



# Thank you...

...to our amazing judges!

Mark Arsenault

Lori Duff

Mary Beth Earnhardt

Jamie Fisher

Telly Halakis

Christy Heitger-Ewing

Pam J. Hecht

Chuck Keller

Jill Lawrence

Ginny McCabe

Rob Rogers

Mark Sweetwood

# Thank you...

...to you, for entering the contest.

Over 150 entries from more than 80 publications. We couldn't do this without your amazing columns and content.

# New in 2022: 9 Categories

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General (print)

General (online)

Humor (print)

Humor (online)

Sports

Lifestyles

Crisis Commentary

Social Justice

Editorial Cartoon



# Editorial Cartoon

# Editorial Cartoon

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Sage Stossel**

*The Boston Globe*

ON THE DAY he was inaugurated, Biden famously declared:



And it certainly felt that way. Indeed, after four stressful years of chaos and authoritarian posturing, the nation's collective blood pressure finally seemed to stabilize.

Since then, we've been able to enjoy some downright boring news cycles about things like competing infrastructure plans...



...as well as some optimistic ones.



But despite the calm — and even celebratory — mood...

...complacency is by no means in order. Indeed, a growing number of experts have begun to send up urgent alarms about the state of American democracy.

Earlier this month, for example, more than 100 scholars of democracy issued a joint statement warning that

**"Our entire democracy is now at risk..."**

And when asked recently to indicate how concerned he is about the future of American government on a scale of 1 to 10, Daniel Ziblatt, a Harvard professor of political science and co-author of the book "How Democracies Die," replied:



It's plenty disturbing that fringe figures have lately been alluding to prospects for a Myanmar-style coup.



Former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn speaking May 30 at a QAnon-themed conference

But perhaps even more disturbing is the fact that antidemocratic measures being taken now by the GOP in states across the country —

...from drastic voter suppression... ..to extreme



(A proposed new law in Texas actually requires written permission for anyone to drive more than 2 non-relatives to the polls.)



...and the legitimization of spurious partisan challenges...

...to the seizure of control by antidemocratic partisans over administering and certifying elections...



— mean that no violent coup would be necessary for the GOP to steal or overturn the next presidential election.

Surely our dawning recognition of that horrifying fact should be enough to rouse to

**-ACTION**

even those among us who had been looking forward to a relaxing post-pandemic summer reprieve.

(What might that look like? Urging Congress to pass key parts of the stymied election reform bills — like cracking down on voter suppression, or volunteering for or donating to candidates who oppose these voting restrictions.)



After all, while the election of Biden may not, as it turns out, have caused democracy to prevail...

...it did enable democracy to live to fight another day.

And that day, it's clear...



...is now.



# Social Justice

# Social Justice

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THIRD PLACE

**Derrick Z. Jackson**

Union of Concerned Scientists

# Social Justice

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Suzette Hackney**

*USA Today*

# Social Justice

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**FIRST PLACE**

**John W. Fountain**  
*Chicago Sun-Times*



# Crisis Commentary

# Crisis Commentary

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**THIRD PLACE**

**Max McCoy**

*Kansas Reflector*

# Crisis Commentary

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Derrick Z. Jackson**

Union of Concerned Scientists

# Crisis Commentary

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Trudy Rubin**

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*



# Lifestyles

# Lifestyles

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## HONORABLE MENTION

Luke Ovgard, *Herald and News*

Patricia Bunin, *Southern Cal. News Group*

Kelly Kazek, *Mobile Press-Register*

# Lifestyles

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THIRD PLACE

**Michael J. Stern**

*USA Today*

# Lifestyles

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Rose Carmen Goldberg**

*Los Angeles Times &  
San Diego Union-Tribune*

# Lifestyles

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Neil Steinberg**

*Chicago Sun-Times*



# Sports

# Sports

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**THIRD PLACE**

**Rick Telander**

*Chicago Sun-Times*

# Sports

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Rick Morrissey**

*Chicago Sun-Times*

# Sports

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Derrick Z. Jackson**

Andscape &  
The American Prospect



# Humor (Online)

# Humor (Online)

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Rebecca Jill Agiewich**

The Ambivalent Part-Time Expat

# Humor (Online)

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**THIRD PLACE**

**Dave Jaffe**

*Sleeping Between Giants: Life, If You Could  
Call It That, With A Terrier &  
HumorOutcasts.com*

# Humor (Online)

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Mary Kay Jordan Fleming**

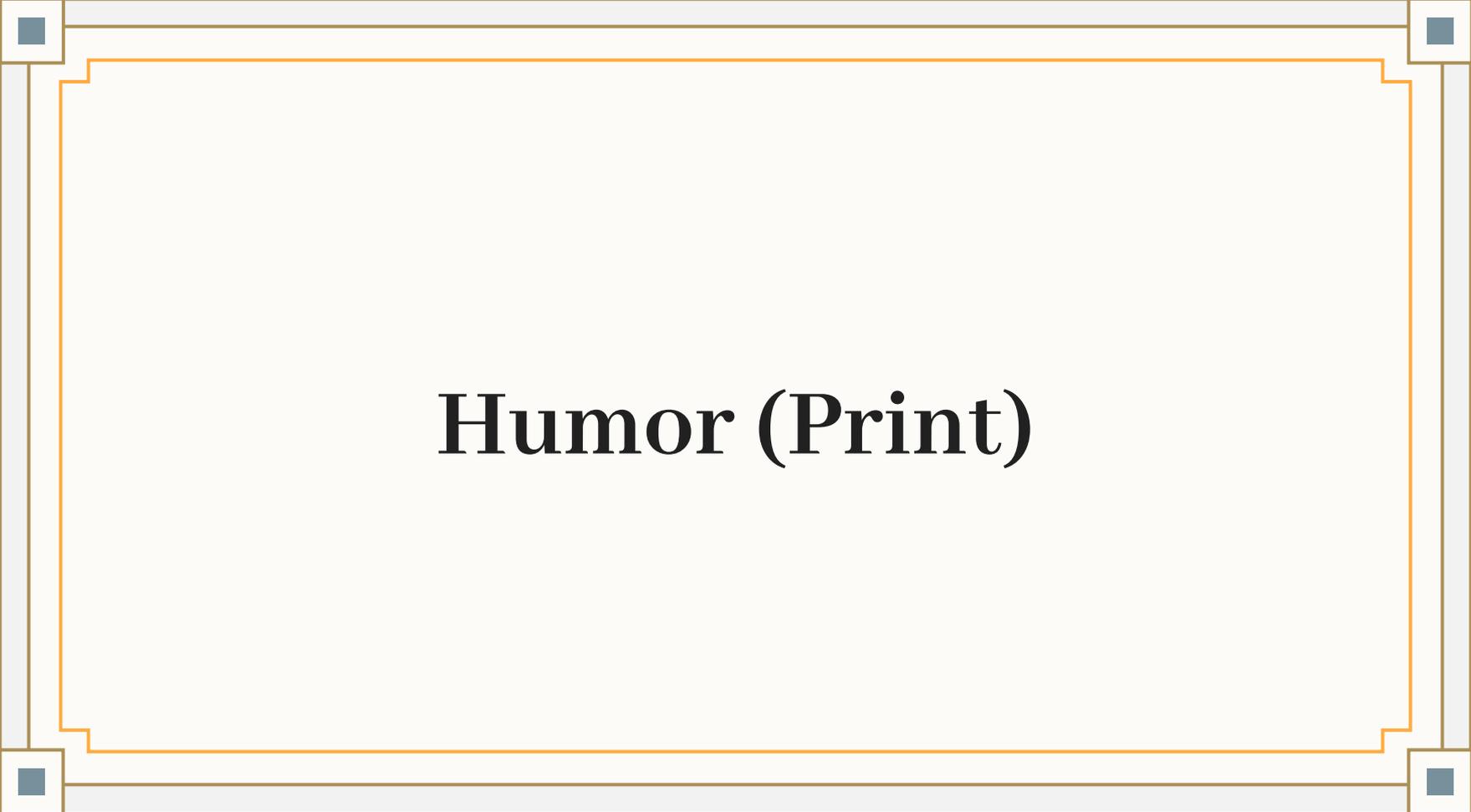
Little Old Lady Comedy & Erma  
Bombeck Writing Workshop Blog

# Humor (Online)

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Denise Thiery**  
Levity & Brevity



# Humor (Print)

# Humor (Print)

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## HONORABLE MENTION

**Betsy Bitner**, *Times Union*

&

**Anneli Byrd**, *The Standard Examine*

# Humor (Print)

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**THIRD PLACE**

**Bill Ervolino**

*The Bergen Record*

# Humor (Print)

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Jase Graves**

*Kilgore News Herald*

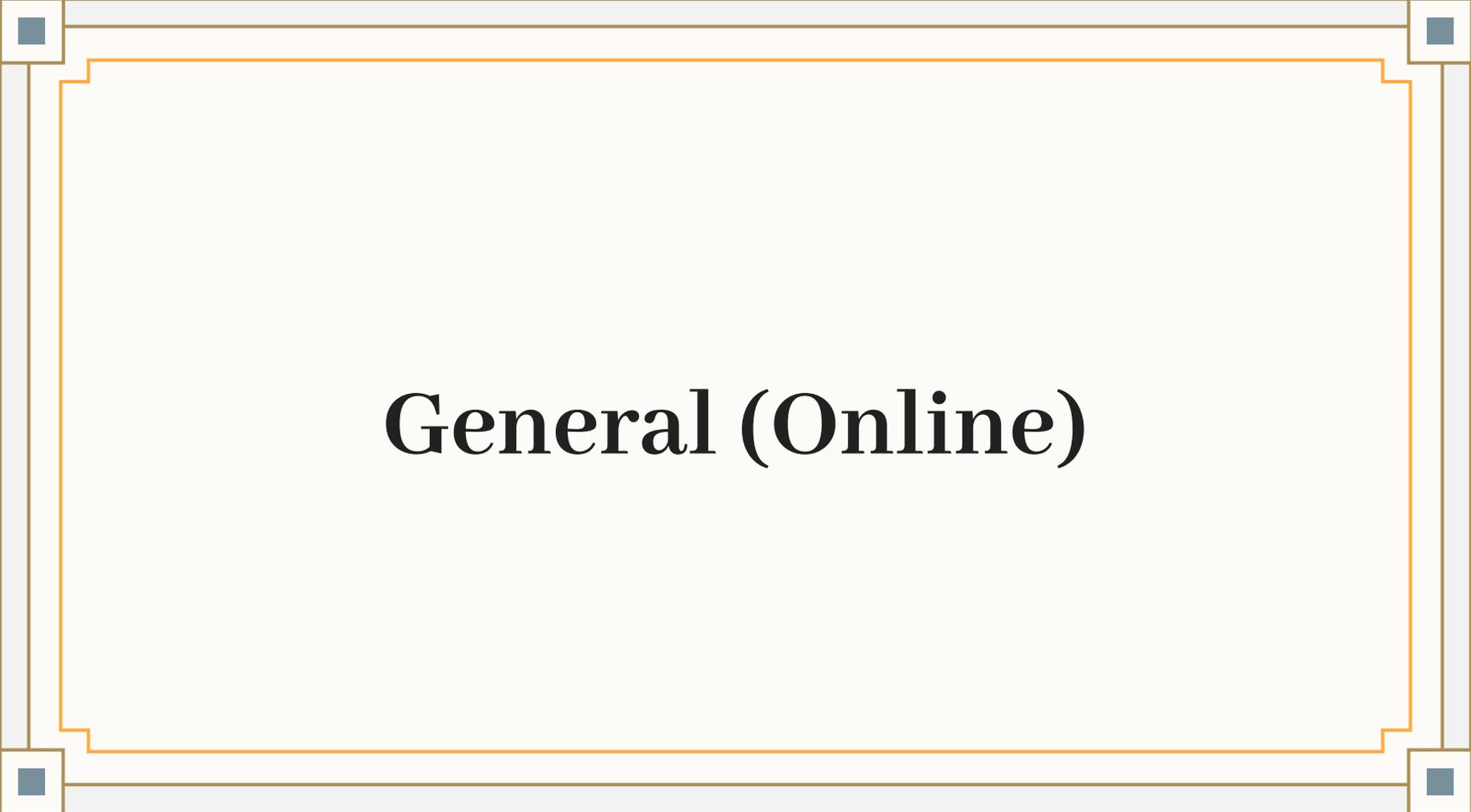
# Humor (Print)

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Kelly Kazek**

*Birmingham News &  
The Huntsville Times*



# General (Online)

# General (Online)

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**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Kristin Clark Taylor**

*USA Today*

# General (Online)

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**THIRD PLACE**

**Daniela V. Gitlin**

Always Happy To Spout Off

**General (Online)**

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Gordon Hopkins**

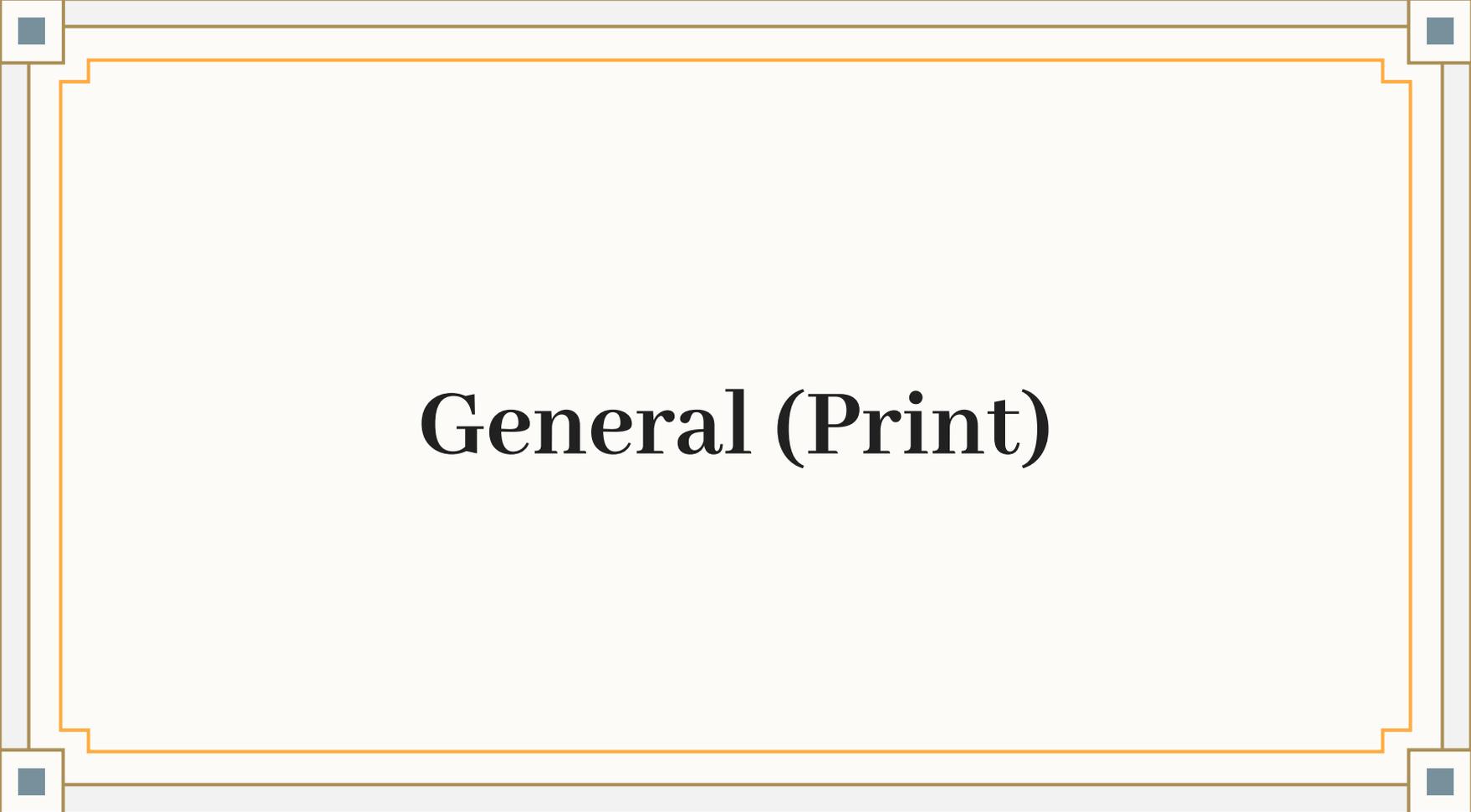
*Fairbury Journal-News*

**General (Online)**

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Jessica Leigh Lebos**  
Savannah Sideways



# General (Print)

# General (Print)

## HONORABLE MENTION

**Theodore W. Decker**, *Columbus Dispatch*

**Mark Brown**, *Chicago Sun-Times*

**Renee Horton**, *Arizona Daily Star*

# General (Print)

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THIRD PLACE

**Roy Gutterman**

Syracuse.com &  
*The Post Standard*

**General (Print)**

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**SECOND PLACE**

**Rebecca Regnier**

*Monroe News*

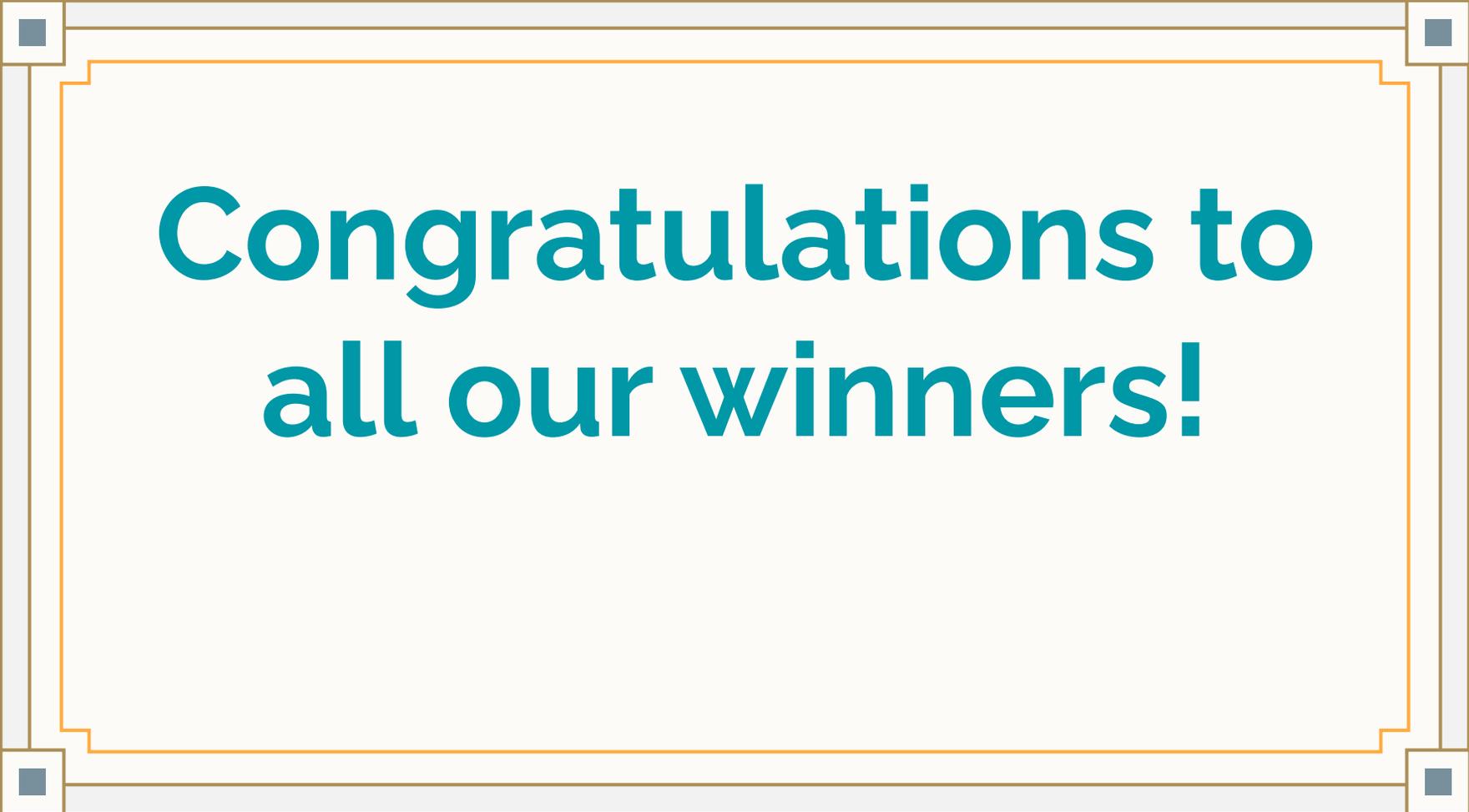
**General (Print)**

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**FIRST PLACE**

**Leslie McCarthy**

*Webster-Kirkwood Times*



**Congratulations to  
all our winners!**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**The 2023 NSNC Columnist  
Contest (for work created in 2022)  
opens January 15, 2023.**

