

Winners Circle ²⁰²⁴

North and East Texas Press Association Better Newspaper Contest Results

Photo by Micah McCartney
Wise County Messenger
Photographer of the Year



North & East Texas
Press Association



Advertising Column writing

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger 1st place

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Hood County News 1st place

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place

Lufkin Daily News 3rd place

Greenville Herald-Banner 4th place

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Panola Watchman 1st place

Cleburne Times Review 2nd place

Kilgore News Herald 3rd place

The Mexia News 4th place

Large Weekly Division 4

Rockwall Herald-Banner 1st place

Van Zandt News 2nd place

Canton Herald 3rd place

Pilot Point Post-Signal 4th place

Small Weekly Division 5

The Terrell Tribune 1st place

Wills Point Chronicle 2nd place

Wood County Monitor 3rd place

Gladewater Mirror 4th place

Daily Division 1

Brandon Ogden/Tyler Morning

Telegraph 1st place

"The column about mixing is some wrestling during a busy week of football was very interesting. The columnist, while covering #bEASTTexas football teams at the UIL state championship also was able to cover an All Elite Wrestling (AEW) event. Excellent leads. "The Early Days" column had quality and style. The comparison of the early days of Super Bowl LVII opponents Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes and Philadelphia Eagles offensive tackle Lane Johnson was informative and entertaining. The columnist informs us that Johnson was once a skinny QB before growing to 6-foot 6-inches and 325 lbs.!"

Dawn Dillard/Marshall News Messenger
2nd place

"In the "Bright lights, small city" column, the columnist says she has visited New York City about 10 times and loved it, but she is really just a small town girl -- born and raised. Then she goes on to tell us she felt "up town" after moving to Hallsville from a smaller town where she was from. Columnist tells us how much she loves Hallsville. Nice style of writing. In the "Back to school! Back to school!" column, the columnist tells how she was hired to teach choir before she was certified, but she was working toward her degree. Now this is her 20th year as head choir director at Hallsville High School. Nice quality."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Greg Weatherbee/Lufkin Daily News
1st place

"The lead was good in the column about the writer losing his favorite dog, Maggie aka Mags. As a dog owner, the subject matter reminded me of my own experiences with my dogs through the years. I liked the columnist's writing style. The column about Mable aka Mama was top quality. The columnist and his siblings were fortunate to be raised by her. I felt sad when I read about her suffering from dementia in

the final years of her life"

PennyLynn Webb/Palestine Herald-Press
2nd place

"The column about spitting where people walk really sticks with you. The writer speaks of the amount of bacteria and viruses in spit. The fun little poem about tobacco quoted in the lead caught my attention and made me want to read the rest of her column. In her second column, I was touched emotionally when the columnist told how "The Iron Claw" movie reminded her of watching wrestling with her late brother and other good family memories. Good quality and effective writing style."

Kent Miller/Greenville Herald-Banner
3rd place

"The descriptive lead about the constant conflict of body and mind and the "delicate dance" caused by the columnist's functional neurological disorder (FND) caught my attention. The subject matter is very serious. Good style of writing. Another catchy lead in second column. The columnist makes a very good point about getting to know the history of your family members before it is too late."

David Money/The Paris News
4th place

"As a former Baptist, I had forgot all about the Royal Ambassadors church youth group. This church/church camp column brought back memories. I loved what I learned in the second column about the Dallas Texans moving north to become the Kansas City Chiefs. I never knew that until I read this column."

Column writing continued

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Anna Beall/Gainesville Daily Register 1st place
"Brave columns, well done and not antagonistic. Maybe readers will 'listen.' Pay closer attention to grammar."

Jace Graves/Kilgore News Herald 2nd place
"Funny, identifiable columns."

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times-Review 3rd place
"Sounds subjects that need airing. Well-written."

Sally Sexton/Weatherford Democrat 4th place
"Difficult subjects handled well."

Large Weekly Division 4

Austin Jackson, Brendan Marchand/Wise County Messenger 1st place
"Solid local content in both -- important to the community."

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner 2nd place
"Good local content well-presented."

Abigail Allen/Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place
"Nice insight to world of the local newspaper editor."

Jennifer Harrison/Tri-County Reporter 4th place
"Likely limited audience, but well-done for the appropriate audience. Frost punk the better of the two."

Small Weekly Division 5

Jim Bardwell, James Draper/Gladewater Mirror 1st place
"Dam — nice piece. Good finish. Going forward — sweet, tender without being maudlin. Brought tears to my eyes."

Kent Miller/Royse City Herald-Banner 2nd place
"Columns almost mirror each other in their messages. Both good messages for us all."

Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/Dublin Citizen 3rd place
"Both interesting pieces."

Kenny Mitchell/Bowie County Citizens Tribune 4th place

From Lufkin Daily News' 1st place column writing entry by Greg Weatherbee. (Tissue Warning!)

"A few days before Maggie passed away, I was sitting in an almost dark living room late at night strumming my guitar. Mags made her way to my feet, like always, and listened as I fumbled with chord progressions too difficult for my untrained fingers.

I paused for a moment and looked down at my aging companion of many years. She returned my gaze with what I swear was a goodbye. She stared so intently and then stood slowly and nuzzled her head against my chest. I rubbed her head and told her I loved her and how much I appreciated all she meant to me.

When I pulled back to look at her, her cloudy eyes and the gray on her face vanished for just a moment, and there was a glimpse of that little black fur ball of a puppy that showed up unwanted.

The day she passed, my wife and I returned home from the vet's office and sat down for dinner. We were both emotionally exhausted, and there was little to no conversation.

As we ate in silence, a brilliantly colored red cardinal appeared at our window and stared at us for what seemed to be five minutes. It didn't move — it just looked at us. I'd always heard that when a cardinal visited, it was a visit from someone who died. We both stared in silence, crocodile tears rolling down our faces, as Maggie visited us that evening in the form of a little red bird.

She was telling us she was OK. She was telling us goodbye. To this day, when I see a cardinal, I smile and say, 'Miss you, Mags.'"

From Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 1st place editorial writing

"Texans' tax dollars could be used to fund the works of Satan if Gov. Greg Abbott's school voucher plan were to pass. That's not a metaphor.

If the Church of Satan decided to open an accredited private school here in the Pineywoods, your tax dollars could go toward funding it under the governor's proposal. We're not saying the voucher program itself is Satanic, but it seems to us to be perfectly designed for concocting a scheme to funnel tax dollars into unsavory causes.

Abbott wants to provide parents with \$8,000 per school aged child per year to attend the private school of their choosing.

That might sound great to Christian parents who believe that all private schools instill conservative Christian values, but the truth is they don't. Nor does every taxpayer pitch in \$8,000 per child in school property taxes.

Let's say a family lives in a half-million-dollar home in Nacogdoches. They would pay approximately \$5,600 in property taxes to Nacogdoches ISD before any homestead exemption is applied.

They stand to receive more money than they pay in to send their children to private school. That extra funding comes directly from other taxpayers who have no say as to whether their cash is spent at the respectable Regents Academy or the hypothetical Luciferian School For The Dark Arts."

Editorial writing

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning Telegraph 1st place

"Safety," was an excellent editorial. "Winners" was a nice tribute."

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 1st place

"Clear winner. Strong positions solidly backed. This is what editorials are meant to be."

Greenville Herald-Banner 2nd place

"Prop A - well-balanced and thoughtful. Future superintendent -- a bit over-done and points made and re-made."

The Lufkin Daily News 3rd place

"Joe Murray -- needs a grammar check. Nice tribute. Silver lining -- tended to ramble a bit, but point made."

Palestine Herald-Press 4th place

"Easy to get on the bandwagon with these two."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Gainesville Daily Register 1st place

"Good sense editorials, clearly presented and backed up well."

Weatherford Democrat 2nd place

"Dirty politics was the winner. Well-done."

Large Weekly Division 4

Rockwall Herald-Banner 1st place

"TCEQ -- Excellent. Well-documented and presented. Important to the community. Upholding -- another well-presented and important issue."

Wise County Messenger 2nd place

"Slim margin between first and second places. Elected officials -- strong position (loved the reference to the salsas at Casa Torres and Dos Chiles!). Just too long. What's rush -- Very well done, strong position backed up with good evidence."

Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place

"State needs -- Good argument for public safety. Keyboard -- I get it, but it needed some streamlining and closer editing."

Small Weekly Division 5

Royse City Herald-Banner 1st place

"Thefts -- good points made; a bit repetitive. Repeat offenders -- well constructed and a call to action."

Bowie County Citizen Tribune 2nd place

"Human -- points well-made. Truth -- An important piece, but if you didn't know, you still don't know. A brief graph filling readers in on what the incident was would have been helpful."



Meredith Shamburger/Marshall News Messenger

Div. 1 1st place Feature Photograph

"Opal Lee, a Marshall native and Wiley College graduate who campaigned for Juneteenth to become a federal holiday, speaks to the News Messenger at her Fort Worth home on Tuesday, March 7."

Quanah Tribune-Chief 3rd place

"A Shop at home -- good cause. Make Quanah great -- nice way to put the situation in perspective."

Feature photo

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger staff 1st place

"Okay, I'll just say it -- Opal Lee looks like a pistol. What a hoot she must be! At least, that's the feeling I get from your portrait, which is probably what you intended. So...well done! The field trip photo is strong, as well. In fact, it is proof that you can break the rule of not photographing people's backs. In this instance, it simply works. Who is the lady presenting? You know -- the lady at the center of the image? You did not name her in the caption, but should have. Names MATTER! They not only sell papers, but they also serve as a historical record of events in your community. Keep up the strong work! Second place was nipping at your heels and I bet that they come back stronger next year. :)"

Katecey Harrell and Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph 2nd place

"The old newspaper editor who mentored me for decades always said, "No one looks attractive when they are photographed eating." Well, that may be true, but they sure can be CUTE! The picture of the little boy eating pie proves that. He is

Feature photo

(continued)

adorable. Through your image, I can just feel his excitement and anticipation of chomping down on that first bite. Nice quality work. Thank you, also, for including complete captions with each. You'd be surprised how rare that seems nowadays. You said your paper features more than just pie? Well, I'm sure you've heard the saying, "Photos... or it didn't happen!" Just kidding. I'm sure you do, too. It's just a shame you didn't submit the kid eating pie and then a secondary feature of something else so that I could see your talent displayed at a range of subjects. It might have put you on top. "

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 1st place

"What a way to capture a feeling! The blueberry pie eating contest photo, however, is what won you the day. It is visually compelling (and hilarious!) Way to go!"

Mary Vinson/Hood County News 2nd place

"The character of this lady really shines through in the Happy Cat photo. I'm a "dog person" at heart, but I LOVE this image! :) The Labor Day bobber image is interesting. Good job getting the angle on that one! It's obvious you gave an above-and-beyond effort to get that viewpoint by getting in the water. What a nice effort that paid off!"

PennyLynn Webb /Palestine Herald-Press 3rd place

"Great times were conveyed in these 2 photos. The action in the Purses, Pearls for a Great Cause is super and the Mystics shot is fun. Nicely done!"

Joel Andrews/The Lufkin Daily News 4th place

"The sheer quality of Joel Andrews' work is what lifted Lufkin into this division's top standings. I've never been a huge fan of pictures showing people eating, but that one is pretty intense! The Little Miss Juneteenth photo is what elevated your entry. Her excitement is palpable, thanks to your timing! Nicely done."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Meredith Shamburger/Panola Watchman 1st place

"Both of these are strong shots, featuring plenty of emotion and action and showcased prominently, front-and-center on your front page. Readers couldn't ask for much more than that! Oddly enough, both images look a little too dark, so watch that. Errors made in exposure when you shoot the photo can be easily remedied after the fact. Bumping up your brightness/contrast can give your pictures the little bit of boost they need to "pop" off the page. Popping off the page translates into an even more attractive element for readers. Congrats!"

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times-Review 2nd place

"Portraits are an underrated artform, but they do play an important role in our newspapers complementing other content. You did an excellent job at these two portraits. I absolutely love the one with Vicky Nichols depicted against a repeat-

ing pattern of musical instruments. Very fitting for the topic, plus you can tell she really enjoys teaching music. Her face radiates with that joy. The second portrait of the Hightowers is also good. Nice treatment so that the sign is included. Keep up the good work. The only reason this wasn't first place was because I wanted to see that you could offer feature photos of a diverse nature. Had you coupled the music educator set-up shot with a candid shot, you would have been unbeatable. Something to consider for next year: Keep up the artistry!"

Lucas Strough/Kilgore News Herald 3rd place

"Of this division, you had the best angle work in your images. I love the 'Ein Prosit' shot. You got off to the side and, in so doing, were able to include the marquis, the band and dancers in a way that works. I wish more photographers would get low, get high, get off to an extreme side -- because it usually produces much more interesting shots (as you've proven here!) I also appreciate the angle and repetitive pattern emphasized in the 'A Time to Remember' photo. Photographer Lucas Strough has a good 'eye,' that's for sure. Both images are a little too washed out. Just a pinch more contrast and sharpness would really accentuate these works of beauty. Don't be afraid to improve your photos in post-production, so long as doing so doesn't change the integrity of your image and stays true to its original message"

Amber Lollar/Henderson Daily News 4th place

"Good framing and quality on these entries. The taxidermy shot is unusual, to say the least. If a reader can see a photo of a raccoon with toothpicks up its nose and NOT read more, then they're a stronger person than me! The one from National Night Out should have identified the girl in the caption. Also, don't forget that cutlines (like the taxidermy one) should be written in present tense. Keep up the good work!"

Large Weekly Division 4

Jillian Nachtigal, Mack Thweatt/Wise County Messenger 1st place

"The Wise County Messenger's feature photos are a sight to behold -- literally! Each is so well-thought-out, timed perfectly, clean in color and quality, given apt play on the page, serves as a perfect complement to its related feature article and beautifully reproduced. I sure hope the readers of this paper know how fortunate they are to be receiving this kind of stellar work on a regular basis! It is RARE and appreciated by no one more than myself. Wow! Just... WOW! Other papers: take a look at this paper's work and try to emulate it back home. Striving for excellence starts with good examples. HERE ARE YOUR EXAMPLES!"

Feature photo

(continued)

Laurie White King/Rockwall Herald-Banner 2nd place

“As newspapers, we bear witness to not only monumental, historic occasions, but also current times being lived by the ordinary families that make up our community. You know...regular life events happening day after day. Nothing pays homage to the character of our hometown better than featuring our neighbors going about LIFE. These images from the Rockwall County Herald-Banner are great examples of that. We see a man being a father to his sons and a family’s hearts being won over by a potential new family member. There is a beauty to be had in these. Well done! And, thank you for the captions that were COMPLETE with full names of the subjects, plus a summary of what’s happening. Not a description of the obvious that the reader can see with their own eyes, but a little background that helps fill out the scene. Excellent work.”

Abigail Allen and Basil Gist/Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place

“These shots are “pretty” enough, and I like the extreme angles of the ‘Fiasco’ image. It’s unfortunate, though, that you didn’t enter 2 images that better showcased how you can apply your talents to more than just stage shows. I wanted to see the photographer(s) setting the scene, not the photographer capturing a scene someone else has set on a stage. It would have been fine to have one show photo and then an image of different nature. Your photographers obviously have the talent and skills -- don’t be afraid to show that!”

Small Weekly Division 5

Paul Gaudette and Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/Dublin Citizen 1st place tie

“This division was VERY tight and that’s why I decided to give a tie for first place. Both the Wood County Monitor and the Dublin Citizen did equally great work. I cannot look at the two girls riding the mechanical bull without smiling. They are having FUN and it shows, thanks to you. I LOVE that image! Also, the canned food drive is shown from a very creative angle. We see the action framed by, you guessed it -- CANS (and lot of them.) Nice work and a great example to all of us who have to cover food drives in our own communities. You showed that what is sometimes an annual or more frequent event can be showcased in a fun and interesting way. Thank you for that!”

Sam Major/Wood County Monitor 1st place tie

“I love it when feature photos make you do a double-take. That’s exactly what both of these images from the Wood County Monitor did! The bulldog is as interesting in composition as it is colorful. And the tuba line at first glance looks like bobbleheads marching into the sunset. These are well-produced and entertaining. To me, they are the epitome of what feature photos should be and so take the top prize. Congatulations!”



Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Div. 2 1st place Feature Photograph

“Annie Hannah, 9, looks at her twin brother, Alex, during the blueberry pie eating contest on Saturday at the Texas Blueberry Festival in downtown Nacogdoches.”

Susan Lindsey/Bowie County Citizens Tribune 2nd place

“Colorful shots -- both literally and figuratively. I like the Honoring Our Heroes, although it could have been improved with tighter cropping. The colors are cool! The Downs Syndrome girl in the arms of a high school pal at Special Olympics is too precious. Really nice work.”

Jim Bardwell and James Draper/Gladewater Mirror 3rd place

“Between photographers James Draper and Jim Bardwell, Gladewater has the talent to truly hold up a mirror to its community. Both of these entered shots feature a ton of action and emotion. Perfect timing on both accounts. Please, petition for larger sizes in layout. Such quality images deserve bigger play! Keep up the good work.”

Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief 4th place

“These are interesting, strong quality photos that strike at matters of high interest to your community - current events wrapped in a link to your local history. I wish the one of Don Parker has been featured larger in the layout. It deserved that kind of play. Otherwise, good work!”

Feature Story

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning Telegraph staff 1st place

“Both feature stories, “Celebrating Roots” and “Enjoyed every bit”, had interesting content/subject matters, the style and lead were top notch. The presentation, including layout design, headlines typography and photos, were superb. I learned a lot about Tyler’s thriving Hispanic community. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the 90-year-old Tyler woman who retired from Dillard’s after 74 years of exceptional service. Features do not get much better than these two!”

Marshall News Messenger staff 2nd place

“Everybody’s Grandma” had a nice headline based on a quote from Opal Lee herself. The story of her life and how this Marshall native campaigned to make Juneteenth a federal holiday is very inspirational. Hats off to “The Grandmother of Juneteenth”! The feature story about the school dog, Huckleberry, at Trinity Episcopal School was cute. The students love that dog! Both feature stories were high quality.”

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Emily Nava, Eden Duncan Gilbreath/Hood County News 1st place

“The “Love knows no age limit” feature story about two Harbor Lakes nursing facility residents who met, fell in love, and got married in the facility was an excellent article with nice supporting photos. The “Local Couple Goes the Distance” feature story about the couple celebrating their 73-year anniversary was well-written and included lots of good photos in an attractive layout and design.”

The Lufkin Daily News staff 2nd place

“The feature story where the former sports editor shares memories of Joe Murray was entertaining. The headline ‘Larger Than Life’ was very accurate in describing Editor Murray. The “Secret Santas” heartwarming article about a group of men giving a pregnant waitress a \$2,500 tip right before Christmas. Photo of Maegan with tip money was very appropriate with nice typography.”

Travis Hairgrove/Greenville Herald-Banner 3rd place

“Remembering ‘Mr. Herald-Banner’ was a nice feature story paying tribute to long-time reporter Brad Kellar. The article about the freshman in the chair participating in the marching band despite a double amputation was inspirational with a nice accompanying photo.”

Nicole Bradford and Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

4th place *“The swearing-in article featuring the kids was a nice touch. The “Quest for gold begins” article about the table tennis player vying for a spot on the Paralympics Team was inspirational.”*

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Mike Elswick/Panola Watchman 1st place

“Captivating lead in “Labor of Love” featuring Chuck’s Country Smokehouse owner Chuck Terrell and his story and struggles. Photos compliment article. Nice layout and design. “Life Lessons” featured important content/subject matter with good presentation of students learning about the dangers of impaired driving.”

Sally Sexton/Weatherford Democrat 2nd place

“The ‘Parker County’s pastor’ feature article about Pastor Van Houser has an excellent lead using a quote about being a pastor. The content was well-written. Photos compliment article. ‘From slavery to Juneteenth’ features the important content/subject matter of Black history in Parker County. Good choice of photos. Outstanding presentation, good quality and style.”

Skip Leon/The Mexia News 3rd place

“Nice lead for ‘200 and Counting’ feature about Coach DeAnna Whaley’s milestone 200th win and how she got there. Good layout and design in ‘Texas Tornado on Bass’ article. Photo of Dwayne Hegggar playing bass compliments article about his beginnings in music and life in music industry.”

Anna Beall/Gainesville Daily Register 4th place

“Feature about siblings Gene Matthews one Stephanie Rodriguez on and off stage is interesting. The article about Gainesville couple, MacKenzie Sicking and Caleb Martin, has good content and presentation. Nice.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner 1st place

“Every once in awhile, feature writers are given the opportunity to write about more than just interesting stories. They are given the chance to pair tales with purpose. Hopefully, through reading about Payton Granberry’s stem cell transplant journey, the general public will see the value in transplantation and become donors. Congratulations to writer Kent Miller on your series of two feature stories. You took a very worthy topic and, I’m happy to say, did it justice.”

Brendan Marchand, Austin Jackson/Wise County Messenger 2nd place

“Austin Jackson masterfully weaves a tale of how a community rose up in the fight against breast cancer I think I’ll be seeing pink when I close my eyes tonight. But, seriously, this was a workshop in how hometown papers can take an important matter and showcase our own neighbors making a difference. Great job! Brendan Marchand’s look inside how modern libraries are transforming and conforming to the needs of today’s patrons is interesting and thorough. Nice writing, Wise County Messenger!”

Feature Story

(continued)

Large Weekly Division 4 (continued)

Abigail Allen, Basil Gist/Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place

“Good job at turning the spotlight on the same kinds of stories that we could all be giving attention to in our own communities. These stories, of our fellow citizens making a difference and offering life lessons, is the meat and potatoes of feature fare for local papers. Well done!”

Zach Freeman and Madelyn Edwards/Tri-County Reporter 4th place

“Sadly, the wrong jump page was paired with Evergreen Fun, so I didn’t get to finish reading the complete entry. It was off to a great start, though. Very cute take on a person’s role in the community. Also, the Pearson article offered a great reflection of this man’s character.”

Small Weekly Division 5

Paul Gaudette and Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/Dublin Citizen 1st place

“What an interesting portrait Paul Gaudette offers on the Beuke-booms and their dairy enterprise. It explains a lot about what they do, why they do it and the importance legacy plays in their lives and plans for the future. Well written feature! You have some very strong quotes, so I would recommend incorporating some pull-out quotes into your package. And, what a fascinating story about the WWII veteran finally coming home to rest. Paul Gaudette and Wyndi Veigel really knocked a homerun out of the park on that one. Great job!”

Kent Miller/Royse City Herald-Banner 2nd place

“Kent Miller’s feature on the Sunshine Acres Animal Sanctuary is a great feature focusing on the “why” of Michele Hall’s passion. It kept me interested all the way through. Excellent writing and feature work! (Also great supporting photo.)”

Susan Lindsey and Kenny Mitchell/Bowie County Citizens Tribune 3rd place

“Now THAT is a lead that makes me want to read more! Their love story got me. It hooked me in the beginning and kept me all the way through. What a beautiful journey they had together. We should all be so lucky to find that love in life -- if for a little while and not 78 years! Well done. Additionally, the tribute to Kim McDaniel and her trials and eventual success in the fight against breast cancer is heart-warming and inspirational. Both well-written stories deserving of a read and praise from peers.”

James Draper/Gladewater Mirror 4th place

“Overlooking the fact that there is no byline on the Antarctic story, these were both strong entries. The “Due Honors” article is what put you in the awards circle. Keep finding those interesting stories in your community!”

General Excellence

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger staff 1st place

“My only complaint is the advertising on the front page. I do not think this is good for our industry. I think it gives the reader an impression that we care more about revenue than the news.”

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel staff 1st place

“Among the entries that followed the rules, this is the best package. Kudos for producing most of the content in-house. It looks like this paper does a great job at covering the community.”

The Lufkin Daily News staff 2nd place

“I had some trouble logging in and finding the right issues at first, but once I did, I really enjoyed them. My only complaint is that the e-edition reader makes the text a little hard to read. But that’s a software problem. The production quality and content of the paper is excellent.”

Hood County News staff 3rd place

“The rules say one issue has to be from June or November. These entries are from January and March. That’s too bad, because this might be the best package in the category.”

Greenville Herald-Banner staff 4th place

“The rules say one issue has to be from June or November. These entries are from March and October.”

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Weatherford Democrat staff 1st place

“Nice photos. Very nice front page. Very readable. Interesting features. Overall good paper.”

Henderson News staff 2nd place

“Nice front page photos. Great festival photos. Nice sports coverage.”

General Excellence

(continued)

Panola Watchman staff 3rd place

“Good photos. Good front page. Great sports section. Nice paper.”

Kilgore News Herald staff 4th place

“Nice front page photos. Good sports photos. Good features. Not a fan of ads on the front page.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal staff 1st place

“Great photos. Nice local coverage. Great special sections included in each issue.”

Wise County Messenger staff 2nd place

“Great photos. Nice layout. Good local coverage. Great state championship coverage. Not a fan of the front page advertising.”

Rockwall Herald-Banner staff 3rd place

“Nice paper. Good local coverage.”

Small Weekly Division 5

Gladewater Mirror staff 1st place

“Nice layout. I really like that you’re running of the Best of Suzanne Bardwell. Very nice for the community. Good stories on workforce program rodeo. Nice sports special section.”

Bowie County Citizens Tribune staff 2nd place

“Good local coverage. Good features. I really liked the features on breast cancer and diabetes. Great personal touch. Nice sports section. Not a fan of ads on the front page.”

Dublin Citizen staff 3rd place

“Nice layout. Interesting story on trial. Cute “How to Cook a Turkey” section.”

Wood County Monitor staff 4th place

“Nice photos. I especially liked the pics from the Golden Sweet Potato Festival. Nice feature on FFA and Robert’s Rules.”

	SPORTS A12 Locals previewed in DCTF magazine.	VIEWPOINTS A6 A community investment.
<h1>WEATHERFORD</h1> <p>DEMOCRAT</p> <p>Serving Parker and Palo Pinto Counties</p> <p>WEEKEND EDITION JULY 22 - 23, 2023 weatherforddemocrat.com \$2.50</p>		
<h2>WEATHERFORD</h2> <h3>A collector's dream</h3>		
		
<p>One of Dick Upton's most prized collections was his "country store" set up.</p> <p>Sally Sexton Weatherford Democrat</p>		
<p>Estate sale upcoming for historic home with vast antique collection</p>		
<p>BY SALLY SEXTON SSEXTO@WEATHERFORDDEMOCRAT.COM</p>		
<p>"The house will speak for itself." Those were the words used by John Upton when describing the home of his late father, Dick, and true words may have never been spoken of the home that will soon open as a collector's dream during an estate sale next month.</p> <p>Known as the MacKenzie Home on the Parker County Heritage Society site, the house, at 202 E. Lee St., was built in 1902 for early-day mayor and physician Dr. John R. MacKenzie. The home stayed in the family until it was purchased by Weatherford College in 1961, and was used the following year as a dorm for the school's 18 basketball players.</p> <p>A large collection of antique tobacco tins.</p> <p>Sally Sexton Weatherford Democrat</p>		
		
<p>"The team lived upstairs, and the coach and his wife lived downstairs," John Upton said. "Near the top of the staircase is a big stained glass window that's original to the house. My dad couldn't believe it survived a basketball team."</p> <p>Dick Upton, an Air Force veteran who would go on to work for American Airlines as an aeronautical engineer for 37 years, would eventually open up an antique shop in Grand Prairie as an extension of his collection. He operated the store until the purchase of his Weatherford home around the mid-1970s.</p> <p>He set about restoring it, updating bathrooms, making repairs to the interior and exterior, and filling it with thousands of his unique items. Every room is tastefully displayed with a vast arrangement of antique toys, tin signs, tins, motorcycle and tattoo collectibles, albums and magazines, lamps, bath powders, seed packets, furniture and more.</p> <p>"He was collecting as long as I can remember," John Upton said. "They would be gone weeks at a time: Pennsylvania, Kansas, Missouri. They'd be on the old highways and backroads, finding</p> <p>Estate sale manager Tracy Keltner folds out the foot rest of an antique dentist's chair in the home of Dick Upton.</p> <p>Sally Sexton Weatherford Democrat</p>		
<p>SEE ANTIQUES, PAGE A11</p>		
<p>SEE ARREST, PAGE A7</p>		
<p>SEE DIGGING, PAGE A7</p>		

Weatherford Democrat
Div. 2 1st place General Excellence

Headline Writing

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning Telegraph staff 1st place

“All three headlines, “Making Change”, “Thinking inside the box”, and “Master of the Craft” are accurate, clever, creative, original and very impactful. Stanley’s Famous Pit BBQ must be a great place to eat. The Round Up program that allows patrons to “round up” any purchase to the next dollar is a great way to raise change for charitable organizations. The Airbnb IS really a large box!!!”

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Hood County News staff 1st place

“Worth The Weight” is a clever and creative headline for an article about Planet Fitness opening in Granbury. The headline for the 60-year anniversary of the Granbury Animal Clinic was original. “A big ‘dill’ was an appropriate and accurate heading for an article about a woman selling pickles to Ronnie Dunn of Brooks & Dunn.”

Lufkin Daily News staff 2nd place

“I loved the “Spare relationship causes awkward split” headline. It was very creative and it made me laugh. Clever play on words for a bowling instructor having an affair with a student athlete. I like the headline about the bookstore that hasn’t closed yet, especially the “book hasn’t closed on their story” part. The Sweet, Sweet Music subheading “hits all the right chords” is very original.”

Headline Writing

(continued)

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2 (continued)

Greenville Herald-Banner staff 3rd place

“The headline ‘Packing a punch with a side of TLC was accurate when referring to a retired boxer who is also a loving and devoted mother. The headline for a master leather worker that can make family heirloom music case look like new again was clever and creative. ‘Remembering ‘Mr. Herald-Banner’ is impactful and original.”

The Paris News staff 4th place

“The headline ‘Snowbiz: Teen owns frozen treat stand, has plans is accurate. ‘Fire and Dice’ about the library adding Dungeons & Dragons game is clever. ‘The stills of the night’ is clever when referring to ‘real-live mannequins’ especially during annual Halloween-spirited Mannequin Night.”

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

The Mexia News staff 1st place

“All three headlines were very clever, such as using the acronym NICE as an adjective in your headline ‘That’s NICE: ...’, referring to an old country song for the passing of local cowboy Teddy Weaver, and using the word ‘covered’ when referring to students receiving blankets for academic excellence. All headlines had impact and originality.”

Kilgore News Herald staff 2nd place

“Spring Broke” was an example of originality in the column about spending during spring break. “Cool for the Summer” about water ballon & squirt gun fight to escape summer heat was clever. “Rock & Bowl” for group’s bowling night was creative because it sounds like Rock ‘n Roll. All headlines were accurate and impactful.”

Panola Watchman staff 3rd place

“Creative play on words with ‘Gourd To See Ya’ for the arrival of the pumpkins. ‘Raising the Barr’ was very clever because of the last name and her being named female athlete of the year. ‘Wrangling up a Good Time’ was very original and accurate for article (and photos) of the rodeo.”

Weatherford Democrat staff 4th place

“‘Killin’ and drillin’ was clever and accurate for the grand champion drill team that won numerous awards. ‘Dire fire straits’ was creative -- it reminded me of the band called Dire Straits. ‘Red, white and ooh’ showed the impact the fireworks had on the viewers.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Pilot Point Post-Signal staff 1st place

“‘Red not deals’ is a creative headline for a photo of a charred Amazon delivery van. ‘Crow flies to Pilot Point High’ is a clever headline for an article about Pilot Point High School’s next principal, Jason Crow. ‘Full coverage’ is a very impactful headline for an article about a winter storm and a photo showing Massey Stadium completely covered in ice.”

Wise County Messenger staff 2nd place

“‘Injecting the energy’ is an accurate description of a fan bringing IV bags to help revitalize a dehydrated baseball team. ‘Shaqt of kindness’ is a creative headline for an article about Shaquille O’Neal’s shot of kindness as he donated 100 computers to the school district. ‘Books and beyond’ is a clever way of describing libraries offering more than just books.”

Rockwall Herald-Banner staff 3rd place

“‘Not All Heroes Wear Capes’ is a creative headline for an article about a Rockwall teen meeting the Brit who helped save her life with a stem cell transplant. ‘A brick is better than coal for Christmas’ is a clever way to refer to giving a personalized brick in the Garden of Helping hands as a last minute Christmas gift. ‘Unstoppable: Rockway shocks Falcons’ is an accurate descriptions of the football team dismantling the visitor’s defense 65-26.”

Small Weekly Division 5

Gladewater Mirror staff 1st place

“Gnome, Sweet Gnome” is a creative headline for the gnomes now making their home at the Lee Bardwell Public Library. ‘Dam’d ... if they don’t’ is a very clever headline for an article about the deteriorating Lake Gladewater Dam needing repairs. ‘Gladewater council rules it needs rules is an accurate description of the article about the council discussing rules of order and guidelines to streamline discussion. All three headlines are impactful and original.”

Royse City Herald-Banner staff 2nd place

“‘Letting ‘em Riptoadz’ is a creative headline for an article about a resident planning to publish his own comic book about Intergalactic Riptoadz. ‘House District 2 runoff turns into GOP family feud’ is an accurate description of the animosity between candidates Brent Money and Jill Dutton. ‘Worthy of appreciation’ is a clever use of retiring Supt. Kevin Worthy’s last name. All headlines were original and impactful.”

The Dublin Citizen staff 3rd place

“‘Wallabies & Warp Pipes!’ is a creative headline for a book about a wallaby Mouse being read inside the library and the Super Mario Brothers movie being watched outside the library. ‘Built Ford tough’ is a clever headline about a school dedicating the ag department building in memory of late ag teacher Scotty Ford. ‘Feeing bull moves into frame, fame’ is an accurate description of a bull running during a hail storm and being caught on video by the family and was widely circulated on social media.”

Bowie County Citizens Tribune staff 4th place

“‘Santa knows and Jesus does too’ is a creative headline for a column, written at the start of the holiday season, that mentions an eating establishment now serving alcohol in which the ‘Christian’ columnist says he might drink a mixed drink or beer there. ‘Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting wars’ is a clever headline based on what the speaker said at meeting discussing future water needs. The headline about fisherman Travis May is funny if you remember the song entitled ‘All About That Bass’.”

News photo

Daily Division 1

Santana Gallacher, Les Hassell/Tyler Morning Telegraph
1st place

“Excellent framing, timing and overall composition -- especially on the main photo from Rose City Fiesta. It shows a candidness that is attractive and engaging -- sure to pull the readers into the follow-up story. On the second photo of the dress reveal: It is set apart from other easily captured stage production photos by the photographer’s timing. Its spot on! Also, great action. I would have cropped it a little tighter on the left and top, so that there is nothing that could potentially distract from what you are showcasing so nicely. Glad it was run as large as it was, given you had to dedicate so much space to the obligatory group photo. Congratulations!”

Marshall News Messenger staff 2nd place

“Your ‘Night to Shine’ photo is awesome. This is spot news captured with a great sense of timing and it offers action and TONS of emotions pouring through to the reader. Any time a photo can serve up more than just a record of something that transpired, well, that is what separates us pros from any mom with a smartphone camera. The Fall Daze photo took us right into the middle of the action. Again, good framing and timing. Keep up the great work!”

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 1st place

“Gorgeous work. Both are timely and hit at the heart of news events impacting your community. Well executed -- both in photo production and printing on the page. The vigil shot is beautiful and conveys the somber tone of the occasion. The flooding shot is very well framed, drawing the reader’s eye to where the people are. I wish it had been worked into the layout a little larger in size, but I see why it wasn’t after viewing the non-staff photo taking top center. (Also, after seeing that shot, it makes me want to learn how to take drone images. That would be great for coverage of some events!) Anyway, great, diverse work.”

Mary Vinson/Hood County News 2nd place

“Normally, I like best news shots to be featured on front pages, but I get why the motorcycle shot was run inside-- so it could be played up BIG, which is what it deserves. I love when papers aren’t afraid to run photos BIG. I will say that it bothers me, however, that the jump line spells the deceased man’s name as Dakota, when it is clearly Dakodah in the caption. Those kinds of disconnects can distract readers and pull them out of what you’re trying to pull them into. But this isn’t the jump lines category, so the news photo stands very strong on its own. The food pantry shot also is BIG on the page. :) It’s a nice action shot. The caption leaves me wondering, however, who is Andi Luna and is she in the photo? Who are these people? Trust me -- taking the few minutes needed to get those names down correctly and printing them in the paper pays off. Those folks LOVE to see their names in ink..”

Travis Hairgrove, Brad Kellar/Greenville Herald Banner / 3rd place



Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen

Div. 5 1st place News Photograph

“A flag is removed from the coffin of First Lt. Noel Shoup, a World War II veteran from Erath County, by the Honor Guard from Ft. Cavazos. Shoup’s remains were recently returned to his family after more than 79 years.”

“Nice composition and reproduction of these shots. Worthy topics given the space they should get is always a nice thing to see, and you carried out the job beautifully. A word of advice... a 70-word caption is a bit much (on the forever remembered photo). I’m not saying don’t include all that information. I’m saying, if you are going to give all that, then it is perfectly okay to break it up into 2-3 sentences! It’ll be much more consumable by your readers. :)”

Joel Andrews/Lufkin Daily News 4th place

“Your images have great quality -- all-around. Truly, they are well done. FYI - for those who don’t know, motorcycle wrecks are often hard to show that anything actually happened at the scene, but this one does! Still there’s more to covering news in our communities than responding to the police scanner. I wish you had shown me a mix of a wreck shot and something else you covered, because I’m sure you have done some excellent work from other news happenings. Had you done that, you would have been at the top. Remember that for next time!”

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Panola Watchman staff 1st place

“This division’s competition was tight, particularly between the top 4. Both of this paper’s news photos were well-cropped timely, good quality moments captured in time of news events in your community. What set you above the field of competition, however, was your EFFORT. You had a willingness to take the MUNDANE that all of us journalists sometimes face -- such as infra-

News photo (continued)

structure improvements -- and still challenge your abilities (and succeed) at turning it into a visually interesting photo. It took effort and creativity. All of us who have to cover seemingly boring topics should take note. There's always a way to draw the reader in to hard news in our community. Well done!"

Henderson Daily News staff 2nd place

"This was a tight race for first. Your "Come Fly With Me" shot was well-timed and framed. Nice silhouette! Layout was befitting the image. You obviously did your homework on where to be to get that shot. Your 'Sweetest Day' photo definitely had me wanting to know more. You were dinged because of lacking cutlines. Who is this man making fire without a match? Very rarely does a news photo have a subject whose name is impossible to get. ALWAYS include full names. Yes, it means going up and asking. But the effort is worth it, because --believe it or not -- people still want to see their names in their local paper!"

Lucas Strough/Kilgore News Herald 3rd place

"Very good framing on the film set photo. And, the treatment of it in layout is fitting. The storm damage photo, even though it ended up being a no structural damage situation, could have been your strongest image and put you in the running for first, if only you had you used a more creative angle and played it larger on the page. When you have to show full frame to get the full effect of what's happening, try stepping off to one side for a more extreme angle. Go wide horizontal on layout, as well. That'll give it more visual interest and could also accentuate the action happening in it. As it is, it took me looking at it twice to figure out there was a man in there. Your captions are good and contain details related to the news coverage, for which I'm thankful, but I wish you would have included the name of the man filming. It doesn't matter if they're from out of town. Names are important!"

Richard Nelson/The Mexia News 4th place

"Whoa! Low bridge alert, indeed! Great on-the-spot visual reporting! Super framing, composition, quality and play on the page. You would have been ranked much higher in the award chain had the second image been as strong. While cute, the photo of the kids meeting Sparky just didn't hold up to other more hard-hitting images in this division. Also, it needed to be a more dominant photo (rather than nearly the same size as the photo next to it). Thank you, thank you, thank you for including their names. What sells newspapers? Photos of kids, animals and NAMES!"

Large Weekly Division 4

Austin Jackson, Micah McCartney/Wise County Messenger 1st place

"Far and away the best. As in THE best of ALL the divisions I've judged in the News Photo category. If anyone out there wants an example of on-the-spot NEWS photography with excellent impact, composition, quality and play in layout, they need look no further than these 2 entries."

Zach Freeman/Tri-County Reporter 2nd place

"Engaging photos! The hedgehog demo at the library is cute, with superb composition. The National Night Out shot, however, is what bumped this paper up into second place. That is as great a use of photo and layout elements

together as I've seen in this contest so far. I've been harping on this in other comments, but it bears repeating. Please include full names of ALL those in the image. This parent and child should have had their names in print right alongside the fire chief! Otherwise, excellent work."

Abigail Allen, Basil Gist/Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place

"Solid photography skills on display here. The Post-Signal readers are fortunate to have good photo elements accompanying their regular doses of local news. Keep up the good work!"

Small Weekly Division 5

Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/Dublin Citizen 1st place

"Want to know what makes this paper's news photos the top in this division? Thoroughness. As photojournalists, we are more than just bystanders recording witness to events happening in our communities. We have to do some legwork, too. While there were other strong news images in this field of competition, it was the thorough job this photographer did on providing details and full names in the captions that pulled this entry into the lead spot. Creative angle on the firefighting image makes it really interesting to spend time on, rather than just a quick glance. Additionally, the photo of the veteran finally being laid to rest back home is poignant. All conveyed complete stories through your imagery. Masterfully done! Congratulations."

Christian Allen, James Draper/Gladewater Mirror 2nd place

"Your water rescue photo is amazing. Way to be in the right spot at the right time! Do you realize how rare it is to actually catch them pulling a survivor out of the water like that? I wish you had cropped it slightly tighter (on the bottom) and run it another column larger. If you had, it probably would have topped the division. Also, I wish there had been a photo credit line, because Christian Allen deserved it. The second photo taken on the first day of school is adorable, but I have no idea who the lady or the student are. There needs to be a separate cutline for it. Remember... photos of kids and animals and NAMES are what sell papers! If that had been my kid pictured in such a beautiful way, I surely would have wished that his name would have been printed with it! Overall, strong work from Gladewater."

Sam Major/Wood County Monitor 3rd place

"Excellent way to cover news events in your community i a creative way. Layout and overall quality of the photos are exceptional. It also is obvious you did some legwork to run down information about the overflowing drain. Your caption was informative and concise. Tight writing at its best! I realize the names of the children watching the eclipse would have been too many to include, but perhaps you could have said "Ms. So-So's 6th grade classroom?" Just a thought on how you could have identified them to some extend. Nice work!"

Laurie White King/Royse City Herald-Banner 4th place

"Nice pair of images. The Something's Brewing shot could be a piece of framed art! And the car fire shows your photographer's quickness in getting to the location. Good on-the-spot coverage and nice play on the page. Please avoid using editorializing words in news captions -- such as "spectacular" in your car fire cut. Let the image speak for itself and let the reader decide on their own that it was "a spectacular car fire." Otherwise, very nice work."

News writing

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger staff 1st place

“SRO story - very informative. Good to see districts being proactive. Oil waste story - good for all to read. This is a problem that is affecting many more than just those in your area.”

Katecey Harrell/Tyler Morning Telegraph 2nd place

“Library story - Great reporting on a very timely event. It seems to be affecting more and more. Courthouse story - Interesting story. Sad to see the old courthouse demolished. Jump to 3A was not included so I could not finish reading the story.”

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Stacy Faison/Lufkin Daily News 1st place

“These are great stories – best of the bunch - well researched and well sourced.”

Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 2nd place

“I love that the data breach story quoted the hacker. I really enjoyed the hospital story. My community is going through something like this, and a lot of people are wondering if something like this might have caused the bankruptcy. Great job following this story for your reader.”

Kathy Cruz/Hood County News 3rd place

“The story about the library books was well written and sourced. This has been a topic in my community. I believe you did a great job at presenting it fairly.”

Jeff Osborne, Kaylee Dusang/Gatesville Messenger 4th place

“In the county jail story, “Miller” was not introduced as the County Judge until the end of the story, even though he was quoted in the third paragraph.”

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Glenn Evans, Sally Sexton/Weatherford Democrat 1st place

“Clean and Clear.”

Panola Watchman staff 2nd place

“Important coverage, well-done, good quotes.”

David Webb /The Mexia News 3rd place

“Nice writing style. Reads well.”

Amber Lollar/Henderson Daily News 4th place

“Closer editing would be helpful.”

Large Weekly Division 4

Brian Knox, Austin Jackson/Wise County Messenger 1st place

“Wow, this entry is head and shoulders above everyone else. The writing is excellent, informative and compelling. Everything is painted and presented so vividly!”

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner 2nd place

“Massive amounts of backstory and research went into both articles here. Great writing and informative as well. Very extensive detail went into both articles.”

Madelyn Edwards/Tri-County Reporter 3rd place

“Great, informative writing on both entries. Loved the different perspectives from residents and the city in the Pothole story. Great entry!”

Abigail Allen, Joe Fragano/Pilot Point Post-Signal 4th place

“PPISD trainer story was a bit confusing as the main piece in the headline was buried deep in the article. Both are very informative and compelling, however.”

Small Weekly Division 5

Travis Hairgrove/Royse City Herald-Banner 1st place

“Vivid storytelling here. Mr. Herald Banner paints such a vivid picture of a man who was obviously beloved in his community. Candidates speak was so informative and well-written.”

Phil Major/Wood County Monitor 2nd place

“Excellent writing and storytelling. Clubhouse fire was extremely well covered with excellent use of quotes to add to the story. Excellent entry!”

Susan Lindsey/Bowie County Citizens Tribune 3rd place

“Bowie County man...what a well-written, vivid but yet painful story to have written. Heart-wrenching testimony but presented so well. NBPD shooting story was also told so well. Tough call for this to be third.”

Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/Dublin Citizen 4th place

“I love the commitment to the shooting story but maybe not every aspect of the trial needs to be covered in such detail? Great writing on both, the length of Trial Set for CR 180 is much better.”

Page Design

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger staff 1st place

“Nice looking paper. Good photo placement. Very readable. Not a fan of ads on the front page.”

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Lufkin Daily News staff 1st place

“Good looking paper. Nice placement of photos, especially liked the tribute to Joe Murray.”

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel staff 2nd place

“Nice layout. Very readable. Appealing to the eye.”

Greenville Herald-Banner staff 3rd place

“Nice layout overall. Not a fan of ads on front page.”

Page Design

continued

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Henderson Daily News staff 1st place

"This package edges out the competition. I appreciate the lack of ads on the front page. Nice balance of text, imagery and white space."

Panola Watchman staff 2nd place

"I don't like the white space under the 'Work Zone' story on the Aug. 26-27 front page. A couple of extra sentences would fill it. I appreciate the lack of ads on the front page."

Weatherford Democrat staff 3rd place

"I know this is page design, but I can't help but notice a glaring mistake. The Marine in the photo on the Nov. 11 front page, Staff Sgt. Ellis, is definitely not a recruit. He may be a recruiter, though. As far as page design goes, I don't like the white space under the cutline. Other than that, great design. I don't like ads on the front page. I think its a bad look for our industry."

Cleburne Times-Review staff 4th place

"Love the 'How to Cook a Turkey' section! I don't like ads on the front page. I think its a bad look for our industry. Especially political ads, like the one on the April 22-23 front page. It gives an appearance of bias."

Large Weekly Division 4

Rockwall Herald-Banner staff 1st place

"This division was very difficult to judge. The Rockwall County Herald-Banner edges out the competition with a clean, inviting design."

Pilot Point Post-Signal staff 2nd place

"Excellent sports pages. The Horse Country special section could use a better front cover, in my opinion, but the inside is nicely done."

Wise County Messenger staff 3rd place

"I think this paper has a little too much white space. But my biggest gripe is advertising on the front page. I'm not a fan. I don't think it's good for our industry. In my opinion, it gives the reader the impression we care more about revenue than news."

Small Weekly Division 5

Dublin Citizen staff 1st place

Best page design of the division. Great job on the WWII veteran story. The local agriculture page is well done. We need something like this in our paper."

Royse City Herald-Banner staff 2nd place

"Top contender. I almost gave it first place based on the excellent 'Further Review' page. But then I realized it was not produced in-house."

Stamford American staff 3rd place

"There are some good design elements in this paper, but I think the front page depends too much on imagery. I would like to see more stories. I didn't count this against you since this is a page design category, but I think this paper weighs too heavily on sports and school news. I'd like to see some more hard news. Overall, the Stamford American is definitely one of the leaders in this category and division."

Quanah Tribune-Chief 4th place

"In the June 9 issue, I don't understand the white space above the nameplate. I understand that's an ad space. But if you don't have a paid ad, why not run a house ad? I'm really not a fan of ads on the front page to begin with. I think its bad for our industry. To me, it gives the reader the impression we care more about revenue than news."

Sports Coverage

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger staff 1st place

"Beautiful entry! Love the layout and extensive coverage throughout. Photos are crisp and well cropped."

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel staff 1st place

"Gorgeous entry! Elegant layout, great writing, coverage is extensive. Just so striking in its simplicity! Clear-cut winner."

Lufkin Daily News staff 2nd place

"Very close second place finish. Photos, writing and layout are very strong. Eye-catching layout and coverage. The only nitpick, (and its a personal choice), is I would like to see more papers move to left-aligned text for stories."

Greenville Herald-Banner staff 3rd place

"Tough call here for third. Such a good entry. Love the amount of coverage. Photos, stories, layout are all great, too!"

Palestine Herald Press staff 4th place

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Panola Watchman staff 1st place

"Gorgeous layout, nice and clean. Great writing and excellent photos and use of them, as well. Excellent entry!"

Kilgore News Herald staff 2nd place

"Excellent variety of sports. I like the layout choices, very clean!"

Cleburne Times Review staff 3rd place

"Very tough choice here. Very close between top three newspapers in this category. I love everything about this entry except for the fact that some of it is very text heavy. Maybe some mugshots or art or use of graphics could break that up. Other than that, this was a VERY strong entry in every other way."

Weatherford Democrat staff 4th place

"Great entry. Love the writing but layout could use something to break up the large amount of text. Art, mugshots, graphics, etc."

Sports Coverage

Large Weekly Division 4

Wise County Messenger staff 1st place

"Love the amount of diverse sports coverage, inclusion of features in the sports section. Photos are superb, layout is clean. Nice entry!"

Tri-County Reporter staff 2nd place

"Simple but very effective. Great photos, writing and coverage."

Pilot Point Post-Signal staff 3rd place

"Massive section. Excellent coverage. Well done all around."

Rockwall Herald-Banner staff 4th place

Small Weekly Division 5

Wood County Monitor staff 1st place

"Vast coverage. Excellent photos and writing. Great entry!"

Dublin Citizen staff 2nd place

"Nice community coverage. Photos and stories are great. Text alignment sticks out to me. I prefer text aligned left."

Royse City Herald-Banner staff 3rd place

"Simple but effect layout and excellent coverage of different sports. Very effective design."

Bowie County Citizens Tribune staff 4th place

"Extensive writing and great photos."

Sports Photo

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger staff 1st place

"Basketball charge photo was good but too dark."

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Layth Taylor/Hood County News 1st place

"These photos contain so much emotion they transcend what you normally think of as a sports photo ... but why the heck is the football state title game story on the section front of the Education section?"

David Claybourn/Greenville Herald-Banner 2nd place

"Best basketball pics I've seen in a long time. Great work."

Joel Andrews/Lufkin Daily News 3rd place

"This is the work of a top notch photographer and it shows ... such a cool perspective on the high jump shot."

Gladys Whitenburg/Gatesville Messenger 4th place

"These are strong shots, but you've gotta save your page pdfs, especially in photo categories, in a higher resolution. Every one of these pics is grainy, and I bet they didn't print that way."



Steven Marter/Tri-County Reporter

Div. 3 1st place Sports Photograph

"Drake Doggett, whose helmet was ripped away by an Alvarado player, scores a TD anyway."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Geoff Heppes/Cleburne Times-Review 1st place

"Solid sports pics presented well."

Audrey Blaschke/Henderson Daily News 2nd place

"I feel like these shots could have benefitted from better cropping."

Panola Watchman staff 3rd place

"These shots are clear and capture decent action, but not good enough to win this class."

Skip Leon/The Mexia News 4th place

"The youth football cam pics were great, but the high school shots were not."

Large Weekly Division 4

Jeff Prince/Tri-County Reporter 1st place

"That football celebration photo is one of the best I can ever remember ... not sure the flag photo counts as sports, I would enter that as feature photo, but the football one is just so memorable, it elevates this entry to No. 1."

Micah McCartney/Wise County Messenger staff 2nd place

"Outstanding action on both shots .. great work."

Abigail Allen, Joe Fragano/Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place

"Wow didn't think I'd see a hockey shot in this contest. It was ok. The facial expressions on the hurdlers was excellent."

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner 4th place

"Love the tip-toe photo and the coaches reaction behind it .. other entries were just stronger, sharper."

Sports Photo

continued

Small Weekly Division 5

Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief 1st place

"Perfectly timed action shots that both captured the exact moment of great athleticism. Great work."

Sam Major/Wood County Monitor 2nd place

"Though pics were a little grainy, both captured great action. The dig photo from volleyball was one of the best full-extension shots I've ever seen."

Kim Hill, Mike Peery/Gladewater Mirror 3rd place

"Both pics captured great moments in a game -- kick blocked and a play at third --- but neither was crisp enough to win this class."

Paul Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen 4th place

"Decent action and I like how big you run your photos."

Sports Writing

Daily Division 1

Marshall News Messenger staff 1st place

"Both excellent entries. Storytelling is excellent and the articles are well written. 'This is my home' fleshes out what would normally be a run of the mill 'new coaching hire' story. Great job!"

Brandon Ogden/ Tyler Morning Telegraph 2nd place

Love the 'He's one of us' article. Such a heart-wrenching but also feel-good story. Tough choice to make this second place.

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Josh Harvard/Lufkin Daily News 1st place

"Excellent storytelling and presentation for both articles. You weave some excellent tales here and the words just flow effortlessly. Top notch work! Top choice in a very competitive division."

David Claybourn, Travis Hairgrove/Greenville Herald-Banner 2nd place

"Wow, beautiful writing and storytelling. These simply suck you in and keep you reading. Excellent sports writing! Wish I could name a 1 and 1A."

Nathan Hague/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 3rd place

"Tough call to make here for third place. Stories are excellent. 'SFA assistant' article was almost unreal to read. Great job getting the coach to speak considering the situation!"

Alexandra Meelbusch, Jeff Osborne/Gatesville Messenger 4th place
"Another excellent entry is what was an extremely difficult division to judge. The separation from first to fourth was unbelievably close. Great read on both stories. Beautiful writing."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Ryan Silapan/Panola Watchman 1st place

"Great profiles on team members that an ordinary reporter might have missed -- the kid who had the massive rebounding game and the dedicated student trainer. Keep looking for these kinds of stories!"

Mike Phillips/ Corsicana Daily Sun 2nd place

"Standout game coverage. A real model for what reporters should be doing to make game recaps come live."

Kilgore News Herald staff 3rd place

"Loved both these stories, great work!"

Geoff Heppes/Cleburne Times Review 4th place

"Liked the Worrell story, great research and interviews."

Large Weekly Division 4

Micah McCartney, Jillian Nachtigal/Wise County Messenger 1st place

"Easily the best of those class, great game and feature coverage. Keep up the great work."

Jeff Prince/Tri-County Reporter 2nd place

"Really engaging writing style and love the ledes. It shows you are really observing the things you are covering. great work."

Abigail Allen, Joe Fragano/Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place

"Good stories, good coverage but put some effort into a more engaging hockey lede."

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner 4th Place

"Good writing style, but dude you gotta find a way to use some quotes."

Small Weekly Division 5

Paul Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen 1st place

"Good writing style, but I would like to see some players interviewed and not just coaches."

Tony Basso and Kenny Mitchell/Bowie County Citizens Tribune 2nd place

"No quotes on one story and only the coach in another ... please ask the kids some questions."

Jim Bardwell, Aiden Keller Lott/Gladewater Mirror 3rd place

"Please interview coaches or players for your stories, it adds so much to the content."

Jordan Light/Quanah Tribune-Chief 4th place

From Community Service Winner's cover letter:

"The United Way is a national organization that provides meaningful contributions in many areas. Lufkin is one city that makes a concerted effort to do its part in helping the United Way of Angelina County reach its annual campaign goals. A team effort made it possible for The Lufkin Daily News to raise awareness of the need to help the organization by sharing what it has been able to accomplish within the community."

Community Service

Combined Division

Lufkin Daily News staff 1st place (Large semi-weekly publication)

"The Lufkin Daily News brought awareness to how United Way's efforts are so important to the community, and also brought positive awareness to the organization's efforts, such as partnering with the Salvation Army."

Gladewater Mirror staff 2nd place (Small weekly publication)

"Liked the articles. However, three of the submissions were 3 PDFs of the entire issue of the Gladewater Mirror, and I was unable to find anything in those 8 and 10 pages correlating to the dam."

The Paris News 3rd place (Large semi-weekly publication)

"I liked these articles. Unfortunately, I was unable to read more than a couple of paragraphs in some cases because the jumps to the articles were not included. Please remember to include jumps. A true feature of a Community Service Award cannot be determined by just a couple of paragraphs on front pages."

Special Section

Combined Division

(Daily, Semi-weekly, Weekly Divisions)

Daily Division

Tyler Morning Telegraph staff 1st place

Semi-Weekly Division

Corsicana Daily Sun staff 1st place (Small semi-weekly publication)

Greenville Herald-Banner staff 2nd place (Large semi-weekly publication)

Weatherford Democrat staff 3rd place (Small semi-weekly publication)

Panola Watchman staff 4th place (Small semi-weekly publication)

Weekly Division

Wills Point Chronicle staff 1st place (Small weekly publication)

Canton Herald staff 2nd place (Large weekly publication)

Van Zandt News staff 3rd place (Large weekly publication)

Wise County Messenger staff 4th place (Large weekly publication)

Journalist of the Year

Combined Division

**Ashley Terry (formerly Inge)/Hood County News 1st place
(Large semi-weekly publication)**

"The introductions to each of the 5 articles flowed smoothly and captured my attention immediately, making for a compelling read. The articles showed an in-depth knowledge of the community. Whether it was a topic covering government funding, or the Clothesline Project – you did a great job showing the emotion and feeling behind each story – showcasing each beautifully. Excellent job!"

**Madelyn Edwards/Tri-County Reporter 2nd place
(Small semi-weekly publication)**

"The cardiac arrest survivor and the sparks fly welding competition stories made this entry stand out in second place."

**Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel 3rd place
(Large semi-weekly publication)**

"This entry had lots of "hard news" making this the third place entry."

**Paul Gaudette/ The Dublin Citizen 4th place
(Small weekly publication)**

"Nice, shorter articles and to the point. Nice sampling of writing on various topics!"

Photographer of the Year

Combined Division

**Micah McCartney/Wise County Messenger 1st place
(Large weekly publication)**

"Micah McCartney's efforts captured the top notch placement. The fire photo was EXCELLENT – very sad on the loss of all that history. Large 6-column photograph decisions by staff helped bump this one to the top. Action & hard news at every angle. GREAT JOB!"

**Joel Andrews/The Lufkin Daily News 2nd place
(Large semi-weekly publication)**

"Clear, crisp action and on-the-spot photography lifted this one above the others."

**Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen 3rd place
(Small weekly publication)**

"LOVED the photograph of the girl riding on her dad. Pulls at the heart! Excellent cropping job on photo with firefighter truck words."

**Abigail Allen/Pilot Point Post-Signal 4th place
(Large weekly publication)**

"Like angle on fiasco. The angle on the dog photograph and the people is GREAT. Good reminder that there's other sports out there."

SWEEPS TAKES WINNERS

THE MARSHALL NEWS MESSENGER

Marshall, Texas Wednesday, November 8, 2023 \$2.00



Wiley President Herman Filton Jr. announced Friday the institution is set to become Wiley University alongside the implementation of three new graduate programs.

RETURN TO ITS ROOTS

Wiley College becomes Wiley University, announces new graduate programs

BY NICHOLAS OSBORN

Wiley College has announced the institution is set to become Wiley University alongside the implementation of three new graduate programs.

The school's new name was announced in a special "Returning to Our Roots" Homecoming event Friday to celebrate their historic academic achievements.

"Becoming Wiley University is not simply an exercise and a name change. It is an exercise in our ability to embrace our past and see the future," said Wiley University President and CEO Dr. Herman L. Filton Jr., Ph.D., J.D.

"The past 150 years have been a testimony to our faith in what is possible," continued Filton Jr. "We stand proudly today and return to our roots, symbolized by Wiley University, and liberally as we embrace the next chapter of excellence."

The change from Wiley College into Wiley University will return the institution to its original name it used when the school was founded, and will introduce three newly created online-focused graduate programs.



In a special 2023 Homecoming event to celebrate their historic academic achievements on Friday, Nov. 3, Wiley College announced the institution is set to become Wiley University alongside the implementation of three new graduate programs.

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Woman dies in house fire, GoFundMe created

BY BOB V. SICASSON

rsicasson@marshallnews.com

A GoFundMe fundraiser has been organized to assist with the burial costs of beloved wife, mother, grandmother and veteran Amanda Woods, who died in an Oct. 31 house fire.

"I'm asking if you can help, please do," said Williams.

Williams said the entire family is heartbroken by the loss of

See FIRE, Page 3A

Veterans Day events planned this week

From Staff Reports

Marshall's annual Community Veterans Day program will take place Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Marshall Depot, 800 N. Washington in downtown Marshall.

All veterans and members of the public are cordially invited to attend the annual Community Veterans Day program, which takes place each year to honor the brave service and sacrifice of all veterans.

The annual program will begin at the traditional time of the Armistice of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

The annual veterans day program is sponsored by the City of Marshall and Marshall Main Street, in collaboration with the Marshall Depot Board of

See VETERANS, Page 3A

THE LUFKIN DAILY NEWS

LUFKINDAILYNEWS.COM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023 \$2.00

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Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist dies at 82



Joe Murray poses for a photo in downtown Lufkin in 1977, the year he and Ken Herman won the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service.

Iconic newspaperman Joe Murray put Lufkin in national spotlight

By STACY FAISON

The Lufkin Daily News

and earned The Lufkin Daily News national acclaim — for a series of stories reported without ever setting foot outside his hometown.

The iconic journalist died at his home Sunday at the age of 82. Services will be at 2 p.m.

July 5 at First Baptist Church.

While editor of the paper, he and then city reporter

Herman won the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service in 1977 for a series of articles leading to reforms in

military training and recruit- ing practices.

But the lofty accomplish- ments and far-flung travels never changed who Murray was at his core: a folk- down-to-earth guy readers could easily relate to and a true character friend and

colleagues genuinely enjoyed.

"He once told me he only wanted to be remembered as a country journalist," but his impact stretched worldwide," said Phil Latham, who worked with Murray at The Lufkin Daily News.

SEE MURRAY, PAGE 3A

VOL 144 NO 277

TODAY'S WEATHER
Partly cloudy, High of 63. Low of 66.
For a seven-day forecast, see page 6B.

INSIDE
Marshall coach returns to arena master
Page 10

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- Daily Division 1**
- 1st place - Marshall News Messenger (1,225)
 - 2nd place - Tyler Morning Telegraph (850)

- Large Semi-Weekly Division 2**
- 1st place - Lufkin Daily News (1000)
 - 2nd place - Nacadoches Daily Sentinel (925)
 - 3rd place - Hood County News (750)
 - 4th place - Greenville Herald-Banner (575)
 - 5th place - Palestine Herald Press (175)
 - 6th place - Gatesville Messenger (75)
 - 7th place - The Paris News (50)

SLEEPSTAKES WINNERS

The Panola Watchman

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

VOL. 151, ISSUE 6 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023 1 SECTION, 10 PAGES \$1.00

BRACK COUNTY Brack LaGrone appointed Pct. 2 and 3 Constable

BY MIKE ELSWICK
melswick@panolawatchman.com

Brack LaGrone was appointed by Panola County Commissioners Tuesday to fill the unexpired term of Charlie Blair as Panola County Pct. 2 and 3 Constable. LaGrone has years of law enforcement experience, according to Panola County Judge Rodger McGroves, while Pct. 2 Com-

Lane. He currently serves mission as an investigator for the David Carthage Police Department. His appointment ended the motion. Tuesday scheduled to begin Feb. was followed by a 30-minute closed session to discuss personnel matters, vote of Pct. 3 Commissioner the court. Craig Lantieri made the Pct. 2 and 3 Constable.

See COUNTY, Page 3A



Brack LaGrone

THINGS TO DO

Esquire Players to perform Lewis Carroll classic

BY MIKE ELSWICK
melswick@panolawatchman.com

The classic story of "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll is set for performance this Saturday and Sunday by the Esquire Players on stage with a bit twist in that one of the characters on stage will be the author, Carroll himself, according to Cindy Delaney, producer of the production. Performances on both Jan. 21 and 22 include matinee at 2 p.m. each day and evening performances at 7 p.m.

"This group is amazing," she said. "It's one of the best I've worked with."

The production has a cast of 15.

See ALICE, Page 3A

EAST TEXAS

Perryman: Region has 'promising' economic forecast

BY JENNIFER SCOTT
jperryman@panolawatchman.com

"Resilience" was the word of the day at the 8th Annual Economic Outlook Conference at the Green Acres Baptist Church, Crosswalk Conference Center in Tyler last week.

Regional economist Dr. Roy Perryman, president/CEO of the Perryman Group, one of the nation's leading economic and financial analysis firms, presented financial projections for the country and state as well as the East Texas area.

While the pandemic hit cities across the country hard, Perryman said the East Texas area has seen significant growth since the pandemic.

See PERRYMAN, Page 3A

175 YEARS OF CARTHAGE HISTORY

TRAIL BLAZER

Carthage's Margie Neal made history as first woman elected to Texas Senate



Margie Neal is pictured here when she was editor of the East Texas Register.

BY MIKE ELSWICK
melswick@panolawatchman.com

Editor's Note: In honor of the City of Carthage's 175th anniversary in 2023, the Watchman will be publishing stories about the town's history and notable figures throughout the year.

Among the notables from Carthage who have blazed trails while making an impact on the world outside the confines of their native space is Margie Neal.

Research papers at the museum said while in the Texas Senate, Neal introduced a bill creating the State Board of Education, sponsored a bill that introduced public school physical education classes, and actively supported a bill that provided for the rehabilitation of handicapped persons and was on the board of the Texas Society for Crippled Children, "museum records said.

Neal began her career as a school teacher in rural Panola County, according to a plaque in the Margie Neal Park.

"A native of Panola County, Margie Elizabeth and Martha (Oshon) Neal, was a resident of Carthage for most of her life. Her first service to the state included appointment

as the first woman member of the Board of Regents of the State Teachers colleges (1921-1927), district chairwoman in the fight for women's suffrage which was won in 1901.

First woman member of the State Democratic Executive Committee and delegate to the National Democratic Convention in San Francisco (1900)," said papers at the museum.

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Neal began her career as a school teacher in rural Panola County, according to a plaque in the Margie Neal Park.

"A native of Panola County, Margie Elizabeth and Martha (Oshon) Neal, was a resident of Carthage for most of her life. Her first service to the state included appointment

and appointed vice chairman of the Texas Senate's committee on education during her first term, and during her second term she was chairman.

She was a respected educator and leader in the woman suffrage movement. She was the first woman appointed to the State Normal School Board of Regents in 1901, the marker said.

"Five years later she made history as the first woman elected to the Texas Senate," it said.

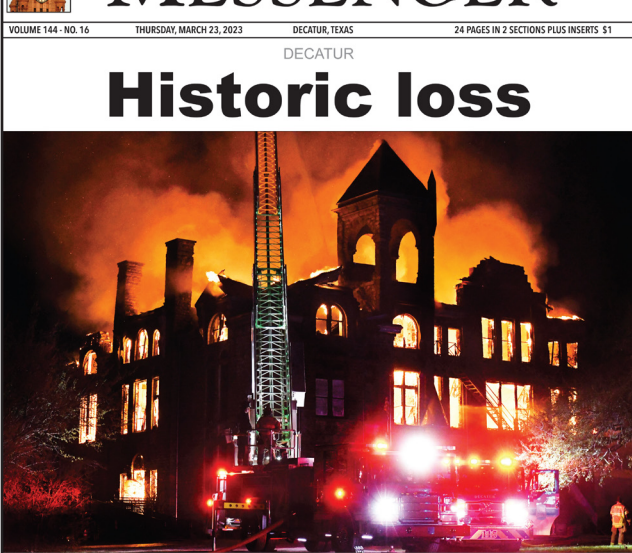
"A Panola Watchman article reported that Neal was recognized, because of her early experience as a teach-

WISSE COUNTY MESSSENGER

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

VOLUME 144 - NO. 16 THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 DECATUR, TEXAS 24 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS PLUS INSERTS 51

Historic loss



DEVASTATING INFERNO - The Wise County Heritage Museum was lost to a fire early Saturday morning. The building housed Decatur Baptist College and has stood since 1893, with history stored inside that dates back further.

Heritage Museum lost to blaze

BY AUSTIN JACKSON
ajackson@wisemessenger.com

The Wise County Heritage Museum, a fundamental piece of Wise County and Decatur's past, was reduced to rubble after a devastating fire early Saturday morning.

The building, constructed in 1893 to house Decatur Baptist College, has been used to tell the county's story for decades. As the blaze spread through the timbers and hardwoods of the 130-year-old landmark on South Trinity St. in Decatur - with towering flames illuminating the sky from miles away - most, if not all of that history was lost.

"It's sickening," said Wise County Historical Society President Kerry Clower.

Freighters from the Decatur Fire Department responded to the blaze at around 12:50 a.m., initiating an interior attack.

During the initial response, firefighters located a fully involved fire as they moved through the building, which was destroyed in an overnight blaze.

Starting over

Historians renew mission to preserve county's history

BY BRENDAN MARCHAND
bmmarchand@wisemessenger.com

Wise County Heritage Museum President and Director Kerry Clower was awakened by a call from the museum's alarm company before 1 a.m. Saturday. The alarm company notified Clower that interior motion sensors had alerted a possible intruder, so Clower got dressed and headed to the museum.

A second call from the alarm company notified Clower that police were present, and were waiting for him to provide entry to the building in order to investigate what triggered the alarm. However, when Clower arrived at 1602 South Trinity St., he witnessed a much more serious situation.

"As I was driving in from Atraveo, I was still thinking it was some kind of intruder or a malfunction thing. It was some kind of intruder or a malfunction thing. It was some kind of intruder or a malfunction thing."

2 ARRESTED FOR MURDER IN MISSING TEEN CASE

SEE PAGE 3A

POLICE, SCHOOL INVESTIGATE ALLEGED HAZING REPORT

SEE PAGE 1B

SEARCH FOR HIT-AND-RUN SUSPECT ENDS WITH ARREST

SEE PAGE 3A

The Dublin Citizen

Thursday, July 6, 2023 | Vol. 34, No. 36 | dublincitizen.com | \$1

Take a step back in time! Turning back the pages, A4

Welcome Home, Noel



Brenda Blumert and Sandra Hammors, wives of World War II veteran Noel Shoup, will be able to welcome their uncle back home after he went missing in action after his plane was shot down in France on Feb. 28, 1944. Due to the efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Shoup's remains are being returned home for burial.

Erath WWII veteran coming home to rest

BY PAUL GADETTE and WYNDI VEIGEL - Editors

Between July 26 and 11, 2023, his 105th birthday.

The Crash Accounting Agency was excavating the site of a B-17 plane crash near the town of Wiammeville in France.

As they dug through the farmland, the archaeologists were able to determine where an enemy A-2 rocket site in France during World War II plane hit the ground on Feb. 28, 1944, recovering pieces of the plane, among them the 22 other pieces in his squadron, were on a bombing mission to take out an enemy A-2 rocket site in France during World War II.

Noel, who was pilot for the aircraft which did not have a name, was accompanied by his co-pilot James Latheland Jr. (who was also MIA, tragically died).

As the team dug through the soil, they found a gold ring with a diamond and a red stone, reading "Dublin High School Class of 1936" with the initials "N.E.S." on the inside.

It was worn by Noel Emerson Shoup, a pilot with long ties to Erath County. He will finally be returning home when he is laid to rest in the Upper Greens Creek and Tail Cemetery in a memorial service with full military honors at 1 p.m. on Sept. 8.



Above, Noel Shoup is photographed with his squadron during World War II before going on a bombing mission. Right, Noel Shoup, his brother Edwin and their parents, Lela and Arthur Shoup are photographed together. Noel's Dublin High School ring was returned to the family after being with the missing soldier for 78 years.

Donations needed for back-to-school fair

BY WYNDI VEIGEL - Editor

It has been said it takes a village, and to get students prepared for the upcoming school year, Dublin citizens are being asked to help at this year's annual Back-to-School Fair.

The Dublin Public Library will be hosting its Back-to-School Fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 29 at the library.

I want to thank everyone for their kindness and support for this event. The main goal is to help the kids go back to school with confidence and be ready to learn, and with everyone's contributions I believe we'll be successful!" Library Director Anna Dunn said.

There will be a variety of giveaways at the event including back packs, gift cards, bus hygiene items and more.

DONATION, Page A5

Small Weekly Division 5

- 1st place - The Dublin Citizen (900)
- 2nd place - Gladewater Mirror (650)
- 3rd place - Roysce City Herald-Banner (625)
- 4th place - Wood County Monitor (525)
- 5th place - Quanah Tribune-Chief (250)
- 6th place - The Terrell Tribune (125)
- 7th place - Wills Point Chronicle (75)
- 8th place - The Stamford American (50)

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

- 1st place - Panola Watchman (1,050)
- 2nd place - Weatherford Democrat (525)
- 3rd place - Kilgore News Herald (450)
- 4th place - Cleburne Times-Review (425)
- 5th place - Henderson Daily News (400)
- 6th place - The Mexia News (300)
- 7th place - Gainesville Daily Register (275)
- 8th place-Corsicana Daily Sun (100)

Large Weekly Division 4

- 1st place - Wise County Messenger (1175)
- 2nd place - Rockwall Herald-Banner (900)
- 3rd place - Pilot Point Post-Signal (775)
- 4th place - Tri-County Reporter (450)
- 5th place - Van Zandt News (75)
- 6th place - Canton Herald (50)

Large Weekly Division 5

- 1st place - The Dallas Morning News (1,000)
- 2nd place - The Fort Worth Star-Telegram (900)
- 3rd place - The Texas Observer (800)
- 4th place - The Houston Chronicle (700)
- 5th place - The San Antonio Express-News (600)
- 6th place - The El Paso Times (500)
- 7th place - The Amarillo Globe-News (400)
- 8th place - The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal (300)
- 9th place - The Midland Reporter-Observer (200)
- 10th place - The Brownsville Herald (100)

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