

# 2022 NDNA **Special Awards**

## Better Newspaper Contest Award Winners *(for work done in 2021)*

### Special Awards

#### Rookie Reporter of the Year

**Multi-Day: Small** > > > **Rookie Reporter of the Year**

**First Place**

Wahpeton, Daily News

*Robert Wanek Jr.*

**Judge comments:** *There's nothing boring or boilerplate about Robert's writing -- he draws you in and keeps you there. This writer has a great future ahead of him, and readers are lucky to have such talent.*

#### Public Notice Journalism

**Weekly: Large** > > > **Public Notice Journalism**

**First Place**

Crosby, The Journal

*Transparency lacking in city nuisance property process*

Brad Nygaard

**Judge comments:** *This is the kind of watchdog reporting that has real consequences. This is a story of government workers breaking down doors and threatening the livelihoods of community members, and then attempting to conduct those high-stakes decisions behind closed doors. Kudos to the Journal for shining a light on this illegal, and dangerous, government overreach, and for explaining to citizens the situation, the law, and the actions it is taking with such clarity and brevity. One of the best entries I've seen all year.*

#### Community Service

**Multi-Day: Large** > > > **Community Service**

**First Place**

Bismarck Tribune

*Hunger in Plain Sight*

Mike McCleary

**Judge comments:** *This was a masterpiece of a series. The reporting is the kind that takes a special touch from someone willing to put in the time to really get to know the people he is covering, to see beyond the surface of an issue. The photos pull you in, the videos bring it all to life. This isn't just a tally of the number of pounds of food that were given as a response, but the hearts and minds that were changed, the understanding that prompts empathy and paves the way for true community growth. Fantastic package and a clear winner.*

## First Amendment

**Multi-Day: Large** >>> **First Amendment**

### **First Place**

Grand Forks Herald

*Complaints of MSU president & how Higher Ed handled it*

Sam Easter, Sydney Mook, Korrie Wenzel

**Judge comments:** *Oftentimes the most important fight for Freedom of Speech and Information comes from showing people why it matters. In the Herald's terrific example of that, reporters and editors had to wade through hundreds of pages of documents, had to fight for those documents through red tape at every turn, and had to stand firm against bureaucrats bent on painting rosy pictures over serious problems, seemingly without concern for the truth. The reporting cut through the confusing circular rhetoric of academia and PR and presented the findings in a fair and clear way; editorials showed readers why it was important. The Herald team handled backlash with professionalism and honesty. All in all, a service to the community and taxpayers. Fantastic job.*

## General Excellence

**Weekly: Small** >>> **General Excellence**

### **Honorable Mention**

Mandan News

*General Excellence entry*

Staff

### **Third Place**

Bowbells, Burke County Tribune

*General Excellence entry*

Lyann Olson

### **Second Place**

Drayton, Valley News & Views

*General Excellence entry*

Lesla Van Camp

### **First Place**

Finley, Steele County Press

*General Excellence entry*

Staff

**Judge comments:** *One of the best newspapers we judged in the entire state. Keep up the good work.*

**Weekly: Mid-Size** >>> **General Excellence**

**Third Place**

Carrington, Foster County Independent  
*General Excellence entry*  
Staff

**Second Place**

New Rockford Transcript  
*General Excellence entry*  
Transcript staff

**First Place**

Tioga Tribune  
*General Excellence entry*  
Tioga Tribune Staff

**Judge comments:** *One of the best newspapers I have ever seen. Great work.*

**Weekly: Large** >>> **General Excellence**

**Honorable Mention**

Lisbon, Ransom County Gazette  
*General Excellence entry*

Lynn Kaspari, Mattie Richardson-Schmitz, Jeanne Sexton-Brown, Joe Howell, Doreen Quast, Michael Hallquist

**Third Place**

Garrison, McLean County Independent  
*General Excellence entry*  
Staff

**Second Place**

Casselton, Cass County Reporter  
*General Excellence entry*  
Cass County Reporter Staff

**First Place**

Grafton, Walsh County Record  
*General Excellence entry*  
Staff

**Judge comments:** *Absolutely beautiful newspaper. Congratulations. Great Newspaper. By far the best in the division.*

**Multi-Day: Small** > > > **General Excellence**

**Third Place**

Wahpeton, Daily News  
*General Excellence entry*  
Daily News staff

**Second Place**

Jamestown Sun  
*General Excellence entry*  
The Jamestown Sun Staff

**First Place**

Dickinson Press  
*General Excellence entry*  
James Miller

*Judge comments: Very well done newspaper. Great headlines. Photos are terrific. Sports coverage is best in the division.*

**Multi-Day: Large** > > > **General Excellence**

**Third Place**

Grand Forks Herald  
*General Excellence entry*  
Staff

**Second Place**

Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead  
*General Excellence entry*  
Forum staff

**First Place**

Bismarck Tribune  
*General Excellence entry*  
Staff

*Judge comments: Great newspaper. Congratulations to staff. This is great work. Extremely impressive. Best newspaper in the division.*

## Sweepstakes

### **Weekly: Small** >>> **Sweepstakes**

**Winner!**

Hankinson, News Monitor

*Sweepstakes*

Staff

**Score:** 2100: 4 first places, 12 second places, 17 third places & 2 honorable mentions

### **Weekly: Mid-Size** >>> **Sweepstakes**

**Winner!**

Hillsboro Banner

*Sweepstakes*

Staff

**Score:** 4500: 27 first places, 18 second places, 11 third places & 1 honorable mentions

### **Weekly: Large** >>> **Sweepstakes**

**Winner!**

Grafton, Walsh County Record

*Sweepstakes*

Staff

**Score:** 4275: 14 first places, 22 second places, 20 third places & 9 honorable mentions

### **Multi-Day: Small** >>> **Sweepstakes**

**Winner!**

Wahpeton, Daily News

*Sweepstakes*

Staff

**Score:** 3825: 19 first places, 14 second places, 16 third places & 6 honorable mentions

### **Multi-Day: Large** >>> **Sweepstakes**

**Winner!**

Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

*Sweepstakes*

Staff

**Score:** 5675: 24 first places, 27 second places, 17 third places & 17 honorable mentions