

# 2025 WPA Major Awards

## A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism

The A-Mark Foundation supports investigative reporting and, in 2023, introduced the first A-Mark Prize for Reporting on Misinformation and Disinformation.

Last year, the Wyoming Press Association Foundation partnered with the A-Mark Foundation to introduce the A-Mark Prize for Journalism and Investigating Journalism in Wyoming, awarding \$15,000 in prize money to promote public understanding and importance of a free press in our state. The objective of this award is to encourage investigative, solutions-oriented, and other forms of in-depth reporting from the free press striving to clarify complex topics that serve and educate our communities and demonstrates the highest degree of journalistic professionalism.

This year's contest winners showed outstanding initiative, effort, and creativity by delivering original reporting that revealed little-known or concealed facts and offered meaningful perspectives on important public issues.

1. Sarah Squires and Marit Gookin, Riverton Ranger (\$5,000 to journalists; \$2,500 to newspaper)
2. Sarah Squires and Marit Gookin, Lander Journal (\$3,000 to journalists; \$1,500 to newspaper)
3. Alex Taylor, Laramie Boomerang (\$2,000 to journalist; \$1,000 to newspaper)

## Wyoming EPSCoR Science Reporting Award

The Wyoming EPSCoR Science Reporting Award honors a reporter for consistent excellence in a body of work on scientific issues that include, but are not limited to, environment, energy, wildlife and technology.

The judging criteria includes four categories: (1) Writing quality, which includes clarity, grammar, style, organization and engagement of lead; (2) Command of content knowledge; (3) Consistent quality among all submitted stories; (4) Relevance and "so what" factor, which includes information about why this scientific issue is important.

The winner was selected by a panel of judges, including a member of Wyoming EPSCoR and a faculty member from the University of Wyoming's Department of Communication and Journalism.

1. Christina MacIntosh, Jackson Hole News&Guide (\$500)

## Jim Tiemann Memorial Legal Reporting Award

The Jim Tiemann Memorial Legal Reporting Award was created in memory of Jim Tiemann, a longtime reporter for the Rawlins Daily Times who went on to head the Wyoming State Bar Foundation before his death in 2000.

This award honors a reporter for consistent excellence in a body of work on legal issues. Judging criteria will include clarity, writing quality, accuracy and knowledge of subject matter in stories dealing with legal issues.

The winner was selected by a panel of judges, including a member of the Wyoming State Bar, a faculty member of the University of Wyoming's Department of Communication and Journalism and Jeannie Tiemann.

1. Billy Arnold, Jackson Hole News&Guide (\$250)

## **WPA Foundation Sweepstakes Winners**

These awards are presented to the newspapers winning the most Pacemaker Awards for 2025.

### **Deming Division**

1. Jackson Hole News&Guide
2. Sheridan Press

### **Hanway Division**

1. Star Valley Independent
2. Newcastle News Letter Journal

### **Biggs Division**

1. Saratoga Sun
2. Rocket-Miner

## **Typographic Excellence**

### **Deming Division**

1. Douglas Budget  
The judges said, "Great text presentation and creative use of photos."
2. Jackson Hole News&Guide  
The judges said, "Clearly, you have a good design team."

### **Hanway Division**

1. Newcastle News Letter Journal

The judges said, "Nice, clean layout, good typography use overall and good use of color."

2. Sundance Times

The judges said, – "There is lots to see on these pages and, despite that, it's all presented in an easy-to-read and follow way."

### **Biggs Division**

1. Pinedale Roundup

The judges said, "I love the BOLD and HEAVY Fonts used throughout for headers, as well as the use of grey tones to break up the monotony."

2. Greybull Standard

The judges said, "Absolutely love your masthead and your choice of front page headline fonts."

### **Advertising Excellence**

#### **Deming Division**

1. Jackson Hole News&Guide

The judges said, "Tons of beautiful ads!"

2. Douglas Budget

The judges said, "Nice selection of color ads."

#### **Hanway Division**

1. Uinta County Herald

The judges said, "A clear winner in the category with a high volume of local ads from small space and signature pages to larger ads."

2. Lovell Chronicle

The judges said, "A nice mix of local ads with strong graphic design. Well-composed and put together. Nice work!"

### **Biggs Division**

1. Dubois Frontier

The judges said, "Nice design and layout. Well done!"

2. Pinedale Roundup

## **Photographic Excellence**

### **Robert Warner Award for Photographic Excellence**

#### **Deming Division**

1. Jackson Hole News&Guide
2. Sheridan Press

#### **Hanway Division**

1. Northern Wyoming News
2. (tie) Thermopolis Independent Record and Newcastle News Letter Journal

#### **Biggs Division**

3. Saratoga Sun
4. Rocket-Miner

### **WPA Foundation Sweepstakes Photo Award**

#### **Deming Division**

- Douglas Budget, "Having a Ball," from R.J. Morgan

The judge said, "This was a tough call. Strong images from all entrants. I got it down to three images, then spent 10 minutes just staring at them but this image eventually rose to first place."

#### **Hanway Division**

- Green River Star, "Cooper Clemens at Overland Stage Stampede Rodeo," from Dakota Riddle

The judge said, "This is an iconic rodeo photo done well. Good capture of peak action and good job recognizing the power of this image in the edit phase."

#### **Biggs Division**

- Rock Springs Rocket-Miner, "Jeremiah and Sawyer Christensen," from Anden Garfield

The judge said, "This image quietly screams Americana. Rose to the top on my first run-through of the division."

### **Photographer of the Year**

- **Deming Division:** Mark Davis, Powell Tribune
- **Hanway Division:** Walter Sprague, Newcastle News Letter Journal
- **Biggs Division:** Elliott Deins, Saratoga Sun

**2025 Wyoming Photographer of the Year:** Mark Davis, Powell Tribune.

The judges said, "Stunning photos! Congratulations!"

**2025 WPA Photo of the Year:** Anden Garfield, Rocket-Miner, "Jeremiah and Sawyer Christensen."

The judge said, "The expression on the little guy's face says it all and the little smudges of rodeo food are just icing on the cake. I believe I knew this was the clear winner from the moment I opened it. The photographer was successful at the toughest part of our job – keeping their eyes open to unexpected opportunities in the events we cover every day. Congratulations!"

## **Editorial Excellence**

### **Deming Division**

1. Wyoming Tribune Eagle  
The judges said, "Important topics presented in well-thought-out ways. Well-written editorials I wanted to read."
2. Riverton Ranger  
The judges said, "Editorial storytelling at its best. I enjoyed the topics as well as the presentation."

### **Hanway Division**

1. Lovell Chronicle  
The judges said, "Very strong editorials with neat pages and a spot for cartoons to boot."
2. Green River Star  
The judges said, "There's a strong call to action on editorials and the pages are easy to read."

### **Biggs Division**

1. Rocket-Miner

The judges said, "A clear and consistent editorial voice calling for ethical conduct by public officials, civic education, and an engaged press."

2. Basin Republican Rustler

The judges said, "Kudos for highlighting emotional health and the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women."

## **General Excellence**

### **Deming Division**

1. Jackson Hole News&Guide

The judges said, "So much content, inviting design, wonderful writing, some truly stunning photos ... and so much content. Terrific newspaper. Easy choice for No. 1."

2. Douglas Budget

The judges said, "Photo pages and photos throughout are top-notch. Design is welcoming. Good mix of hard news and features."

### **Hanway Division**

1. Lovell Chronicle

The judges said, "So much to like about this paper. Strong writing, good design, great mix of hard news, features and sports. Photography, however, sets this publication far above its peers. So many great shots from real life. And only \$1. What a bargain!"

2. Uinta County Herald

The judges said, "Quality throughout. Really enjoyed the 15 Questions feature. Consistently strong sports photos also stood out."

### **Biggs Division**

1. Bridger Valley Pioneer

The judges said, "This paper is the whole package. It looks great with a friendly design and beautiful pictures. The stories are interesting and well-written."

2. Dubois Frontier

The judges said, "Beautiful newspaper. I couldn't wait to see what pictures would be showcased in each edition. But the photos were not the only great thing: There were solid news stories, as well."

**2025 Wyoming Journalist of the Year:** Sarah Pridgeon, Sundance Times