

2025 PHOTOGRAPHY PACEMAKER WINNERS

Deming Division

Spot News Photo

1. The Sheridan Press, "RV fire", Clint Wood –"Strong image with good timing on the part of the photographer. I'd have liked to see it cropped a little tighter. The front end of the vehicle in lower-right corner is a bit distracting."
 2. Casper Star-Tribune, "Flying high above Cheyenne", Andrew Towne –"Good job on the part of the photographer for keeping your eyes open for the unusual going on around you."
- HM. Wyoming Tribune Eagle, "Distraught and grateful", Staff –"Emotional moment and the lighting helps get the point across. The woman on the right looking back toward the camera is somewhat distracting, but what are you going to do. Could have been cropped tighter on the right."

General News Photo

1. The Sheridan Press, "Goat tying leap", Clint Wood –"This photographer ensured that the action was right where it should be within a tightly cropped photo. That the young man's hat was included within the frame as it was falling toward the dirt made it even better."
 2. Wyoming Tribune Eagle, "Preparing for U.S. Capitol duty", Milo Gladstein –"Preparing for U.S. Capitol duty: A unique and dramatic view of Wyoming National Guard members during training, with their see-through shields (also well-scuffed) allowing their faces to be the focal point. There was no caption accompanying this photo."
- HM. Jackson Hole News&Guide, "JHHS graduation", Pearl Spurlock –"The only reason for this photo not being in first or second place is his face being a little too small. Maybe some minor cropping from the bottom left would have made the subject more immediately noticeable."

Feature Photo

1. The Sheridan Press, "Chess reflection", Clint Wood –"This expressive photo of a child playing chess with the chess board reflected in his glasses shows a creative photography opportunity well captured."
 2. Casper Star-Tribune, "A mother's love", Andrew Towne –"This emotional photo of a son and mother during a graduation ceremony focuses on an accomplishment earned."
- HM. Buffalo Bulletin, "Rowan Wasinger helps Tiffany Scantling show off her sheep (lead photo)", Marcello Monterastelli –"Adorable photo of a smiling little girl looking at photographer while petting her sheep is well captured."

Sports Action Photo

1. Gillette News Record, "Thursday Night Lights", Jonathan Gallardo –"1st Place I think this photo did what it needed to accomplish, not only in composition, but in storytelling also. I love how it highlights Gonzalez and the impact this student section brings."
 2. Douglas Budget, "Cool in the Pool", Chase Vialpando –"Despite the limitations of this photographer's gear, this shot a stand out as it documents the start of a young athlete. It was shot well and the story is impactful."
- HM. Wyoming Tribune Eagle, "Who said this would be fun?", Milo Gladstein –"I wish there was more to it than just the photo and gave me a caption. However, the expression, the use of foreground and background is what sets it apart."

Sports Feature Photo

1. Douglas Budget, "Having A Ball", RJ Morgan –"Something you don't see every day. Great work by the photographer capturing this in the moment."
 2. The Sheridan Press, "Bareback", Clint Wood –"Very different than the other shots. Great job capturing the action in the arena."
- HM. Casper Star-Tribune, "Somewhere over the rainbow", Andrew Towne –"Great work by the photographer capturing the moment. The sports part of the shot not as prominent, but great natural beauty."

Scenic Photo

1. Jackson Hole News&Guide, "Teton Pass inversion", Bradly J. Boner –"Definitely Wow! Nothing negative to say about this image at all. Rose to the top of the catagory as soon as I saw it."
 2. Jackson Hole News&Guide, "Double rainbow", Kathryn Ziesig –"This was a tough decision between 1st and 2nd. This is a pretty photo."
- HM. Douglas Budget, "Moon over the North Platte", Clifford Smith –"Nice use of internal framing."

Wildlife Photo

1. Jackson Hole News&Guide, "Urban moose", Erin Burk –"Being in the right place and time is key to great photography. This photo tells a story."
 2. Powell Tribune, "The Eagle Has Landed", Mark Davis –"Great framing and timing. This is a picture that most people won't ever see with their own eyes."
- HM. Douglas Budget, "Resting Dragonfly", Clifford Smith –"Catching the dragonfly at this moment was well done. Good eye."

Portrait-Personality Photo

1. Jackson Hole News&Guide, "House Minority Leader", Bradly J. Boner –"Great framing. The words on the door tell a story as well as the House Minority Leader standing there."
 2. Wyoming Tribune Eagle, "Barbecue, anyone?", Milo Gladstein –"Who wouldn't want some Barbecue? The photographer captured a good look on the subject's face that add to the composition."
- HM. Gillette News Record, "Farm of dreams", Susan Monaghan –"Good use of the land to frame the subject and lend more to the purpose of the photograph."

Photo Story

1. Wyoming Tribune Eagle, "Against the grain", Milo Gladstein –"This really tells the story of a harvest. There is good emotion and framing as well as good composition and different camera angles being used. Well done!"
 2. Jackson Hole News&Guide, "The Siren Song of the Wapiti" Erin Burk –"A lot here. Very good imagery. A close 2nd. Nice use of close-up and range photographs. Good emotion. Nice work!"
- HM. Buffalo Bulletin, "On the hunt", Tanishka Poal –"Nice use of the B/W page which lends to the photos standing out against the white space. Good use of different angles."

Best use of Photos

1. Douglas Budget, "Douglas Budget Best Use of Photos", Staff –"Use of dominant photo in packages prevails, backed up by strong secondary images. Nice mix of subject matter played well, both to compliment stories and to carry the page as wild art. Clear winner by a nose."
2. The Sheridan Press, "Best use of photographs: The Sheridan Press", Clint Wood, Doug Sanders –"Tough category. Good use of large photos with good play. Shooters clearly know their craft. The first place entry was just a little stronger."

Hanway Division

Spot News Photo

1. Newcastle News Letter Journal, "Balancing act", Walter Sprague –"Excellentlly framed spot photo. This is the kind of shot that draws attention to a news page and engages readers with strong visual interest."
2. Sundance Times, "Feathered Sentinels", Jeff Moberg –"Great work by this photographer for keeping their eyes peeled for an interesting moment."

General News Photo

1. Northern Wyoming News, "Snow Day", Sean Mortimer..

2. Northern Wyoming News, "Memorial Day", Kat McMahon.
- HM. Newcastle News Letter Journal, "Ready for a facelift", Walter Sprague.

Feature Photo

1. Thermopolis Independent Record, "Slippery smooch", Nadja Cavin – "A simple, well-composed shot. In a category full of good entries, many with amazing action, the simplicity of this moment and clarity of composition stood out. Nice job."
 2. Thermopolis Independent Record, "Watermelon eating contest", Nadja Cavin – "It was tough to give this entry second place. The action puts you in the place of a small town festival. This is a talented photographer."
- HM. Northern Wyoming News, "Grappling A Goat", Kat McMahon – "A great snap. Captures a special moment with nice composition."

Sports Action Photo

1. Green River Star, "Cooper Clemens at Overland Stage Stampede Rodeo", Dakota Riddle – "WOW! In a category full of excellent local sports photography this shot stood out as a clear winner. What's more iconic Wyoming than a bucking bronc photo? And it couldn't have been captured at a better moment from a better angle. Stellar work."
2. Green River Star, "Sunset cowboy", Dakota Riddle – "It really didn't seem fair to give this shot third. It belongs on the cover of a Wyoming visitor guide on marketing piece. A beautiful shot!"

Sports Feature Photo

1. Uinta County Herald, "A 'fair' ride", Don Cogger – "The framing on this photo is spectacular. It is a dramatic scene showcased in the best way possible. Fantastic photo."
 2. Torrington Telegram, "Final Game Point Celebrate", Robert Galbreath – "This is the kind of reaction shot you dream about getting as a sports photographer. Very well done."
- HM. Newcastle News Letter Journal, "Squealing to the finish", Katie Williamson – "Such a unique visual that is framed well and made me want to learn more about pig wrestling."

Scenic Photo

1. Thermopolis Independent Record, "Rainbow Terraces", Nadja Cavin – "This is a truly amazing photograph, showing the power, depth and subtle diversity of two worlds, of land and the world more hidden, below the surface. Little surprise it was published on the front page of the paper. I would like to see a photo of the process of taking this photo. I truly love this picture."
 2. Sundance Times, "Frosty morn", Jeff Moberg – "The depth of field and ability to convey the beauty and isolation. In a subject that is essentially varied gradients of two colors. Difficult to pull off yet it succeeds."
- HM. Lovell Chronicle, "Fall Foliage", John Bernhisel – "This photo taken from a drone shows both vivid color and crisp focus across the entire depth of field. Taken from altitude, it exhibits a vast scope of the land while retaining an intimacy with the subject, the river."

Wildlife Photo

1. Sundance Times, "Acorn-ucopia", Wes Pridgeon – "It can be difficult to capture one wild species in a close-up photo, but to get two, a deer and turkey in the same tight frame is great. Vividly done, with the lighting seeming low in the sky. Beautiful Photo."
 2. Northern Wyoming News, "Mountain Moose", Sean Mortimer.
- HM. Northern Wyoming News, "Park Geese", Karla Pomeroy – "Catching the goose in flight without losing clarity in the background of those still on the water. The motion of the water along with the motion of the flying goose. The use of black and white takes nothing away from the beauty of the photo, in fact, it helps allow the subjects to speak for themselves."

Portrait-Personality Photo

1. Northern Wyoming News, "Eye on the Judge", Kat McMahon – "This is a fantastic photo that shows a ton of personality, while giving me a great look into the subject's life. Her passion is on full display. Great photo!"

2. Northern Wyoming News, “Junior Chef”, Karla Pomeroy –“This photo captures a moment in time incredibly well. The framing is outstanding and the scene tells a story. Well done.”
- HM. Newcastle News Letter Journal, “Riding the wave”, Wendy Laviola –“Great framing and expressions in this photo. A very fun scene to capture.”

Photo Story

1. Lander Journal, “Lander tradition”, Carl Cote –“The photographer included a wide variety of photos and told a complete story. They included good details and captured some very nice moments. Clearly the most complete picture story.”
2. Lander Journal, “Frosty in their free time”, Carl Cote –“This is a well shot and well edited picture story. We really liked that it was edited to the best photos.”

Best use of Photos

1. Thermopolis Independent Record, “Thermopolis Independent Record”, Staff –“Great photos that convey excitement, fun, exhaustion and a spirit of team and community that puts the viewer into the subject.”
 2. Newcastle News Letter Journal, “News Letter Journal”, NLJ Staff –“Here we see three very different subjects, each with intent and purpose but all displaying a very focused intent and concentration to task. I love unposed pictures when it is people who are the subject. These are three takes on the concept.”
- HM. Northern Wyoming News, “Best Use Of Photos”, Staff –“Taking small subjects and instilling them with a sense of intimacy is not easy. The whimsy of the Western Wear, the intimacy and intensity of focus of the elementary school kids and the nod to the older generations as well, in a lighthearted subject really spans both the ages and emotions.”

Biggs Division

Spot News Photo

1. Pinedale Roundup, “Dollar Lake Fire Column”, Cali O'Hare –“This is a very nice photo and the fire looks dangerous. Great job.”
2. Pinedale Roundup, “Cycler in Smoke”, Cali O'Hare –“The photographer did a good job of looking for a different way of telling the story. Some cropping might have made this a stronger image.”

General News Photo

1. Saratoga Sun, “Cacophony of Color”, Hillery Ingleby –“We thought this was clearly the best in the general news category. This is a fun photo that illustrates the story.”
2. Moorcroft Leader, “Safe on the ice”, Tia Cranston –“We thought this photo met the requirements for general news and awarded it second place.”

Feature Photo

1. Saratoga Sun, “Candy Dash”, Elliott Deins –“Love the layering of kids to illustrate the rush of children in peak action.”
2. Greybull Standard, “Fair Week in Basin”, Avery Howe –“This was great. The kid, the goat, a lower angle would have made this picture stronger.”

Sports Action Photo

1. Saratoga Sun, “GoFast on Ice”, Elliott Deins –“Speed, balance, and focus in one perfectly timed image. Great colors, too.”
2. Saratoga Sun, “Skijoring in Pink”, Elliott Deins –“I want to learn more about Skijoring after seeing this compelling photo. Nicely done.”

Sports Feature Photo

1. Saratoga Sun, “Homecoming Rainbow”, Hillery Ingleby.

2. Saratoga Sun, “Small Fry – Big Fish”, Elliott Deins.

Scenic Photo

1. Saratoga Sun, “Fishing Shelf Lakes”, Elliott Deins –“What a breathtaking photo! The scenery is amazing. I could look at this all day.”
 2. Greybull Standard, “Shell Creek”, Lisa Kunkel –“I absolutely love this photo. The water flowing through the ice is captivating.”
- HM.** Dubois Frontier, “Slow Freeze”, Vic Augustine –“I had to look twice at this photo because the ice didn't look real. What a great picture!”

Wildlife Photo

1. Rocket Miner, “Talon Ready”, Ann Jantz –“This photo captures a beautiful creature. The photo is clear and gives the viewer a good look at those talons!”
 2. Rocket Miner, “Camouflaged”, Ann Jantz –“The dragon fly's eyes are amazing and so is this photo. The photographer had a great eye and must have been quick to capture this one.”
- HM.** Saratoga Sun, “White Pelicans”, Elliott Deins –“This is a just a lovely photo.”

Portrait-Personality Photo

1. Rocket Miner, “Jeremiah and Sawyer Christensen”, Anden Garfield –“Wonderful moment and the photographer found a clean background in a tough situation.”
2. Saratoga Sun, “Cued Up”, Elliott Deins –“This is a nice photo that tell something about the subject. We like the lower angle also.”

Photo Story

1. Saratoga Sun, “Fourth of July”, Elliott Deins –“Photographer did a great job capturing a variety of images. Well composed, exposed while finding moments during a busy event.”
2. Glenrock Independent, “Deer Creek Days Festival photo coverage”, George Pollard –“There is a good variety of images in this. Editing out some would have help it but it's a good collection of photographs.”

Best use of Photos

1. Saratoga Sun, “March 6, 2025, June 19, 2025 and Sept. 18, 2025”, Staff –“Love the full column photos stretching across the page for both front and sports front stories. Photos are sharp and pop with good use of depth of field. Sports photo packages really tell a story. Big photos break out of the traditional newspaper feel and add a magazine feel to the pages that works. Great lumberjack competition action photos. really love the out-of-the box photos that cross outside the boxes into the banners. Excellent!”
2. Pinedale Roundup, “Best Use of Photos Pinedale Roundup”, Cali O'Hare –“The use of overlapping photos is nice out-of-the-box thinking and makes the pages more eye-catching. The use of multiple front page photos with various stories is also outside what is seen regularly. This shows excellent work by the team to ensure there is "art" with every story. The use of big photo spreads inside is also very attractive. Suggestion: focus on fewer front page stories and running grabbing photos larger to snag readers eyes would give the paper are more magazine feel that breaks away from the traditional to style could be considered.”