

LATE NEWS

RANGE magazine Receives Second Consecutive Freedom Award

THE BACKGROUND . PART I

The Nevada Press Association recognized journalistic excellence Sept. 20, 2014, during its annual convention in Las Vegas, and conveyed major awards upon RANGE magazine. RANGE received 17 awards: seven first places, five seconds, and five thirds. The first place awards include the coveted Freedom of the Press award, which makes the second consecutive win of the Freedom award for RANGE. The Montana Press Association judged the competition.

One judge remarked: “Never heard of RANGE magazine before but they take wide swings at big, fascinating, important subjects with thorough investigation, put-me-there drama and unflinching portrayal of the facts, regardless of politics, personal beliefs or religion. This is the kind of reporting that makes us important and relevant in an age when everything else is becoming more like a sound bite.” The comment was restated for several different categories.

The Nevada Press Association (NPA) is the formal member trade organization for news publications in the state of Nevada. It is a voluntary nonprofit organization that represents seven daily and 35 weekly news publications in Nevada and the Lake Tahoe region of Northern California, as well as two online news services. The history of the NPA dates back to 1888, when an association of Nevada newspapers was first organized. Mark Twain, who was working as a newspaperman at the Territorial Enterprise in Virginia City, was a founding member and was named to the NPA Hall of Fame.

NPA executive director Barry Smith said of RANGE and the annual press competition: “The NPA’s annual contest shows that high-quality journalism is alive and well in Nevada. Readers want thought-provoking, insightful articles, and RANGE magazine proves it is willing to pursue those stories with no holds barred. It’s a rare mix of sophistication and Old West values.”

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS is a major editorial recognition awarded for upholding the principals of the First Amendment and protecting the public’s right to know. RANGE received the most recent Freedom award based on its coverage of climate change and Agenda 21.

“Until President Obama made climate change one of his top priorities, the subject didn’t generate much time or space in media reports,” Caroline ‘CJ’ Hadley, RANGE publisher says. “Face it, when it comes to the news cycle, climate change is not very sexy, it’s pretty technical, and until lately, considered a bit boring. Possibly because the subject can be confusing, media coverage has tended to favor one side of the issue and doesn’t reflect the time-honored Murrow-esque standards of journalism promoting balanced coverage. Post-Watergate college students had a burning desire to be ‘investigative journalists.’ It was a passion that seems to be lost. Not surprising given today’s climate of tight deadlines, rotten budgets, and well-written handouts from government and lobbyist groups. RANGE is concerned about how this can influence the public’s right to know.”

The magazine submitted the following background on its coverage of the issue: RANGE contributors writing on climate change present fact- and science-based analysis that delves into global warming, human factors, and the impact of carbon dioxide. “Once the public has the facts on both sides of the controversy, they can decide for themselves. The lack of an informed public can be the real crisis,” says Hadley.

The current focus on global warming was preceded in the 1970s by hysteria over global cooling. On June 24, 1974, TIME magazine's cover announced, "Another Ice Age." On April 28, 1975, Newsweek wrote, "The longer the planners delay, the more difficult will they find it to cope with climate change once the results become grim reality." There was conjecture in the '70s that we were rapidly approaching the "tipping point of no return" into the next ice age. What is laughable today scared a lot of people at the time.

What we know: RANGE's investigation revealed the earth has not warmed for the past 15 years. The ocean did not warm during the 20th century, either. Hurricanes and tornado activity are at or near record lows, and despite proclamations to the contrary, Hurricane Sandy and the deadly April 2013, Oklahoma tornadoes were not caused by global warming. Sea-surface temperatures are not rising and the rate of rising sea levels has remained unchanged for more than 100 years. Yet, carbon dioxide levels continue their steady rise.

Recent reports and research indicate the sun may be the key to climate change. Based upon the very recent solar activity, the relationship between the sun and climate change may warrant further investigation. Previously, the "Journal of Climate" reported that tiny variations in solar activity over 11-year solar cycles have greatly amplified effects upon climate via change in the Arctic cycles. If the solar theory is correct, we are likely heading into global cooling, or a 30- to 70-year "Little Ice Age" that was experienced in the 18th and 19th centuries. The cooling was accompanied by crop failures, starvation and disease. However, it is still premature to say this is a high probability any more than a drought, hot summers, or bad tornadoes prove that man-caused global warming is occurring.

AGENDA 21: Global warming is the key to the success of Agenda 21 effort by the United Nations. In the 1990s, Agenda 21 was introduced into the United States and given to Bill Clinton's President's Council on Sustainable Development in 1993. The PCSD converted Agenda 21 into U.S. policy guidelines in 1996 through Sustainable America, a federal document. As a consequence, thousands of cities and counties participate by accepting very lucrative federal grants, but by accepting Sustainable America grant money, leaders are signing over their freedom to govern at the local level to the United Nations, and as a consequence impacting private property rights.

Never one to back away from controversy, for more than 20 years, RANGE and its publisher, Hadley (who has been called "feisty" upon occasion), have chosen to be the editorial voice and advocate for the issues important to Americans—issues that are not always popular, and sometimes hard on the magazine's bottom line. Celebrity profiles are certainly more commercial.

RANGE follows the politics affecting America's food supply—politics and decisions in the coming months and years that include climate change and Agenda 21. With America's cattle herd at its lowest level in 60 years, persistent drought decimating grazing land and water supplies, subsidized ethanol producers driving up corn prices, and seemingly limitless new regulations, impending Washington policies and positions are more onerous to western rural life and western rural productivity than ever.

Bureaucrats may view such issues to be of marginal importance. This has, and will always be, unacceptable to RANGE.

The public has the right to know how they will be affected—for starters try higher prices and spot shortages at the supermarket, and restrictions on their freedom to choose where they can enjoy outdoor recreation.

THE WINNERS . Part II

The First Freedom of the Press Award

In 2013, RANGE was awarded the Freedom award for coverage of a Nevada ranching family's 35-year legal battle (Hage v. U.S.) that has been called history making. Rather than a daily publication, RANGE, a quarterly magazine, was there when Chief Federal District Court Judge Robert C. Jones chastised the federal government for more than three hours in a Reno courtroom about its conduct and the possibility of criminal charges. Rather than wait for the next issue, which was not due out for many weeks, Hadley felt the public had a right to know immediately what had transpired and disseminated an account of the court proceedings to print and electronic media. In a sense, RANGE acted as a pool reporter for other news organizations.

"Sometimes in the competitive news cycle, we need to remind ourselves that we are here to serve the public and be vigilant in our need to protect Freedom of the Press," she said.

RANGE also received numerous editorial awards.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, PLUS SIX MORE FIRST PLACES:

Freedom of the Press, "Climate Change/Agenda 21," writers Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D., S. Fred Singer, Ph.D., and Tom DeWeese.

Best Feature Story, "15 Miles From Ground Zero," author Jim Petersen. Mount St. Helens revisited. Judge's comment: "Impassioned writing with vivid imagery and great flow. A gifted writer who paints pictures with words. Reader is transported to the historic eruption. Fantastic work!"

Best Nonstaff Story, "The Mountains Have Eyes," author Leo W. Banks. Mexican smugglers watch everything in southern Arizona. Judge's comment: "Never heard of RANGE magazine before but they take wide swings at big, fascinating, important subjects with thorough investigation, put-me-there drama and unflinching portrayal of the facts, regardless of politics, personal beliefs or religion. This is the kind of reporting that makes us important and relevant in an age when everything else is becoming more like a sound bite."

Best Investigative or In-Depth Story or Series, "Public Lands," writers Dave Skinner, Chance Gowan and Teresa Platt. Judge's comment: "A lot of good information and reporting in these pieces, although it's nearly drowned by the commentary mixed throughout. Let the facts speak."

Best Critical Writing, Dave Skinner, writer. Dave Skinner's contributions during the competition year dealt with the politics, people and policies impacting America's food producers. Judge's comment: "Strong opinions, well-expressed."

Best Feature Photo, "Me & My Agent," Robin Paine, photographer. Judge's comment: "This photo caught my eye first among all the other entries and made me laugh. A good still photo conveys motion, life, feeling and spontaneity. This one has all that. I feel as if I am standing in the wind with them during that fleeting moment."

Best Regular Department, "Empty Quarter," a centerspread photo that appears in every issue. The images feature a gorgeous scenic with the subhead, "Open spaces in the West." The subjects are different locations and views, and are contributed by different photographers. Photographer Douglas Keister captured the intense colors caused by rainfall on the playa of Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Paul Marcellini of Tom Stack & Associates was recognized for his image of John Day Fossil Beds and the painted hills in east-central Oregon. Award-winning photographer Larry Angier was represented by his Joshua Tree National Park in California. Alan Hart captured the ancient bristlecone pine forest on Wheeler Peak in eastern Nevada's Snake

Range. The trees date to before the time of Christ. Judge's comment: "Very drawn to pictures on the pages. Extremely beautiful. Due to this it made me interested in reading the editorial content on each of the pages."

FIVE SECOND PLACES:

Best Feature Story, "Grasslands in the Clouds," writer/photographer Braden Gunem. Profile of shepherders in the mountains of Colorado. Judge's comment: "A well written 'day in the life' feature with a beautiful variety of storytelling imagery. Nice, complete package."

Best Nonstaff Story, "A Nation of Horse Hoarders," writer Rachel Dahl. Wild horse advocates tried to block members of the Fort McDermitt Indian tribe from selling their own horses. Set off new round of protests—and death threats. Judge's comment repeated previous statement: "Never heard of RANGE magazine before but they take wide swings at big, fascinating, important subjects with thorough investigation, put-me-there drama and unflinching portrayal of the facts, regardless of politics, personal beliefs or religion. This is the kind of reporting that makes us important and relevant in an age when everything else is becoming more like a sound bite."

Best Investigative or In-depth Story or Series, "Climate Change/Agenda 21": Writers and reports include: **Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.**, "Special Report: Agenda 21: Swallowing America," and "Implementation by Stealth: How Agenda 21 Works": **S. Fred Singer, Ph. D.**, "Are Climate Skeptics Wrong? There was a warming trend between 1910 and 1940, but it was not caused by human activities. The earth's surface cooled slightly between 1940 and 1975, despite a steady increase in carbon dioxide. Experiments have demonstrated that higher carbon dioxide concentrations are beneficial for plant growth and therefore benefit global agriculture. **Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.**, "The Disconnect": European green energy turns into a nightmare. **Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.**, "Disintegration of Consensus": Several of America's closest allies are no longer supporting the United Nations' plan to aid the world's poorer nations in "adapting to the havoc wreaked by climate change." These developed countries refuse to go along with the U.N. global-warming initiative that would force richer nations to pay for weather-related damage elsewhere in the world. **Tom DeWeese**, "A Massive Force": How Agenda 21 and a seemingly innocuous bicycle path are destroying an Ohio family, who has lived on their property for more than 40 years. The bike path will run in front of the family's front door by just a few feet.

Best Multiple Photo Essay, "Willow Creek Ranch," Adam Jahiel, photographer. Jahiel's photo essay features fall roundup at Willow Creek Ranch in the Hole-in-the-Wall country near Kaycee, Wyo., an area made famous by Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch gang.

Best Portrait, "Portrait of the West: Cowboy Dale R. Schaak," Erika Haight, photographer. Judge's comment: "Even though the image supplied was a bit low resolution the judges still felt strong enough about the strength of the image to award it second place. Great use of natural lighting and a strong Wes Anderson like composition. Also love the unsaturated use of the monochromatic color tones."

FIVE THIRD PLACES:

Best Feature Story, "The Pear Tree, the Poplar, the Ditch," Carolyn Dufurrena, writer. Judge's comment: "Beautiful writing. A truly gifted storyteller. The end of the story is some of the best writing I've read in a while. I just wanted it to keep going."

Best Nonstaff Story, "Kowboy Kumbaya," Dan Dagget, writer. An apology from an eco-radical who discovered that environmentalism means "politics first." Judge's comment repeats previous statement: "Never heard of RANGE magazine before but they take wide swings at big, fascinating, important subjects with thorough investigation, put-me-there drama and unflinching portrayal of the facts, regardless of politics, personal beliefs or religion. This is the

kind of reporting that makes us important and relevant in an age when everything else is becoming more like a sound bite.”

Best Multiple Photo Essay, “A Breed Apart,” Kathy McCraine, photographer. Photo essay features a ranch secluded in the mountains north of Prescott, Ariz. It is a horseback outfit, wild and rugged, and the ranch and working cowboys seem to be stepping back in time 100 years.

Best Special Project, 144-page hardcover book, “Brushstrokes & Balladeers: Painters and poets of the American West,” C.J. Hadley, publisher, John Bardwell, designer. Has been awarded the prestigious Wrangler Award by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma, City, and a Will Rogers Gold Medallion. “Brushstrokes & Balladeers” is a collection of 84 cowboy poems from 51 poets and 80 paintings from 29 artists. Page after page of the color-filled volume contain prose and paintings from some of the West’s best.

Best Feature Photo, “Entertainer,” Cynthia Baldauf, photographer. Judge’s comment: “An otherwise static landscape shot is brought to life with a backwards flip. Very nicely done.”

EDITOR’S NOTE:

RANGE is a national publication devoted to issues that threaten the West, its people, lifestyles, lands and wildlife. No stranger to controversy, for more than 20 years RANGE has presented thought-provoking, commonsense stories on the environmental and political problems facing westerners and their lands and families. Produced in Carson City, Nev., it is often controversial, political, and has been described as “the voice of reason amidst a cacophony of madmen.” High-res photos are available by contacting C.J. Hadley, edit@nevadamagazine.com. Please specify width and dpi.