



Sept. 23, 2019

Dear judges,

Perham, Minn. (population: 3,421), has high expectations for the one full-time journalist assigned to cover their town.

Since he came on in December as the primary reporter and face of the Perham Focus, Carter Jones has answered every challenge, every lesson and every doubt with a positive attitude and a true care for his new community.

For these and so many other reasons, Carter is our entry for the 2019 Dave Pyle New Journalist Award from the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

As Carter's editor since June, I have had a unique perspective on this "new journalist."

I first met his bylines. His series "1 in 3,000," in which he finds the story from the everyday people he meets on the street, showed creativity and a self-awareness of his position in his new community. (His column's signature "selfie" with his subject has built a virtual photo album of Carter and Perham residents.)

Next, I was the newbie in town, and Carter had to get his new editor up to speed. He easily accessed the key people in town, the top issues, and the things that make Perham "Perham." As I have met people in town, they have, without fail, had only positive things to say about their interactions with Carter, and his coverage.

Finally, as his editor, I have seen Carter push himself and show a continued desire to learn. Our days start with "What do you want to do next?" He has suggested projects and we have worked on how to plan and budget time for those. This week, he wanted to take a crack at editorial writing, and we worked together on that.

If I am going to have just one reporter in Perham, to tell those 3,000 stories, I am thankful it is Carter Jones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.J. Perry". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

J.J. Perry  
Editor, Perham Focus and Detroit Lakes Tribune