

NAPBA Contest Results 2008

Radio Division 1

Spot News

First Place **KFAB** "Mall Massacre" KFAB Staff

Second Place **NET** "Von Maur shooting" NET News Staff

General News

First Place **NET** "Terror Free Gas" Avishay Artsy

Comment: Interesting topic. The natural sound sometimes interferes with my "listening." Nice use of the contrarian expert, and a range of voices. I would be interested in the psychological aspects of why this kind of thing catches the public's attention. While the sources used were perfect for the story, I wonder what a marketing person would say about the effort? I find a lack of empirical evidence in the story. How is the gas station doing compared to others in its area? You have the actuality with the customer "sending a message," but I want to know if more people are getting fuel here. I'm also unsure treating the Mideast monolithically helps the story. There is no mention on the amount of oil imported from Canada and South America, major contributors, where terrorism may not be an issue.

Second Place **KFAB** "Metro Storm" Tom Stanton

Comment: Nice range of voices. Lots of information presented in a short piece. Nice inclusion of natural sound, though given more time for the story, I would have liked it to help serve as a transition. Overall excellent coverage of a breaking event with information the public would find interesting and helpful.

Third Place **NET** "Fusion Center" Fred Knapp

Comment: Nice take beyond the news release on something coming together in government. Another voice from an agency other than the state patrol would have been a nice addition. I also wonder how the other fusion centers in other locations are working or not? Has this been money well spent in the other centers? Connecting the dots more on how the centers would affect local folks might have piqued my interest more. You mention pre-emptive law enforcement; a concrete example or two would be helpful.

HM **NET** "Yazidi Bombing Reaction" Sarah McCammon

Comment: Good reporting on an under-reported group from Iraq, but I would like to know more about the Yazidi people because I don't know much about them. This could help place them in the "big picture," or demonstrate that they don't count in that picture. You say where Yazidi's live in U.S., but where are they in Iraq? Some context with the Iraqi situation would have been helpful and could have connected the listener to the international context on a local level. Why are there so many Yazidi's in Lincoln? A male voice translating a male voice is better for my ears, but I can understand why you would use the daughter. Sounds of the family making phone calls would have brought the point home. Most listeners have some connection with what it feels like to be on the other end of a ringing, unanswered phone.

Feature

First Place **KFOR** "Killer in the House" Dale Johnson

Comment: Important topic. This progra did what good radio does: take listeners beyond sound bites and out of the studio to experience things for themselves! Program did feel a tad long, and several of the points were repeated a few too many times, but overall, great job. After listening, I decided to call someone to inspect my furance!

Second Place **NET** "Goats Graze Weeds" Sarah McCammon

Comment: Interesting and unique topic. Kudos on the stand-up at the beginning of the piece.

Third Place **NET** "Ponca Powow" Jerry Johnston

Agriculture

First Place **NET** "Animal ID" Avishay Artsy

Second Place **NET** "Immigrant farmers" Sarah McCammon

Newscast

First Place **KFOR** "Noon News" Sandy Conners, Jeff Motz
Comment: Good anchor delivery, nice pace, great story selection

Second Place **KFAB** 7 a.m. Rich Denison
Comment: Good writing, plenty of audio, it moves. Interesting. Good delivery.

Third Place **KFAB** 6:30 a.m. Bill Jensen
HM **NET** Lora Black

Public Affairs

First Place **KFOR** "Out of the World Interview" Sandy Conners
Second Place **KFOR** "Killer in the House" Dale Johnson
Third Place **NET** "Meth Series" Sarah McCammon
HM **NET** "Drowning in Noise" Robyn Wisch

Natural Sound

First Place **NET** "National Anthem Tryouts" Martin Wells
Second Place **NET** "Archeological Dig" Jerry Johnston
Third Place **NET** "Lewis & Clark Lake" Mike Marek

Sports Feature

First Place **NET** "Ambidextrous Pitcher" Martin Wells
Second Place **NET** "Wheelchair Softball" Avishay Artsy
Third Place **KFOR** "Plane Spotting" Jeremy Rasmussen
HM **KFOR** "Oldest Sports Tradition" Sandy Conners

Web Site

First Place **KFAB**

Radio Division 2

Agriculture

First Place **WJAG** "Tomato, Tomahto" Susan Risinger
Comment: Truly excellent series of reports on the subject. Subject content and pace carried the story, even without the themed music. A truly excellent entry.

Second Place **KUSO** "Storm's Toll on Livestock" Brian Masters
Comment: A well-done report on a timely topic with potentially helpful information.

Third Place **WJAG** "Tannenbaum Farm" Jim Curry
Comment: A well-done feature-style piece on this farm.

Feature

First Place **WJAG** "Girls Science Night Out" Jim Curry
Comment: The best in a highly competitive category. The well-placed use of audio and song combined with the production efforts sets this report apart from the others.

Second Place **KWBE-AM** "From Russia with Love" Bryan Cook
Comment: This report is top-notch and would be a winner in many years with its effective use of sound bites interspersed with music.

Third Place **KUSO** "180 Tour in Creighton" Brian Masters

General News

First Place **KWBE-AM** "New Citizens" Doug Kennedy
Comment: Good audio use, crisp writing

Second Place **KNEN** "Senate Kills Immigration Reform" Bill Seifert
Comment: Needed more audio from others like hispanic leaders of business owners. Sounds of Mexican restaurant.

Third Place **WJAG** "Kids Health Walk" Jim Curry
Comment: Nice audio and writing

HM **KUSO** "Battle Creek Flood 2007" Brian Masters
Comment: Good audio! Perhaps using it earlier would have generated more interest. Good delivery try some ambient audio too.

Natural Sound

First Place **KWBE-AM** "Remembering Jeremy" Doug Kennedy
Comment: Nice use of natural sound interspersed with sound bites. A report well done.

Second Place **WJAG** "Getting Goosed" Jim Curry

Newscast

First Place **WJAG** Jim Curry, Susan Risinger
Comment: Team work excellent with seamless and seemingly effortless flow. Large variety of content, excellent production and actuality use!

Second Place **WJAG** Jim Curry, Susan Risinger
Comment: Actually, only one voice used...excellent newscast!

Third Place **WJAG** Jim Curry, Susan Risinger
Comment: An excellent newscast!

HM **KUSO** Brian Masters
Comment: Smooth flow, excellent teamwork, fine production--excellent!

Public Affairs

First Place **WJAG** "Norfolk Area Week in Review" Jim Curry
Comment: Well-produced. A lot of work clearly went into this! At times, though, the pacing made the program sound like too much of a list. I don't think you necessarily need to cover every single event in the "Week in Review." Along with the shorter stories, focus on the highlights and devote a bit more time to some of the more interesting and/or important developments of the week to mix things up a bit.

Second Place **KNEN** "Students with Poverty" Bill Seifert

Third Place **WJAG** "Norfolk 2007" Jim Curry
Comment: With all the time it must have taken to produce this, you definitely get an "A" for effort. But ditto my comments on first place "Week in Review" program. The show's format of basically a list of everything that happened over the past year got a bit tedious to listen to after the first ten minutes or so. The music certainly helped speed things along at times, but I still think you're trying to fit in too much. We don't need to remember every, single little event that took place. As a listener, I would have preferred that you left out some of the more insignificant ones and devoted a bit more time to some of the more interesting and important events.

Sports Feature

First Place **KUSO** "Elgin Football" Brian Masters
Comment: This piece told a story and was concise enough to keep any listener's attention

Second Place **KRVN** "Team of 1957" Jayson Jorgenson

Comment: I would have faded out the music. It became a little distracting. It was a little long. I think you might lose all but the most dedicated listeners.

Sportscast

First Place **WJAG** "Sportscast on 106.7 The X" Joseph Tjaden

Comment: Lots of local material

Second Place **KWBE-AM** "Speedway Thriller" Bryan Cook

Third Place **KGFV-AM** "820 Morning Sports" Dave Jenner

Spot News

First Place **KUSO** "Antelope County Man Hunt" Brian Masters

Comment: This story flowed well, was easy to understand and had all the necessary information

Second Place **KUSO** "Madison County body found" Brian Masters

Comment: The bytes in this story could have been more effective, but overall, it told the story and had a good flow.

Third Place **KNEN** "Fatal Fire" Bill Seifert

Comment: A decent story that was easy to follow and took me to the scene.

Website

First Place **KELN/KOOQ/KNPQ** "www.mix9one.com" Heather Jones

Television Division 1

Spot News

First Place **KPTM** "Von Maur Witnesses" Nabil Molai, Kyle Benecke, Arnie Girard

Comment: Great show of emotion. Nice job of writing to the sound bites. Captured the intensity of the scene. Good use of natural sounds, good editing.

Second Place **WOWT** "Von Maur Murders" Brian Mastre

Comment: Good follow piece. Reporter lead-in to first bite set the scene

Third Place **KETV** "Missouri Floods" KETV Staff

Comment: Great visual proof to enforce the script. Nice shots of the levee's gives the audience a better perspective. Nice fast-paced intro into coverage. Could have personalized the flood more.

General News

First Place **WOWT** "Gino's Story" Sheila Brummer, Mark Vande Brake, Jeff Olson

Comment: Good effort getting interview and follow up with video of the evidence. Would have been nice to hear or see from family. Great shots of the book bag in the garbage.

Second Place **KETV** "Edwards Verdict" KETV Staff

Comment: Thorough coverage of the story. Good pictures and sound with trial participants and investigators. 3rd cut was the most descriptive. Nice show of emotion and natural sound at the beginning. Would have liked to have seen images of Jessica earlier.

Third Place **KETV** "Refugee Reunion" Owen Lei

Comment: Attention grabber. Nice people centered piece. Nice use of natural sound. Showed the audience something they haven't seen before. Needed more big information and a clearer focus.

Feature

First Place **WOWT** "The Gift" Brian Mastre, Mike Plews

Comment: A compelling story that is very well done by leaving out the trite phrases that would be very tempting to use. The editing is superb and the restraint of the reporter is to be commended.

Second Place **KETV** "Mother-Daughter Graduation" Julie Cornell

Comment: The reporter allowed the principals to tell a heartwarming story without injecting herself into the picture. Well done.

Third Place **KPTM** "The Three Lifesavers" Taylor Wilson

Comment:

HM **KETV** "Too Shy" Brandi Petersen

Agriculture

First Place **KPTM** "Farm Accidents" Scott Lea, Jason Pressler

Second Place **KETV** "Organic Farming" Lisa Stites

Third Place **KPTM** "Flooded Farms" Scott Lea, Jason Pressler

HM **WOWT** "Last Stand" Brian Mastre, Mike Plews

Newscast

First Place **WOWT** News Staff

Comment: Excellent variety of elements. Good graphics and camera angles, as well as minimal file footage. Good pace throughout.

Second Place **KETV** 7 @ 6:00 KETV Staff

Comment: Good content, and news of the day, but lacked creative presentation. Too much stock or file video.

Investigative

First Place **WOWT** "Mudslide Who's to Blame" Mike McKight

Comment: Good use of the home video, grabs your attention right off the top. A good soundbite from the developer, I think it's God's fault for giving us six inches of rain." Good beginning, investigation into what happened and why, and good follow-up on what's going to be done."

Investigative

Second Place **KPTM** "High Tech Hookers" Amanda Mueller, Jason Pressler

Comment: It seemed like the reporter did a good bit of preparatory research and followed through, setting up the sting and even getting an interview with one of the women selling sex online. Good job.

Third Place **KETV** "Social Security Number" Kristi Andersen

Comment: Good job of telling me what thieves can do with the information. One thing I would have liked to see is what can victims do about it? I didn't see that in the story.

HM **WOWT** "He's Alive" Mike McKight

Comment: Good job of following the story through and finding out what steps will be taken in the future to prevent something like this from happening again.

Series/Documentary

First Place **KETV** "Illumina" Julie Cornell, Peter Soby

Comment: Very hard to believe that only two people put this documentary together. Very informative and entertaining.

Second Place **KPTM** "High Tech Hookers" Amanda Mueller, Jason Pressler

Comment: Very good storytelling; music was a little too much, especially by Part 3. I hope you re-aired this after the New York Governor story broke.

Third Place **KETV** "Denny's Dilemma" Julie Cornell, Michael Richard
Comment: Great storytelling

HM **KPTM** "Heartland Proud" Taylor Wilson
Comment: Photography is excellent. Would have been better storytelling if we heard more from subjects - more sound bits from interviews, less track from reporter.

Weathercast

First Place **KETV** "Blizzard" KETV Staff
Comment: Great team effort!

Second Place **WOWT** "March Blizzard" Scott Akin, Michael Born, Jeff Jensen
Comment: May have had a "First" here if director would have gotten graphic up for meteorologist's live shot.

Third Place **WOWT** "Midday Blizzard" Jeff Jensen
Comment: Good weathercast; good graphics; good energy

Sports Story Feature

First Place **WOWT** "The Stable" Roger Hamer
Comment: Great natural sound (good use of wireless microphones); good mix of game/fan footage.

Second Place **KPTM** "Nebraska Yankee" Taylor Wilson
Comment: Good research, old photos; good storytelling

Third Place **KETV** "Coach's Son" Mike Digiacomo, Andrew Ozaki
Comment: Good idea to even do the story.

Sports Special

First Place **KETV** "Big Red Game Day & Colorado" Jon Schuetz, Jim Healey, Matt Schick, Jason Peter
Second Place **WOWT** "Road to Omaha" Ross Jernstrom

Sportscast

First Place **WOWT** *Sunday Sports Extra 10-21-07* Ross Jenstrom

Videography

First Place **KPTM** "Origami Guy" Taylor Wilson
Second Place **KPTM** "Sand Castles" Jason Pressler
Third Place **WOWT** "VA Tech Bells" John Chapman, Roger Hamer

Website

First Place **KPTM** www.kptm.com Brian Mattix; Bob Worthington, KPTM staff
Comment: Site looks nice and having the weather prominently displayed on the top of the home page is good. My only annoyance was that the site is incredibly long, so you have to scroll forever to find something. If it's something that can be accessed through the main menu, you could lose the home page content and either use the menu or use keywords. The video player is nice and has a clear picture. The weather page was nice, but again very long. The radars are below the fold and there are several, which could be displayed in one, small space instead of the long format. Nice site!

Television Division 2

Spot News

First Place **KLKN** "Von Maur Shooting" Melissa Fry

Comment: Really felt the emotion of the story. Great use of sound bites to tell such a wonderful story.

Second Place **KOLN/KGIN TV** "Storm Damage" Team

Third Place **KLKN** "Holdredge Ice Storm" Erin Steinbruchel, Keith Stueven

Comment: Good storytelling. Well shot

General News

First Place **KOLN/KGIN** "Waiting for their Soldiers" Kiki Nichols

Comment: Great video of something rarely seen

Second Place **KLKN** "Jena Vangronigen" Melissa Fry

Comment: Good natural sounds. Great use of sound bits, to tell the story

Third Place **KMEG** "Fired UP" Michelle Stuhr, Clink Jiras

Honorable Mention **KNOP** "Eagles Released" Holly Carlini

Feature

First Place **KPTH** "Templeton Rye" Steve Long, Jared Rose

Comment: Great story telling and use of natural sounds. Had fun watching the story, outstanding!

Second Place **KMEG** "Operation Zawadi" Sarah TeSlaa, Kevin Jacobsen

Comment: A touching story well-told!

Third Place **KMEG** "Accordion Club" Michelle Stuhr, Clint Jiras

Comment: Great use of natural sounds. Photography and editing very good. Reporter had strong writing and you could tell she was having fun with the story.

HM **KPTH** "The Iguana" Steve Long, Jared Rose

Comment: Strong writing and use of natural sounds.

Agriculture

First Place **KOLN/KGIN TV** "Life on the Ranch" Lance Schwartz

Second Place **NTV** "Record Corn Crop" Steve White

Third Place **KMEG** "Farm Focus" Dennis Morrice, Brenda Murphy

Newscast

First Place **KLKN**

Second Place **KHAS-TV**

Third Place **KOLN/KGIN**

Investigative

First Place **NTV** "Amber Alert Problems" Jake Wasikowski

Second Place **KOLN/KGIN** "Nebraska's Broken Bridges" Jason Volentine, Nick Steffens

Third Place **KOLN/KGIN** "Prostitution Problem" David Jespersen

Series

First Place **NTV** "Ice Crisis Special" NTV News Staff

Comment: Nice production. Great job telling the story. Also, crews did a terrific job finding interesting stories Overall, a super job.

Second Place **KOLN/KGIN** "Katrina's Angels" Brad Penner Lance Schwartz

Comment: Great stories, well shot, well told.

Third Place **KHAS-TV** "When Eating is the Enemy" Corinne Hautala

Sports Special

First Place **KOLN/KGIN** "N-Report Pre-Season Special" Kevin Sjuts Dan Hedman

Comment: Well produced, fast moving/good profile. Anchors did a great job from the field delivering the show.

Second Place **KLKN** "USC/Nebraska Pre-game Show" Jon Wofford, Dave Hunt, Keith Stueven

Comment: Good job of stoking the excitement, even though we already knew the outcome! Lots of video to move the show along.

Third Place **KNOP** "March Madness" Joe Swift, Mark Boyle, Kent Winder, Jacque Harms

Comment: Well-produced, mostly high energy & fast moving, with a touching devotion to high school sports

Sportscast

First Place **KHAS-TV** Ed Littler

Second Place **KOLN** Kevin Sjuts

Sports Story

First Place **KHAS-TV** "Racewalker" Dennis Kellogg Richard Tolson

Comment: Overall great job! Reporter & photographer did a super job explaining a sport that most people probably don't understand.

Second Place **KMEG** "Nebraska Walk On" Travis Morgan, Jared Rose

Third Place **KLKN** "John Krejci-69 yr old ice skater with Cancer" Jon Wofford, Keith Stueven

Videography

First Place **KLKN** "ROTC" Keith Stueven, Jon Jordan

Second Place **KLKN** "State Theater" Jon Jordan, Keith Stueven

Third Place **KTIV** "Remembering Veterans" Melissa Lanzourakis

HM **KHAS-TV** "Vietnam memorial Moving Wall" Richard Tolson

Weathercast

First Place **KMEG** "First Storm of the Season" Chad Sandwell

Second Place **KLKN** Kevin Coskren

Third Place **KOLN/KGIN** Ken Siemek

HM **KLKN** Wes Callison

Website

First Place **KOLN/KGIN TV** www.kolnkgin.com

Comment: Nice weather page. I like being able to have everything right there in front of me with links to the radar, forecast, etc. I liked the Pinpoint Weather On-Demand feature as well as the drop down menu allowing me to choose the current conditions for a particular area. I think the headlines on the home page could use some work, maybe with larger images. Overall nice work.

Second Place **KHAS-TV** www.khastv.com Julie Tork

Comment: A little slow in loading. It might be the ticker across the top, but don't know. Nice video feature on the home page. Doesn't look like one I've seen before. I also like having weather prominently

displayed on the home page. On the weather page, nice large and clear radar image. The links to the other images however open in a pop-up window, which could turn off some visitors. Good job with the video forecast on the weather page as well.

Third Place **NTV** www.nebraska.tv

Comment: Loads a little slow, but really nice look. I like sites that have the video player on the home page and the video starts quickly. The weather page was nice, but you have to scroll down below the fold to see the radars. There are also several weather graphics -- so many it's easy to get lost in the sheer number of them.

HM **KNOP**

Comment: Webcast autoplay may keep some people away. If you're going to autoplay, you might set the audio to about 20-25 percent so it's not so jarring. The sports page was out of date (today is Tuesday and the top sports story is 'Saturday Prep Scores'). Nice large radar on the weather page, although it's a bit distorted because it's being stretched to fit. In fact, some of the regular news images are stretched as well, which makes them look a bit silly. Overall a nice website however.