

MP MISSOURI PRESS NEWS

Congratulations 2022 Better Newspaper Contest Award Winners



2022 Photo of the Year
Arron Hustead – Washington Missourian
Best Sports Feature Photograph



REGULAR FEATURES

President 2
Jean Maneke 18
Obits 19



Rising to our industry's challenges

We in the newspaper business have survived some challenges in the past decade, including recessions, cell-phone mania, the great resignation, mass terminations, rampant inflation, pandemics and presidents, of which the last called us “the enemy of the people” and this one called us the only people in the country with a lower approval rating than him. Now that’s pretty low.

In light of such challenges, Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism earlier this year produced a report entitled “The State of Local News 2022.” According to that report, one fifth of our country’s population now lives in a “news desert” or in a community at risk of becoming one. I guess that means that those surviving community newspapers may someday be called news oases.

“We can define news deserts as a place where residents in a community have very limited access to the sort of news and information that helps them make good everyday decisions, as well as good decisions that will affect the long-term quality of life of future generations,” noted the primary author of the report Penny Abernathy, adding that without access to credible information on issues such as education, health, the economy and the environment, people cannot determine what choices will positively impact them.

Tim Franklin, the Dean of Medill School, said he believes that is the most crucial issue facing the news

industry and that one of the most critical issues facing democracy in the United States today is the availability of local news and information. Something community newspapers are best at.

Abernathy feels that we’re at a state in the industry where change is happening so fast that we need to periodically step back and ask what’s working? Where is it working? And where is it not?

Along those lines, the report produced a call to action entitled “Saving Local News” — which highlights ongoing efforts to save local journalism.

On the national level those include the Local Journalism Sustainability Act, which would provide tax credits to hire journalists, and the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, which would enable news publishers to collectively negotiate with Big Tech, driving millions of dollars of earned subscription and ad dollars back to newspapers.

Another byproduct of the Medill report is the Medill Subscriber Engagement Index, where local news organizations have free access to tools that track the behavior of local news readers and benchmark how they are doing against their peers.

The Index also highlights strategies that can make weeklies more profitable.

On Sept. 8, following more debate and the introduction of more amendments, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act

was held over until a future meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Waiting for Congress to save local journalism may be like waiting for a rain dance to end the drought, but as long as it’s still under consideration you might consider writing a letter to Missouri Senator Josh Hawley to remind him of its importance. The Missouri Press Association has a letter template that will help if you need it.

Here in Missouri, the Potter Digital Ambassadors program at MU School of Journalism is helping newsrooms upgrade their multimedia and social media skills.

Advanced J School students are assigned to weekly or daily newspapers for a week’s worth of training in the latest digital tools and how to use them to boost readership and improve content. The students are proficient in teaching the use of Google Analytics, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to reach readers and potential subscribers. Jeanne Abbott coordinates the program. If interested, you can email her at abbottjm@missouri.edu.

Although it might be January, help from the Ambassadors Program will undoubtedly arrive quicker than help from Congress.



PRESIDENT: Roger Dillon, *Shannon County Current Wave, Eminence*
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Beth Durreman, *Laclede County Record, Lebanon*
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Amos Bridges, *Springfield News-Leader*
SECRETARY: Marion Jordon, *The Kansas City Globe*
TREASURER: Bryan Chester, *Columbia Missourian*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mark Maassen
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Ted Lawrence
EDITOR: Matthew Barba

PAST PRESIDENT: Liz Irwin, *Missouri Lawyers Media, St. Louis*
DIRECTORS:

Donna Bischoff, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
 Gary Castor, *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Sandy Nelson, *The Courier-Tribune, Liberty*
 Bryan Jones, *The Morgan County Statesman*
 Kevin Jones, *St. Louis American*
 Tim Schmidt, *Montgomery Standard, Montgomery City*
 Lucas Presson, *Southeast Missourian, Cape Girardeau*
 Hannah Spaar, *The Odessan, Odessa*
NNA Representative: Peggy Scott, *Leader Publications, Festus*

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Congratulations

2022



GOLD CUP WINNERS

Weeklies

Class 1

Richmond News

Class 2

Laclede County Record

Class 3

Washington Missourian

Dailies

Class 1

Sedalia Democrat

Class 2

Columbia Missourian

Class 3

The Kansas City Star

Missouri Press Association elects 2023 officers, directors

Beth Durreman takes office Jan. 1 as MPA president.

From Missouri Press Staff

Beth Durreman, advertising consultant at the *Laclede County Record*, Lebanon, was elected president of the Missouri Press Association Friday, Sept. 16, during the 156th Annual MPA Convention in Lake Ozark.

Durreman got her first job with newspapers by accident in July 1988, when she went to interview with the general manager of the *Lebanon Daily Record*, the *Laclede County Record's* predecessor newspaper. After a short visit, she was offered a job in the classified department and what followed was a lifetime love with the industry.

From Lebanon, Durreman's career took her to various roles at newspapers of all shapes and sizes and across multiple states. That variety of experience, she said, will be critical to supporting each of the Association's members, no two of

which are exactly the same.

Working with former MPA Board members, including presidents Dalton Wright, the late Robert "Bob" Smith, Gary and Helen Sosniecki, and Bill Miller Sr. has also helped her better understand what it means to take the reins of the Association leadership.



Beth Durreman

Beth and her husband, Carl, enjoy traveling and exploring new out of the way places. But their most favorite activity is spending time with their son and two granddaughters and can confirm Disney World is the best waste of money ever.

Durreman will succeed Roger Dillon, publisher of *The Shannon County Current Wave*, Eminence, as MPA president Jan. 1. Dillon will continue on the MPA Board of Directors through 2023 as immediate past president.

Other 2023 MPA officers and directors elected Sept. 16, include First Vice President, Amos Bridges,

Springfield News-Leader; Second Vice President, Peggy Scott, *Leader Publications*, Festus; Secretary, Kimberly Combs, *Wayne County Journal Banner*, Piedmont; Treasurer, Mike Scott, *NEMO News Media Group*, Kahoka.

Directors for three-year terms include Tim Schmidt, *Montgomery Standard*, Montgomery City; Bryan Chester, *Columbia Missourian*; and Lucas Presson, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau.

Hannah Spaar, *The Odessan*, Odessa, was elected as the National Newspaper Association state chair.

Continuing on the MPA Board in 2023 will be directors: Gary Castor, *Jefferson City News Tribune*; Bryan Jones, *Morgan County Statesman*, Versailles; Kevin Jones, *St. Louis American*; Donna Bischoff, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; and Sandy Nelson, *Courier Tribune*, Liberty.

Stepping down from the MPA Board in December 2022 is Liz Irwin, *Missouri Lawyers Media*, St. Louis; and Marion Jordon, *The Kansas City*

Statement of ownership



This is the Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation, as required by Act of Congress of Aug. 12, 1970, of Missouri Press News, published monthly at Columbia, Mo. This statement contains the information provided on Form 3526, provided to the Postmaster at Columbia, Mo.

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The editor is Matthew Barba of Columbia, Mo. The managing editor is Mark Maassen of Columbia, Mo.

There are no bondholders, mortgagees, or other security holders of any kind or nature, either with reference to the Association or the Missouri Press News.

Total number of copies printed during the preceding

12 months averaged 470, and 452 were printed for September 2022, the issue nearest filing date.

No copies were sold through dealers, carriers or vendors during the year. Paid or requested mail subscriptions averaged 445 with 427 in September.

No copies were distributed free each month through the mail. Free distribution outside the mail was 15 each month. Total distribution averaged 460, with 442 distributed in September. Copies not distributed averaged 10, with 10 not distributed in September.

Paid and/or requested circulation averaged 96.74% for the year.

I certify all information furnished is true and complete.

— Matthew Barba

156TH ANNUAL MISSOURI PRESS CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW

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Congratulations to Missouri Press' 2022 Better Newspaper Contest winners!

From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press News

Dailies

General Excellence

The Kansas City Star — Staff
Jefferson City News Tribune — Staff
Joplin Globe — Staff

Best Overall Design

Joplin Globe — Staff
Columbia Missourian — Staff
The Kansas City Star — Staff
Columbia Daily Tribune — Staff
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian — Staff

Best Front Page

Monett Times — Staff
Springfield News-Leader — Staff
Columbia Missourian — Staff
Jefferson City News Tribune —
Molly Morris, Valeri Pearon

Best Breaking News Story Class 1

Park Hills Daily Journal —
Bobby Radford

Monett Times — Mike Gervais
Monett Times — Melonie Roberts

Best Breaking News Story Classes 2 & 3

The Kansas City Star — Laura Bauer,
Judy L. Thomas
Missouri Independent —
Jason Hancock
Columbia Missourian —
Alex Naughton
LakeExpo — Kate Robbins,
Nathan Bechtold

On the cover

The 2022 Photo of the Year is Arron Husted's feature shot for the *Washington Missourian* of a girl's high school softball team celebrating their advance to the state tournament. In picking this photo, the judge said it "had the necessary elements to take the win: strong emotion, a genuine moment, great composure. There's nothing unnecessary in the frame and it's a peak moment emotionally and physically."



Monica Obradovic caught the magic of the holidays for the *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, with this first place Best Feature Photograph for mid-size dailies.

Best News Story Class 1

Park Hills Daily Journal —
Victoria Kemper
Monett Times — Mike Gervais
Sedalia Democrat — Chris Howell,
Ryan Sheehan
Park Hills Daily Journal —
Bobby Radford

Best News Story Class 2

Columbia Missourian —
Jose Luis Adriano, Jonathan Jain
Springfield News-Leader —
Jordan Meier
Columbia Daily Tribune —
Charles Dunlap
Missouri Independent —
Jason Hancock

Best News Story Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Judy L. Thomas
The Kansas City Star — Anna Spoerre
The Kansas City Star —
Kaitlin Washburn, Humera Lodhi,
Hurubie Meko
The Kansas City Star — Glenn E. Rice

Best Feature Story Class 1

Sedalia Democrat — Skye Melcher
Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss
Monett Times — Melonie Roberts
Marshall Democrat-News —
Danielle Linton-Hatfield

Best Feature Story Class 2

Columbia Missourian — Ella McCarthy
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian — Rick Fahr
Columbia Missourian —
Connor Giffin
Springfield News-Leader —
Gregory Holman

Best Feature Story Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Kevin Hardy
The Kansas City Star — J.M. Banks
The Kansas City Star — J.M. Banks
The Kansas City Star — Lisa Gutierrez,
Natalie Wallington, Joseph Hernandez

Best News or Feature Series

The Kansas City Star — Laura Bauer,
Judy L. Thomas
The Kansas City Star —
Humera Lodhi, Kaitlin Washburn,
Hurubie Meko, Kevin Hardy
Columbia Missourian — Staff
Missouri Independent — Rudi Keller

Best Editorial Class 2

LakeExpo — Nathan Bechtold,
Brent Simpson
Joplin Globe — Staff
Springfield News-Leader —
Amos Bridges, Stephen Herzog,
Harrison Keegan
Joplin Globe — Staff

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Editorial Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Melinda Henneberger
The Kansas City Star — Dave Helling
The Kansas City Star — Mará Rose Williams
The Kansas City Star — Toriano Porter

Best Columnist — Humorous

Monett Times — Kyle Troutman
Independence Examiner — Jeff Fox
Springfield News-Leader — Steve Pokin

Best Columnist — Serious Classes 1 & 2

Joplin Globe — Andy Ostmeyer
Independence Examiner — Jeff Fox
Monett Times — Kyle Troutman
Columbia Missourian — David Webber

Best Columnist — Serious Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Melinda Henneberger
The Kansas City Star — Dave Helling
The Kansas City Star — Mará Rose Williams
The Kansas City Star — Derek Donovan

Best News Photograph Class 1

Sedalia Democrat — Chris Howell
Sedalia Democrat — Chris Howell
Monett Times — Melonie Roberts
Monett Times — Mike Gervais

Best News Photograph Class 2

Columbia Missourian — Olivia Anderson
Jefferson City News Tribune — Julie Smith
Columbia Missourian — Tristen Rouse
Columbia Daily Tribune — Don Shrubshell

Best News Photograph Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Rich Sugg
The Kansas City Star — Jill Toyoshiba
The Kansas City Star — Jill Toyoshiba
The Kansas City Star — Jill Toyoshiba

Best Feature Photograph Class 1

Sedalia Democrat — Chris Howell
Monett Times — Melonie Roberts
Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss
Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss



Chris Howell of the *Sedalia Democrat* captured the feelings that come with picking up the pieces in the aftermath of tragedy in his first place Best News Photo win for small dailies.



Madeline Carter blocked the competition to pull down a first place win for the *Columbia Daily Tribune* in Best Sports Photograph for medium dailies.

Best Feature Photograph Class 2

Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian — Monica Obradovic
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian — Tyler Graef
Jefferson City News Tribune — Julie Smith
Columbia Missourian — Megan Matty

Best Feature Photograph Class 3

Kansas City Star — Jill Toyoshiba
Kansas City Star — Tammy Ljungblad
Kansas City Star — Rich Sugg
Kansas City Star — Rich Sugg

Best Sports Photograph Class 1

Monett Times — Kyle Troutman
Park Hills Daily Journal — Matt King
Monett Times — Kyle Troutman
Monett Times — Kyle Troutman

Best Sports Photograph Class 2

Columbia Daily Tribune — Madeline Carter
Joplin Globe — Laurie Sisk
Columbia Missourian — Elizabeth Underwood
Columbia Daily Tribune — J. Thomas Taylor

Best Sports Photograph Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Rich Sugg
The Kansas City Star — Jill Toyoshiba
The Kansas City Star — Rich Sugg

Best Sports Feature Photograph Class 1

Monett Times — Kyle Troutman
Sedalia Democrat — Alex Agueros
Sedalia Democrat — Alex Agueros
Monett Times — Kyle Troutman

Best Sports Feature Photograph Classes 2 & 3

Columbia Missourian — Irynka Hromotska
Columbia Missourian — Madi Winfield
Springfield News-Leader — Nathan Papes
Columbia Missourian — Maya Bell

Best Photo Illustration

The Kansas City Star — Chris Ochsner
Columbia Missourian — Alessia Tagliabue
Columbia Daily Tribune — Gabriela Velasquez
Columbia Missourian — Makalah Hardy

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!



Kyle Troutman and the *Monett Times* ensured everyone felt the jubilation of this team's victory with his Class 1 first place Best Sports Feature Photo win.

Best Photo Package Class 1

Monett Times — Mike Gervais
 Monett Times — Mike Gervais
 Marshall Democrat-News —
 Danielle Linton-Hatfield
 Monett Times — Melonie Roberts,
 Mike Gervais, Brad Stout

Best Photo Package Classes 2 & 3

Columbia Missourian — Cory MacNeil
 Columbia Missourian —
 Megan Matty, Cara Penquite
 Columbia Missourian — Lily Dozier
 Jefferson City News Tribune —
 Jason Strickland

Community Service

Columbia Missourian —
 Jacob Moscovitch,
 Hannah Barczykowski
 Columbia Missourian — Staff

Best Editorial Pages

Jefferson City News Tribune — Staff
 Columbia Missourian — Staff
 Columbia Daily Tribune —
 Tribune/Gannett Staff
 Monett Times — Staff

Best Sports Pages

The Kansas City Star — Jeff Rosen,
 Chris Fickett, Tom Smith,
 Neil Nakahodo, Chris Ochsner
 Springfield News-Leader — Staff
 Monett Times — Staff
 Columbia Missourian — Staff

Best Sports News Story Class 1

Hannibal Courier-Post —
 Mike Thomas, Matthew Kirby,
 Kim Kirby
 Monett Times — Kyle Troutman
 Park Hills Daily Journal — Matt King

Best Sports News Story Classes 2 & 3

Columbia Daily Tribune —
 Chris Kwiecinski
 Columbia Missourian — Owen Krucoff
 Springfield News-Leader —
 Wyatt D. Wheeler

Columbia Missourian — Jack Soble

Best Sports Feature Story Class 1

Park Hills Daily Journal — Matt King
 Monett Times — Kyle Troutman

Best Sports Feature Story Class 2

Columbia Daily Tribune — Eric Blum
 Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
 — J.C. Reeves
 Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
 — Ryan Collingwood

Best Sports Feature Story Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Sam Mellinger
 The Kansas City Star — Sam McDowell
 The Kansas City Star — Sam McDowell

Best Sports Columnist

Jefferson City News Tribune —
 Tom Rackers
 Jefferson City News Tribune —
 Greg Jackson
 Columbia Daily Tribune —
 Chris Kwiecinski
 The Kansas City Star —
 Sam Mellinger

Best News or Feature Special Section Class 1

Sedalia Democrat — Staff and
 Phillips Media Group
 Sedalia Democrat — Staff
 Sedalia Democrat —
 Democrat Staff, Star-Journal Staff
 Monett Times — Staff

Best News or Feature Special Section Class 2

Columbia Missourian — Staff
 Columbia Daily Tribune —
 Gannett Staff
 Columbia Missourian — Staff
 Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
 — Staff

Best Investigative Reporting

The Kansas City Star — Eric Adler,
 Mike Hendricks, Kevin Hardy,
 Cortlynn Stark
 Columbia Missourian — Julia Garlich
 Columbia Missourian — Mallory Daily
 LakeExpo — Nathan Bechtold,
 Brent Simpson

Best Business Story Class 1

Park Hills Daily Journal —
 Mark Marberry
 Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss
 Sedalia Democrat — Skye Melcher
 Park Hills Daily Journal —
 Mark Marberry

Best Business Story Class 2

Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
 — Rick Fahr
 LakeExpo — Kate Robbins
 Joplin Globe — Kevin McClintock
 Columbia Missourian — Skyler Laird

Best Business Story Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Kevin Hardy,
 Allison Kite, Steve Vockrodt
 The Kansas City Star — Kevin Hardy
 The Kansas City Star —
 David Hudnall, Joseph Hernandez,
 Allison Dikanovic

Best Coverage of Government

The Kansas City Star —
 Jonathan Shorman, Katie Bernard,
 Jeanne Kuang, Bryan Lowry,
 Steve Vockrodt, Sarah Ritter
 Missouri Independent —
 Tessa Weinberg
 Columbia Missourian —
 Brooke Muckerman

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture Class 1

Sedalia Democrat — Skye Melcher
 Park Hills Daily Journal —
 Mark Marberry

Best Story About Rural Life or

Agriculture Class 2

Sedalia Democrat — Chris Howell
 Columbia Missourian — Anna Watson
 Columbia Missourian — Charlie Drape
 Missouri Independent — Allison Kite
 Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
 — Jay Wolz

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

**Best Story About Rural Life or
Agriculture Class 3**

The Kansas City Star — Kevin Hardy
The Kansas City Star — Sarah Ritter,
Kevin Hardy

The Kansas City Star — Katie Moore

Best Story About Religion

Springfield News-Leader — Steve Pokin
The Kansas City Star —
Judy L. Thomas

Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
— Monica Obradovic

**Best Story About Education
Class 1**

Park Hills Daily Journal —
Kevin Jenkins
Marshall Democrat-News —
Danielle Linton-Hatfield, Sarah Gray
Hannibal Courier-Post —
Trevor McDonald

**Best Story About Education
Classes 2 & 3**

The Kansas City Star — Sarah Ritter
The Kansas City Star — Kevin Hardy,
Sarah Ritter

Jefferson City News Tribune —
Anna Campbell
Columbia Daily Tribune —
Roger McKinney

Best Story About the Outdoors

Columbia Missourian — Emma Veidt
Columbia Missourian — Regan Mertz
Joplin Globe — Andy Ostmeyer,
Kevin McClintock

Joplin Globe — Kevin McClintock

Best Story About History Class 1

Marshall Democrat-News —
Danielle Linton-Hatfield

Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss

Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss

Best Story About History Class 2

Missouri Independent — Rudi Keller
Independence Examiner — Mike Genet
Columbia Missourian —
Janae McKenzie

Best Military Story Class 1

Sedalia Democrat — Faith Bemiss
Sedalia Democrat — Bob Satnan
Park Hills Daily Journal — Sarah Haas

Best Military Story Class 2

Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
— Rick Fahr
Springfield News-Leader —
Steve Pokin
Joplin Globe — Kevin McClintock
Springfield News-Leader —
Andrew Sullender



The *Sedalia Democrat's* Chris Howell made this photo of linemen raising the American flag on Veterans Day to win first place in Best Feature Photo for small dailies.

Best Page Design

Joplin Globe — Trey Vaughn
Joplin Globe — Nathan Mills
Columbia Missourian — Staff
Columbia Daily Tribune —
Natalie Anderson

Best Information Graphic

Columbia Missourian — Regan Mertz
Columbia Missourian — Connor Giffin
Columbia Missourian —
Danielle DuClos

Columbia Missourian — Khue Nguyen

Best Editorial Cartoon

Columbia Missourian — John Darkow
Columbia Missourian — John Darkow
Jefferson City News Tribune —
Jim Dyke

**Best Online Newspaper or
Website Class 1**

Sedalia Democrat — Democrat Staff
Hannibal Courier-Post — Staff
Monett Times — Staff

**Best Online Newspaper or
Website Classes 2 & 3**

Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
— Staff
Springfield News-Leader — Staff
Joplin Globe — Staff
Columbia Daily Tribune — Staff

Best Video Class 2

Missouri Independent —
Rebecca Rivas

Columbia Missourian —
Irynka Hromotska (Kohut)
Springfield News-Leader —
Nathan Papes, Steve Pokin,
Bruce Stidham

Columbia Missourian —
Jacob Luebbert, Sara Williams,
Minh Connors

Best Video Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Jill Toyoshiba
The Kansas City Star — Shelly Yang
The Kansas City Star —
Tammy Ljungblad

The Kansas City Star — Jill Toyoshiba

Best Headline Writing

Columbia Missourian — Staff
Springfield News-Leader — Staff
LakeExpo — Nathan Bechtold, Brent
Simpson, Kate Robbins, Kathy Brown,
Stacy Johnson

Missouri Independent —
Jason Hancock

Best News or Feature Obit Class 1

Sedalia Democrat — Ryan Sheehan
Monett Times — Melonie Roberts
Monett Times — Kyle Troutman

Best News or Feature Obit Class 2

Columbia Daily Tribune —
Aarik Danielsen
Columbia Missourian —
Grace Nieland, Mae Bruce
Columbia Missourian —
Claudia Hope Levens
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
— Jay Wolz

Best News or Feature Obit Class 3

The Kansas City Star — Kevin Hardy,
Cortlynn Stark, Joyce Smith
The Kansas City Star — Bill Lukitsch
The Kansas City Star — Anna Spoerre

Multi-Media Reporting

Columbia Missourian — Emma Eaton,
Ciara McCaskill, Kalyn Laire,
Zachary Linhares, Bradford Siwak,
Hunter Pendleton
Missouri Independent —
Rebecca Rivas

**Magazine/Alternative
Publication**

Joplin Globe — Kevin McClintock
Jefferson City News Tribune — Molly
Morris, Nina Todea, India Garrish
Monett Times — Staff
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
— Staff

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Health Story Class 1

Park Hills Daily Journal —
Kevin Jenkins

Best Health Story Classes 2 & 3

Missouri Independent —
Tessa Weinberg, Betsy Ladyzhets
Missouri Independent — Rudi Keller
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
— Jay Wolz
Missouri Independent — Allison Kite,
Tessa Weinberg

Best Coverage of Elections

LakeExpo — Nathan Bechtold,
Brent Simpson
Columbia Missourian — Staff
Jefferson City News Tribune — Staff
Joplin Globe — John Hacker

Best COVID-19 Coverage

Missouri Independent — Rudi Keller,
Tessa Weinberg, Betsy Ladyzhets,
Derek Kravitz
Columbia Missourian — Staff
The Kansas City Star —
Jonathan Shorman, Jeanne Kuang,
Lisa Gutierrez, Katie Bernard
Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian
— Staff

Combined Dailies and Weeklies

Best Local Business Coverage
Kahoka The Media — Mike Scott



A snapshot of conflict between a mayor and residents made for a first place Best News Photo win for *The Kansas City Star's* Rich Sugg.

Springfield Business Journal — Staff
Sedalia Democrat — Staff
Richmond News —
Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Coverage of Rural Life or Agriculture

Washington Missourian — Staff
Missouri Independent — Allison Kite
Richmond News —

Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, Christi Rice
Quincy Herald - Whig —
Deborah Gertz Husar, Cody Bozarth
Best Newspaper in Education Project

Eldon Advertiser —
Tammy Witherspoon
St. Louis American — Cathy Sewell
Joplin Globe — Staff

Weeklies**General Excellence Class 1**

Maryville Forum — Staff
California Democrat— Staff
Maries County Advocate— Staff
Richmond News— Staff

General Excellence Class 2

Ste. Genevieve Herald— Staff
Laclede County Record— Staff
Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican
— Staff
Springfield Business Journal — Staff

General Excellence Class 3

St. Louis American — Staff
Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
Staff
Branson Tri-Lakes News —
Tim Church, Jason Wert, AJ Meakins,
Mandy Farrow
St. Louis Webster-Kirkwood Times
— Jamie Mowers, Melissa Wilkinson,
Kevin Murphy, Amanda Zarecki,
Ursula Ruhl

Best Overall Design Class 1

Richmond News — Staff
Cassville Democrat — Staff
Maryville Forum — Staff
Maries County Advocate — Staff
Best Overall Design Class 2
Springfield Business Journal — Staff
Gainesville Ozark County Times —
Norene Prososki, Sue Ann Jones,
Jessica Dreckman, Regina Mozingo,
Jennifer Yarger

Phelps County Focus — Staff
Laclede County Record —
Shawna Bradley, Fines Massey,
Daniel Foust



A fair amount of fun is being had in this shot by Christy Dieman for the *Laclede County Record*, Lebanon, which won Best Feature Photo for mid-size weeklies.

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Overall Design Class 3

Branson Tri-Lakes News — Tim Church, Jason Wert,

AJ Meakins, Mandy Farrow

St. Louis American — Staff

St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly — Staff

St. Louis Call Newspapers — Erin Achenbach, Gloria Lloyd,

Larry Saylor, Nathan Burrus, Lucas Irizarry

Best Front Page Class 1

Mexico Ledger — Tim Schmidt

Plattsburg Clinton County Leader — Brett Adkison

Maries County Advocate — Jacob Warden

Cassville Democrat — Staff

Best Front Page Class 2

Wright County Journal — Ron Schott

Courier-Tribune — Staff

Springfield Business Journal — Staff

Laclede County Record — Fines Massey, Shawna Bradley,

Daniel Foust

Best Front Page Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal — Erik Siemers

St. Louis Webster-Kirkwood Times — Kevin Murphy,

Amanda Zarecki

St. Louis Call Newspapers — Erin Achenbach, Gloria Lloyd,

Larry Saylor, Nathan Burrus, Lucas Irizarry

Washington Missourian — Sharon Pruessner

Best Breaking News Story Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman

Greenfield Vedette — James McNary

Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari, Geoffrey Woehlke

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Breaking News Story Class 2

Laclede County Record — Fines Massey

Houston Herald — Brad Gentry

Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar

Best Breaking News Story Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal — Jacob Kirn, James Drew,

Nathan Rubbelke

Washington Missourian — Ethan Colbert

Washington Missourian — William Skipworth

St. Louis Call Newspapers — Gloria Lloyd



Kyle Troutman lassoed a first place Best News Photo win for small weeklies with this rodeo shot for the *Cassville Democrat*.

Best News Story Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman

Oak Grove Focus — Ruth Ann Hafner

Maryville Forum — Geoffrey Woehlke

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best News Story Class 2

Houston Herald — Brad Gentry

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Neal Johnson

Laclede County Record — Fines Massey

Warrensburg Star-Journal — Sara Lawson

Best News Story Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal — James Drew

St. Louis Community News — Charlotte Beard

Branson Tri-Lakes News — Jason Wert

St. Louis Webster - Kirkwood Times — Jaime Mowers

Best Feature Story Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Memphis Democrat — Echo Menges

Fulton Sun — Jeremy Jacob

Best Feature Story Class 2

Houston Herald — Doug Davison

Phelps County Focus — Kaitlin Brothers

Springfield Business Journal — Karen Craig

Gainesville Ozark County Times — Jessica Dreckman

Best Feature Story Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal — James Drew

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly — Alan Zagier

St. Louis Business Journal — Nathan Rubbelke,

Maddy Simpson

Best News or Feature Series Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Maryville Forum — Geoffrey Woehlke

Maryville Forum — Trinity Cobb

Best News or Feature Series Class 2

Springfield Business Journal — Mike Cullinan

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Neal Johnson

Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican — Roxie Murphy

Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar, Ruth Ann Hafner



The *Maryville Forum*'s Jon Dykstra captured a mid-game reflection in this coach's glasses and a Best Sports Feature Photo win for small weeklies.

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!



Ron Schott helped *Wright County Journal* readers see through the eyes of first responders to a fire on the square in Mountain Grove, winning first place for Best News Photo for mid-size weeklies in the process.

**Best News or Feature Series
Class 3**

St. Louis Webster-Kirkwood Times — Kevin Murphy
St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly — Scott Lauck, Jessica Shumaker
Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Steve Taylor
Kansas City Northeast News — Michael Bushnell, Dorri Partain, Bryan Stalder

**Tilghman Cloud Memorial
Editorial Class 1**

The Maryville Forum
Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

**Tilghman Cloud Memorial
Editorial Class 2**

Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar

**Tilghman Cloud Memorial
Editorial Class 3**

Washington Missourian — Bill Miller, Trish Miller, Ethan Colbert
Washington Missourian — Bill Miller, Trish Miller, Ethan Colbert
Kansas City Northeast News — Michael Bushnell
Washington Missourian — Ethan Colbert, Trish Miller, Bill Miller Jr.

**Best Columnist — Humorous
Class 1**

Maries County Advocate — Dennis Warden

South Cass Tribune — Dennis Minich
Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman

**Best Columnist — Humorous
Class 2**

Laclede County Record — Fines Massey
Versailles Morgan County Statesman — Bryan Jones

Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar
Houston Herald — Doug Davison

**Best Columnist — Humorous
Class 3**

St. Louis Community News — Cindy Moore
Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Laura Marlow
Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Peggy Bess

St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly — Spencer Farris

Best Columnist — Serious Class 1

Maryville Forum — Geoffrey Woehlke
Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Columnist — Serious Class 2

Springfield Business Journal — Christine Temple
Versailles Morgan County Statesman — Bryan Jones
Springfield Business Journal — Eric Olson

Best Columnist — Serious Class 3

Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Laura Marlow
Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Gordon Bess
St. Louis Webster - Kirkwood Times —

Jaime Mowers

Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Peggy Bess

Best News Photograph Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman
Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges
Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman
Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best News Photograph Class 2

Wright County Journal — Ron Schott
Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican — Jacob Warden

Houston Herald — Doug Davison

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Jacob Warden

Best News Photograph Class 3

Washington Missourian — Julia Hansen
St. Louis Webster-Kirkwood Times — Ursula Ruhl

Washington Missourian — Ethan Colbert

Kansas City Northeast News — Corbin Smith

Best Feature Photograph Class 1

Maries County Advocate — Jacob Warden
Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari
Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
Maries County Advocate — Jacob Warden

Best Feature Photograph Class 2

Laclede County Record — Christy Dieman
Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican — Dennis Warden

Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar
Linn Unterrified Democrat — Ed Gehlert

Best Feature Photograph Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal — Dilip Vishwanat
St. Louis Business Journal — Dilip Vishwanat

St. Louis Webster - Kirkwood Times — Ursula Ruhl

St. Louis American — Wiley Price

Best Sports Photograph Class 1

Maries County Advocate — Jacob Warden
South Cass Tribune — Christopher Tenpenny
Maries County Advocate — Jacob Warden
Centralia Fireside Guard — James Smith

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Sports Photograph Class 2

Odessa Odessan — Kory Hales
 Phelps County Focus — Lori Lunceford
 Odessa Odessan — Kory Hales
 Odessa Odessan — Kory Hales

Best Sports Photograph Class 3

Washington Missourian — Bill Battle
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Russell Korando
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Russell Korando

St. Louis American — Wiley Price

Best Sports Feature Photograph Class 1

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra
 Plattsburg Clinton County Leader —
 Clint Dye

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra

Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman

Best Sports Feature Photograph Class 2

Linn Unterrified Democrat —
 Neal Johnson
 Warrensburg Star-Journal —
 Joe Andrews
 Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican
 — Will Johnson
 Courier-Tribune — Liam Keating

Best Sports Feature Photograph Class 3

Washington Missourian —
 Arron Hustead
 St. Louis Webster - Kirkwood Times —
 Ursula Ruhl
 Washington Missourian — Bill Battle
 Washington Missourian —
 Arron Hustead

Best Photo Illustration**Classes 1 & 2**

Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges
 Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Houston Herald — Amanda York
 Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Photo Illustration Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal —
 Jacqueline Prins
 St. Louis Business Journal —
 Jacqueline Prins
 Washington Missourian —
 Julia Hansen
 St. Louis Business Journal —
 Jacqueline Prins

Best Photo Package Class 1

Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman



Jacob Warden wasn't asleep behind the lens when he made this shot for the *Maries County Advocate* to win Best Feature Photo for small weeklies.

Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges

Maries County Advocate —

Jacob Warden

Best Photo Package Class 2

Odessa Odessan — Kory Hales
 Salem News — Catherine Wynn
 Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican
 — Dave Marner

Houston Herald — Doug Davison

Best Photo Package Class 3

Washington Missourian —
 Julia Hansen, Ethan Colbert
 St. Louis Webster-Kirkwood Times —
 Ursula Ruhl
 Washington Missourian —
 Julia Hansen
 St. Louis Webster - Kirkwood Times —
 Ursula Ruhl

Community Service Class 1

Richmond News — Staff
 Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges
 Cassville Democrat — Staff
Community Service Class 2
 Wright County Journal — Ron Schott
 Linn Unterrified Democrat —
 Neal Johnson

Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar,
 Ruth Ann Hafner

Community Service Class 3

St. Louis American — Staff
 St. Louis Business Journal — Staff
 Branson Tri-Lakes News —
 Tim Church

Best Editorial Pages Class 1

Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Cassville Democrat — Staff
 Maryville Forum — Staff

Best Editorial Pages Class 2

Houston Herald — Brad Gentry
 Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican
 — Dave Marner

Best Editorial Pages Class 3

St. Louis Call Newspapers —
 Gloria Lloyd, Erin Achenbach,
 Larry Saylor, Nathan Burrus
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Steve Taylor

Washington Missourian —

Bill Miller Jr., Trish Miller,
 Ethan Colbert

Best Sports Pages Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Staff
 Maries County Advocate — Will Johnson
 Fulton Sun — Staff

Best Sports Pages Classes 2 & 3

Ste. Genevieve Herald — Eric Viccaro
 Washington Missourian — Bill Battle,
 Arron Hustead
 Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican
 — Will Johnson

Warrensburg Star-Journal — Staff

Best Sports News Story Class 1

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra
 Plattsburg Clinton County Leader —
 Brett Adkison, Clint Dye

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra

Best Sports News Story Class 2

Warrensburg Star-Journal —
 Joe Andrews

Warrensburg Star-Journal —

Joe Andrews

Courier-Tribune — Liam Keating

Warrensburg Star-Journal —

Joe Andrews

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!



Kory Hales captured this player's determination on the court and won *The Odessan* a first-place win for Best Sports Photo for mid-size weeklies.

Best Sports News Story Class 3

Washington Missourian — Bill Battle
 Kirksville Daily Express & News — Austin Miller
 Washington Missourian — Arron Hustead
 Washington Missourian — Bill Battle, Arron Hustead

Best Sports Feature Story Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman
 Edina Sentinel — David Sharp
 Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman
 Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman

Best Sports Feature Story Class 2

Laclede County Record — Christy Dieman
 Warrensburg Star-Journal — Joe Andrews
 Phelps County Focus — Dave Roberts
 Warrensburg Star-Journal — Joe Andrews

Best Sports Feature Story Class 3

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez
 Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez
 Washington Missourian — Arron Hustead
 Kirksville Daily Express & News — Austin Miller

Best Sports Columnist

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Neal Johnson
 Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman
 Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Russell Korando

Best News or Feature Special Section Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Staff
 Richmond News — Staff
 Plattsburg Clinton County Leader — Brett Adkison, Clint Dye
 Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra

Best News or Feature Special Section Class 2

Gainesville Ozark County Times — Norene Prososki,
 Sue Ann Jones, Regina Mozingo, Jessica Dreckman,
 Jenny Yarger
 Gainesville Ozark County Times — Jessica Dreckman,
 Regina Mozingo, Jenny Yarger, Sue Ann Jones,
 Norene Prososki
 Gainesville Ozark County Times — Norene Prososki, Sue Ann
 Jones, Jessica Dreckman, Regina Mozingo, Jenny Yarger
 Odessa Odessan — Staff

Best News or Feature Special Section Class 3

Washington Missourian — Staff
 Washington Missourian — Staff
 St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly — Scott Lauck
 St. Louis Call Newspapers — Erin Achenbach, Larry Saylor,
 Nathan Burrus, Lucas Irizarry, Stephen Glover

Best Investigative Reporting Class 1

Maryville Forum — Geoffrey Woehlk
 Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari

Best Investigative Reporting Class 2

Phelps County Focus — Andrew Sheeley
 Houston Herald — Brad Gentry
 Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar
 Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar

Best Investigative Reporting Class 3

Festus- Jefferson County Leader — Katelyn Mary Skaggs
 Branson Tri-Lakes News — Jason Wert
 Kansas City Northeast News — Abby Hoover
 Washington Missourian — William Skipworth

Best Business Story Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Fredericktown Democrat-News — Victoria Kemper
 Maries County Advocate — Laura Schiermeier
 Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Business Story Class 2

Gainesville Ozark County Times — Sue Ann Jones
 Springfield Business Journal — Christine Temple
 Eldon Advertiser — Tim Flora
 Wright County Journal — Ron Schott

Best Business Story Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal — Jacob Kirn
 St. Louis Business Journal — Nathan Rubbelke
 Branson Tri-Lakes News — AJ Meakins
 Branson Tri-Lakes News — Tim Church

Best Coverage of Government Class 1

Maryville Forum — Staff
 Maryville Forum — Staff
 Maries County Advocate — Roxie Murphy

Best Coverage of Government Class 2

Houston Herald — Brad Gentry
 Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar
 Courier-Tribune — Amanda Lubinski

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Coverage of Government Class 3

St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly — Scott Lauck

St. Louis Business Journal — Jacob Kirn

St. Louis American — Staff

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Maryville Forum — Geoffrey Woehl

Greenfield Vedette — James McNary

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture Class 2

Springfield Business Journal — Karen Craig

Salem News — Caleb Brubaker

Springfield Business Journal — Christine Temple

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture Class 3

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Festus- Jefferson County Leader — Steve Taylor

Washington Missourian — Aneeta Brown

St. Louis Community News — Charlotte Beard

Best Story About Religion Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

South Cass Tribune — Lucas Lord

Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Story About Religion Class 2

Springfield Business Journal — Karen Craig

Laclede County Record — Laura Valenti

Wright County Journal — Ron Schott

Best Story About Religion Class 3

St. Louis Business Journal — James Drew

Washington Missourian — Reid Glenn

Kansas City Northeast News — Abby Hoover

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Best Story About Education Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari

Maryville Forum — Geoffrey Woehl

Best Story About Education Class 2

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Neal Johnson

Laclede County Record — Christy Dieman

Laclede County Record — Christy Dieman

Laclede County Record — Steve Smith

Best Story About Education Class 3

St. Louis Webster - Kirkwood Times — Melissa Wilkinson

St. Louis Community News — Charlotte Beard

Branson Tri-Lakes News — AJ Meakins

Festus- Jefferson County Leader — Tony Krausz

Best Story About the Outdoors Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Kahoka The Media — Mike Scott

Best Story About the Outdoors Class 2

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Neal Johnson

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Neal Johnson

Gainesville Ozark County Times — Jessica Dreckman

Best Story About the Outdoors Class 3

Washington Missourian — Arron Hustead

St. Louis Webster - Kirkwood Times — Melissa Wilkinson

Kansas City Northeast News — Abby Hoover

Best Story About History Class 1

Lexington News — Joe Parmon

Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari

Plattsburg Clinton County Leader — Brett Adkison

South Cass Tribune — Lucas Lord

Best Story About History Class 2

Linn Unterrified Democrat — Neal Johnson

Phelps County Focus — Andrew Sheeley

Gainesville Ozark County Times — Sue Ann Jones

Houston Herald — Doug Davison

Best Story About History Class 3

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

St. Louis Call Newspapers — Gloria Lloyd

St. Louis American — James Ingram

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Best Military Story Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Greenfield Vedette — James McNary

Maryville Forum — Geoffrey Woehl

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Military Story Class 2

Laclede County Record — Christy Dieman

Gainesville Ozark County Times — Sue Ann Jones

Laclede County Record — Fines Massey

Laclede County Record — Laura Valenti

Best Military Story Class 3

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Kirksville Daily Express & News — Austin Miller

St. Louis American — Sylvester Brown, Jr.

Washington Missourian — Geoff Folsom

Best Page Design Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra, Skye Pournazari



The *Washington Missourian's* Bill Battle reached over the bar set by the large weeklies competition and won first in Best Sports Photo with this shot.

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Page Design Class 2

Springfield Business Journal —
 Heather Mosley, McKenzie Robinson,
 Christine Temple
 Springfield Business Journal —
 Heather Mosley, McKenzie Robinson,
 Christine Temple

Laclede County Record — Daniel Foust
 Springfield Business Journal —
 Cynthia Reeves, McKenzie Robinson

Best Page Design Class 3

Washington Missourian —
 Lori Obermark
 Washington Missourian —
 Sarah Moore

St. Louis American — Melvin Moore
 St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly —
 Ryan O'Shea

Best Information Graphic Class 1

Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari
 Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari

Best Information Graphic Class 2

Springfield Business Journal —
 Heather Mosley, Karen Craig
 Springfield Business Journal —
 Heather Mosley
 Houston Herald — Brad Gentry
 Springfield Business Journal —
 Amanda Miller

Best Information Graphic Class 3

Washington Missourian —
 Lori Obermark
 Washington Missourian — Reid Glenn,
 Lori Obermark
 Washington Missourian —
 Ethan Colbert, Laura Miserez,
 Julia Hansen, Sarah Moore
 Washington Missourian —
 Lori Obermark

Best Editorial Cartoon

Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Cody Taylor
 Kansas City Northeast News —
 Bryan Stalder
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Cody Taylor

Best Online Newspaper or Website Class 1

Cassville Democrat — Staff
 Maryville Forum — Ken Garner
 Kahoka The Media — Mike Scott,
 Elsa Scott, Sue Scott



Neal Johnson had his own reason to celebrate after this shot he made for the *Unter-
 rified Democrat* won first in Best Sports Feature Photo for mid-size weeklies.

Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges,
 Mike Scott, Elsa Besler, Emilie Rumble
**Best Online Newspaper or
 Website Class 2**

Phelps County Focus — Staff
 Springfield Business Journal — Staff
 Warrensburg Star-Journal — Staff
 Houston Herald — Isaiah Buse, Brad —
 Gentry, Doug Davison

Best Online Newspaper or Website Class 3

St. Louis American — Dawn Suggs,
 James LeBine, Isaiah Peters,
 Jennifer Sarti

Washington Missourian — Staff
 Branson Tri-Lakes News — Tim Church
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Kim Robertson, Staff

Best Video Class 2

Wright County Journal — Ron Schott
 Laclede County Record — Alex Boyer
 Laclede County Record — Chris Roden

Best Video Class 3

St. Louis American — James LeBine,
 Kate Daniel

St. Louis American — Dawn Suggs
 St. Louis American — Dawn Suggs
 Washington Missourian —
 Julia Hansen, Elena K. Cruz

Best Headline Writing

Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Laclede County Record — Fines Massey
 Cassville Democrat — Staff

Festus-Jefferson County Leader — Staff
**Best News or Feature Obituary
 Class 1**

Maryville Forum — Ken Garner
 South Cass Tribune —
 Christopher Tenpenny
 Richmond News —
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Maries County Advocate —
 Edward Gehlert

Best News or Feature Obituary Class 2

Gainesville Ozark County Times —
 Sue Ann Jones
 Phelps County Focus — Donald Dodd
 Houston Herald — Brad Gentry
 Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican
 — Roxie Murphy

Best News or Feature Obituary Class 3

Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Laura Marlow
 St. Louis Missouri Lawyers Weekly —
 Scott Lauck
 Festus-Jefferson County Leader —
 Steve Taylor

Multi-Media Reporting Classes 1 & 2

Springfield Business Journal —
 Christine Temple
 Richmond News — Shawn Roney,
 Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
 Phelps County Focus — Kaitlin Brothers
 Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Multi-Media Reporting Class 3

St. Louis American — Staff

Washington Missourian — Elena K. Cruz, Julia Hansen

Kansas City Northeast News — Abby Hoover,
Michael Bushnell, Bryan Stalder

Magazine/Alternative Publication

Cassville Democrat — Staff

Laclede County Record — Fines Massey, Laura Valenti,
Shawna Bradley, Daniel Foust

Branson Tri-Lakes News — Tim Church, Joshua Clark

Branson Tri-Lakes News — Tim Church

Best Health Story Class 1

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Cassville Democrat — Jordan Troutman

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Best Health Story Class 2

Laclede County Record — Fines Massey

Courier-Tribune — Kellie Houx

Wright County Journal — Ron Schott

Best Health Story Class 3

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Washington Missourian — Laura Miserez

Best COVID-19 Coverage

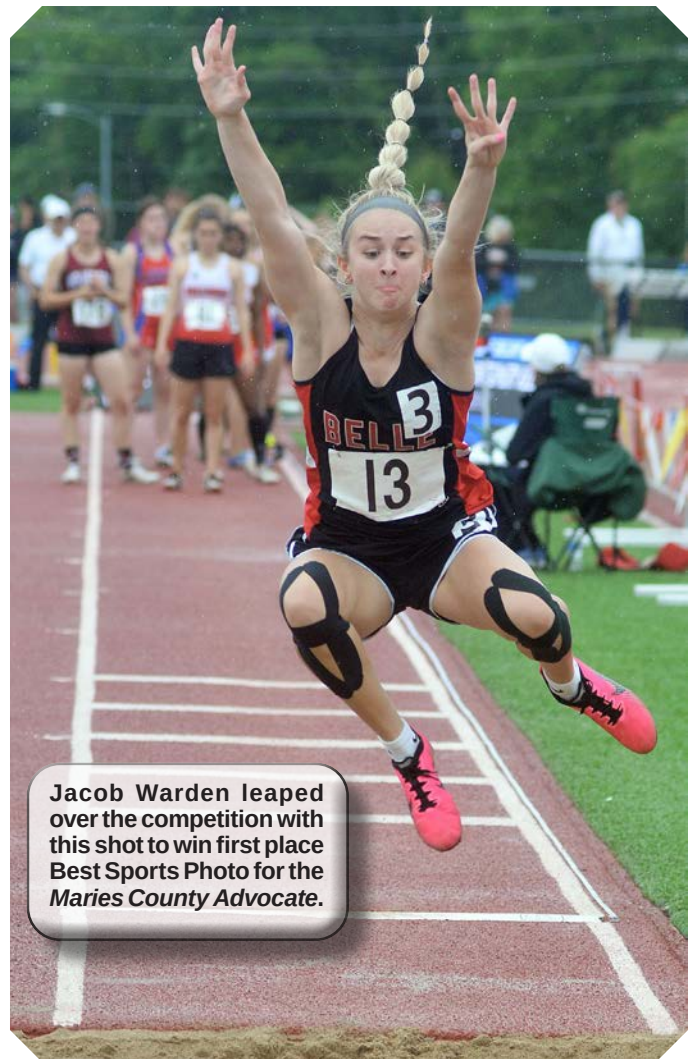
Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican — Dave Marner,

Roxie Murphy, Buck Collier

Richmond News — Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Odessa Odessan — Hannah Spaar

Branson Tri-Lakes News — AJ Meakins, Tim Church,
Addie Cantrell



Jacob Warden leaped over the competition with this shot to win first place Best Sports Photo for the *Maries County Advocate*.

Congratulations again to all of this year's winners!

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Voting and the media: Elements of a healthy democracy

A few weeks from now, this state's residents will be involved in what used to be a quiet and noncontroversial act of citizenship — casting our ballots on election day. But in more recent years, the entire process of voting has drawn significantly more attention. This seems like a good time to address a few factors that may arise as we undergo the process again.

First, I know in August, at least one member of the media called the hotline to report they were prohibited from bringing a camera into the polling place. That is wrong. The Missouri statute that governs this is Section 115.409 and it wouldn't hurt to send a copy of that statute with any photographer going out to take election day photographs.

That statute specifically includes in the category of persons admitted to a polling place "members of the news media who present identification satisfactory to the election judges ... provided that such coverage does not disclose how any voter cast the voter's ballot on any question or candidate or in the case of a primary election on which party ballot they voted or does not interfere with the general conduct of the election."

So, a member of the news media definitely has every right to photograph outside AND inside the polling place, so long as a photograph doesn't reveal how a voter voted.

What about "selfies" taken with a person's own camera? Can a voter post a photo of their marked ballot on social media? Technically, that's a Class Four election offense — a misdemeanor — it can be punished by "imprisonment of not more than one year" or by a fine of not more than \$2,500, or by both imprisonment and fine. The technical language of which a person would be charged is "allowing his or her ballot to be seen by any person with the intent of letting it be known how he or she is about to vote or has voted...." (Missouri Section 115.637.)

No, that's not new language. It was

"A member of the news media definitely has every right to photograph outside AND inside the polling place."

probably inserted in connection with efforts to prevent folks from attempting to "buy" votes many years ago. And no, there is no case law discussing the application of this Missouri statute in the social media era we now live in.

While this is a hot-enough issue, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, that it appears all states in 2022 have either constitutional or statutory provisions guaranteeing secrecy in voting, today's young voters apparently believe it is a mark of pride to share a ballot photo with their peers. So, a number of states, not including Missouri, surprisingly, now explicitly prohibit sharing a photo of a marked ballot on social media. At the same time, at least one state has found such a law unconstitutional as a violation of your First Amendment rights.

Ballots are counted after the election closes, of course, and then what happens to those election materials? The election authorities, according to Section 115.493 of the Missouri statutes, must keep all "voted ballots, ballot cards, processed ballot materials in electronic form and write-in forms, and all applications, statements, certificates, affidavits and computer programs relating to each election" for a period of 22 months post-election.

Authorities are charged by that Missouri statute to not open or inspect the materials, or let anyone else do so, unless they receive an order from a court, a grand jury or a legislative body

trying an election contest that orders them to do so (Section 115.493).

And the statute says after that 22-month period is over, the materials "may" be destroyed. (Obviously, if a contest of a race is pending, the materials related to that contest are not to be destroyed until after that contest is decided.) But what does that use of the word "may" indicate?

I recently heard a discussion among county election clerks suggesting that this was a poor use of the word "may," raising questions whether some clerks choose not to destroy such material, or whether that word inferred that there was any obligation to store such materials forever, in a time when space for such non-digital materials can be expensive to maintain.

Regardless, there is nothing that suggests such materials are ever public records open to a sunshine law request. There are statutes that allow candidates or their representatives to access applications for absentee ballots under certain circumstances, but that access has certain time limits put on it.

On the other hand, Section 115.158 specifically provides that lists of registered voters may be obtained as an open record but may not be used "for commercial purposes." Section 115.157 limits the data elements that are permitted to be provided from this data bank to specific listed items.

And there are provisions contained in the Missouri statutes to remove from voter registration lists the names and addresses of certain protected individuals, such as, for example, undercover officers, persons in witness protection programs and domestic abuse victims.



Jean Maneke,
is MPA's Legal Hotline attorney.
Contact her at (816) 753-9000;
jmaneke@manekelaw.com.

OBITUARIES



Owensville

Bob McKee

Robert "Bob" Ladell McKee, 81, continued writing his column, "Going of Owensville died Sept. 14, 2022, South," for several years after his surrounded by family.

After going back to school at age 30, Bob graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism with a degree in photojournalism. He started working at the *Gasconade County Republican* in 1972 as a photographer and reporter.

Bob retired from the newspaper as an award-winning managing editor in 2007. He



retirement. Active in his community with many organizations, Bob also served for many years as a member of the Owensville Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to his wife, Jeannie, he is survived by four children, Teresa, Christopher, Cheryl and Christa; several grandchildren; and many more family and friends.

Cape Girardeau

Jocelyn Sheets

Jocelyn K. Sheets, 64, of Cape Girardeau died Aug. 22, 2022, at her home.

Jocelyn worked as a sports editor and journalist at newspapers in Kansas, Iowa and Missouri. She loved sports and worked as sports editor at the *Iola, Kan. Register* for 26 years. She was the first woman in the state of Kansas to be named Sportswriter of the Year. Since 2019, she worked for the *Southeast Missourian* as a copy editor and writer.

She loved spending time teaching photography and writing to 4-H students and mentoring high school photography students.

In addition to her father, Dean, and three siblings, she is survived many more family and friends.



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Melissa Farlow



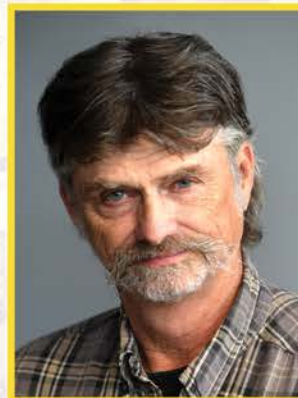
Randy Olson



Ken Paik



Mary Schulte



Don Shrubshell

Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame Ceremony
State Historical Society of Missouri • Columbia, Mo. 10/20, 4 p.m.

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