

Hi there,

My name's Dan Holtmeyer, and I'm community editor for the Savage Pacer newspaper. I nominate the newspaper's reporter, Christine Schuster, for the Dave Pyle New Journalist Award.

To be blunt, Christine is a hard-working and capable reporter. She's the only one for Savage, a decent-sized Minneapolis suburb, which means she has to keep hold of half a dozen beats at once: City Hall, the school board, cops and fire, businesses, state representatives, human interest — and occasionally all of the above in a neighboring town, too. It's a lot to handle, but she cheerily works the long evenings and makes the data and document requests, finding and pursuing good stories.

She meets the challenge of those stories. Savage's school district is one of the state's most diverse and one of the only ones that's shrinking, for example, meaning the important issues — budgets, racism, taxes and grades — are also complicated and sensitive. She's bright enough to write about them. Meanwhile, Christine maintains an extensive network of sources through social media and personal connections. She seems to know just about everyone in this town, including much of the fire department and students in the high school.

Christine has improved her work considerably in the year I've been her supervisor. Her photography is better and more varied, her ledes are more direct and focused, her stories have more sources. She fulfills my suggestions and directions. In fact, she filled in for me during my honeymoon a week ago, handling two papers' weekly editions from start to finish.

Christine has plenty to learn but will keep on learning it and is a strong reporter. She deserves this award. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dan Holtmeyer