

2020 Annual Contest Winners



SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS



PHOTO OF THE YEAR

Yasmina Chavez
Las Vegas Sun

Snow Covered Red Rock Canyon

Judge's Comment

Heaven and earth in a single photo. It takes a few seconds to scan the image and realize that the quotidian misery below the horizon is as mind-blowing in its own way as the majesty above.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



@Ramireztoons

michaelpramirez.com



Michael Ramirez
Las Vegas Review Journal
Nevada Dental Board Woes

Judge's Comment:

Michael Ramirez's artwork here is so convincing it evokes an almost-physical reaction. Extra points for focusing on a local scandal uncovered by the Review-Journal's reporting.

JOURNALIST OF MERIT

Rio Lacanlale
Las Vegas Review-Journal



Judge's Comment:

I was very impressed with each of the young writers whose work was submitted in this category—and envious of the talent that Nevada journalism possesses. What separated Rio Lacanlale was initiative—taking the extra steps to really get in depth with the stories and give us a feel for what the subjects were like and what they were experiencing. I hope Lacanlale maintains that passion for work in journalism—we need more of it!

OUTSTANDING VISUAL JOURNALIST

L.E. Baskow
Las Vegas Review-Journal



Judge's Comment:

Photographer L.E. Baskow's entry featured a photo gallery of Alienstock, including his middle-of-the-night coverage of "Storm Area 51" at the top-secret facility's gate. It also included a colorful photo essay about Seven Magic Mountains, and photos that accompanied profiles of a homeless man living in a mine shaft in Boulder City and the Raiders' Alec Ingold. He is a superb example of what a journalist can be.

OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST

Arthur Kane
Las Vegas Review-Journal



Judge's Comment:

Arthur Kane's entry included an investigation of the state dental board that showed it repeatedly failed to revoke the licenses of dentists who injured patients. Another investigation exposed failures by immigration officials to deport or keep dangerous felons from returning to Nevada. It's an impressive body of work that shows solid research and legwork. This reporter goes the extra mile and is clearly interested in the public good, not just getting a story.

STORY OF THE YEAR



Scott Davidson, Lauren Flannery, Rachel Aston
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Eviction Series

Judge's Comment:

A masterful blend of empirical research/data gathering with personal reporting, which makes for a story both highly readable and comprehensive, also aided by strong visuals and multimedia.

Honorable Mention

**Siobhan McAndrew,
 Jason Bean**
Reno Gazette-Journal
Frankie's Story

Judge's Comment:

The type of vivid writing that results when a talented and sensitive journalist spends real time with a subject. Deeply moving profile and the best sort of advocacy journalism.

Honorable Mention

**Las Vegas
 Review-Journal Staff**
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Alpine Motel Fire

Judge's Comment:

What might have been a quick hit about a tragedy turned into something much more, thanks to concerted reporting. Most stories stop at the cause of the fire, but this series showed how many more hands were involved in what turns out to be a very avoidable loss of life.



'IT WAS UNBEARABLE'

Home renters allege landlord ignored repairs, rushed evictions



The recession created a new breed of corporate landlords. Today, they're evicting Las Vegas Valley residents at alarming rates.

PHOTO OF THE YEAR



Honorable Mention

Chase Stevens
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Las Vegas homeless camping ban

Judge's Comment:

The pain and sadness of hard lives lived on the street are imbued with empathy and spirituality in this incredible photo.

PODCAST OF THE YEAR

Anjeanette Damon
Reno Gazette-Journal
The City, Season 2

Judge's Comment:

Ostensibly focusing on the fight over a downtown strip club, *The City* tells a much larger story about the clash between the old and new in Reno. It's part mystery and part drama, and it's all informed by deep, fearless, immersive reporting. Well written and with excellent production values, this podcast was so good this judge was incapable of listening only to the three episodes submitted as part of the entry. I plowed straight through all nine hours.

EDITORIAL OF THE YEAR

John Kerr
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Tragic, deadly downtown LV fire reveals inspection issues

Judge's Comment:

Six people were killed and 13 others were injured in the Alpine Motel Apartments fire. The Review-Journal's well-written and compelling editorial explains clearly how city fire officials neglected repeated warnings that the building was a firetrap, and offers suggestions about how emerging technology could help the fire department identify problem structures and ensure they receive adequate attention.

CRITICISM



C. Moon Reed
Las Vegas Weekly

Judge's Comment:

While Reed's descriptive powers transported me, the piece that pushed me over the edge was the one about Delightful, Delicious, Delicate, Addictive Donuts! The way she describes them makes we want to go buy a dozen right now... at midnight, in my PJ's. It also included an extensive guide to Las Vegas donut shops and the added doughy bonus of donut facts to fathom while fantasizing about eating another sweet ring-shaped fried cake! Thank you. :)

Second Place

Jason Hidalgo
Reno Gazette-Journal

Technobubble

Judge's Comment:

As a video game player myself, I appreciated the in-depth descriptions of three games that would be significant additions to anyone's collection. The review that won it for me was the one about "Dragon Star Varnir," an anime role-playing game. I've never been into anime-RPG games. Nothing against them, but I like the Borderlands shoot 'em up types (which Hidalgo also did a great review of). Nevertheless, he describes the game's backstory so well it makes me want to play it just to get to know these distinct characters, become their friends and help save their world or make it better. If I was a video game creator, I'd hire Hidalgo on the spot just for his honest, thorough reviews.

Third Place

John Katsilometes
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Kats

Judge's Comment:

As I read the concert reviews, I could almost imagine myself there—taking pictures of course—but also enjoying the thrill of the crowd, the noise and the sheer historic value of seeing these iconic acts. The excellent writing and photography puts the reader right there near the stage.

NON-STAFF STORY



John Glionna
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Finding comfort after a long search for a cure

Judge's Comment:

This story evokes the fragility of the brain and body, the incredible resilience of parental love, the pain that so arbitrarily afflicts our loved ones and neighbors, and so much more. It packs into a single comeback story a celebration of life, the vitality of the human spirit, and a quality of miraculousness that cannot be ignored. John Glionna did great justice to this inspirational and vital story.

SPECIAL PROJECT



Las Vegas Review-Journal
Las Vegas and Clark County Memories

Second Place

C.J. Hadley
RANGE Magazine

2020 Real Buckaroo Calendar

Third Place

Jon Ralston, Elizabeth Thompson, Megan Messerly, Jeff Scheid, David Calvert, Daniel Clark

The Nevada Independent

Nevada 2020: A photo collection from the presidential campaign trail

SPECIAL EVENT



Amanda Burden, Jaci Goodman
Edible Reno-Tahoe

Wine + Dine

Second Place

Wanda Blair, Melissa McCabe
Las Vegas Review-Journal

2019 Academic Excellence Awards

Third Place

Wanda Blair, Melissa McCabe
Las Vegas Review-Journal

2019 AgeWell Expo

Second Place

Pashtana Usufzy
Nevada Current

Nevada's Millennials still living with long-term impacts of Great Recession

Third Place

John Glionna
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Drafting a dream

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS



Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Fantastic promotion of the First Amendment at all levels of city, county and state government. Combination of publishing and legal battles caused substantial positive change in all Nevada communities. The Review-Journal exemplifies journalism's role as the fourth estate.

Second Place

Jon Ralston, Megan Messerly, Jacob Solis
The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

Fantastic reporting on a critical issue that affects the entire population of Nevada to some degree. Well written and informative for the readers. Explains complex issues in an easy to understand style. Great work.

Third Place

Dave Skinner
RANGE Magazine

Rivers of Darkness—Some Beltway crocodiles are doing better than ever

Judge's Comment:

Fantastic journalism, demonstrating mastery of the subject matter and vast research. Story is successful in explaining the possible corruption and tax avoidance issues that accompany non-profits. Reporting covers a vast amount of issues and how they are all interrelated. Great work.

DIGITAL INNOVATION



Las Vegas Review-Journal
RJ Network

Second Place

CJ Keeney, Megan Messerly, Peter Vogt

The Nevada Independent

Election 2020 Candidate Tracker

Third Place

Jason Hidalgo, Jason Bean, Benjamin Spillman, Sam Gross

Reno Gazette-Journal

The Reno Spaghetti Bowl Project

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly
Bacchanal Buffet

Judge's Comment:

Well done! While there are a lot of dishes in the photo, it isn't overwhelming. The colors complement each other throughout the whole design.

Second Place

Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly

Palms Recording Studio

Judge's Comment:

Judge's Comment: Vandervort accomplished his goals and the techniques he used to bring out the colors were genius.

Third Place

Las Vegas Magazine Creative Staff
Las Vegas Magazine

**Let It Snow: Miracle Mile Shops
Holiday Styles**

Judge's Comment:

The work that went into this photoshoot did not go unnoticed. The simple design of this illustration is very soothing to the eyes. The color of her red skirt is eye grabbing. Very well done.

EDITORIAL WRITING



Jeffrey Mullins
Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:

Jeffrey Mullins illustrates that he is dialed into what issues are important to Elko as he pointedly tackles the local importance of a key bike path, what's causing wildfires in the Ruby Mountains, and the reaction to a controversial cartoon from his own newspaper.

Second Place

Ric Anderson
Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

Ric Anderson isn't afraid to offer opinions on big issues like assault weapons or essential workers in a pandemic, and deep research helps support these well-written perspectives.

Third Place

John Kerr
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

John Kerr clearly expresses his point of view in well-sourced and easy-to-understand terms.

LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN



Ed Graney
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Overall super great. Very timely, good news value and clean writing.

Second Place

**Chad Hartley, Moses Achoka,
Rhonda Lundin Bennett, Casey
Sapio, John Byrne**

Nevada Silver & Blue

2019 Pack Tracks

Judge's Comment:

The visuals and layout put this one over third place for me. Great look and relevant stories.

Third Place

Tom Rysinski
Pahrump Valley Times

PVT Sports Column

Judge's Comment:

This is what I feel like columns are all about. Clear and entertaining voice, relevant topics, well done.

VIDEO PROGRAM OR SERIES



**Benjamin Spillman,
Sam Gross**
Reno Gazette-Journal

RGJ Drone Team Footage

Judge's Comment:

Gee-whiz photography combines with solid storytelling in the Lamoille Canyon piece.

Second Place

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Drone Series

Judge's Comment:

Drone photography is so appropriate for the closing of the Las Vegas Strip.

Third Place

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

Take A Lap with Mike Grimala

Judge's Comment:

I love the concept. It's a fun play on Car Karaoke.

HEADLINE WRITING



George Riggle
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

These headlines are fantastic. They're clever and creative without sacrificing accuracy and information. Great work!

ENTERTAINMENT WRITING



Johnathan L. Wright
Reno Gazette-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Johnathan L. Wright most effectively captured the pulse of his community to lead this category. The articles in his entry — about a public restaurant operated by a world famous brothel, the closing of a legendary steak house, and a list of iconic Nevada food — formed an impressive set that benefited from his keen attention to detail and deep knowledge of his surroundings.

Second Place

Jason Bracelin
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Jason Bracelin's big, sprawling and well-researched stories feature Nevada characters making an impact inside and outside the state.

Third Place

Jenny Kane
Reno Gazette-Journal

Judge's Comment:

With incisive focus on her local community, Jenny Kane is a supreme storyteller, bringing to life seemingly everyday characters and businesses who find ways to make a difference.

2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



DENNIS MYERS

A resident of Reno from age five, Dennis Myers cut a wide swath through Nevada media and politics. In the late 1960s, he attended the University of Nevada-Reno where he wrote for The Sagebrush student newspaper and covered the Nevada Legislature for Reno and Las Vegas radio stations.

For many years, he reported for KTVN TV-2 and KOLO TV-8 but his heart remained in print.

He was a Sparks Tribune staff writer and a contributing editor at Reno Magazine. He devoted the last 15+ years of his professional life to the alternative weekly Reno News & Review, where he became an award-winning reporter and news editor.

In 2015, Myers and his colleagues received the Reno-Sparks NAACP's highest honor for their reporting on civil rights, human rights and police shootings, much of which went viral.

He continued as a contributor to the Las Vegas Business Press, the Pahrump Valley Times and many others.

A lifelong researcher, he co-authored "Uniquely Nevada," a children's history textbook, and contributed to the historical

volumes "The Mythical West" and "Covering the Courts in Nevada." He always championed progressive values.

"Myers was as consistent a critic as any conservative when it came to Nevada's rampant corporate welfare proliferation and increasingly regressive taxation," wrote his friend and fellow journalist Andrew Barbano. "He was a champion of the rights of workers, unions, minorities and women."

Myers also took a couple of brief detours into politics. In the mid-70s, he served as state chair of the Nevada Young Democrats and was a Democratic nominee for a Reno state senate seat in 1976. He also briefly left journalism in 1987-88 when Secretary of State Frankie Sue Del Papa appointed him as her chief deputy.

Myers became a U.S. Army military policeman while serving in Europe.

He never stopped being a policeman, speaking "truth to power," the title of the News & Review cover story about his life.

He died in August 2019, at the age of 70.



NELLIE MIGHELS DAVIS

Nellie Mighels Davis was the first woman to cover the Nevada Legislature, reporting on the assembly in 1877 and 1879, when her husband Henry Rust Mighels owned the Nevada Morning Appeal. When he died in the spring of 1879, Nellie assumed ownership and took over as publisher of the Carson City paper at the age of thirty-five.

She hired Samuel Post Davis as editor; they were married the following year on July 4. Davis assumed management of the paper after the wedding and the family retained ownership of the Appeal until 1945, when Nellie died at 101.

One of her seven children, Henry R. Mighels Jr., was named editor of the Appeal in 1898 and remained in the position for at least 30 years.

In 1897, Mighels Davis also became

the first woman ever to report a prize fight, when the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight was held in Carson City. Nevada was then the only state in the U.S. where professional boxing was legal. She was paid \$50 for the story by a Chicago newspaper. "I was for Fitzsimmons and I had a bet on with Mr. Woodburn," Mighels Davis recounted. According to the Nevada Women's History Project, she was one of only a few women—mostly prostitutes—in the audience. She used her maiden name on the story to avoid "disgracing" herself and her friends by revealing she had been present at the fight.

In 1899, during the Spanish-American War, Mighels Davis organized the Red Cross in Nevada and became the first State President.



DON DIGILIO

Don Digilio was employed at the Las Vegas Review-Journal for more than 20 years, working his way up from reporter and columnist to become the paper's top editor in 1969. According to the Online Nevada Encyclopedia, Digilio "returned stability" to the Review-Journal newsroom during his tenure as editor.

"Don fit the times in Las Vegas perfectly," said fellow Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame member and former Review-Journal journalist Tim Dahlberg. "He was the editor of the paper but he was

also the face of the paper and a mover and shaker in a town where moving and shaking was an art form. He wrote about the news of the day in his columns, of course, but what he excelled at was being funny in print."

Digilio's career at the Review-Journal ended in 1980, when he was forced to leave after he was offered stock options in a casino that was never built. He later resurrected his newspaper column in both the Valley Times and the Las Vegas Sun, where he originally

See Digilio, next page



THOMAS MITCHELL

Thomas Mitchell has a lifelong record of outstanding journalism, distinguishing himself as both an editor and columnist. As the newsroom leader of Nevada's largest newspaper for two decades, he also did as much as any other journalist in the history of the state to defend and expand public access to government records.

Mitchell started his journalism career in 1973, at a daily newspaper in suburban Ft. Worth, Texas, where he was named city editor only six weeks after taking a job as a reporter. He was night city editor of the Miami News, when that newspaper closed in 1989, and joined the Las Vegas Review-Journal as its managing editor later that year.

"Las Vegas needed new blood, and I was intrigued by the management experience he already had," said Sherman Frederick, then editor of the Review-Journal, who hired Mitchell to help lead the newsroom. Mitchell became the paper's top editor three years later, when Frederick was named publisher.

Mitchell assigned reporters to stories long neglected in a city with a tradition of letting sleeping dogs lie. He demanded and published public payroll information,

previously considered untouchable. He devised the Review-Journal's Judicial Performance Evaluation, a groundbreaking and influential survey in which attorneys are asked to rate judges. And he personally supervised and expanded a special projects team that not only did investigative reporting but also took on unusual projects too time-consuming for reporters covering daily beats.

The paper also aggressively pursued information the government wanted to conceal, filing more than 20 court challenges during Mitchell's tenure. They resulted in several groundbreaking rulings, including one in which the Nevada Supreme Court decided that government officials' cell phone bills are public records.

Both Mitchell and Frederick left the Review-Journal in 2010. When Frederick co-founded Battle Born Media, he hired Mitchell as a freelancer. Until recently, Mitchell wrote most of the editorials and a regular column for the company's mostly rural newspapers.

Mitchell was president of the Nevada Press Association in 1999-2000 and he has won too many awards for column and editorial writing to list in this space.



CORY FARLEY

Cory Farley has been one of the luminaries of Northern Nevada journalism, appearing regularly in print since 1981. His easygoing, comfortable prose quickly established him as one of the Reno Evening Gazette's top news feature writers, and his subsequent left-of-center column writing has made him one of the most-read writers that Nevada journalism has ever produced. His writing has sparked conversation among newspaper readers in the region for decades.

He came to journalism late in life and completely by happenstance. After flunking out of college, Farley went into the Army and did a tour in Vietnam as a Special Forces medic. When he returned, he registered for college again at the age of 23, and when the girl next to him in line selected journalism as her major, he decided to do the same.

It turned out to be a propitious decision. Farley enjoyed writing and did it well. His first journalism job was at Hot Rod magazine in Los Angeles, an ideal gig for a writer who loved cars. After working there for about a year, he came to Nevada

by way of Autoweek magazine, then published in Reno. When Autoweek was sold and moved to Detroit four years later, Farley stayed in Reno and joined the Evening Gazette as a part-time photographer.

"I came across a few decent stories while taking pictures, and (Evening Gazette Executive Director Everett) Landers, encouraged me to do an occasional op-ed and opinion piece," explained Farley. "That gradually turned into a weekly column, and when a job opened up in 1981 in what were then still called 'the women's pages,' I got it."

He enjoyed writing features more than news, and aside from a year on the news side and a short tour on the copy desk, Farley remained in the feature section until he retired in 2007. The column had been published more or less continuously, sometimes weekly, sometimes weekdays and Sundays, usually three or four a week, for 26 years. He continues to occasionally write opinion pieces published in the paper now known as the Reno Gazette Journal.

"If I could go back and start over, I would," he told us.

DIGILIO, continued from previous page

began his career as a reporter after arriving in Las Vegas in 1958.

He was president of the Nevada Press Association in 1976-77.

When he was at the Review-Journal, Digilio's relationship with Frank Sinatra, Las Vegas' then-most famous denizen, was so fraught his friends had to arrange a "peace talk" in Sinatra's dressing room at Caesars Palace. Digilio was the first to report in July 1966, that Sinatra was marrying Mia Farrow,

and later broke the story about the singer's sudden departure from his most famous haunt, the Sands, and the tantrum and fisticuffs that precipitated it.

He was born in Omaha, Neb., where his father ran two cigar stores and pool halls. After graduating from the Univ. of Nebraska in 1956, he served with the Eighth Army in post-war Korea, then was transferred to Tokyo, where he worked for Stars and Stripes.

Congratulations to all of this year's contest winners!

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE

1ST Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Deserted in the desert — Visually stunning way of grabbing the reader's attention. Judging the Judges — Fantastic idea and easy user interface. Late school buses — Wonderful mix of digital medias. Monumental Makeover — Fantastic way of highlighting photography and video. Painful mistakes — Great investigative work can get bogged down by its sheer volume of info. This was a great way of breaking it up and making it easy to navigate. Evictions — Again, great work at visually explaining the story so it's not cumbersome.

Second Place

The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

Election 2020 page — Great way of providing a public service in a way that is easy to navigate and use. I especially loved the break down of issues by candidate. That's so helpful to readers. Education landscape — Great blend of digital medias to tell a story.

Third Place

Reno Gazette-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Overall, there was such a great blend of different types of digital media used to tell stories. This, accompanied by dynamic text choices made for an overall wonderful, engaging experience.

Urban, Magazine

LOCAL NON-STAFF COLUMN

1ST John L. Smith
The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

John Smith demonstrates knowledge in local topics and gives those topics a human touch through well-written and well-researched articles.

Second Place

Barry Perryman RANGE Magazine

Judge's Comment:

It's fun to read how Barry Perryman's life lessons become relevant to today's political climate. Interesting and educational.

Third Place

Michael C. Moberly Edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

Michael Moberly shares his love of spirits and writing in these fun articles about mixed drinks of all kinds.

FEATURE WRITING

1ST Jeniffer Solis
Nevada Current

Long trek to Carson City for canceled meetings, no guarantees

Judge's Comment:

I really enjoyed reading this story. Articles about legislation rarely focus on the citizens and lobbyists who participate in the legislative process. The descriptions of the bus rides to and from Carson City set the scene for what it was really like to go lobby and campaign for changes. It was a very human-focused story.

Second Place

Megan Messerly The Nevada Independent

Homeless home care worker advocates for better working conditions, a living wage

Judge's Comment:

Messerly did a great job illuminating a pressing social issue by highlighting the incredible service of a caring advocate. Her effective storytelling was enhanced by excellent photos. Great work!

Third Place

Jenny Kane Reno Gazette-Journal

He used to be a homeless addict. Now he's a guardian of Reno's streets.

Judge's Comment:

Kane did a good job profiling an individual who overcame his own problems to do good for his community. I was pulled in from the first line. The photographs, video and use of headers helped with the flow of the story. Reading this made me want to go find myself a Karma Box!

OVERALL DESIGN

1ST Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Clean and solid design throughout the newspaper, especially shined on section fronts. Use different methods of conveying news (i.e., infographic, photo collage, graphic design, single photo) and found ways to make the space feel well used with them all.

Second Place

Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

Clean look and consistent. Would have loved to see more risks taken with design—typically stuck to a template.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

1ST Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

From politics to schools to entertainment, the Review-Journal offers a thorough review of issues facing Las Vegas. The profiles featured in the anniversary issue of the Vegas shootings were particularly strong.

The screenshot shows the top of the Las Vegas Review-Journal website. The main headline is "GOING DARK" with the sub-headline "Nevada communities seek to profit from view of stars". The article is by John M. Glenna. Other visible headlines include "Rodeo hung on through slow start" and "Homeless home care worker advocates for better working conditions, a living wage". The website layout is clean and professional.

Second Place

Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

Although limited in scope, the Sun continues to provide readers with smart analysis and a vibrant public forum.

EDITORIAL PAGE

1ST Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

On a 1-10 scale, I would rate this a ten. Really impressed with the selection of topics, writing and layout.

Second Place

Ric Anderson, Brian Greenspun, Dave Mondt, Las Vegas Sun Editorial Page Staff Las Vegas Sun

PORTRAIT



Jason Bean
Reno Gazette-Journal

Homeless camp removal in downtown Reno

Second Place

David Calvert
The Nevada Independent

Reno Women’s March

Third Place

L.E. Baskow
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Mine over Matters

BUSINESS FEATURE STORY



Anjeanette Damon
Reno Gazette-Journal

Ignoring search warrants and pulling strings: How Tesla avoided a full OSHA inspection

Judge’s Comment:

Wow. I guess an alternative headline on this story could have been “Money talks, inspectors walk.” It’s journalism like this that demonstrates the power of the pen — exposing unsafe conditions, cronyism and utter contempt for any kind of accountability. Must be nice to have an entire state’s administration wrapped around your finger.

Second Place

Michael Scott Davidson
Las Vegas Review-Journal

“It was unbearable”: Home renters allege landlord ignored repairs, rushed evictions

Judge’s Comment:

Well-written and provocative story on the travails of renters.

Third Place

Jason Hidalgo
Reno Gazette-Journal

These are the people impacted by the Spaghetti Bowl Project in Reno-Sparks

Judge’s Comment:

Good job by the reporter of finding somebody who can put a human face on an otherwise potentially dry story.



BUSINESS SPOT NEWS STORY



Bailey Schulz
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Workers flock to unemployment office

Judge’s Comment:

Perfect mix of data and human interest. It put an unprecedented event into context, showing how it would affect the average worker in a way that was easy to understand. Bravo!

Second Place

Richard N. Velotta, Bailey Schulz
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevada casinos closing

Judge’s Comment:

Provided much-needed information in a very timely matter. The breadth of casinos and their plans for workers that was included in the article was commendable.

Third Place

Jason Hidalgo, Anjeanette Damon
Reno Gazette-Journal

Bliss Life magazine pulled from Reno airport racks over Mustang Ranch brothel cover story

Judge’s Comment:

Great job providing broader context about a breaking news story and explaining why it mattered to the community.

INVESTIGATIVE STORY



Ric Anderson, John Sadler
Las Vegas Sun

Nevada Board of Regents Abuse

Judge’s Comment:

Caught trying to cheat for a relative, an education official apparently suffered no consequences. The story correctly notes the parallels to a nationwide admissions scandal — for which people are going to jail — and how this, in some ways, is worse. Fine investigative work. I hope people are outraged.

Second Place

Anjeanette Damon
Reno Gazette-Journal

How Tesla avoided a full OSHA inspection

Judge’s Comment:

Really interesting behind-the-scenes look at how politics can influence enforcement of regulations. Lots of solid reporting.

Third Place

Rio Lacanlale, Amelia Pak-Harvey
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Deserted in the Desert

Judge’s Comment:

A disturbing story — not just for the potential abuse that was going on, but that gaping holes exist in how state agencies handle these kinds of complaints. You’ve done a real service bringing this to light.

SPORTS PHOTO



Erik Verduzco
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Fury vs Schwarz

Judge's Comment:

Perfect timing and framing. Crucial moment in a huge fight. Well done.

Second Place

Steve Marcus
Las Vegas Sun

Liberty does unthinkable, halting Bishop Gorman's dynasty with overtime win

Judge's Comment:

Great emotion and news value.

Third Place

Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Fluery—Save of the century

Judge's Comment:

I can't look away from it. Timed it perfectly.

SPECIAL SECTION (EDITORIAL)



Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

The Review-Journal's look back at the Route 91 concert massacre was very well done. From the haunting photos of most of the dead from that night on the section front to the image of a couple who survived the shooting reacting at the Healing Garden, this was a visual story well told. Strong writing and great interviews demonstrate staff poured a lot of effort into this project.

Second Place

Las Vegas Weekly
40 Under 40

Third Place

Las Vegas Sun
Nevada Democratic Caucus Roundup

SPORTS SPOT NEWS STORY



Justin Emerson
Las Vegas Sun

Golden Knights fire Gallant, hire DeBoer in search of spark after underperforming

Judge's Comment:

I like the irony in the lede, and the story does a good job of delving into the reasons for the coaching change.

Second Place

Case Keefer
Las Vegas Sun

Official name change to Las Vegas Raiders 'freeing' to team's players

Judge's Comment:

The anecdotal lede was a fitting way to open the story, which itself was a worthy idea — how a whole team relocates to a new town.

Third Place

Blake Apgar
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Henderson tries to lure Diamondbacks

Judge's Comment:

A bit of investigative digging by the sports staff. Nice work.

Urban, Magazine

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING



Sylas Wright
Tahoe Quarterly

Squaw's French Connection

Judge's Comment:

Simple, dignified and understated. The history is great, and it felt unique in comparison to other entries.

Second Place

Mike Ray
Tahoe Quarterly

Remembering Tahoe's Boys of Summer

Judge's Comment:

Looking back on a legacy like this is always enjoyable to me. Great work.

Third Place

Case Keefer
Las Vegas Weekly

Fifty years after its birth, the World Series of Poker retains its restless spirit

Judge's Comment:

A great story for folks who love cards, and a good read for anyone.

FEATURE PHOTO



Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Grasshoppers invade Las Vegas

Second Place

Bizuayehu Tesfaye
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Showgoers at NAB

Third Place

David Calvert
The Nevada Independent

Carson Adult High School graduation at Northern Nevada Correctional Center

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Ric Anderson, John Sadler
Las Vegas Sun

Nevada Board of Regents Abuse

Judge's Comment:

The stories do a good job of explaining why this is important to the public and how the ethics policy is toothless. As long as people get away with this kind of behavior, there's no reason to stop.

Second Place

Arthur Kane, Angus Kelly, LeeAnn Elias

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Dental Board Project

Judge's Comment:

Ouch. It hurt me just to read these stories about dentists who bungle their jobs.

Third Place

Michael Scott Davidson, Lauren Flannery, Rachel Aston

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Eviction Series

Judge's Comment:

These stories give an exhaustive overview of serious flaws in how a one-sided system handles renters. I hope more concrete results come from the work done by the reporters.

Urban, Magazine

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM



Michelle Rindels
The Nevada Independent

The Cannabis Files

Judge's Comment:

This is an important and clearly written overview of the problems inside the Nevada marijuana industry, shining a light not only on the issues exposed on the surface but explaining why secrecy has seemingly exacerbated them. It's the definition of "explanatory journalism," as the reporter demonstrates a depth of understanding of the subject that enables her to write sharp, clear analyses of the situation as it stands today and how the state got there.

Second Place

Jessie Bekker, Briana Erickson
Las Vegas Review-Journal

State of Despair

Judge's Comment:

Deep reporting on a serious subject. Very well done, including the presentation. It's such a sobering contrast to all the frivolous stuff we're exposed to these days. Thanks.

Third Place

Theodora Johnson
RANGE Magazine

Inconvenient Truth: A Little Common Sense on Klamath Dam Removal Would Go a Long Way

Judge's Comment:

This was a really informative read and, I expect, carries a lot of truth, although it's clearly an advocacy piece.

Urban, Rural

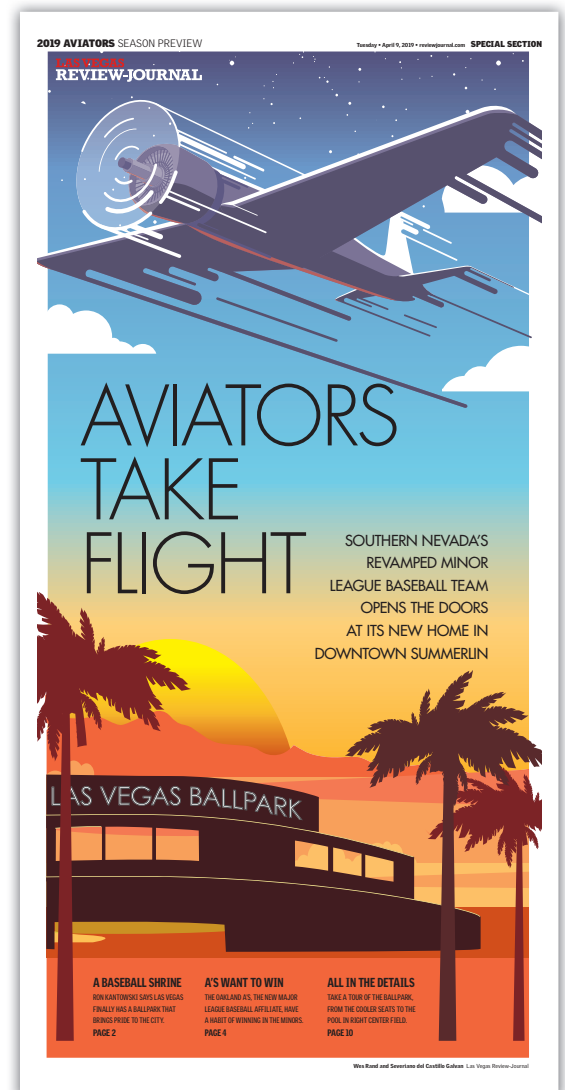
OUTSTANDING GRAPHIC DESIGNER



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

Judge's Comment:

Design work is clean and very appealing to look at. There was a lot of thought and work that went into these pieces. Beautiful.



MULTIPLE PHOTO ESSAY OR GALLERY



Ty O'Neil
This is Reno

Photos From The Trail: The 2019 Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive

Judge's Comment:

Poetry in still motion. Superb photos.

Second Place

Andy Barron
Reno Gazette-Journal

Andy Barron's Favorite Photos of 2019

Judge's Comment:

Moving.

Urban, Magazine
LOCAL COLUMN



Geoff Carter
Las Vegas Weekly

Extended Residency

Judge's Comment: Carter writes about the things and places that give Las Vegas a sense of community. His column remained fresh and interesting throughout the submitted work.

Second Place

Hugh Jackson
Nevada Current

Judge's Comment:

Jackson's tone was more playful than other columnists writing about Nevada policy and politics and it worked to his advantage. He was able to keep readers engaged while stepping them through serious community issues.

Third Place

Christopher DeVargas
Las Vegas Sun

Wings of Freedom

Judge's Comment:

I felt like I was inside each aircraft.

Third Place

Steve Sebelius
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Sebelius truly seems to be writing for Nevadans and his columns are worth reading. I'm particularly impressed by the variety of topics covered in the submission.

PAGE ONE DESIGN



John Taylor, Dave Mondt,
Las Vegas Sun Creative Staff
Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

There's an elegant simplicity to the Sun's pages that reflect an attention to detail. The reader's eye is drawn to the right things. Design like this reinforces the notion that the content, too, has been crafted with care.



Second Place

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

The Review-Journal fronts are bold and attractive, with innovative use of graphics to attract readers' attention.

Third Place

Lauren Solinger
Northern Nevada Business Weekly

Judge's Comment:

I like the splashes of color, which aren't overdone or gaudy. It's easy to get this wrong.

NEWS PHOTO COVERAGE



Steve Marcus
Las Vegas Sun

Vigil for father and daughter killed in crash

Second Place

L.E. Baskow
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Storm Area 5

Third Place

Kevin Cannon
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Alpine Motel Fire

NEWS FEATURE STORY



Siobhan McAndrew
Reno Gazette-Journal

Her husband was Washoe County’s first coronavirus death: ‘I never got to say goodbye’

Judge’s Comment:

An effective and emotional story that explains what’s going on in a sad situation without being manipulative. The timeline was a good thing to include in the story.

Second Place

James DeHaven
Reno Gazette-Journal

Saloon owner: Nugget, Sparks city officials strong-arming him to raise prices

Judge’s Comment:

Interesting and sheds light on a situation that’s both maddening and puzzling. I like that DeHaven balanced the story and got something from the officials about why they took the guy’s furniture.

Third Place

Sam Gross
Reno Gazette-Journal

Tahoe man maimed by Nevada snowplow driver high on meth, looks to hold state responsible

Judge’s Comment:

Overall, a very well done story. The only question I had was with the law... I would have liked to have seen a little something to balance it out and give perspective to why the cap is there in the first place, and maybe something from someone who is in favor of protecting taxpayers with it.

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING



Las Vegas Review-Journal
Alpine Motel Fire

Judge’s Comment:

Impressive turnaround on a troubling story, told with sensitivity to the victims. Reporting raised important safety concerns. Kudos for including context about longstanding issues in the neighborhood. Videos were a great addition, but some would have benefited from tighter editing. From the heroic maintenance worker to the building’s previous code issues, this was an impressive amount of reporting in just 24 hours.

Second Place

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Coronavirus Coverage

Judge’s Comment:

Great coverage about closures on the national, state and city level. In a fast-moving, complex story like this, it was a smart move to break up all the components into different bite-sized stories. While the video about the gun shop and the story about the doctor were interesting, they don’t at all seem related to breaking news coverage about the coronavirus closures, they just happened to publish on the same day. It was nice to get the perspective of tourists who had their vacation plans upended, but I would have also liked to hear from employees who were being furloughed or laid off. The story about Nevada casinos closing contained lots of useful information, but wish the headline made it clearer that the story was about which casino workers were getting paid leave -- seems that would be of high interest to a large number of Las Vegas residents. Nice work quickly pulling together many stories about an important topic.

Third Place

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Sanders Wins NV Caucus

Judge’s Comment:

Nice use of video. Loved the use of the live blog—a perfect format for this kind of breaking story. Election stories are also great opportunities to use charts and graphics to make sense of the numbers and could have been used here. The “five takeaways” story provided a lot of useful context on Nevada politics, but it needed more care and attention given to formatting, at least with the online version. Voices of actual voters are largely absent from most of these stories. I wish the stories included space for more Nevada Democrats to speak for themselves about what, exactly, they like about Sanders.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:

Attractive front page. Clean look. Good use of photos. Local news is prominent. Editorial is local and well written. Layout is crisp. Good use of color.

Elko Daily FREE PRESS

Ice fishing
Few chances left before it all melts away PAGE B1

Avoiding the issue
Nevada Hispanics want specifics PAGE A4

SUNNY 52 • 22 FORECAST A3 | WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 22, 2020 | elkodaily.com

County eyes ordinance to deal with youth vaping

Action urged after 3 Elko students require medical attention

Deadline ahead for obtaining Real ID

Nevadans encouraged to attend DMV meetings

Carson City puts moratorium on hemp growers

Elko County youth is prompted to look for alternatives

Klobuchar rallies rural Nevada

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota spent her last two campaign appearances in northern Nevada, rallying a small crowd Friday afternoon in Elko before heading to Reno.

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Second Place

The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:

Front page does its job, very warm and inviting. Makes me want to open it up and read the rest of the paper. I like the organization of the content. Good local news source! Opinion page is local.

Third Place

Pahrump Valley Times

Judge's Comment:

Attractive front page. Good use of photos throughout paper. Excellent content. I would read this paper if I lived in Pahrump!

FEATURE PHOTO



John Byrne Sparks Tribune

Second Place

Kurt Hildebrand The Record-Courier

Third Place

Kurt Hildebrand The Record-Courier

SPORTS PHOTO



John Byrne Mineral County Independent-News

Judge's Comment:

Perfect photo, perfect moment. Great job.

Second Place

John Byrne Sparks Tribune

Judge's Comment:

Great combination of emotion and news value. People kill to capture these types of moments.

Third Place

Thomas Ranson Lahontan Valley News

Judge's Comment:

Great quality and composition. Well done capturing the record-breaking run.

PORTRAIT

1ST **Kurt Hildebrand**
The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:

A simple, effective image of the owner of a small business at work.

Second Place

Hali Bernstein Saylor
Boulder City Review

Judge's Comment:

A federal employee working at night under a blue-velvet sky.

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE

1ST **Jeffrey Meehan, Selwyn Harris, Robin Hebrock, Tom Rysinski**
Pahrump Valley Times

Judge's Comment:

Clean, easy-to-navigate design, strong local coverage and copious deployment of multimedia.

Second Place

Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:

What this site lacks in cutting-edge technology it makes up for in a strong community feel. For instance, the R-C still uses ancient bulletin-board technology in the "Running Commentary" section of the site but the board is relatively active with friendly discussion among a handful of locals, including the editor. Sample post: "There might be a bear near Ironwood in Minden."

SPECIAL SECTION (EDITORIAL)

1ST **Cynthia Delaney, Toni Milano**
Elko Daily Free Press

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering

Judge's Comment:

The Elko Daily Free Press always does a great job with the city's annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering and this year's effort was no different. This was a tough category to judge.

Second Place

The Record-Courier
Carson Valley Almanac

Third Place

Mineral County Independent-News
Armed Forces Day 2019



NEWS FEATURE STORY

1ST **Steve Ranson**
Lahontan Valley News
Footprints at the Carson Sink

Judge's Comment:

By far the best writer in the competition. Very thorough and interesting history piece on astronauts training in the desert.

Second Place

Toni Milano
Elko Daily Free Press

Justice for Jared

Judge's Comment:

Good story on how an accident led to a change in the law. In-depth reporting as the case went back several years.

Third Place

Heidi Bunch
Mineral County Independent-News

Hawthorne Safeway Pharmacy in Top 15 Nationwide for Opioid Pills Dispensed

Judge's Comment:

Nice detail in checking the amount of opioids sold at one pharmacy and the county's fight against addiction.

INVESTIGATIVE STORY

1ST **Cynthia Delaney, Toni Milano, Tim Burmeister**
Elko Daily Free Press
Fire Escape

Judge's Comment:

This investigation focused on a vital matter of public safety. Solid work finding answers and keeping the community informed.

Second Place

Jeffrey Meehan
Pahrump Valley Times

Fired Pahrump high school support staff employee returns to work

Judge's Comment:

Excellent coverage of alleged misconduct within the local school system.

Third Place

Jeffrey Meehan
Tonopah Times Bonanza

Billowing disaster blazes trail to a family tragedy in Nye County

Judge's Comment:

Well-done investigative piece about a local murder case.

MULTIPLE PHOTO ESSAY OR GALLERY

1ST Cynthia Delaney, Toni Milano
Elko Daily Free Press

Boots and Banjos

Judge's Comment:
I love the story this told.



Second Place

Thomas Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

Déjà vu all over again

Judge's Comment:
I was transported into the middle of this moment.

Third Place

Vic Trujillo, Eric Dahlberg
Mineral County Independent-News

Armed Forces Day Celebration

Judge's Comment:
Beautiful color and military pride.

FEATURE WRITING

1ST Steve Ranson
Lahontan Valley News
My name is Mitka

Judge's Comment:
Excellent story that has all the key elements of a great feature. It pulled me in from the beginning, and was tight, creative and spoke to readers.

Second Place

Selwyn Harris
Pahrump Valley Times

Rhyolite caretaker recognized during annual meeting

Judge's Comment:
This story took me to every western movie I have ever watched. It was thoughtfully written and insightful. I could feel the dusty road and smell the old buildings. Great subject and creativity!

Third Place

Kayla Anderson
Sparks Tribune

Sparks Couple Keeps Memory of 'Nonna' Alive Through Classic Car

Judge's Comment:
The old gal and her caddy was an intrigue. How the grandson kept the car going and loving it as it was on loan was a great story told well. I was hooked. Great job!

OVERALL DESIGN

1ST Jenny Scheid, Hali Bernstein Saylor
Boulder City Review

Judge's Comment:
Simply put, this was a newspaper that I wanted to continue reading. The design was intuitive, headlines were well sized/placed and photos were used well.

Second Place

Jessica Sterling
Pahrump Valley Times

Judge's Comment:
A well structured and organized newspaper, the Valley Times made sure to use all of their space well and not waste valuable inches. The only thing I would have liked to see from them was a little more risk, a little variation in their styles.

Third Place

Lauren Solinger, Kyler Klix
Nevada Appeal

EDITORIAL PAGE

1ST Sparks Tribune
Judge's Comment:
The hallmark of the page was a well-supported editorial in each sample. Columnists covered a nice spectrum of important state and local issues. Layout was tidy and consistent. Could use some letters to the editor.

Second Place

Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:
Among the samples reviewed, there was one editorial. However, the columns covered an exceptional array of critical public-policy topics. The syndicated cartoons were not local but were easy to understand and added an illustrative element.

Third Place

The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:
The paper runs regular staff-written editorials addressing local issues. There is also an editor's column that is tight and well written, although it does not always address hard-news topics. What stands out is the newspaper's engaged readership. The samples had up to a page-and-a-half of letters to the editor, many of them well documented and well reasoned. The layout is fine. The paper uses a photograph, sometimes one related to an editorial-page topic, as an illustrative element.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1ST Carter Eckl
Nevada Appeal
Team USA Bobsled

Judge's Comment:
Nice story about local boy making good in an unusual sport.

Second Place

Robert Vendettoli
Boulder City Review

Scouts see Speaker's star soar

Judge's Comment:
Good comments from scouts and coaches. I hope he makes good.

Third Place

Tom Rysinski
Pahrump Valley Times

Dinner, auction raise \$10,000 for Pahrump Valley football

Judge's Comment:
A sports fund-raising dinner could have been a routine story, but you found an excellent angle and gave me a reason to read on.

PAGE ONE DESIGN

2019 NEVADA PRESS ASSOCIATION GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

PAHRUMP VALLEY TIMES

Friday, January 31, 2020 Vol. 53, Issue 10 50¢

Local: Pahrump youth head to state science bowl

Sports: School coaches talk club sports

Weather: Extended forecast

1ST Jessica Sterling Pahrump Valley Times

Times to reach 50-year mark as '20 comes to close

By Selwyn Harris Pahrump Valley Times

The Pahrump Valley Times will observe a special milestone later this year as the publication hits the half-century mark.

From its roots as a free monthly community newspaper in late 1970, growing into a weekly within its early years of operation, the Times has increased its print frequency in the Nye County area to become a semi-weekly newspaper that reaches Beatty, Amargosa Valley and as far as Shoshone, California.

"With recently being named interim editor of the Pahrump Valley Times, I would like to take this time to thank the residents in Pahrump and surrounding areas in Nye County and beyond for keeping the newspaper a long-standing tradition in the community," said Interim Editor Jeffrey Mosban. "I feel honored to lead the publication's editorial department and its excellent team, especially at such a notable period in its history, and I look forward to deepening the goal of bringing great, community-focused coverage for the region in the coming years."

The Times will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the end of 2020.

At present, the newspaper is published each Wednesday and Friday.

50TH ANNIVERSARY 1A10

Bill to allow 'administrative citations' dies

Likely to be brought back in the future

By Robin Hebrock Pahrump Valley Times

At its Tuesday, Jan. 22 meeting the Nye County Commission had a simple agenda item to address, that of setting the time and date for a public hearing on a bill to amend Nye County code to add chapters entitled "Administrative Citations" and "Hearing Officer". That public hearing, however, failed to be set and the item was killed by lack of motion.

That does not mean the item is entirely dead, though as it is likely to come before the commission again sometime in the future, given explanations provided individually by commissioners following the meeting.

The agenda item was to set the public hearing for Nye County Bill No. 2020-03 which would amend Nye County Code Title 1, governing the general provisions of the county. The bill proposed to add roughly five pages of new language to the existing code to authorize the creation of administrative citations and a related hearing officer position.

Under the administrative citations chapter proposed, any officer delegated by the commission would be able to issue civil administrative citations.

These citations would come with fines, including not more than \$100 plus administrative costs for each citation.

Those who rely on water and sewer service from Great Basin Water Company could see an increase in their bills in the future, with the utility filing an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada for authority to bump up its services rates.

"On Dec. 31, 2019 Great Basin Water Co. (GBWC) filed a rate case with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) to

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BUSINESS FEATURE STORY

1ST Steve Ranson Lahontan Valley News

Giving back to those who serve

Judge's Comment: Touching story and a good illustration of why programs like this one can make a profound difference in an individual's life.

Second Place Tim Burmeister Elko Daily Free Press

Mining for reality

Judge's Comment: It was a fun story to read, good comments from the family. It would have benefited from a comment from the TV network, how to watch the show and a bit of background that this is a Christian network.

Third Place Celia Shortt Goodyear, Hali Bernstein Saylor Boulder City Review

The good. The bad. The interstate.

Judge's Comment: It's always good to follow up on these kinds of highway projects and get some real-people reactions. Fine job.

SPORTS SPOT NEWS STORY

1ST Carter Eckl Nevada Appeal

Sports in limbo

Judge's Comment: Good coverage on the effect of the pandemic on the high-school team.

Second Place Steve Ranson Lahontan Valley News

Lady Wave coach steps down

Judge's Comment: Great job finding a source who could capture what the coach meant to the team. The story shows the writer knows the background.

Third Place Tom Rysinski Pahrump Valley Times

Baseball: Quick end to season hits Pahrump Valley seniors hard

Judge's Comment: Another good story on the bittersweet ending of a sports season — although it never actually says why. It just needed a couple more words.

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING

1ST Robin Hebrock Tonopah Times Bonanza

'Nye declares itself as a 'Second Amendment Sanctuary County'

Judge's Comment: Well-rounded story with great supporting info.

Second Place Kurt Hildebrand The Record-Courier

Kingsbury shoot-out

Judge's Comment: Nice job with timely updates on what could have been a much higher body count. Good writing style.

Third Place Jeff Mullins, Cynthia Delaney Elko Daily Free Press

Mine bus crash

Judge's Comment: Good support quotes from those affected. Nicely done.

NEWS PHOTO COVERAGE

1ST Eric Dahlberg,
John Byrne
Mineral County
Independent-News

Mineral County Independent-News | The Week of March 5, 2020 PAGE 1

The Serpents players and coaches were all smiles with their trophy after capturing the state title on Friday in Reno.

Serpents
continued from Page 1

and turned around to go 27-4 overall with a regional title and now another state championship.

They knocked off Pahrump Valley 30-18 on Friday to win that title in a game that they controlled from the beginning.

After jumping out to a 20-0 halftime lead, their lead grew to as many as 22 before heading off a strong Panthers team even started, and that approach led them to key Pahrump Valley to check most of the game.

Trevon Wachsmuth led the way in the scoring column for Mineral County with 20 points, and Seth Bozzi had 15 points and 19 rebounds in the win. Ethan Nelms added 10, but Summerbell added that a big difference for them was the defense of Tony Torres.

"They were huge for us all year and really stepped up in the state tournament," he said. "He was one of the best athletes on the floor every game. We put him on Alamo's best scorer and he was awesome."

Mineral County entered the state tournament as the No. 2 seed and matched up with Owyhee in the semifinals, who they beat 40-20. It was a little more of a balanced effort from the scoring side as Wachsmuth finished with 22 points and Nelms and Alex Palacios each had 10. Bozzi added nine points while Torres finished with seven points and 15 rebounds in the win.

"We made Owyhee earn their shots,"

Just like I feel we did throughout the season against every team we played," Summerbell said. "For me defense wins championships, and we played great defense this year and in the playoffs."

The Serpents were able to enjoy the state title and stayed the night in Reno on Friday to celebrate before getting back on the bus where they were greeted by fans in Hawthorne. Some were already back at school Saturday afternoon preparing for their next sport as the basketball and track seasons already begin this week.

For Summerbell, he and longtime assistant coach Nate Ridley were already looking forward to the next basketball season on Tuesday as they planned out their summer schedule to keep the boys in basketball shape. They will lose five seniors to graduation but several looking to be competitive in the 2020-21 season as they bring back a handful of players looking for their third title in a row.

A lot of that success can be attributed to the fact that both Summerbell and Ridley coach the middle school team and have them come up in their system.

"It's a great advantage to get them so early and have an impact on their growth as players," Summerbell said. "Ours been with me for 6-7 years and we just introduce them to the way we want to play, teach them the fundamentals and watch them grow."

For now though, they are just going to sit back a bit and enjoy this championship.

"This was, it's awesome. They're all great, but this year we had a bit more of a challenge," Summerbell said. "I'm really proud of the way we were able to come together as a group. We're a family all the way."

Mineral County coach Pete Summerbell and senior Ethan Nelms share a moment after winning the state title on Friday in Reno.

Second Place
John Byrne
Sparks Tribune

Third Place
Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

BUSINESS SPOT NEWS STORY

1ST Cynthia Delaney
Elko Daily Free Press
Room tax crackdown

Judge's Comment:
Great story and great local reporting on an issue that really impacts the city. I loved the quotes from city officials who felt strongly about what was happening.

Second Place
Cynthia Delaney, Toni Milano
Elko Daily Free Press

Open or closed?

COMMUNITY SERVICE

1ST Kay Lynn Roberts-
McMurray,
Shadrach Michaels
Ely Times

Opioid Crisis

Judge's Comment:
Great in-depth reporting. National story that focused on local community impact. Very detailed.

Second Place
Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

Slaughterhouse

Judge's Comment:
Important community issue covered in great detail. Held my attention. I want to know how the appeal was concluded.

Third Place
Robin Hebrock
Pahrump Valley Times

Grief Share

Judge's Comment:
Great local story about important community issues.

LOCAL COLUMN

1ST Hali Bernstein Saylor
Boulder City Review
Hali's Comment

Judge's Comment:
Thanks to Hali Bernstein Saylor, her city's colorful residents are brought to life in her writing for all to enjoy. Her stories left me wanting to know more about Boulder City.

Second Place
Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:
Thankfully, there's still a place in local journalism for the musings of a Kurt Hildebrand.

Third Place
David Henley
Lahontan Valley News

Judge's Comment:
David C. Henley brings a keen historical perspective to the Lahontan Valley.

LOCAL NON-STAFF COLUMN

1ST Thomas Mitchell
Battle Born Media

Judge's Comment:

Mitchell approaches his opinion writing with the nose of a newshound. The writing is clear and concise and the columns are dressed with plenty of supporting facts. The impact of the material on the author's readership is unmistakable, which made the selection stand out against the others.

Second Place
Jeanette Strong
Lahontan Valley News

Judge's Comment:
Wonderfully written, very clear opinion pieces illustrated with appropriate facts and anecdotes. Very strong entry.

Third Place
Erich Obermayr
Mason Valley News

Crossing the divide

Judge's Comment:
Thoroughly enjoyed this entry, particularly the Christmas column with its twist on immigration. Excellent work.

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM

1ST Steve Ranson
Lahontan Valley News
Gold Star Families Memorial

Judge's Comment:
Excellent series on the Gold Star Families Memorial. Ranson is head and shoulders above his competition. His other entry on the county commission battle with the US Navy was similarly excellent. Great job!

Second Place
Tim Burmeister
Elko Daily Free Press

Keeping crime covered

Judge's Comment:
Very good article on the challenges a sheriff faces in juggling his officers to cover all areas of the county.

Third Place
Robin Hebrock
Pahrump Valley Times

Judge's Comment:
Good series on the uproar that ensued when the local water board raised parcel fees by 600 percent.

MAGAZINES

OVERALL DESIGN



Corlene Byrd, Ian Racoma, Las Vegas Weekly Creative Staff
Las Vegas Weekly

Judge's Comment:

Great use of photos, color, shape, everything. It's exactly what you'd want out of magazine design.

Second Place

Matthew and Tina Freeman, Freeman Design
Edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

Could have taken more risks but everything was sleek and enjoyable. Great use of color and naturally intuitive photos.

Third Place

Las Vegas Magazine Creative Staff
Las Vegas Magazine

Urban, Magazine

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING



Sylas Wright
Tahoe Quarterly

Squaw's French Connection

Judge's Comment:

Simple, dignified and understated. The history is great, and it felt unique in comparison to other entries.

Second Place

Mike Ray
Tahoe Quarterly

Remembering Tahoe's Boys of Summer

Judge's Comment:

Looking back on a legacy like this is always enjoyable to me. Great work.

Third Place

Case Keefer
Las Vegas Weekly

Fifty years after its birth, the World Series of Poker retains its restless spirit

Judge's Comment:

A great story for folks who love cards, and a good read for anyone.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



Edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

The variety of well-rounded stories coupled with an attractive presentation hits the mark for this publication's target audience.



Second Place

Tahoe Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

Beautiful layout and compelling local profiles serve the Tahoe community well.

Congratulations to all of this year's contest winners!

FEATURE PHOTO



Mark Hayward
RANGE Magazine

Second Place

Skye Clark
RANGE Magazine

Third Place

Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly

COVER DESIGN



Corlene Byrd, Ian Racoma
Las Vegas Weekly

Second Place

Las Vegas Magazine

Third Place

Freeman Design Group
Edible Reno-Tahoe

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE



Edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

First, the site is incredibly intuitive and easy to navigate, while also being very visually appealing. Second, the design and function of the site and its components work together to create a better user experience. I especially loved the wedding guide. It had everything you needed in a simple yet effective format.

Second Place

RANGE Magazine

Judge's Comment:

Despite being a smaller news outlet, Range's site is simple to navigate and easy to use. It lacks frills but its simplicity is refreshing.

OUTSTANDING GRAPHIC DESIGNER



Wesley Gatbonton
Las Vegas Magazine

Judge's Comment:

Very elegant and luxurious design. Great use of contrast and color.

Second Place

Joshua M. Nelson, Brooke Everson
Las Vegas Magazine

Judge's Comment:

Nice use of color. Images really pop. Easy to look at and to read.

Third Place

Matthew and Tina Freeman
Edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

Very nice design. Great use of color and transparency in photos with overlaid text.



Urban, Magazine

LOCAL NON-STAFF COLUMN



John L. Smith
The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

John Smith demonstrates knowledge in local topics and gives those topics a human touch through well-written and well-researched articles.

Second Place

Barry Perryman
RANGE Magazine

Judge's Comment:

It's fun to read how Barry Perryman's life lessons become relevant to today's political climate. Interesting and educational.

Third Place

Michael C. Moberly
Edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

Michael Moberly shares his love of spirits and writing in these fun articles about mixed drinks of all kinds.

Urban, Magazine

LOCAL COLUMN



Geoff Carter
Las Vegas Weekly

Extended Residency

Judge's Comment:

Carter writes about the things and places that give Las Vegas a sense of community. His column remained fresh and interesting throughout the submitted work.

Second Place

Hugh Jackson
Nevada Current

Judge's Comment:

Jackson's tone was more playful than other columnists writing about Nevada policy and politics and it worked to his advantage. He was able to keep readers engaged while stepping them through serious community issues.

Third Place

Steve Sebelius
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Sebelius truly seems to be writing for Nevadans and his columns are worth reading. I'm particularly impressed by the variety of topics covered in the submission.

Urban, Magazine

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM



Michelle Rindels
The Nevada Independent

The Cannabis Files

Judge's Comment:

This is an important and clearly written overview of the problems inside the Nevada marijuana industry, shining a light not only on the issues exposed on the surface but explaining why secrecy has seemingly exacerbated them. It's the definition of "explanatory journalism," as the reporter demonstrates a depth of understanding of the subject that enables her to write sharp, clear analyses of the situation as it stands today and how the state got there.

Second Place

Jessie Bekker, Briana Erickson
Las Vegas Review-Journal

State of Despair

Judge's Comment:

Deep reporting on a serious subject. Very well done, including the presentation. It's such a sobering contrast to all the frivolous stuff we're exposed to these days. Thanks.

Third Place

Theodora Johnson
RANGE Magazine

Inconvenient Truth: A Little Common Sense on Klamath Dam Removal Would Go a Long Way

Judge's Comment:

This was a really informative read and, I expect, carries a lot of truth, although it's clearly an advocacy piece.

AD SERIES



Emma Cauthorn, Elizabeth Brown, Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly

Native Content - Southern Nevada Water Authority Campaign

WATER 101: TODAY'S SYSTEMS PROTECT LAS VEGAS' FUTURE

WATER CONSERVATION
Water conservation is a multifaceted effort that requires the support of the entire community. Because the Valley has adopted comprehensive conservation practices, Colorado River water usage has decreased, even as Clark County's population has grown, Mack says. Since 2002, the population of Southern Nevada has increased 46% but water use per capita has decreased 28%.

OUTDOOR WATER-SAVING TIPS
Unlike water used indoors that is reclaimed and safely recycled back to Lake Mead, water used outdoors cannot be recycled or reused.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?
Ninety percent of Southern Nevada's water comes from Lake Mead, which is fed by the Colorado River. We share this water with Arizona, California, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Nevada.

WORLD-CLASS WATER SYSTEMS
In Southern Nevada, 99 percent of all water that enters is recycled. Nevada has some of the most advanced wastewater systems in the country, Mack says. "You take a longer shower without going to the gym, and that water will be recycled and used again down the line. Water used indoors is treated and sent back to Lake Mead for future use. On the other hand, water used outdoors cannot be recycled and drains our resources, which is why outdoor watering restrictions are in place."

DROUGHT IN THE COLORADO RIVER
The Colorado River has been experiencing severe drought conditions since 2002. Lower Lake Mead water levels to around 100 feet. "A drought is a slow-moving natural disaster," Mack says. "You usually don't realize you're in a drought until you're already in it." Lake Mead's water level is at 1,083 feet. Should water levels continue to decline, the future of recreational projects and the lake may face shortage conditions in the coming years, reducing the amount of water available to Nevada, Arizona, California and Mexico. Because of conservation efforts, Southern Nevada is prepared to meet the community's water needs even if shortage conditions are declared.

EVERY DROP SAVED MAKES A RIPPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.
Thank you, Southern Nevada, for all that you've done to conserve water. Together we've saved over half a billion gallons - but we're not done yet. It's essential to keep conserving for our future, one drop at a time. Visit SNWA.com for more ways to save.

Second Place

Emma Cauthorn, Ian Racoma, Elizabeth Brown
Las Vegas Weekly

Native Content - Station Casinos

ADVERTISING GENERAL EXCELLENCE



Heather Ruth, Dolores Sarantes
Pahrump Valley Times

Second Place

Tara Addeo
The Record-Courier

Third Place

Jaci Goodman
Edible Reno-Tahoe

DIGITAL HIGH-IMPACT AD

Susan Goddard
Elko Daily Free Press

BL Whipple—Exit Intent Ad

Third Place

Emma Cauthorn, Corlene Byrd, Elizabeth Brown
Las Vegas Weekly

Native Content - Nevada Department of Public Safety

ADVERTISING INNOVATION



Angie Gutting
Las Vegas Review-Journal

M Resort Football Tailgate Kit

Second Place

Las Vegas Magazine Events & Advertising Staff, Greenspun Media Group
Las Vegas Magazine

ELITE Club

Third Place

David Sly
Luxury Las Vegas

Ascaya Mock Cover

Magazines

IN-HOUSE ADVERTISING



Carrie Busha, Moses Achoka, Theresa Danna, Jeff Dow
Nevada Silver & Blue

How are you building the New Nevada?

Judge's Comment:

Campaign had great impact. The student elements made it more heartfelt and personal. Showing the impact the university has had on people's lives made it about much more than a call for donations.

RALLYING THE PACK
Join The Campaign for the New Nevada!

Marc A. Johnson
Marc A. Johnson, President, University of Nevada, Reno

BUILDING WHAT COMES NEXT
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW NEVADA
www.unr.edu/giving

Second Place

David Sly
Luxury Las Vegas

Eco Couture Fashion Show

Judge's Comment:

The simple design is exactly what this single sheet needed. The photos are striking and draw the eye, and the clean lines make the sheet easy to navigate.

Third Place

Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly

Vegas Inc CFO of the Year Awards

Judge's Comment:

This is a simple but effective ad. No frills, no unnecessary information and it jumps off the page. It's well-aligned with the competition it promotes.

BLACK & WHITE AD

1ST Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times
**Never Forgotten
Animal Society**

Judge's Comment:

Although the pictures are clipart, they add enough to the image to make it interesting. Organization is good and with enough different fonts to be attractive.

Second Place

Heather Ruth
Tonopah Times Bonanza

Jim Butler Jr. Queen Pageant

Judge's Comment:

Nice border design, blackout clipart catches the eye, typeface selection is consistent with beauty pageant.

Third Place

Heather Ruth
Tonopah Times Bonanza

Haunted Halloween

Judge's Comment:

Font is consistent with Halloween theme, not too many words to detract from the central idea.

Urban, Magazine

COLOR PRINT AD

1ST Brandi Munn, David Sly
Luxury Las Vegas
KS Kitchen Half Page

Judge's Comment:

The ad had great color/graphic usage.

Second Place

Jorge Betancourt
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Hollywood Access

Judge's Comment:

This ad used the main graphic well, grabbing my attention.

Third Place

Malachi Schlink
Luxury Las Vegas

Lemongrass & Lime

Judge's Comment:

Clean and precise — overall a beautiful ad.

DIGITAL STATIC AD

1ST Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly
**Las Vegas Weekly and
Vegas Inc Present 40
Under 40**



Second Place

**David Memmot, Malachi Schlink,
David Sly**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

The New RJ App

Third Place

Malachi Schlink
Las Vegas Review-Journal

JWT Fashion

**SPECIAL SECTION OR CAMPAIGN
(ADVERTISING)**

1ST Las Vegas Weekly
Best of Vegas

Second Place

Elko Daily Free Press
Health & Wellness

Third Place

Las Vegas Weekly

40 Under 40

Rural

COLOR PRINT AD

1ST Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times
Pumplife CPR

Judge's Comment:

This ad grabbed my attention right away. The color scheme/graphic used was very eye catching.



Second Place

Dolores Sarantes
Pahrump Valley Times

Pahrump Podiatry Ribbon Cutting

Judge's Comment:

The graphic is the first thing to grab you, then the blend of colors works really well in the space.

Third Place

Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times

Trunk or Treat

Judge's Comment:

Right away I know what this ad is for. It has a fun design and color use.

DIGITAL ANIMATED AD

1ST Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly
Best of Vegas

Urban

IN-HOUSE ADVERTISING



David Sly, Angie Gutting
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Best of Las Vegas Voting—2019

Judge's Comment:

This is a great campaign to increase reader engagement and highlight local businesses. This campaign fosters healthy competition to be named the best. The ads were simple but appealing.

Second Place

Angie Gutting
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Walk a Mile

Judge's Comment:

This event is a way to raise awareness for a great cause. The fundraising information is a bit sparse, so people might've had a lot of questions about how they could fundraise. The image on the top of the ad is a good choice to show everyone from all walks of life coming together for a common goal.

Third Place

Angie Gutting, David Sly
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Sunday Circulation Mailers

Judge's Comment:

This campaign catches the eye with the low prices. There is a lot of information, so it looks a bit wordy, but it's understandable. This was a good way to highlight the Sunday edition.

Urban, Rural

NICHE MAGAZINE



Las Vegas Weekly
Health Care Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

Very nice magazine. Feels good in the hands, looks appealing. On topic throughout. Content and advertising is mixed well and advertising is on topic as well. There is a tendency to repeat the same layout process in several places in the magazine—content on the left, advertising on the right. There is some nice spread content that breaks this up in the feature stories.

Second Place

Las Vegas Weekly
Giving Guide

Judge's Comment:

Size and format is impressive from the start. I like the contrast of paper from cover to interior. Overall layout feels nice with some nice use of white space on the larger page sizes. It feels like there's little reason for the reader to dive past the first 20 pages at all, providing little value to advertisers and the featured non-profit organizations. Is there more engaging content about philanthropy and giving that will drive interest and keep readers coming back?

Third Place

**Kassidy Arbillaga, Seana Chapman,
 Susan Goddard, Carol Mott, Nancy
 Streets, Lizz Todd**
Elko Daily Free Press

Mining Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

Well organized magazine. I like how there are opportunities to branch out with different types of advertisers in a couple spots in the magazine. Content and advertising is on topic throughout. The layout starts to get repetitive and becomes easy for my eyes to ignore the ads across the bottom half of most of the continuation pages. Some creative layout and design would make this more compelling.



Rural

IN-HOUSE ADVERTISING



Nancy Streets
Elko Daily Free Press
Shop Local

Judge's Comment:

This campaign showcased the entire community coming together for a collaborative effort: shopping local. It garnered great community engagement.



Second Place

Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times

Holiday Cookie Contest

Judge's Comment:

Innovative way to engage with readers and encourage them to submit content. Sharing with the firefighters was great, but maybe first responders could make up the panel of judges for more engagement and inclusivity.

Third Place

Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times

Monster Savings

Judge's Comment:

Very appealing. The offers were large enough that people were willing to participate.

MORE OF THE BEST

Magazines

MULTIPLE PHOTO ESSAY OR GALLERY



Skye Clark, Cathy Brown, Darla Tibbs, Annie Branger, Bernadette Korslund, Carol Grenier
RANGE Magazine

Outback Roundup: The Winners

OUTBACK ROUNDUP 2019
The Winners

OUTBACK ROUNDUP 2019 BROUGHT IN 345 IMAGES FROM 82 PHOTOGRAPHERS IN 16 STATES. HERE ARE THE TOP SIX. MERIT AWARD WINNERS WILL APPEAR IN THE FALL AND WINTER ISSUES.



Second Place

Shea Evans
Edible Reno-Tahoe

Small town charm: Discover innovative cuisine hidden deep in the Sierra at Stonefly

Third Place

Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly

'Limitless' No Limits Wrestling Tournament

Magazines

PORTRAIT



Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly

Second Place

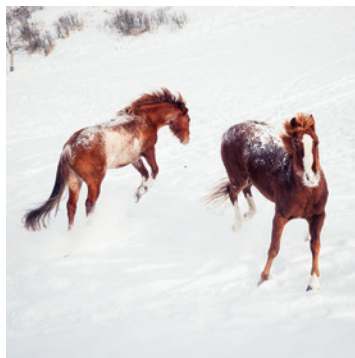
Candice Vivien
Edible Reno-Tahoe

Third Place

Christopher DeVargas
Las Vegas Weekly



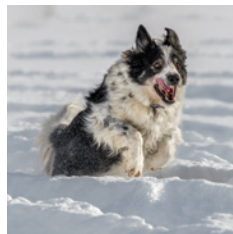
2ND PLACE
"Thunderstorm"
Storm clouds advance towards a central South Dakota ranch. © Darla Tibbs, Fort Pierre, South Dakota



3RD PLACE
"Hops"
On a frigid morning, Frecky Kinca Caty and Miss Solano Cat frolic in the snow while waiting for the feed truck. © Annie Branger, Chinook, Montana



4TH PLACE
"Tom Relief"
Entrance to a restaurant in Opellida, Nebraska. © Bernadette Korslund, Lincoln, Nebraska



5TH PLACE
"Ranch Dog on the Run"
Border collie enjoys a cold winter day in Wyoming. © Carol Grenier, Carson City, Nevada

ABOUT THE JUDGES

All written comments submitted by judges have been included here. Some comments have been edited for clarity and/or grammar. In a few cases, comments were written by NPA staff who read winning entries after they were selected by judges who didn't leave comments.

Thank you to the Utah Press 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.

Becky Ginos
Brian Allfrey
Bubba Brown
Caleb Turner
Carter Pape
Connor Richards
Corey Baumgartner
Craig Conover
Darren Vaughan
Daryn Steed
David Anderson
Denice Page

Dennis Brunner
Devin Christ
Dixie Brunner
Doug McMurdo
Erica Walz
Genelle Pugmire
Harrison Epstein
Jake Sorensen
Jamie Swank
Jean Norman
Jeff Dempsey
Jenna Alton

Jennifer Greenlee
Jennifer Napier-Pearce
Kaitlyn Bancroft
Kalli Prendgast
Kari McFee
KC Sanders
Kelly Cannon
Lauren Lethbridge
Laurie Wynn
Leia Larsen
Linda Petersen

Liz Arellano
Lloyd Call
Maddy La Turner
Matthew Ward
McKenna Park
Michael Tisserand
Morgan Barron
Richard Karpel
Robert Stevens
Roxanne Waybrandt
Sahalie Donaldson
Sara Mismash

Scottie Draper
Steve Martarano
Suzanne Dean
Sydney Gonzalez
Sydney Brown
Tim Gillie
Tom Haraldsen
Xela Thomas
Zane Taylor