

# Nebraska AP News and Photo Contest 2008

## Division 1

### Spot News

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "Credibility was Costliest Loss" Omaha World Herald Staff  
*Comments: Extradinary 1st day coverage-- especially notable for obvious coordination between news and sports and photos! Yay! To the administration that allowed this story to spreadout. The inside sports stories added layers of coverage. And the layout really showcased the coverage.*

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "It Happened to Us" Omaha World Herald Staff  
*Comments: Really impressive first day coverage. Especially laudable to have the shooter's story. Interesting choice to put a colum on the front--shows a sense of unity with residents and the city. Good graphics to give context- nice variety of photos. Very cool thumbsnails of eye witness comments-- kind of a web thing in print. First rate commitment to first rate coverage. This a wow.*

Third Place **Norfolk Daily News** "400 Homes Damaged" Norfolk Daily News Staff  
*Comments: Good combination of types of stories--newsy mainbar, good reaction story, nice feature on the 17 yr old. As someone who didn't read the lead up in previous days, I'd have liked a little more background higher in the stories, but overall a good response to a major disaster.*

### Feature

First Place **Kearney Hub** "Dennis Lewis: Smart, Enigmatic..." Kim Schmidt  
*Comments: Every town has colorful characters like Dennis. Not often does a reporter take the time to find out about them. This was an interesting read.*

Second Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "A lifetime revealed in writing" Brian Christopherson  
*Comments: Interesting topic. Well written. "A bombshell squeezed between table setting and passing the ketchup." -- wonderful.*

Third Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "A good brother, a good son" Don Walton  
Honorable Mention **Lincoln Journal Star** "Zach and the Reading Thrones" Cindy Lange-Kubick

### Enterprise

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "Irrigation Empire" David Hendee, Matt Miller  
*Comments: Outstanding work--well researched, well written & well presented. And definitely unreported otherwise.*

Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "Omaha in Black & Whites- Jobs" Henry Cordes, Erin Grace, Cindy Gonzalez  
*Comments: Terrific work & an interesting subject. Great example of what an enterprise package should be.*

Third Place **Omaha World Herald** "An Offramp to Nowhere" Joe Dejka, C. David Kotok

Honorable Mention **Norfolk Daily News** "River walk- Norfolk's next big splash?" Norfolk Daily News Staff  
*Comments: This is a first place entry in many contests. It had the misfortune of being up against spectacular entries in this one.*

### **Continuing Coverage**

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "Von Maur Shooting" Omaha World Herald Staff

*Comments: This is as close as it get to 'seamless' reporting on a continues basis. Outstanding reporting, tremendous graphics and art, beautiful displays. This is a wonderful effort on a horrific event in the history of your city, your state. Congratulations on a job extremely well done.*

Second Place **The Grand Island Independent** "Ice storm; power outage" Tracy Overstreet, Mark Coddington, Robert Pore, Harold Reutter, Sarah Schulz, Mike Bockoven

*Comments: Great job of carrying your readers through this prolonged hardship. Surely your coverage helped all who were affected.*

Third Place **Norfolk Daily News** "One more shot" Kathryn Harris and Trisha Schulz

*Comments: Courageous, straight forward reporting, combined with solid overall writing, photos/graphics. Lessons to be learned.*

Honorable Mention **Lincoln Journal Star** "UNL Research Park" Melissa Lee and Jean Ortiz

*Comments: Solid reporting, good art, good presentation. Made it worth the time spent with the topic.*

### **News Column**

First Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Von Maur Shootings: Seeking to honor his dad's memory"

Cindy Lange-Kubick

*Comments: Several columns were submitted on the mall shooting. All were very good, but this one stands out because it told a story through the words of a victim's son. Allowing him to speak instead of speaking for him makes the column more poignant. The 19 yrs old who lost his father and is trying to create some good from the tragedy is moving. His voice helps speak for all victims.*

Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "Snow falls on haves and have nots" Robert Nelson

*Comments: Columist uses vignettes to tell the story of how a snowy day affected the lives of several individuals, including the homeless. The vignettes tell the plight of the homeless and how others spend the day, including how some help with donations to a food pantry. the columnist gets his point across without being preachy.*

Third Place **Omaha World Herald** "Morton's hatred too easily forgotten" Robert Nelson

*Comments: Good job of bringing history alive; reminds readers not to take things on face value. There is another story to the history of Arbor Day.*

Honorable Mention **The Grand Island Independent** "Lincoln letter will carry all our names"

George Ayoub

*Comments: Good job of being an advocate for your community. While chastising state government, also shows the power of a community paper can assert. Column gives community a greater voice.*

### **Sports Story**

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "Osborne on call" Dirk Chatelain

*Comments: Terrific lead and details. Really set the scene for Osborne's first day. Love the "past a statue of himself" detail. Fantastic story. Great humor and insight. I found absolutely nothing wrong with this story.*

Second Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Jitter Bugs Reborn" Brian Christopherson

*Comments: Great story telling. Terrific humor. Loved the subject matter. Could've used a breakout on history to make it perfectly clear how the group first formed. Good job.*

Third Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Callahan Fired" Brian Christopherson

*Comments: Loved the details-"Nebraskas learned closer to their readios." Few style errors "less" instead of "fever," but very clean writing. The main nutgraph is delayed to the 10th paragraph. But overall very good. P.S. people are "who," not "that!" I saw that a few times in this paper.*

Honorable Mention **Omaha World Herald** "Small Ball" Dirk Chatelain

*Comments: Great idea for a story. Great details. I thought the arrangement could be better-- Five-on-four detail higher, for example. Maybe could've used graphic explaining decline? Those details somewhat lost in text. But great writing.*

### **Sports Enterprise**

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "2007 NCAA Men's Tournament Guide" Steve Pivovar, Dave Elsesser, Rebecca Gratz, Kent Sievers

*Comments: The cover was unique and eye-catching- a very interesting way to illustrate a team's 180-degree turn. It obviously took some thought and advance planning. Only criticism: On first inspection, it's a little hard to tell that it's an NCAA preview section. The content was super. It had all the information you would want about the tournament and about Creighton's chances to win. Additionally, the section introduced you to Creighton's players with quick reads. The photography on those players profiles was super. It looks like the players had fun with it, which translates to the reader.*

Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "2007 College Football Section" Omaha World Herald Staff

*Comments: This section did a thorough job of giving good information on the football season. Then it went a step further, offering a behind-the-scenes look at one of college football's great programs. I thought there were some really good touches. The introduction to some fans that are highly recognizable was fun. I also thought the actual size of the shoe and the receiver's hand were good, too. I wonder how many readers put their hand on the page to compare sizes. I did.*

Third Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Star Gazing" Clark Grell, Steven M. Sipple, Brian Rosenthal, Curt McKeever, Todd Hearichs, Brian Christopherson, Karl Vogel

*Comments: The section offers a thorough look at the upcoming football season. The cover photo and inside photos that of other players considered for the cover shot were eye-catching. The preview page of each opponent was well designed. There was a lot of information, but those pages were easy to navigate. I thought the theme was good, but I thought it was taken a little far at times (the moon phases, the asteroid art)*

### **Sports Column**

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "Mall Tragedy Puts Sports in Proper Place" Tom Shatel

*Comments: Nice column about a small world. Puts a face with shooting to make readers better relate.*

Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "NU's Pedersen builds fortress" Tom Shatel

*Comments: Normally wouldn't give 1st and 2nd to the same person but it is well deserved in this situation. Nice insight on what happened when AD goes into lock-down mode.*

Third Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Limping home" Steven M. Sipple

*Comments: Nice insight and details*

Honorable Mention **Lincoln Journal Star** "Crowd Pleaser" Todd Henrichs

*Comments: Nice column on a "less" covered sport for other areas. Grandma Polly gives the column a pleasant "face."*

## **Layout and Design**

First Place **Omaha World Herald** Omaha World Herald Staff

*Comments: Engaging design, compelling headlines of varying sizes, numerous entry points, consistent design throughout the paper*

Second Place **Lincoln Journal Star** Lincoln Journal Star Staff

Third Place **The Grand Island Independent** "The Grand Island Independent Staff

## **Spot News Photo**

First Place **The Grand Island Independent** "A final farewell" Barrett Stinson

*Comments: An emotional and tender moment from a difficult assignment. The grief on the young widowed mother face is heartbreaking.*

Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "Mall Shooting" Kiley Cruse

*Comments: Good faces on shoppers, indicating the severity of the event. Cleanly shot and good moment of a tough situation to logistically cover.*

Third Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Greensbury Devastation" Gwyneth Roberts

*Comments: This photo captures the enormous amount of loss, both physical and mental. The look on the woman's face shows despair and incredulity.*

Honorable Mention **Omaha World Herald** "Bad Mad Cow" Kiley Cruse

*Comments: Good story telling photojournalism that doesn't need words to describe what is happening.*

## **Feature Photo**

First Place **Norfolk Daily News** "Sugar Rush" Darin Epperly

*Comments: This is a classic feature photo. The photographer was ready. This photo didn't rely on gimmicks, just a good moment.*

Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "Branding" Matt Miller

*Comments: Beautiful photo that proves that there is a place for pretty pictures in news photography.*

Third Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Wrapped in Glory" Robert Becker

*Comments: Nice moment that made us find out what was going on in the photo. Would benefit from a better caption.*

Honorable Mention **Lincoln Journal Star** "Prayer Circle" Dan Eldridge

*Comments: A wonderful photo that needed to be recognized.*

## **Photo Essay**

First Place **The Grand Island Independent** "Closing the book" Scott Kingsley

*Comments: Great story packed with emotion and some really nice shots. Terrific variety of photographs that transport the reader into the story.*

Second Place **The Grand Island Independent** "Cancer stories" Scott Kingsley

*Comments: Awesom black & white photographs of cancer survivors. Very nice.*

Third Place **The Grand Island Independent** "The Will of a Fighter" Scott Kingsley

*Comments: Nice execution and good story.*

Honorable Mention **Lincoln Journal Star** "Prison Dogs" Michele Le

*Comments: Good story. Well executed, despite having the photographer's shadow prominently displayed on one of the photos. Lack of emotion from inmates held this entry back.*

Honorable Mention **Lincoln Journal Star** "All-State Reflections" Michael Paulsen  
*Comments: Beautiful portraits. Unfortunately, as a photo essay, it fell flat with the lack of any discernible passion from the subjects.*

### **Sports Photo**

First Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "In Your Face" Michael McNamara  
Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "Mutton busted" Jeff Beiermann  
Third Place **Kearney Hub** "Ice Melt" Rick Tucker  
Honorable Mention **Omaha World Herald** "Diving Danny" Kent Sievers

### **Sports Feature**

First Place **Omaha World Herald** "Dog Pile" Alyssa Schukar  
Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "What a Doll" Jeff Beiermann  
Third Place **Norfolk Daily News** "Hug from Father" Jeremy Buss  
Honorable Mention **Omaha World Herald** "Alone in a sea of blue" Matt Miller

### **Graphics**

First Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "Lasik- Seeing Clearly" Kim Stolzer  
Second Place **Omaha World Herald** "Osbourne Complex Cutaway" Matt Haney  
Third Place **Lincoln Journal Star** "A Day at the Drags" Sheila Story  
Honorable Mention **Omaha World Herald** "Trophy Territory" Dean Weinlaub

### **Web Site**

First Place [The Grand Island Independent](#) The Grand Island Independent Staff  
*Comments: Nice, clean layout. Love the video features/newslink, even sports videos. Together with blogs/forums; you have a truly interactive site- I'm envious!*

Second Place [Lincoln Journal Star](#) Steve Smith  
*Comments: Easily navigable. Like the 'man on the street' video interviews. Comprehensive package.*

Third Place [York News-Times](#) Lloyd Armbrust  
*Comments: Like videos--production value on some could improve (both audio and video quality). "York coupons.com" house ad is a bit intrusive at times.*

Honorable Mention [Norfolk Daily News](#) Sarah Pinkelman  
*Comments: layout appears confining. Would like to see more/bigger photos to capture attention. Colorful graphics-yes, but no replacement for good photos/video teasers.*

## **Division 2**

### **Spot News**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "Explosion rocks family" Russ Krebs  
*Comments: The writer does what journalists should: Tells a story and makes the reader feel the emotion upheaval of this tragic event. This story crackles with real-life drama and is written with style and compassion. Cudos for a job well done.*

Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "All Eyes on the River" Don Bowen & Russ Krebs  
*Comments: Solid spot news reporting. Good story structure and use of actualities. The quotes drive the story instead of just filling space.*

Third Place **Beatrice Daily Sun** "Home to a Hero's Welcome" Joelyn Hansen and Keith Rydberg  
*Comments: Good community journalism. Writers took what could have been a cookie cutter welcome home story and gave it plenty of life and local color.*

Honorable Mention **York News-Times** "Crash" Melanie Wilkinson  
*Comments: The entire package-story, photos, layout--makes for a good romp through and action-packed event. Lede could have been stronger and a few more quotes from people on scene would have helped.*

### **Feature**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "Courage Under Fire" Tammy Real-McKeighan  
*Comments: Nice storytelling. You did a good job of putting us in Sgt. Jensen's place, or at least alongside him. Your work stood out from the others in this category.*

Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "From Fremont to NFL Primetime" Tammy Greunke  
*Comments: Good job explaining the subject's work and using anecdotes that help the reader understand her experience.*

Third Place **Alliance Times Herald** "Wartime Memories" Amber Ningen  
*Comments: Good job taking your readers back in time to a time we shouldn't forget.*

### **Enterprise**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "A life lost and spared" Russ Krebs  
*Comments: This was an excellent job of bringing life to a story of sadness and one of gratitude. It is captivating, was well written and Mr. Krebs did a great job with his interviews where it all begins.*

### **Continuing Coverage**

First Place **York News-Times** "Vets Flap" Melanie Wilkinson  
*Comments: The series was great in covering all angles of the story--from the commissioners to the officer to veterans. This issue is obviously important to the paper's readership and the writer and staff recognized that. The debate layout under the headline on the Oct. 24 issue is also commendable in preparing the reader & sparking the reader's interest. The issue maybe rather complicated, however, Ms. Wilkinson did a great job in providing understanding of the topic. The only suggestion I would make is to save the detail review of the issues for the end of the story rather than immediately following the lede graph. Great Job York News Times!*

Second Place **York News-Times** "No Greater Love" Melanie Wilkinson, Marcia Schlegelmilch, Steve Mosseley, Kerri Pankrate and staff  
*Comments: The writer keeps the readers informed about what is next in the final plans for this young soldier. Through quotes from his family and friends the readers become acquainted with him, and feel the loss of the community at his death.*

Third Place **Fremont Tribune** "On the frontlines fighting sexual assault" Tammy Real-McKeighan  
*Comments: The articles gave great information on what really happens with evidence from a crime. Layout with pull out information boxes were helpful to the reader. Overall, news you can use!*

### **News Column**

First Place **York News-Times** "Just enough room" Melanie Wilkinson  
*Comments: What a wonderful piece! This was absolutely captivating-- it almost brought me to tears. I felt like I was right there at the funeral itself and could just visualize what was taking place. Great job. One of the best I've ever seen.*

Second Place **York News-Times** "Dear mom" Greg Awty  
*Comments: Nice job of writing and close to the winner in this category. Felt like writer did a good job of bringing home his deep and heartfelt feelings for his mom.*

Third Place **York News-Times** "Along came a spider" Steve Moseley  
*Comments: This was pretty well done. But I thought I became a little too wordy and writer bogs down--could have been crisper writing for a really cute subject.*

### **Sports Story**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "Making His Pitch" Brent Wasenius  
Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "Spinning his way to success" Brent Wasenius

### **Sports Enterprise**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "Football '07" Tribune Sports staff  
Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "Tip off 2007" Tribune Sports staff

### **Sports Column**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "Bidding a fond farewell to Nebraska football" Brent Wasenius  
*Comments: Read well, good use of humor. Bold stance to take against state's top sports team.*

Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "Letterman's alma mater makes NU a running joke" Brent Wasenius  
*Comments: Strong style. Writer pulls no punches. Shows good insight into future of athletic director*

Third Place **York News-Times** "Much Agony, No Ecstasy" Steve Moseley  
*Comments: Strong concise writing style. Very readable. Connects well with audience.*

### **Sports Column**

Honorable Mention **York News-Times** "Found what I'm looking for-" Stephen Colwell  
*Comments: Interesting read. Shows great potential. Sounds excited about line of work. Could have been more descriptive overall.*

### **Spot News Photo**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "House Fire" Chris Bristol  
Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "Waiting for an ID" Tony Gray  
Third Place **York News-Times** "Collision sends two to hospital" Melanie Wilkinson

### **Feature Photo**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "State Lakes Fun" Matt Gade  
Second Place **Alliance Times Herald** "Fruits of Partnership" Rachel Gonzalez  
Third Place **York News-Times** "Faces" Steve Moseley

### **Photo Essay**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "John C Fremont Days" Matt Gade  
*Comments: Good variety of shots from the festival, although back page layout didn't do your photos any favors. Cowboy silhouette nice shot.*

Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "Behind the Scenes with Bergan" Evan Nordstrom  
*Comments: Good idea! I'm sure pace is a problem at the Tribune (like every other newspaper) but would have liked to see the shots no one ever sees--lockerroom with coach giving his speech or dejected players.*

Third Place **Fremont Tribune** "Fair Play" Tony Gray  
*Comments: "Through the mask" shot shows originality. Photos(s) of umps at ta real game would have added tremendously to the essay, and possibly made it the winner*

### **Sport Photo**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "Allie Rippe" Matt Gade

*Comments: This is an eye-catching shot, nice use of motion blur with rear curtain sync. It captures the subject's toughness and aggressiveness and really matches the written story. A perfect photo for this sort of feature. You could come up on your midtones, though. Also, good job by the editor who gave this non-traditional photo the thumbs up.*

Second Place **York News-Times** "Dukes Advance" Steve Moseley

*Comments: This is a pretty nice basketball shot. It captures really nice action and is well exposed and composed, although I think you could have cropped higher. If you've lost the feet, you as well cut 'em off at the knees.*

Third Place **York News-Times** "Championship Point" Stephen Colwell

*Comments: Viscerally, this photo is a B-minus. For capturing the moment, it's an A plus. Also, good job differentiating those twins.*

### **Sports Feature Photo**

First Place **Fremont Tribune** "Fremont Celebration" Evan Nordstrom

Second Place **Fremont Tribune** "Coaching Celebration" Matt Gade

### **Graphics**

First Place **York News-Times** "YPS Budget" Kerri Pankratz

Second Place **York News-Times** "Salary" Kerri Pankratz

### **Web Site**

First Place [Fremont Tribune](#) Toni Sorensen

*Comments: Excellent local content, nice clean layout, photo galleries is a nice feature*

### **Layout and Design**

First Place **Fremont Tribune**

*Comments: Clean design, attractive teasers, numerous entry points, effective use of art*

Second Place **York News-Times** Kerri Pankratz