

# *Republican brings home 17 press contest awards*

**By Russ PANKONIN**  
THE IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN

The Imperial Republican won a total of 17 awards in the this year's Nebraska Press Association's (NPA) Better Newspaper Contest.

The contest results were announced Saturday during NPA's annual convention held in Lincoln last week.

Judges from the Alabama Press Association awarded the Republican nine first place awards, three second place awards and five third place awards in the Class C competition. This includes Nebraska newspapers from 1,501 to 2,499 circulation.

The Republican finished second overall among all Class C division newspapers in the contest.

First place awards included a breaking news photo by Russ Pankonin of the Champion Women's Club building fire; in-depth writing by Pankonin on the augmentation project underway by the Upper Republican Natural Resources District; a small ad under 1/4 page by Jana Pribbeno and Chris Fidler featuring Adams Lumber; and a single classified ad, black & white, by Fidler, Pribbeno and Karen Hayes, featuring Jim Hayes' home improvements.

The trio also took first place for an advertising campaign for Adams Lumber; a second for the "We've Got Spirit" reader contest and building circulation contest with their Newspapers in Education feature and a third for ad copywriting on an Eagles ad.

Fidler added a first for computer graphics with a map of augmentation sites.

Other first place awards won by the entire staff included best editorial page, best public notice promotion and best specialty pages.

Fidler and Hayes took second for best ag advertisement featuring Harchelroad Motors.

Editorials by Pankonin and Jan Schultz took third place in the best editorial division, Pankonin took third for news

writing featuring the Feed My Starving Children event. The paper staff took third for best front page and best reader interaction.

## **Wauneta, Grant win awards**

Two other Johnson Publications, Inc. papers brought home awards, as well.

The Wauneta Breeze won a total of 16 awards, finishing second overall in Class A newspapers with circulation up to 1,000.

In addition to the Better Newspaper Contest awards, the Breeze won Omaha World-Herald awards for Service to Agriculture for its overall ag coverage and Community Service award for its coverage and support to save the Wauneta nursing home.

First place NPA awards included general excellence, best sports page, best breaking news photo, best breaking news story, best feature series, best in-depth writing, best news writing and best web site.

Second place awards came for sports writing, news photography, news writing and Lifestyles page.

Third place awards included use of computer graphics, single classified ad idea in black and white, breaking news and public notice and its promotion.

The Grant Tribune-Sentinel won first place for breaking news, second for breaking news photo and Lifestyles page and thirds for community promotion and signature page.

Elna Johnson, publisher emeritus of The Imperial Republican, enjoyed the honor of presenting the Loral Johnson Community Newspaper Sweepstakes Award to her son, Kurt Johnson, and his wife, Paula.

They publish the Aurora News-Register and won recognition as the top weekly newspaper in the Better Newspaper Contest.

The award was established in 2004 in honor of the memory of publisher Loral Johnson of Imperial.

