



Nebraska Press Association Foundation

845 "S" Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone 402-476-2851, NE: 800-369-2850, Fax: 402-476-2942



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LINCOLN – The Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award was created and funded by Zean & Marilyn Carney, former publishers of the Wahoo Newspaper, Waverly News, Ashland Gazette, and David City Banner-Press and Past President of the Nebraska Press Association.

This award is awarded to four nominees from the weekly or daily categories. The nominees must be reporters, editors, photographers, graphic designers, production or advertising professionals who have worked for at least one year with a legal Nebraska newspaper.

A select panel of judges appointed by the Executive Director of NPA/NPAS considered among other items, the nominee's professionalism, creativity, comments or statements on goals, impact of their work on print journalism, the community of journalistic excellence.

The first place winner for the Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award, in the weekly category, is Kris Moody of the Sutton Clay County News. An excerpt from his nomination reads: "I want to continue to put readers first. Working at a small, community paper, I have become keenly aware of how my words are consumed and how they affect our readers. I want to always take the proper care with telling their stories correctly and effectively." The judge said: "Kris' work shows a commitment to finding and reporting important stories that affect readers."

The second place winner of the Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award, weekly category, is a tie with Logan Tuttle of the Milford Times, and April Refior of the Hickman Voice-News. An excerpt from Logan's nomination reads: "The rapport a small town journalist can have with readers is a special one. Each week I strive to do my very best work that accurately reflects the community and our readers. I am thankful to be in this position where I can tell the stories of the area one week at a time." An excerpt from the judges' comments about Logan reads: "This contestant apparently never sleeps. One front page from his weekly newspaper featured four of his bylines that reflects his passion for community news." An excerpt from April's nomination reads: "Working in a local, small town newspaper, you never quite know what you're going to find. As I continue my venture as a journalist, my goal is to find more interesting people with unique stories and help them share in a way they never thought possible." An excerpt from the judges' comments about April reads: "This young journalist has found many of the right stories. Her work reflects solid skills across the array of demands placed on community journalists."

The winner for the Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award in the daily category, is Isaiah May of the Norfolk Daily News. An excerpt from his nomination form reads: "As a young professional, I want to see local papers, large and small, tackle the demands of its citizens and provide relevant information to the reader. Whether it's in the pages of the print edition, or on the walls of its social media, journalists need to be where their citizens are." Norfolk Daily News editor Kent Warneke wrote in his letter of recommendation: "It's gotten to the point that if something creative is needed, we all just nod to each other and say, 'Let's see what Isaiah can come up with.'"

The Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award was awarded Friday, April 11, 2014, at the Nebraska Press Association's Annual Convention at the Midtown Holiday Inn in Grand Island, NE.