

*The Minnesota Professional Chapter of the
Society of Professional Journalists
presents:*

The 2013 Page One Awards



June 18, 2013
Town and Country Club
St. Paul, Minn.

**The Minnesota Professional Chapter of the
Society of Professional Journalists
Page One Awards Banquet**

**June 18, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

Welcome	Amanda Theisen MN SPJ Chapter President
Keynote	Randi Kaye Emmy Award-winning anchor and correspondent for CNN/U.S.
Peter S. Popovich Award	Presented by Drew Kerr MN SPJ Board member Presented to The Timberjay Newspapers Publisher, Marshall Helmberger
Student Scholarships	Presented by Anna Pratt MN SPJ Board member Presented to Brianna Kelly & Callie Sacarelos
AAJA Spotlight Awards	Presented by Delane Cleveland AAJA-MN President Presented to Rebecca Harrington & Meghan Holden
Presidents Award	Presented by Amanda Theisen MN SPJ Chapter President
Page One Awards	Jason DeRusha, WCCO-TV Jamie Yuccas, WCCO-TV

Guest Speaker

Randi Kaye is an Emmy Award-winning anchor and correspondent for CNN/U.S, based in New York. She reports for Anderson Cooper 360° and regularly anchors and reports for CNN's Documentary Unit.

Since joining the network in December 2004, she has covered breaking news in addition to providing in-depth investigative reports for Anderson Cooper 360°. In 2013, Kaye covered the Presidential Inauguration and anchored from Washington D.C. She also reported and hosted CNN documentaries on the LAPD manhunt for Christopher Dorner, the Jodi Arias Trial, and the Boston Marathon Bombing. In 2012, she covered the shooting massacre inside Theatre 9 in Aurora, Colo, as well as the attack on the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wis. In 2011, Kaye reported from Arizona, the scene of the shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. That same year, Kaye anchored the network's live coverage of the violence erupting in Egypt's Tahrir Square and the rebellion in Libya.

Kaye joined CNN from WCCO-TV in Minneapolis where she anchored the 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts and was also part of the station's investigative team. She covered Jesse Ventura's gubernatorial campaign and the arrest of the September 11 terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui.

Her television career began at ABC in New York City where she worked at "Nightline" and alongside former "World News Tonight" anchor Peter Jennings for five years. While at ABC, Kaye covered President Bill Clinton's campaign in Little Rock, Ark. She eventually moved to Arkansas to work at ABC affiliate KATV.

Kaye also worked at ABC affiliate WFAA-TV in Dallas, at FOX affiliate KMSP-TV in Minneapolis, and at UPN affiliate WWOR in New York City.

In 2006, she won an Emmy for her investigation on infertility drugs being sold on the black market. Kaye contributed to the network's Peabody Award-winning coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 the Gulf Oil Spill in 2010. And in 2011, she won a Headliner Award for the series, "Amazing Animals: Smarter Than You Think." In 2012 Kaye won a GLAAD and NLGJA award for her reporting on the "Sissy Boy Experiment" for Anderson Cooper 360.

She earned a degree in broadcast journalism, graduating cum laude from Boston University.

Student Scholarship Award Winners

Each year the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists board of directors selects two college students studying in the field of journalism to receive its annual student scholarship. This year, MNSPJ is pleased to award two \$2,500 scholarships.

The scholarship application process is highly competitive, and applicants must either be enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Minnesota or be a Minnesota high school graduate enrolled in a post-secondary institution outside of Minnesota.

Brianna Kelly

Brianna Kelly is a graduate of Eden Prairie High School and DePaul University in Chicago, Ill. She is currently pursuing her masters in journalism. Brianna is already an experienced photojournalist and writer, working with media outlets such as Gapers Block, The Red Line Project, Soundfuse Online Magazine and The Depaulia Student Newspaper. At DePaul, Brianna was president of the college's SPJ chapter. During her tenure, the chapter was named Best Student Chapter in SPJ and was named the top student organization at DePaul. Brianna's professors have praised her for being a persistent, talented and smart journalist. She says her goal is to use her variety of journalistic skills through a multimedia platform.

Callie Sacarelos

Callie is currently studying journalism at the University of Minnesota and plans to graduate in 2014. She has worked as a staff reporter for the Minnesota Daily, as a radio producer intern at Access Minnesota and as a graphic design apprentice at The Electronic Easel. Callie graduated from Christ's Household of Faith School in 2007 and started her college education at Minneapolis Community and Technical College before transferring to the U of M. Callie has already demonstrated strong storytelling skills in her articles for the Daily. Associate professor Chris Ison noted she has a "natural ability as a reporter and writer." Callie says her goals are to work for a news outlet similar to the Daily after graduation and produce long-form stories and radio show pieces. She says she aspires to write, produce or host a radio show that highlights fine journalistic storytelling.

2013 Peter S. Popovich Award Winner

The Peter S. Popovich Award is given by the board of the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists annually to the person or organization that exemplifies the fight for First Amendment rights.

The award, MN SPJ's most prestigious, honors the life of Peter Popovich, a legislator, jurist, and tireless advocate for First Amendment rights.

Popovich served in the state House of Representatives from 1953-1963. One of his legacies as a legislator is Minnesota's Open Meeting Law. Throughout the rest of his career, Popovich remained an effective and aggressive advocate for openness in government and free speech issues. Popovich is the only person in the state's history to serve as chief judge of the state Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

The Timberjay Newspapers Marshall Helmberger, Publisher

The Timberjay has been serving communities in northern St. Louis County since 1989. During that time, Publisher and Managing Editor Marshall Helmberger and his staff have pursued a number of major investigative stories, three of which have gone on to win the Frank Premack Award for Outstanding Public Affairs Reporting.

The Timberjay's four-year long investigation into an \$80 million school construction project involving the St. Louis County School District and Johnson Controls, inc. exposed potential fraud, contract violations, shoddy workmanship, and a misleading public campaign that convinced voters to fund it all. JCI's refusal to release public documents related to the project, including the architectural contract, have led to a three-year legal battle now awaiting a decision by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists
Freedom of Information Award winners 1979-2010

- 1979 The Minnesota Supreme Court & Chief Justice Robert Sheran
- 1980 Newell Grant, Publisher, *Tri-State Daily News*, Wahpeton-ND
- 1981 Roger Adams, Star and Tribune Freedom of Information Committee
- 1982 Jeanette McDougal, Data watch of Minnesota
- 1983 T.J. Western; WCCO TV and Radio; *St. Cloud Times*
- 1984 Mark Baker, Editor, *Lake Region Press* and *Lake Region Echo*
- 1985 John R. Finnegan, *St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch*
- 1986 Star and Tribune First Amendment Committee
- 1987 Duane Rasmussen, *Forest Lake Times*, *ECM Post Review*
- 1988 John Fisher, Annandale Advocate;
Debra Flemming, *Owatonna People's Press*
- 1989 The *Minnesota Daily* and Marshall Tanick, Attorney
- 1990 Peter S. Popovich, Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
- 1991 Patricia Hirl Longstaff
- 1992 Robert Franklin, FOI Director Minnesota SPJ
- 1993 Kevin Burke, Chief Judge, Hennepin County
- 1994 Mark Anfinson, Media Attorney
- 1995 Jim Pumarlo, *Red Wing Republican Eagle*
- 1996 The *Minnesota Daily* and Michelle Ames, Editor;
John Stanoch, District Judge, Hennepin County
- 1997 Donald R. Casey, *St. Cloud Times*
- 1998 Reps. Matt Entenza and Bill Macklin; Sen. Richard Cohen
- 1999 Lucy Dalglish, FOI Director, Minnesota SPJ
- 2000 Tim McGuire, Editor, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*
- 2001 Randy Lebedoff, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*
- 2002 John Borger, Media Attorney
- 2003 Bill Lawrence and Mark Bartel
- 2004 Donald S. Gemberling, former Director, Minnesota Department of
Administration, Information Analysis and Policy Division
- 2005 Walter Kuckes, Avon, MN
- 2006 Rep. Mary Liz Holberg; Sen. Don Betzold
- 2007 Gary Hill, former KSTP-TV journalist
- 2008 Mary Flister, Open government advocate - Maplewood, MN
Robbie La Fleur, Director - MN Legislative Reference Library
- 2009 *The Echo* student newspaper, Faribault High School: Kelly Zwagerman,
adviser; Vicky Carillo, Christen Hildebrandt and Ben Jackson, editors
- 2010 Randy Furst, *Star Tribune*
- 2011 Jane E. Kirtley, Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law, School of
Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Minnesota
- 2012 Glenn Howatt & Richard Merryhew, *Star Tribune*

In Memoriam

MN SPJ would like recognize members and friends of MN SPJ who passed away in the past year.

Karl Bremer - 1953 - 2013

Karl Bremer, author of the Page One Award-winning blog “A Ripple in Stillwater” passed away January 15, from complications related to pancreatic cancer. He was 60.

Bremer was a tenacious muckraker, an award-winning blogger and an avid photographer. His blog, “Ripple in Stillwater” was named Best Local Blog by City Pages in 2012. He also received Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists awards for best use of public records.

"At some point, someone's got to be held accountable," he said. "You can't just let people get away with it all the time. If there was an issue, I wouldn't let go until somebody was held accountable."

Bremer was passionate about honesty, said his wife, Chris Bremer. "He always got mad if someone wasn't telling the truth."

Excerpted from the Pioneer Press obituary, by Mary Divine

John R. Finnegan, Sr. - 1925-2012

John R. "Jack" Finnegan, a life-long SPJ member, MN SPJ Popovich Award winner and former editor of the Pioneer Press and champion of open government, was 87. He died Tuesday, Oct. 2, after a long struggle with cancer.

Finnegan was nationally known as an advocate for open meetings and open-records laws. He not only won a string of awards for his efforts, but he also had one named after him. The Finnegan Freedom of Information Award is given by the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information. He was a celebrated newsman. When he became editor, he set out to win the newspaper's first Pulitzer Prize, and by the time he retired, the Pioneer Press had won two.

His first job was as a reporter for the Robbinsdale Post. He then worked as a reporter for the Rochester Post-Bulletin and was hired by the Pioneer Press in 1951.

Finnegan rose through the ranks and worked as editor from 1970 to 1985. He served as assistant publisher until his retirement in 1988.

Finnegan's passion was prying open the closed doors of government. When he began his career, public officials were able to hide information. Police routinely kept jail and arrest records secret. City councils could kick voters out of meetings merely by declaring the meetings confidential.

Finnegan believed that secrecy crippled democracy. He argued that officials were hiding facts that voters needed to know to make their ballot-box decisions.

With a colleague, Finnegan drafted Minnesota's first open-meetings law in 1957. He co-wrote and helped lobby for passage of the state's 1974 Data Practices Act, which opened most Minnesota records to the public.

Excerpted from the Pioneer Press obituary, by Bob Shaw

Larry Oakes - 1961 - 2013

Larry Oakes was a veteran Star Tribune reporter who covered statewide issues, high-profile court cases, labor battles and, most notably, life on the Iron Range. He attended the University of Minnesota and was hired at the Duluth News Tribune in 1982. Shortly after winning the prestigious Frank Premack Public Affairs Journalism Award for a series on plea bargains in the court system, he was hired by the Star Tribune in 1985. He worked in the newspaper's St. Paul bureau, manned the Duluth bureau for 21 years and edited Minneapolis coverage for two years before returning to reporting in 2010. Among Oakes' best-known projects were a prize-winning 2004 series called "The Lost Youth of Leech Lake" and "The New Life Sentence," a 2008 series that examined Minnesota's controversial practice of keeping sex offenders behind bars indefinitely after finishing their prison sentences; last year, a federal judge ordered the state to make changes to that policy. Oakes died Jan. 4 in Duluth at the age of 52.

Awards Presentation

We ask all winners, or a representative from the winning news outlet, to come forward to accept their awards during the presentation.

Duplicate awards are available for purchase from MNSPJ. If you would like to order a duplicate plaque or certificate, please contact us by email: minnesota.spj@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all of this year's award winners!

NEWSPAPERS

Spot News

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Matt McKinney, *Star Tribune*

"I thought I had lost you."

Judges comments: McKinney takes readers to the scene of an almost-drowning in the wake of terrible flooding. Descriptive storytelling, tight writing, and thankfully, a happy ending.

Second Place: Larry Oakes, Matt McKinney, Richard Meryhew & Chris Havens, *Star Tribune*

"Duluth Flood"

Third Place: Mara Gottfried, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"St. Paul officer on leave after violent YouTube arrest"

Spot News

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Staff, *Duluth News Tribune*

"June Flood of 2012"

Judges comments: Fantastic coverage that hit on all aspects of a massive flood - from the city's devastation to the personal impact stories. Coverage was full circle, from stories and photos to in-depth graphics. Readers were kept informed of every detail over three days - road closings, injuries, cost, clean-up, detours, etc. - and certainly received the information they needed at a crucial time. Kudos to the entire staff, who certainly pulled together in a time of need for its city.

Second Place: Staff, *St. Cloud Times*

"Sartell Paper Mill Fire"

Third Place: Paul Demko & Briana Bierschbach, *Capitol Report/ Politics in Minnesota*

"State GOP served with eviction notice for St. Paul office space"

Short Feature

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Matt McKinney, *Star Tribune*

"Body on a beach finds name, peace"

Judges comments: Great idea, good inquisitiveness, solid research, nice storytelling. excellent.

Second Place: Sarah Horner, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"So Young"

Short Feature

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Mark Sommerhauser, *St. Cloud Times*

"I Want Him Back"

Judges comments: A touching profile about a slain police officer's four children. The writer uses an appropriate light touch for such a tragic story.

Second Place: Christa Lawler, *Duluth News Tribune*

"She still loves me"

Third Place: Matt Peterson, *Austin Daily Herald*

"Local flying ace passes away"

Long Feature

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Mark Brunswick, *Star Tribune*

"Four grueling days from war to home"

Judges comments: This was tough. Several of the entries in this category tugged at my heart. But this piece about some soldiers' trip home from war was an incredibly well-reported, well-written story absolutely packed with information. It was not only emotional but also educational and I read the entire piece eagerly. Great job.

Second Place: Pam Louwagie, *Star Tribune*

"Jablonski - After the hit"

Third Place: Nick Ferraro & Chris Magan, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"Hockey School"

Long Feature

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Elizabeth Nida Obert, *Rochester Post-Bulletin*

"Diagnosis: Breast Cancer"

Judges comments: Nida Obert wins in this category full of good stories for her compelling first-person account of her breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. She fills the story with vivid details of her emotions as she goes through the medical process.

Second Place: Sam Cook, *Duluth News Tribune*

"Pulling for their lives"

Third Place: Nick Halter, *Southwest Journal*

"Small house, big struggle"

Enterprise Story

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Gregory Pratt, *City Pages*

"The Lothario Notario"

Judges comments: A colorful character meticulously limned, along with sympathetic victims, in a dramatization of the array of under-appreciated barriers facing newcomers to the U.S. An entertaining and authoritative read with a subtext of earned indignation.

Second Place: Mark Brunswick, *Star Tribune*

"Turned Away"

Third Place: Brian Murphy, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*
“A Dome Legacy”

Enterprise Story

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Brandon Stahl, *Duluth News Tribune*
“Tax exempt”

Judges comments: The stories show exhaustive reporting of a widespread problem and illustrate the impact of the assessment issues on local residents. Reporter kept up the conversation of key players throughout the stories so readers didn't become overwhelmed by facts and figures.

Second Place: Kirsti Marohn, *St. Cloud Times*
“Taking a Stand”

Third Place: David Unze, *St. Cloud Times*
“Changing Minds, Saving Lives”

In-depth

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Curt Brown, David Joles & Jim Gehrz, *Star Tribune*
“In the Footsteps of Little Crow”

Judges comments: The finalists for in-depth reporting in Minnesota SPJ's 50,000-plus circulation category shed light on their topics, but none did so as thoroughly as Curt Brown's "In the Footsteps of Little Crow." Writing for Star Tribune, Brown told the "other side" of the stories familiar from the history books in recounting, on its 150th anniversary, one of the most gripping but little-known chapters in Minnesota history. "In the Footsteps of Little Crow" followed - through traditional stories published over the course of a week in the Star Tribune as well as online features like interactive maps and links - the story of the Dakota chief's life, culminating in the largest mass execution on U.S. soil. Brown makes the argument that the Minnesota incident in some ways forecast the Indian wars that would occur over the next few decades. The series gave readers not only the opportunity to participate in the story through recalling their own family's memories, passed down from their pioneer ancestors, but prompted Minnesota's governor to repudiate the actions of his long-ago predecessor, who had urged the slaughter of the Dakota.

Second Place: Mila Koumpilova, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*
“Between trouble/He has a roadmap to future”

Third Place: Thomas Lee, David Shaffer & Paul McEnroe, *Star Tribune*
“The Lost Empire”

In-depth

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Kevin Allenspach, *St. Cloud Times*
“Chasing Futures in the Oil Patch”

Judges comments: This five-day series was a thoroughly reported, well written exploration of the booming oil country in western North Dakota and its impact on Minnesota. Excellent story ideas that humanized this major trend story. Great job.

Second Place: Brian Johnson & Chris Newmarker, *Finance & Commerce*
“Why No Bidding on Saints Ballpark?”

Third Place: Katharine Grayson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*
“Fight over moratorium on radiation facilities”

Investigative

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Brandon Stahl, *Duluth News Tribune*
“Methadone: A Costly Fix”

Judges comments: The most comprehensive, far-reaching report in a classy field of entrants.

Second Place: Kirsti Marohn & David Unze, *St. Cloud Times*
“Failure to Protect”

Third Place: Paul Demko, *Capitol Report/Politics in Minnesota*
“He Was a Kid”

Business Spot News

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Thomas Lee, David Phelps, Dave Shaffer & Paul McEnroe,
Star Tribune
“Best Buy CEO resigns under cloud”

Judges comments: Clear and comprehensive coverage of an unexpected leadership change at Best Buy, complete with a sidebar profile of the interim CEO and a column exploring whether an outsider should take over the company's top job.

Second Place: Gregory Pratt, *City Pages*
“The Wedge Co-op labor disputes”

Business Spot News

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Newsroom, *St. Cloud Times*
“Sartell Mill Closure”

Judges comments: Comprehensive coverage of the decision to close a century-old paper mill that put hundreds out of work. The stories are full of details, solid interviews and color that tell the impact of the closure.

Second Place: Sam Black, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*
“Sam Zell in talks to buy Normandale office park”

Third Place: Drew Kerr, *Finance & Commerce*
“New bridge, new hopes in Hastings”

Business Feature

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Andy Greder, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*
“The New Food Chain”

Judges comments: An interesting look inside the business of trying to connect small farmers with customers. The story effectively weaves together the financial details with numerous voices to show the challenges the food hubs face.

Second Place: Erika Wolf, *City Pages*

“Zubaz Unleashed!”

Third Place: John Welbes, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“They were stewardesses once”

Business Feature

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Anne Bretts, *Finance & Commerce*

“Is apartment design stuck in a rut?”

Judges comments: An imaginative look at why so many new apartment projects proposed in the Twin Cities look so much alike and what that means for the area. Story has good mix of views from developers and design experts.

Second Place: John Myers, *Duluth News Tribune*

“TriTec expands alongside taconite”

Third Place: Katharine Grayson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“JAMF's long-ago bet on Apple hits the jackpot”

Sports News

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Jason Gonzalez, *Star Tribune*

“Student manager with disability gets dream fulfilled in 24 seconds”

Judges comments: A well-done account of a teen with cerebral palsy's chance to play in a high school basketball game. Story has a good mix of color from the game and details on the teen's determination.

Sports News

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Frank Rajkowski, *St. Cloud Times*

“Coach Gagliardi Retires”

Judges comments: Good writing, good detail, good organization, good sidebars. Bravo!

Second Place: Rick Weegman, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Broman pursuit of record”

Third Place: John Vomhof, Jr., *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“For sale: Twin Cities Pro Soccer Team”

Sports Feature

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Ben Goessling & MaryJo Webster, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Weather conditions at Target Field”

Judges comments: Baseball fans get many views with a very interesting read on how Target Field turned out to be so home run unfriendly during its first two seasons. The reporters effectively pull together various story threads on wind condition, stadium design and possible lineup impacts to take readers deep into the game.

Second Place: Brian Stensaas, *Star Tribune*

“Back From the Attack”

Third Place: Andy Mannix, *City Pages*
“Game Changer”

Sports Feature

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Matt Kane, *Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch*
“Band of Brothers”

Judges comments: Extraordinary story well-told!

Second Place: Jon Nowacki, *Duluth News Tribune*
“He’s a true Bulldog”

Third Place: Kevin Pates, *Duluth News Tribune*
“Hometown hockey hero”

General Column

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Ruben Rosario, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*
“Did this vet’s service cost him his life?”

Judges comments: A sad story of a dying man’s search for the truth, told in a straight-forward manner without the sappy sentimentality that frequently accompanies such topics.

Second Place: Susan Hogan, *Star Tribune*
“Religious liberty, religion’s shame”

Third Place: Gail Rosenblum, *Star Tribune*
“Things We Might Have Learned from the Trial of Amy Senser”

General Column

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Michelle Miron, *Press Publications*
“Don’t Let Your Kids Be the Jerks”

Judges comments: Miron gives a unique take on adolescent bullying by linking it to her memory of a classmate’s humiliation 30 years ago. An engaging and conversational style to the writing.

Second Place: Randy Krebs, *St. Cloud Times*
“Boy Scouts could learn a lesson or two”

Third Place: Paul Dols, *White Bear Press*
“Gadgets and gizmos”

Business Column

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Gregory Pratt, *City Pages*
“The Wedge Coop”

Judges comments: Fascinating and disturbing portrait of the growing pains of a “people’s enterprise.” Reporter worked assiduously to fill in the blanks left by both the departed manager and her ex-colleagues. Displayed an insider’s savvy.

Second Place: Olivia LaVecchia, *City Pages*
“How Family Business FirstTech got to be the world’s longest-running Apple dealer”

Business Column

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Katharine Grayson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Sandy blows CoAxia off course”

Judges comments: Interesting inside look at an innovative company about to run out of venture capital. Delays by the FDA, and even a superstorm, factored into whether a new medical device that could save lives will be approved. A good read.

Sports Column

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Dave DeLand, *St. Cloud Times*

“Everyone deserves the chance to play”

Judges comments: This column took on a difficult topic and tied it to sports - gay rights. The connection with Jackie Robinson, as well as the writer's early days watching games in St. Louis, made it very readable.

Editorial

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Tom Goldstein, *City Pages*

“The Case Against the 'People's' Stadium”

Judges comments: A strong overview that breaks down the financial figures and the history of years of lobbying by Vikings' owners for a new stadium to back up a powerful argument against the project.

Second Place: Susan Hogan, *Star Tribune*

“Is anti-Muslim bias St. Anthony's issue?”

Editorial

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Randy Krebs, *St. Cloud Times*

“Sartell's board not following its own words”

Judges comments: Good, punchy style in this editorial that uses school officials' own words in a call for greater openness.

Second Place: Chuck Frederick, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Lynch mob comparison offensive, inappropriate”

Graphics

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Derek Thomson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Metro cashes in on MN's metal rush”

Judges comments: A strong illustration that communicates a great deal about the story in an inventive way and in a small amount of space. Good use of color that invites the reader in.

Second Place: Lisa Mueller, *St. Cloud Times*

“Ready for the Future”

Third Place: Dana Croatt, *The Journal*

“A Season to Forget”

Art and Illustration

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Ken Avidor, *City Pages*

“The Fall of Michele Bachmann”

Judges comments: An entertaining set of illustrations that enliven the story.

Art and Illustration

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Gary Meader, *Duluth News Tribune*

“There's a code for this”

Judges comments: What stood out with this illustration was that it is a great example of visually telling the reader just how detailed the health codes can be. With the headline, the two pair together for a nice impact.

Second Place: Derek Thompson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Make it rain”

Third Place: Tim Montgomery, *Finance & Commerce*

“New Rx for healthy businesses”

Page Design

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Tony Nelson, & Mike Kooiman, *City Pages*

“The Madness in Vincent Kartheiser”

Judges comments: A smart and imaginative design on the package -- certainly will pull readers into the story.

Page Design

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Dana Croatt, *Southwest Journal*

“Rubio”

Judges comments: Sometimes simple is impactful, as was the case here. The page was dramatic and the navigation flowed well. The designer put thought into what the story was, instead of just putting out a nice page. Understated team gets understated play as far as words and photo size. I like it. This page put the special in special section.

Second Place: Amanda Wadeson, *Minnesota Good Age*

“Travel: Michigan”

Third Place: Derek Thompson, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Navigating health care reform”

Front Page Design

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Jake Schreiber, *Finance & Commerce*

“Is apartment design stuck in a rut?”

Judges comments: The apartment design was a creative way to visually convey the point of the story, and it took some skillful Photoshop work to pull off the illustration.

Second Place: Dana Croatt, *Southwest Journal*

“Voter's Guide”

Third Place: Jake Schreiber, *Finance & Commerce*

“Nov. 8 - What to expect after the election”

Headline

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Mike Decaire, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Racking up overtime, padding pensions”

Judges comments: A well-done collection of headlines that are effective in drawing readers into the stories and are very fitting for their content.

Headline

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Mary Beamish, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Isolated by floods, residents improvise”

Judges comments: The headline succinctly and ably tied together many diverse elements. We enjoyed how it worked with the dominant art. You look at the headline and art and you instantly know what you'd be reading about.

Second Place: Casey Selix, *Finance & Commerce*

“Once lauded, now leaky: \$6.8M fix needed for U's Civil Engineering Building”

Third Place: Louie St. George, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Friday night pligh”

Best Issue

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Staff, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Sunday, February 26, 2012”

Judges comments: Only two entries here. I picked the Pioneer Press because it had a nice selection of local stories that represented good news and features, including an interesting business story about animal welfare. I also loved the Oscar bingo game.

Best Issue

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Newsroom staff, *Finance & Commerce*

“Dec. 20 newspaper: Boom to Bust?”

Judges comments: Both entries in this category were good and it was tough to choose a winner. I chose Finance & Commerce because it was well-written and focused and done on a tighter deadline.

Second Place: Kristal Leebrick, Steve Parker, Genevieve Plagens, Ruth Weleccki & Fariba Sanikhatam, *Park Bugle*

“June 2012”

Arts & Entertainment

Newspaper [50,000+ circulation]

First Place: Erika Wolf, *City Pages*

“Dave Ryan Grows Up”

Judges comments: In truth, I would never listen to this radio show. The fact, though, that the subject of the story wasn't all that interesting to me — but the story itself held my interest throughout — is what made this entry a clear choice for winner. Nice arc to the narrative, plus a great section on the rest of the radio crew. Well done!

Second Place: Jon Bream, *Star Tribune*

“Hit Man”

Third Place: Amy Gustafson, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“So what’s a book lover like you doing in a place like this?”

Arts & Entertainment

Newspaper [LESS than 50,000 circulation]

First Place: Dylan Thomas, *Southwest Journal*

“An artist in public”

Judges comments: This writer had me at "Zoran Mojsilov." From that first simple sentence about this not-so-simple artist, Thomas crafted a story just as artistic as Mojsilov's stone work. He avoided clichés, instead creating combinations that conjured great images of the artist and his work. Favorites include "so there he was, a burly former Greco-Roman wrestler, bundled in a dusty Carhart jacket and insulated overalls, wrestling stones in an icy wind" and "he stuck out his hands, spreading his thick, calloused fingers, and pointed to his left thumb. Its nail was a dark, misshapen thing that looked like it had recently come between a rock and a hammer" and "'Torso' rolled, slowly, like a breaching whale, then slammed into the asphalt parking lot with a titanic thud." And between those engaging graphs were quotes from the artist that were nothing short of gems. But the writer didn't overdo it. He was selective and it paid off. Overall it was a very enjoyable piece that left me wanting to see the artist's work - and that blackened thumb - first hand (pun intended).

MAGAZINES

Best Profile Story

First Place: Dale Kurschner, *Twin Cities Business*

“Tom Petters Interview”

Judges comments: While the book of this story is the exclusive interview, what really distinguishes it is the in-depth reporting. And it never hurts to have a compelling subject. Dale Kurschner does an excellent job of dissecting Tom Petters' Ponzi Scheme.

Second Place: Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“The Gritty Diva”

Third Place: Jim Winterer, *St. Thomas Magazine*

“John Abraham Takes A Stand”

Best Feature Story

First Place: Kyle Underwood, *Lake Superior Magazine*

“My Week with a Superior Sentinel”

Judges comments: Starting with a clever lede and augmented by his lovely photographs, the author draws a vivid picture of what it's like to be a summertime "keeper" of a very unusual landmark. Descriptive writing offers a strong sense of place and easily keeps the reader engaged to the very last graph. His love for this remote sentinel and his enthusiasm for its history is charmingly contagious. Sign me up.

Second Place: Meagan Pittelko, Jennifer Koski & Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“Head for the Light”

Third Place: Konnie LeMay, *Lake Superior Magazine*

“Wild About Weather”

Best Department

First Place: Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“10 (or so) Questions”

Judges comments: Very funny, entertaining, thoughtful, and informative. Lange has a playful interviewing style. These read more like conversations than dry Q&As. Well done.

Second Place: Melinda Nelson, *Twin Cities Business*

“Concierge”

Third Place: Bill Hylton, *Woodworker's Journal*

“Skill Builder”

Best Column

First Place: Joy Riggs, *Minnesota Parent*

“Tween Scene”

Judges comments: These columns offer clear, concise examinations of issues that concern parents or anyone else with a stake in childhood development. The author uses lively personal anecdotes and relevant local reporting to illustrate conclusions, making the columns entertaining as well as informative.

Second Place: Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“Oddchester”

Third Place: Dale Kurschner, *Twin Cities Business*

“Editor's Note”

Best Service Package

First Place: Bob Berg, *Lake Superior Magazine*

“Seven Great Fall Drives”

Judges comments: First-rate service package made even better through the use of beautiful photos and maps. Chocked full of colorful details and news-you-can-use when considering beautiful drives around or near Lake Superior. A handy reference guide for natives and visitors alike. Nicely done!

Best Cover

First Place: Jamie Klemmensen & Catharine Bliss, *Rochester Magazine*
“Dec. 2012”

Judges comments: The powerful portrait gracing this cover vividly captures a mother's joy — joy at holding her healthy baby and no doubt joy at being alive after battling cancer. Simple yet compelling, this cover demands the reader look inside to read Erin Pendergast's story and to hope her future is as bright as that happy sparkle in her eyes. A home run.

Second Place: Dana Croatt, *Minnesota Parent*
“Summer Fun”

Third Place: Scott Bushschacher, *Twin Cities Business*
“Tourism Wars”

Best Feature Design

First Place: Jamie Klemmensen, Elizabeth Nida Obert & Jerry Olson,
Rochester Magazine
“Mix-in' It Up”

Judges comments: To borrow a phrase from the writer, this feature design is "smokin' cool!" Tantalizing photos; clever use of fonts and an awesome headline combine to make these pages as visually tasty as the mixed drinks themselves.

Best Issue

First Place: *Lake Superior Magazine*
“February/March 2012”

Judges comments: This issue of Lake Superior Magazine conveys much of what regional magazines do best: a strong sense of place; thoughtful, energetic writing; and engaging photography.

Second Place: Brian Brown, Patty Petersen, Sara Klomp & Mike Ekern,
University of St. Thomas Magazine

Third Place: Lauri Hopple & Amy Nelson, *Spaces Magazine*
“Kitchen and Bath Issue”

TELEVISION

Spot/Breaking News

Television [50+ newsroom employees]

First Place: Boyd Huppert & John Drilling, *KARE 11 News*
“A Precarious Place”

Judges comments: Great use of natural sound. Shot and edited well

Second Place: Dave Berggren, *KARE 11 News*
“Didn't Take Down Our Mother”

Spot/Breaking News

Television [LESS than 50 newsroom employees]

First Place: Newsroom, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Duluth Floods”

Judges comments: The coverage was comprehensive and well produced. I felt up-to-date on a disastrous situation that affected the community. The information was startling, but these journalists presented it with level headed intensity and honesty.

Hard News Report

Television [50+ newsroom employees]

First Place: Boyd Huppert & Craig Norkus, *KARE 11 News*

“Lake City Grieves”

Judges comments: The story subject would illicit emotion on its own, but the way it was told makes you grieve for more than the officer's family. You feel the community's pain. You can see it on the faces of many in the compelling video. This story stands out among others for the incredible way it captures a community's grief.

Second Place: Beth McDonough & Chris Egert, *KSTP-TV*

“H-Town”

Third Place: Mark Albert & Chad Nelson, *KSTP-TV*

“Guard Comes Home”

Hard News Report

Television [LESS than 50 newsroom employees]

First Place: Ellery McCardle & Chad Corey, *KAAL-TV*

“Melvilles Act as Voice for Son Killed By Drunk Driver”

Judges comments: Great story line. Kept my attention. Emotional, impactful, good visuals, and amazing sound. Touching, well-shot, well-told. Good job telling how the couple is using tragedy to make a difference and nice use of dash cam video. good use of police video and this story lures people in. Music could have been utilized... but it is effective without Great dash cam video. Nice use of elements and family sound.

Second Place: Alan Hoglund & Carl Sauer, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Under Fire”

Third Place: Gordon Severson, *KAAL-TV*

“Protestors Gather in Winona”

Feature

Television [50+ newsroom employees]

First Place: Boyd Huppert & Jonathan Malat, *KARE 11 News*

“Neighborhood of Love”

Judges comments: Story told in creative and emotional way. Very well shot edited and told.

Second Place: Mark Albert & Jared Bergerson, *KSTP-TV*

“Gun, Camo, Bin Laden”

Third Place: Mitch Pittman, *KSTP-TV*

“A Gift for Gloria”

Feature

Television [LESS than 50 newsroom employees]

First Place: James Wilcox & Chad Corey, *KAAL-TV*

“Meet Moose”

Judges comments: The story was heartwarming when it was only about the dog, then I was taken aback by the depth of feeling in the characters.

Second Place: Paige Calhoun & Glenn Kellahan, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Still Waiting”

Third Place: Kevin Jacobsen, *KBJR-TV*

“The Waiting Game”

Mini-documentary/In-depth Series

Television [50+ newsroom employees]

First Place: Julie Anderson, *KARE 11 News*

“Project H2O”

Judges comments: Well done in getting as much information as possible in a limited amount of time. Water is important for everyone, but particularly for Minnesota. The issues brought forth in Project H2O and the way some are tackling the issues were presented very well. Having the reporter dive in Lake Minnetonka personalized the story along with the underwater B-roll. I'm positive that the viewers also appreciated the interactivity with the gentleman from the DNR answering question on KARE 11's Facebook page.

Second Place: Mark Albert, Jim O'Connell & Chad Nelson, *KSTP-TV*

“Judging Justice”

Third Place: Beth McDonough, Chris Egert, Jim O'Connell & Lindsay Radford, *KSTP-TV*

“The Pension Promise”

Mini-documentary/In-depth Series

Television [LESS than 50 newsroom employees]

First Place: Alan Hogle & Carl Sauer, *WDIO/WIRT*

“The New High”

Judges comments: Good natural sound. Good in-depth look at synthetic marijuana from all angles. Interesting perspective on how it helps people with pain issues and PTSD. Great use of visuals. Well-shot, good, in-depth insight into the problem. Great subject... good standups, great interviews and a lot of information. I thought he did a nice job of linking all the elements together and making the story very easy to follow.

Second Place: Gordon Severson, *KAAL-TV*

“Reason to Run”

Third Place: Katey Rusch & Kyle Aune, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Endless Miles to Medical Care”

Investigative

Television [50+ newsroom employees]

First Place: Mark Albert, Jim O'Connell & Chad Nelson, *KSTP-TV*

“Safety Sense”

Judges comments: The KSTP team clearly put in a lot of work to dig through the details of all the expenditures. Then they did a nice job of putting all the numbers together in a viewer-friendly way. Nice job holding officials accountable and showing viewers how their tax dollars are being used.

Second Place: Mark Albert, Lee Zwiefelhofer & Chad Nelson, *KSTP-TV*

“Destination Delinquent”

Third Place: Beth McDonough, Chris Egert & Lee Zwiefelhofer, *KSTP-TV*

“ID Theft”

Investigative

Television [LESS than 50 newsroom employees]

First Place: Alan Hogle & Carl Sauer, *WDIO/WIRT*

“The New High”

Judges comments: Good access to people who use and people who sell synthetic drugs. The stories present rarely seen angles to this nationwide story.

Second Place: Gordon Severson, *KAAL-TV*

“Citizen Police Academy”

Newscast

Television [50+ newsroom employees]

First Place: KARE 11 Newsroom

“KARE 11 News @ 10 PM—6/20/12”

Judges comments: This newscast showed the power of sudden storms and the power of breaking news coverage. The incredible video tells the story.

Second Place: Amanda Theisen, Sarah Conklin & Lisa Kunkel, *KSTP-TV*

“5 EYEWITNESS NEWS at 6 - Officer Decker Funeral”

Third Place: Mike Brannen, *KSTP-TV*

“2012 Election Morning Show”

News

Television [LESS than 50 newsroom employees]

First Place: Newsroom, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Eyewitness News at Six (June 20, 2012)”

Judges comments: The WDIO/WIRT team did an excellent job of showcasing the compelling pictures it captured all day. The writing and editing conveyed a sense of urgency. Excellent live pictures as well. Overall, a very strong show.

Second Place: Sarah Danik, Matt Bradley & Adam Sallet, *KIMT News 3*

“KIMT News 3 at 6: Keeping Iowa and Minnesota Covered”

RADIO

Spot/Breaking News

First Place: Dan Kraker, Tom Robertson, Conrad Wilson & Bill Catlin, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Northeastern Minnesota flooding”

Judges comments: The host weaved important information for listeners together with compelling reports and on-scene interviews to create a comprehensive look at the flooding situation in Duluth.

Hard News Report

First Place: Libby Donohue, *KFAI*

“Walker Church Destroyed, Community Looks to Future”

Judges comments: A great use of interviews to tell the story and use of natural sound to give a sense of place. A well written and edited piece.

Second Place: Elizabeth Baier & Kate Smith, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Farmland holds wealth in sand mining boom”

Third Place: Adam Ulbricht, *KVSC*

“Air Carrier”

Feature

First Place: Dan Kraker & Bill Catlin, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Researcher Lynn Rogers feeds the bears, battles critics”

Judges comments: A fascinating subject artfully told through great writing and excellent use of sound. Hearing the breath of the bear was just fantastic.

Second Place: Daniel Zamzow, *KFAI*

“Twin Cities Hmong Hip-Hop on the Rise”

Third Place: Brandt Williams & Laura McCallum, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“40 years later, Minneapolis parents recall busing’s start”

Mini-documentary/In-depth Series

First Place: Dan Gunderson & Kate Smith, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Battle against invasive species in Minn.”

Second Place: Euan Kerr, Chris Roberts & Mike Edgerly, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Twin Cities orchestra strife”

Third Place: Jessica Folker, *KFAI*

“Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling”

Feature-length Documentary

First Place: Marisa Helms, *KFAI*

“Third Home From Burma: Minnesota’s Karen Community”

Judges comments: Marisa painted a clear and beautiful picture sharing this colorful story. Excellent use of sound, music, and language, I felt like I was there with her as she was telling the story. I was unfamiliar with the Karen community and this piece kept me engaged and wanting to learn more about and seek out the Karen community in my own city.

Second Place: Sasha Aslanian, Laura McCallum, Mike Edgerly & Will Lager, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“The deep roots of the marriage debate”

Third Place: Dan Greenwood, *KFAI*

“West Hills State School - A Troubled Past for the Owatonna Orphanage”

Investigative

First Place: Tim Nelson & Jennifer Ehrlich, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Questionable pulltab projections to fund Vikings stadium”

Judges comments: Thorough reporting and nice job following the proposal through the phases of execution.

Second Place: Adam Ulbricht, *KVSC*

“GOP Intimidation”

Newscast

First Place: Newsroom, *Bring Me the News*

“BMTN Newscast - June 20, 4 p.m.”

Judges comments: The anchor's delivery was urgent, yet conversational.

Second Place: Newsroom, *Bring Me the News*

“BMTN Newscast - June 20, 8 a.m.”

Third Place: Newsroom, *Bring Me the News*

“BMTN Newscast - Nov. 7, 9 a.m.”

ONLINE

Best Website

First Place: *Star Tribune*

“Startribune.com”

Judges comments: Navigation makes it easy to find content, the site has a clean design, and the staff has an obvious grasp on using video to bring content to life.

Second Place: Newsroom, *Minnesota Public Radio*

MPRnews.org

Third Place: Jimmy Bellamy & Andrew Krueger, *Duluth News Tribune*

duluthnewtribune.com

Best Single News Story

First Place: Curt Brown, David Joles, Jim Gehrz & Jamie Hutt, *Star Tribune*

“In the Footsteps of Little Crow”

Judges comments: The entrants did tremendous job telling a compelling story. The solid construction and smooth flow make it easy to take in the incredible depth of reporting. The Star Tribune team also did a great job laying out the photos, video and maps that help texturize the story.

Second Place: Catharine Richert, Tom Scheck, Mike Mulcahy & Bill Wareham, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Chairman's spending decisions on insiders helped lead to GOP debt”

Third Place: Multimedia team/Newsroom, *Duluth News Tribune*
“June flooding, first-day story”

Best Continuing Coverage

First Place: Madeleine Baran, Jennifer Ehrlich & Nancy Lebens,
Minnesota Public Radio

“Troubled St. Paul crime lab”

Judges comments: We're impressed with the complete, ongoing coverage of the issue. The inclusion of several audio stories helps make this entry stand out among several strong contenders.

Second Place: Multimedia team, *Duluth News Tribune*

“June flooding, first seven days”

Third Place: Chris Newmarker & Brian Johnson, *Finance & Commerce*

“Dayton pushed St. Paul to bid out Saints project”

Best Use of Multimedia

First Place: StarTribune.com

“In the footsteps of Little Crow”

Judges comments: From the slick, attractive and simplistic title page, this series packed so much multimedia into one tight online package. It was clear that this was a big jigsaw puzzle that took time to put together, and while I wasn't as impressed with some of the sub pages, I loved the title page, which I felt was a perfect navigational tool for the series. Extensive reporting and writing, as well as well-executed video presentations and slideshows came together flawlessly in this submission.

Second Place: Nancy Kuehn, Derek Thompson & Mark Reilly,
Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal

“40 Under 40 2012”

Third Place: McKenna Ewen, Jerry Holt & Jason Gonzalez, *Star Tribune*

“South High: Fighting the Odds”

Best Single News Video

First Place: Mark Brunswick & McKenna Ewen, *Star Tribune*

“Turned away by the VA”

Judges comments: Excellent use of video, and sound. Great editing.

Second Place: Ben Garvin, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Sharing the load with Zach”

Third Place: Bre McGee, *City Pages*

“Rollerblade Pioneer Shows Off New Inventions”

Best Use of Video

First Place: Startribune.com

Judges comments: Lots of video choices- easy to navigate.

Best Newsroom Blog

First Place: Bob Collins, *Minnesota Public Radio*
“News Cut”

Judges comments: Great variety of topics and formats -- with photos, links to full stories, audio and video clips -- make News Cut an informative and entertaining stop. In a category full of good entries, those are the qualities that make it stand out as the winner.

Second Place: Staff, *Star Tribune*
“Hot Dish Politics”

Third Place: Chris Newmarker, *Finance & Commerce*
“Co\$ of Doing Business blog”

Best Independent News Blog

First Place: Jay Gabler, *Twin Cities Daily Planet*
“Front Row Seat”

Judges comments: Gabler's wide range of subjects convinced us he was a winner against some strong competition. He can be short and sweet, or long and in-depth, with engaging analysis and always a strong, engaging voice.

Second Place: Stephanie Fox, *Twin Cities Daily Planet*
“Global Groceries”

Third Place: Tom Johnson, *Stubble Magazine*
“Stubble Magazine”

Arts & Entertainment

First Place: Newsroom, *Star Tribune*
“Taste 50”

Judges comments: Simple presentation that pops on the webpage, is easy to use and gives readers something to spend some time clicking through. Also, a super-slick collage of clickable photos at the bottom of the page. Well presented! People eat this stuff up.

Second Place: Maja Beckstrom, MaryJo Webster, Kelsey Shirriff & Jen Westpfahl, *St. Paul Pioneer Press/TwinCities.com*
“Pioneer Press Family Outings Map”

Third Place: Marianne Combs, Jennifer Simonson & Chris Roberts, *Minnesota Public Radio*
“Interact's Jeanne Calvit raises the bar for artists of all abilities”

PHOTOGRAPHY

Best Spot News Photo

First Place: Kimm Anderson, *St. Cloud Times*
“Night Fire”

Judges comments: This picture has depth and is an interesting view of a fire picture. The water spray visually enhances the picture. The picture is dramatic in color but held up well in B&W reproduction.

Second Place: Bill Klotz, *Finance & Commerce*
“Could Sabo Bridge reopen soon?”

Best Hard News Photo

First Place: Ben Garvin, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Romney and a flying baby”

Judges comments: While it is a baby-and-a-politician photo, it is an outstanding baby-and-a-politician photo that captures an engaging moment.

Second Place: Jason Wachter, *St. Cloud Times*

“In Memory”

Best Feature Photo

First Place: Alex Kolyer, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Welcome Home”

Judges comments: You can't get a better moment than this. The boy's expression says it all.

Second Place: Thomas Whisenand, *St. Thomas Magazine*

“Reason for Hope”

Third Place: Sherri LaRose-Chiglo, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Tree Fishing”

Best News Portrait

First Place: Mike Ekern, *St. Thomas Magazine*

“Living and Dying with ALS”

Judges comments: Really nice moment of man with ALS and his wife. A hint of a wheelchair says there are physical problems, and the broad smiles on both show their personality. Technically difficult lighting handled very well.

Second Place: Jason Wachter, *St. Cloud Times*

“Mud Man”

Third Place: Bill Klotz, *Finance & Commerce*

“Tough Act to Follow”

Best Sports Photo

First Place: Sherri LaRose-Chiglo, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Nicco and fans on the Glass”

Judges comments: This picture is unusual and shows a player connecting with fans even though he can't connect physically because of the glass.

Second Place: Mike Ekern, *St. Thomas Magazine*

“Hit the Ground Diving”

Third Place: Eric Johnson, *Austin Daily Herald*

“Bobcats power past Bruins”

SPECIAL AWARDS

Young Journalist of the Year

Eric Roper, *Star Tribune*

Judges comments: Roper must have quite an impressive learning curve. His insightful investigative and enterprise reporting demonstrates that he has tapped into institutional memory and has a keen eye.

Journalist of the Year

Curt Brown, *Star Tribune*

Judges comments: Curt Brown's ambitious project documenting the events surrounding the country's largest mass execution provided an important lesson for Minnesota as well as the rest of the country. Brown's extensive research and expert documentation fill in the gaps of understanding about the causes, repercussions and lasting scars of the bloody war that is glossed over in so many other attempts.

*Brown's exemplary work will be cited from now on as a definitive account of the human drama that played out in the landscape now packed with gas stations, chain sandwich shops and mini storage warehouses. What happened here as Minnesota was drawing its borders played out elsewhere as the young country continued its march from ocean to ocean. The *Star Tribune* is commended for the commitment to explore the topic and for handing it off to Brown to accomplish with such eloquence.*

Alone, this series of print and multimedia offerings is worthy, but it is even more impressive as Curt Brown maintained his utility as a newsroom staple, giving context to the first draft of history as it unfolds in real time every day.

Story of the Year

Curt Brown, David Joles & Jim Gehrz, *Star Tribune*

“In the Footsteps of Little Crow”

Judges comments: Excellent multi-platform connection of little-recorded past to present. The story-telling prose is captivating.

Best Use of Public Records

Brad Schrade, Jeremy Olson & Glenn Howatt, *Star Tribune*

“The Day-Care Threat”

Judges comments: A powerful, comprehensive report that laid bare a troubling issue: a chronic safety breakdown at Minnesota's 11,000 licensed in-home day cares. Strong use of documents, data, visuals and storytelling.

Silent Auction Sponsors

The following individuals and organizations donated to the 2013 Page One Silent Auction. All proceeds from the auction benefit MNSPJ's student journalism scholarship fund so our chapter can assist Minnesota college students who are studying to become ethical, professional journalists. MNSPJ extends its gratitude to:

2 Gingers Irish Whiskey	Minnesota Wild
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Kaskaid Hospitality	Summit Brewing Company
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KSTP-TV/KSTC-TV	Valleyfair Amusement Park
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Martinpatrick3	Wilde Roast Cafe
Minnesota Public Radio	Wildfire
Minnesota State Fair	The WOW Bar
Minnesota Timberwolves	Xcel Energy Center
Minnesota Twins	
Minnesota Vikings	

About MN SPJ

Founded as Sigma Delta Chi in 1909, the Society of Professional Journalists is the oldest, largest and broadest-based organization of journalists in the U.S.. The Minnesota Chapter was founded in 1956. Chapter membership totals about 160. In 1998, the Minnesota Pro chapter was named national large chapter of the year, and more recently has been honored for its efforts in FOI advocacy and strong member programming.

SPJ provides a wide variety of professional development programming at the local and national level, including annual national and regional conferences as well as monthly programs sponsored by MN SPJ. Locally and nationally, SPJ is working hard to ensure a free flow of information, fighting battles for freedom of information and First Amendment rights.

SPJ promotes excellence in journalism through its local journalism awards programs, such as the Page One Awards, as well the national Sigma Delta Chi awards for professional journalists and The Mark of Excellence awards for collegiate journalists.

Learn more about SPJ: <http://www.spj.org/>

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