

September 30, 2019

2018-2019 Better Newspaper Contest

30. Dave Pyle New Journalist Award: Nomination letter:

Hibbing Daily Tribune reporter Carrie Manner wrote at least 233 articles between Sept. 1, 2018 and Aug. 31, 2019.

That figure is impressive for a journalist working for a six-day newspaper which has a newsroom of two people, including myself. It is also noteworthy when taking into account that Manner produced more stories in total than eight other reporters, including two editors, who are spread across four sister newspapers on Minnesota's Iron Range.

Manner did not study journalism in college. She came to the newsroom with a background in human resources, staffing, management, freelance writing and copywriting.

In the past two years, Manner has had to learn the craft of journalism on the fly. She quickly picked up how to cover city council and school board meetings, which are essential to our small town readership. She has been able to seek out local feature stories, the often overlooked stories that when published attracts new subscribers and ignites discussion on social media while drawing in thank you letters and compliments, mentioned her editors.

Back in January, Manner had to weather the storm of a company-wide shakeup in the newsroom as I was hired as the new assistant editor. She continued her daily reporting while taking care of the story budgets, managing our website and social media pages, handling obituary write-ups, photography, and much more.

Since then, Manner has tirelessly worked to dig into the matters of local politics, education, arts and entertainment, business and public utilities for her hometown readers. Both her articles and columns have garnered a following who say they enjoy her accurate, clear and newsworthy style of reporting. She has a great eye for detail and has become the go-to reporter on the Range when it comes to features.

Manner has also spearheaded our efforts to report on mental health issues in northeastern Minnesota. Included are examples of her work reporting on mental health, school issues, her voice in column writing and a sample from a new series she started called "Inside Jobs."

All said, I am nominating Manner for the Dave Pyle New Journalist Award because she personifies everything I find admirable in our profession: She is empathetic, no-nonsense, fair, coachable, reliable and forever curious. I would put her talents and determination up against any journalist in the state any day.

Best regards,
Eric Killelea
Assistant Editor
Hibbing Daily Tribune