



ALL PROFESSIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Entries for UPA's Better Newspaper Contest are being accepted between
January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

For your convenience the Better Newspaper Contest is conducted electronically. All entries will be submitted through <http://www.newspapercontest.com/Contests/UtahPressAssociation.aspx>

Contest Period: Publication of entries must be between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

Award Presentation: The winners will be recognized during UPA's Winter Convention, TBD.

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UTAH PRESS BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST RULES

- 1) Entries must have been published between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.
- 2) Entries must be submitted by March 31, 2025 - NO LATE ENTRIES will be accepted.
- 3) Entries Fees: \$5 per entry, paid at time of submission. All entries must be paid at the time of submission.
- 4) The contest will be judged by members of an out-of-state press association. Determination of winners for first, second and third place will be awarded for each category.
- 5) All newspapers compete together for the Community Service Award and Public Notice.
- 6) In some cases, a newspaper group includes both daily and weekly newspapers, and writers, photographers and graphic design staff who are assigned primarily to a daily newspaper periodically provide work to weeklies in the group. In such instances, weeklies may not enter work done by daily newspaper staff in the Better Newspaper Contest.
- 7) In a newspaper group, if the same item, such as a column or photography, is published by more than one newspaper in a group, only one newspaper may enter the item in the Better Newspaper Contest.
- 8) Weekly and Daily newspapers may submit multiple entries per category, except as noted.
- 9) Individual Newspapers may not have more than one winner in any individual category. For example, if Newspaper XYZ wins first place in a category, any other entries they have in the same category cannot win second or third place. The same rule applies for First, Second or Third Place.
- 10) Each entry must be a FULL pdf tearsheets. Tearsheet and the entry/article must be CLEARLY INDICATED. If the entry is not clearly indicated it could be disqualified by judges.
- 11) ENTRIES NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES, INCLUDING ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER March 21, 2025, WILL BE DISQUALIFIED!

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST CATEGORIES 2025

01. BEST GENERAL NEWS STORY

Judges will look at locally written articles for news value, style and reporting enterprise on a community-wide topic.

Scoring: Significance and impact, 34 points; quality of reporting, 33 points; quality and clarity of writing, 33 points.

Entry: Submit one pdf tearsheet with story clearly identified.

02. BEST FEATURE STORY

Stories will be evaluated on writing style and quality, news value, reader interest, readability, planning, general organization and clarity.

Scoring: News interest and/or subject matter, 25 points; quality of reporting, 25 points; quality and clarity of writing, 50 points.

Entry: Submit one pdf tearsheet with story clearly identified. If your best feature story was a series on a single topic, then pdf tearsheets from consecutive issues containing the serialized story will be accepted.

03. BEST SPORTS STORY

Judges will look for quality spot - or first-day sports coverage by a staff member, quality of writing and construction of article, human interest and appeal and reader interest. Sidebars may be included.

Scoring: News interest and/or subject matter, 34 points; quality of reporting, 33 points; quality and clarity of writing, 33 points.

Entry: Submit pertinent pdf tearsheets with the story and/or sidebars clearly identified.

04. BEST EDUCATION STORY

Judges will weigh a staff-written article on education, produced on a news beat, for news value, writing style and reporting excellence. An entry is a single story; sidebars may be included.

Scoring: Significance and impact, 34 points; quality of reporting, 33 points; quality and clarity of writing, 33 points.

Entry: Submit pertinent pdf tearsheets with the story and/or sidebars clearly identified.

05. BEST GOVERNMENT / POLITICAL STORY

Judges will weigh a staff-written article on government / political issues, produced on a news beat (such as government, policy or education), for news value, writing style and reporting excellence. An entry is a single story; sidebars may be included.

Scoring: Significance and impact, 34 points; quality of reporting, 33 points; quality and clarity of writing, 33 points.

Entry: Submit pertinent pdf tearsheets with the story and/or sidebars clearly identified.

06. BEST BUSINESS STORY

Judges will weigh a staff-written article on business, produced on a news beat, for news value, writing style and reporting excellence. An entry is a single story; sidebars may be included.

Scoring: Significance and impact, 34 points; quality of reporting, 33 points; quality and clarity of writing, 33 points.

Entry: Submit pertinent pdf tearsheets with the story and/or sidebars clearly identified.

WRITING AND REPORTING DIVISION (continued)

07. BEST NEWS SERIES

Judges will weigh a staff-written collection of stories — a multi-part series or continuing-coverage sequence — for thoroughness of coverage, and quality of writing, reporting and originality. A newspaper is limited to submitting up to three (3) such series.

Scoring: Significance and impact, 34 points; quality and depth of reporting, 33 points; quality and clarity of writing, 33 points

Entry: A series entry can include up to six principal stories; their sidebars may be included for information and impact. Entry must have been published within the contest period and must cover at least two editions and no more than six. Submit pertinent pdf tearsheets with the story and/or sidebars clearly identified.

08. BEST EDITORIAL

Judges will look for the most distinguished, original editorials written by a paper's local staff. A single entry can include up to three (3) samples by an individual writer.

Scoring: Significance and impact, 25 points; insight, 25 points; argumentation and/or persuasiveness, 25 points; writing quality, 25 points.

Entry: Submit pdf tearsheets of the three (3) editorials of your choice.

09. BEST SPORTS COLUMN

Columns must be locally written by the publisher, the editor or a staff member; be of local interest,

and be a regular feature of the newspaper. Must be written by the same person and carry the same column heading each time. A single entry can include up to three (3) samples by an individual writer.

Scoring: News interest and/or subject matter, 34 points; originality and/or insight, 33 points; quality and clarity of writing, 33 points.

Entry: Submit pdf tearsheets of the three (3) columns of your choice.

10. BEST NEWS COVERAGE

Newspapers would be required to submit the first issue in March, the second issue in August, and an issue of their choice in September. They may submit a written statement describing the news coverage challenges in their circulation areas and what resources they have for covering the news.

Scoring: Variety of news topics covered, 20 points; extent to which newspaper covers both news events and news trends, 20 points; feature coverage, 20 points; sports coverage, 20 points; coverage of other major news categories such as education, business, agriculture and entertainment, 20 points.

Entry: Submit three (3) entire Pdf tearsheets newspapers, the first issue in March, the second issue in August, and an issue of their choice in September.

PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

Full Page Pdf tearsheets required. No single photos are accepted.

11. BEST PHOTO PAGE

Judges will analyze the newspaper's use of local, in-house produced photographs in the editorial section (not in ads), looking for the best overall use and quality of photos and corresponding editorial content or photo identification.

Scoring: Photo composition and quality, 50 points; layout and design, 30 points; accompanying copy and/or captions or news interest, 20 points.

Entry: Submit one full page or double truck pdf tearsheets to be judged.

PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION (continued)

12. BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

Judges will look for a staff photographer's accomplishment in producing a local photograph for use in the editorial section (not in ads), looking for the best overall image, quality, and news value.

Scoring: Creativity, 25 points; news value, 25 points; photo composition and quality, 50 points.

Entry: Submit one full-page pdf tearsheet with photograph being judged. Full page pdf tearsheets required. No single original photos are accepted.

13. BEST SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

Judges will look for a staff photographer's accomplishment in producing a local sports photograph for use in the sports section (not in ads), looking for the best overall image, quality, newsworthiness and appeal.

Scoring: Creativity, 25 points; extent to which photo captures action, 25 points; photo composition and technical quality, 50 points.

Entry: Submit one full page pdf tearsheet with photograph being judged. Full page pdf required.

No single original photos are accepted.

14. BEST FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

Judges will look for a staff photographer's accomplishment in producing a local photograph for use in the editorial section (not in ads), looking for the best overall image, quality, human interest, effectiveness and appeal to readers.

Scoring: Creativity, 25 points; feature value, 25 points; photo composition and quality, 50 points.

Entry: Submit one full page pdf tearsheet with photograph being judged. Full page pdf tearsheets required. No single original photos are accepted.

15. BEST INFOGRAPHIC

Judges will look for excellence in use of infographic(s) to convey data to the reader. Infographic should demonstrate strong eye appeal and reader interest.

Scoring: News interest, 25 points; visual appeal 25 points; data conveyance, 25 points; ease of reader understanding, 25 points.

Entry: Submit one full page pdf tearsheet.

LAYOUT, DESIGN AND TYPOGRAPHY DIVISION

16. BEST FRONT PAGE

Select and submit three (3) front pages from throughout the year; these constitute one entry. Judges will look for excellence in layout, design and typography as well as content and news interest. Pages should demonstrate strong eye appeal and reader interest.

Scoring: News interest, 10 points; headlines, 15 points; use of photos and graphics, 25 points; design and typography, 50 points.

Entry: Submit three full page pdf tearsheets from three different publication dates of your choosing.

17. BEST SPORTS PAGE

Select and submit three (3) sports pages from throughout the year. Judges will look for excellence in layout, design and typography as well as content and news interest. Pages should demonstrate strong eye appeal and reader interest.

Scoring: News interest, 10 points; headlines, 15 points; use of photos and graphics, 25 points; design and typography, 50 points.

Entry: Submit three full page pdf tearsheets from three different publication dates of your

choosing.

18. BEST LIFESTYLE PAGE

Select and submit three (3) lifestyle pages that run regularly throughout the year (not limited to society pages). Judges will look for excellence in layout, design and typography as well as content and news interest. Pages should demonstrate strong eye appeal and reader interest.

Scoring: News interest, 10 points; headlines, 15 points; use of photos and graphics, 25 points; design and typography, 50 points.

Entry: Submit three (3) full page pdf tearsheets from three different publication dates of your choosing.

19. BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

Judges will look for excellence in layout, design and typography as well as content and news interest. Pages should demonstrate strong eye appeal and reader interest.

Scoring: News interest, 10 points; headlines 15 points; use of photos and graphics, 25 points; design and typography, 50 points.

Entry: Submit one full page pdf tearsheet.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION DIVISION

20. BEST STAFF PRODUCED AD

Judges will evaluate the creative quality and reader impact of advertising ideas in a single ad.

Scoring: Originality, 40 points; use of art, copy and white space, 40 points; production quality, 20 points.

Entry: Submit one full-page pdf tearsheet with ad clearly indicated. Must be ads designed by your staff for any advertiser or group of advertisers.

21. BEST ADVERTISING IDEA

Judges will evaluate an advertising or sales idea based on its originality, success in creating reader interest, and success in generating revenue for your publication.

Scoring: Originality of idea, 40 points; execution in ads, 40 points; revenue generation, 20 points.

Entry: Submit an explanation of the idea along with pdf tearsheets of one - three ads based on the concept.

22. BEST CIRCULATION PROMOTION

Judges will analyze specific newspaper circulation promotion efforts.

Scoring: Originality, 25 points; content including copy, headlines and captions, 25 points; makeup and appearance, 25 points; results, 25 points.

Entry: Submit via pdf tearsheet a series of R.O.P. ads, preprinted inserts, direct mailers, or written details of a telephone campaign or any other promotion used to build circulation.

23. BEST IN-HOUSE SELF PROMOTION

Judges will analyze specific newspaper promotion efforts as demonstrated by in-house, local newspaper advertising.

Scoring: Originality, 34 points; content, including copy, headlines and captions, 33 points; makeup and appearance, 33 points.

Entry: Submit pdf tearsheets of promotion campaign, and if needed, a letter describing the promotion. Complete pdf tearsheets copy of one special section.

GENERAL DIVISION

24. BEST WEBSITE

Judges will consider content, construction (flow and function), ease of use, interactive participation, page design, advertising, ease of navigation, timeliness, aesthetics and consistency.

Scoring: Content, 30 points; clarity and organization, 30 points; design and presentation, 40 points.

Entry: Submit the web address (and password if there is a paywall) to be accessed by the judges.

25. BEST SPECIAL SECTION

Judges will look for creativity, layout, typography, copy, originality, production values and evidence of overall staff teamwork in a special section consisting of at least two pages produced by the local newspaper staff. It can be magazine, tabloid or broadsheet format included in newspaper circulation, focusing on a specific theme or community event

Scoring: Variety of topics or news angles represented, 25 points; writing quality and clarity, 25 points; photography and graphic effects, 25 points; layout and design, 25 points.

Entry: Submit a single, complete pdf copy of one special section.

26. BEST REPORTING BASED ON A PUBLIC NOTICE

A news or feature story that was generated because of a public notice that drew attention to the subject, or because a public notice or the omission of the public notice figured heavily into the subject. Stories must reference and/or provide a link to an actual public notice. If the public notice requirement was not met or was deficient, the story must describe the deficiency.

All UPA circulation groups compete together for the public notice award.

27. SCREW-UP OF THE YEAR

Ah, yes! Everyone's favorite category. Judges will look for the single most embarrassing error in proof - reading, photo display, or copy editing. **All UPA circulation groups compete together** for this singularly special award, but none of the points will be counted for competition between the newspapers.

Scoring: Prominence of error, 50 points; reader impact of error, 25 points; bonus (humor, perhaps?), 25 points.

Entry: Submit a pdf tearsheet of the one most excessive screw-up that occurred during the contest period, either from your paper or another UPA paper in good standing. One entry per newspaper

(hopefully, you only had one to enter!).

GENERAL DIVISION (continued)

28. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Entries should be based on what your newspaper did for your community during the past year, in terms of contributing to the community's understanding of an issue. Such themes could be fund drives, buildings, parks, roads, government projects, developments that will have unusual impact on community life, public education, etc. The possibilities are many. A cover letter from the publisher or editor summing up the newspaper's specific involvement may be submitted with the entry. One theme only.

All UPA circulation groups compete together for the community service award.

Scoring: Community service theme and importance, 25 points; news space, 25 points; editorial comment on the subject, 25 points; effectiveness of newspaper's effort in your community, 25 points.

Entry: Submit sufficient news story, editorial and photo information to show your involvement in community service. Also submit any evidence to show the effectiveness of your efforts. One entry per newspaper.

29. GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Entries should reflect the best of Utah print journalism. All entries must be complete copies of the published newspaper. Submit two issues, one from each of the periods below. Newspapers with weekend or Sunday editions must submit at least one issues from weekday editions. A letter of explanation may be included. Jan. 1 - March 31, 2024, April 1 - June 30, 2024, July 1 - Sept. 30, 2024, Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024

OVERALL AWARDS

30. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Recognizes outstanding service and performance to the profession of journalism. Entrants may come from any segment of the newsroom. Entries must include four samples of the nominee's work, along with a brief resume and brief description of his or her journalistic achievements during the contest period. Limit of two entries per news organization. There will be only one winner from all UPA Circulation Groups. No second or third place winners.

31. OUTSTANDING YOUNG JOURNALIST

Entrants must have less than five years of professional journalism experience and may come from any part of the newsroom. Entries consist of a brief resume of the nominee, along with a written statement about journalistic achievements and four samples of his or her work during the contest period. Limit of two entries per news organization. There will be only one winner from all UPA Circulation Groups. No second or third place winners.

32. STORY OF THE YEAR

Recognizes the best story published in Utah during the period of competition. May be a single story, a main story and sidebar, or a series on a single subject. Articles entered in this category may be entered in other categories as well. There will be only one winning entry from all UPA Circulation Groups. No second or third place winners. Limit: No more than 6 articles per entry will be accepted.

UPA BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST CIRCULATION GROUPS

GROUP 1 - All Professional Newspapers

GROUP 2 - All College Newspapers

If you have any questions or need more info, please contact:

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