed by Patrick Coburn, former publisher of the State Journal-Register and vice president of Copley Press, Inc.

Mabel S. Shaw Memorial Trophy
The News-Gazette, Champaign
2nd Place: Journal Star, Peoria
3rd Place: Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake
4th Place: Rockford Register Star
The Mabel S. Shaw Memorial Trophy is awarded to a Division E daily newspaper. It was established in 1994 and contributed by the Shaw family in memory of the late publisher of The Telegraph in Dixon.

Stuart R. Paddock Memorial Trophy
Chicago Sun-Times
2nd Place: Daily Herald Group
3rd Place: Belleville News-Democrat
4th Place: Chicago Tribune Media Group
The Stuart R. Paddock Memorial Trophy is awarded to a Division F daily newspaper. It was established in 1978 and contributed by the Paddock family in memory of the late publisher of the Chicago newspaper company.

Illinois Press Association’s 2020 Sweepstakes Winners