

TEXAS MANAGING EDITORS

2022 AWARDS

FEATURE WRITING

1A

Faith, love, and compassion: A father-son relationship story

Judge's comments: A very sweet father's day story focusing on the other kinds of dads that I don't see much coverage of. This could be a valuable story for blended families to learn how to make it work. Another thing I like about it: It's short as well as sweet.

1st Place

Victor R. Martinez
El Paso Inc.

2nd Place

Kim Smith
Odessa American

3rd Place

Amaris Richardson
El Paso Inc.

FEATURE WRITING

2A

Dry River Blues: Journey on North Bosque hints at growing extremes, water needs

Judge's comments: Beautifully presented story that portends a dire future for the river and those that live near it. Compelling reading with a good dose of empirical evidence to back it up.

1st Place

Rhiannon Saegert
Waco Tribune-Herald

2nd Place

Zach Davis
Laredo Morning Times

3rd Place

Mike Copeland
Waco Tribune-Herald

FEATURE WRITING

3A

A GOP power grab shatters 30 years of political progress for Black voters in Galveston County

Judge's comments: A well-written piece rich in history tells an important story - distinguishing it from much feature writing - of disenfranchisement of voters. The premise is well supported, and the photos add a lot to the package. Well done!

1st Place

Alexa Ura
Texas Tribune

2nd Place

James Hartley
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

3rd Place

Ryan Autullo
Austin American-Statesman

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

1A



1st Place

Eli Hartman
**Odessa
American**

2nd Place

Cosima Rangel
El Paso Inc.

3rd Place

Josh Edwards
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

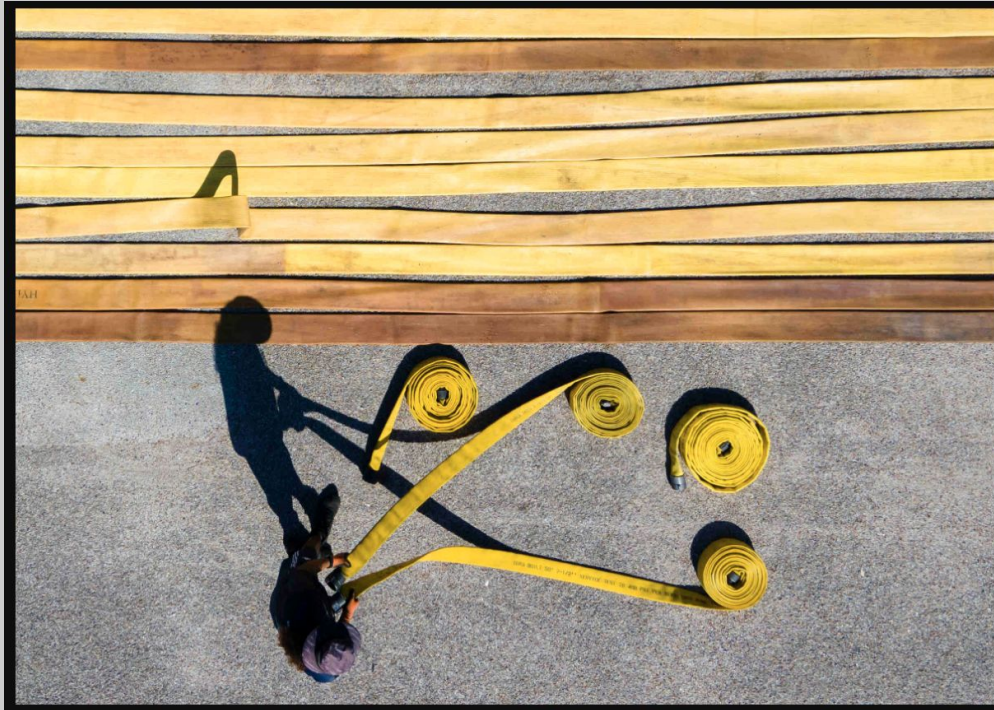
Honorable Mention

Eli Hartman, **Odessa American**
Ronald W. Erdrich, **Abilene Reporter-News**

Judge's comments: It was apparent on first viewing that this picture would be hard to beat. It's incredibly well done and thoughtful; it leaps off the page - and the screen. It's so far above the assignment as defined that it demonstrates a thinking and creative individual behind the camera.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

2A



1st Place

Jason Fochtman
Conroe Courier

2nd Place

Denise Cathey
Brownsville Herald

3rd Place

Delcia Lopez
The McAllen Monitor

Honorable Mention

Angela Piazza
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Judge's

comments: An artful photo of the annual inspection of fire hose at an area station. Colorful, well-composed and graphic the image entertained and informed Courier readers about the inspection process.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

3A



1st Place
Brett Coomer
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place
Smiley N. Pool
Dallas Morning News

3rd Place
Shelby Tauber
Texas Tribune

Honorable Mention
Sara Diggins
Austin American-Statesman

Judge's comments: The contrast with the white chair draws your eyes to the clapping child. The composition is outstanding and makes an unusual news photo appropriate for the feature category.

GENERAL COLUMN WRITING

1A

**Let's talk about crimes
against women**

I'm listening ... but are you?

Judge's comments: Jess Huff is not afraid to make readers uncomfortable, and they should be uncomfortable when the topic is sexual abuse or animal abuse. But Huff also seeks to offer solutions to some of the problems she highlights, making her columns not just provocative, but useful.

1st Place

Jess Huff
Lufkin Daily News

2nd Place

Gary Stallard
Lufkin Daily News

3rd Place

Josh Edwards
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Honorable Mention

David Money, **Paris News**

GENERAL COLUMN WRITING

2A

Our politics are tearing us apart. What will bring San Antonio families back together?

An open letter to Clayton Perry, from a recovering drunk

Judge's comments: Relatable, timely and well written.

1st Place

Melissa Fletcher Stoeltje
San Antonio Report

2nd Place

Keith Kohn
Victoria Advocate

3rd Place

Leonard Woolsey
Galveston County Daily News

Honorable Mention

Allison Ehrlich
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

GENERAL COLUMN WRITING

3A

**Babies suffer; Abbott, ever
cynical, sees a wedge**

**The fairy tale America tells
itself about our gun
nightmare**

Judge's comments: The lead to your column titled, "Clack: 'Mad Dash' Paxtons on the run," is impressive. It really hooked me in as a reader.

1st Place

Cary Clack

San Antonio Express-News

2nd Place

Bud Kennedy

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

3rd Place

Bridget Grumet

Austin American-Statesman

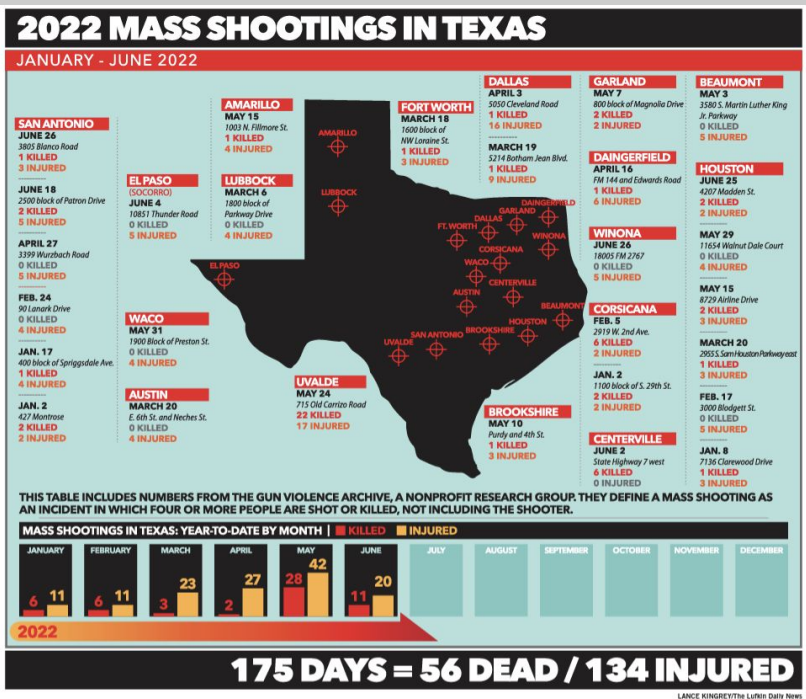
Honorable Mention

Sharon Grigsby

Dallas Morning News

INFOGRAPHICS

1A



1st Place
Lance Kingrey
Lufkin Daily News

2nd Place
Brooke Gianopulos
The Daily Skiff, TCU

3rd Place
Micah Pearce
The Daily Skiff, TCU

Honorable Mention
Lance Kingrey, Lufkin Daily News

Judge's comments: The graphic conveys the epidemic of mass shootings across the state, layering details and visuals in an easy to digest format that serves as an informative backdrop for the story of how local officials are preparing for the worst.. Wonderful job of presenting statewide data in a visual manner as the foundation for important local reporting.

INFOGRAPHICS

2A

1st Place

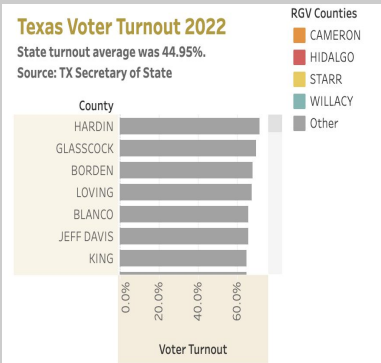
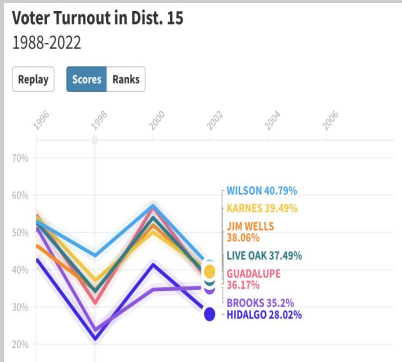
Valerie Gonzalez
The McAllen Monitor

2nd Place

Emily D'Gyves
The McAllen Monitor

3rd Place

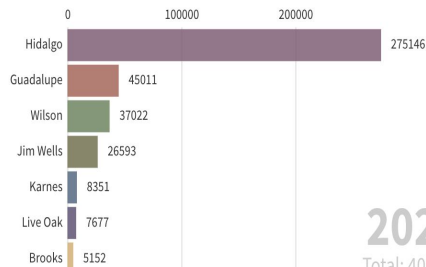
Alyssa Castillo
Killeen Daily Herald



Registered Voter Growth in Dist. 15 1988-2022

1988-2022

Overall county totals of current district.



2022
Total: 404952

Judge's comments: This set of graphics were informative, simple in what they were trying to get across and a perfect compliment to the stories. The interactivity added to the ease of use and information and didn't feel like it was added on just because interactivity is "cool." Nicely done!

INFOGRAPHICS

3A

Morning of chaos: A reconstruction of how the Uvalde massacre unfolded

By Express-News Staff | May 28, 2022 | Updated: Jan. 24, 2023 10:33 AM



Judge's comments: This coverage is easily understandable, informative and visually appealing from start to finish. The scrolling timeline takes readers through the sequence of events in bite-sized pieces, providing visual explanations of exactly what each event looked like at the time they occurred.

Additionally, the spacing and placement of the infographics allows readers to fully engage with each piece of the coverage as it comes.

1st Place

San Antonio Express-News and Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

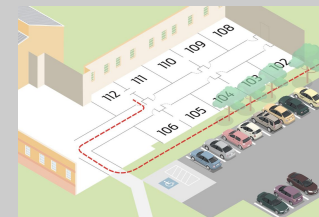
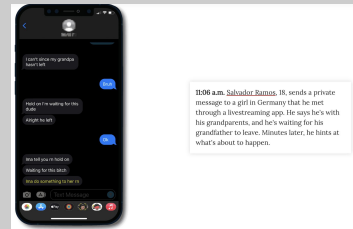
Yuriko Schumacher Texas Tribune

3rd Place

San Antonio Express-News and Houston Chronicle

Honorable Mention

Carla Astudillo, Caroline Covington, Eric Lau Texas Tribune



11:33 a.m. Meeting no police resistance, Ramos enters the school and walks down a hallway, turning right and then left, shooting at least 100 rounds into classrooms 103 and 102 from the hallway before entering them. The rooms are connected by a jack-and-jill bathroom and are filled with 8-, 9- and 10-year-olds. Ramos shuts the door behind him, but it may not have locked due to a malfunction.

EDITORIAL WRITING

1A

**A pall of secrecy surrounds
SFA's deal with Gordon**

**Council should say yes to
closing crossovers on loop**

Judge's comments: Strong point of view; not afraid to tell it like it is. The community is fortunate to have a voice in its local newspaper that isn't afraid to take up topics both aboard and close to home.

1st Place

Josh Edwards
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

2nd Place

Stacy Faison
Lufkin Daily News

3rd Place

Greg Jaklewicz
Abilene Reporter-News

Honorable Mention

Staff, Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

EDITORIAL WRITING

2A

**Keep partisan politics out of
Longview City Council and its
elections**

**Our system failed mentally ill
Gregg County Jail inmate who
committed suicide**

Judge's comments: This entry had strong, well written editorials from start to finish and reflected a keen understanding of issues important to the community and to readers.

1st Place

Randy Ferguson
Longview News-Journal

2nd Place

Keith Kohn
The Victoria Advocate

3rd Place

Carlos Rodriguez
Brownsville Herald

3A

DeSantis plays cruel political game

Judge's comments: Cary Clack makes explaining complicated issues seem easy. These writing submissions sing with urgency, whether they are about the need to protect voting rights or the need for gun regulations. His editorial after the Uvalde massacre on children and gun violence – part of a heartfelt and well-reported body of work by the full editorial board – displayed a perfect use of phrasing to make the case that “now IS the time” for gun law reform.

1st Place

Cary Clack

San Antonio, Express-News

2nd Place

Staff

Houston Chronicle

3rd Place

Josh Brodesky

San Antonio, Express-News

Esports skillet



1st Place

Tristen Smith

The Daily Skiff, TCU

2nd Place

Mark Fleming

Baytown Sun

3rd Place

Micah Pearce

The Daily Skiff, TCU

2A

The border buses



Judge's comments: Thoughtful reporting on a border topic that resonated across the nation. Good interviews, video and natural sound. It is long, but the quality and pacing keep the viewer's attention.

1st Place

Lauren Villagran, Omar Ornelas
El Paso Times

2nd Place

Lucas Boland
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

3rd Place

Nick Wagner
San Antonio Report

VIDEO

Operation Lone Star



Judge's comments: Strong edit and engaging visuals. There's an emotional connection right away that pulls in the viewer and humanizes your subject. The videographers made great use of some incredible access, with really strong visual work throughout. An enlightening look into a national topic happening in your backyard.

3A

1st Place

Lola Gomez

Dallas Morning News

2nd Place

Amanda McCoy

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

3rd Place

Lola Gomez

Dallas Morning News

Honorable Mention

Briana Sanchez, Nate Chute, **Austin**

American-Statesman

Uriel J. Garcia, Jinitzail Hernandez, **Texas Tribune**

COMMENT AND CRITICISM

1A

In vodka war, Americans miss target

Judge's comments: Josh Edwards' argument was made soundly. His addition of each vodka company's historical background and how many were based in Russia raised good points on how much a vodka boycott would actually affect world politics.

1st Place

Josh Edwards

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

2nd Place

Brie Bradford

Lufkin Daily News

3rd Place

Steve Showalter

Baytown Sun

COMMENT AND CRITICISM

2A

Painting through adversity

Judge's comments: A perfect blend of insight into the artist's work and interpretation by the writer. Rather than relying solely on critique and commentary, Gaytan allows the artist to show what drives the creativity in his own words, which provides a deeper understanding to the art.

1st Place

Samuel Gaytan
El Paso Times

2nd Place

Dustin Chase
Galveston County Daily News

3rd Place

Carl Hoover
Waco Tribune-Herald

COMMENT AND CRITICISM

3A

How one year and four trailblazing restaurants changed Houston's dining scene forever

Judge's comments: These pieces stood out for the thorough reporting that underpins the commentary, strengthening the arguments put forth by the writer. Each article is well organized and clearly written, telling a tale of restaurants, food and trends, and how those have changed or should change in Houston. The package about the four trailblazing restaurants was clever and well-executed in its digital presentation to make a convincing case for those restaurants' significance.

1st Place

Bao Ong
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Alison Cook
Houston Chronicle

3rd Place

Eric Webb
Austin American-Statesman

Honorable Mention

Mark Lamster
Dallas Morning News

SPORTS COLUMN WRITING

1A

When an empty spot in the stands still holds meaning

Dads trying to get through another day

Judge's comments: Josh Havard's column writing is imbued with the single most important quality of all good writing -- heart. Readers of his column can almost certainly feel his point of view, sense his underlying message, and, I suspect, relate to the universality of his storytelling. Great job.

1st Place

Josh Havard
Lufkin Daily News

2nd Place

Hunter Hewell
Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

3rd Place

Dave Rogers
Baytown Sun

SPORTS COLUMN WRITING

2A

MLB misses easy opportunity

**Irving trade can easily
become disastrous for Mavs**

Judge's comments: Mr. Kroeger offers interesting, knowledgeable and authoritative thoughts on his subjects with clear and concise prose that cuts to the heart of what he's writing about.

1st Place

Garrett Kroeger
Laredo Morning Times

2nd Place

Don Williams
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

3rd Place

Brice Cherry
Waco Tribune-Herald

Honorable Mention

Jonathan Hull, **Wichita Falls
Times Record News**

SPORTS COLUMN WRITING

3A

**In Uvalde, a football game
offers celebration amid grief**

**In making history, Spurs
coach Gregg Popovich allows
himself some joy**

1st Place

Mike Finger

San Antonio Express-News

2nd Place

Jerome Solomon

Houston Chronicle

3rd Place

Brian T Smith

Houston Chronicle

Honorable Mention

Kevin Sherrington, **Dallas Morning News**

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

1A



Judge's comments: I love how the action is coming right at me. All of it. I almost feel as though I'm going to choke on the dust-like dirt being pushed toward me. Well done.

1st Place

Tom Holden
Kerrville Daily Times

2nd Place

Chris Cody
Baytown Sun

3rd Place

Eli Hartman
Odessa American

Honorable Mention

Ronald W. Erdrich, **Abilene Reporter-News**
Bobby Joe Smith, **Odessa American**
Nathan Wicker, **Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel**

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

2A



Judge's comments: When this first popped up on my screen, I said "Wow!" It feels like he's coming right at me. It's a photo I haven't really seen before. Great timing.

1st Place

Angela Piazza

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

2nd Place

Stuart Villanueva

Galveston County Daily News

3rd Place

Annie Rice

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Honorable Mention

Les Hassell, Longview News-Journal

Jennifer Reynolds, Galveston County Daily News

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

3A



1st Place

Karen Warren
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Madeleine Cook
Fort Worth
Star-Telegram

3rd Place

Marie D. DeJesus
Houston Chronicle

Honorable Mention

Sara Diggins, Austin
American-Statesman

Judge's comments: A wonderful reactive capture. The black and white treatment adds an extra nice authenticity to the moment.

SPORTS FEATURE

1A

Pioneers on the mat: TWU's first wrestling team is led by a trailblazing coach

Judge's comments:Excellent story on a great topic. Obviously great interviews with the players, coach to draw out great quotes. And on a topic that doesn't get enough attention.

1st Place

Juan Betancourt
Denton Record-Chronicle

2nd Place

Nolan Alexander
Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

3rd Place

Nathan Hague
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

Honorable Mention

Micah Pearce, **The Daily Skiff, TCU**

SPORTS FEATURE

2A

Secret philanthropist: Coach Popovich's gruff persona belies his generosity

Judge's comments: In a field of outstanding stories, this one stood out partially for its degree of difficulty. Going in, we know that the coach is a good guy by reputation, but digging to get specific stories and examples really brings it home and paints a fuller picture. Nicely done.

1st Place

Ken Rodriguez
San Antonio Report

2nd Place

Zach Davis, Jason Mack, Garrett Kroeger
Laredo Morning Times

3rd Place

James LaCombe
Galveston County Daily News

Honorable Mention

Nathan Giese, Lubbock
Avalanche-Journal

3A

Home of Lovie Smith

Judge's comments: While this article is about well-known NFL coach Lovie Smith, it gives readers a fresh look at a familiar sports figure and Texas native. It does it with masterful storytelling and good structure, using direct quotes selectively, letting the writer's own voice carry the narrative. The lead sets the tone with a literary anecdote about Smith's hardscrabble childhood nearly Faulknerian in its richness.

1st Place

Brooks Kubena
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Brian Gosset
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

3rd Place

Danielle Lerner
Houston Chronicle

Honorable Mention

David Hinojosa **San Antonio
Express-News**

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY



1A

Judge's comments: A beautiful photo and moment that captures humanity's delicate relationship with nature. Really nice composition that offers a unique perspective of a regularly-occurring breaking news topic. The matching pattern of the burning pieces and the fire ladder & water make for a particularly compelling visual congruence and juxtaposition.

1st Place

Ronald W. Erdrich
Abilene Reporter-News

2nd Place

Ronald W. Erdrich
Abilene Reporter-News

3rd Place

Eli Hartman
Odessa American

Honorable Mention

Josh Edwards, **Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel**

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

2A



1st Place

Omar Ornelas
El Paso Times

2nd Place

Corrie Boudreaux
El Paso Matters

3rd Place

Corrie Boudreaux
El Paso Matters

Honorable Mention

Lucas Boland
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Judge's comments:

A great image. There is such a sense of urgency on those carrying her and anguish on her face. Well done!

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

3A

1st Place

Sam Owens
San Antonio
Express-News

2nd Place

Sara Diggins
Austin
American-Statesman

3rd Place

Madeleine Cook
Fort Worth
Star-Telegram

Honorable Mention

Eli Hartman, Texas Tribune

Judge's

comments: This image effectively conveys many feelings in one tight shot. It captures an intimate moment at a time of unimaginable grief. It's a compelling portrait of a father in mourning, and the lighting of the church enhances its emotional effect.



DEADLINE WRITING

1A

Griffis says Gray claims are 100% false

Judge's comments: Laura Dennis holds candidate Casey Gray accountable for spreading misinformation and falsehoods during an election. Dennis nailed down a lot of claims Gray made during his radio hit, helping the public navigate through disinformation circulating in an important race. Dennis effectively includes how OA interacted with Gray in its request for comment and includes an audio link for readers to hear for themselves the interaction from the day prior at the forum.

1st Place

Laura Dennis
Odessa American

2nd Place

Christian McPhate
Denton Record-Chronicle

3rd Place

Jess Huff
Lufkin Daily News

DEADLINE WRITING

2A

DA's lawyer allegedly behind mystery emails

Judge's comments: Tough assignment. Kudos to the newsroom for not letting a source push them around.

1st Place

Molly Smith, **El Paso Matters**

2nd Place (tie)

Jo Lee Ferguson
Longview News-Journal

Lauren Villagran
El Paso Times

3rd Place

Jacob Sanchez
Fort Worth Report

Honorable Mention

Catherine Dominguez, **Conroe Courier**
Martha Pskowski, **El Paso Times**

DEADLINE WRITING

3A

**Texas officials say all
hostages safe, out of
Colleyville synagogue;
hostage-taker dead**

Judge's comments: I was just blown away by this reporting. The way it was structured put me right in there. I could imagine inviting a stranger in on a cold day and offering a cup of tea, some hospitality, feeling safe. And then nothing is normal. Wow. Just wow

1st Place

Domingo Ramirez, Jessika Harkay, James Hartley, Eleanor Dearman, Kaley Johnson, Emerson Clarridge, Harrison Mantas
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

2nd Place

John Downen, John Tedesco, **Houston Chronicle**

3rd Place

Guillermo Contreras, Emilie Eaton
San Antonio Express-News

Honorable Mention

Jacob Beltran, Emilie Eaton, Taylor Pettaway, Emily Foxhall, Sig Christenson, Laura Garcia, Anna Bauman, Nora Mishanec, Alejandro Serrano, Benjamin Wermund, Cayla Harris, **San Antonio Express-News**

HEADLINE WRITING

1A

Screen Pass:

Georgia QB reaps benefits of ditching smartphone for more antiquated technology

Possibility of dumping TV sets locally not so remote after all

Judge's comments: Good play on words, not the run-of-the-mill headlines we see too often.

1st Place

Stacy Faison
Lufkin Daily News

2nd Place

Mark Fleming
Baytown Sun

3rd Place

Jeff Pownall
Lufkin Daily News

Honorable Mention

Josh Edwards, Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
David Money, Paris News
Greg Jaklewicz, Abilene Reporter-News

HEADLINE WRITING

2A

First balloon ride proved my fears were inflated

Damage leaves city hog-tied: Pigs root up Lear Park fields, but official says few solutions to prevent it

Judge's comments: This entry stood out for clever wordplay that made sense even without the accompanying photography or subheads. The mix of fun features as well the inclusion of the top news story shows the range of the headline writer.

1st Place

Randy Ferguson
Longview News-Journal

2nd Place

Michael Morris
Clute, The Facts

3rd Place

Randy Ray
Temple Daily Telegram

Honorable Mention

Brice Cherry, Waco Tribune-Herald

HEADLINE WRITING

3A

**Walking in a flavor
wonderland**

**Exploring the boundaries of
space**

Act like a tree and leave

Judge's comments: Each headline was artfully crafted.

1st Place

Jeff Criesi

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

2nd Place

Greg Anglin

San Antonio, Express-News

3rd Place

Sandra Guerra-Cline

Dallas Morning News

Honorable Mention

Autumn Pattison, **Dallas Morning News**

PHOTOJOURNALISM

1A



Judge's comments: Very nice use of natural light and a nice selection of photos edited well.

1st Place

Jacob Ford
Odessa American

2nd Place

Cosima Rangel
El Paso Inc.

3rd Place

Ronald W. Erdrich
Abilene Reporter-News

Honorable Mention

Felicia Frazar, Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

PHOTOJOURNALISM

2A



1st Place

Joel Martinez
The McAllen Monitor

2nd Place

Kit MacAvoy
Victoria Advocate

3rd Place

Omar Ornelas
El Paso Times

Honorable Mention

Omar Ornelas, **El Paso Times**
Denise Cathey, **Brownsville Herald**

Judge's comments: The photography for the paper's crowded jail series is very good. Going into a jail is tough and to be given, what we assumed, is tight restrictions on how to photograph. The photographer nailed it.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

3A



Judge's comments: Sadness, anger, frustration, shock: These photos vividly capture the multitude of emotions that engulfed the town and the nation in the aftermath of a school shooting. Individually, each photo evokes a feeling; together, they are overwhelming and compel the readers to react.

1st Place

Mikala Compton, Sara Diggins, Jay Janner, Aaron E. Martinez, Briana Sanchez

Austin American-Statesman

2nd Place

Godofredo Vasquez
Houston Chronicle

3rd Place

Marie D. DeJesus
Houston Chronicle

Honorable Mention

Jerry Lara, **San Antonio, Express-News**
Smiley N. Pool, Lola Gomez, **Dallas Morning News**

1A

How a Bartonville startup became a target for music giant Fender

Judge's comments: This is the winner! We liked the David and Goliath approach. It made us feel empathy for this small business. We also liked the reporting done to show how common this type of litigation is and how vulnerable the trademark patent potentially is. Story could have used the voice of an uninvolved patent attorney to explain that these types of lawsuits are common when it comes to deep-pocketed product makers. But even without that, this story had voice and heart and a great anecdotal lede that drew you in. Nice job.

1st Place

Amber Gaudet
Denton Record-Chronicle

2nd Place

Jess Huff
Lufkin Daily News

3rd Place

Amber Gaudet
Denton Record-Chronicle

Honorable Mention

Sara Sanchez, El Paso Inc.

2A

Frozen money leaves private border wall with no lights, big tax bill

Judge's comments: Excellent reporting from Vic Kolnec detailing the folly of just a small segment of the great border wall Trump proposed. The privateers behind this portion of the project face fraud charges, the lights are off because their funds are frozen, oh, and this isn't even an area where illegal immigrants frequently cross. A nicely written and well-executed story on the local impact of a national political ploy.

1st Place

Vic Kolenc

El Paso Times

2nd Place

Chase Rogers

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

3rd Place

Kathryn Cargo

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

3A

**'They don't care':
Struggling SA residents
forced to live in unsanitary
conditions**

Judge's comments: Multiple points in this article pissed me off, as I'm sure it rightly did many of your readers. Well-told accountability piece giving voice to residents who desperately needed a platform.

1st Place

Madison Iszler

San Antonio, Express-News

2nd Place

Jess Hardin

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

3rd Place

Jenny Rudolph

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

SPECIALTY REPORTING

1A

**For low-income tenants, HOA
restrictions drive racial
housing segregation**

Judge's comments: Great example of using regular beat reporting to drive accountability.

1st Place

Amber Gaudet
Denton Record-Chronicle

2nd Place

Felicia Frazar
Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

3rd Place

Kayley Frazee
Lufkin Daily News

Honorable Mention

Kim Smith, Odessa American

Border reporting

STATES OF AMERICA

'Look at us. We did it.'



HESIAN Gonzalez Perez plays with his young son as they get ready to board a bus headed to New York City from the migrant Welcome Center in El Paso. PHOTOS BY OMAR GONZALEZ/EL PASO TIMES

Inside a Venezuelan family's bus trip from El Paso to New York

Lauren Villagran | El Paso Times | USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

"This story is a collaboration between the El Paso Times and USA TODAY for the fifth episode in the series 'States of America.'"

In some ways it was like any cross-country bus ride: too cold, then too hot, the children hungry and tired, every stop too much like the one before. • A fluorescent halo glowed over gas pumps and inside the brightly lit convenience stores in Texas, then Tennessee, Virginia and Pennsylvania, overpriced merchandise sharing aisle space in a way that wouldn't happen anywhere else. • Kristian Gonzalez Pérez zoomed his camcorder on hot dogs on a warmer, electronic tablets in a glass case, bananas in a basket for \$1.29 each. • The 33-year-old Venezuelan, his wife Katiuska Carolina Leal Moreno and their two young children were on one of the last migrant buses out of El Paso.

When I get my first paycheck, then I'll believe it's real. It's great seeing all the skyscrapers and everything. But when I earn my first paycheck, when I can help my family — my children, my wife, my mother and grandmother, my mother-in-law, cousins, brothers, my father — that's when I know it was all worth it."

Kristian Gonzalez Pérez, migrant father who traveled to New York City on city-chartered bus

They were four of 10,713 asylum seekers who took the same route to New York, on city-chartered buses. The family captured the journey on cameras provided by the El Paso Times and the USA Today Network.

Hours earlier on Oct. 30, exactly 35 days after they left Venezuela, Gonzalez Pérez and his family were in New York City.

See BUS TRIP, Page 2A

Judge's comments: This is simply extraordinary work. Lauren weaves together the policy and the impact on people seamlessly. Lauren writes with the authoritative voice that comes from knowing your subject thoroughly. Lauren is a master storyteller, whose writing is just gorgeous.

1st Place

Lauren Villagran
El Paso Times

2nd Place

Chase Rogers
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

3rd Place

Mónica Ortiz Uribe
El Paso Times

SPECIALTY REPORTING

3A

Health reporting

**Texas dad's only only chance
at survival from COVID is a
risky lung transplant**

**Houston mom agonizes over
terrible choice for her baby**

Judge's comments: The COVID piece, in particular, is wonderful you-were-there observational writing that really drives home an important story.

1st Place

Julian Gill
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Lauren McGaughy
Dallas Morning News

3rd Place

Claire Ballor
Dallas Morning News

Honorable Mention

Erin Douglas, Texas Tribune

HEADLINE WRITING

SPANISH



Estas son las voces de los electores hispanos en el Norte de Texas. En la imagen (de izquierda a derecha) María García, Julio Acosta, Susana Pérez y Gerson Hernández, posando para una foto para *Al Día* el domingo 23 de octubre en el puente peatonal Ronald Kirk de Dallas.

El voto latino es un abanico de diversidad

Crear que el electorado hispano es un bloque único es un mito. La forma de pensar de los latinos es tan plural como sus orígenes.

Por IMELDA GARCÍA / AL DÍA

Gerson Hernández piensa que no solo se debe predicar la fe en los templos, sino en la política. Yohana Matrara no tiene preferencia por ningún partido, y vota por quien ella considera los mejores candidatos. Susana Pérez cree que las mejores políticas son las que ayudan a las personas y no les quitan derechos.

Complejo, diverso, plural. Así es el voto hispano en Estados Unidos, una expresión que se usa para referirse de forma genérica a los más de 24 millones de latinos que son ciudadanos elegibles para votar este año.

A pesar de ser considerado como un bloque único que puede moverse hacia uno u otro lado del espectro político, el voto latino es fragmentado y plural: está conformado por personas de diferente nacionalidad, cultura, religión y experiencias de vida que van moldeando su manera de pensar y de votar.

“Los latinos no son un monolito”, dijo Valerio Martínez-Ebers, director del programa de Estudios Latinoamericanos y Mesoamericanos de la Universidad del Norte de Texas (UNT) en Denton.

“Hay una gran diversidad, y depende mucho de su grupo de origen nacional, la religión, la vida”, agregó.

Para Jens Manuel Krogstad, analista del Pew Research Center, “los latinos tienen posturas que son complejas. Son muchos los temas que les preocupan a la hora de votar”.

El voto latino ha ganado un mayor respeto con el paso de los años, explicó Martínez-Ebers, y una prueba del desdén de los partidos era siempre aplicar a los hispanos una “Política de Mariachis” (Mariachi Politics) en la que buscaban su simpatía por reconocer su cultura.

Hasta hace unos años, comentó Martínez-Ebers, los partidos procuraban acercarse a los hispanos con fiestas, tacos y música de mariachi sin hablar de los problemas que enfrentaba la comunidad y sus posibles soluciones.

“Pero los latinos están cambiando, los niveles educativos están creciendo, ya hay más hispanos nacidos en Estados Unidos y así va creciendo la pluralidad”, dijo Martínez-Ebers.

“Ellos quieren escuchar acerca de los temas; no quieren comer tacos ni escuchar mariachis”.

Ver **PLURALIDAD** en la página 11

1st Place

Silvana Pagliuca

AI Dia (Dallas Morning News)

2nd Place

German Fernandez-Moores

La Voz

3rd Place

Silvana Pagliuca

AI Dia (Dallas Morning News)

Judge's comments: ¡Excelente!

FEATURES

SPANISH



Sophia Corona [izq] es la primera mujer mexicana trans que recibió un acta de nacimiento con reconocimiento de identidad de género en el Consulado de México en Dallas. Su esposa, Gabriela Pérez [der], la acompañó durante todo su proceso de transición.

‘Es como volver a nacer’

El reto de ser una mujer mexicana trans en Dallas

Por IMELDA GARCÍA / AL DÍA

Cuando cruzó el umbral de la puerta del Consulado de México en Dallas, Sophia Corona sintió como si volviera a nacer.

El 16 de febrero, Sophia se convirtió en la primera mujer mexicana trans en Dallas que recibió un acta de nacimiento con reconocimiento de identidad de género en la sede consular local, con lo que dejó atrás su antiguo nombre.

A partir de ese día, Sophia anunció completamente su nueva identidad; ahora podrá comenzar a hacer los cambios en todos sus documentos legales para que no haya una discrepancia entre su apariencia y su nombre. Finalmente, Sophia es quien siempre ha querido ser.

“Es como si hubiera dado un paso gigantesco y, aunque me faltan un

“Es como si hubiera dado un paso gigantesco y, aunque me faltan muchas cosas por hacer (trámites) siento que ya todo va a ser más fácil y ya no voy a recibir malas miradas como cuando veían mi

gando, se ponía un vestido y zapatos, lo que le hacía sentirse muy feliz.

Uno de los recuerdos más marcados que tiene es el suelo que tuvo una noche cuando, siendo un niño, soñó que se curaría en una obra de teatro y veía su vestido y sus zapatos, y sabía que los usaría para actuar en esa obra.

“Cuando ya me iba a poner el vestido, me desperté”, dijo Sophia. “Y ahora me doy cuenta que ese sueño me dice que desde que era muy chico ya tenía esto en lo más profundo de mí”.

Solvo por su secreto de a veces vestirse para jugar o imaginarse usando ropa femenina, Sophia continúa con todos los comportamientos que se esperaban de un niño pequeño: los cartones, la gambaluz a la cocción, los videogames, las películas de acción y el fútbol.

Pero dentro de ella crecía como un fuego su otra identidad, su verdadero yo.

Fue creciendo y entró a la preparatoria en la Ciudad de México. A los

cuatro, comenzaron su relación amorosa y, ante la falta de oportunidades en México, Gabriela decidió regresar a Estados Unidos, donde ya era residente legal, y se estableció en Dallas.

Meses después, Sophia vino a visitar a su novia y decidió quedarse. Se casaron en Dallas en julio del 2008, cuando ambas tenían 26 años de edad.

Vendría después la prueba más grande que hayan tenido que enfrentar la transición de Sophia.

Un camino de transformación

Durante toda su vida y hasta sus 26 años, Sophia había vivido de acuerdo a las normas que se le imponían en género; durante todos esos años calló su deseo de ser mujer.

Hasta que un día, se animó a revelar su secreto a Gabriela, su esposa.

“Un día, antes de que ella llegara de trabajar, me vestí y me maquillé con lo que encontré y así la esperé en casa”, contó Sophia.

1st Place

Imelda García

Al Dia (Dallas Morning News)

2nd Place

José Adriano

Al Dia (Dallas Morning News)

3rd Place

José Adriano

Al Dia (Dallas Morning News)

Judge’s comments: Esta es una historia bien elaborada que depende de Sophia Corona para narrar su transformación en mujer. Que esto suceda en un momento en que las personas trans en Texas están siendo atacadas por los políticos hace que esta sea una historia impactante. La reportera no explicó cómo logró que Sophia se abriera sobre su vida, pero ganar esa confianza es lo que hace esta historia. ¡Gran trabajo!



Un equipo de *Al Día* y *The Dallas Morning News* siguió el recorrido de Víctor Rodríguez Camilista a raíz de un joven migrante originario de Venezuela desde Del Rio, Texas, donde fue capturado por la Patrulla Fronteriza, hasta Washington DC en uno de los autobuses enviados por el gobierno de Texas hacia la capital del país.

Migrantes aprovechan camiones de Abbott

Por IMELDA GARCÍA / AL DÍA

Washington D.C. — Mientras el autobús que lo llevó desde la frontera sur de Texas hasta Washington D.C. pasaba frente a la Casa Blanca y el edificio del Capitolio, Víctor Rodríguez estaba radiante y agradecido por el viaje gratuito ordenado por el gobernador Greg Abbott.

Rodríguez y otros 18 migrantes viajaron por 30 horas seguidas en el décimo autobús cargado de migrantes que el gobernador texano ha enviado desde la frontera sur a la capital del país. Poco antes de las 10 p.m. del 21 de abril, el camión se detuvo frente a Union Station, a unas pocas cuadras del Capitolio, y de él fueron bajando

inmigrantes se benefician con orden del gobernador de Texas de enviarlos a Washington D.C. como "un mensaje" a Biden

los solicitantes de asilo que veían con asombro a su alrededor. No podían creer que estaban en la capital de Estados Unidos.

Como parte de su estrategia para combatir la llegada de "oleadas de inmigrantes ilegales" a las que se les está permitiendo el paso a Estados Unidos, como el mismo las llama, el gobernador Abbott anunció el 6 de abril que enviaría a migrantes indocumentados en autobús desde la frontera de Texas hasta Washington D.C., para evitar que estos se queden en el estado y que sea

el gobierno del presidente Joe Biden quien atienda sus necesidades directamente. El primer autobús llegó a la capital estadounidense el 12 de abril, hasta este 21 de abril eran 10 los transportes enviados.

En lugar de que ser expulsado de Texas sea un castigo para estos migrantes, el viaje es visto como una ayuda para trasladarlos a la parte norte de Estados Unidos de forma gratuita en un autobús seguro, con alimentos y otras facilidades incluidas.

Un equipo de *Al Día* y *The Dallas Morning*

News siguió el recorrido de Rodríguez, un joven migrante originario de Venezuela, de 20 años de edad, desde El Rio, Texas, donde fue capturado por la Patrulla Fronteriza, hasta Washington D.C.

El gobernador Abbott, quien busca su reelección en noviembre, afirma que al enviar migrantes por autobús también manda un mensaje al gobierno federal. El viaje, sin embargo, le ahorra a Rodríguez tiempo y dinero para llegar a Nueva York, su destino final, donde lo esperaban familiares con la oferta de un empleo en la construcción.

"Le agradezco (a Abbott) de todo corazón porque puede llegar sano y salvo y, además, en un buen servicio sin costo alguno. Lo considero una verdadera ayuda humanitaria", dijo Rodríguez.

Vea AUTOBUSES en la página 6

Judge's comments: Excelente reportaje sobre las noticias detrás de los titulares. Seguir al migrante venezolano desde la frontera sur hasta su última parada en Nueva York le dio un rostro a los millones de migrantes cuyo viaje se ha convertido en un tema de conversación política para ambos lados.

La historia estaba bien estructurada. Mostró cómo el esfuerzo de \$ 2 mil millones del gobernador Abbott para politizar las "hordas de inmigrantes ilegales" se convirtió en algo positivo para estos viajeros.

1st Place

Imelda García
Al Día (Dallas Morning News)

2nd Place

Imelda García
Al Día (Dallas Morning News)

3rd Place

Imelda García
Al Día (Dallas Morning News)

SPORTS WRITING

SPANISH

Cris Vázquez, el chef mexicano que prepara la comida para miles de fans en el estadio de los Rangers

Judge's comments: Esta es una nota divertida de leer porque muestra una parte del béisbol que puede pasar desapercibida, no solo por los reporteros deportivos, sino también por los reporteros de negocios o de restaurantes.

1st Place

Abraham Nudelstejer
AI Dia (Dallas Morning News)

2nd Place

Abraham Nudelstejer
AI Dia (Dallas Morning News)

3rd Place

Abraham Nudelstejer
AI Dia (Dallas Morning News)

SPANISH

Sequía en Monterrey: Cómo es vivir por nueve días en una ciudad sin agua

Judge's comments: Interesante leer el impacto real de la sequía en Monterrey, algo que había leído pero con detalles limitados sobre su impacto. Disfruté esta nota.

1st Place

Lorena Flores

Al Dia (Dallas Morning News)

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS



THE SHORTHORN

UT ARLINGTON'S MAIN NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1919

Judge's comments: Nice special section on Election 2022, with front-page stories about social media echo chambers, the Roe v. Wade fallout and why local elections matter. Inside, there was a very nice two-page graphic illustration showing how many seats were up for grabs in each state. The edition highlighting the women's basketball team making the NCAA Tournament coincided with Women's History Month. The story was featured at the top of the fold with an exuberant photo of senior forward Emma Halverson. Another front-page story focused on Women's History Month. Inside, an interesting feature about women dominating the Texas music industry was well-written and informative.

1st Place

The Shorthorn
University of Texas at Arlington

2nd Place

The Daily Toreador
Texas Tech University

3rd Place

The Skiff
Texas Christian University

TEXAS MANAGING EDITORS

2022 AWARDS

end

TEXAS MANAGING EDITORS

2022 AWARDS

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

1A



1st Place
Stacy Faison
Lufkin Daily News

2nd Place
Jillian Smith, Jeanette Nash
Kerrville Daily Times

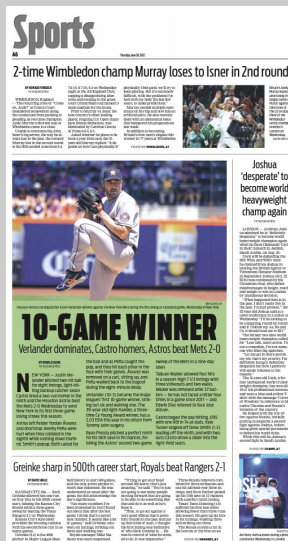
3rd Place
Cheryl Donatto
Baytown Sun

Honorable Mention
Dylanne Weese, Abilene Reporter-News

Judge's comments: Reader-friendly designs with multi-entry points to move the eye through the pages. Good centers of visual impact.

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

2A



Judge's comments: Phillips presented a versatile, well-rounded portfolio. His attention to detail, use of colors/photography and design layout makes every page stand out.

1st Place
Artie Phillips
Killeen Daily Herald

2nd Place
Louis San Miguel
Laredo Morning Times

3rd Place
Tucker Stephenson
New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

Honorable Mention
Bradley Allerton, Victoria Advocate

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

3A

1st Place

Tom Fox
Houston Chronicle

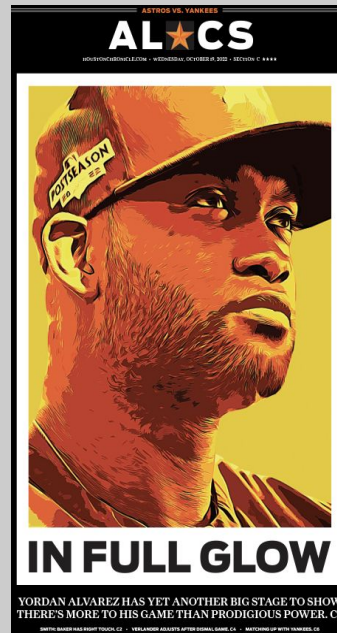
2nd Place

Jeff Meddaugh
Dallas Morning News

3rd Place

Adrian Alvarez
San Antonio, Express-News

Judge's comments: What a dazzling portfolio of work! In one collection, it offers a master class in bold, memorable, "keepsake" presentation. And there is gorgeous photo play and typography. Well done! And another trophy is hoisted in Houston!



STAR BREAKING NEWS REPORT OF THE YEAR

1A

Storm aftermath



Felicia Frazar - The Seguin Gazette

Guadalupe County Sheriff's deputies help survey the damage after homes were damaged Monday, March 21, 2022, in a tornado's aftermath on the eastern portion of Guadalupe County between Kingsbury and Luling.

Tornado rips through eastern Guadalupe County, damaging homes

Felicia Frazar
The Seguin Gazette

The fact that everybody except Luling is really amazing. Kingsbury residents are cleaning up the damage after a storm blew through the eastern portion of Guadalupe County, sparing a tie-nado on Monday. No serious injuries were reported from the storm, which Guadalupe County Emergency Manager Patrick Pinder confirmed was a tornado. Kingsbury Mayor Shirley Nolan said she



Felicia Frazar - The Seguin Gazette

yet to survey what is going on, she said. "From the reports that I've gotten, it is similar to Woodrow Center where there is a lot of structural damage"



Credit White - Special to The Seguin Gazette

A funnel cloud forms near Interstate 10 and Ika Road on Monday, March 21, 2022, in Seguin.

County declares disaster after storm spawns tornadoes

Dalena Moultrie
The Seguin Gazette

Damage from Monday's tornadoes prompted officials to declare a state of disaster on Tuesday morning in Guadalupe County. County Judge Kyle Kutscher signed an order signifying the county took a direct hit from Monday's storm.

"As a result of the heavy rains, high winds, and tornado activity that passed through Guadalupe County on March 21, 2022, Guadalupe County judge Kyle Kutscher is declaring a disaster proclamation for seven days," Guadalupe County Emergency Management Coordinator Patrick Pinder said. "At the same time, Guadalupe County Emergency Management implemented the disaster plan, and has

between Kingsbury and Luling. Several homes were damaged with at least seven families displaced due to the tornadoes' destruction. Pinder said on Monday. Crews were out surveying areas of the county Tuesday afternoon to verify the numbers of tornadoes and amount of damage the county sustained, said Mack Morris, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in New Braunfels.

"We believe it's four at least as of right now but we don't know if there's any more," he said. "There could've been separate touch downs or hitings where we have one tornado from one storm and it lifted and touched down as a tornado elsewhere. We have four, we believe, preliminarily."

A dry line of weather pushing east collided with

1st Place
Felicia Frazar
Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

2nd Place
Brittany Barclay
Lufkin Daily News

3rd Place
Matt Hollis
Baytown Sun

Honorable Mention
Laura Dennis, Kim Smith
Odessa American

Judge's comments: Nice comprehensive package of stories and photos on a disaster that affects many people. Good quotes and information on how the storm impacted the community.

STAR BREAKING NEWS REPORT OF THE YEAR



2A

**'It's a miracle that no lives
were lost'**

EF-3 tornado hits 63

buildings, injuring 23, along

8-mile route

1st Place

Eric E. Garcia, Christian
Betancourt, Shane Monaco
Temple Daily Telegram

2nd Place

Lauren Villagran
El Paso Times

3rd Place

Tamara Diaz
The Victoria Advocate

Honorable Mention

Chase Rogers, Ashlee Burns and Angela
Piazza **Corpus Christi Caller-Times**

STAR BREAKING NEWS REPORT OF THE YEAR

3A

Supreme Court strikes down Roe vs. Wade, ending constitutional protection of abortion rights

Judge's comments: While the end of Roe v. Wade was a "national" story, The staff of the Houston Chronicle did an excellent job of highlighting the Texas connections and showing the various ways the decision would affect Texans and women throughout the region. The reporting was excellent and the writing was clear and concise.

1st Place

Staff

Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Staff

Texas Tribune

3rd Place

Domingo Ramirez, Jessika Harkay,
James Hartley, Eleanor Dearman, Kaley
Johnson, Emerson Clarridge, Harrison
Mantas, **Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

Honorable Mention

Guillermo Contreras, Emilie Eaton, Billy
Calzada, **San Antonio Express-News**

STAR INVESTIGATIVE REPORT OF THE YEAR

1A

For low-income tenants, HOA restrictions drive racial housing segregation

Judge's comments: Nice job covering and explaining a complex subject - capturing a local problem and not only humanizing it, but putting it into a broader perspective.

1st Place

Amber Gaudet
Denton Record-Chronicle

2nd Place

Jess Huff
Lufkin Daily News

3rd Place

Amber Gaudet
Denton Record-Chronicle

Honorable Mention

Jess Huff, Lufkin Daily News

STAR INVESTIGATIVE REPORT OF THE YEAR

2A

A DAILY NEWS SPECIAL REPORT | CHECKS IN THE MAIL



Almost \$1 million stolen in Galveston from USPS

By TRACE HARRIS and JOSÉ MENDIOLA
The Daily News
» GALVESTON

In Galveston alone, it's a million-dollar criminal enterprise that victimizes people and banks that serve them. It might be linked to global criminal syndicates operating on the darknet, and so far questions about it have been answered by a ringing no comment from the federal agencies charged with ensuring integrity of the U.S. Mail.

Over the past two years, scores of personal and business checks entrusted to the U.S. Post Office in Galveston have vanished. At least 140 of those were stolen, altered and cashed for amounts ranging from thousands to tens of thousands of dollars and totaling more than \$950,000, according to police records obtained by The Daily News.

And the numbers both of victims and dollars still are growing.

See CHECKS IN THE MAIL » A5

CHECKS IN THE MAIL

A monthlong Daily News investigation found that over the past two years, scores of checks mailed by Galveston residents and businesses have been stolen, altered and fraudulently negotiated for thousands and sometime tens of thousands of dollars.

A person drops their mail in the U.S. Postal Service box at Bob Lyons Post Office in Galveston on Wednesday. More than \$950,000 has been stolen from the U.S. Mail in Galveston since January 2020.

Judge's comments: This is stellar work. Through creative use of public records searches and on-the-record interviews with notoriously reluctant bankers, Trace Harris and José Mendiola pieced together an astonishing tale of postal theft and bank fraud that left uncooperative postal officials scrambling to regain control of the narrative. I'm truly impressed.

1st Place

Trace Harris, José Mendiola
Galveston County Daily News

2nd Place

Victoria Rossi, Robert Moore,
Molly Smith, Danielle Prokop,
Cindy Ramirez
El Paso Matters

3rd Place

René Kladzyk
El Paso Matters

Honorable Mention

Molly Smith, El Paso Matters

STAR INVESTIGATIVE REPORT OF THE YEAR

Gov. Greg Abbott brags about his border initiative. The evidence doesn't back him up.

3A

1st Place

Perla Trevizo, Lomi Kriel, Jolie McCullough, Andrew Rodriguez Calderón, Keri Blakinger, Marilyn Thompson, James Barragán, Davis Winkie, **Texas Tribune**

“I hate it here”: National Guard members sound off on Texas border mission in leaked morale survey

2nd Place

Caroline Ghisolfi, Tony Plohetski, Nicole Foy **Austin American-Statesman**

Judge's comments: This series of stories had tremendous sweep and explored the programs failures from a number of angles. The series also had telling detail and was told in a clear-eyed manner that became more jaw-dropping at every turn, despite the best efforts of the state to stymie the journalists.

3rd Place

Vianna Davila, Lexi Churchill and Ren Larson, **Texas Tribune**

Honorable Mention

Kaley Johnson, **Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

STAR ONLINE PACKAGE OF THE YEAR

1A

**Griffis says Gray claims are
100% false**

Judge's comments: Story holds the reader's interest and is well researched. Good supporting documents.

1st Place

Laura Dennis, Kim Smith, Royal
McGregor
Odessa American

2nd Place

Amber Gaudet
Denton Record-Chronicle

3rd Place

TCU 360 Staff
The Daily Skiff, TCU

STAR ONLINE PACKAGE OF THE YEAR

2A



‘Can’t believe it’: Execution stayed, Melissa Lucio’s family rejoices as defense looks ahead

1st Place

Ryan Henry, Emily D'Gyves
Brownsville Herald

2nd Place

Staff
El Paso Times

3rd Place

Leigh Munsil, Blanca Méndez
San Antonio Report

Honorable Mention

Staff, **El Paso Matters**

STAR ONLINE PACKAGE OF THE YEAR

3A



1st Place

Staff

Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Jeremy Schwartz, Jessica Priest, Perla Trevizo, Chris Morran

Texas Tribune

3rd Place

Staff, **San Antonio, Express-News**

Honorable Mention

Staff, **Texas Tribune**

Judge's comments: A stunning, online-first project delivered with clear visuals and plain language that help taxpayers and residents in Galveston grasp the scope of a massive infrastructure project.

STAR OPINION WRITER OF THE YEAR

1A

**Transparency non-negotiable
on golf course**

**State leaders lack will to do
right thing**

1st Place

David Bloom
Baytown Sun

2nd Place

Greg Jaklewicz
Abilene Reporter-News

3rd Place

Jeff Pownall
Lufkin Daily News

Judge's comments: This submission included some great work in local editorial writing, from demanding government transparency and advocating for taxpayers on a sketchy looking golf course deal to a simple call about where to host graduations. This work was well-written with clear, thought-out positions, thoroughly researched and relevant to your local audience. Excellent work.

STAR OPINION WRITER OF THE YEAR

2A

**All doubts must be resolved
before execution carried out**

**Does Abbott oppose
immigrants, or does he have
ulterior motives?**

1st Place

Carlos Rodriguez
Brownsville Herald

2nd Place

Michael A. Smith
Galveston County Daily News

Judge's comments: Crisp, strong writing with clear explanations of his positions. He tackles tough topics. And I love this line: Simple measures by simple minds simply don't work. Brilliant.

STAR OPINION WRITER OF THE YEAR

3A

**With latest theory, Paxton
sinks even lower**

**Layers of failure build before,
during, after Uvalde**

1st Place

Josh Brodesky
San Antonio Express-News

2nd Place

Bridget Grumet
Austin American-Statesman

3rd Place

Ryan Sanders
Dallas Morning News

Judge's comments: In a highly competitive field, this entry rose to the top for its overall command, passion and range on different topics crucial to readers and the public. From the tragic killings in Uvalde, to a poignant look at the deaths of 53 people in “a hellish furnace,” this brilliant work speaks truth to power by confronting government doublespeak and inaction head-on.

STAR PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

1A



1st Place

Ronald W. Erdrich
Abilene Reporter-News

2nd Place

Josh Edwards
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

3rd Place

Joel Andrews
Lufkin Daily News

Judge's comments: Good selection and variety. Nice moments. Good emotion. Good job.

STAR PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

2A



1st Place

Jason Fochtman
Conroe Courier

2nd Place

Angela Piazza
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

3rd Place

Annie Rice
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Judge's comments: This portfolio rose to the top on the strength of his feature photography. Several eye-catching images rounded out his portfolio with well-seen, humorous images that set his work apart from the rest.

STAR PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

3A



1st Place

Sam Owens

San Antonio Express-News

2nd Place

Tom Fox

Dallas Morning News

3rd Place

Jon Shapley

Houston Chronicle

Judge's comments: This photographer's portfolio rose to the top because of their commitment to telling the story of Uvalde, beyond the public memorials. They clearly gained the trust of Uvalde parents and kids, The other photos in this photographer's entry speak to their comfort with a range of subjects, from sports to features.

STAR REPORTER OF THE YEAR

1A

Odessa murderer free after 39 years

1st Place

Kim Smith
Odessa American

It's a calling: Zoom court leads to fan club, big following

2nd Place

Amber Gaudet
Denton Record-Chronicle

Landgraf-Gray forum a heated event

3rd Place

Jess Huff
Lufkin Daily News

Honorable Mention

Haeven Gibbons
The Daily Skiff, TCU

STAR REPORTER OF THE YEAR

2A

TxDOT slow to release info on safety concerns with Harbor Bridge design

Port of Corpus Christi CEO Sean Strawbridge's salary doubled

Judge's comments: Chase has a knack for identifying important community issues and digging deep to find the real story. He goes well beyond the specific court case or public policy and tells in colorful detail how residents, families and businesses are affected. The variety of topics Chase covered during 2022 is also a testament to his versatility. He has a bright future in Texas journalism.

1st Place

Chase Rogers
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

2nd Place

Raquel Torres
San Antonio Report

3rd Place

Valerie Gonzalez
The McAllen Monitor

STAR REPORTER OF THE YEAR

3A

Video documents officers' delayed response to Uvalde school shooting

'We all hurt': Residents confront grief and loss as more details emerge about attack

Judge's comments: The publication of the Robb Elementary School video is a victory for the public's right to know, and the reporter's success in obtaining it in the face of intense competition from other media shows that local news reporters continue to be best-positioned to serve local communities.

1st Place

Tony Plohetski
Austin American-Statesman

2nd Place

Julian Gill
Houston Chronicle

3rd Place

Nichole Manna
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Honorable Mention

Eleanor Klibanoff
Texas Tribune

CELESTE WILLIAMS STAR SPORTS REPORTER OF THE YEAR

1A

**A game of inches: TCU falls
31-28 to Kansas State in OT of
Big 12 Championship**

**How TCU's Dutchmen became
the face of the student
section**

Judge's comments: Good mixture of stories, from cross country to the student fan section. The football game stories were also good.

1st Place

Micah Pearce
The Daily Skiff, TCU

2nd Place

Brett Vito
Denton Record-Chronicle

3rd Place

Lee Scheide
Odessa American

CELESTE WILLIAMS STAR SPORTS REPORTER OF THE YEAR

2A

Texas A&M athletes made more than \$4 million in NIL deals last year

After a year of NIL compensation for Texas colleges, questions still remain about its future

Judge's comments: This data driven story on NIL deals pushed this package into first place. The package was strong overall with a good mixture of stories.

1st Place

Travis Brown

Bryan-College Station Eagle

2nd Place

Sam Fowler

The Victoria Advocate

3rd Place

Garrett Kroeger

Laredo Morning Times

Honorable Mention

Thaddeus Imerman, **Killeen Daily Herald**

Mike Forman, **The Victoria Advocate**

CELESTE WILLIAMS STAR SPORTS REPORTER OF THE YEAR

3A

Texas gymnastics coach faces child abuse allegations

Meet Baylor's NaLyssa Smith, the best basketball player in Texas

Judge's comments: Great mix of stories. From a tale of horrible sexual assaults in gymnastics to a features on "2K" and a Baylor basketball star NaLyssa Smith, each story kept readers engaged. All were very well written.

1st Place

Danielle Lerner
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Chandler Rome
Houston Chronicle

3rd Place

Brad Townsend
Dallas Morning News

Honorable Mention

Michael Gehlken, **Dallas Morning News**
Cedric Golden, **Austin American-Statesman**

MICHAEL BRICK STORYTELLING AWARD

This is the heart:

Early morning regulars at

Barton Springs Pool keep

Austin magic alive

Judge's comments: Kelsey Bradshaw's story about the magic of Barton Springs Pool treads water in the glorious details of everyday life and reflects those great Michael Brick stories that celebrate and elevate the humdrum part of the human experience. Slow down, this story asks. Watch the sun come up, and rejoice in the routine.

1st Place

Kelsey Bradshaw

Austin American-Statesman

2nd Place

Nancy Preyor-Johnson

San Antonio Express-News

3rd Place

Andrew Dansby

Houston Chronicle

Honorable Mention

Sharon Grigsby, **Dallas Morning News**

TEXAS MANAGING EDITORS

2022 AWARDS

end

TEXAS MANAGING EDITORS

2022 AWARDS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

1A

Sexual assault in Angelina County

Judge's comments: Impressive, comprehensive coverage of a county's documentation of and fight against sexual assaults. Stories were thoughtfully written to raise awareness about sexual assault and help available to survivors. The SANE exam story was especially powerful as it showcased the humanity and empathy of the SANE nurses.

1st Place

Jess Huff, Jeff Pownall
Lufkin Daily News

2nd Place

Staff
Abilene Reporter-News

3rd Place

Staff
Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2A

Narcan on hand

Judge's comments: This series skillfully tackles a seemingly obvious question: If overdose deaths are on the rise, why aren't a city's police officers equipped with Narcan kits? The stories are well-reported and clearly told, and strengthened by vivid examples of life-or-death situations where Narcan could have made (or did make) a difference. The reporting from Tempe, Arizona helps place the El Paso PD's resistance in perspective. Impact matters, and it's notable that the police department substantially expanded Narcan availability shortly after the series appeared. This package stands out in a competitive field.

1st Place

René Kladzyk, **El Paso Matters**

2nd Place (tie)

Lauren Villagran, Martha Pskowski, **El Paso Times**

Wendy Lane Cook, Leigh Munsil, Andrea Drusch, Tracy Idell Hamilton, Sandra Santos, **San Antonio Report**

3rd Place

Trace Harris, José Mendiola, Laura Elder, Michael A. Smith, **Galveston County Daily News**

Honorable Mention

Chase Rogers, Angela Piazza, Ashlee Burns, **Corpus Christi Caller-Times**

Christian Betancourt, Eric E. Garcia, Shane Monaco, **Temple Daily Telegram**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

3A

Contaminated Fifth Ward rail yard linked to highly dangerous toxic waste

Judge's comments: What a wonderful series aimed at protecting people who probably didn't have the wherewithal or voice to protect themselves. Emily stayed on this story like a shark. Excellent work.

1st Place

Emily Foxhall
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place

Lisa Falkenberg, Michael Lindenberger, Joe Holley, **Houston Chronicle**

3rd Place

Brian Chasnoff, Libby Seline, Emilie Eaton, Ryan Serpico, Jerry Lara, Alexandra Kanik, Josh Brodesky, Cary Clack
San Antonio Express-News

Honorable Mention

Caroline Ghisolfi, Tony Plohetski, Nicole Foy, **Austin American-Statesman**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

1A

Documents: SFA's Gordon gets \$800K in severance pay

Judge's comments: The reporter clearly spells out the known facts, explains what details can't be known, why they can't be known and why people should care. This entry is a terrific example of how to properly present information obtained via FOIA to readers.

1st Place

Josh Edwards
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

2nd Place

Matt Hollis, David Bloom
Baytown Sun

3rd Place

Jess Huff
Lufkin Daily News

Honorable Mention

Jess Huff
Lufkin Daily News

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

2A

Audio captures SISD trustee abusing role in effort to target principal

Judge's comments: Had it not been for El Paso Matters reporter Molly Smith's persistence in prying loose public records from a local school district, the community would never have known about a school board member's personal quest to oust a middle school principal who his wife, a teacher there, did not like. The school district fiercely resisted Smith's request for the recording and other documents. Even after the Texas Attorney General issued a ruling in August ordering the school district to release the records, the district continued to withhold them. But Smith did not give up and eventually obtained the 33-hour recording that revealed just how far the board member went in his vendetta against the principal. Smith's effort is commendable and stands as a lesson for any public agency that tries to withhold records. Excellent work!

1st Place

Molly Smith
El Paso Matters

2nd Place

Lauren Dodd
Killeen Daily Herald

3rd Place

Chase Rogers, Ashlee Burns
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Honorable Mention

Alana Edgin, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

3A

Uvalde shooting and the fight for transparency

Judge's comments: An incredible effort, the dogged work of reporters and editors across these newsrooms helped illuminate one of the most horrific events in recent memory and helped the public to understand the failings at every level.

1st Place (tie)

Tony Plohetski, Caroline Ghisolfi, Ryan Autullo, staff

Austin American-Statesman

Texas Tribune staff, ProPublica, The Washington Post and Jason Buch

3rd Place

Vianna Davila, Lexi Churchill, Ren Larson, **Texas Tribune**

Honorable Mention

St. John Barned-Smith, **Houston Chronicle**

TEAM EFFORT

1A

Series of articles examining issues facing Fort Worth. Working in teams, students explored issues through the fault lines of class, generation, geography, gender, sexual orientation and race.

Judge's comments: Tremendous job of covering topical, relevant issues to the community in a comprehensive way such that it reads like it was written by one team.

1st Place

Students in JOUR 30204
The Daily Skiff, TCU

2nd Place

Sean Batura, Roger Mathews
Kerrville Daily Times

3rd Place

Greg Jaklewicz Brian Bethel, Ronald Erdrich, **Abilene Reporter-News**

Honorable Mention

Josh Edwards, Nicole Bradford, Valerie Reddell, **Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel**
David Money, Nic Huber, Mary Madewell, Sally Boswell, **Paris News**

TEAM EFFORT

2A

1st Place

Trace Harris, José Mendiola
Galveston County Daily News

2nd Place

Rhiannon Saegert, Christopher De Los Santos, Mike Copeland, Carl Hoover, Kourtney David, J.B. Smith, Steve Boggs
Waco Tribune-Herald

3rd Place

Haley Samsel, Rachel Behrndt, Emily Wolf, Cristian ArguetaSoto, Bob Francis, Izzy Acheson, Seth Bodine, Alex Allison,
Fort Worth Report

Honorable Mention: Staff, **El Paso Times**

Series of reports disclosing the theft of hundreds of checks from the local post office

Judge's comments: This reporting is exactly what readers should expect from their community paper. Exposing a major issue, explaining the impacts on the average resident and then getting results!

TEAM EFFORT

3A

Investigation into the suffering and systemic neglect in the state's home and community care for people with disabilities

Judge's comments: This stunning investigation brings to light tragic situations largely unknown to the public or lawmakers. It is also a standout for the writing and presentation.

1st Place

Caroline Ghisolfi, Tony Plohetski, Nicole Foy, Sara Diggins, Jay Janner, **Austin American-Statesman**

2nd Place

Guillermo Contreras, Brian Chasnoff, St. John Barned-Smith, Nancy Preyor-Johnson, Emilie Eaton, Jacob Beltran, Taylor Pettaway, Emily Foxhall, Cayla J. Harris, Jasper Scherer, Joshua Eaton, Julie Silva
San Antonio Express-News

3rd Place

Staff, **Houston Chronicle**

Honorable Mention

Guillermo Contreras, Emilie Eaton, Danya Perez, Brian Chasnoff, Gilbert Garcia, Ricardo Delgado, Elena Bruess, Edward McKinley, Billy Calzada **San Antonio Express-News**



1st Place
Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

2nd Place
Paris News

3rd Place
Kerrville Daily Times

Honorable Mention
Lufkin Daily News
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel

NEWSROOM OF THE YEAR

2A

1st Place
Waco Tribune-Herald

2nd Place
The McAllen Monitor

3rd Place
Laredo Morning Times

Honorable Mention
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Judge's comments: The Waco Tribune-Herald presented a consistent, solid local report and its staff produced regular regular additional elements - nice graphics, good photos, and digital extras.



NEWSROOM OF THE YEAR

3A

1st Place
Houston Chronicle

2nd Place
Dallas Morning News

3rd Place
Austin American-Statesman



Judge's comments: Houston Chronicle really showed the depth of their coverage, and I thought they picked great stories as ledes of their paper. I especially found the organ transplant story fascinating. Of all the submissions, I also thought their story on the first day back to school in Uvalde was strongest, with good color and emotion. And of course, the deep dive on the Haitian migrant families was a beautifully done piece. All in all, another strong year for Houston Chronicle.

TEXAS MANAGING EDITORS

2022 AWARDS