

Anna Sandmeier

Hometown: Garfield, MN

School: MSU-Moorhead

Internship: Emmons County Record, Linton



I have learned a multitude of journalism information at my three month long internship at the Emmons County Record in Linton, N.D. As the time flew by, I was able to experience the life of a journalist. I had been looking for this since starting my career of multimedia journalism in my sophomore year of college. In this essay I'll cover some of the knowledge I have gained working at the Record. This will include using the software InDesign, what I was working on, writing and photography and what I have learned.

Over the summer I learned how to use the software InDesign to layout my articles for the newspaper. I was taught about all the small details of what size box to put around pictures, what font to use for the body of the article versus cutlines, how much space goes between the headlines, pictures and text and more. I also learned that in other newspaper companies the reporters may not do the layout for their stories, but another person is strictly in charge of doing everyone's layout. I'm glad I was given the chance to do this part, making the story even more of my own.

When I wasn't sitting at my desk I was either interviewing a person for a feature story or out gathering information and taking pictures at events. My first event was going to a fishing tournament at Cattail Resort on the weekend. I thought somebody would come with me on my first couple of assignments, so I was surprised to find Allan and Leah trusting me to go by myself and bring back quality work. I do wish I could have gone out with one of the reporters to observe their techniques for interviewing, taking pictures and communicating with interviewees. I had been nervous if my pictures were up to the standard for the paper and was happy to find my bosses liked them. I was finally able to put my first story together for the paper.

I was very excited to be able to write my own stories that weren't just for class and grades, but for the actual public to read. Since, I got to help with proofing other's articles I learned more about writing and AP style. I've never been perfect with AP style, so proofing helped me to look up and ask questions about words and grammar I wasn't sure about. This has helped me to become more aware of how I am writing and the spellings I am using. As a detailed person and writer I am learning to make my writing more clear and condensed.

Not only was I able to write my own stories, but take my own pictures, whether it was for my articles, someone needed a headshot for a documentary or a picture for their article. I have always liked photography and was able to take a couple classes in college for still and moving photography that have helped my photography become better. This summer I was able to see the difference between events of what settings I needed my camera on, especially if the lighting constantly changed. I was able to continue to experiment on my own how to take the best pictures. I enjoyed taking pictures of moving objects, like at the rodeo, to see the movements, but I found I like less moving objects because I like to capture small details. When objects or people are moving it is harder to clearly capture the details. I was also able to use more lenses instead of just the one the camera comes with. I hope I can continue to use different lenses and cameras to learn more about the cameras and taking the best pictures.

During the summer I also grew personally as a journalist. I had to learn to continue to go out of my comfort zone to speak with people and to not be afraid to take pictures. I know sometimes I still get anxious when I take pictures because I feel people are watching me or don't want a camera in their face. Overall, I have been able to gain confidence in snapping the right moments when I want to, not caring what people think. I know I am still learning to become a writer, but I have become more confident and happy with my writing. Especially hearing others say they enjoyed reading my stories is encouraging to hear. The main key is to believe in yourself.

In conclusion, I am glad I took this internship last minute to give myself the chance to see if I would actually enjoy working for a newspaper and if I wanted to keep pursuing it for a career after my internship. I have learned I enjoy working for the paper, but want to see what my other options are in the job world. I never thought I could get paid for work that I enjoy doing and went to school to learn about. I am grateful to Allan, Leah and everyone at the Record for taking the chance on a recent college graduate. They have given me knowledge and experiences I know will help me in life and in my search for my future job.