NEVADA PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE BEST IN JOURNALISM SINCE 1924

2019 ANNUAL CONTEST WINNERS

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS



PHOTO OF THE YEAR

John Byrne, Sparks Tribune

The annual Women's March in Reno took place Saturday, Jan. 23, 2019. An estimated 3,000 people flooded the streets of downtown Reno to have their voices heard. Now in its third year, the event's message was about fighting for policy changes and featured speeches by several community leaders.

Judge's Comment: Incredible impact with color and emotion

OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST

(Urban Dailies, Urban Weeklies, Magazines)

Henry Brean—Las Vegas Review Journal



Henry Brean has done just about everything since he joined the Review-Journal in 2003 after nine years as a reporter and editor at the Pahrump Valley Times. He has spent the night on a mountain-top fire watch tower; taken a train 600 feet underground to a pipeline construction site underneath Lake Mead; handled peregrine falcon chicks for a short-handed researcher; and slithered head first into a cave behind biologists searching for undiscovered animal species. No one in Nevada—and maybe the world—has written more stories about tiny endangered desert fish.

See BREAN, next page

OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST

(Intermediate, Community)

Amy Alonzo—Mason Valley News and Fernley Leader-Courier

Amy Alonzo is the sole journalist producing the weekly Mason Valley



News and Fernley Leader-Courier, covering five communities in Lyon County, including Yerington and Fernley. Her coverage area spans 2,100 square miles. She joined the papers in 2017, after accumulating 17 years of reporting and photography experience at other news organizations, including the Record-Courier in Douglas County. The one constant has been an abiding interest in community journalism.

Amy grew up in the Bay Area, then moved to southern Oregon to attend college and to work at her first newspaper, the Ashland Daily Tidings. She also worked as the lead

See ALONZO, next page

EDITORIAL CARTOON







Michael Ramirez, Las Vegas Review Journal

Mike Smith, Las Vegas Sun

3 Jeff Hickman, Reno Gazette Journal

Rachel Aston—Las Vegas Review-Journal

OUTSTANDING VISUAL JOURNALIST



For the six-month anniversary of the Oct. 1 mass shooting, Rachel Aston published a half-hour documentary that explored the trauma experienced by survivors of the tragedy. Her carefully edited piece weaves through the stories of six Las Vegans whose lives were changed by the heartbreaking event. She spent months earning their trust through repeated interviews so they opened up to her on camera, expressing feelings and memories that had never been published.

The video that accompanied the Review-Journal's story about local motocross racer Angie Wright is another great example of her work. Again, Rachel spent time with her source, finding opportunities to tell stories that went beyond the written word. She also took some terrific photographs that played well both in print and online.

Other examples of her high-quality work include a tearful

See ASTON, next page

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

STORY OF THE YEAR

Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Water Question: How long can the Colorado River sustain us?

With the Las Vegas Valley experiencing rapid growth and decades of drought shrinking its primary water supply—the Colorado River—the question of whether current resources can be stretched or additional water tapped to support future growth is not a hypothetical concern. It is existential.

With that in mind, Henry Brean, the Review-Journal's longtime land use and environment reporter, and Assistant City Editor Mike Brunker set out to paint a comprehensive picture of the challenges facing water managers and planners as they contemplate a future filled with question marks.

Brean's reporting soon made Review-Journal editors realize they couldn't do justice to such an important and complex topic in a single day. Eventually it was decided to make it into a seven-day series in order to offer readers in-depth looks at various aspects of the issue, including the history of how the state ended up with the smallest allotment of river water, the valley's impressive conservation efforts and the challenges facing planners trying to forecast water usage far into the future.

While Brean led the reporting effort, the scope of the package required a newsroomwide effort led by Brunker. Multimedia, graphics, design and interactive teams all played important roles in bringing the series to life.

The response to the Water Question recognized the more than six months of work that went into it. The Review-Journal received an outpouring of reader feedback and positive industry buzz.

Judge's Comment:

If this reporting and digital presentation doesn't prove just how existential water is to Las Vegas, as well as Nevada, I don't know what will. The in-depth reporting—on all sides of the issue—is commendable. In a time of newspaper cutbacks and reductions it's encouraging to see the Review-Journal supporting the financial requirements the staff needed to undertake six months of work to produce this first-rate series on water issues affecting Las Vegas.

EDITORIAL OF THE YEAR

Ric Anderson, Las Vegas Sun

Another year is too long to go without meaningful gun reform

From the editorial:

"A year after the Oct. 1 shooting, bump stocks remain legal in Nevada.

So do high-capacity magazines. So do assaultstyle weapons and tracer bullets. And all can still be purchased without a background check if the transaction doesn't involve a licensed gun dealer but instead is between unlicensed individuals.

In other words, not much has changed in terms of gun policy in Nevada one year after the worst mass shooting in modern history.

That's shameful. ...

As the community remembers the Oct. 1 shooting, one of many painful aspects of the anniversary is that Nevada has done nothing to limit the amount of deadly force that was openly available to the shooter that night. Nor has the state taken steps to keep weapons out of the hands of individuals who shouldn't have them.

Let's change that, voters. Let's honor the memories of the victims of our community's most horrific tragedy by making Nevada a safer place."

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE

(Intermediate, Community)



Pahrump Valley Times

- 2 The Record-Courier
- **III** Elko Daily Free Press

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE

(Urban Dailies, Urban Weeklies, Magazines)



Las Vegas Review Journal

Judge's Comment:

A synthesis of photography, video and prose applied gracefully and compellingly to a wide range of topics, from commemorative tattoos to a wild night at the fights to local history and the environment. The media choices build, rather than obscure, the story.

2 Reno Gazette Journal

Judge's Comment:

A clean design highlights the work of very talented writers and photographers.

The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

Well-designed graphics and charts succeed in breaking down complex topics. The Independent deserves credit for prioritizing the informing of local citizens on vital topics.

PODCAST



Joey Lovato, Riley Snyder, Michelle Rindels, Daniel Rothberg, Elizabeth Thompson

Nevada Independent

IndyMatters Podcast

- 2 Jenny Kane, Reno Gazette Journal
 Potcast
- **■** Nathan Shoup, Adam Shoup

The Reno Slant

ASTON, continued from previous page

interview with a former FBI agent who worked Nevada's largest bank robbery, the story of a young woman from Las Vegas who has trained since childhood to be a professional wrestler, and the story of another Las Vegas teen who rose up against significant challenges to become a football star.

Beyond her video projects, Rachel turns around daily assignments for still photos and videos almost every day. She is a valuable member of the Review-Journal team, and she has elevated videography at Las Vegas' largest news organization.

Judge's Comment:

Engaging videos that give an intimate look at a wide variety of subjects with humanity as the common thread. Great camera work and editing.

ALONZO, continued from previous page

photographer at The Union Democrat in Sonora, Calif. and covered education at the Winchester Star in northern Virginia, before moving to Nevada.

She has developed a no-holds-barred reporting style, requesting records for political donations to show how the sheriff supported an anti-brothel initiative that he consistently refused to talk about on the record, and digging into the reasons why the fire chief resigned amid an ethics investigation—among many, many other topics. She also has brought in a diversity of voices to the paper's opinion page and developed freelancers to help cover community events. Without Amy's efforts, Lyon County would be a complete news desert.

Judge's Comment:

Alonzo is a nothing-flashy, just-the-facts reporter who scours public records and research reports to shine a light on hidden issues like rural homelessness, as well as high-profile local brawls like the effort to ban brothels in Lyons County. Especially enjoyed the story in which she cleverly juxtaposed campaign finance records and a local candidate's on-the-record statements, clearly demonstrating he deceived voters without having to say so explicitly.

BREAN, continued from previous page

A native of Tucson, Arizona, Brean also has covered every major development on the Colorado River in the past 15 years, often leading the region's coverage and improving its understanding of complex water issues. In addition to being named one of this year's two Outstanding Journalists, his 10-part series on the river and the future of Las Vegas' water supply won Story of the Year.

But Brean's work for the Review-Journal goes far beyond covering water. When a big story breaks, such as the 2017 mass shooting on the Las Vegas Strip, Henry is one of the first reporters editors call. He's an ace reporter and rewrite man capable of organizing a complex, rapidly changing story while making the copy sing. He also has served as the Review-Journal's de facto rural correspondent, traveling the state to report on brothels, the Bundy clan and other only-in-Nevada topics.

Judge's Comment:

Beautiful attention to detail. Depth and context throughout. Extremely accessible and interesting, the water series is well researched and informative, doing a public service in a region where residents NEED this information. Good pacing and excellent use of quotes in all of the stories. The variety of topics in his work demonstrates brightness and breadth in this journalist.

2019 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

C.J. Hadley



To appreciate her unique and notable role in the history of Nevada journalism, consider the fact that Caroline Joy Hadley, aka "CJ" Hadley, is the first person to be inducted into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame without ever having worked at a newspaper.

For the past 28 years and 108 issues, Hadley has been publisher and editor of Range magazine, the only publication in the state that strives to document the trials, tribulations, failures, challenges and successes of those who live, work, love

and strive to preserve the spirit and heritage of The West

She was born in England and emigrated to the U.S. when she was 17. She began her career as a journalist in 1963, in the New York magazine publishing world. Within a few years she was hired as managing editor of Car & Driver, where she remained until 1972.

A three-year stint traveling and writing adventure pieces for national magazines ended with a 1975 assignment for Sports Illustrated serving as commercial tuna fishing deckhand. "I thought I was a tuna fisherman," she wrote, "until I puked 21 pounds of my own viscera into the Pacific." After three weeks at sea she was dropped off on the docks of Sausalito, dehydrated and starving. She promptly hitchhiked to the driest state in the union, which she has called home ever since.

She served as editor of Nevada Magazine during the publication's most formative years editorially and in

circulation growth. Under her watch, the magazine transitioned from quarterly to bimonthly frequency and became self-supporting for the first time in more than 30 years. There were bumps along the way, including the time she put her own health and the publishing life of the state-sponsored magazine on the line against powerful legislators who threated its finances and her personally. She rallied community leaders who backed her up and shamed the legislature into retreat.

After leaving Nevada Magazine in 1985, Ms. Hadley freelanced for a number of publications and worked as a consulting editor for the University of Nevada, Reno Silver & Blue alumni magazine to earn the money she needed to launch Range magazine in 1991.

In the eight years Range has participated in the Nevada Press Association's Better Newspaper and Magazine Contest it has been recognized with more than 120 awards, despite having no fulltime editorial staff.

In one of those competitions a judge remarked: "Never heard of Range magazine before but they take wide swings at big, fascinating, important subjects with thorough investigation, putme-there drama and unflinching portrayal of the facts, regardless of politics, personal beliefs or religion. This is the kind of reporting that makes us important and relevant in an age when everything else is becoming more like a sound bite."

THIS IS THE KIND OF REPORTING THAT MAKES US IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT IN AN AGE WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE IS BECOMING MORE LIKE A SOUND BITE.

Holly Rudy-James

From the moment she arrived in Nevada, Holly Rudy-James was a strong advocate for rural newspapers in the state and a driving force within the Nevada Press Association at a time of transition for the organization.

Rudy-James came to Nevada in 2002, from Park City, Utah, where she had worked in the marketing department for several years at the Park Record. She had been hired by the company that eventually became Winnemucca Publishing to serve as general manager of The Humboldt Sun and The Battle Mountain Bugle. Five years later, Winnemucca Publishing purchased the Lovelock Review-Miner, along with a monthly periodical, The Nevada Rancher, and she was put in charge of the business operations of those papers as well.

With the purchase of the Review-Miner, Winnemucca Publishing's coverage extended across the Tri-County area of northern Nevada. Local content was the mainstay of each newspaper with offices and local reporters in each community. Rudy-James oversaw a sales team that worked with businesses spanning the small communities of northern Nevada, offering a wide variety of printed media, including the three weekly newspapers, two monthly periodicals, specialty publications and two TMC direct mail pieces.

The company had a printing plant in Winnemucca, so Rudy-James' sales team also worked with local businesses and governments to publish customized programs, handouts, newsletters and visitor-targeted newspapers.

Rudy-James worked to ensure that Winnemucca Publishing's newspapers were viewed as valuable members of their communities, building relationships with local and county governments, non-profit organizations, schools, churches and religious groups. She oversaw several community projects, including a fundraiser for the Humboldt County bookmobile that raised over \$8,000. She also worked with organizations



in Humboldt County to collect items for needy seniors during the Christmas season, which led to similar projects in Lander and Pershing Counties.

Rudy-James joined the Nevada Press Association board of directors in 2006 and remained on the board until her retirement in 2016. She was elected president in 2008-2009, and was called to serve again in 2010-2011, to replace the late Mark Lundahl, who passed away only a couple of months after his term began. "I appreciated that she stepped up to lead the board and kept the press association functioning," said Barry Smith, who was NPA's Executive Director at the time. "So did the other board members. It helped maintain continuity and provide the leadership we needed."

While on the press association board, Rudy-James worked with other members to build a statewide public notice website that aggregates all of the notices published in Nevada newspapers. She also hosted the annual convention and awards banquet in Winnemucca in 2009, at the conclusion of her first term as NPA president.

Rudy-James started her career in the 1970s selling yellow page advertising in Salt Lake City, where she was born and raised. She was the oldest of five siblings. She met her husband, Mike James, when she moved to Winnemucca. She has two sons and a granddaughter.

Vail Pittman



 $Photo\ of\ Vail\ Pittman\ courtesy\ of\ the\ Las\ Vegas\ Review\ Journal$

Vail Pittman is the second Nevada Governor to be inducted into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame, but the first to be a newspaperman before he was elected to public office.

Pittman was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, sometime between 1880 and 1883, the youngest of four sons born to parents who died when he was an infant. He was raised by an aunt and uncle and spent his formative years in Louisiana. He attended the University of the South and Brown's Business College, but returned home in 1903 to manage the family cotton plantation after his uncle's death.

He left Louisiana in 1904 to follow his brother Key, who had moved to Tonopah. Key was later elected to represent Nevada in the U.S. Senate, a seat he held for seven years until he died in office in 1940.

Vail Pittman initially entered the coal business in Nevada, and subsequently engaged in a variety of occupations, including undersheriff of Nye County, sergeant-at-arms of the Nevada Senate, and partner in a mining company. Along the way, he met Ida Louise Brewington and they were married in Reno in 1919. He and his wife bought the Ely Daily Times the following year and launched what was to become a successful newspaper business.

Pittman's political career began in 1925 when he was elected to the Nevada State

See PITTMAN, next page

1STAMENDMENT CHAMPIONS

The Nevada Press Association's highest legislative priority in 2019 was improving government compliance with the state's Public Records Act. The vessel for our aspirations was Senate Bill 287. The final version of SB 287 established penalties for local governments and state agencies that willfully violate the law; limited their use of excessive fees to discourage records requests; and added provisions requiring government employees to communicate with requestors and help them find the records they seek.

SB 287 passed both chambers unanimously in the final hour of the session and was swiftly signed into law by the governor. So it's only natural that our 1st Amendment Champions this year are the individuals who arguably had the most to do with its passage.

The honors begin with the Champion who was there at the beginning of the process. **Tod Story** started his work on SB 287 almost immediately after it became clear that the public records reform measure he supported in 2017 wasn't going to pass. He helped to draft the language included in the original version of the legislation. He was a co-founder of the Right to Know Coalition, an ideologically diverse coalition that activated grassroots support for the bill. And as executive director of ACLU of Nevada, he led the organization to fight alongside the Nevada Press Association in a number of other pro-transparency battles in the 2019 session.

Senator David Parks (D-Clark 7) was the primary sponsor of SB 287. In his role as chairman of the Senate Government Affairs Committee, he scheduled and facilitated the first hearing on the bill. When it bogged down in committee, he nurtured support for the legislation by asking Senators Melanie Scheible (D-Clark 9) and Ben Kieckhefer (R-Carson City, Washoe 16) to work with stakeholders and draft a compromise revision of the bill that could pass both chambers. Both Senators waded into the details of the legislation and worked diligently on a compromise. Perhaps most importantly, they resisted intense pressure from government lobbyists to water down their amendments. All three Senators were vital in getting the bill passed.

More than 1,100 bills were introduced in the 2019 session and with only four months to consider them it's inevitable that many never made it to the finish line. Aside from broad public support, what often separates the winners from the losers is whether political leaders are willing to prioritize a particular bill. Assembly Speaker Jason Frierson (D-Clark 8) made sure SB 287 was a priority in the final days of the session. His active leadership kept the bill moving in the session's final hours and ensured that public records reform had support in the Assembly.

Governor Steve Sisolak has long been an advocate

PITTMAN, continued from previous page

Senate, where he served until 1929. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1942 and was a candidate in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in 1944, but was defeated by the incumbent, Pat McCarran.

Pittman became Nevada's 19th governor when Edward P. Carville resigned in 1945 to accept appointment to a vacant U.S. Senate seat. He was elected in 1946 to a term of his own and served until 1951. He ran for reelection in 1950 and 1954, but lost both times to Charles H. Russell, who had served as editor of The Ely Record for more than 15 years until he retired in 1946 when Pittman bought the rival newspaper and turned it into a weekly edition of the Times.

After leaving office Pittman and his wife returned to Ely and their newspapers before selling them both in 1951 to Donald W. Reynolds.

Pittman died from lung cancer on January 29, 1964 in San Francisco, California. He is interred at Masonic Memorial Gardens in Reno.



ACLU Executive Director Tod Story



Senator Melanie Scheible



Assembly Speaker Jason Frierson



Governor Steve Sisolak



Senator David Parks



Senator Ben Kieckhefer

Photos of Frierson, Kieckhefer and Parks courtesy of the Las Vegas Review Journal

for open government. His insistence on government transparency as a Clark County Commissioner in 2011, helped to expose extensive overtime fraud being committed by county firefighters. He maintained that resolve in his first year as governor. SB 287 would never have passed if he hadn't conveyed

his support to legislative leadership. Moreover, his April interview in the Review-Journal, in which he noted that government agencies leverage excessive fees and immunity from punishment to deny legitimate records requests, helped to bolster public support for the bill.

URBAN DAILIES _____

FEATURE PHOTO





Steve Marcus— Las Vegas Sun RiSE Festival

Judge's Comment:

Captures the moment of the kiss and the beautiful light from above. The fireworks in the background are just the cherry on top.

2 Benjamin Hager—*Las Vegas Review-Journal Cliffhanger*

3 Benjamin Hager—Las Vegas Review-Journal Alynah Swimming

URBAN DAILIES

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



2 Las Vegas Sun

JOURNALIST OF MERIT



Riley Snyder,— The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

Riley is breaking important accountability stories. His piece on how Nevada is losing millions in federal funding because it doesn't spend as much time and

resources on grant writing was solid. His exploration of how Nevada's electric retail proposal went down in flames was a timely and informative piece of political reporting. But I really like his fact check on the claim that electric retail will lower Nevada's rates. It's nuanced, and backed by data—or at least the available data. It's an example of how every journalist should go about fact-checking a claim.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Las Vegas Review-Journal

Stories related to the October 1st mass shooting, helping the community heal

2 Siobhan McAndrew, Marcella Corona, Anjeanette Damon, Ben Spillman, Sam Gross—Reno Gazette Journal

Quadruple murder in Reno and Douglas County

■ Michael Lyle—Nevada Current $Coverage\ of\ homelessness\ in\ southern\ Nevada$

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

(Urban Dailies, Urban Weeklies)



2 Brian Duggan, Sam Gross, Reno Gazette Journal

Reno police records most expensive in state

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING-PRINT



Rachel Crosby, Briana Erickson-Las Vegas Review-Journal

Holding their position: Video shows officers a floor below shooter

Judge's Comment:

The reporters put the reader right into the action. Excellent use of outside sources to put the officers' and guards' conduct into context. The sidebar was also a compelling read.

2 Henry Brean, Rachel Crosby, Carri Geer-Las Vegas Review-Journal

Final police report on Las Vegas shooting unable to $determine\ motive$

Judge's Comment:

Excellent summary of a complex issue. The reader is left with no questions as to the length investigators went attempting to determine the shooter's motives.

3 Henry Brean, Rob Johnson−*Las Vegas* Review-Journal

Dennis Hof, deceased brothel owner, wins Nevada Assembly race

Judge's Comment:

Henry Brean's lede was as good as it gets and the story only got better from there. His story, which included history and context, was easily digestible even for readers who probably don't care for politics.

FEATURE WRITING



Siobhan McAndrew— Reno Gazette Journal

Sparks High grad Davi'Ana Kirkland

Judge's Comment:

In a very competitive category, this was the story that drove me to Google to see if there was a follow up! Great topic selection. Well written. Solid organization. Compelling details.

2 April Corbin—Nevada Current

When the economy and families fail to provide, $schools\ have\ to\ step\ in$

Judge's Comment:

Solid journalism; relies on the organization of facts to drive the story forward. Thoughtfully selected quotes add depth and detail. Ethos, pathos and logos are all intelligently and intentionally deployed.

■ Henry Brean—Las Vegas Review-Journal

Peregrine falcons soaring again at Lake Mead

Judge's Comment:

I must give a nod to Henry Brean for this exquisitely concise piece. While it does not have as much depth as some of the other longer stories that I rated as highly, it is still a very satisfying package with vivid imagery. The ability to be concise without sacrificing quality is an elusive gift. Well done!

EDITORIAL PAGE



Las Vegas Review-Journal

Las Vegas Sun

NON-STAFF STORY



John Glionna-

Las Vegas Review-Journal Rural Nevada football team scores on the

field of life

Judge's Comment:

A moving story that would make a great movie. It provides extraordinary context into the struggles of a community and the people championing the student players there. Go Bulldogs!

2 John Glionna-

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Alex Honnold, rock climber of El Capitan fame

Judge's Comment:

This feature focuses on famous "Free Solo" climber Alex Honnold and the rock-climbing world in which he operates. I thought the subheads detracted from the narrative and without them I wasn't entirely sold on the organizational structure -- the lede didn't feel as though it had lasting resonance or importance in the piece. But the writing is superb and the subject is interesting.

3 John Glionna-

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Prospectors search for denim gold

Judge's Comment:

I was drawn into this story in large part because I knew nothing about the world it describes. Glionna captures his subjects and the topic in exquisite detail. I did find myself wanting more of a nutgraf and context about what denim prospecting might signify on a larger level and why it was a thing. Why? But this featured some great writing.

BUSINESS SPOT NEWS



Riley Snyder, Daniel Rothberg-Nevada Independent

 $NV Energy \ plans \ ambitious \ renewable$ energy ramp up—but only if Question 3 doesn't pass

Judge's Comment:

Great story about the push and pull between energy companies and renewable energy as it ties in with deregulation. Story did a good job of including facts and figures about the impact it would have if NV Energy went through with its solar expansion. This story seemed to break news, which is where you want

2 Richard N. Velotta—Las Vegas Review-

 $Nevada\ Gaming\ Commission\ fines\ Wynn\ Resorts$ record \$20M

Judge's Comment:

Coverage of the Wynn sexual harassment fine that focused on its implications for both his company and the gaming industry.

■ Miranda Willson—Las Vegas Sun

Controversial medical waste company proposes incinerator in North Las Vegas

Judge's Comment:

A well-researched and reported story about the move of a medical waste facility. Story not only focused on the impact locally, but also talked with sources where the original plant was located.

BUSINESS FEATURE



Jenny Kane—Reno Gazette Journal

Are Nevada's small desert towns ready for Burning Man's population to hit 100,000?

Judge's Comment:

A great look at the trials and tribulations of a local town and its businesses when one of the biggest arts festivals in the U.S. rolls into town. Covered not just the local impact, but took a broader view to see who was making money and who wasn't as a result of the massive influx.

2 Eli Segall—Las Vegas Review-Journal

Las Vegas home prices not enough to make Kingman a commuter town

Judge's Comment:

A deep dive into the hubris of promoting Kingman as a home from which to commute to Las Vegas in the run-up to the Great Recession. Consulted sources on all sides of the issue and had plenty of data to show readers what happened.

3 Daniel Rothberg, Riley Snyder, Jackie Valley—Nevada Independent

'Now the rent comes due': Valley Electric board faces backlash after rate increase, office raid, arrest of CEO

Judge's Comment:

Deeply reported look at the ouster of an electric co-op CEO facing a sexual harassment allegation, the arrest on embezzlement charges of the CEO who replaced him, and how those scandals may have led to a rate increase for the co-op's customers.

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM



Jackie Valley—Nevada Independent Stars and Struggles

Judge's Comment:

An extraordinary series that goes deep into the challenges facing Sunrise Acres Elementary School. A terrific work of reporting that reveals how perverse incentives and other funding challenges make it so hard for teachers to do their jobs. Great stuff.

■ Henry Brean, Michael Quine, Mike Brunker—Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Water Question

Judge's Comment:

Solid in-depth work creating a vital bit of historic context to help readers understand why Nevada faces such a water crisis--as well as the limited options at hand today. A fabulous community resource that is broken down into easy-to-digest chapters, making it easy for the average reader to understand a complex and vital topic.

Jason Hidalgo—Reno Gazette Journal

Housing crisis: Does Reno need to think like a big city?

Judge's Comment:

Terrific in-depth look at Reno's housing challenges, done with historical background and solid context.

INVESTIGATIVE STORY



Rachel Crosby—Las Vegas Review-Journal

Radio troubles hampered Las Vegas police on Oct. 1, RJ investigation finds

Judge's Comment:

Great deep-dive dig and a very important issue. Holding government accountable is a foundation of great investigative reporting and this certainly raised serious questions. Tremendous reporting!

2 Jamie Munks—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Valley of Fires

Judge's Comment:

Another very strong deep-dive investigative report that was worthy of first place and made the final decision very difficult. These reports kept digging and digging deeper and symbolize great instinct and great reporting.

Dana Gentry—Nevada Current

Death, practices and profits at rehabs

Judge's Comment:

Strong reporting on a topic that is too often ignored. Competition in this category was very strong—and not a significant difference between first and third. Congrats on reporting this important story and dedicating several stories and tremendous resources to the issue.

SPORTS SPOT NEWS



Adam Hill, Gilbert Manzano—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Post-fight craziness overshadows recordsetting UFC 229

Judge's Comment:

What puts this one over the top for me is the integration of the video clips and tweets in places that support the story rather than overwhelming the words. The story captures one of the oddest nights of sports in recent memory.

Michael Gehlken—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Raiders trade star DE Khalil Mack to Chicago Bears

Judge's Comment:

Punchy and doesn't overstay it's welcome. This story captures the sudden nature of the trade and balances the poor short-term outcome for the Raiders franchise with evidence that it may not be as bad of a deal by the time they arrive in Vegas. The tease of Amari Cooper at the end was prescient.

3 Mike Grimala—Las Vegas Sun

What can UNLV fans expect from T.J. Otzelberger?

Judge's Comment:

A good deep dive on the new hire—maybe a tad too deep but full of information that helps Rebels fans learn how their new hire will coach and recruit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE WINNERS!

OVERALL DESIGN



Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Nice use of large photos and putting cutout in banner.



2 John Taylor, Dave Mondt, Craig Peterson, Las Vegas Sun Design Staff—*Las Vegas Sun*

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING



 ${\bf Case\ Keefer} - Las\ Vegas\ Sun$

The toughest obstacles: Las Vegas Spartan racer beat brain-eating illness

Judge's Comment:

The subject of the story is undeniably compelling. The complete transparency about personal matters on the part of both the father and his son allow the reader to develop an emotional attachment to the story. The lead immediately brings you in, developing a central theme echoed throughout the rest of the story that wraps up well in the final few paragraphs. While it establishes the Spartan Races as a means of recovery, the story transcends sports and is a worthwhile read for anyone.

2 David Schoen—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Golden Knights goalie Marc-Andre Fleury fan favorite in Las Vegas

Judge's Comment:

The anecdotal lead provides a great example of the subject's character, a theme that is reprised on multiple occasions throughout the story. With the story covering different points in the past 18 years of Fleury's life, the reporter made the right choice to highlight both the highs and lows, never spending too much time on any one moment. The story makes Fleury's place in Las Vegas sports history clear.

ᢃ Ed Graney, Sam Gordon, Adam Hill−*Las* Vegas Review-Journal

 $Past,\,present\,haunt\,Dave\,Bliss\,at\,LV\,charter\,school$

Judge's Comment:

With a coach like Dave Bliss and his history before he arrived in the area, it was crucial to focus attention on the school's behavior. There were a lot of different angles that could have been covered in this story, given the variety of Bliss's previous infractions. The story is organized well given the number of different directions it could have taken, and it's well sourced, with comments from a variety of administrators, parents and the former coach. While Bliss's quote ignores his past at Baylor, the story could have added a little more detail about those events as some readers may not know or remember them after 16 years.

MULTIPLE-PHOTO ESSAY





Andy Barron— Reno Gazette Journal

Burning Man 2018

- **Benjamin Hager**—*Las* Vegas Review-Journal Black History Month
- \blacksquare Jeff Scheid—The Nevada Independent Election 2018

DIGITAL SPORTS STORYTELLING



Rachel Aston, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Desert Pines' Darnell Washington

2 Mark Anderson, Ron Kantowski, Ed ${\bf Graney-} Las\ Vegas\ Review\text{-} Journal$ Rebels in ruins

3 Jason Bean—Reno Gazette Journal Meet the youngest member of the Nevada baseball

HEADLINE WRITING

(Urban Dailies, Urban Weeklies)



Joe Hawk—Las Vegas Review-Journal "Better call, Saul?", "QB no go with toe woe", "Knights enter Stone age"

Judge's Comment:

Clever use of wordplay and pop culture references designed to draw readers in.

2 George Riggle—Las Vegas Review-Journal "All jam, no bread," "Lightning in a beetle," "Give 'em a Grinch ..."

Judge's Comment:

Tight headlines that capture the essence of a story in a

3 Gary Dymski—Las Vegas Review-Journal "Cold Lang Syne", "Short end of stick"; "Knights plod the fifth"

Judge's Comment:

Good, solid headlines that prep the reader for what's to come in the story.

LOCAL COLUMN



Mick Akers—Las Vegas Review-Journal

John Katsilometes— Las Vegas Review-Journal

III Richard N. Velotta− Las Vegas Review-Journal

NEWS FEATURE



Anita Hassan-Las Vegas Review-Journal The things they lost

2 Ricardo Torres-Cortez—

Las Vegas Sun

 $Do rothy\ Sargent,\ 84,\ was\ killed\ in\ 2005\ in\ Las\ Vegas.$ Her killer hasn't been found

Siobhan McAndrew—Reno Gazette Journal Sparks Middle School students reflect on horrific day

LOCAL NON-STAFF COLUMN



John L. Smith—Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

In this highly competitive category, Mr. Smith gets the win, thanks to his clear, breezy and empathetic writing style, coupled with effective use of personal anecdotes to illuminate timely news events.

Jane Ann Morrison—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

This is what I look for in a column — pointed but reasoned opinion, with an underpinning of reporting that helps readers understand back stories and consider the writer's opinion within that context. Highly informative and readable.

Dayvid Figler—Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

I struggled with this placement. Mr. Figler's pieces are exhaustively lengthy, and in that respect, difficult to view as pure "columns." And yet, his efforts to dig into important Nevada issues (and explain them with a largely readable style) merits consideration.

SPORTS COLUMN



Ron Kantowski-Las Vegas Review-Journal

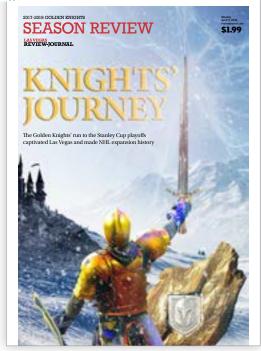
2 Case Keefer—Las Vegas Sun

3 Ray Brewer—*Las Vegas Sun*

GRAPHIC DESIGN



Wes Rand, Severiano del Castillo Galvan—Las Vegas Review-Journal



John Hornberg-Las Vegas Review-Journal

3 LeeAnn Elias— Las Vegas Review-Journal

SPECIAL SECTION-EDITORIAL



Las Vegas Review-Journal

Indelibly Inked

Judge's Comment:

There are a lot of ways to cover the anniversary of a tragedy, but the Review-Journal's decision to anchor the Route 91 anniversary coverage with a visually striking and thought provoking spread of people's tattoos commemorating the event shows true vision. The photo and design team did an excellent job throughout, and I especially liked the 91 points of light piece. Also really appreciated that the paper kept the special section free of ads, save the classy house ad on the back.

2 Las Vegas Review-Journal

Knight's Journey

EDITORIAL WRITING

 $(Urban\ Dailies,\ Urban\ Weeklies)$ *



Ric Anderson, Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

The Las Vegas Sun emerged as the winner from a very competitive field of editorial writing entries covering very relevant topics. The editorial on gun reform didn't shy away from a politically incendiary topic with clear, ecise writing while avoiding any hand wringing that often accompanies editorials on this subject (the fact that the paper got its endorsement for governor right was an added bonus). The editorial on dumping of nuclear waste was extremely important to the community considering, as the paper pointed out, the hearing on the subject seemed to be timed to attract as few attendees as possible. Clear and to the point.

SPORTS PHOTO





Erik Verduzco—Las Vegas Review-Journal The Ultimate Fighter 27

Judge's Comment:

The blood sealed the deal on this one. It has everything and shooting fast enough to separate the blood and sweat drops was perfect.

2 Benjamin Hager—Las Vegas Review-Journal Knights Unfamiliar Territory

I Steve Marcus—Las Vegas Sun UNLV Runnin' Rebels vs Wyoming

DIGITAL BREAKING NEWS

Ricardo Torres-Cortez-Las Vegas Sun

 ${\it Girl,\,11,\,killed\,in\,wrong-house\,gang}$ $shooting\ remembered\ for\ being\ friendly,\ peaceful$

Judge's Comment:

The author helps us not only feel the family's pain at the loss of their 11-year-old, but he shows us how much that family loves her. It's not just news; it's about people who care. This reporter clearly cares about people. The still image of the family crying brings tears to the eyes.

2 Adam Hill—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Khabib Nurmagomedov beats Conor McGregor at UFC 229; chaos ensues

Judge's Comment:

Excellent video and still images support the story, which also is outstanding. The reporting is descriptive without bias. I found myself interested in the story as well as how well it was written even though I'm not a fan of boxing,

■ Michael Quine—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Winter storm blankets west side of Las Vegas Valley

Judge's Comment:

Tells me everything, yet no words were spoken. Author was thinking outside the proverbial box.

DIGITAL INNOVATION



CJ Keeney, Peter Vogt- $Nevada\ Independent$

Election 2020 Presidential Candidate

Judge's Comment:

This map is an easy way to let constituents know when presidential candidates will be visiting at the state level. The level of detail and planning for this feature shows how dedicated the Independent is to informing the community about such a significant election.

Lauren Flannery—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

HTML Bakery

Judge's Comment:

This tool provides a seamless way to upload and connect information to the RJ website. These multimedia platforms have become essential to newsrooms across the country.

■ Michael Quine—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Winter storm blankets west side of Las Vegas Valley

Judge's Comment:

Aerial footage via drones is an excellent way for news organizations to create video content. Drone technology should be under consideration in every newsroom. It's one way to easily close the technology gap with TV stations and their helicopters.

Cowboys



Tracker

I especially liked the large fonts used in the headlines as well as the large photo for the lead story. Very nice.

2 John Taylor, Dave Mondt, Craig Peterson,

Las Vegas Sun Design Staff—Las Vegas Sun

Také Uda—Reno Gazette Journal

PAGE ONE DESIGN

Judge's Comment:

nice design!

LeeAnn Elias, Tony Morales, Nathan

Estep—Las Vegas Review-Journal

I love the use of the large graphics and photos on the

front page. It definitely stands out from the rest! Very

IN THE SUN: SECOND-CHANCE WORK PAYS OFF FOR H.S. SENIOR LAS VEGAS—SUN

Sides harden over wall

VĬĔW-JOUR

Judge's Comment:

Judge's Comment:

Very creative page design and the graphics are well thought out and well placed to get the reader to pick the paper up. Very interesting!

DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT OR FEATURE STORY



Al Mancini, Angus Kelly— Las Vegas Review-Journal

Iron Chef Morimoto demonstrates teppanyaki in Las Vegas

Judge's Comment:

Interesting story topic and well put together.

2 Jason Bean—Reno Gazette Journal Couple gets married at animal shelter

What a beautiful story told through video. It was nice that actual footage from the wedding was included.

Ben Gotz, Cassie Soto, Larry Mir, Angus Kelly, Nathan Asselin, Adam Hill—Las Vegas Review-Journal

Is the Knight right?

Judge's Comment:

What a fun and engaging video!

ILLUSTRATED PHOTO





Benjamin Hager—Las Vegas Review-Journal

Greg Romero—Hard Knocks

Benjamin Hager—*Las* Vegas Review-Journal Sean and John Scott

■ Bizu Tesfaye—*Las* Vegas Review-Journal $Lunar\, Eclipse\ multiple$ exposure

PLATFORM WRITING



Brett McGinness— Reno Gazette Journal

The Reno Memo

Judge's Comment:

A whirlwind tour of the news with just enough details, mixed with commentary boasting both wit and charm.

2 Anjeanette Damon—Reno Gazette Journal

Daybreak: What to know about massive housing project coming for Reno's last floodplain

Judge's Comment:

A lot of information on an important issue, crammed into a single, well-written blog post. This would be an easy recommendation for anyone who had questions on the matter.

■ Victor Joecks—Las Vegas Review-Journal The Right Take

Judge's Comment:

Solid scripts that give the facts with a dash of personality. Nice, bite-sized updates.

CRITICAL WRITING



Jason Bracelin-Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Talk about feeling like you were there. Jason Bracelin's attention to detail is as remarkable as his knowledge of his subject matter - from rap to crap, (and plenty of it, I'd guess). He has a gift for getting out of the way and letting the experience suck you in so you can make your own judgment. I've never been to a Janelle Monae concert - heck, I'd never heard of her before - but I bet I could get by with claiming I have after reading Bracelin's work. He's a pleasure to read, and I'd take a recommendation from him anytime.

Christopher Lawrence—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

If I ever make a bad movie, remind me to steer clear of Christopher Lawrence. His cutthroat, blunt assessments would seal the deal with most moviegoers. No doubt, his reviews are more entertaining than most of the movies he reviews. A favorite line: "Besides, when was the last time you saw a movie where someone got on a boat and something good happened?" Then there's this one, which had me rolling on the floor (and I'm NOT a roller): "... yet somehow manages to sneak up behind Amber despite the creak of the room's ancient wooden door and the clatter of her metal crutches." But Lawrence can deliver more than Mr. Blackwell-type one-liners. His work shows a love for great cinema and a solid understanding of what it should look like. The guy knows his stuff, and not just on the writing side. Forget the movies, I want more Christopher Lawrence.

3 Jason Hidalgo-

Reno Gazette Journal

Judge's Comment.

This writer broadens the horizons of everybody who takes the time to dig in—gamers or not. He touches on the look, feel and appeal of a game in a way that speaks to us all. He clearly knows the industry, the technology and how to play the games. What a great reminder that an honest review of games can't be left to social media.

NEWS PHOTO COVERAGE





Jason Bean-Reno Gazette Journal

Judge's Comment: Strong emotion.

2 Bizu Tesfaye—Las

Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Good use of reflection, background a little busy.

3 Erik Verduzco—*Las* Vegas Review-Journal

PORTRAIT



Benjamin Hager — Las Vegas Review-Journal The Angel of Route 66



Judge's Comment:

Has it all.

2 Kevin Cannon—Las Vegas Review-Journal Pearl Harbor Survivor

DIGITAL FEATURE



Benjamin Hager, Briana Erickson, Jason Bracelin, Rachel Aston, Lauren Flannery-

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Indelible Memories

2 Henry Brean, Lauren Flannery, Mike Brunker, LeeAnn Ellis, Michael Quine, Sev Galvan, Wes Rand-

Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Water Question

3 Joey Lovato, Riley Snyder, Michelle Rindels, Megan Messerly, Jackie Valley, **Daniel Rothberg**—Nevada Independent

 $Ballot\ question\ explainer\ video\ series$

VIDEO PROGRAM OR SERIES



Adam Hill, Ben Gotz, Nathan Asselin, Angus Kelly, Larry Mir—Las Vegas Review-Journal

Golden Edge Mailbag

Judge's Comment:

The hosts were hilarious and knew what they were talking about. Video and audio quality was excellent. The graphics used were well placed and well timed.

 ${\color{red} {\bf 2}} \ {\color{red} {\bf Michael Quine}} - {\color{red} {\it Las Vegas Review-Journal}} \\$

The Water Question

Judge's Comment:

Very informative along with great video and audio

Mike Grimala, Yasmina Chavez, Wade **Vandervort**— Las Vegas Sun

 $Take\ A\ Lap\ with\ Mike\ Grimala$

Judge's Comment:

Interesting concept, enjoyed the multiple camera angles.

ENTERTAINMENT WRITING



Christopher Lawrence— Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Imaginative story ideas, good eye for the ironic.

Jason Bracelin—

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

The "Believe" story was a great insight into being gay and Mormon. Good interviews.

3 Jenny Kane—Reno Gazette Journal

Judge's Comment:

A nose for quirky stories always helps in the crowded field of entertainment writing. Interesting angle on Burning Man; I always kind of wondered about that. Writing could be snappier.

INTERMEDIATE

GENERAL EXCELLENCE













Major work set for area highway

- Lahontan Valley News
- **I Elko Daily Free Press**

BUSINESS SPOT NEWS

(Intermediate, Community)*



Molly Moser—Lahontan Valley News Gabbs facility impacts Fallon jobs

Judge's Comment:

This is a solid story about a business with both local and nationwide impact.

☑ Jeffrey Meehan—Tonopah Times-Bonanza Scolari's transitions to Raley's

Judge's Comment:

Even if it is just a name change, when the only grocery store in town goes through something like this it's important to readers. Good job.

I Jeffrey Meehan−Pahrump Valley Times $Valley\ Electric\ Association\ turmoil$

Judge's Comment:

Outstanding effort, but still feel it is more a hard news story than a business spot news story.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

(Intermediate, Community)*



- 2 Kyler Klix—Nevada Appeal
- 3 Lauren Solinger—Nevada Appeal

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING-PRINT



Toni Milano, Suzanne Featherston, Cynthia Delaney–

Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:

Lamoille Canyon burns

This entry featured the best writing and story organization in the category, and its importance to the community is high due to the fire's "extensive damage to the region's most popular recreation area."

2 Steve Ranson, Stephanie Ranson— Lahonton Valley News

Fallon man charged with murder

Judge's Comment:

This article is thoroughly reported, answering all my questions by the end. But key information was buried beneath a routine lede — notably, that authorities believe the attack was on an individual, not the church. There were lost storytelling opportunities, too, as the drama of churchgoers covering up their kids while faced with the gunman was inserted deep in the story. Strength of reporting carries this entry.

3 Selwyn Harris, David Jacobs, Jeffrey Meehan—Pahrump Valley Times

Nevada brothel owner, Assembly candidate Dennis Hof dead at 72

Judge's Comment:

This story's dramatic details were of national interest – the self-proclaimed "Trump of Pahrump" brothel owner/candidate died just hours after celebrating his birthday and campaign with Sheriff Joe Arpaio and other characters, including Tucker Carlson phoning in during the party. The passive lede doesn't fully take advantage of the opportunities. Bravo to the sidebar for explaining that the dead man would remain on the ballot and what would happen if he won.

FEATURE WRITING



Selwyn Harris-Pahrump Valley Times

Pahrump fire victims speak about ordeal

Judge's Comment:

Great work! Speechless.

2 Anne Knowles—Nevada Appeal

Carson City's Martha Berger celebrates 100th birthday

Judge's Comment:

I feel like I know her personally after reading this piece. Nice work.

3 Jessica Garcia—Nevada Appeal $Carson\ architect\ designs\ healthier\ life-with\ help$

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM



Sex under scrutiny

2 Kurt Hildebrand—The Record-Courier $Tiregate\ Report$

Toni Milano—Elko Daily Free Press Order in the court

JOURNALIST OF MERIT

(Community, Intermediate)



Sam Toll—The Storey Teller

In February 2017, Sam Toll started the online news site The Storey Teller to cover the news in Storey County, home of Virginia City (aka The Richest Place On Earth). The county is also the site of one of the world's largest industrial parks, the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, which houses companies like Tesla, Google and Switch. Toll found himself at the center of national controversy in March 2019, when a Nevada District Court Judge deprived him of the protection of the Nevada Shield Law and ordered him to reveal his sources for an article he wrote. The ruling was appealed and is now before the Nevada Supreme Court.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Robin Hebrock— Pahrump Valley **Times**

Suicide prevention in rural Nevada

Judge's Comment:

Great series

2 Steve Ranson—Lahontan Valley News Remembering Nevada's fallen

Judge's Comment:

Good information for the Veterans community

3 Toni Milano—Elko Daily Free Press AAA Students of the Week

BUSINESS FEATURE



Suzanne Featherston— Elko Daily Free Press Hemp-it's not marijuana

Judge's Comment:

Great story with strong lead that keeps the reader's attention.

2 Molly Moser—Lahonton Valley News

Grouchy with style

Judge's Comment.

Could have punched up lead. Would have pushed it up to No. 1 spot.

Suzanne Featherston—*Elko Daily Free Press*

Exploring for gold

Judge's Comment:

Lots of good research. Was a very technical subject and was hard to follow at times. Some grammatical errors.

INVESTIGATIVE STORY

(Intermediate, Community)*



Heidi Bunch-

Mineral County Independent-News

Officials cracking down on residents living in recreational vehicles

2 Toni Milano—Elko Daily Free Press

Youth suicides on the rise

■ Heidi Bunch—Mineral County Independent-

Commissioners vote in favor of pursuing new $economic\ development\ options$

NEWS FEATURE



Tom Rysinski—Pahrump Valley Times Competitive, not cutthroat' pool league $thrives\ in\ Pahrump\ area$

Judge's Comment:

Great lede. Best line in the story -- "The players are armed, but seldom does anyone use their weapons on rivals. And smoking not only is permitted but, apparently, enforced."

2 Robin Hebrock—Pahrump Valley Times Honor Flight whisks Nevadans off to D.C.

Judge's Comment:

Nice story, in large part because the reporter allowed the participants to tell it.

I Selwyn Harris—Pahrump Valley Times

Nevada is home to a 'foreign' nation

Judge's Comment:

This made for an interesting read and I'm glad the reporter pursued the story despite the fact there was no guarantee the president would speak. Would like to have heard from some residents as to why they moved out of the U.S.

LOCAL COLUMN

(Intermediate, Community)*



David C. Henley-Lahontan Valley News

Judge's Comment:

David's columns eschew hard opinion and instead give readers great insight and information through his personal travels. Readers can form their own opinions based on those vivid experiences.

2 Barbara Ellestad—Mesquite Local News

Judge's Comment:

Barbara touches on the personal and political in her opinion writing. She is equally adept at telling a heartwarming tale of community or taking local politicians to task.

3 Andrew Barbano—Sparks Tribune

Judge's Comment:

Reading Andrew's columns is a heavy exercise because he forces readers to confront uncomfortable but important topics like rape and racism. He is also unafraid of shining a light on himself to illustrate a point.

NON-STAFF STORY



Tim Vaughan- $Humboldt \, Sun$ Star Broiler anniversary

Judge's Comment:

I was impressed by the writing and narrative in this piece, which mostly flowed well and definitely captured the mounting importance of this pivotal event in the town's history. Good job, as well, at capturing quotes and descriptions that bring the event to life. I thought the piece would have benefitted from fewer parenthetical remarks and attributions, which disrupted the narrative. Overall, a strong story.

2 Robin Flinchum—

Pahrump Valley Times

Amargosa Opera House

Judge's Comment:

This series does a solid job in profiling the artists coming to the Amargosa Opera House and providing illuminating context and description. Overall, the series would have benefitted from more variety with the ledes rather than relying primarily on the time peg. The Marta Becket piece was a nice break in format and creativity.

3 Georgia Chapin-Guzman—

Elko Daily Free Press

Archer aims at inspiration

Judge's Comment:

I was moved by learning about Robert Sandoz and the work he's done to become a distinguished archer. The piece also has some educational value in terms of explaining how archery can be modified in this way. Good job with obtaining characterizing quotes about Sandoz, but more description and direct quotation from him would have made this stronger, as would have more explanation of cerebral palsy, and his own struggles with the disease.

NEWS PHOTO COVERAGE

(Intermediate, Community)*





Horace Langiora Jr.—Panrump Valley Times

Powwow celebrates history, culture in Pahrump

☑ Jim Grant—Nevada Appeal Carson City fire

3 Jeff Mulvihill—Nevada Appeal

CHS graduation

PAGE ONE DESIGN



- 2 Kyler Klix—Lahonton Valley News
- 3 Elko Daily Free Press

SPORTS SPOT NEWS



Tom Rysinski-Pahrump Valley Times

Pahrump Valley girls claim regional soccer

crown

2 Anthony Mori-

Elko Daily Free Press

Christmas ropers

3 Tom Rysinski−Pahrump Valley Times

Pahrump Valley ends boys' soccer playoff drought at 10 years

ENTERTAINMENT WRITING

(Intermediate, Community)*



Ben Rowley—Lincoln County Record

Judge's Comment:

Well organized and just-long enough stories on interesting local events. Need better ledes to draw folks

Z Kyler Klix—Nevada Appeal

Judge's Comment:

This series of interviews with visiting musicians, I'm sure, helped folks figure out which concerts to attend. Better ledes would have improved them.

Inda Faas—Mesquite Local News

Judge's Comment:

Good local reporting on local events. Ledes were buried in every story and they could have been improved with more interviews.

LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN

(Intermediate, Community)*



Tom Rysinski-Pahrump Valley Times

I Tom Rysinski—Tonopah Times-Bonanza

OVERALL DESIGN

(Intermediate, Community)*



Boulder City Review

Judge's Comment:
Nice use of color photos.



- 2 Pahrump Valley Times
- **■** Tonopah Times-Bonanza

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING



Steve Ranson—Lahonton Valley News The bonds between them

Judge's Comment:

Plenty of voices that are well used in this story and some quality writing pulling them together.

2 Thomas Ranson—

 $Lahonton\ Valley\ News$

Fallon's Mauga to star alongside The Rock

Judge's Comment:

An interesting story that does a good job winding the reader through changes in the athlete's life and career path.

3 Tom Rysinski—Pahrump Valley Times

Meet Beatty High School's cross country team: Jose Granados

Judge's Comment:

Good job finding this story and painting the picture of a one-man team

EDITORIAL WRITING



Steve Ranson—Lahonton Valley News

Judge's Comment:

Competition in this category was very tight. Overall, the Lahontan Valley News editorials were clearly focused and had the best transition between ideas; the paper's stance on proposals for Interstate 11 was well researched and its solutions for lane-clogging motorists were laden with common sense—liked the tortoise and hare reference.

DIGITAL SPORTS STORYTELLING



Tom Rysinski, Pahrump Valley Times Sports notebooks

2 Tom Rysinski—Pahrump Valley Times Wake up with Pahrump Valley football players

EDITORIAL PAGE

(Intermediate, Community)*



Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:

Strong, conversational editorials on interesting topics are what make this paper a winner. They know their state and community, and how one affects the other. This community is fortunate to have this Opinion page. Thomas Mitchell is a strong writer and knows his stuff; he shows up in a lot of Nevada papers, which is interesting (and maybe a bit concerning). National columnists should be ID'd as such: Until I looked it up, I had no idea who Jim Mullen and Kathryn Jean Lopez were. Would much rather see local in those spots, though a bit of a national voice can be important. I wish there were more letters, or perhaps online comments to inject more of a town-square feel.

2 Boulder City Review

Judge's Comment:

It's clear that the writers in Boulder City know the issues and, better yet, the people in their community. It's a pleasure to read a paper that knows its words can make the community better and uses them for good. I like the variety of voices and the letters — amen for letters! One minor request: Taglines for every writer, every time. I want to know the authority and expertise behind the words.

3 Mesquite Local News

Judge's Comment:

If I were a bad guy, I wouldn't want Barbara Ellestad writing about me. She's an important voice in Mesquite. She understands the issues and isn't afraid to call people out, but with fairness and professionalism. Every community needs a Barbara Ellestad. Thomas Mitchell gets way too much ink — makes me nervous, though I understand his knowledge and passion run deep. I miss letters, and hope they are included as often as possible. In place of those, what about online comments? I missed community input. Also, there's nothing on earth that can't be edited down a few lines — I'd do this to avoid short jumps. Overall, good work, Mesquite!

HEADLINE WRITING

(Intermediate, Community)



Charles Whisnand—Nevada Appeal

"A 'Nate'-Ional Title", Cole Energy", "Eric The Great (Worrier)"

Judge's Comment:

Headlines were all fun and fit the stories and their tone.

2 Hali Bernstein Saylor—Boulder City Review

"Access to Lake Mead's water gets deep", "Snow place like home", "Swimmers buoyed by title prospects"

Judge's Comment:

Lake Mead hed was intriguing and the others were good.

3 Hali Bernstein Saylor—Boulder City Review

"City's cold war has chilling effect", "Fire drums up support for local legend", "Support for off-road vehicles doesn't trail off"

Judge's Comment:

Cold war hed met criteria; other two did not have the same impact, but were good

LOCAL NON-STAFF COLUMN

(Intermediate, Community)*



Lauryne Wright—Mason Valley News

Judge's Comment:

Loved the insight and writing style. Great work, even on the headlines!

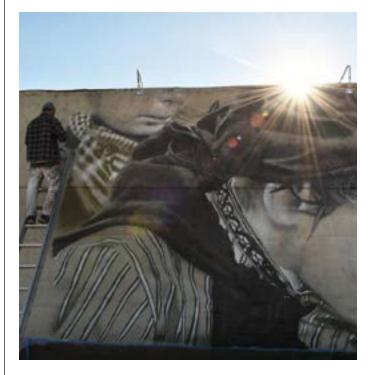
Tim Burke—Pahrump Valley Times

Judge's Comment:

Nice analysis and look at the issues.

Quest Lakes—Mason Valley News / Fernley Leader Courier

FEATURE PHOTO





Cynthia Delaney—*Elko Daily Free Press*

 $Mural\ painter$

Judge's Comment:

High-impact photo of the artist working on his mural. The sun flare adds an extra creative element. Good composition.

2 Adam Trumble—Nevada Appeal

 $Concert\ under\ the\ stars$

Judge's Comment:

Great band photo, good use of depth-of-field to draw the viewer into the performers. Excellent color and image clarity.

lacksquare Adam Trumble— $Nevada\,Appeal$

 $Nevada\ Day\ rock\ drilling$

Judge's Comment:

Photo portrays the man's focus and concentration on the job he's doing. Very good composition, the water splashes add to the image, as does the choice of depth-of-field. Great clarity.

PORTRAIT



Suzanne Featherston— Elko Daily Free Press Robert Rugne

Judge's Comment:

This image captures the essence of the subject. The exposure, depth-of-field and subtle editing contribute to its impact. Beautiful lighting.

2 Toni Milano—Elko Daily Free Press

Cowgirl performs

Judge's Comment:

This portrait captures the subject's personality well and the composition is excellent. There is some blurring on her right arm and the image looks a little over sharpened. But overall, a very nice image. Great expression on the performer.

3 Steve Ranson—*Lahonton Valley News*

NVC conducts military service

Judge's Comment:

Photo illustrates well the solemnity of the event and the range of emotions experienced by those in attendance.

SPORTS PHOTO





Ron Harpin—The Record-Courier Diving stop

Thomas Ranson—Lahonton Valley News ${\it Trio\ of\ girls}$

3 Adam Trumble—Nevada Appeal Too fast

PLATFORM WRITING

(Intermediate, Community)*



David Toll—NevadaGram Comstock Mining Update

Judge's Comment:

Mining, court cases, contracts, boring-but-important meetings - you name it, it's covered here with expertise and a bit of humor. Refreshing to read, because I'd likely never get through this type of material without the author's unconventional approach. A value to the community.

SPECIAL SECTION-EDITORIAL

(Intermediate, Community)*



Pahrump Valley Times

Progress Edition 2018

Suzanne Featherston, Cynthia Delaney, Toni Milano—Elko Daily Free Press

Cowboy Gathering Magic

3 Samantha Andersen, Jen Anderson, Joe Plummer, Rhonda Coleman, Ashley Maden, ${\bf Shanna \, Cummings} - {\it Humboldt \, Sun}$

Health and Wellness

DIGITAL BUSINESS NEWS

(Intermediate, Community)*



Jeffrey Meehan—Pahrump Valley **Times**

Spring Mountain gets green flag on Pahrump expansion

Judge's Comment:

The story included detailed reporting that's expected from a community-focused newspaper, giving all the pertinent details to area residents about the issues surrounding the racetrack expansion. The storytelling format video included a good mix of photos.

2 Jeffrey Meehan—Pahrump Valley Times

Survivalist featured on reality TV series partners on Pahrump retail shop

Judge's Comment:

Certainly a well-detailed story about two men opening a survivalist-focused retail store. Good quality photos but at nine minutes, the video could have been significantly shortened to keep more readers engaged.

3 Selwyn Harris−Pahrump Valley Times

 $Castle for \ sale \ in \ rural \ Nevada$

Judge's Comment:

The story-telling format of the video was relatively easy to follow; the lack of photo variety was a distraction.

DIGITAL BREAKING NEWS



Selwyn Harris, David Jacobs, Jeffrey Meehan—Pahrump Valley Times

Nevada brothel owner Dennis Hof has died

Judae's Comment:

Entry includes video that explains what has happened, as well as still photographs and social media posting. Nice coverage of breaking news.

Cynthia Delaney, Suzanne Featherston— Elko Daily Free Press

President Trump rallies Elko voters

Judge's Comment:

Would have liked to see video of Trump's supporters. Story nicely written.

3 Jeff Mullins—Elko Daily Free Press

Fire burns higher into Ruby Mountains

Judge's Comment:

Nice overall coverage of fire. Would have also liked video either interviewing someone or narrating what is going on. But nice job.

MULTIPLE-PHOTO ESSAY





Thomas Ranson—Lahonton Valley

 $State\ championship\ basketball$

Judge's Comment:

The state championship photos were crisp and told the story of every element of the game.

2 Adam Trumble—Nevada Appeal

Nevada Day

Judge's Comment:

Made me feel like I was at the event. It looked like a blast. So many local faces...

3 Toni Milano—Elko Daily Free Press

 $Cowboy\ poetry\ gathering$

Judge's Comment:

Cowboy poetry and shooting with stage lighting can be challenging. Some amazing expressions were captured.

DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT OR FEATURE STORYTELLING



Selwyn Harris— Pahrump Valley Times

Nevada is home to a 'foreign' nation

Judge's Comment:

Molossia! I want the t-shirt! Fun and interesting story. And I'm glad this guy doesn't take himself too seriously. Enjoyed the slideshow and description — a cool alternative. Would have liked to have seen him on video talking; I would imagine he's a character.

2 Adam Trumble—Nevada Appeal

Nevada Day

Judge's Comment:

This is how parade photos should be taken! I love the emotion, detail, framing and variety. Great work -- a model. I also enjoyed the video from the run. Good work.

I Jeffrey Meehan−Pahrump Valley Times Halloween brings haunted houses and other events

Judge's Comment:

Thanks for understanding that when you write about a haunted house people want a peek inside. You gave us that. (People with clown-a-phobia shouldn't click on the video...)

COMMUNITY

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



2 Mason Valley News

3 Sparks Tribune

NEWS FEATURE



Selwyn Harris—*Tonopah Times-Bonanza*

 $Modernized\ 22 ext{-}room\ castle\ up\ for\ sale$

Judge's Comment:

Interesting "castle." I'm sure readers enjoyed getting inside a place that must stand out in the community.

2 Debra Reid—Lovelock Review-Miner

 $Burning\,Man\,threatens\,lawsuit$

Judge's Comment:

Good reporting effort.

Peggy Jones—Lovelock Review-Miner Inmate artist paints courtroom ceiling

Judge's Comment:

The story was well written, but it would have scored much better had the reporter talked to the inmate, or at least indicated in the story that she had made the effort to contact Shorty.

NON-STAFF STORY



Sean Pitts—The Ely Times 150th White Pine Co. Anniversary

Judge's Comment:

Very local topic with a lot of interest. Would have appreciated putting the author into context so I trusted the source more. Good knowledge of subject.

Daria Sokolova—

Tonopah Times-Bonanza

Beatty gold mining

Judge's Comment:

Clean writing style. Interesting topic, but would have appreciated a little more context to understand why this topic is important – i.e., What's the proposed economic impact? What was the historic economic impact of mining in the area?

3 Mike Henle-

Lincoln County Record

California man captures overall, Class 10 titles in Knotty Pine 250

Judge's Comment:

Clean writing interspersed with clever vocabulary and turn of phrase. Wish I knew more about this particular race, however. As a reader, it would help to understand its importance to the community and why it was started.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING



Tom Rysinski—Tonopah Times-Bonanza

Souza's rodeo returning to Tonopah

Judge's Comment.

A solid community interest story with somewhat wider appeal than other entries in this category.

Tom Rysinski—

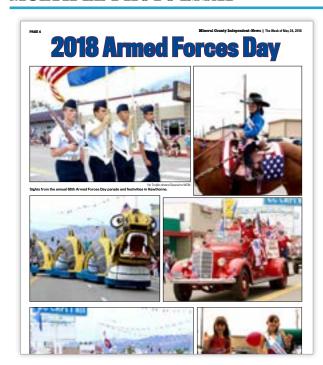
Tonopah Times-Bonanza

New fields a happy sight

Judge's Comment:

Another solid community interest story with relevance to a larger readership because of the new field's potential uses.

MULTIPLE-PHOTO ESSAY





Vic Trujillo, Eric Dahlberg—*Mineral County Independent-News*

Armed Forces Day 2018

Judge's Comment:

So much variety and so many faces. Amazing job of capturing the day.

2 John Byrne, Eric Dahlberg—Sparks Tribune Class of 2018

Judae's Comment:

Loved the emotion in the photos.

Shari Gilson—The Ely Times

Snake Valley

Judge's Comment:

Some really great action shots. Would have loved to see this submitted as a PDF.

SPORTS SPOT NEWS



final

Tom Rysinski—

 $Tonopah\ Times ext{-}Bonanza$

 $Muckers\ rout\ Vandals,\ earn\ spot\ in\ state$

Judge's Comment:

Classic game story. Contrasting the number of points the opponent allowed during the regular season with how many it allowed in the playoff game made for a good lede. Interviews with two players in addition to the coach added useful extra perspectives. Impressive amount of detail about the game, including a change in defensive formation and a key downfield block -- matters that a news reporter who doesn't know football would miss.

Tom Rysinski—

Tonopah Times-Bonanza

Muckers finish regular season undefeated

Judge's Comment:

Good lede. More interviews would have improved the story, but perhaps the reporter wasn't able to travel.

■ Tom Rysinski—Tonopah Times-Bonanza

Muckers defend region wrestling team championship

Judge's Comment:

Straight news lede works fine. As with Rysinki's other entries, the copy is clean and easy to read. The story includes more than what you'd find in a box score.

BUSINESS FEATURE



Dave Maxwell—Lincoln County
Record

Owners of shuttered theater hope to re-open it someday

Judge's Comment:

Interesting tale of a prevalent situation in small-town America, with a historic building sitting empty while its owners try to resurrect it. Very relevant to local readers. Only suggestion would have been to interview the owner of the building adjacent to the theater to find out why he won't sell that small parcel of land on which the theater owners would expand to build the bathrooms that would allow it to open.

☑ Jeffrey Meehan—Tonopah Times-Bonanza

Historic Belvada project set for spring completion

Judge's Comment:

Interesting details about the history of the building being restored; in a small community, this story is very relevant to local businesses with new retail space potentially opening up. The main detail that was missing is what is being spent on the renovations and what is the current value of that building.

Sayla Anderson—Sparks Tribune

Grand opening held for large cannabis factory in Sparks

Judge's Comment:

Well-structured story with some colorful quotes and descriptions of the inside of a cannabis facility. Would have scored higher with more details such as the address of the facility, the cost to build or renovate the factory, number of employees, etc.

NOTE

* Indicates circulation divisions were combined to ensure competition in a particular category.

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING-



David Jacobs-

Tonopah Times-Bonanza Wildfires burn in Nye County, region

- 2 Barbara Ellestad—Mesquite Local News Restraining order denied, Hospital OB unit closes
- **3 Dave Maxwell**−*Lincoln County Record* Body of California man found in Cave Valley

PAGE ONE DESIGN



Jessica Beaudoin-Tonopah Times-Bonanza



- 2 Pam Killinsworth, Hali Bernstein Saylor— Boulder City Review
- **In Example 2** Eric Dahlberg—Mineral County *Independent-News*

ILLUSTRATED PHOTO





John Byrne—Sparks Tribune Smoky Skies

FEATURE PHOTO





Jason Bath—The Ely Times Charcoal Ovens

Judge's Comment:

Photo captures historic interest of site.

2 John Byrne—Sparks Tribune Water Wings

Judge's Comment: Good quality photo.

3 Hali Bernstein Saylor−Boulder City Review

Spring along the Colorado River

Judge's Comment:

Takes you away to a quiet place.

FEATURE WRITING



Amy Alonzo—Mason Valley News Widows, friends, moms and roommates—a lifetime of raising a family together

Judge's Comment:

Loved the unique topic! But it was how the topic was handled that clinched the deal. Excellent feature writing. Bravo!

2 Celia Shortt Goodyear—Boulder City Review Doggone good job

Judge's Comment:

Always have wondered about the challenges of working with a law enforcement canine. Done in an appealing way with more than one source. Nice engaging writing.

■ Kayla Anderson—Sparks Tribune

Longtime Sparks mayor reflects as final term comes $to\ a\ close$

Judge's Comment:

Great exit interview. Loved the switch in style from narrative to question-and-answer. Kept it all flowing. Nice capture of the subject. Good feature writing.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

(Community, Intermediate)



Thomas Mitchell - The Ely Times

2 Sam Toll, The Storey Teller Online journalists are real journalists

SPORTS PHOTO





John Byrne— Sparks Tribune Wolf Pack sentpacking early

John Byrne— Sparks Tribune Seeing Double

Dave Maxwell The Ely Times Ladycats

PORTRAIT



Hali Bernstein Saylor-Boulder City Review Dale Ryan

Judge's Comment:

This image really shows the energy and enjoyment the subject experiences around building his holiday display. The image quality and editing are both excellent. Photo really draws the viewer in to the subject.



Celia Shortt Goodyear— Boulder City Review

Animal shelter care

Judge's Comment:

Excellent image of the two officers caring for the young pups and enjoying it. Their expressions show how much they are involved in their work and the puppies' faces are adorable. The people could have been centered more in the frame and cropped up a little, but overall a really good image in terms of storytelling.

3 Celia Shortt Goodyear—

Boulder City Review

 $Boulder\ City\ Police\ Officer\ Scott\ Pastore\ and\ Odie$

Judge's Comment:

Does an excellent job of telling a story, with the officer's expression looking down at his horse with the little hat. Image could have been sharper and lighter in editing.

URBAN WEEKLIES

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



Las Vegas Weekly

BUSINESS SPOT NEWS



Miranda Willson—Las Vegas Weekly The Fremont Street Experience canopy to get a high-tech upgrade

Judge's Comment:

Good clean copy

2 Kaleb M. Roedel—

Northern Nevada Business View

A greener Silver State

Judge's Comment:

Good package, but the decision to play music in the video rather than allowing us to hear the person being interviewed was unfortunate. Lede could have been stronger.

3 C. Moon Reed—Las Vegas Weekly

New crafts bar catches a trend, opens the creative side of Downtown Summerlin

CRITICAL WRITING

(Urban Weeklies, Magazines)*



Bob Grimm - Reno News & Review

Well researched and engaging pieces.
Grimm's tone is consistently intelligent yet familiar, no stodginess.

I Jessica Santina—Reno News ℰ Review

Judge's Comment:

A little too much "story" and not enough "review", but engaging.

SPECIAL SECTION-EDITORIAL



Las Vegas Weekly

Best-of Issue

Judge's Comment:

 $\hbox{\it Eye-popping photography and layout.}$

BUSINESS FEATURE



C. Moon Reed—Las Vegas Weekly Broadacres is the place to be

Judge's Comment.

I loved this story, which made me want to check this place out on my next trip to Las Vegas. This is proof that a story need not be too text heavy to be a success. It is chock full of useful tidbits, from specific advice on how to plan a visit to mouth-watering descriptions of food offerings and even instructions on how to eat some of the less-known options. Well done!

2 Dennis Myers—Reno News ℰ Review

Secret plans

Judge's Comment:

Solid investigation that tries hard to pull the veil off a developer's secret plans for Reno. It suffers a bit from an unnecessary anonymous quote played prominently in the story and a too-long historical section on Reno motels that may have worked better as a sidebar. But excellent, dogged work trying to get to the bottom of an important local mystery.

3 Matt Bieker—Reno News ℰ Review

The 4th coming

Judge's Comment:

A nice balance between the profile of an up-and-coming brewery district and the challenge of dealing with a new homeless shelter right in the middle of it.

ENTERTAINMENT WRITING



C. Moon Reed—Las Vegas Weekly

Loved the guide for locals hosting tourists! Great ledes, snappy style keeps all the stories moving.

2 Brock Radke—Las Vegas Weekly

Judge's Comment:

Impressive insider knowledge. Maybe a bit too insidery.

3 Geoff Carter—Las Vegas Weekly

Judge's Comment:

Solid stories, good accessible style. I was actually intrigued enough to do the "homework" of clicking through to the photography portfolio.

DIGITAL NEWS FEATURE STORYTELLING

 $(Urban\ Weeklies, Intermediate)*$



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Kaleb M. Roedel} - Northern \ Nevada \\ Business \ View \end{tabular}$

Reno Ski Simulator

Z Kaleb M. Roedel—Northern Nevada Business View

A look inside Zeppelin, the 21-and-up social gathering space set to open at The LOOP in Reno's South Meadows

3 Suzanne Featherston—Elko Daily Free Press Candidates cover top issues

OVERALL DESIGN



Elizabeth Brown, Corlene Byrd, Ian Racoma, Las Vegas Weekly Art Staff—*Las Vegas Weekly*

Judge's Comment:

Nice. Professionally done.



2 Lauren Solinger, Kyler Klix— Northern Nevada Business View

3 Reno News & Review

FEATURE PHOTO





Miranda Alam—Las Vegas Weekly Punk Rock Bowling

Judge's Comment:

Very engaging. Vivid image and technically excellent.

Yasmina Chavez—Las Vegas Weekly The Nevada Ballet Theatre performs "Until December"

Judge's Comment:

Excellent job under what I have experienced as very difficult shooting conditions.

3 Miranda Alam—Las Vegas Weekly

Salem Night

Judge's Comment:

Viewer can feel the event. Excellent image.

MAGAYANIS

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



2 Nevada Magazine

3 edible Reno-Tahoe

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM



Erin Ryan—Desert Companion You Are the Cure

Judge's Comment:

Put a very technical subject into easy-to-understand form, and introduced human voices that made the data come to life. It somehow was moving even though it was also highly scientific.

2 Richard Gubbe—elevate Nevada

The Essence of Terpenes

Judge's Comment:

Took a modern issue and brought a relatively unknown element that is both interesting and presented in an entertaining way.

I Julie Brown—*Tahoe Quarterly*

A Clean Path to the Future

Judge's Comment:

Really dove deep into an issue that everybody talks about as being easy to solve, and explains with great local details why it's not so simple.

NON-STAFF STORY



Barbara Twitchell—edible Reno-Tahoe The Future of Food, Summer '18

Amazing level of reporting and research. The reporter did an excellent job of making a complicated topic accessible, interesting and easy to read.

2 Shaun Astor—Nevada Magazine The Man Howard Hughes Left Behind

Judge's Comment:

Great story. I still don't know whether I think the will is real, but I enjoyed the tale.

3 Sally Denton−Desert Companion

'A Presidentess Among Us'

Judge's Comment:

Excellent story about the life of an amazing woman. It makes you wonder how much more she could have accomplished if she hadn't been constrained by the societal rules of her time.

ENTERTAINMENT WRITING



Mike Weatherford-Desert Companion

Judae's Comment:

Thorough, engaging, behind-the-scenes reporting that took a lot of legwork. Completely different from anything else submitted for this category.

2 Megg Mueller—Nevada Magazine

Judge's Comment:

I enjoyed Mueller's eye for the quirky and the out-ofthe-way, especially the camel-riding piece.

3 Al Mancini—Luxury Las Vegas

Judge's Comment:

There was lots of good food writing in this category. The trend-spotting nature of these pieces elevated them above the others, just slightly, and I finally learned what a "sommelier" is.

FEATURE WRITING



Michael Rohm—Tahoe Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

Sometimes the right characters make the entire story. Michael found a couple of them here, and brought us along as they do something I had assumed nobody did anymore. Details like a can of Keystone bring the characters off the page.

David Bunker—*Tahoe Quarterly*

The Long Road To Lhotse

Judge's Comment:

A good story made better by active writing and powerful verbs. David let the narrative unfold on its own. Really enjoyed reading this.

■ Heidi Kyser—Desert Companion

Rescue + Reunion

Judge's Comment:

We've all read a lot of stories about that horrible night. Heidi found a new one—about not only how bystanders became first responders, but also how they processed that night. A good idea, done well.

INVESTIGATIVE



Carolyn Dufurrena, Zachary Gerber, Steven H. Rich, Theodora Johnson, Dan Dagget, Mary Branscomb-

Range Magazine

 $Wild fires: Count down \ to \ Destruction$

2 Carolyn Dufurrena—Range Magazine SPECIAL REPORT: "Give Me a Stone"

LOCAL COLUMN



C.J. Hadley—Range Magazine Up Front

2 Hank Vogler—Range Magazine Hang and Rattle

Beth Schwartz—elevate Nevada From the Editor

URBAN WEEKLIES _

SPORTS PHOTO



Wade Vandervort—Las Vegas Weekly Wolf Pack sent packing early

2 Wade Vandervort—Las Vegas Weekly $Ultra\ runner\ Heidi\ Dove$

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE



Las Vegas Weekly

MULTIPLE-PHOTO ESSAY



Yasmina Chavez—Las Vegas Weekly Psycho Festival in Las Vegas

Judge's Comment:

Just about every photo here would look wonderful blown up and running as the main image. Combined they tell a great story with sharp detail, solid composition and beautiful colors. This entry was all thriller, no filler.

2 Wade Vandervort—*Las Vegas Weekly* Behind the scenes—Vegas Golden Knights

Judge's Comment:

Some solid shots here with some nice moments that give readers a behind-the-scenes look at what's going on around the fringes of a match, rather than the usual snapshots of what's out on the ice.

3 Wade Vandervort—*Las Vegas Weekly*

Broadacres is the place to be

Judge's Comment:

Some nice moments, but could use more variety.

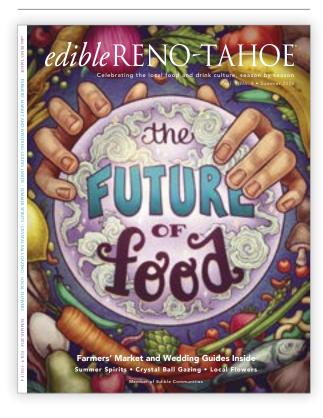
OVERALL DESIGN



Freeman Design Group edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

I loved the mix of drawings and photography.



2 Brooke Bertuzzi, Beth Schwartz elevate Nevada

Judge's Comment:

Hip and slick.

■ Wesley Gatbonton, Marvin Lucas, Jason Cabebe, Christopher DeVargas— Las Vegas Magazine

SPECIAL PROJECT



C.J. Hadley, John Bardwell— Range Magazine & Range Conservation Foundation

 $The \, Magnificent \, American \, West$

Judge's Comment:

Easy choice. The quality of the photos, the concept and execution make for a piece of journalism that could make a keepsake or a great gift.

2 C.J. Hadley, John Bardwell—

Range Magazine

 $2019\,Real\,Buckaroo\,Calendar$

Judge's Comment:

The photographs capture the beauty and spirit of the range. I especially loved the photo of the cowboy in the rain.

3 Carrie Roussel, Alex Olivares-Wenzel— Nevada Magazine

 $2019\, Historical\, Calendar$

Judge's Comment:

Captivating historic photos that transport and engulf viewers in the emotion of the moment. $\,$

PAGE ONE DESIGN



Christopher Smith—
Desert Companion

Judge's Comment.

It is obvious that there is much time and effort put into each and every cover of this magazine. The cover lines are designed to fit the theme or featured article of each issue, changing dramatically from one to the next. Each cover is enticing and energetic, making you want to pick it up.



2 Wesley Gatbonton, Josh Nelson, Jason Cabebe—Las Vegas Magazine

Judge's Comment:

The colors and visuals are prominent and eye-catching, making you stop and pulling you in. Each issue is unique and dynamic while still staying true to the brand.

3 Kippy Spilker—Nevada Magazine

$\it Judge$'s $\it Comment$:

The quality of the photos combined with the simple and clean layout makes this a very attractive product, and having the logo match the photo colors is a subtle touch that provides cohesion.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER



2 Tucker Monticelli, Design on Edge— Getaway Reno/Tahoe Magazine

3 Kate O'Hara—edible Reno Tahoe

OUTSTANDING VISUAL JOURNALIST



Tucker Monticelli, Design on Edge— Getaway Reno/Tahoe Magazine

Judge's Comment:

These pages made me want to see and read more. The layouts pulled me through with little effort and I liked the variety on display that fit each topic nicely.

ILLUSTRATED PHOTO

(Magazines, Urban Weeklies)*





2 Jeff Dow, Carrie Busha—Nevada Silver and Blue Recital Hall Under Construction

Miranda Alam—Las Vegas Weekly

MULTIPLE-PHOTO ESSAY







Mary Williams Hyde, Lee Juillerat— Range Magazine

A Buckaroo Heart

Judge's Comment:

The photos in this series were amazing. The action shots of horse and equestrian create a compelling work of visual storytelling.

2 Various Photographers—Nevada Magazine

Through the Lens: Lamoille Canyon

Judge's Comment:

The beauty of the stunning landscapes in these photos is supplemented by the news value of demonstrating how nature recovers from disaster.

Various Photographers—Nevada Magazine

2018 Cover to Cover series

Judge's Comment:

We come across so many photos that would make ideal spreads or covers, but due to a host of issues, can't be published. It was interesting the see the could-havebeens, giving readers an insight into the newsroom process and the minds of editors when choosing what cover to finally present to readers.

REGULAR DEPARTMENT



David Muench, Larry Turner, Jonne M. Goeller—Range Magazine

Empty Quarter

2 Ann Lindemann, Brett Fisher edible Reno-Tahoe

Chef's Table

Megg Mueller, Kippy Spilker, Kyle Young, Engrid Barnett—Nevada Magazine

Cravings

PORTRAIT

(Magazines, Urban Weeklies)*



Kippy Spilker-Nevada Magazine

Judge's Comment:

Beautiful image, composition, light striations in the water, color and clarity. The drone view really makes this image unique.



2 Candice Vivien—edible Reno-Tahoe

Nevada Legacy Ranchers, Brian Parks

Judge's Comment:

Strong, beautiful image, excellent use of light and form. Great lighting on the man's face. The green fringing is a little distracting and could have been removed in Photoshop RAW.

3 Larry Angier−*Range Magazine*

Cowboy

Judge's Comment:

Beautifully impactful image encapsulating the essence $\,$ of the cowboy, his horse and their work.

PROFILE/INTERVIEW



Shaun Astor— Nevada Magazine

 $Melvin\ Dummar$ - $The\ Man\ Howard\ Hughes$ Left Behind

Judge's Comment:

Really interesting story. Compelling narrative and storytelling. From the opening paragraphs I wanted to know how it ended.

2 Carolyn Dufurrena—Range Magazine

A Hundred Years Herding

Judge's Comment:

Interesting narrative and use of present tense adds immediacy to the storytelling style.

■ Megg Mueller—Nevada Magazine

 $Governor\, Brian\, Sandoval$

Judge's Comment:

Good profile of a political figure that avoids politics and focuses on the individual without devolving into hagiography.

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE



edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

This website had different categories of food topics. The use of video and reader-submitted recipes engages the public in a new way.

2 Las Vegas Magazine

Judge's Comment:

The Q&A section of the website allows readers to get to know people who work in the area. Las Vegas is full of entertainers and service workers and it is nice that there is a central location that features them.

3 elevate Nevada

FEATURE PHOTO





Cynthia Baldauf—Range Magazine

Brothers

Judge's Comment:

This definitely tells a story, as you can feel the emotion through the photograph. This will engage any reader.

2 Skye Clark—Range Magazine

All four feet off the ground

Judae's Comment:

This has obvious action and drama—ssential elements of a

3 Mark Hayward−Range Magazine

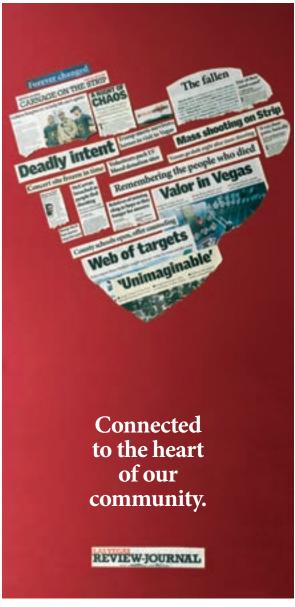
Judge's Comment:

In addition to its technical excellence, this photo raises a question: How does one capture such an image? Overall, well done.

ADVERTISINGAWARDS

Urban Dailies

PRINT AD





Elaine Anderson—

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Connected to the heart of our community

Jorge Betancourt—

Las Vegas Review-Journal Las Vegas Kitchen and Bath Remodeling

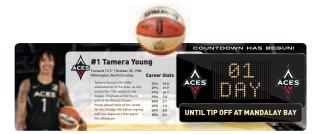
David Sly, Malachi Schlink—

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Pierce Wealth Management

AD SERIES



David Sly, Jorge Betancourt— Las Vegas Review-Journal Las Vegas Aces Tip Off



2 Henry Hernandez— Las Vegas Review-Journal Liquor World

NICHE MAGAZINE



Angie Gutting, David Sly, Angela Johnson, Oscar Crespin, Las Vegas Review-Journal Creative

Department—Las Vegas Review-Journal

New Homes Guide

Judge's Comment:

While judging this entry, I imagined myself as someone who's looking to buy a home in a specific neighborhood in Las Vegas, and this is exactly the kind of publication I would love to have in my hand. It's handy and it gives you a quick overview of each home. You can always follow up on a home and see more pictures online. It serves home buyers well.

2 David Sly, Dora Santiago, Angela Johnson, Malachi Schlink, Angie Gutting—Las Vegas Review-Journal

Highland Magazine

IN-HOUSE PROMOTION



David Sly, Jorge Betancourt— Las Vegas Review-Journal Decision 2018 Media Kit

Decision 2018 Media

Judge's Comment:

This sort of tell-a-ten-page-story-in-four-pages assignment is among the most challenging (and common) in marketing. Writer and designer did a good job of stuffing it all in in a logical, readable—and by leading with digital—strategic fashion.

2 Angie Gutting—Las Vegas Review-Journal Las Vegas New Homes Guide Media Kit

Judge's Comment:

While this piece breaks no new ground either in presentation or selling proposition, it does an effective job of building the case for the guide brick-by-brick. It was the right approach for a B2B piece like this.

SPECIAL SECTION ADVERTISING



Cathleen Allison, Teri Vance, Ched Whitney—Nevada Momentum

Carson City Visitors Guide - 2019 Arts and Culture Issue

Judge's Comment:

What I really like about this magazine is it contains real conversations about art and culture in Carson City. The layout is very pleasant, the articles are well written, and the magazine is quite informative about the arts and culture scene.

2 Cathleen Allison, Teri Vance, Ched Whitney—Nevada Momentum

Carson City Visitors Guide - 2018 Events & Outdoors issue

Judge's Comment:

I love this edition! If it had two more articles on the outdoors, it would have completely hooked my heart and won the competition.

■ Angie Gutting—Las Vegas Review-Journal 2018 Silver Nugget Awards Program

DIGITAL STATIC AD





Dany Haniff—Las Vegas Sun Las Vegas Sun High School Basketball Media Day—Super Seven

Judge's Comment:

Appealing graphics and colors, love the black and gold basketball. Ad is clean and message is clear what, when and where

Malachi Schlink, David Sly—

 $Las\ Vegas\ Review\text{-}Journal$

 ${\it DC}$ to ${\it LVDebra}$ ${\it Saunders Digital Campaign}$

Judge's Comment:

Clever logo, although I needed to read the explanation to understand what DC --> LV means, but that was directly underneath, so well done. Good call to action: "Sign up for free e-newsletter."

Dany Haniff—Las Vegas Sun

Las Vegas Sun High School Football Media Day

$\it Judge$'s $\it Comment$:

Clear theme with appealing graphics/colors. Date and time was a bit hard to find, and coaches/players info is probably too small for digital format.

ADVERTISING INNOVATION

 $(Urban\ Dailies,\ Intermediate)\ ^*$



David Sly, Angie Gutting— Las Vegas Review-Journal Ed Bozarth Holiday Card Coupons

2 Mike McGarvey—The Record Courier Green Living

■ Dolores Sarantes—Pahrump Valley Times
RV Superstore Insert

SPECIAL EVENT

(Urban Dailies, Urban Weeklies, Magazines)



Melissa McCabe, Wanda Blair— Las Vegas Review-Journal 2018 AgeWell Expo

2 Las Vegas Sun

Sun Standout Awards

Intermediate

BLACK & WHITE AD





Heather Ruth-Pahrump Valley Times Halloween Party

Judge's Comment:

Clean design. Nice use of artwork. Easy to read.

2 Heather Ruth—Pahrump Valley Times Golf Scramble

Judge's Comment:

Nice and clean design. Good use of artwork.

Dolores Sarantes—Pahrump Valley Times Feed Pahrump

Judge's Comment:

Good use of artwork. Images a bit too small.

SPECIAL SECTION OR **CAMPAIGN-ADVERTISING**

(Community, Intermediate)*



Shari Gilson, Teresa Stewart-The Ely Times

Visitors Guide

2 Heather Ruth, Dolores Sarantes— Tonopah Times Bonanza

 $Election\ 2018$

3 Nancy Streets, Lizz Todd, Kassidy Arbillaga, Susan Goddard-Elko Daily Free Press

Cowboy Poetry

NICHE MAGAZINE



Nancy Streets, Lizz Todd, Kassidy Arbillaga, Susan Goddard-Elko Daily Free Press

Mining Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

This magazine rides on the strengths of its content. It's not a delivery vehicle for ads. The magazine seriously covers the mining industry, and, I can only surmise, is the reason why it attracts advertisers. I loved its story on starting mining operations at Pumpkin Hollow. I loved the fact that it delved into what the mining would mean for Yerington. I'd love to see a follow up story on whether Nevada Copper has followed through on its

2 Kevin MacMillan, Ryan Hoffman— $Nevada\,Appeal$

 $Tahoe\ Magazine$

Judge's Comment:

How fortuitous! I'm traveling to Lake Tahoe in a few days, so I was curious if Tahoe Magazine would tell me what I need to know about the area, such as places to visit. The magazine didn't disappoint. It contains well-written articles, the layout is very clean and the production value is pretty high.

3 Kevin MacMillan—Nevada Appeal Peak NV

ADVERTISING GENERAL EXCELLENCE



The Record Courier

Judge's Comment:

Letter to Santa? With ads from a lot of companies saying Merry Christmas? Best ad concept I've seen all

Elko Daily Free Press

Nevada Appeal

PRINT AD





Dolores Sarantes— Pahrump Valley Times Farabee's Jeep Rentals

2 Mike McGarvey—The Record-Courier

Green Living

Judge's Comment:

Visually striking. The text pops out at you without causing a brain overload.

3 Heather Ruth−Pahrump Valley Times

 $Wild\ West\ Extravaganza$

Judge's Comment:

Clean aesthetic look and feel to this ad, which was a difficult achievement considering the large amount of text and the graphic overlay.

IN-HOUSE PROMOTION

(Intermediate, Community)*



Mike McGarvey— Lahontan Valley News Back 2 School



2 Heather Ruth−Pahrump Valley Times Attention Businesses

Dolores Sarantes—Pahrump Valley Times Quarter Auction

ADVERTISING AWARDS

Urban Weeklies

AD SERIES

(Urban Weeklies, Magazines)*



Emma Cauthorn, Elizabeth Brown, Las Vegas Weekly Advertising Staff— Las Vegas Weekly

City National Bank Native Content

2 Emma Cauthorn, Elizabeth Brown, Las Vegas Weekly Advertising Staff— Las Vegas Weekly

Station Casinos Native Content

SPECIAL SECTION OR CAMPAIGN-ADVERTISING



Reno News & Review

Kids News & Review 2019

Judge's Comment.

The concept is pretty darn unique, and executed nicely. I would have loved bigger font types. But that's my only complaint. The stories showcase the work of the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows.

2 Craig Peterson, Michele Hamrick, Greenspun Media Group Staff—

Las Vegas Weekly

Giving Guide

■ Craig Peterson, Michele Hamrick, Greenspun Media Group Staff— Las Vegas Weekly

Top Doctors

NICHE MAGAZINE



Craig Peterson, Michele Hamrick, Greenspun Media Group Staff— Las Vegas Weekly

Health Care Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

Health Care Quarterly contains solid articles. Its layout is clean, uncluttered. The main feature story serves readers well. I, too, am interested in what doctors in the field see as their biggest challenges. Plus, many of their thoughts validate longstanding medical advice—prevention is key, a point that Dr. John Rhodes emphasized. Also, the magazine doesn't feel like a delivery vehicle for ads. Nice!

2 Las Vegas Weekly—Culture Weekly

ADVERTISING INNOVATION

(Urban Weeklies, Magazines)*



Emma Cauthorn, Elizabeth Brown, Las Vegas Weekly Advertising Staff— Las Vegas Weekly

 $Native\ Content$ - $Station\ Casinos$

2 Adele Hoppe—Nevada Magazine

Card-detachable Aces ads

David Sly, Angela Johnson—*Luxury Las Vegas*

 $Two\ New\ VU\ Neighborhoods$



IN-HOUSE PROMOTION





- **2 Cathy Arnold**—Reno News ℰ Review
- **3 Dany Haniff**—Las Vegas Weekly 40 Under 40

Community

BLACK & WHITE AD



Heather Ruth— Tonopah Times Bonanza Holiday Shopping

Judge's Comment:

Very nice looking ad. The layout and design are very slick and clean. A tad bit too many words but nice job on presenting all the information.

2 Dolores Sarantes—*Tonopah Times Bonanza Graveyard Stomp*

Judge's Comment

Good play on artwork. Easy to read. Good job!

Dolores Sarantes—Tonopah Times Bonanza Horseshoe Tournament

Judge's Comment:

Strong play on typography. Would like to see the play on type face throughout the ad. Good job! $\label{eq:condition}$

Community continued Magazines

PRINT AD



Dolores Sarantes— Tonopah Times Bonanza

Tonopah Volunteer Ambulance



Judge's Comment:

Great use of graphic space and blue color scheme.

2 Dolores Sarantes—Tonopah Times Bonanza Irene Turns 95

Judge's Comment:

Easy to read, and clean, even with all of that text.

I Teresa Stewart—*The Ely Times*

Re-Riders

Judge's Comment:

Great artwork.

IN-HOUSE PROMOTION





Kippy Spilker, Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel, Carrie Roussel— Nevada Magazine

Explore Nevada

2 Jorge Betancourt—Luxury Las Vegas

Junior Achievement One Sheet

III Kippy Spilker, Carrie Roussel−Nevada Magazine

T-Shirts

ADVERTISING GENERAL **EXCELLENCE**



Jaci Goodman—edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

One true mark of a successful publication is the number of advertisers it attracts, and on that mark, edible Reno-Tahoe scores pretty high. But wait -there's more! The articles are well written. The layout is not clumsy, and I can't help but think about my dinner! I particularly loved the article on the future of local food. In the hands of a reporter and an editor with an ideological bent, it would have turned into a fire and brimstone sermon on the ills of modern life. Fortunately, it's a hopeful celebration of what human achievement looks like.

2 Adele Hoppe, Alex Olivares-Wenzel— Nevada Magazine

Judge's Comment:

Who doesn't enjoy an article exploring the excesses of journalists of old? The Mysterious 'Mangler' is an enjoyable read. The magazine is nicely put together.

Las Vegas Magazine Advertising Staff— Las Vegas Magazine

PRINT AD





(Magazines, Urban Weeklies)*



Jorge Betancourt, David Sly-Luxury Las Vegas

Renewal by Anderson

Judge's Comment:

Nice photos and a very clean design. Nice work!

2 Malachi Schlink, David Sly—Luxury Las Vegas

MJ Christensen Diamonds

Judge's Comment:

I love the colors, the design, and the interesting group of jewelry in this ad. It is an eye-catcher, for sure!

3 Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel, Adele Hoppe— Nevada Magazine

Tonopah

Judge's Comment:

Love the photos and the fonts. The b/w photo at the bottom left also is a nice touch.

AD SERIES



C.J. Hadley, John Bardwell-Range Magazine

The Magnificent American West

2 Adele Hoppe, Kippy Spilker, Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel—Nevada Magazine

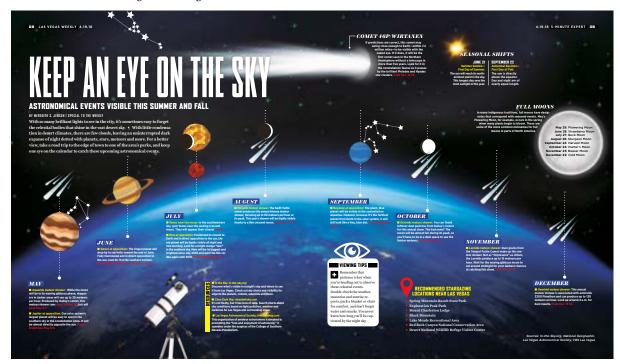
Tonopah

MORE OF THE BEST

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Urban Weeklies

Ian Racoma—Las Vegas Weekly



PAGE 1 DESIGN

Urban Weeklies

Maria Ratinova, Sarah Hansel, Mike Bieker, Jaxon Northon—Reno News & Review





SPORTS PHOTO

Urban Weeklies

 ${\bf Wade\ Vandervort} - Las\ Vegas\ Weekly$



ABOUT THE JUDGES

All written comments submitted by judges have been included here. Some comments have been edited for clarity and/or grammar.

Judges who had a conflict of interest in a particular competition were reassigned to evaluate a different category. Conflicts of interest were defined as situations in which a judge had more than a passing acquaintance with an indivual whose work had been submitted in a competition the judge had been asked to evaluate; and situations in which a judge was employed by the same company that owns a publication competing in a category the judge had been asked to evaluate.

Thank you to the Arizona Newspaper Association, our partner this year in helping to organize the judging for the contest.

Thank you as well to the following individuals who served as judges: Agata Popeda, Alden Woods, Alexis Bechman, Alycia McCloud, Arianna Grainy, Beau Bearden, Bill Helm, Bob Burns, Brian Bergner, Brian Wright, Cary Stemle, Cassandra Highers, Christopher Boan, Christopher Fox Graham, Cody Bashore, Colleen Brady, Courtney Notah, Cynthia Yurth, Dan Shearer, Dana Trumbull, Darrell Durham, Darren Barakat, Dru Sanchez, Felipe Lundin, Gary Grado, Gary Tackett, Greg Barr, Hipolito Corella, Jacque Miller, Jamila Khalil, Jeanie Hankins, Jeff Metcalfe, Jennifer Sorenson, Jill Jordan Spitz, Jim Nintzel, Joey Chenowith, Julia Goldberg, Julie O'Keefe, Kelsey Laggan, Kim Smith, Kyle Larson, Les Stukenberg, Logan Burtch-Buus, Luige Del Puerto, Michael Evans, Michael Tisserand, Michelle Nelson, Michelle Shapiro, Nancy James, Norma Coile, Patrick O'Grady, Phyllis Braun, Pia Wyer, Richard Haddad, Richard Karpel, Richard Smith, Rick Wiley, Rusty Bradshaw, Ryan Winslett, Sarah Keith, Shawne Byrne, Sherrie McQuerrey, Sue Cannon, Susan Knight, Tauni Martin Russel, Teresa McQuerrey, Tim Wiederaenders, Tony Kovaleski, Vernon Yazzie, Wiley Acheson, Zoe Cooper



NEVADA PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE BEST IN JOURNALISM SINCE 1924