

2021 Annual Contest Winners



SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS



PHOTO OF THE YEAR

Jason Bean
Reno Gazette-Journal

Protester takes Reno police shield sign

Judge's Comment

This is a unique moment from a protest. Technically well executed. Appreciated the photographer's attention to detail by including the police sign in the background.



OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST

Rio Lacanlale
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

This was an incredibly difficult category to judge because there were several deserving winners. Before I get into Rio Lacanlale's work, I just want to give a shout out to Michael Lyle of the Nevada Current, as the two were neck and neck in this competition. However, there can only be one Outstanding Journalist for this category. What tipped the balance in Rio Lacanlale's favor was the extent she was willing to go to in order to get the full story, including travel during the time of COVID to reach family members of the 2017 mass shooting victims, and relatives of a Black man choked to death by police 30 years ago. It would be tempting to get these interviews over the phone, but Lacanlale went above and beyond. That personal touch flows through her pieces. Overall, her writing is tight, focused and powerful, with the result the reader "gets" alternate points of view on issues being covered. I was also impressed with the results—for example, changes in the way a Sheriff's department



counted victims, three years after the event. In terms of service to our industry, to continue following a story—not beating it to death but bringing out new facets of importance to the social structure we work within—three years is pretty amazing. Great reporting, important stories that are nicely written, and seeking out the details others might miss. Ms. Lacanlale is certainly deserving of this award.

OUTSTANDING VISUAL JOURNALIST

Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal

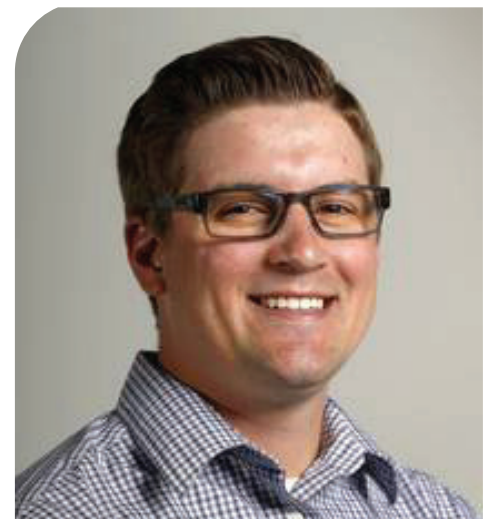


Judge's Comment:

The individual spotlights on the Sin City performers were incredible—each photo captured the essence of each performer. Coupled with the Black Lives Matter Protests and gallery of photos of Saturn and Jupiter throughout Las Vegas made Hager the stand-out in a category with a lot of great entries and tough competition. The deciding factors included creativity, angles and visual elements brought to the photos while demonstrating the range of the photographer from arts to hard news to community coverage. This diversity was very apparent in several contestants.

JOURNALIST OF MERIT

Justin Emerson
Las Vegas Sun



Judge's Comment:

Loved the passion of ALL of the nominees. The winner stood out because of the diversity of assignments and willingness to experiment with new challenges.

EDITORIAL CARTOON OF THE YEAR



Mike Smith
Las Vegas Sun
Racism

Judge's Comment:
 Provides a timely commentary linking current events to an overarching problem in America.

PODCAST OF THE YEAR

Nathan Shoup, Adam Shoup
The Reno Slant

Judge's Comment:
 Professional and entertaining. The hosts sound like they know their stuff on the regional sports scene, always a hot topic. Imagine this has some rabid fans.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Dave Daley, Dave Skinner, Marjorie Haun, C.J. Hadley, John Bardwell
RANGE magazine

A free and independent press is crucial to our survival as a self-governing nation.

Judge's Comment:
 Journalism has been infiltrated with bad judgements and selfish egos and these articles cut through that. As I read them I got the feeling the writers could care less whether I was impressed or upset or worried about who would be offended. The journalist was using words and the images they create to take me to the "moment" so I understood what they understood. It is great writing, but it is also great courage. Thank you.

EDITORIAL OF THE YEAR

Ric Anderson
Las Vegas Sun
An accommodating GOP, Trump are transforming America into a dictatorship

Judge's Comment:
 This editorial laid out in painstaking detail a strong and clear position against the actions of the Trump administration. It used emphatic language and presented a point-by-point case for its argument.

SPECIAL PROJECT

1ST
Ves Quinlan, Bill Jones, John Bardwell, C.J. Hadley
RANGE magazine
Quinlan & Jones

Judge's Comment:
 Strong product with excellent storytelling and imagery.

STORY OF THE YEAR



Tie for first place

1ST
Reno Gazette-Journal Staff
Our year of COVID-19: Feeling loss and hope as Nevada reaches first pandemic anniversary

Judge's Comment:
 Stellar reporting in this series showed the pandemic's effects on a wide range of fronts. The writing was crisp and detailed; the reporting was comprehensive, compassionate and courageous.

1ST
Megan Messerly
The Nevada Independent
What Happened Here?

Judge's Comment:
 Excellent history of Nevada's initial struggle with COVID-19. The reporting and analysis were smart, fair and superbly supported by deep sourcing from every perspective. This is a smooth first draft of history.

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Jason Bean
Reno Gazette-Journal
The story behind the photo that came to define the Black Lives Matter protest in Minden

Judge's Comment:
 Great story, good thirds with each interviewee contrasting each other while they are on the same side, audio was good. Overall great job!

Second Place
Eric Cachinero, Megg Mueller, Kippy Spilker, Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel
Nevada Magazine
Odyssey of a Ghost Town Explorer

Judge's Comment:
 Excellent product with top notch storytelling, history and imagery.

Third Place
Steve Ranson, David Henley, Kenneth Beaton
Lahontan Valley News
Legacies of the Silver State: Nevada Goes to War

Judge's Comment:
 This book is impactful, with top quality storytelling and writing.

2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



LUCIUS BEEBE

Lucius Beebe lived in Nevada for only ten years, but he accomplished enough in that decade to qualify for more than one Silver State Hall of Fame, helping to restore Virginia City and resuscitate the historically significant Territorial Enterprise newspaper.

Beebe was already an accomplished cultural critic and journalist when he moved to Nevada in 1950 with his longtime partner Charles Clegg. A noted gourmand with aristocratic roots and what Wikipedia calls an “impressive and baroque wardrobe”, Beebe joined the New York Herald Tribune in 1929 and remained with the paper for 21 years. From the 1930s through 1944 he wrote a syndicated column called “This New York”, which chronicled the city’s “cafe society”, a term he helped to popularize.

In 1950, Beebe and Clegg had had enough of cafe society life and opted to move to Virginia City, a town they fell in love with at least in part due to its association with railroad history, a subject that obsessed them both. They bought the Virginia City News and launched it as the Territorial Enterprise two years later, breathing life into the newspaper that had employed Mark Twain nearly a century earlier.

Beebe wrote a column called “That Was the West,” covering everything from history to gastronomy. Drawing on his relationships with the nation’s literati, Beebe convinced prominent authors like Bernard DeVeto and Walter Van Tilburg Clark to contribute

See BEEBE, next page

RAY HAGAR

Ray Hagar got his first job in journalism at the age of 17 and is still going strong 50 years later.

Born in Reno and raised in Sparks, he has spent most of his career covering sports and politics in Northern Nevada and making himself one of the most widely-respected reporters in the state.

While still a senior in high school in 1970, Hagar got a job with the Reno Evening Gazette and Nevada State Journal as a sports stringer. After graduating from journalism school at the University of Nevada in 1975, he worked as a sports writer and photographer for the Gardnerville Record-Courier and a sports editor and photographer for the Sparks Tribune, before returning to the Evening Gazette and State Journal in 1977.

Hagar’s instinctual defense of his journalistic independence led to an incident in 1979 that made national headlines. He was interviewing hot-headed New York Yankees manager Billy Martin, who objected to one of Hagar’s questions. “He said that writers always twist things,” Hagar told AP. “He saw me writing things down and he wanted to see my notes.” Hagar refused and held his notes behind his back as Martin reached around to grab them. Martin slugged him. The Evening Gazette protested and eventually there was a financial settlement and apology from Martin.

In 1987, Hagar left Nevada for a relatively brief spell in Texas as sports editor of the El Paso Times. Six years later, he came home for a third stint at the paper that had by then been renamed the Reno Gazette Journal (RGJ). He began covering public affairs and politics in 2003 as co-host with Sam Shad



on Nevada Newsmakers, beginning a new chapter in his career that continues to this day.

His prominence as a political reporter continued to rise in 2010, when he began writing the “Inside Nevada Politics” blog for RGJ. It quickly became must reading for anyone trying to understand politics in the state.

Hagar also co-authored a book in 2010 with his friend Guy Clifton. *Johnson-Jeffries: Dateline Reno* was released on the 100th anniversary of the Jack Johnson-James J. Jeffries “Fight of the Century” in Reno.

Since retiring from the RGJ in 2016, Hagar has continued to co-host Nevada Newsmakers and to write political news features for the Gazette Journal.



FRANK X. MULLEN

Frank X. Mullen contains multitudes. Known primarily as an investigative reporter, he also is an author, historian, actor and university journalism instructor.

Born in Queens and raised in New Jersey, Mullen came west to earn a journalism degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver. In 1979, he helped co-found The Metropolitan, the school’s student newspaper that’s still publishing today. He later earned a master’s degree in environmental journalism/new media from the Reynolds School of Journalism at the

University of Nevada, Reno.

Mullen cut his teeth as an editor and reporter for the Columbia Daily Tribune, the Rocky Mountain Business Journal and the Denver Post before coming to Nevada in 1988 to work for the Reno Gazette Journal. He spent most of his 25 years at the paper pursuing deeply-reported investigative projects.

His interest in Nevada history drew him to the Donner Party, which led to a newspaper series about the ill-fated pioneers that later became a book. The Donner Party Chronicles:

A Day-by-Day Account of a Doomed Wagon Train, 1846-1847, went through four printings and is still used in history classes in Nevada and California.

He broke stories about dangerous Nevada doctors, malfeasance in state agencies, the abuse of research animals, and toxic clouds generated by burning military munitions in California. His ongoing stories about the Fallon cancer cluster, in which 16 children contracted leukemia over a six-year period, was nominated for a Pulitzer by the Gazette

See MULLEN, next page

LENITA POWERS

Lenita Powers may not have become a mainstay of Northern Nevada journalism for more than four decades were it not for the inspiration of a high-school counselor who told her she wasn't "college material" despite a straight-A average. That ticked her off, so when she graduated from Sparks High School in 1967 she immediately enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Nevada, Reno. She worked her way through school in four years and graduated with a degree from the Reynolds School of Journalism.

Powers served two internships during her undergraduate years, one at Advertising Age in New York and the other at the Reno Evening Gazette. Ad Age offered her a permanent position, which she declined. After graduating in 1972, she accepted a position at the Evening Gazette and began her 43-year career with the paper at what was then called the "Women's Page".

Eager to become a hard-news reporter—at the time, there were only two other women doing it at the Evening Gazette—she often helped cover any breaking news events, which eventually led her to the city desk. Over the course of her career she covered federal and state courts, the legislature, K-12 and higher education. She also wrote heart-tugging people features.

She worked as assistant city editor, mentored numerous Reynolds School journalism students, and wrote a popular column throughout the 1990s, tackling everything from politics to her own family.



One of her columns led directly to the rescue of Fleischmann Atmospherium Planetarium—they were planning to turn it into a parking lot—and its placement on the National Register of Historic Buildings. She also won awards for a column about an uninsured Reno child who needed a heart transplant. Her column led to the establishment of a local fund to finance the procedure.

After retiring from the Gazette Journal in 2015, Powers joined the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden as a volunteer. She served on the board until 2019, promoting the arboretum and helping to write and distribute press releases and event information for the society's fund-raising events.

In her spare time she raised two sons, numerous cats, cutting horses and cattle, and competed regionally as a team roper. She still lives in the Reno area.

BARRY SMITH

Barry Smith made his mark in Nevada journalism as both an editor and an advocate.

He began his journalism career in 1977 as a reporter for the State Journal-Register in Springfield, Ill. He also worked for more than 16 years in Colorado — ten years as a reporter and city editor for the Durango Herald, and six years as an assistant city editor for the Greeley Tribune—before making his way to Nevada.

Smith came to the Silver State in 1996 to become editor of the Nevada Appeal. The paper had been through two ownership changes in the two years before he arrived and the staff was unsettled. After Smith was hired and Jeff Ackerman took over as publisher, the paper began to thrive. It increased circulation and became a leader in statehouse coverage. Smith wrote a weekly column and daily editorials, and edited much of the daily copy.

He also led the newsroom through two of its biggest news stories of the early aughts—the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when the Appeal produced an extra edition, and a massive wildfire in 2004 that threatened to consume Carson City. The Appeal won numerous awards during this stretch, including Smith, who was honored as the state's best columnist in 2002.

He was a member of the Nevada Press Association Board of Directors when the executive director position opened in 2006. "I used to have to worry about one newspaper," he often said after he was hired as the organization's



director. "Now my job is to worry about all of them."

Smith quickly became the voice of Nevada journalists, arguing in dozens of hearings in the Nevada legislature for improving the state's open meeting and public records laws. In 2007, during his first session as a lobbyist, he worked closely with Sen. Terry Care to help enact sweeping reforms in the public records law. Other significant policy accomplishments included the first police body-cam statute, which ensures that body-cam recordings are a matter of public record, and the first Nevada Supreme Court rules on electronic access to courtrooms by journalists, as well as a statewide policy on public access to court records and evidence. In the 2017 session, he helped ensure that public notice remains in newspapers.

He retired as the press association director in 2018.

BEEBE, continued from previous page

regularly. Under his direction, the weekly newspaper grew to 6,000 subscribers and generated national attention.

According to the Online Nevada Encyclopedia (ONE), Beebe and Clegg did nothing to conceal their homosexuality in Virginia City. "Nevertheless, oral histories note that while most residents disapproved of a gay lifestyle, they chose to overlook it, in part because the men were improving the community with preservation efforts," said ONE.

In 1958, Beebe was appointed by

Governor Charles Russell to serve as chairman of the committee that planned events honoring Nevada and Virginia City on the state's Silver Centennial. Clegg and Beebe sold the Territorial Enterprise in 1961 and moved to the San Francisco area. Beebe died of a heart attack five years later.

Beebe wrote more than three dozen books (about half co-authored by Clegg), most focusing on the joys of railroad travel. He was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 1992.

MULLEN, continued from previous page

Journal, as was his coverage of animal abuse and neglect.

Mullen taught journalism at the Reynolds School for more than a dozen years beginning in 2000, and continues to lecture on storytelling and Western history at Truckee Meadows Community College.

Mullen's talent for narration and acting made him a natural for the Humanities Chautauqua living-history presentations where, since 1998, he has performed in several states as characters as diverse as Babe Ruth, Benedict Arnold and

Edward R. Murrow.

He has appeared on the History Channel, Discovery, PBS, BBC and other cable networks. He was Nevada Press Association's Outstanding Journalist in 2002 and 2005, and recently was named the Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer for 2021.

Last year, Mullen came out of retirement to revive the website of the Reno News & Review, an alternative weekly that was shuttered when the pandemic began.

Congratulations to all of this year's contest winners!

Magazines

IN-HOUSE ADVERTISING



Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly

Vegas Inc Women Inspiring Nevada

Judge's Comment:

The Women Inspiring Nevada ad is beautiful, clean and graphically impactful. As a Montana woman, I'm inspired! Fantastic use of highlighting their logo, incorporating local foliage, with cool fonts and colors.

Second Place

Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly

Vegas Inc Angel Awards Nominations

Third Place

Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly

Vegas Inc Top Doctors Nominations

Urban, Rural

NICHE MAGAZINE



Elizabeth Brown, Emma Cauthorn, Jennifer Inaba
Las Vegas Weekly

Health Care Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

Well-written and relevant medical articles combined with eye-catching visual imagery and uncluttered layout design. Nice work!

Second Place

Elko Daily Free Press

Mining Quarterly

Rural

ADVERTISING GENERAL EXCELLENCE



Tara Addeo
The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:

Excellent advertising from top to bottom. A lot of hard work was put into the political ads and special section. The "Best of" special section advertising was also outstanding. Great work.

Second Place

Nevada Appeal

Judge's Comment:

Great use of color and font and strategic use of image to compel action around the message.

Third Place

Heather Ruth, Dolores Sarantes, Charlotte Uyeno, Gail Smith, Racheal Walker, Bianca Graeff
Pahrump Valley Times

Judge's Comment:

Very nice ads throughout and an attractive and well-designed business directory.

Rural

BLACK AND WHITE AD



Heather Ruth
Tonopah Times Bonanza

Galli's Locks

Judge's Comment:

Simple but elegantly done. Love the flag in the ribbon.

Second Place

Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times

Feed the Hungry Benefit

Judge's Comment:

The layout of the photos is fun. Great placement and separation for the wording.

Third Place

Heather Ruth
Tonopah Times Bonanza

Kids Fishing Derby

Judge's Comment:

Cute artwork, clean layout.

Magazines

ADVERTISING GENERAL EXCELLENCE



Jaci Goodman
edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

This magazine is fantastic from front to back! High-quality advertising throughout with great artwork and design technique. The attention to detail is excellent. Especially enjoyed the Holiday and Valentine's Day advertising sections. Nicely done.

Second Place

Carrie Roussel, Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel
Nevada Magazine

Judge's Comment:

The advertisements are nicely done with style and eye-catching graphics. Need more advertising to move up in this category. Very nice magazine overall.

On November 10, 1775 a Corps of Marines was created by a Resolution of Continental Congress.

HAPPY 245TH BIRTHDAY USMC

"You're making a wrong assumption that a Marine by himself is outnumbered."
GENERAL PETER PACE

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem."
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

To err is human, to forgive divine;
neither of which is Marine Corps Policy

USMC
Honor Courage Commitment
I stand for the flag.
I kneel for the fallen. Oorah

Galli's Locks
775-482-9414 775-482-4623 cell
PO Box 748 • Tonopah, NV 89049

Rural
COLOR PRINT AD



1ST
Mike McGarvey
Nevada Appeal
Nissan

Judge's Comment:
 Perfect photo and vibrant colors.

Second Place
Dolores Sarantes
Pahrump Valley Times
Happy 65th Anniversary

Judge's Comment:
 Beautiful and elegant, just like this couple celebrating 65 years. Love the color combinations.

Third Place
Mike McGarvey
Lahontan Valley News
Head Start program

Judge's Comment:
 Bright, attention grabbing, busy but not too busy, great layout.

Urban
COLOR PRINT AD



1ST
Tony Morales
Las Vegas Review-Journal
7@7 Spadea

Judge's Comment:
 Outstanding use of colors and images to capture attention. Well designed layout.

Second Place
David Sly
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Vegas Nation Magazine Ad

Judge's Comment:
 Nice use of eye-catching image along with well-executed layout.

Third Place
Jorge Betancourt, David Sly, Malachi Schlink
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Air Supply Magazine Ad

Judge's Comment:
 Image does nice job capturing readers' attention.

Magazines
COLOR PRINT AD



1ST
Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel
Nevada Magazine
Walker Lake/Mineral Co.

Judge's Comment:
 Eye-catching imagery and well-organized layout.

Second Place
Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly
Las Vegas Weekly Voter Activation

Judge's Comment:
 Great use of color and font and strategic use of image to compel action around the message.

Third Place
Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly
Las Vegas Weekly Voter Participation

Judge's Comment:
 Nice use of color and font and unique layout.

Rural
SPECIAL SECTION OR CAMPAIGN (ADVERTISING)

1ST
Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times
2020 Graduation Issue

Judge's Comment:
 Nicely done! Love the names on the cover, and all the creativity in the ad design. The baby section is a great idea!

Second Place
Tara Addeo
The Record-Courier
Best Of Carson Valley

Judge's Comment:
 Good creativity in the ad design and the categories are easy to read. I like the gloss cover, but wish it was stitched and trimmed. Maybe that was not an option.

Urban
ADVERTISING INNOVATION

1ST Chase Rankin
Las Vegas Review-Journal
7@7, 7-Minute Newscast

Judge's Comment:
Excellent concept and execution. The sponsorships are presented in a thoughtful, non-intrusive manner that does not distract from the content, yet it delivers the audience an advertiser may be seeking.

Second Place
Emma Cauthorn
Las Vegas Weekly

Various examples of native advertising

Judge's Comment:
Excellent design and concept.

Third Place
Bob Conrad
This is Reno
Kathleen Sigurdson for Judge

Rural
IN-HOUSE ADVERTISING

1ST Elko Daily Free Press
AAA Student of the Week

Judge's Comment:
Fantastic idea! I'm sure the advertisers really see and feel the value of their participation. And love that there are three winners! Very clever.

Second Place
Mike McGarvey
Nevada Appeal

Love Notes

Judge's Comment:
I want to use this idea! I appreciate the leaning into the 'old fashioned' notion of sending a love note to your loved one. I bet they turned out darling. Great approachable price point too.

Third Place
Heather Ruth
Pahrump Valley Times

PVT On The Go

Judge's Comment:
Solid, clean design.

Urban
IN-HOUSE ADVERTISING

GUIDE TO LAS VEGAS
NEW HOMES
www.lasvegasnewhomesguide.com

NEW HOME VALUES
Your advertised properties in the Guide to Las Vegas New Homes will be included in our new Las Vegas Review-Journal section *New Home Values*.

ADDRESSABLE GEO-FENCING
To drive more traffic to your ad, community sales offices which do not advertise in the Guide to Las Vegas New Homes will be Geo-Fenced. Walk-ins will be served an ad on their Smartphone which links to your nearby community in digital edition of the Guide to Las Vegas New Homes.

CUSTOM ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES
Many exciting and creative options are available that will add impact to any advertising campaign. Contact your advertising representative for details.
702.383.0346 OR 702.383.0488 FOR DETAILS

DISTRIBUTION - OVER 390 LOCATIONS
16,500 printed monthly
Distributed at supermarkets and many convenience stores throughout the Las Vegas Valley
Las Vegas Valley Locations
14 Lee's Discount Liquors
6 La Bonita's
4 Cardella's
4 Mariani's
26 Albertsons/Sav-on
More than 390 additional locations
Select Real Estate Offices

DEMOGRAPHICS
College Graduate: 41 Years, 25,100 | 25%
Median Age: 51
78,000 Readers (over 100,000 homes) (over Readers)
51%
Over: 60%
2+ employed in household: 29,000 | 29%
3-4 person household: 44,000 | 45%
Readers earning \$15,000-49,999: \$22,900
Readers earning \$50,000-99,999: \$22,900
Readers earning \$100,000+: \$22,900
Other: 6.3%
Hispanic: 28.9%
Asian: 5.1%
African American: 22.6%
Caucasian: 60%

2021 Rate Card
BRINGING Buyers Home

1ST Angie Gutting
Las Vegas Review-Journal
New Homes Guide Media Kit

Second Place
Olivia Kuntz, Malachi Schlink
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Aging Wellness

Magazines, Urban, Rural
DIGITAL AD

1ST Dany Haniff
Las Vegas Weekly
Voter activation

Judge's Comment:
This ad had it all, including colorful, engaging audio that doesn't make your ears bleed. The message was simple and effective and it was direct and targeted.

Second Place
Malachi Schlink, David Memmott
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Kroil

Judge's Comment:
For something as unsexy as lubricant spray, this ad was not overpowering. The product and the slogan were excellent and the multiple ad sizes could be used very effectively around content on different sites and platforms.

Third Place
Susan Goddard
Elko Daily Free Press
Rural Nevada Development Corp.

Judge's Comment:
While this ad is busy in terms of banner, it's really hard to produce something for a rural business development program. And, yet very easily, the reader is able to tell what it is about and generate some interest. It's a great example of squeezing a lot of information in a relatively small space.

VOTE IN POWER
REGISTER TO VOTE AT
PS://WWW.REGISTERTOVOTENV
(PSST, IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO REGISTER!)
6891
GREENSPRING MEDIA GROUP
WEEKLY LAS VEGAS SUN

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



**Las Vegas
Review-Journal**

Judge's Comment:

A complete newspaper: Spot news reporting on key local issues; ambitious enterprise projects; strong sports. Depth and diversity in opinion pages. And a grabby, accessible, and coherent design. Overall, this is a paper that very capably and energetically reflects and serves its community.

Second Place

Las Vegas Weekly

Judge's Comment:

Las Vegas Weekly is a great read. It's energetic and attractive, and its features bring you into the heart of the city's culture and history.

Third Place

Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

A very attractive product.

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE



**Las Vegas
Review-Journal**

Judge's Comment:

Strong design guides readers through excellent online story telling. Great stories, photos, graphics, illustrations and advertising in an easily navigable, well-designed site. Nicely done.

Second Place

Reno Gazette-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Another solid entry. News content is excellent. The COVID hospital story was incredibly well done. Strong design and good ad placement. This was a difficult category to judge.

Third Place

The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

Fantastic infographics! Good organization and summaries for legislative issues coverage. Candidate breakdown for senate was excellent - really reader friendly.

NEWS FEATURE STORY



Siobhan McAndrew
Reno Gazette-Journal

Dying alone: A year of lost goodbyes for Nevada families who go without closure amid COVID-19

Judge's Comment:

This is a beautifully written story that reflects the agony we all suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. This weaves a wonderful tale that gives the reader a front row seat to the pain thrust upon us.

Second Place

Jenny Kane
Reno Gazette-Journal

Only through a window: Pandemic separates a mother from her daughter with special needs

Judge's Comment:

I have rarely felt such frustration as I read this story about this mother's struggle with her daughter. I so wanted them to connect that I felt like tapping on the window with her.

Third Place

Ricardo Torres-Cortez
Las Vegas Sun

Missing Lesly: Family struggles to cope with death of beloved daughter

Judge's Comment:

This story made me love Lesly too. I thought it was wonderfully crafted and detailed the agony of this family.

VIDEO PROGRAM OR SERIES



Las Vegas Review-Journal

7@7 Daily News Show

Judge's Comment:

Very professional. Looks like a major studio tv broadcast.

Second Place

Meghan Burk, Todd Poth
Getaway Reno/Tahoe

#getVIRTUAL

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly

**Fremont Sign:
Star View Motel**

Judge's Comment:

Equally appealing in content, quality, and use.

Second Place

Wade Vandervort
Las Vegas Weekly

Las Vegas Cityscape

Judge's Comment:

Great photo, great enhanced detail!

Third Place

Yasmina Chavez
Las Vegas Weekly

**Vegas Band Luxury
Furniture Store**

Judge's Comment:

An interesting concept and well done manipulation of the photo series.

NEWS PHOTO COVERAGE

6A | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 | RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL

Renown

Continued from Page 2A

tweeted to his fellow front-line workers who had just lost 5 patients to COVID in less than two days. "Stay strong."

Keperman's photo, taken the day the overflow unit opened, was shared by a conservative blog that falsely claimed it proved the pandemic was a hoax because it did not show patients.

The blog's post went viral when President Donald Trump retweeted it and added, "Take election results in Nevada, also!"

"The pandemic is very real to Keperman, who is just two years older than the 41-year-old who will die of COVID-19."

On Friday, three of his patients have come off ventilators, so it's a good day.

"I have four others who, unfortunately, have developed the worst part of COVID," he said, his eyes lined and his ears swollen to the point they are painful to touch. Layers of masks irritate his face and skin after shifts that stretch beyond 12 hours.

"Despite our best efforts, they aren't going to make it out of here."

'Minute by minute we are watching them'

"Even though you don't see it, doesn't mean it is not happening," Renown ICU nurse Amelia Edwards tells her friends, family and anyone who will listen.

"If you could just take the time to wear the mask, and wash your hands, and do the social distancing that is being asked of you, it could prevent more than you actually know."

You never know who and how it will strike, she wants to tell the people who don't feel sick but still may pass the virus on to someone she will try to save today.

Edwards says it feels like a million years since she was the little girl fixing up her dolls to make them well again. Now, she talks about her job as if going into battle.

"I have held up iPads to a patient so their family can say goodbye," she says just before starting a recent shift.

"No matter who they are, I know the most terrible thing in the world in this situation is to be alone."

There is no sitting down for Edwards, who goes into work knowing she puts her own life at risk.

The young mother said she sees young patients dying. They look like her. They are not the older people who were at first thought to be the only ones at great risk of dying from COVID-19.

"Minute by minute we are watching them," she said of her patients. "We are constantly updating the doctor."

Conversations are fast.

"We have just now (started) this person on this medication," she will tell a doctor just before calling back again. "Now we have maxed the person on this medication."

A few minutes later, "Now, we are maxed on all the medications, what's our next step?"

The outcomes are tough to handle. For Edwards, she takes a minute away in a corner stairwell to escape.

"I walk up and down the stairs and can see the outside," she said.

She took another nurse there after a patient died.

"She had fought all morning and advocated and strived to help her patient and he ended up passing."

"Here is my fake fresh air," she said to the other nurse as they looked out the stairwell windows together.

'Death is on their mind'

King uses the word "unprecedented" as he talks about the codes written on ICU windows, retrofitting garages to squeeze in more beds and the staggering patient-to-staff ratios.

His staff are treating two and three times the number of patients on a shift compared to just a few months ago.

On this Friday, this ICU is just finished being adapted to place two patients in every room.

"Unprecedented," he says again, calmly. It's hard to surprise King about the challenges of learning about a virus while trying to fight it.

"There have been two days where I had to sit down in my chair and just take a deep breath and realize where we were."

Those days were when Renown had to create a COVID-19 ICU, borrowing monitors from other parts of the hospital and improvise.

The second day was just recently when he realized they were very close to doubling up patients in those same rooms.

Like Edwards, he compares it to a battle as he walks the 6th floor unable to find enough staff to treat patients.

There aren't enough traveling nurses and doctors to supplement staff as hospitals across the country face the same shortages.

"There are no more people. This is like what we are used to seeing in battlefield conditions where people are help-



With caregivers seen in a reflection, a patient lies intubated in his bed in the Intensive Care Unit devoted to those afflicted with COVID-19 at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno on Dec. 11. The patient provided a media release for photos but his name was withheld. PHOTOS BY JASON BASS



A caregiver helps a patient undergo dialysis in the Intensive Care Unit devoted to COVID-19 patients at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno on Dec. 11.



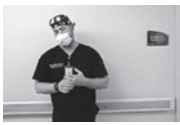
Recovering COVID-19 patient Luis Martinez speaks with his caregivers at the Alternative Care Site at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno on Dec. 11. The ACS is located on the first floor of the Mill St. parking garage.



Critical Care Provider Dr. Richard King poses for a portrait at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno on Dec. 11.



ICU nurse Lynsey Bodek looks in on a patient at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno on Dec. 11.



Emergency room Dr. Ross Albright pauses while speaking with the RGJ at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno on Dec. 11.

ing their buddy next to them," he said.

King is a recent transplant to Nevada, recruited from Redding, Calif., to start a neurological intensive care unit before the pandemic hit.

Now, he spends his time focused on COVID, half doing administrative work and overseeing a team of 14 ICU doctors, and the rest at patients' bedside.

"They are arriving at the hospital faster than they are recovering," he said. An avid hiker, he compares the surges to climbing mountains.

"You get to the top of a peak and realize you have another peak to get to the top," he said. "The problem is we don't know when this will end."

For the patients, the ICU is frightening.

"Death is on their mind and they are lonely," he said. "You can't even see your caretaker's face. You hear them muffled through masks and helmets."

It's not the kind of medicine King wants to practice. He said he is embarrassed to admit he doesn't know his patients as well as he used to.

In a critical care situation, that is uncomfortable, but that's field hospital medicine.

He worries as people arrive sicker and his patients are younger, the virus attacking their cardiovascular system causing clots in veins, lungs and brain.

"This is going to get worse before it gets better."

'We never run'

Somewhere between walking and running is how Lyndsay Knight gets through her shift.

"You never know what is going to happen, but we never run," said Knight, who works in Renown's emergency room. "We work efficiently. Running wouldn't be efficient, but we do walk fast."

Knight talks about the steady stream that starts to grow as the day grows longer.

It is often people who went to bed the night before hoping they would feel better when they woke up. When they don't, they wait a little longer.

Then they start showing up, or calling for help. Ambulances have been 10 deep in the bay, waiting to unload patients.

Patients sometimes line the halls waiting for treatment or a hospital bed. Finding a place for them all can be like a giant game of chess.

That's where Mel Morris, director of Renown's Transfer Center, comes into play.

Like an air traffic controller, on dozens of screens she and her team look to place patients all over the hospital.

It means moving 40 to 70 patients a

day and an additional 20 to 40 who may be transferred from other facilities. There are COVID patients throughout the hospital including in the pediatric and labor and delivery rooms and putting everyone in a safe place for care is a 24/7 operation.

"Sometimes, we have just run out of room," Morris said.

'You become numb to it'

Meliza Ramirez-Najera is already tired before her Friday shift.

A manager in Renown's environmental engineering department, she oversees the staff of 150 who clean hospital rooms.

"Good afternoon team," she says at a pre-shift meeting. "Happy Monday to my Monday people and happy Friday to my Friday people."

This Friday, 99 of the 645 people in Renown's hospital beds are being discharged. Ramirez-Najera is short staffed, and employees are expected to work 10 hour shifts six days a week when the hospital is this full.

It's mandatory, she said.

"Make sure you are still wearing your eye protection at all times and make sure you're wearing your N95s," she tells her staff. "Because you never know what we are going to get ourselves into."

Ramirez-Najera said her staff is not always informed if the patient who was just in the room they are cleaning had COVID-19.

She talks about coworkers who have been exposed to the virus, and those who are now sick. Coworkers have ended up being treated for the virus in the

See RENOWN, Page 7A



Jason Bean
Reno Gazette-Journal

Inside Renown's COVID-19 wards

Judge's Comment:

Documenting history sometimes means going where it's uncomfortable, potentially hazardous, to show readers what few will ever see and to create a record of events, like this one, that will be revisited for many decades. These photos do that very well, and they do it on a human scale.

Second Place

Jason Bean
Reno Gazette-Journal

Civil unrest in downtown Reno

Third Place

Benjamin Hager, L.E. Baskow, Chase Stevens
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Lonely Las Vegas Strip

BUSINESS SPOT NEWS STORY



Subrina Hudson
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevada's gig worker unemployment-filing site has bumpy start

Judge's Comment:

Informative and engaging coverage. While there has been a decent amount of national coverage on the inadequacies of the unemployment filing process, this felt uniquely personal in its approach.

Second Place

Sean Golonka
The Nevada Independent

Amazon surpasses Walmart for most Nevada employees and dependents on Medicaid

Judge's Comment:

Very interesting story with important implications about our current economy. Very well written and structured.

Third Place

Jason Hidalgo
Reno Gazette-Journal

Skipping the line: Lack of oversight plagues COVID vaccine deployment in Northern Nevada

Judge's Comment:

Interesting, direct approach to the topic.

LOCAL NON-STAFF COLUMN



Martha Menendez
The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

Outstanding writing. Delivers strong messages.

Second Place

Carrie Kaufman
Nevada Current

Judge's Comment:

Excellent reporting. Very informative.

Third Place

John L. Smith
The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

Enjoyed his writing style. Good work.

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING



Michelle Rindels, Riley Snyder
The Nevada Independent

'Innovation Zones' promoted by Sisolak would create semi-autonomous county at behest of Blockchains

Second Place

Reno Gazette-Journal

A peaceful protest by many. Chaos among some. Here's what happened in Reno on Saturday

Judge's Comment:

I questioned the word 'fantastical' in the lede, until I kept reading and concluded it was the perfect description of this scheme to replace local government with private enterprise, complete with its own made-up currency. The story does stretch the definition of 'breaking news,' but it fits considering the timetable of ongoing legislative coverage.

Third Place

Jason Hidalgo
Reno Gazette-Journal

Renown says it has 42 COVID patients in garage after Trump retweets lie about hospital

ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE STORY

05

Bruno Mars, a headliner at Park Theater since 2016, donated \$1 million to jump-start MGM Resorts International's Employee Emergency Grant Fund.



Bruno Mars donated \$1 million to jumpstart MGM Resorts International's Employee Emergency Grant Fund. (Chris Pizzello/Invision)



Las Vegas Review-Journal
100 acts of kindness: Southern Nevada stepped up to help

Judge's Comment:

During the pandemic, it was -- and probably is -- so easy to get lost in the daily updates of death and the economic destruction. But, the staff of the Las Vegas Review-Journal did a wonderful job of collecting the stories of unsung heroes and people who did try to make a difference. When journalism is at its best, this is what happens: A tour de force of community reporting presented in a way that helps the community see a different, obvious story.

Second Place

Jenny Kane
Reno Gazette-Journal

He couldn't sleep. So now he photographs Reno during its darkest hours.

Judge's Comment:

I hung on every single word of this very well-written piece. This journalist doesn't just talk about a photographer, she talks about a city. Loved the quote about people not liking what they saw. Also loved how the story went back and told the photographer's back story. I felt like I was right there. Excellent reporting and provocative writing.

Third Place

Christopher Lawrence
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Looking back at 'Casino'

Judge's Comment:

As good as journalists are at looking back at things that happen on anniversaries, this was a surprising read. It didn't just recount the production of "Casino," it took readers deeper, and helped make the argument that this somewhat iconic film that was derided as a knock-off is much better than that. After judging this story, I actually went back and watched the movie again. I think that is the mark of an excellent piece of journalism.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Siobhan McAndrew, Jason Bean
Reno Gazette-Journal

'Am I going to die?' Inside Renown's ICU where COVID-19 is an endless fight for caregivers

Judge's Comment:

An interesting inside view.

Second Place

Ric Anderson
Las Vegas Weekly

How to Apply for and Receive Federal Coronavirus Emergency Funds

Judge's Comment:

Resourceful.

Third Place

Las Vegas Weekly

Takeout and Delivery Guide

Judge's Comment:

Not only are the design and layout attractive, it is easy to navigate. Also like the outside-of-the-box thinking for community service.

EDITORIAL WRITING



John Kerr
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

No-holds-barred writing on topics of local interest made this tops for the category. The editorials were the kind that demand readership from those who agree and disagree.

Second Place

Ric Anderson
Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

Good context around each of the editorials that stood up well to predicted arguments.

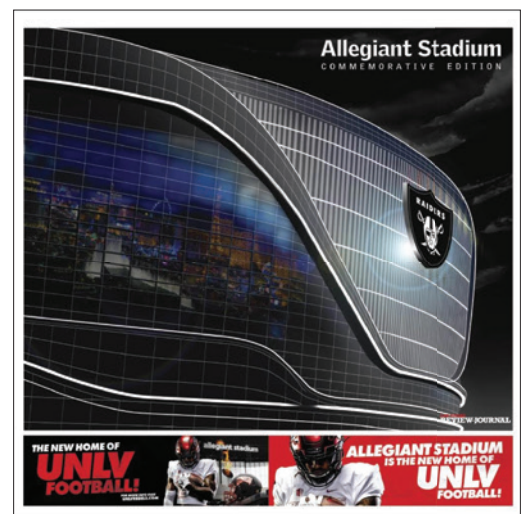
Third Place

Victor Joecks
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

The writing was solid and took clear stands on important issues.

SPECIAL SECTION (EDITORIAL)



Las Vegas Review-Journal
Allegiant Stadium

Judge's Comment:

This is a spectacular section worthy of its subject. This is where idea meets execution. Beautifully conceived, realized and accomplished section.

Second Place

Jennifer Inaba, Emma Cauthorn
Las Vegas Weekly

Women Inspiring Nevada

Judge's Comment:

Lovely presentation, superb vehicle for honoring some of the city's most dynamic leaders.

Third Place

Las Vegas Weekly
Best of Vegas

Judge's Comment:

Idea: old. Presentation: first-rate. It's a frequent special-section challenge: How to make a timeworn idea look fresh. This section succeeds brilliantly.

OVERALL DESIGN



Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Ambitious. Every page is beautifully done. Thoughtful coordination of text, images, hed styles. Coherence, but not formulaic; creative but appropriate treatments for both enterprise and breaking news.

Second Place

John Taylor
Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

Very clean and orderly design. Front pages are striking and elegant. Inside pages are clean and accessible.

HEALTH NEWS STORY (OR SERIES)



Megan Messerly
The Nevada Independent

What Happened Here

Judge's Comment:

Comprehensive, insightful and opening with a killer lede — this is first (or second) rough draft of history material.

Second Place

Anjeanette Damon
Reno Gazette-Journal

Half of Washoe's COVID-19 deaths came from one Reno nursing home. Here's what went wrong

Judge's Comment:

Several strong entries in this category. This entry and other winners were distinguished by combining solid reporting with effective storytelling.

Third Place

Megan Messerly
The Nevada Independent

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: How rural Nevada is grappling with COVID-19

FEATURE WRITING



C. Moon Reed
Las Vegas Weekly

Where Barriers Were Broken

Judge's Comment:

Fine telling of an important piece of history. What sets the story apart is the personal recollections of people who were there, putting names and faces to the events of the past.

Second Place

Jackie Valley
The Nevada Independent

Students' after-school jobs help keep families afloat during pandemic

Third Place

Brock Radke, Genevieve Durano, Spencer Patterson, Ricardo Torres-Cortez, Sara Macneil, C. Moon Reed
Las Vegas Weekly

Survival Tales

FEATURE PHOTO



Andy Barron
Reno Gazette-Journal

Reunited at last

Judge's Comment:

Captured the moment, bringing the reader into the story and celebrating with the family. All around good photo and placement. Job well done!

Second Place

Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Siberian Huskies on the run

Judge's Comment:

No words needed; the dogs tell the story. Quality fits the day and the smiles on the dogs say it all.

Third Place

Jeff Scheid
The Nevada Independent

What Happened Here — Generation Zoom

Judge's Comment:

There have been so many COVID photos since the pandemic began. This one stood out for the emotion it evoked.

NON-STAFF STORY



Savanna Strott
The Nevada Independent

Decades of segregation and mistrust complicate efforts to rekindle vibrant history of Las Vegas' Historic Westside

Judge's Comment:

Attention to detail was excellent. Nice historical and present-day photos helped to support the story. Nice job.

Second Place

Savanna Strott
The Nevada Independent

Chance encounter with law enforcement is nearly life-altering in last Nevada jurisdiction overtly partnering with ICE

Third Place

Valerie Miller
Vegas Legal Magazine

Nevada State Bar Helps Lawyers Amid COVID-19 Shutdown

Judge's Comment:

Another excellent story by the same author.

PORTRAIT



Christopher De Vargas
Las Vegas Weekly

Fine Art, Lance Smith

Judge's Comment:

Something keeps drawing me to this portrait. I appreciate the unusual lighting that emphasizes the jewelry and features of the subject, and I love the movement and light in the background that to me implies brushstrokes as might befit a portrait of an artist.

Second Place

Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal

A Twist of Fate

Judge's Comment:

I love the spontaneity of this photo that portrays both the unusual profession of the subjects and a warm bond between them—while still being sharp and strongly composed.

Third Place

Jeff Scheid
The Nevada Independent

Music teacher Tyler Swick

Judge's Comment:

This photo makes me want to meet this guy. The disco lights, the wide angle that captures the tools of his trade, and that beaming grin draw me in. I rarely appreciate an off vertical room, but it works here to capture a sort of dynamic, zany vibe. It's obviously challenging to shoot indoors in low light and the photo has some fuzziness and what looks like a reddish cast, but the capture of the subject is just so engaging that good enough on the technical side is good enough here.

SPORTS PHOTO



Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Acrobatic catch at Arrowhead Stadium

Judge's Comment:

Incredible image captures intense moment of confusion and tangled limbs. Love the guy in the background with his hand over his heart.



Second Place ▲

Steve Marcus
Las Vegas Sun

Reaves shines with stick, not fists, in slugfest with Sharks

Judge's Comment:

Well-centered, up close image of intense struggle and emotion.

Third Place

Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Raiders clear opening hurdle

Judge's Comment:

Great cover photo with punny headline. That hair!

BUSINESS FEATURE STORY



Howard Stutz
The Nevada Independent

A gambler at heart: Derek Stevens opening first all-new resort in four decades in downtown Las Vegas

Judge's Comment:

Incredibly thorough reporting offers readers a deep dive into the man, the project and the industry. The framing of the story as a gambler making a bet, while not the most original concept, really works here thanks to quality writing and good use of context.

Second Place

Jenny Kane
Reno Gazette-Journal

Partying like it's February 2020: Reno's dive bars take care of their own amid COVID-19

Judge's Comment:

The entry managed to cut through the pandemic noise with such heart and grace that it topped some of the more intensively reported entries. The writing offered some of the most original descriptions that captured the place, emotions frustrations and joys of the people there.

Third Place

Jackie Valley
The Nevada Independent

Tourism-dependent businesses reckon with COVID-19's financial aftermath

Judge's Comment:

Journalists across the country were charged with telling the story of the pandemic, and this story did a fine job of showing the fragility of businesses that quickly tried to adapt. Good writing, research and choice of sources.

CRITICISM



Josie Glassberg
Double Scoop

Judge's Comment:

These pieces are provocative and thoughtful, with the writer bringing a point of view and personality to her criticism.

Second Place

Brent Holmes
Double Scoop

Third Place

Jason Hidalgo
Reno Gazette-Journal

PAGE ONE DESIGN



John Taylor
Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:
Fantastic design.

Photos, headlines, everything pops, great use of white space. Impactful stories and headlines are red meat.

Second Place

LeeAnn Elias
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Third Place

Bill Wambeke
Reno Gazette-Journal

SPECIAL EVENT



Melissa McCabe, Wanda Blair, Chase Rankin
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Virtual Food and Cocktail Series

Judge's Comment:

This is a truly great idea: Asking local chefs and restaurateurs to prepare authentic meals and teach. It combines the love of food, love of cooking, authentic tastes with experts. This is a great format during the pandemic and a way to reinvent community.

Second Place

Katie Dixon, Samantha Petsch
Las Vegas Weekly

All-Time Best of Vegas Pop-Up Celebration

Third Place

Melissa McCabe, Wanda Blair, Chase Rankin
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Academic Excellence Awards

Judge's Comment:

This is a really great way to celebrate the community and remind people that even during a pandemic, there are ways to revel in a community. Great support and buy-in from local businesses.

Judge's Comment:

This is a great program that really honors students who should have a spotlight on them. Kudos to the Review-Journal for not letting it fall to the wayside during the pandemic.

INVESTIGATIVE STORY

1ST **Art Kane**
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Aaron Jones: ‘Recipe for disaster’

Judge’s Comment:

Outstanding example of the power of great writing. The first 15 words in the first sentence are incredibly compelling, as is the focus on the case of one child to tell the story of many. Excellent investigative use of public and leaked confidential records to tell the larger story of bureaucratic incompetence and inadequate laws.

Second Place

Art Kane, Rachel Crosby, Michael Scott Davidson
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Alpine Fire

Judge’s Comment:

Investigative journalism at its best, exposing hidden failure, holding those responsible accountable and having an impact leading to change.

Third Place

Daniel Rothberg
The Nevada Independent

Anaconda mine cleanup investigation

Judge’s Comment:

Terrific example of investigative doggedness, sticking with a complex story over time. Clear writing about a complex scientific and bureaucratic topic that makes it easy for a reader to follow.

NEWS OBITUARY

1ST **Siobhan McAndrew**
Reno Gazette-Journal
Washoe’s youngest COVID-19 victim died alone. His siblings could only say goodbye via Zoom

Judge’s Comment:

A heartbreaking story about someone who wasn’t famous but that everyone should know about. It moves seamlessly through the various parts of the subject’s life. Perfectly told.

Second Place

C. Moon Reed
Las Vegas Weekly

Winning Hand

Judge’s Comment:

A great story of a man who lived an unconventional life and lived it well. Beautifully constructed with many sources and a keen eye for detail.

SPORTS SPOT NEWS STORY

1ST **Mike Grimala**
Las Vegas Sun
Removal of Hey Reb! statue could be beginning of end for Rebels nickname

Judge’s Comment:

This is a really interesting story on a complicated topic. Good background on nickname changes from the past. As a sports fan, I learned a lot and gained a new perspective from this story.

Second Place

Case Keefer
Las Vegas Sun

Kansas City Masterpiece: Raiders’ win at Chiefs is a major moment for franchise

Judge’s Comment:

After reading this game coverage, I not only felt like I was at the game but that I also knew why the Raiders won and felt the emotions of the players and coaches.

Third Place

Justin Emerson
Las Vegas Sun

Golden Knights’ Ryan Reaves has pivotal role in decision to postpone playoffs

Judge’s Comment:

Fantastic story that helps the reader feel the emotions from the subjects and situation.

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM

1ST **Daniel Rothberg**
The Nevada Independent
The curious case of a rare plant’s destruction raises further questions about the extinction crisis, climate change and the role of humans

Judge’s Comment:

Complicated story told in a compelling fashion, which leaves the reader feeling smarter and more capable of understanding a new issue.

Second Place

Gary Martin
Las Vegas Review-Journal

West Virginia shows Nevada, other states, the way on COVID vaccines

Judge’s Comment:

Effective comparison of two states’ responses to the pandemic, delivered in ways that make the reader better understand their own communities.

Third Place

C. Moon Reed, Leslie Ventura, Sara Macneil, Genevieve Durano
Las Vegas Weekly

The Learning Curve

Judge’s Comment:

Excellent graphic design made getting answers to burning questions entertaining as well as educational. And good choice of questions to answer.

OUTSTANDING GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Alpine Motel Apartments fire
Based on records and witness testimony, the fire started in unit 8 on the first floor, west in this illustration. Victims were found in various spots in the hallway and on steps. One victim was found almost a block away after collapsing.

- Dec. 21, 2019, at 4:13 a.m.:** Five apartment residents received 911 calls for a fire at the Alpine Motel Apartments in downtown Las Vegas. The fire was put out in less than one minute by fire crews, but the blaze killed six and injured 13. The adults’ names were identified as [redacted].
- Dec. 22-23, 2019:** In post-fire investigations, residents reported code violations, including a rear exit door that had been bolted shut, which prevented residents from escaping.
- Dec. 26, 2019:** R-J reported that a [redacted] showed the rear exit door of the building had been bolted shut more than two months before the fire.
- Jan. 3, 2020:** High-powered attorney Dennis Garcia confirmed he was hired by Orinco.
- Jan. 8, 2020:** Court records show that Canyon Road Apartments, filed in Clark County District Court on behalf of the Family of Tracy Clark, was the first filed in connection with the blaze.
- Jan. 13, 2020:** An R-J investigation found the downtown Las Vegas apartment building used more than two years without a fire inspection, despite a history of failed inspections going back more than a decade. Orinco insured the Alpine in 2013 for \$805,000 under Las Vegas Developer LLC, one of their companies.

Found on the roadway just south of the Alpine, near the market on Ogden Ave.

1ST **Tony Morales**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge’s Comment:

The engaging digital elements are what set this entry apart in a field of superb work. Field of Dreams graphic used video, photos, infographics and, of course, words to present a crisp informative visual.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING



Jim Krajewski
Reno Gazette-Journal

Monster fish caught — and released — at Pyramid Lake on Feb. 14

Judge's Comment:

Great story, nice job bringing out the personality of the subject. Well written, good lede.

Second Place

Case Keefer
Las Vegas Weekly

For Pete's Sake

Judge's Comment:

Great story, nice job describing a more personal aspect to an NHL coach. Well written, good quotes.

Third Place

Sam Gordon
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Cutmen embrace adjustment to Top Rank bubble at MGM Grand

Judge's Comment:

Nice lede, good interesting look into the lives of people who are in a bubble. Great quotes, well written.

EDITORIAL PAGE



John Kerr
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Excellent visual presentations that made this entry stand above the rest. Each page takes on its own character with inventive elements that make for an appealing read.

Second Place

**John L. Smith, Orrin Johnson,
David Colborne, Jon Ralston,
Michael Schaus**
The Nevada Independent

Judge's Comment:

The presentation works. It's hard for this to hold up against more comprehensive opinion pages in print papers but the use of visuals along with commentary was helpful.

Third Place

Ric Anderson
Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

Solid and clean presentation made for a well-developed editorial page.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS STORY



Christopher Lawrence
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Casinos have no standard protocol for temperature checks

Judge's Comment:

A smooth, timely and occasionally alarming read. And a fine example of how essential on-the-ground reporting is even in a global health crisis.

Second Place

Brock Radke
Las Vegas Sun

Full-scale Las Vegas Strip show 'Extravaganza' finds the ways to safely entertain visitors

Judge's Comment:

For a city (and a country) wondering what the heck live entertainment will look like in the months to come, this article shines a crisp, clear spotlight.

Third Place

Heidi Knapp Rinella, Al Mancini
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Restaurants reopen, find no rush for new normal in Las Vegas

Judge's Comment:

A clear investment of time, curiosity and attention to a moment in the food scene none are likely to forget: the day we could dine out again.

LOCAL COLUMN



Brock Radke
Las Vegas Weekly

The Incidental Tourist

Judge's Comment:

An interesting look into Vegas from something other than a tourist's perspective. More of a feature-styled column, this one is not the one-note song and dance many are. Well done.

Second Place

Brett McGinness
Reno Gazette-Journal

The Reno Memo

Judge's Comment:

I kind of like the topic-jumping style of this column. At least you are not forced to read yet another COVID column from start to finish. A few of the topics are also pretty darn interesting as well. I'd likely read this one on a regular basis if I were in the area.

Third Place

Mick Akers
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Road Warrior

Judge's Comment:

The story of the stolen Mustang was the highlight in a trio of mostly fact-based transportation pieces.

HEADLINE WRITING



Las Vegas Sun

Judge's Comment:

A standout entry in a tough category to judge full of a lot of great headlines. The wordplay in this entry stood out, and each headline drew readers into the story.

Second Place

Rhonda Prast
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

The perfect amount of detail in each of these headlines. Enough to draw you in, but not so much that you know the whole story before you read it.

Third Place

Brian Sanford
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Great wordplay.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



**Hali Bernstein Saylor,
Celia Shortt Goodyear,
Jenny Scheid**
Boulder City Review

Judge's Comment:

Consistently strong local news and enterprise reporting. Diverse local perspectives on opinion page. And very thoughtful, clean design.

Second Place

Nevada Appeal

Judge's Comment:

Strong local news and sports.

Third Place

Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:

Strong design and local sports.

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE



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

Judge's Comment:

Great website. Easy to navigate with plenty of interactive features. Nice to see so many videos incorporated as well. Loved the weed control story. Well done!

Second Place

The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:

A good variety of entries to showcase online presence. Page turn effect for e-edition was fun. Well written stories, good accompanying photos.

Third Place

Nevada Appeal

Judge's Comment:

Great stories and good content overall. Well organized. Nice comments feature.

BUSINESS SPOT NEWS STORY



Kayla Anderson
Sparks Tribune

**Nugget Casino Resort
laying off over 150
employees**

Judge's Comment:

Very important story told fairly and with insight.

Second Place

Amy Alonzo

Mason Valley News

**Family-owned Yerington
businesses struggle for relief
during pandemic**

Judge's Comment:

Very well done. Reveals the potent emotions unleashed by the pandemic's financial impact. Offered a clear image of this surreal period.

Third Place

Steve Ranson

Lahontan Valley News

**Dairy Industry Faces Decline Due
to Covid**

Judge's Comment:

An engaging perspective on the pandemic's impact on an industry not often covered by larger media outlets.

MULTIPLE PHOTO ESSAY OR GALLERY



Eric Dahlberg
*Mineral County
Independent-News*

**Armed Forces Day
over the years**

Judge's Comment:

Best diversity of photos in this category. Creative way to tell this story in a year when the event was canceled.

Second Place

Kurt Hildebrand

The Record-Courier

Carson Valley Days

Judge's Comment:

Fun photos that captured the event.

Third Place

Cynthia Delaney

Elko Daily Free Press

Emerging from lockdown

Judge's Comment:

Great concept and the photos helped tell the story.

LOCAL NON-STAFF COLUMN



Vince Juaristi
Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:

Excellent writing. The column about empty houses is a classic. I really loved it.

Second Place

Jeanette Strong

Lahontan Valley News

Judge's Comment:

Very strong opinion writing. Made her points extremely well.

Third Place

Andrew Barbano

Sparks Tribune

Judge's Comment:

Enjoyed the humor in these columns.

FEATURE PHOTO



Toni Milano
Elko Daily Free Press

A Covid graduation

Judge's Comment:

Well-framed, kinetic photo in a setting not normally associated with action. Love the contrasting "uniforms".

Second Place

Celia Shortt Goodyear

Boulder City Review

Student parade

Judge's Comment:

A well-captured moment of joy.

Third Place

Cynthia Delaney

Elko Daily Free Press

Saddlemaker at work

Judge's Comment:

Framing did a good job of capturing the color and chaos of a craftman's workspace.

EDITORIAL WRITING



Jeff Mullins
Elko Daily Free Press

Judge's Comment:

Without judging the merits of the arguments presented, the judge found the Elko Daily Free Press editorials to be firmly and fairly stated, of pointed local relevance and impact, and conscientiously researched and argued. The extent to which these editorials incorporated and built upon reader feedback via newspaper polling is especially welcome and speaks well to the Daily Free Press' engagement with its community.

Second Place

Steve Ranson

Lahontan Valley News

Third Place

Kurt Hildebrand

The Record-Courier

INVESTIGATIVE STORY



Jeffrey Meehan
Pahrump Valley Times

Taps Close at Pahrump Valley Winery

Judge's Comment:

Investigative storytelling at its best. Loved the writing style. It hooked me immediately and helped me come to know the players in this drama. Great job!

Second Place

Amy Alonzo

Mason Valley News

Culture of sexual misconduct alleged at Fernley schools

Third Place

Toni Milano, Cynthia Delaney, Serenity Orr

Elko Daily Free Press

Back to school?

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM



Amy Alonzo
Mason Valley News

Culture of sexual misconduct alleged at Fernley schools

Judge's Comment:

Compelling telling of an important and sensitive issue complete with information from multiple sources. The reporter obviously did a lot of digging to uncover the school district's response to allegations.

Second Place

Toni Milano

Elko Daily Free Press

Hybrid election slated for November

Judge's Comment:

Good data, quotes and instructional information from a variety of sources.

Third Place

Jeff Mullins

Elko Daily Free Press

Dangers of the chase

Judge's Comment:

The information about the Elko Police Department's protocols around vehicle chases was interesting. Nice kicker to close the story.

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING



Robin Hebrock
Pahrump Valley Times

State Engineer Prevails in Pahrump Water Case

Judge's Comment:

This reporter did a masterful job of explaining an incredibly complex case. Good, clear, authoritative writing separates this entry.

Second Place

Steve Ranson

Lahontan Valley News

Coaldale quake strongest in Nevada since 1954

Judge's Comment:

Clear, thorough reporting of a story that touched everyone in the region. The coverage had impact and immediacy.

Third Place

Jeff Mullins

Elko Daily Free Press

Man killed after traffic stop

Judge's Comment:

Nothing fancy about this -- just good solid reporting that clearly related this violent event.

HEALTH NEWS STORY (OR SERIES)



Steve Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

Prostate Cancer awareness

Judge's Comment:

This first-person journey through prostate-cancer radiation therapy was engaging and highly informative, setting just the right tone to encourage people to act without scaring the bejesus out of them. Good job.

Second Place

Kurt Hildebrand

The Record-Courier

Coronavirus coverage

Third Place

Anthony Mori

Elko Daily Free Press

Experiencing COVID-19

NEWS FEATURE STORY

1ST **Amy Alonzo**
Mason Valley News
Culture of sexual misconduct alleged at Fernley schools

Judge's Comment:
 Excellent in-depth story on pervasive sexual misconduct at a school. Great use of quotes from appropriate sources and good use of social media as a starting point. Story was very well constructed and executed.

Second Place
Amy Alonzo
Mason Valley News

Nevada's ag growers continue amid pandemic

Judge's Comment:
 Solid story on role of local producers during the pandemic.

Third Place
Ashley Maden
Humboldt Sun

Toddler dies after being bitten by rattlesnake

Judge's Comment:
 Important story of local interest wherever there are venomous snakes. Perhaps the outcome will be better for the next victim of a bite because of the publicity and community reaction.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

1ST **Robin Hebrock**
Pahrump Valley Times
Remote Area Medical coverage

Judge's Comment:
 Thorough reporting on a truly valuable public service.

Second Place
Jessica Garcia
Nevada Appeal

Senior isolation coverage

Third Place
Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

2020 Election Coverag

NEWS PHOTO COVERAGE

AB | Wednesday, August 5, 2020 | Lahontan Valley News



PHOTOS: STEVE RANSON/LVN

William Tweed's family stands next to the coffin of Lt. Lowell Tweed, who was shot down over the Italian Alps in October 20, 1944. William Tweed's father was shot down over the Italian Alps on October 20, 1944.

Army aviator's remains come home

After 75 years, Reno man reunites with his father
 By Steve Ranson
 Nevada News Group



Passengers on Friday's Southwest Airlines flight from Las Vegas watched intently as a casket smartly draped with the Stars & Stripes slowly rolled down a conveyer belt to a waiting honor guard. As a courtesy to a deceased war hero returning home, passengers remained on the plane, some with their faces pressed against the starboard windows, others using their hands to wipe away a tear. The plane's captain left the cockpit to join the family and military personnel on the ramp at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport before an honor guard from the Nevada Army National Guard carried the casket with snap precision from flight 1782 to a waiting hearse. The remains belong to Army 2nd Lt. Lowell S. Tweed, which were recovered in 2017 and identified last year. Tweed's only son, William Tweed, was at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport on Friday as the remains arrived. Tweed said the assistance he has received from Capt. Justin Klatt of the Nevada Guard during the planning and execution stages has been "phenomenal." Having his father return home has a special meaning for the Tweed family and others whose

ABOVE: An honor guard from the Nevada Army National Guard carries a casket holding the remains of Lt. Lowell Tweed. BELOW: James Richardson, left, of the Nevada Army National Guard, and Jon Yuspa of Southwest Airlines, place the casket of Lt. Lowell Tweed on a conveyer belt at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.



1ST **Steve Ranson**
Lahontan Valley News

Army aviator's remains come home

Judge's Comment:
 Excellent coverage of a very difficult event. Captured the emotion and told the story through the pictures.

Second Place
Cynthia Delaney
Elko Daily Free Press

Slain officer memorial

Third Place
Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

River Rescue

LOCAL COLUMN

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

Judge's Comment:
 A refreshing read. The author has a down-to-earth style that makes you feel she is talking to the average person, a lesson many wordsmiths have forgotten but could learn from reading her entries. I give her high marks for style, topic choices.

Second Place
Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

Editor's Notepad

Judge's Comment:
 Really good columnist and hopefully, one that will be around for a while longer.

Third Place
David Henley
Lahontan Valley News

Judge's Comment:
 While I do enjoy politics, not all political writers make it interesting. This author does with back stories and tidbits that go beyond just the day's usual drivel.

OVERALL DESIGN

1ST **Jenny Scheid, Hali Bernstein Saylor**
Boulder City Review

Judge's Comment:
 I really enjoy this design, which doesn't try to do too much. Front pages are lively with strong visuals; I like the photo-driven index. Section fronts are simple but inviting. Lovely headline pairing.

Second Place
Jessica Sterling
Pahrump Valley Times

Judge's Comment:
 Slightly busy front pages, but they hang together and offer lots of entry points. Section fronts are consistently strong.

Third Place
Jessica Sterling
Tonopah Times Bonanza

Judge's Comment:
 Clean and attractive front pages with strong visual cues.

EDITORIAL PAGE



The Record-Courier

Judge's Comment:

The heavy preponderance of well-curated letters to the editor provide a diversity of opinion and evidence of real community engagement with the newspaper, and vice versa. Wonderful photography, too. These pages stood out among the competitors for their local focus and portrait of a community.

Second Place

Jeff Mullins

Elko Daily Free Press

Third Place

Steve Ranson, Adam Trumble

Lahontan Valley News

HEADLINE WRITING



Hali Bernstein Saylor

Boulder City Review

Judge's Comment:

Excellent wordplay that pulls readers into the stories.

Second Place

Kurt Hildebrand

The Record-Courier

Third Place

Jeff Mullins

Elko Daily Free Press

SPECIAL SECTION (EDITORIAL)



Toni Milano, Cynthia Delaney, Nathan Havenner, Serenity Orr

Elko Daily Free Press

Readers Choice 2020

Second Place

Kurt Hildebrand

The Record-Courier

Primary Election Guide

Judge's Comment:

Again, lots of publications produce voter guides. But you won't find one better-edited and written than this excellent effort.

FEATURE WRITING



Hali Bernstein Saylor

Boulder City Review

Teen's portraits of cancer treatment offer hope

Judge's Comment:

In community journalism, we all have similar stories to write. It was fun to see a different take on the "sick youth recovers" story. The writing captured the reader's attention throughout and it gave a good sense of the patient's struggle without getting overly emotional. The resilience of this young woman came through, thanks to Hali's creative approach and excellent writing. The photos were enough to document the story, although a couple more would not have been amiss. All in all, well done for turning this all-too-frequent story line into something new and different.

Second Place

Steve Ranson

Lahontan Valley News

Ship's explosion serves as war's reminder

Judge's Comment:

Nicely written and tightly edited story that brings the terrors of a long-ago battle into the present day. Even readers who are not big on war stories could relate to the impact of this sailor's experiences. The portrait of the sailor now, with his wife, really captures their personalities. Nice job!

Third Place

Hali Bernstein Saylor

Boulder City Review

Firefighter returns the favor

Judge's Comment:

Good lead and nice writing serve to make this story of donated fire hoses a lot more than just your typical "giving back" piece.

Judge's Comment:

Readers' Choice-type sections are fairly common but this one stands out because of the execution. Lots of community engagement and hard work in this section!

Third Place

Tara Addeo, Kurt Hildebrand

The Record-Courier

Carson Valley Almanac

Judge's Comment:

This section achieves its goal of giving readers an excellent overview of community life.

PORTRAIT



Thomas Ranson

Lahontan Valley News

Dalager's rise to the top begins with family

Judge's Comment:

Setting offers a glimpse of the character of the subject. Photo is sharp and well lit. Like the choice of a lower angle and full body in the shot - that subtly highlights the personality of the subject as described in the story, as in, "here is someone to be reckoned with".

Second Place

Hali Bernstein Saylor

Boulder City Review

Colston Crosson

Judge's Comment:

The engaging grin and tight composition drew me to this subject.

Third Place

Hali Bernstein Saylor

Boulder City Review

Rhonda Gatlin

Judge's Comment:

The tight crop from vert to horizontal as published helped this photo out.

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING



Anthony Mori
Elko Daily Free Press

The evolution of J.R. Giddens

Judge's Comment:

Great story. At first I thought it would be too long, but I couldn't stop reading. The writer kept my attention through the whole article.

Second Place

Thomas Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

Dalager's rise to the top begins with family

Judge's Comment:

Fun, inspiring story. A fairly long read, but it felt like everything in the article needed to be said.

Third Place

Kayla Anderson
Sparks Tribune

Reed High sisters may have played their last game together

Judge's Comment:

Good story about the personal impact from sports being shut down. Good quotes and well written.

NEWS OBITUARY



Kayla Anderson
Sparks Tribune

Sparks Mayor Ron Smith dies after battle with pancreatic cancer

Judge's Comment:

Good job of putting the subject's personality and interests up front. Solid use of quotes.

Second Place

Steve Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

Vision of a leader

Third Place

Kurt Hildebrand
The Record-Courier

Valley loses 'best friend' in Bill

SPORTS SPOT NEWS STORY



Anthony Mori
Elko Daily Free Press

Elko football team will rely on size

Judge's Comment:

Good use of stats from previous season and quotes from the coaches to set the stage for the upcoming season.

Second Place

Thomas Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

Football is back

Judge's Comment:

Really nice story with comprehensive details. Gets the reader excited for the season.

Third Place

Thomas Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

HSLI appealing to state to reclassify lacrosse amid youth sports update

Judge's Comment:

Excellent job of digging into the details, adding meaningful quotes and capturing the emotions.

NON-STAFF STORY



Tim Burmeister
Elko Daily Free Press

Coyote culture clash

Judge's Comment:

Excellent story, great detail. Enhanced by the photos.

Second Place

Marie Nygren
Lahontan Valley News

Pizza Barn

Judge's Comment:

Well written piece.

Third Place

Lisa Gavon
The Record-Courier

Growing up Washoe

Judge's Comment:

Well written, loved the lead.

Urban/Rural

LOCAL SPORTS COLUMN



Thomas Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

Behind the Plate

Judge's Comment:

Great writing. Good job providing background and facts to support opinions, nice personal story linking it to a sports theme.

Second Place

Ed Graney
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Judge's Comment:

Fun columns to read, great ledes, good use of quotes.

Third Place

Ray Brewer
Las Vegas Sun

From the Pressbox

Judge's Comment:

Fun, well-written stories. Good use of quotes.

BUSINESS FEATURE STORY



Steve Ranson
Lahontan Valley News

A moooving experience

Judge's Comment:

Very well-written, interest-grabbing, feel-good story. I particularly liked that the reporter went out and interviewed people in their cars as they waited to get their free milk.

Second Place

Toni Milano
Elko Daily Free Press

Getting back to business

Judge's Comment:

Solid story on day-of-reopening tactics. Story was improved by the reporter's ability to capture emotions and reactions. Nice use of direct quotes.

Third Place

Amy Alonzo
Mason Valley News

Nevada's ag growers continue amid pandemic

Judge's Comment:

Interesting look at pandemic demand for farm-fresh eggs.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE



edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

Such a pleasure to read. Every article, image, and layout is thoughtful, purposeful, and inviting. This is a magazine that considers and serves its audience with every page—and seems to have great fun doing so.

Second Place

Sylas Wright, Anna Dingman, David Bunker, Jared Swanson, Clayton Humphries, Elaine Leonardi Dixon

Tahoe Quarterly

Judge's Comment:

The soul of this magazine is anchored in visuals—which are consistently gripping.

Third Place

rjmagazine

Judge's Comment:

Above-average, entertaining coverage of regional history, tourism, and recreation. Strong visuals.

BUSINESS FEATURE STORY



Barbara Twitchell

edible Reno-Tahoe

Food in the Time of Corona: Reno-Tahoe culinary community employs many tools to survive the crisis

Judge's Comment:

Well done. Great use of quotes and anecdotes. Also looks great. Excellent layout enhanced the story.

Second Place

Kaleb M. Roedel

N. Nevada Business Weekly

Reno's bike boom

Judge's Comment:

Nicely written and reported look at COVID's impact on a service industry. Good mix of sources.

Third Place

David Bunker

Tahoe Quarterly

Tahoe's Masters of Stone

Judge's Comment:

Interesting feature on a niche business. Conversational and easy to read.

GENERAL ONLINE EXCELLENCE



rjmagazine

Second Place

edible Reno-Tahoe

Third Place

Getaway Reno/Tahoe

NON-STAFF STORY



Jason M. Glionna

rjmagazine

One in 10 million: World's most expensive coin a life changer for Las Vegas man

Judge's Comment:

I felt like I was caught up in the same fog of war as the subject. The dichotomy between the subject and his wife's passions added interest. Great story, beautifully written.

Second Place

John M. Glionna

rjmagazine

A twist of fate: Shutdown brings perilous turns for Cirque performers

Judge's Comment:

Great look at a Covid adaption by the popular and successful performing group. Really cool insight.

Third Place

Jason M. Glionna

rjmagazine

Escaramuza riders preserve piece of rural Latino culture

Judge's Comment:

Clean sweep in this category for Glionna. All the stories were well written and they covered a wide range of interesting topics.

FEATURE PHOTO



Rachel Aston

rjmagazine

Kiss at Gold Strike Hot Springs

Judge's Comment:

A really wonderful moment with a nice sense of place in the image. Wonderfully composed, nicely exposed.

Second Place

Rachel Aston

rjmagazine

In sickness and in health

Judge's Comment:

Love the proximity to the subjects. The series really puts the viewer there. Technical elements of the photos are on point.

Third Place

Larry Angier

RANGE magazine

Power in Utah

Judge's Comment:

Wow. What a moment. You can tell the shot was well planned and well executed.

INVESTIGATIVE STORY



Marjorie Haun

RANGE magazine

The Big Squeeze

Judge's Comment:

Terrific use of interviews, documents and historical research to expose the abuses of a state agency whose leaders appear to be on an unchecked power trip.

Second Place

Dave Skinner

RANGE magazine

Grizzly "High Anxiety"

OUTSTANDING GRAPHIC DESIGNER



1ST **Freeman Design Group**
edible Reno-Tahoe

FEATURE WRITING

1ST **Matthew Renda**
Tahoe Quarterly
Wild Horses: Nevada's Pride and Burden

Judge's Comment:
Well organized and well written; merges historical data with modern concerns; presents pros and cons of problem and proposed solutions.

Second Place
Michael Kennedy
Tahoe Quarterly

As the Old Crow Flies

Judge's Comment:
Well written and inspiring; photos, quotes and anecdotes well chosen and excellent design and lay out.

Third Place
Janna Karel
rjmagazine

Paddler's paradise: Find beauty, history and serenity in tranquil waters of Black Canyon

Judge's Comment:
Enticing--makes me want to go there; great photos and other visuals to illustrate the story.



Judge's Comment:
Quality photos and very clean layout design made these stories easy to read. Solid use of white space.

ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE STORY

1ST **Kaleb M. Roedel**
N. Nevada Business Weekly
Planning for a new normal

Judge's Comment:
Solid reporting, smooth writing and a thorough look at how a global crisis has reverberated through a local food and drink scene. At once a critical social story and an economic one.

Second Place
Claire McArthur
edible Reno-Tahoe

Exceptional Drink Experiences: From South Lake Tahoe to Sparks and beyond, explore the region's imbibing scene this winter.

Judge's Comment:
A well-organized and well-written guide. Demonstrates an intimate knowledge of the Reno-Tahoe area, and reflects the pent-up pandemic desire to get out for a drink or two.

Third Place
Alex Haase
Las Vegas Magazine

Best in Show

Judge's Comment:
A fascinating and well-crafted look not just at how Vegas shaped these celebrities but how these celebrities helped shape Vegas.

LOCAL COLUMN

1ST **Beth Schwartz**
Elevate NV
Editor's Column

Judge's Comment:
Hooked me with the line, "In an exit worthy of a drunken circus ringmaster getting the hook following a wretchedly morose performance" and the circus references continued throughout. Excellent writing.

Second Place
C.J. Hadley
RANGE magazine

Up Front

Judge's Comment:
A very unique writing style that obviously comes from the author's European roots makes this refreshing. I also love unique lines and this one has, "Who would want to be hugged by a woman with a refrigerator that costs more than your car?" Keep up the good work!

Third Place
Michael C. Moberly
edible Reno-Tahoe

SPORTS FEATURE WRITING

1ST **Eric Cachinero**
Nevada Magazine
Nevada's outdoorsmen in wheelchairs

Judge's Comment:
Really nice and interesting story, good quotes and well written. Feel-good story that everyone could use in these times.

Second Place
Sylas Wright
Tahoe Quarterly

The Top 25 Tahoe Snowboarders

Judge's Comment:
A lot of work was put into this with about 25 different stories for one article. Fun writing style.

Third Place
Kyle Magin
Tahoe Quarterly

A Tamer Tiger at Tahoe

Judge's Comment:
Interesting look into the life of Cobb from different perspectives. Good stories with his family.

COVER DESIGN



Las Vegas Magazine

Second Place

Mark Antonuccio
rjmagazine

Third Place

Corlene Byrd, Ian Racoma
Las Vegas Weekly

OVERALL DESIGN



Las Vegas Weekly

Judge's Comment:

Las Vegas Weekly pulls off a neat trick: Every spread brings something different, but there's never any question as to what you're reading. There's a line running through every issue, and across issues. Page design is energetic—sometimes bordering on jumpy—and highly accessible.

Second Place

Freeman Design Group
edible Reno-Tahoe

Judge's Comment:

I *really* like this. Every page is energetic and accessible—not too busy, but lively enough to draw me in. Consistently great images and illustrations; thoughtful mix of type styles. And I love the inside paper stock.

Third Place

Kippy Spilker, Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel
Nevada Magazine

Judge's Comment:

There's innovation here, nothing that really catches fire, but quiet creativity, with strong execution. The covers are simple and elegant.

EXPLANATORY JOURNALISM



Richard Gubbe
Elevate NV

Pot O' Gold Awaits Savvy Cannabis Investors
Hunting for Stocks with Four-Leaf Clover Status

Judge's Comment:

Provocative writing and forecasting.

MULTIPLE PHOTO ESSAY OR GALLERY



Nevada Magazine
2020 Great Nevada Picture Hunt Results

Judge's Comment:

The best photography of a quality field. Great perspectives and diverse subject matter.

Second Place

Nevada Magazine
Your Favorite Nevada—Wildlife

Judge's Comment:

Great work shot at the right time of day. Colors were wonderful.

Third Place

Michael Okimoto, Andrea Laue, Shaun Hunter, Candice Vivien
edible Reno-Tahoe

Meet Your Makers: Local artisans craft beautiful, handmade objects from natural materials

Judge's Comment:

Interesting shots of people doing what they love. Great idea.

Second Place

Eric Cachinero
Nevada Magazine

The Tahoe Rim Trail

Judge's Comment:

Fun read for a step-by-step travel story.

PORTRAIT



Lou Manna
edible Reno-Tahoe

Big Splash About Trash: Sommelier's nonprofit and Tahoe Blue Vodka work to clean Lake Tahoe's depths.

Judge's Comment:

Creative, engaging, fun! It makes the reader want to know how in the world Vodka and scuba diving are connected. Best photo for capturing the story with a single image and engaging the reader!

Second Place

Larry Turner
RANGE magazine

Judge's Comment:

Love the expression of both the horse and buckaroo! Great composition with just enough spontaneity to make this an award winner!

Third Place

Candice Vivien
edible Reno-Tahoe

Courageous Confections: Cookies for Kindness helps locals in need.

Judge's Comment:

The photographer got it all—the baker, in the outfit and the cookies. The expression of the subject tells the reader that this story is a little more serious than your average cookie. Excellent way to engage the reader!

MORE OF THE BEST

Rural OUTSTANDING GRAPHIC DESIGNER

1ST
Kyler Klix
Nevada Appeal

Judge's Comment:

Crisp and clean presentations and graphics added an informative layer to these pages. The creative eating-disorder graphic framed the story nicely and the beautiful landscape photo paired with an informative graphic outlining area hikes made that a story I'm sure many readers saved for future use. Well done.

Congratulations to all of this year's contest winners!

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 Montana 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.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alex Sakariassen | Dave Worstell | Jeff Martinsen | Mark Berryman | Rob Petersen |
| Amanda Eggert | David McCumber | Jenean Kujawa | Matthew Strissel | Rob Zolman |
| Andi Bourne | Deb Hill | Jess Tullus | Meagan Baldry | Ross Becker |
| Andrew Prutsok | Dennis Swibold | Jim Strauss | Melody Martinsen | Stacy Bender |
| Anton Kaufer | Eric Dietrich | Jonathan McNiven | Micha Drew | Summer Goddard |
| Betty Vanderwielen | Erin Leonard | JP Plutt | Michael Wright | Thom Bridge |
| Bill Vander Weele | Evan Bruce | Katherine Sears | Nikki Maija Meyer | Tom Kuglin |
| Brad Tyer | Grady Higgins | Kathleen Gilluly | Phil Drake | Vonnie Jacobson |
| Cameron Harper | Heidi Desch | Keith Hammonds | Rachel Leathe | |
| Darrell Ehrlick | Henry Netherland | Mara Silvers | Rob Chaney | |

Urban MULTIPLE PHOTO ESSAY OR GALLERY

1ST
Benjamin Hager
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Scintillating Sin City Performers

Judge's Comment:

The absolute finest photography in the category. Very talented groups of photographers submitting entries made the category a pleasure to judge.

Second Place

Steve Marcus
Las Vegas Sun

Second Day of Protests for George Floyd

Judge's Comment:

The best of the multiple entries dealing with the riots and Black Lives Matter. Photographer was in the middle of the action and had to have a racing heartbeat while taking some of these shots. Clearly, some intense situations here.

Third Place

Chelcey Adami, Andy Barron, Jason Bean
Reno Gazette-Journal

2020 in photos: In a year like no other, the RGJ's coverage of unrest, isolation and hope

Judge's Comment:

Fabulous coverage of a year in Reno with captivating images from a variety of venues. Photographers used great imagination.