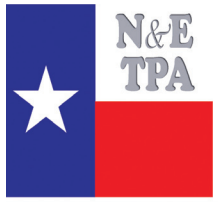


Winners Circle ²⁰²³

North and East Texas Press Association Better Newspaper Contest Results



North & East Texas
Press Association

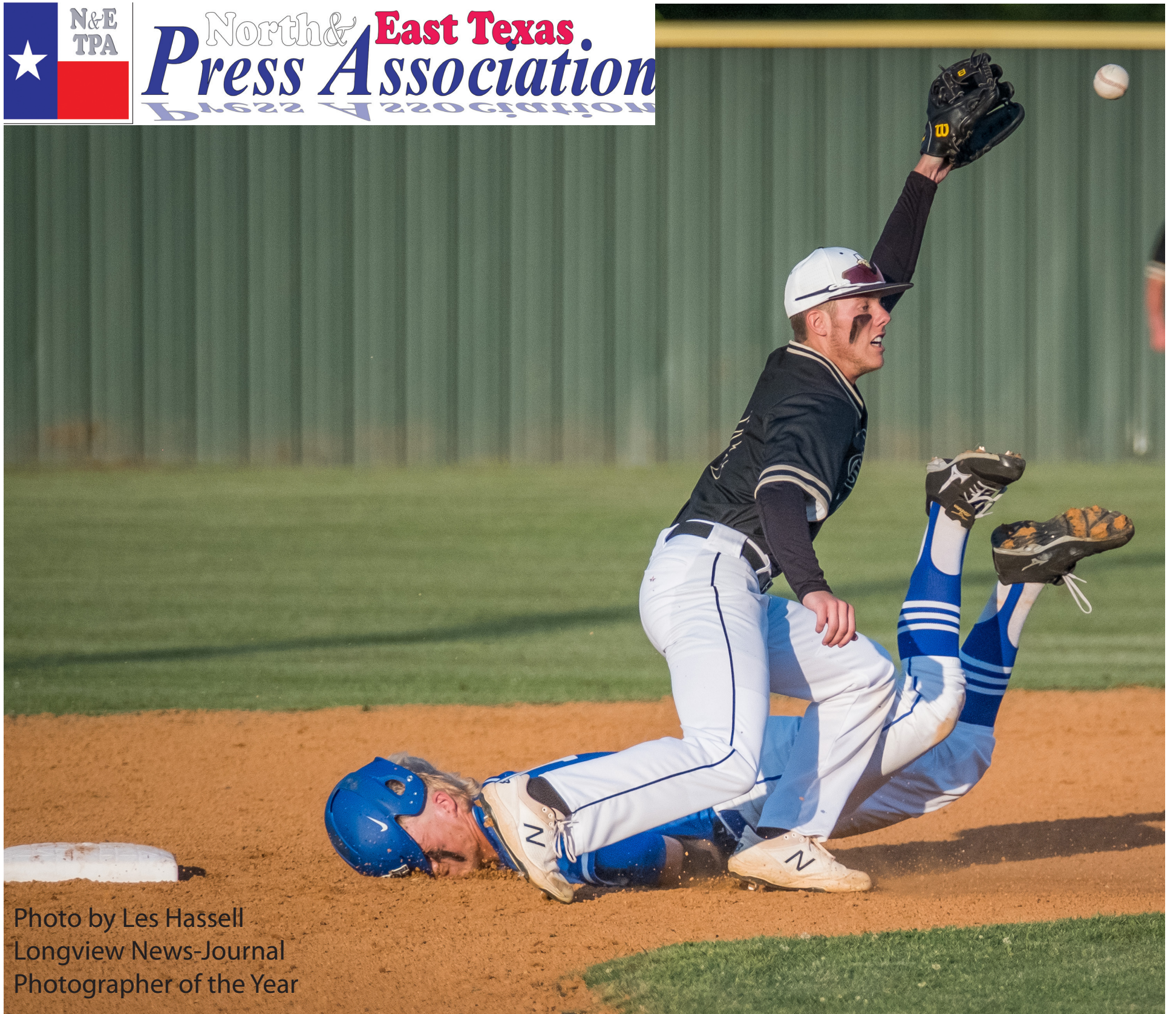


Photo by Les Hassell
Longview News-Journal
Photographer of the Year

Advertising

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning Telegraph 1st place

“Great use of strong art and economy of words that grab attention (loved the cheeky “Cozy” ad). Shows what solid portrait photography can add to design. Well done.”

Marshall News Messenger 2nd place

“Nice salute to veterans. And good design and highlighting service on Texas Bank and Trust ad. Good, clean design.”

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Hood County News 1st place

“Excellent use of color on Affordacare ad and clean design — this pops and gets noticed. Love the graphics on Hollywood to Bethlehem. Draws “marquee” attention to this ancient story. Great work.”

Lufkin News 2nd place

“Great use of graphics to promote Best of Lufkin. Artist has great feel for color combos.”

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 3rd place

“Nice clean design with a variety of effects and text. Good subtle placement of “best of” logo.”

Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune 4th place

“Super cute use of wording and reindeer in serious topic - DWI. Be careful with too much color in April showers ad - distracts from art. Good clean design on teachers ad - nice way to honor them.”

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Kilgore News Herald 1st place

“Like the simplicity of Oktoberfest ad (though pics could have been used a bit more strongly). Great job with Kilgore Historical Preservation ad - strong visuals with design and mix of historic and new art elements. Overton Hardware was attention grabbing for small ad. Great job overall!”

Panola Watchman 2nd place

“Good job on Sounds of Christmas ad. I like the diagonal elements on election ad - draws attention. And Busy Bones draws attention with that popping color. Nice job.”

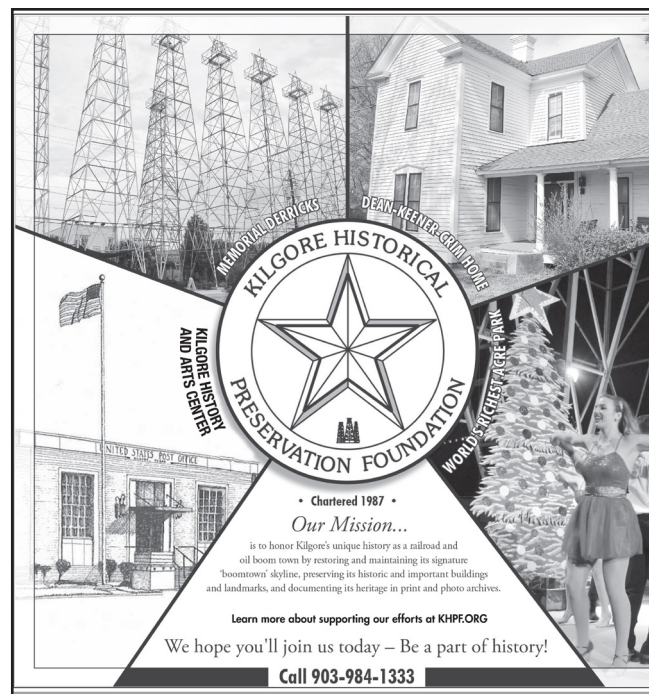
Henderson Daily News 3rd place

“Best of Henderson entries. Good job with Peterson’s ads.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Van Zandt News 1st place

“Terrific examples of leaving some breathing room on ads. Good strong visu-



als and I liked color choices. Keep up the good work!”

Azle News 2nd place

“Well done. Solid design and effective use of space. Close between first and second.”

The Terrell Tribune 3rd place

“Strong ads and good use of color. Love the Oh My Curry simplicity. Strong work.”

Pilot Point Post-Signal 4th place

Small Weekly Division 5

Gladewater Mirror 1st place

“Great job with Fair ad - stood out from entire class. Good, clean design on Job Expo and Frontline Hero ads (customer didn't want art?). Nice work overall and good variety of design styles.”

The Light and Champion 2nd place

“Good ad for Wright Motors. And nice to see a full-page grocery ad again (or any grocery ad)! Good work.”

Canton Herald 3rd place

“Nice job on these ads. Work on subtlety and little more modern design techniques. But strong impact and attention-grabbing graphics. Good job overall.”

Pittsburg Gazette 4th place

“Nice job. Designer understands use of a strong, attention-grabbing headline.”

**Kilgore News Herald
1st place Advertising**

Column writing

Daily Division 1

Longview News Journal/Jack Stallard 1st place
"Awesome column writing."

Marshall News Messenger/ Dawn Dillard 2nd place

Tyler Morning Telegraph/Brandon Ogden 3rd place

Marshall News Messenger/Nathan Hague 4th place

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel/Josh Edwards 1st place
"Very interesting. Loved it! Well-written. Personally have typed hundreds of Santa letters myself...couldn't agree more!"

Lufkin News/Jackie Zimmerman 2nd place
"Really well-written from the heart pieces. Empathized with older parents and helping them."

Gatesville Messenger/Sam Houston 3rd place
"Loved this column. That's the type of service (helping out someone stranded on the highway) which is hard to come by these days."

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel/Nathan Hague 4th place
"Cowboys and Commanders hit home."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Kilgore News Herald/Jase Graves 1st place
"Enjoyed these two columns. Really relatable from the prospective of a family."

Henderson Daily News/Katy Mirtz-Myers 2nd place

Henderson Daily News/Amber Lollar 3rd place

Panola Watchman/J.B. Morris 4th place

Large Weekly Division 4

Wood County Monitor/Phil Major 1st place
"Phil Major's Corner Column is awesome. Definitely deserves first place."

Pilot Point Post-Signal/ Abigail Allen and Jack O' Connor 2nd place

Azle News/Don Munsch 3rd place

From Wood County Monitor's 1st place column writing entry by Phil Major

"The old saying, the more things change, the more they stay the same, is true for high school dress codes.

They are making news again, with one district to our west going overboard with controversial restrictions (no dresses, skirts or skorts after 4th grade).

Mineola High School Principal Mike Sorenson went the other direction last year, loosening up a few things, with the logic that some battles are best fought without drawing a line in the sand, knowing that giving a little in one place can result in better outcomes in other places.

He even drew praise from senior Jack Heard in his salutatorian speech at graduation.

Last Monday Sorenson noted a slight change in the way shorts will be measured, changing from a minimum inseam measurement to the easier-to-enforce fingertip length.

It's not a new battle.

One of my classmates, a tall beauty who was a classy dresser, had the embarrassment one day in sophomore English of having to stand before the class with arms at her sides to see if the length of her dress met the code. It did not, though not by much. Off to the office she went, suffering the disadvantage of long arms and long legs after her attire apparently had passed muster in three prior classes that day.

Her dress had not been altered to violate the code, it's just that when it came off the rack, her arms dangled a bit past its hem. It was not a disruption to the learning environment – this was an honors English class."

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen/Paul Gaudette 1st place
"Caught my attention immediately and held it throughout both columns. Well-written!"

Gladewater Mirror/Jim and Suzanne Bardwell 2nd place
"I did not know Suzanne, but her well-written column was exactly what I needed today. Loved the ending of her column. And for Jim's column ... I'm without words. I'm sure it was hard to write."

Dublin Citizen/Wyndi Veigel 3rd place
"Missing Santa really hit home for me."

Quanah Tribune-Chief/Karen Lance 4th place
"As someone who is really busy, losing keys (and more!) around the office happens a lot!"

Editorial writing

Daily Division 1

Longview News-Journal 1st place

"Relevant - Well done. Get ahead of that divisive curve. Political poison -- spelled out your case well."

Tyler Morning Telegraph 2nd place

"Only two entries in this division, but second place in this case is definitely not last. Great writing style. And I miss the SWC, too!"

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Lufkin News 1st place

"Your right to know - Well done, using a hot-button local issue to demonstrate and highlight the importance of open government. Water woes - organized, concise presentation of a critical issue."

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place

"Nicely done, call to action."

Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune 3rd place

"These are more columns than editorials that take a stand and/or call for action."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Greenville Herald-Banner 1st place

"Both are well written, concise and firm. 'Time to work the problem' appeals to all sides; 'Time to get serious' is a good call to action to address a serious problem."

Weatherford Democrat 2nd place

"Well written and substantiated. These are national issues that have local impact."

Gainesville Daily Register 3rd place

"Extenuating circumstances good local position. Repetitive references to 'said this' and 'said that' hurt it. Electric grid well done."

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal 1st place

Small Weekly Division 5

Quanah Tribune-Chief 1st place

Bowie County Citizen Tribune 2nd place

"Like other entries in the category, these are more columns than editorials."

Gladewater Mirror 3rd place

"A special category should be created for entries such as this. As sad and tragic as Suzanne's death was, she left us with her passion for journalism and love of community. She definitely was a winner, and her legacy has left all who crossed her path with the spirit of a winner."



Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Div. 2 1st place Feature Photograph

Feature photo

Daily Division 1

Longview News-Journal/Michael Cavazos and Les Hassell 1st place

"Stunning images so well timed to maximize the impact."

Tyler Morning Telegraph/ Ana Conejo 2nd place

"Regarding the Christmas tree lighting pic: Is it the best feature photo if it's run as the fourth-smallest pic on the front page?"

Marshall News Messenger/Alexander Gould and Meredith Shamburger

"Good shots, but strong competition."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel/Josh Edwards 1st place

"You've mastered the art of capturing wonderful emotion in faces!"

Wise County Messenger/Austin Jackson 2nd place

"Wonderful job of capturing emotional scenes, and kudos to the designers for playing those great photos big."

Feature photo

(continued)

Large Semi Weekly Division 2 (continued)

Gatesville Messenger/David Scott 3rd place

“Love the tug of war photo. Other shot lacked the emotional appeal of other entries.”

Hood County News/Mary Vinson 4th place

“Monarch pic was one of the best in this entire class, but I found the background of the woman on the motorcycle distracting, especially since that same courthouse image is such a large portion of your masthead.”

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Weatherford Democrat/Sally Sexton 1st place

“The action in the rodeo photos and the emotion on the faces of the petting zoo pics are so wonderful. Well done.”

Palestine Herald-Press/Stuart Whitaker 2nd place

“What a powerful image the candlelight vigil photo is.”

Greenville Herald-Banner/Laurie White King 3rd place

“The emotion of graduation beautifully captured.”

Kilgore News Herald/ Les Hassell and Sadiq King 4th place

“Love the face-painting photo. That should have been the dominant photo in the package, however.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Wood County Monitor/Sam Major and John Arbter 1st place

Pilot Point Post-Signal/Abigail Allen 2nd place

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen/Paul Gaudette and Wyndi Veigel 1st place

“Such great shots, and the snappy photo headlines adds to their charm.”

Gladewater Mirror/Jim Bardwell 2nd place

“Outstanding shot of Santa on the motorcycle. The brownie eating contest pic could have been better from another angle, or closer up for more emotion, mess.”

Bowie County Citizens Tribune/ Allyson Pebsworth, Heather Russell 3rd place

“Strong images.”

Quanah Tribune-Chief/Shane Lance

“The mural shot was great. The first day photo, however, I think could have benefited from better cropping.”

Feature story

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger/Robin Y. Richardson and Jessica Harker 1st place

“What set The Marshall News Messenger apart from the rest of the entries was Robin Y. Richardson’s deadline story about a hometown hero. Richardson managed to not only localize a national story in two days but tell a full and compelling story about John Cheng, who saved countless lives in California. There were lot of good quotes from the community and school friends who knew him, which gave readers a well-rounded picture of a former resident of the area. Well done. This community is being well-served by Richardson and Jessica Harker’s engaging stories.”

Longview News Journal/ Jo Lee Ferguson and Les Hassell 2nd place

“Jo Lee Ferguson’s story memorializing a homeless resident of the community was a compelling read. Good papers capture the lives of all residents even the unseen in small town Texas. This paper is doing important work of sharing the stories of all the people in their community from the homeless to those exposing the public to art. Kudos to the Longview News Journal for covering these stories. This community is being well served by this newspaper.”

Tyler Morning Telegraph/ Jessica T. Payne

“These stories by Jessica T. Payne are helping to keep readers up-to-date about their community. It’s obvious it’s the go-to resource for local readers and business owners. My only suggestion would be to delve deeper. The homicide victim story would have also been a good place to give details on where police are in the investigation. The Black officers story needed context. How many Black officers serve on the force now? What do those officers think about how far the police department has come?”

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune/Ryleigh Stegall 1st place

“Ryleigh Stegall stories about a NFR rodeo star and ranch equipment inventor show what makes rural Texas living worthwhile. Both stories were well written and reported. The readers of the Mount Pleasant Tribune are being well served by their community newspaper. Well done.”

Wise County Messenger/ Richard Greene, Austin Jackson 2nd place

“What set The Wise County Messenger apart was Richard Greene’s solid reporting of a home town athlete making his major league pitching debut. He captured the fun and love of the community in his retelling of the evening. Austin Jackson’s Hero Baby story was a compelling read and good story that would have been made better by multiple sources. Good solid storytelling by both Greene and Jackson.”

Feature story

(continued)

Large Semi Weekly Division 2 (continued)

Gatesville Messenger /David Scott 3rd place

“What set The Messenger apart was David Scott’s wonderful storytelling. The historical reporting was a fun read that gives readers a lot information about the making of the community.”

Hood County News/Ashley Inge 4th place

“This paper is keeping its readers up-to-date about their community. It’s obvious it’s the go-to resource for local readers and business owners.”

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Palestine Herald Press/PennyLynn Webb 1st place

“Pennylynn Webb’s news features are capturing the lives of the unseen in small town Texas. This paper is doing the hard but important work of sharing the stories of ALL the people in their community. Kudos to the Palestine Herald Press for covering these stories during this culturally explosive era in which we are living. This community is being well served by this newspaper.”

Greenville Herald-Banner/Hank Murphy and Travis Hairgrove 2nd place

“What set The Herald Banner apart was Hank Murphy’s wonderful storytelling. The personification of the building in the lead of the preservation project made this story a joy to read. Good solid storytelling by both Murphy and Travis Hairgrove.”

Kilgore News Herald/Sadiq King, Lucas Strough 3rd place

“Sadiq King’s story about the academic learning center opening was a compelling read because of the drama he introduced at the beginning of the story. Good job with the lead. The Kilgore News Herald has a strong staff of writers in King and Lucas Strough. This paper is keeping its readers up-to-date about their community.”

Corsicana Daily Sun/ Michael Kormos 4th place

“This paper is keeping its readers up-to-date about their community. It’s obvious it’s the go-to resource for local readers and business owners.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal/Abigail Allen and Basil Gist 1st place

“Abigail Allen and Basil Gist write compelling stories. The Louise Tobin obituary brought the jazz singer to life through her friends and families memories. The heart transplant story was in depth and interesting. It would have benefitted from multiple sources. Lots of strong writing in this paper.”

Azle News /Don Munsch 2nd place

“Enjoyed these community centered and minded features. Nice job highlighting unsung heroes who work in Azle. Another good story about small

From Pilot Point Post-Signal’s 1st place Feature Writing lead written by Basil Gist

“Aubrey Police Department Lt. David Bruce could have spent the end of the year in the hospital, but instead he got to spend the holidays in recovery after receiving a heart for Christmas.

The 64-year-old commander of criminal investigations has spent the last 20 years suffering with congestive heart failure following a heart attack.

Since then, I’ve had four heart attacks, quadruple heart bypass, and they put in a defibrillator/pacemaker,” Bruce said. “My cardiologist determined my ejection fraction was at 18.”

town Texas residents. The paper is doing a good job of highlighting all that is good in its community.

Small Weekly Division 5

Pittsburg Gazette/ Elizabeth Lanning 1st place

“Deciding on the top three was a difficult choice in this category, because each of these papers had solid reporting. What set The Pittsburg Gazette apart was how Elizabeth Lanning made each story entertaining to read. Her writing style brought whimsy and fun to each story, which highlighted what is so great about life in small town Texas. The bird flying into to electric sub-station as “The transformer gave its final--and customarily noisy--gasp...” which took out traffic signals and got the city charging ahead to get traffic moving showed how small towns get things done. The story about the crossing guard whose truck was vandalized and burned by teenager shows the caring and resilience of a community. These were wonderful slices of life. Well done.”

Springtown Epigraph/ Madelyn Edwards 2nd place

“Deciding on the top three was a difficult choice in this category, because each of these papers had solid reporting. What set The Springtown Epigraph apart was Madelyn Edwards adoption story. It was well researched and reported and written. I was brought to tears reading about how a community rallied to help their fellow citizens during their adoption journey. Both features were feel good stories about what makes small town Texas living worthwhile. Well done.”

Canton Herald/ Ethan Adams 3rd place

“Deciding on the top three was a difficult choice in this category, because each of these papers had solid reporting. What set The Canton Herald apart was Ethan Adams reporting on interesting stories happening in Canton. He is doing a good job of the covering the local community. The citizens of Canton are getting to know their neighbors through his efforts.”

Gladewater Mirror/Jim Bardwell 4th place

“Solid reporting in both stories with a lot of historical background. The citizens of Gladewater are being well informed by their community newspaper. This paper is keeping its readers up-to-date about their community. It’s obvious it’s the go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

General Excellence

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning Telegraph 1st place

“Comprehensive issue for Tyler Rose Festival was truly wonderful in every aspect.”

Longview News Journal 2nd place

“A varied publication with local and national news.”

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Wise County Messenger 1st place

“Great coverage throughout this issue on a heinous act of Athena. Impactful front page. Excellent design and writing.”

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place

“This newspaper has solid and creative coverage, with clean design, good writing and excellent story selection.”

Lufkin News 3rd place

“The array of coverage, designs and writing is top-notch.”

Gatesville Messenger 4th place

“Solid writing and design.”

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Weatherford Democrat 1st place

“Impactful front page re:Robb Elementary. Clean design, solid writing.”

Kilgore News Herald 2nd place

“Great content and designs.”

Corsicana Daily Sun 3rd place

“Photos, content and design are pleasing.”

Panola Watchman 4th place

“Great use of photos throughout. Good, crisp designs.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal 1st place

“Solid writing, attractive layouts throughout. Visitor’s guide and Progress are a plus and great products for your community.”

Wood County Monitor 2nd place

“Clean layouts and strong writing.”

The Terrell Tribune 3rd place

“Clean layout, the chamber section, small business spotlights a great concept.”

Van Zandt News 4th place

“Great issues. Particularly liked the breast cancer features.”

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen 1st place

“Solid and creative coverage, with clean design, good writing and excellent story selection.”

Bowie County Citizens Tribune 2nd place

“Good coverage for this community.”

Canton Herald 3rd place

“Good reporting and execution in layout.”

Pittsburg Gazette 4th place

“Great community coverage with Pink Out and Women in Business campaigns.”

Headlines

Daily Division 1

Longview News-Journal 1st place

“No skin in the game – good play on words.”

Tyler Morning News 2nd place

“Narrowly made 2nd place. Good job.”

Marshall News Messenger 3rd place

“Keep up the good work.”

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Hood County News 1st place

“Rock Solid” headlines! Loved the originality. Good job!

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place

“Good headlines.”

Paris News 3rd place

“Close tie to 2nd place winner. If there was a 2nd place tie, this entry would be that tie. Nice work!”

Lufkin News 4th place

Headlines

(continued)

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Panola Watchman 1st place

“Excellent entries – great play on words. Applicable to the stories.”

Henderson Daily News 2nd place

“Liked all three submissions. Playing with Fire – very “in sync” with the article. Good job! See ya later, alligator - nice! Hard decision between these 3 headlines and 1st Place winner. Keep up the good work!”

Kilgore News Herald 3rd place

“Nice work.”

Greenville Herald-Banner 4th place

Large Weekly Division 4

Wood County Monitor 1st place

“Awesome headlines. “A notable departure” was the ticket in this 1st place designation.”

Pilot-Point Post Signal 2nd place

“Excellent work on headlines.”

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen 1st place

“Clear 1st Place winner. Catchy, clever, original. Loved it!”

Bowie County Citizens Tribune 2nd place

“Nice work!”

Pittsburg Gazette 3rd place

Quanah Tribune-Chief 4th place

Headline winner’s from Small Weekly Dublin Citizen
Looks like rain, dear (Used to describe a photo of Santa and his elf
in pouring rain at the Christmas parade).

A moment of ‘paws’ (Used to describe a first day of school photo
with a young student giving a Lion mascot a high five)

MTGCD ‘ditch’-es nothing in education project
(Headline with story about water district outdoor
educational program)



Allyson Pebsworth, Tony Basso/Bowie County Citizens Tribune
Div. 5 1st place News Photography

Page Design

Daily Division 1

Longview News-Journal 1st place

“Designs are clean. Really liked the balloon front page. Great use of color. Modular designs and use of photos are very pleasing.”

Marshall News Messenger 2nd place

“Nice design, but leading on the Op/Ed page is too tight. Also, watch the text wrapping around photos. It was difficult to follow text around the baseball bat.”

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Hood County News 1st place

“Photos, graphic designs, use of color make this publication stand out from the other entries. Well done.”

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place

“Great use of photos and color. Clean designs lure the reader in.”

Lufkin News 3rd place

“Dominant photos and clean, modular designs are pleasing to the eye.”

Wise County Messenger 4th place

“Clean designs. Sports page is very attractive.”

Page Design

(continued)

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Panola Watchman 1st place
"Very nice sports page.
Great use of graphic design
and photo."

Kilgore News-Herald 2nd place

"Great use of photos, info-
graphics. Clean and crisp."

Greenville Herald-Banner 3rd place

"Clean designs. Photos fea-
tured nicely."

Weatherford Democrat 4th place

Good designs. Good use of
photos and typography.

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal 1st place

"Good designs. Good use of
photos."

Van Zandt News 2nd place

"Nice design. Good use of pho-
tos and typography."

The Terrell Tribune 3rd place

"May want to add some
different typography to add
variety. Overall clean and
crisp design."

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen 1st place

"Great use of photos and
graphic design. Color and
typography set this entry
ahead."

Canton Herald 2nd place

"Clean look. Opinon/Com-
mentaries and Lifestyles
heading could be a bit larger."

Bowie County Citizens Tribune 3rd place

The Panola Watchman

Dedicated to the service of the people and institutions of Panola County since 1873

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PANOLA COUNTY ELECTIONS

Two vying for Pct. 1&4 justice of the peace

Gray cites board law enforcement background

Miller led by faith to serve

BY MIKE ELSWICK
melswick@panolawatchman.com

Denise Gray feels her 22 years of experience of working with the Panola County Sheriff's Office is a great launching pad for what she hopes will be the next chapter in her life as she seeks the Panola County Justice of the Peace position for precincts 1 and 4.

Gray is vying for the currently held by Larry Fields, who opted not to run for the office and in-



Denise Gray

Elections Coverage

Look for continued candidate profiles and school election coverage in upcoming editions and online at panolawatchman.com/news/elections. Early voting begins Oct. 14. Election Day is Nov. 8.

stead sought the county Court At Law position. He lost in the spring er in the Nov. 8 general Republican Primary election. The position is currently held by Larry Gray topped a field in the three-way race for the office and in-

See GRAY, Page 4A

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Sandra Miller feels called by God to run for office as the Justice of the Peace for Precincts 1 and 4.

"It was after receiving the blessing of being healed from major illness twice, surviving a tornado with no damage, when devastation was totally around me, and making it through a pandemic with not one of my family members being lost to a mass epidemic — that put me in



Sandra Miller

a mind-receive... set of Miller is vying for the search for the ticket against Republican candidate Denise Gray. The position is currently held by Larry Fields, who opted not to run for the office and in-

See MILLER, Page 4A

ELECTIONS

Early voting begins Monday

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Voting in the November general election is less than a week away.

Panola County voters will cast votes in several location elections, as well as statewide races. Early voting runs Oct. 24-Nov. 4. Election Day is Nov. 8.

Statewide, voters are choosing governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, ag commissioner, railroad commissioner, supreme court justices and court of criminal appeals judges.

Voters will be casting ballots for a U.S. House District 1 candidate to take over U.S.

See VOTE, Page 4A

BECKVILLE ISD

Security is focus of Mon. meeting

BY MIKE ELSWICK
melswick@panolawatchman.com

Campus security and safety issues took center stage at a Monday evening meeting of the Beckville ISD Board of Trustees.

One of the requirements that Texas schools will have this year is a security and safety unannounced intruder detection audit. Superintendent Devin Fato said the Region VII Education Service Center recently conducted an audit of the district's campuses.

"They come out and go around your campuses and look for open doors primarily," he said. Region VII is in charge of doing those inspections in the area, Fato said.

"We had an inspector come

See BISSD, Page 3A

SPORTS

Carthage, Beckville football teams ready for Friday's games
Page 7A



PANOLA COUNTY



One of the oldest identified graves at Bethlehem Cemetery belonged to Ducky Easley who died in 1888. Guests to the Saturday celebration gather around to get a closer look at the headstone.

FAMILY ROOTS

Rural Bethlehem Cemetery celebrates historical past



Pearlie Burns Williams, seated, was one of the elder visitors to the historical designation celebration held Saturday at Bethlehem Cemetery. She lives in the River Hill area of DeBerry and said all of her deceased relatives are buried at the location.

BY MIKE ELSWICK
melswick@panolawatchman.com

Obtaining recognition by the Texas Historical Commission for the holy grounds on which many of their ancestors have been buried over the past 170 years was a reason for Panola County residents and relatives to celebrate.

Descendants came from across Texas and from several states for the Saturday celebration at the cemetery located adjacent to Bethlehem Baptist Church, according to Jonathan Mattews and Anthony Price, who were among organizers of the event and who were involved in the site earning the state designation.

Price said the occasion brought together kintfolk who many had not seen for years. In other cases, rela-

See CEMETERY, Page 5A

More Photos

See more photos from Saturday's ceremony on Page 5A and online at panolawatchman.com.



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The Panola Watchman
www.panolawatchman.com

Briefs: 3A Obituaries: 2A
Classifieds: 5A Records: 2A
Faith Column: 2A Sports: 7A

Panola Watchman
Div. 3 1st place Page Design

News photo

Daily Division 1

Longview News-Journal/Michael Cavazos 1st place
"These are tremendous photos in every sense of the word."

Marshall News Messenger/Meredith Shamburger and Courtney Case 2nd place

"Really great shots."

Tyler Morning News/Ana Conejo 3rd place

"Good photos but you gotta find a way to crop that darn plant out of the foreground of an otherwise touching graduation pic."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel/Josh Edwards 1st place
"Such a powerful image in Baby on Board shot and great aerial shot of damage."

Lufkin News/ Joel Andrews 2nd place

"Such an eye-catching explosion shot and love the Birdseye perspective on the crash shot."

Wise County Messenger/ Brian Knox, Austin Jackson 3rd place
"Airplane crash photo was amazing!"

Hood County News/Mary Vinson 4th place
"Powerful fire images. Well Done."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Kilgore News Herald/Les Hassell, Lucas Strough 1st place
"Clear winner in this category ... good work."

Panola Watchman/Meredith Shamburger 2nd place
"Great news value in these pics."

News photo

(continued)

Small Semi Weekly Division 3 (continued)

Greenville Herald-Banner/Hank Murphy 3rd place

"Great ice storm pic ... other one drags down the entry."

Henderson Daily News/Amber Lollar 4th place

"You win the cute kid award."

Large Weekly Division 4

Wood County Monitor/Sam Major 1st place

"Great photos."

Pilot Point Post-Signal/Basil Gist and Abigail Allen 2nd place

"Not enough going in in these pics to win."

Small Weekly Division 5

Bowie County Citizens Tribune/ Allyson Pebsworth, Tony Basso 1st place

"Impactful action shots."

Dublin Citizen/Paul Gaudette and Wyndi Veigel 2nd place

"Good work."

Gladewater Mirror/Jim Bardwell 3rd place

"Two important pics."

Pittsburg Gazette/Elizabeth Lanning 4th place

"Lots of emotion in these pics, but not sure they really meet the criteria for News photos. More like feature pics."

Sports writing

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning News/Brandon Ogden 1st place

"The writing kept me invested in the stories. I'm no golf fan but couldn't stop reading about Mr. Renfro. Well done. The Deuce McGregor story has made me a fan of the kid."

Longview News-Journal/Jack Stallard, Thomas Bingham 2nd place

"Excellent storytelling. Beautiful sports reporting here. Great use of quotes and excellent work making the reader care about these athletes."

Marshall News Messenger/Nathan Hague 3rd place

"Excellent, in-depth writing. Long Road Back was a journey and provided a lot of insight most people don't get from someone who's been through tough times in life. This was a very difficult division to judge."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Gatesville Messenger/ Triston McGehee 1st place

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel/ Nathan Hague and Josh Edwards 2nd place

"Excellent and thorough writing. The author grabs you and keeps you reading."

Wise County Messenger/ Micah McCartney 3rd place

Hood County News/Russel Huffman 4th place

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Corsicana Daily Sun/Mike Phillips 1st place

"Great piece on Coach Wasson and a very unique article about Hunter Boatwright. Very different but both are very well done."

Panola Watchman/Ryan Silapan 2nd place

"Great writing, love seeing quotes from the athletes themselves."

Gainesville Daily Register 3rd place

Weatherford Democrat/ Sam Goodwyn 4th place

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal /Joe Fragano 1st place

"Great storytelling, the author keeps you invested in the article."

Azle News/Jeff Prince 2nd place

"Story really makes you relive the moment of the game and the back and forth action and pain of the loss."

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen/Paul Gaudette 1st place

Pittsburg Gazette/Quinten Boyd 2nd place

Canton Herald/Ethan Adams 3rd place

Bowie County Citizen Tribune/Joseph Spears 4th place

Sports photo

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger/Nathan Hague, Les Hassell 1st place

"Very nice, crisp, clean photos. Excellent action."

Longview News-Journal/Les Hassell 2nd place

"Love the baseball shot. Great capture, I feel for the kid sliding into the base, Ouch! Excellent entries!"

Tyler Morning Telegraph/Jessica T. Payne 3rd place

"Don't see many rodeo shots and I wish we would. Love these photos. Might crop in tighter next time."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Wise County Messenger/ Micah McCartney 1st place

"Love everything about these entries; their use, their size, the impact, composition, clarity, action. Excellent photography and use of photos in layout!"

Hood County News/ Russel Huffman 2nd place

"This was a tough division and every entry from first through fourth was so close. These are excellent entries and beautiful photos."

Baseball photo is awesome as is the pole vault. This entry is a very narrow second."

Lufkin News/ Joel Andrews 3rd place

"Great photography, action and use of photos on the page. This division was really tough to judge."

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel/ Josh Edwards 4th place

"Love the photos and action. Fumble photo could have used a tighter crop on it."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Greenville Herald-Banner/David Claybourn 1st place

"These got the edge for me on impact and use alone. I love the intensity in the girls' basketball shot and the use of both on the page. Great entries!"

Kilgore News Herald /Dennis Jacobs 2nd place

"Technically superior photos, excellent use on the page and spectacular impact. A tough choice as second place."

Panola Watchman /Addison Glaze, Ryan Silapan 3rd place

"Excellent use of photos, great clarity and impact. Nice entry!"

Henderson Daily News /Audrey Blaschke 4th place

Large Weekly Division 4



I did what?

First Place Division 3 Sports Photo
David Claybourn/Greenville Herald-Banner

Pilot Point Post-Signal/Chance Kirby 1st place

"Excellent photos! Love the track photo, Wow! Clarity, composition, impact. Very nice entries!"

Wood County Monitor/Sam Major 2nd place

"Basketball photo is really impactful. Really shows the physicality of basketball."

Small Weekly Division 5

Gladewater Mirror/Jim Bardwell 1st place

"Nice, crisp, clean photos. Love the action in both. Love the colors on the rodeo shot. Nice variety and great photos. Great job!"

Bowie County Citizens Tribune/ Joesph Spears 2nd place

"Great action in both photos. Both could benefit from a more aggressive crop. They would stand out a lot more."

Quanah Tribune-Chief/ Shane Lance 3rd place

"Very tough deciding between 2nd and 3rd place. Great action shots and nice clean images. Cropping tighter would bring out the image more and be more effective."

Canton Herald/Ethan Adams 4th place

"Love the candid shots, especially the kid celebrating. Both are bit dark. They could be lighted up a bit."

Sports coverage

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning Telegraph 1st place

"Nice clean package. Photos, writing, content, variety. It's all there. Excellent entry. Layout and design are very appealing."

Longview News-Journal 2nd place

"Absolutely massive sports section. Almost everything from A-Z. Wow. Nice photos, writing, layout, design. All elements are there. Razor thin margin between first and second."

Marshall News Messenger 3rd place

"Excellent entry. Love the design and layout elements."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Lufkin News 1st place

"Nice, crisp, clean layout. Excellent photos, great writing. This one takes the edge with its variety of sports coverage."

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place

"Beautiful layout and design. Just a very nice sports section. Strong writing and photos. Top three in this division all had their strengths; tough choice."

Hood County News 3rd place

"Loved the content in this sports section. Photos are amazing but some seem to have a distracting filter or element to them. Good writing, beautiful layout although use of white space makes layout feel a little loose."

Wise County Messenger 4th place

"Nice sections. Lots of work went into these. Readers are not lacking for content."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Panola Watchman 1st place

"Beautiful design elements and layout. Strong photography and writing. Clear winner here. Great entry!"

Kilgore News Herald 2nd place

"Nice design and layout but a bit football heavy. I love football but the other sports seem to be an after thought. Great section, nice layout and photos. Impressive job with advertisers!"

Henderson Daily News 3rd place

"Nice photos and writing. Lacking variety from other sports. Headlines would benefit layout by being more bold and larger."

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal 1st place

"Beautiful layout and design. Excellent sports package. Photos absolutely pop!"

Wood County Monitor 2nd place

"Massive amount of content. Impressive work put into this entry. Readers are not hurting for content."

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen 1st place

"Huge amount of content in this package. Wow! Great photos throughout. Nice entry!"

Pittsburg Gazette 2nd place

"Good variety in sports coverage."

Bowie County Citizens Tribune 3rd place

Quanah Tribune-Chief 4th place

News writing

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger/Robin Y. Richardson 1st place

"Shelter story was very well done. Strong reporting."

Tyler Morning Telegraph/Jessica T. Payne 2nd place

"Reader interest on these type of stories are huge. Well done."

Longview News-Journal/Jo Lee Ferguson 3rd place

"Really great reporting here, but such a strong category."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Wise County Messenger/Brian Knox, Micah McCartney 1st place *"Great reporting here."*

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel/ Nicole Bradford and Josh Edwards 2nd place *"Well done."*

Gatesville Messenger/Jeff Osborne 3rd place *"Good stories."*

Hood County News/Kathy Cruz 4th place

"Decent story. Your layout really needs to give more than a couple sentences on the front before jumping a story, it's very frustrating for a reader in an otherwise well designed paper."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Corsicana Daily Sun/ Michael Kormos 1st place

"Nice combination of stories that show two angles to the same news event. Well done."

News writing

(continued)

Panola Watchman/ Mike Elswick, Meredith Shamburger 2nd place
"Great detail in trail story. Strong cemetery story."

Henderson Daily News/ Amber Lollar 3rd place
"Great city council coverage in both entries."

Kilgore News Herald/ Sadiq King, Lucas Strough 4th place
"The zoning story was good, but I felt like the Bag Basics story was better suited for feature writing category."

Large Weekly Division 4

Wood County Monitor/ Larry Tucker, Phil Major 1st place
"Strong stories."

Pilot Point Post-Signal/ Abigail Allen 2nd place
"Well done."

Azle News./ Jessica McKinney 3rd place

Small Weekly Division 5

Bowie County Citizens Tribune/ Joesph Spears, Heather Russell 1st place
"You have a great way of writing, explaining complicated issues very well. Trial story -- wow!"

Canton Herald/ Ethan Adams 2nd place
"Two strong stories."

Dublin Citizen/ Paul Gaudette and Wyndi Veigel 3rd place
"Two great entries."

Quanah Tribune-Chief 4th place
"Informative stories."

Community Service

Combined Division

From Community Service Winner's cover letter:

The Lufkin Daily News started 2022 with the intention of documenting sexual assault cases in Angelina County. We routinely placed a graphic tracking cases and days between arrests on the front page. Those numbers did not paint a pretty picture of our community at the end of the year. There were 58 cases of sexual assault. The victims in 49 of the cases were minors. The longest period of time between arrests was 33 days.

Lufkin News (Large Semi-Weekly division) 1st place
An indepth entry documenting sexual assault cases in Angelina County.
"Powerful project, and a great service to your community."

Dublin Citizen (Small weekly division) 2nd place
A digital scrapbook chronicling the library's efforts, combined with the newspaper, to bring their community back to the library after COVID-19.
"Such great support of your library. You should be proud."

Longview News-Journal (Daily division) 3rd place
Series of abuse investigations involving disabled children.
"This was a great effort, a single story and editorial, doesn't quite qualify as a community service project."

Special Section

Combined Division

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Daily division) 1st place
Rose Festival Special Section
"Such a neat tradition for Tyler (and all of the South). Took lots of work to make this quality, keepsake publication. Great job!"

Van Zandt News (Large weekly division) 2nd place
Visitor's Guide Special Section
"What a terrific Visitors Guide! Makes me want to visit and you have highlighted so many of the great things to be found. Great work on ads and stories with good art support."

Lufkin News (Large Semi-Weekly division) 3rd place
Progress Edition Special Section
Love this design! A nice way to highlight the great things going on and developing your economy. Terrific work.

Terrell Tribune (Large Weekly division) 4th place
"Really nice work. Could use a few more feature-type articles, but a terrific look at attractions for Kaufman County. Looks profitable, too, so great work on ads!"

From Wise County Messenger's 1st place News Writing lead written by Brian Knox about Athena Strand

"From some of the earliest moments in the search for 7-year-old Athena Strand last Wednesday evening, investigators knew that a FedEx driver could hold a key piece of evidence in the case. Strand's stepmother said a package had been delivered to their Cottdale home in the 200 block of County Road 3573 around 5 p.m. Wednesday."

WEEKEND, OCTOBER 15-16, 2022

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

2 SECTIONS, 12 PAGES VOL. 91, NO. 82 AMERICA'S NO. 1 SMALL CITY | CAPITAL OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD KILGORENEWSHERALD.COM \$1.00

Kilgore Boy Scout earns Eagle Scout badge

By MEREDITH SHAMBURGER
merediths@kilgorenews.com

Mason Casill was quick to say that getting to the highest rank in the Boy Scouts was not something he did by himself. He did it with the help of friends, family and his troop.

"The most important part of scouting is the people around you," he said. "While in scouts, I've created many friendships over weeks of high above the clouds, boy scouts, in that sense, I want to thank everyone for helping me get through this journey as Eagle. All of you have played a role in my scouting journey, and I could never thank you guys enough for helping me."

Troop 252 celebrated Casill and his new Eagle Scout badge at a special ceremony Sunday, Oct. 9 at Kilgore Bible Church. The ceremony included recitation of the Eagle Scout Oath, as well as the presentation of parent and mentor pins and a speech from Casill.

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Kilgore Boy Scout Troop 252 honored Mason Casill on Oct. 9 at Kilgore Bible Church on his receipt of his Eagle Scout badge. Photo by Meredith Shamburger.

See SCOUT, Page 4A

BAG BASICS

Kilgore students tour plastic recycling plant



Kilgore and White Oak fifth-graders took part in Revolution's B.O.B program and toured its plastic recycling plant in Kilgore to learn about the origins of plastic bags and the energy required to manufacture them.

By SADIO KING
sadio@kilgorenews.com

Students walked cautiously through a noisy factory this week as their B.O.B (Bag of Bags) was recycled to make a new reusable bag.

Kilgore and White Oak fifth-graders took part in Revolution's B.O.B program and toured its plastic recycling plant in Kilgore to learn about the origins of plastic bags and the energy required to manufacture them.

"I have been doing this for about 7 years," said Revolution tour host Jennifer Hawthorne. "Children only get the fundamentals the basics of recycling. So whenever they go to come here, they actually get to see how it takes place. Everything that they've learned comes to life and they're like, 'Yeah, I click inside their heads.'"

Stacy Harnett, environmental health and safety manager, has been in the environment for over 25 years.

"To me, it's great to see children learning about the program involved with the community that comes through for them throughout the year. The program encourages students to

'Matthew Tyeskie Day' proclaimed in Kilgore

By LUCAS STROUGH
lstrough@kilgorenews.com

Kilgore High School student athlete Matthew Tyeskie was honored by Mayor Ronnie Spradlin and the city council this week for his outstanding athletic achievements.

Mayor Spradlin welcomed Tyeskie to the podium in council chambers, along with Tyeskie's mother Brandis Hall and father council member Victor Ford, to read an official proclamation.

"Whereas Matthew A. Tyeskie, as a junior at Kilgore High School, and

APD based the arrests on video footage of the incident.

"We viewed video that was captured by the school video surveillance system, and it showed an intentional act," APD Lt. David Bruce said.

Both APD and the Aubrey Fire Department responded to the 911 call. APD got the call at 6:05 p.m., arrived by 6:12 and held the fire out by 6:15.

The fire department requested an assessment by the Denton County Fire Marshal's Office, which verified that the fire was in-



Matthew Tyeskie, as a junior at Kilgore High School, and a second-year member of the varsity track team, represented Kilgore High School at the 2022 state track meet and won first place in the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 1:19.99 and third place in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 58.43.

SPORTS: Kilgore, Henderson renew rivalry; KC baseball ready for tip-off; KC football back in action Saturday.

See PAGE 1B

THE POST-SIGNAL

Pilot Point • Aubrey • Providence Village • Cross Roads • Krugerville • Tiooga

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Marshals arrest Pilot Point mayor

By Abigail Allen
Managing Editor
abigail@postsignal.com

U.S. Marshals arrested Pilot Point Mayor Matt McElroy on Tuesday at City Hall on the charge of soliciting a minor on five months.

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McElroy was charged with solicitation of a minor under the age of 14, a 2nd-degree felony," DPD said in a release.

It also indicated DPD KCAC said had been investigating McElroy for five months.

"He was charged on online messages from Pib through June with an undercover DPD officer who McElroy thought was a 12yo girl," Miller tweet made. "McElroy says he wanted to engage in 'sexual' sexual intercourse."

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Journalist of the Year

Combined Division

Jo Lee Ferguson/Longview News-Journal 1st place (Daily Division)

"Great reporting mixed with a tremendous writing style elevates these stories above so much else in newspapers these days."

Jess Huff/Lufkin News 2nd place (Large Semi-Weekly Division)

"Tremendous reporting and storytelling in these entires."

Jessica T. Payne/Tyler Morning News 3rd place (Daily Division)

"Reporting shows great range."

Paul Gaudette/Dublin Citizen 4th place (Small weekly division)

Photographer of the Year

Combined Division

Les Hassell/ Longview News-Journal 1st place (Daily Division)

"Simply an amazing collection of photos."

Josh Edwards/ Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place (Large Semi-Weekly Division)

"Such great photos."

Sam Major/Wood County Monitor 3rd place (Large Weekly Division)

"Really strong packages of images."

Mary Vinson/Hood County News 4th place (Large Semi-Weekly Division)

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Les Hassell/Longview News-Journal
Photographer of the Year entry

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