

2021 NDNA Special Awards

Rookie Reporter of the Year

All Divisions: >>> [Rookie Reporter of the Year](#)

First Place

Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Adam Willis: Rookie Reporter entry

Adam Willis

Judge comments: This was an incredibly competitive category chalk full of new talent, but Adam stood out among the pack for his careful reporting. His leads are spot on, his organization is incredibly mature, and you can tell he has a knack for getting people comfortable in interviewing. He's not afraid of the tough questions, and his work gets to the heart of some very complex topics. This writer has a great future ahead of him. Fantastic work.

Public Notice Journalism

All Divisions: >>> [Public Notice Journalism](#)

First Place

Bismarck Tribune

ND COVID-19 vaccination committee

Staff

Judge comments: The Tribune found that the state's COVID vaccine committee had failed to provide public notice of its meetings and pressed the issue, which lent transparency to the process that was and is of vital importance to residents. It's coverage was fair, and the editorial on the topic included other ways in which state government had been less than open and honest with residents concerning its Covid response. Great work here.

Community Service

All Divisions: >>> [Community Service](#)

First Place

Grand Forks Herald

Charles Thurber, lynching victim in GF, is memorialized

Joe Bowen, Mike Jacobs, Chuck Haga

Judge comments: This category included many submissions in which newspapers stood up for a cause and made lasting changes in their communities. While every one of them deserves recognition, the Herald's work stood out for a number of reasons. It not only covered an effort to memorialize the first lynching of a Black man in the state in ways that spurred the community to come together, but it also had to reconcile its own role in the city's racist past. Grappling with its biased, racist coverage at the time, Herald staff did not just apologize. They owned up to that history in a way that informed a needed community conversation about the ways our history of racism shapes and informs racial problems today. In doing so, the Herald wrote a new chapter for the history books, of which the community and state should recognize with pride as it continues racial justice endeavors.

First Amendment

All Divisions: >>> [First Amendment](#)

First Place

Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Forum First Amendment entry

Forum staff

Judge comments: This entry represents a year of hard work aimed at upholding government transparency and illuminating when local government ran afoul of the law. Editorials clearly laid out what is at stake for readers when open records/open meetings laws are broken. Reporting on the mental health provider that ignored warning signs before a violent attack on an employee shed light on what can go wrong when institutions are lax in their duty to protect. Fantastic package; readers are fortunate to have the Forum as a champion of their rights.

General Excellence

Weekly: Small >>> [General Excellence](#)

Honorable Mention

Bowbells, Burke County Tribune

General Excellence

Lyann Olson

Third Place

Drayton, Valley News & Views

General Excellence

Lesa Van Camp

Second Place

Mandan News

General Excellence

Staff

First Place

New Rockford Transcript

General Excellence

Transcript staff

Judge Comments: We would have like to see stronger editorial photos - less posed shots. Overall nice package!

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

Third Place

Carrington, Foster County Independent
General Excellence
Staff

Second Place

Washburn, The Leader-News
General Excellence
Staff

First Place

Hillsboro Banner
General Excellence
Banner Staff

Judge Comments: Hillsboro Banner's strong front page design, variety of news coverage and photography coupled its impactful advertising messages lifted it above the competition.

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

Honorable Mention

Crosby, The Journal
General Excellence
The Journal

Third Place

Bottineau Courant
General Excellence
Bottineau Courant Staff

Second Place

Watford City, McKenzie County Farmer
General Excellence
McKenzie County Farmer Staff

First Place

Grafton, Walsh County Record
General Excellence
Staff

Judge Comments: A great, all around community newspaper. Speaks well for the community and the team that rallies each week to publish it. They care and it shows. Congratulations!

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

Third Place

Jamestown Sun

General Excellence

Jamestown Sun Staff

Second Place

Dickinson Press

General Excellence

Joy Schoch, Jenn Binstock, James Miller

First Place

Wahpeton, Daily News

General Excellence

Daily News staff

Judge Comments:

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

Third Place

Bismarck Tribune

General Excellence

Staff

Second Place

Grand Forks Herald

General Excellence

Staff

First Place

Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

General Excellence

Forum staff

Judge Comments: Excellent product

Sweepstakes

Weekly: Small >>> [Sweepstakes](#)

Winner!

Elgin, Grant County News

Score: 3025: 22 first places, 8 second places, 5 third places & 3 honorable mentions

Weekly: Mid-Size >>> [Sweepstakes](#)

Winner!

Hillsboro Banner

Score: 5375: 32 first places, 18 second places, 13 third places & 7 honorable mentions

Weekly: Large >>> [Sweepstakes](#)

Winner!

Grafton, Walsh County Record

Score: 4550: 21 first places, 22 second places, 9 third places & 14 honorable mentions

Multi-Day: Small >>> [Sweepstakes](#)

Winner!

Dickinson Press

Score: 4525: 17 first places, 21 second places, 19 third places & 13 honorable mentions

Multi-Day: Large >>> [Sweepstakes](#)

Winner!

Fargo, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead

Score: 4575: 27 first places, 24 second places, 13 third places & 13 honorable mentions