

MIP

MISSOURI PRESS
NEWS

Congratulations 2025 Better Newspaper Contest Award Winners



2025 Photo of the Year | **Emily Curiel** | *The Kansas City Star* | **Best Sports Photo**

REGULAR FEATURES

President	2
Calendar	3
Obituaries	16
Exec. Direc.	17
Dan Curry	18



Congratulations

2025



GOLD CUP WINNERS

Weeklies

Class 1

Cassville Democrat

Class 2

Springfield Business Journal

Class 3

Washington Missourian

Dailies

Class 4

Columbia Missourian

Class 5

The Kansas City Star.

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Congratulations to Missouri Press' 2025 Better Newspaper Contest winners!

Weeklies — Class 1

General Excellence

Cassville Democrat

Tribune and Times, Harrisonville

Edina Sentinel

Best Overall Design

Staff - *Maryville Forum*

Mike Scott - *Kahoka Media*

Staff - *Maries County Advocate*

Best Front Page

Staff - *Maries County Advocate, Belle*

Staff - *Tribune and Times, Harrisonville*

Staff - *Maryville Forum*

Best Page Design

Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Jon Dykstra - *Maryville Forum*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Breaking News Story

Geoffrey Woehlk and Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Jimmy Gillispie - *Tribune and Times, Harrisonville*

Amanda Lubinski - *Courier-Tribune, Liberty*

Best News Story

Echo Menges - *Edina Sentinel*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Feature Story

Geoffrey Woehlk - *Maryville Forum*

Dennis Minich - *Tribune and Times, Harrisonville*

Colin Willard -

Maries County Advocate, Belle

Best News or Feature Series

Colin Willard -

Maries County Advocate, Belle

Paxson Haws and Geoffrey Woehlk - *Maryville Forum*

Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Best Sports News Story or Package

Kory Hales - *Focus on Oak Grove*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Wesley Miller - *Courier-Tribune, Liberty*

Best Sports Feature Story

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Lilly Goss - *Fulton Sun*

Emily O'Leary - *Fulton Sun*

Best Editorial

Mike Scott - *Kahoka Media*



Above, Tawnie Wilson with the *Springfield Business Journal* won first place in Best Feature Photograph for mid-size weeklies with this shot from Dolly Parton's Stampede in Branson. On the cover, Emily Curiel and *The Kansas City Star* won first place in Best Sports Photo for large dailies and received this year's Photo of the Year award, as well. Judges for the Photo of the Year said the 2025 Better Newspaper Contest photography winners represented fine storytelling through dramatic images, but Curiel's shot embodied a "peak moment." Curiel's picture is "such a decisive moment with a ballet composition that is equally artistic and storytelling," according to judges' comments.

Staff - *Maryville Forum*

Staff - *Maryville Forum*

Best Serious Columnist

Jordan Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Dennis Minich - *Tribune and Times, Harrisonville*

Best News Photograph

Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Jimmy Gillispie - *Tribune and Times, Harrisonville*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Feature Photograph

Kory Hales - *Focus on Oak Grove*

Jimmy Gillispie - *Tribune and Times, Harrisonville*

Echo Menges - *Edina Sentinel*

Best Sports Photograph

Marlana Smith - *Shelby County Herald*

Jacob Warden -

Maries County Advocate, Belle

Will Johnson -

Maries County Advocate, Belle

Best Sports Feature Photograph

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Jimmy Gillispie - *Tribune and Times, Harrisonville*

Jon Dykstra - *Maryville Forum*

Best Photo Package

Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Community Service

Echo Menges - *Edina Sentinel*

Staff - *Cassville Democrat*

Echo Menges - *Edina Sentinel*

Best Special Section, Magazine or Alternative Publication

Staff - *Courier-Tribune, Liberty*

Kyle Troutman and Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Jordan Troutman and Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Investigative Reporting

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Business Story

Emily O'Leary - *Fulton Sun*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Emily O'Leary - *Fulton Sun*

Best Story About Government

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Geoffrey Woehlk - *Maryville Forum*

Continued on Page 8

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Election Story

Emily O'Leary - *Fulton Sun*

Amanda Lubinski - *Courier-Tribune, Liberty*

Emily O'Leary - *Fulton Sun*

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture

Emily Bontrager - *Kahoka Media*

Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Murray Bishoff - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Story About Religion

Colin Willard - *Maries County Advocate, Belle*

Skye Pournazari - *Maryville Forum*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Story About Education

Ruth Ann Hafner - *Focus on Oak Grove*

Mike Scott - *Kahoka Media*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Story About the Outdoors

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Story About History

Emily O'Leary - *Fulton Sun*

Colin Willard - *Maries County Advocate, Belle*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Military Story

Geoffrey Woehlk - *Maryville Forum*

Geoffrey Woehlk - *Maryville Forum*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Health Story

Jordan Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Roxie Murphy - *Maries County Advocate, Belle*

Sheila Harris - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Headline Writing

Staff - *Cassville Democrat*

Staff - *Maryville Forum*

Echo Menges - *Edina Sentinel*

Weeklies — Class 2

General Excellence

Ozark County Times, Gainesville

Warren County Record, Warrenton

Gasconade County Republican, Owensville



Kory Hales captured this moment of celebration for the *Focus on Oak Grove* as the local high school's softball team celebrates a state championship. The photo won Best Feature Photograph for Class 1 weeklies.

Best Overall Design

Staff - *Springfield Business Journal*

Staff - *Gasconade County Republican, Owensville*

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal, Mountain Grove*

Best Front Page

Tim Schmidt - *Warren County Record, Warrenton*

Staff - *Ozark County Times, Gainesville*

Staff - *Springfield Business Journal*

Best Page Design

Heather Mosley - *Springfield Business Journal*

Rebecca Green - *Springfield Business Journal*

Rebecca Green - *Springfield Business Journal*

Best Breaking News Story

Geoff Pickle - *Springfield Business Journal*

Karen Craigo and Geoff Pickle -

Springfield Business Journal

Isaiah Buse - *Houston Herald*

Best News Story

Hannah Spaar and Melody Cook - *The Odessan*

Jack Underwood - *Warren County Record, Warrenton*

Neal A. Johnson and Elise Brochu -

Unterrified Democrat, Linn

Best Feature Story

Christine Temple - *Springfield Business Journal*

Karen Craigo - *Springfield Business Journal*

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal, Mountain Grove*

Best News or Feature Series

Sue Ann Jones - *Ozark County Times, Gainesville*

Staff - *Springfield Business Journal*

Karen Craigo - *Springfield Business Journal*

Best Sports News Story or Package

Jack Denebeim - *Sedalia Democrat*

Joe Andrews - *Warrensburg Star-Journal*

Joe Andrews - *Warrensburg Star-Journal*

Best Sports Feature Story

Sam MacPherson - *Wright County Journal, Mountain Grove*

Jack Denebeim - *Sedalia Democrat*

Joe Andrews - *Warrensburg Star-Journal*

Continued on Page 9



Skye Pournazari captured first in the small weeklies' Best News Photograph competition for the *Maryville Forum* with this eerie image of a firefighter watching a structure fire.

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Editorial

Amanda Mendez - *Howell County News*, Willow Springs

Amanda Mendez - *Howell County News*, Willow Springs

Hannah Spaar - *The Odessan*

Best Serious Columnist

Patrik Andrews-Ryan -

Morgan County Statesman, Versailles
Bryan E. Jones -

Morgan County Statesman, Versailles
Doug Davison - *Houston Herald*

Best News Photograph

Dave Marner - *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Michael Boyd Jr. -

Ste. Genevieve Herald

Best Feature Photograph

Tawnie Wilson -

Springfield Business Journal

Rebecca Green -

Springfield Business Journal

Heather Mosley -

Springfield Business Journal

Best Sports Photograph

Doug Davison - *Houston Herald*

Kory Hales - *The Odessan*

Will Johnson - *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville



Dave Marner focuses in on a firefighter working a structure fire, winning first place in Best News Photograph for the *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville, a Class 2 weekly.

Best Sports Feature Photograph

Kacey Blunk - *Howell County News*, Willow Springs

Neal A. Johnson -

Unterrified Democrat, Linn

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Best Photo Package

Dave Marner - *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville

Dave Marner - *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville

Doug Davison and Jeff McNiell - *Houston Herald*

Best Special Section, Magazine or Alternative Publication

Staff - *Houston Herald*

Staff - *Ozark County Times*, Gainesville
Democrat and Star-Journal Staff -

Sedalia Democrat

Best Investigative Reporting

Melody Cook and Hannah Spaar - *The Odessan*

Amanda Mendez - *Howell County News*, Willow Springs

Amanda Mendez - *Howell County News*, Willow Springs

Best Business Story

Mike Cullinan -

Springfield Business Journal

Jessi Dreckman -

Ozark County Times, Gainesville

Karen Craigo -

Springfield Business Journal

Best Story About Government

Karen Craigo -

Springfield Business Journal

Hannah Spaar and Melody Cook - *The Odessan*

Jack Underwood -

Warren County Record, Warrenton

Best Election Story

Karen Craigo -

Springfield Business Journal

Hannah Spaar - *The Odessan*

Elise Brochu -

Unterrified Democrat, Linn

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture

Elise Brochu and Dennis Warden - *Gasconade Co. Republican*, Owensville

Jessi Dreckman -

Ozark County Times, Gainesville

Neal A. Johnson -

Unterrified Democrat, Linn

Best Story About Religion

Sue Ann Jones - *Ozark County Times*, Gainesville



Marlana Smith nabbed this shot of an incredible catch and won first in Best Sports Photograph for small weeklies for the *Shelby County Herald*.

Karen Craigo -

Springfield Business Journal

Chris Howell - *Sedalia Democrat*

Best Story About Education

Karen Craigo -

Springfield Business Journal

Mike Cullinan -

Springfield Business Journal

Isaiah Buse - *Houston Herald*

Best Story About the Outdoors

Mike Cullinan -

Springfield Business Journal

Jessi Dreckman -

Ozark County Times, Gainesville

Sam MacPherson - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Best Story About History

Elise Brochu - *Unterrified Democrat*, Linn

Roxie Murphy and Dave Marner - *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville

Sam MacPherson - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Best Military Story

Sue Ann Jones -

Ozark County Times, Gainesville

Melody Cook - *The Odessan*

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Continued on Page 10

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Health Story

Sue Ann Jones - *Ozark County Times*,
Gainesville

Jessi Dreckman - *Ozark County Times*,
Gainesville

Sam MacPherson - *Wright County Journal*,
Mountain Grove

Weeklies — Class 3

Best Overall Design

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Kevin Murphy -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Stephanie Schumer-Vandeven -

Mid America Farmer-Grower

Best Front Page

Mike Terhaar - *St. Louis American*

Kevin Murphy -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Staff - *Washington Missourian*

Best Editorial and

Opinion Pages

Staff - *Washington Missourian*

Steve Taylor and Kimberly Mathis -

Jefferson County Leader

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Best Sports Pages

Mike Terhaar - *St. Louis American*

Bill Battle and Arron Husted -

Washington Missourian

Best Page Design

Melvin Moore - *St. Louis American*

Lori Obermark and Dan Claxton -

Washington Missourian

Lindsay Recar -

Jefferson County Leader

Best Breaking News Story

Melissa Wilkinson -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Christopher Parker -

Washington Missourian

Tony Krausz - *Jefferson County Leader*

Best News Story

Abby Stetina -

Jefferson County Leader

Christopher Parker -

Washington Missourian

Brandi Schubert -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Best Feature Story

Barbara Fawver -

Jefferson County Leader

Miki McKee Koelsch -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Best News or Feature Series

Brandi Schubert -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Tony Krausz - *Arnold-Imperial Leader*



Ursula Ruhl won first in Best Feature Photograph for large weeklies with this back-to-school shot from the *Webster-Kirkwood Times*.

Geoff Folsom -

Washington Missourian

Best Sports News Story or Package

Arron Husted -

Washington Missourian

Arron Husted -

Washington Missourian

Bill Battle - *Washington Missourian*

Best Sports Feature Story

Dan Claxton - *Washington Missourian*

Miki McKee Koelsch -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Russell Korando -

Jefferson County Leader

Best Editorial

AJ Fahr - *Branson Tri-Lake News*

Dorri Partain -

Kansas City Northeast News

Bill Miller Jr. - *Washington Missourian*

Best Serious Columnist

Jason Wert - *Branson Tri-Lake News*

Kevin Carbery -

Jefferson County Leader

Peggy Bess - *Jefferson County Leader*

Best Sports Columnist

Russell Korando -

Jefferson County Leader

Bill Battle - *Washington Missourian*

Alvin A. Reid - *St. Louis American*

Best News Photograph

Wanda Parsons -

Washington Missourian

Ursula Ruhl -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Eileen Wisniowicz -

Washington Missourian

Best Feature Photograph

Ursula Ruhl -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Eileen Wisniowicz -

Washington Missourian

Ursula Ruhl -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Best Photo Illustration

Eileen Wisniowicz -

Washington Missourian

Eileen Wisniowicz -

Washington Missourian

Lindsay Recar -

Jefferson County Leader

Continued on Page 11



Doug Davison slid into a first place Best Sports Photograph win for the *Houston Herald* with this shot.

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Photo Package

Ursula Ruhl -
Webster-Kirkwood Times

Ursula Ruhl -
Webster-Kirkwood Times

Bill Battle and Arron Husted -
Washington Missourian

Best Special Section, Magazine or Alternative Publication

Staff - *Washington Missourian*
EllieAna Hale, Lillian Gibbs and
Michael Bushnell -

Kansas City Northeast News
Staff - *Webster-Kirkwood Times*

Best Investigative Reporting

Tony Krausz - *Arnold-Imperial Leader*
Kim Robertson -

Jefferson County Leader
Christopher Parker -

Washington Missourian

Best News or Feature Obituary

Laura Marlow -

Jefferson County Leader

Kim Robertson -

Jefferson County Leader

Bill Miller Jr. - *Washington Missourian*

Best Business Story

Christopher Parker -

Washington Missourian

Laura Marlow -

Jefferson County Leader

Kevin Carbery -

Jefferson County Leader

Best Story About Government

Abby Stetina -

Jefferson County Leader

Jonathan Riley -

Washington Missourian

Jonathan Riley -

Washington Missourian

Best Election Story

Melissa Wilkinson -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Brandi Schubert -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Kim Robertson and Abby Stetina -

Jefferson County Leader

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Christopher Parker -

Washington Missourian

Rob Mills -

Mid America Farmer-Grower

Best Story About Religion

Teresa Inserra -

Jefferson County Leader

Christopher Parker -



Arron Husted and the *Washington Missourian* won first place for Best Sports Feature Photograph with this picture of an enthusiastic baseball player.

Washington Missourian

Alvin A. Reid and Ashley Winters -

St. Louis American

Best Story About Education

Melissa Wilkinson -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Christopher Parker -

Washington Missourian

Melissa Wilkinson -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Best Story About the Outdoors

Kevin Carbery -

Jefferson County Leader

Dan Claxton -

Washington Missourian

Miki McKee Koelsch -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Best Story About History

Dan Claxton and Lori Obermark -

Washington Missourian

Dan Claxton, Eileen Wisniowicz and

Lori Obermark -

Washington Missourian

Laura Marlow -

Jefferson County Leader

Best Military Story

Dan Claxton and Lori Obermark -

Washington Missourian

Julie Brown Patton -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Julie Brown Patton -

Webster-Kirkwood Times

Best Health Story

Kevin Carbery -

Jefferson County Leader

Christopher Parker -

Washington Missourian

Teresa Inserra -

Jefferson County Leader

Best Story About Marginalized or Underrepresented Communities

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Christopher Parker and Eileen

Wisniowicz - *Washington Missourian*

Christopher Parker and Eileen

Wisniowicz - *Washington Missourian*

Best Online Newspaper or Website

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Staff - *Jefferson County Leader*

Staff - *Washington Missourian*

Multi-Media Reporting

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Eileen Wisniowicz and Lori Obermark

- *Washington Missourian*

Abby Stetina and Goldie Lowe -

Jefferson County Leader

Weeklies

Best Editorial and Opinion Pages

Staff - *Howell County News,*

Willow Springs

Staff - *Maryville Forum*

Staff - *The Odessan*

Continued on Page 12

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Sports Pages

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Jon Dykstra - *Maryville Forum*

Best Humorous Columnist

Doug Davison - *Houston Herald*

Dennis Minich - *Tribune and Times*, Harrisonville

Bryan E. Jones - *Morgan County Statesman*, Versailles

Best Sports Columnist

Doug Davison - *Houston Herald*

Will Johnson - *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville

Jimmy Gillispie - *Tribune and Times*, Harrisonville

Best Photo Illustration

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Ron Schott - *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove

Best News or Feature Obituary

Roxie Murphy - *Maries County Advocate*

Jessi Dreckman - *Ozark County Times*, Gainesville

Kellie Houx - *Courier-Tribune*, Liberty

Best Story About Marginalized or Underrepresented Communities

Karen Craigo - *Springfield Business Journal*

Melody Cook - *The Odessan*

Echo Menges - *Edina Sentinel*

Best Editorial Cartoon

Cody Taylor - *Jefferson County Leader*

Cody Taylor - *Jefferson County Leader*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Online Newspaper or Website

Staff - *Houston Herald*

Staff - *Maryville Forum*

Staff - *Warrensburg Star-Journal*

Multi-Media Reporting

Christine Temple and Tawnie Wilson -

Springfield Business Journal

Staff - *Houston Herald*

Kyle Troutman - *Cassville Democrat*

Best Reporting Using the Sunshine Law

Hannah Spaar and Melody Cook - *The Odessan*

Amanda Mendez - *Howell County News*, Willow Springs

Echo Menges - *Edina Sentinel*



Kyle Troutman captured this champion's exuberance and a first place win in the small weeklies division of Best Sports Feature Photograph for the *Cassville Democrat*.



Arron Hustead won first in Best Sports Photograph for the *Washington Missourian*.

Weeklies Classes 2 & 3

Community Service

Staff - *St. Louis American*

Staff - *Jefferson County Leader*

Staff - *Houston Herald*

Best Newspaper in Education Project

Tammy Witherspoon - *The Advertiser*, Eldon

Cathy Sewell - *St. Louis American*

Tammy Witherspoon - *The Advertiser*, Eldon

Best Information Graphic

Lori Obermark - *Washington Missourian*

Lori Obermark - *Washington Missourian*

Brad Gentry - *Houston Herald*

Best Headline Writing

Staff - *Springfield Business Journal*

Staff - *Jefferson County Leader*

Doug Davison - *Houston Herald*

Weeklies Class 3 and Dailies Class 4

General Excellence

Columbia Missourian

St. Louis American

Jefferson County Leader

Best Humorous Columnist

Peggy Bess - *Jefferson County Leader*

Jeff Fox - *Independence Examiner*

Kevin Carbery - *Jefferson County Leader*

Best Sports Photograph

Arron Hustead - *Washington Missourian*

Ron Rigdon - *Jefferson County Leader*

Vanina Dimitrova - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Sports Feature Photograph

Arron Hustead - *Washington Missourian*

Bill Battle - *Washington Missourian*

Jamie Maron - *Columbia Missourian*

Dailies — Class 4

Best Front Page

Staff - *Columbia Missourian*

Donna Farley - *Dexter Statesman*

Donna Farley - *Daily American Republic*, Poplar Bluff

Continued on Page 13

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!

Best Breaking News Story

Rudi Keller - *Missouri Independent*
Yasmeen Saadi -
Columbia Missourian

Anna Spoerre - *Missouri Independent*

Best News Story

Rebecca Rivas - *Missouri Independent*
Meg Cunningham -
The Kansas City Beacon

Annie Goldman and Anna Spidel -
Columbia Missourian

Best Feature Story

Anna Colletto - *Columbia Missourian*
Anna Spoerre - *Missouri Independent*
Briana Jordan - *Columbia Missourian*

Best News or Feature Series

Josh Merchant -
The Kansas City Beacon
Clara Bates - *Missouri Independent*
Rebecca Rivas - *Missouri Independent*

Best Serious Columnist

David Webber -
Columbia Missourian
Bridgette Dunlap -
Missouri Independent
Donna Farley -
Daily American Republic, Poplar Bluff

Best News Photograph

Sarah Voyles - *Columbia Missourian*
Rudi Keller - *Missouri Independent*
Cara Penquite - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Feature Photograph

Kyle Maki - *Columbia Missourian*
Catie Cobble - *Columbia Missourian*
Austin Johnson -
Columbia Missourian

Best Investigative Reporting

Allison Kite - *Missouri Independent*
Clara Bates - *Missouri Independent*
Annelise Hanshaw -
Missouri Independent

Best Business Story

Rebecca Rivas - *Missouri Independent*
Rudi Keller - *Missouri Independent*
Anna Spoerre and Clara Bates -
Missouri Independent

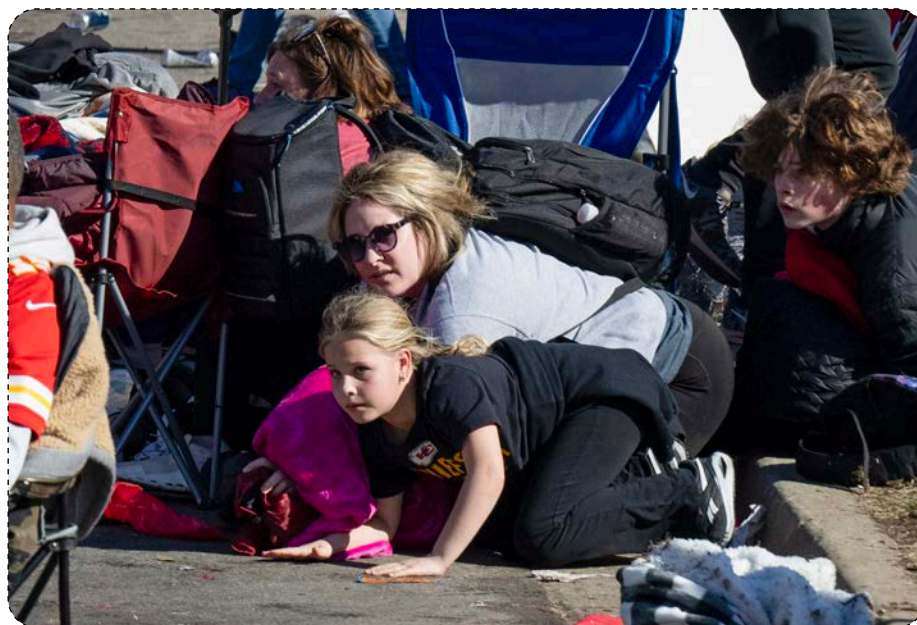
Best Story About Government

Dmitry Martirosov -
Columbia Missourian
Meg Cunningham and Josh Merchant -
The Kansas City Beacon

Camryn Kesselring and Erica Little -
Columbia Missourian

Best Election Story

Rudi Keller - *Missouri Independent*
Rudi Keller - *Missouri Independent*
Dmitry Martirosov -
Columbia Missourian



Tammy Ljungblad with *The Kansas City Star* was covering the Chiefs' 2024 Super Bowl victory parade when shooting broke out. Ljungblad was able to capture the emotions from those attending as they took cover.

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture

Jana Rose Schleis -
Columbia Missourian
Rebecca Rivas - *Missouri Independent*
Jana Rose Schleis -
Columbia Missourian

Best Story About Religion

Anna Spoerre - *Missouri Independent*
Annelise Hanshaw -
Missouri Independent
Briana Jordan - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Story About Education

Annelise Hanshaw -
Missouri Independent
Maria Benevento -
The Kansas City Beacon
Maria Benevento -
The Kansas City Beacon

Best Story About the Outdoors

Allison Kite and Kevin Hardy -
Missouri Independent
Allison Kite and Kevin Hardy -
Missouri Independent
Jonah Foster - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Story About History

Rudi Keller - *Missouri Independent*
Josh Stotler - *Columbia Missourian*
Mike Genet - *Independence Examiner*

Best Health Story

Suzanne King -
The Kansas City Beacon
Suzanne King -
The Kansas City Beacon
Lilley Halloran - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Story About Marginalized or Underrepresented Communities

Olivia Gyapong -
Columbia Missourian
Annelise Hanshaw -
Missouri Independent
Meg Cunningham -
The Kansas City Beacon

Best Reporting Using the Sunshine Law

Camryn Kesselring and Erica Little -
Columbia Missourian
Clara Bates - *Missouri Independent*
Clara Bates - *Missouri Independent*

Dailies — Class 5

General Excellence
Southeast Missourian
Jefferson City News Tribune
Springfield News-Leader

Best Front Page

Staff - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
Staff - *Southeast Missourian*
Staff - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Editorial and Opinion Pages

Staff - *The Kansas City Star*
Staff - *Southeast Missourian*
Staff - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Breaking News Story

Joe Gamm -
Jefferson City News Tribune
Marta Mieke -
Springfield News-Leader
Christopher Borro -
Southeast Missourian

Continued on Page 14

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!



Tammy Ljungblad found the story beyond the ballfield with this dugout shot from a Kansas City Royals loss. The picture won Ljungblad and *The Kansas City Star* first place in Best Sports Feature Photograph.

Best News Story

Laura Bauer - *The Kansas City Star*
 Bob Miller - *Southeast Missourian*
 Marta Mieze - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Feature Story

Bob Miller - *Southeast Missourian*
 Genevieve Tlustos - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Roger Nomer - *Joplin Globe*

Best News or Feature Series

Laura Bauer, Judy Thomas - *The Kansas City Star*
 Judy Thomas - *The Kansas City Star*
 Jenna Thompson - *The Kansas City Star*

Best Sports Columnist

Sam McDowell - *The Kansas City Star*
 Vahe Gregorian - *The Kansas City Star*
 Tom Rackers - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best News Photograph

Tammy Ljungblad - *The Kansas City Star*
 Nathan Gladden - *Southeast Missourian*
 Nathan Papes - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Feature Photograph

Julie Smith - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Dominick Williams - *The Kansas City Star*
 Tammy Ljungblad - *The Kansas City Star*

Best Sports Photograph

Emily Curiel - *The Kansas City Star*
 Nathan Papes - *Springfield News-Leader*
 Garrett Bradley - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Sports Feature Photograph

Tammy Ljungblad - *The Kansas City Star*
 Tammy Ljungblad - *The Kansas City Star*
 Greg Jackson - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Investigative Reporting

Bob Miller - *Southeast Missourian*
 Stephi Smith - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Stephi Smith - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Business Story

David Hudnall - *The Kansas City Star*
 Jay Wolz - *Southeast Missourian*
 Greta Cross - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Story About Government

J.C. Reeves, Bob Miller and Nathan Gladden -
Southeast Missourian
 J.C. Reeves, Nathan Gladden and Bob Miller -
Southeast Missourian

Marta Mieze - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Election Story

Genevieve Tlustos - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Roger Nomer - *Joplin Globe*
 Claudette Riley - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture

Marta Mieze - *Springfield News-Leader*
 Anna Campbell - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Sophie Carite - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Story About Religion

Judy Thomas - *The Kansas City Star*
 Roger Nomer - *Joplin Globe*
 Judy Thomas - *The Kansas City Star*

Best Story About Education

Claudette Riley - *Springfield News-Leader*
 Anna Campbell - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Bob Miller - *Southeast Missourian*

Best Story About the Outdoors

Marta Mieze - *Springfield News-Leader*
 Ceilidh Kern - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Marta Mieze - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Story About History

Bryce Gray - *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
 Jeremy Drouin - *The Kansas City Star*
 Roger Nomer - *Joplin Globe*

Best Health Story

Bob Miller - *Southeast Missourian*
 Sophie Carite - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 Susan Szuch - *Springfield News-Leader*

Best Story About Marginalized or Underrepresented Communities

Genevieve Tlustos - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
 J.M. Banks - *The Kansas City Star*
 Noelle Alviz-Gransee - *The Kansas City Star*

Continued on Page 15



Sarah Voyles won first in Best News Photograph for the *Columbia Missourian* with this shot from a firefighter's funeral procession.

Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!



Julie Smith captured a child's curiosity on the lawn of the Missouri State Capitol in this first place win for Best Feature Photograph for the *Jefferson City News Tribune*.

Best Reporting Using the Sunshine Law

J.C. Reeves, Bob Miller and Nathan Gladden -
Southeast Missourian

Nathan Pilling - *The Kansas City Star*
Kendrick Calfee - *The Kansas City Star*

Combined Dailies

Best Overall Design

Staff - *Springfield News-Leader*
Staff - *Columbia Missourian*
Staff - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Sports Pages

Staff - *Columbia Missourian*
Staff - *Southeast Missourian*
Staff - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Page Design

Gary Castor - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
Staff - *Columbia Missourian*
Staff - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Sports News Story or Package

Reade Snelling - *Columbia Missourian*
Trevor Hahn - *Jefferson City News Tribune*
Greg Jackson - *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Best Sports Feature Story

Sam McDowell - *The Kansas City Star*
Jesse Newell - *The Kansas City Star*
Andy Theobald - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Editorial

Staff - *Joplin Globe*

Staff - *Joplin Globe*

Staff - *Southeast Missourian*

Best Photo Illustration

Nathan Gladden - *Southeast Missourian*

Donna Farley and Jonathon Dawe -

Daily American Republic, Poplar Bluff

Best Photo Package

Tammy Ljungblad, Emily Curiel and Nick Wagner -
The Kansas City Star

Jamie Maron and Bailey Stover - *Columbia Missourian*

Tammy Ljungblad - *The Kansas City Star*

Community Service

Staff - *Columbia Missourian*

Hope Davis - *Springfield News-Leader*

Staff - *The Kansas City Star*

Best Special Section, Magazine or

Alternative Publication

Staff - *Southeast Missourian*

Staff - *Southeast Missourian*

Staff - *Columbia Missourian*

Best News or Feature Obituary

Laura Bauer - *The Kansas City Star*

J.C. Reeves - *Southeast Missourian*

Olivia Mizelle - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Military Story

Susan Szuch - *Springfield News-Leader*

Maya Dawson - *Columbia Missourian*

Bob Miller - *Southeast Missourian*

Best Information Graphic

Emmet Jamieson - *Columbia Missourian*

Brandon Curry - *Columbia Missourian*

Josh Merchant - *The Kansas City Beacon*

Best Editorial Cartoon

John Darkow - *Columbia Missourian*

John Darkow - *Columbia Missourian*

John Darkow - *Columbia Missourian*

Best Online Newspaper or Website

Staff - *Columbia Missourian*

Staff - *The Kansas City Star*

Staff - *Missouri Independent*

Multi-Media Reporting

Clara Bates and Annelise Hanshaw - *Missouri Independent*

Staff - *Columbia Missourian*

Missourian Video Staff and Benjamin Zweig -

Columbia Missourian

Best Headline Writing

Staff - *Columbia Missourian*

Staff - *Springfield News-Leader*

Alison Booth - *The Kansas City Star*

Go to www.mopress.com to find judges' comments and photos from the BNC luncheon or by clicking this box in the digital edition of *Missouri Press News*.

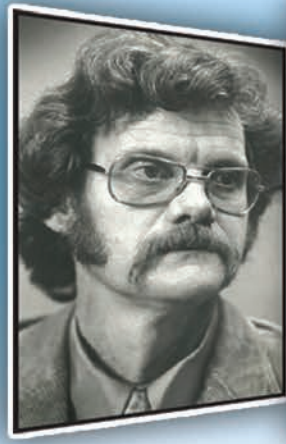
Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!



Missouri Press
Foundation

Missouri Photojournalism 2025 Hall of Fame Ceremony

Columbia, Missouri • 11/13/2025 • 4 p.m.
State Historical Society of Missouri



R.S.V.P at bit.ly/mophotoj

Sponsored By:

