

Leaf-Chronicle 'best in class' for community coverage

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ABSTRACT

The prestigious honor was bestowed for a series of stories by reporters David R. Ross and Amy Ritchart about the ties of Mayor Don Trotter and city Gas & Water Manager Dwight Luton to American Infrastructure Management Inc. The series reported that Trotter and Luton were directors and stockholders in A.I.M., a company with other directors and investors who also do business with the city.

FULL TEXT

The Leaf-Chronicle

The Leaf-Chronicle has earned the General Excellence top award for newspapers its size in the Tennessee Press Association's 2006 newspaper contest.

A first-place Edward J. Meeman Foundation Award for public service journalism powered the newspaper to its "best in class" honors. The prestigious honor was bestowed for a series of stories by reporters David R. Ross and Amy Ritchart about the ties of Mayor Don Trotter and city Gas & Water Manager Dwight Luton to American Infrastructure Management Inc.

The series reported that Trotter and Luton were directors and stockholders in A.I.M., a company with other directors and investors who also do business with the city.

"The series had it all - multiple angles, sidebars, graphics, editorials, investigative reporting. ... Excellent public service revealing a conflict of interest," contest judges from the Louisiana Press Association wrote.

The Meeman foundation was established in 1968 at the University of Tennessee to fund the contest and journalism scholarships. UT is a co-sponsor of the annual awards competition.

General Excellence honors are based on total points accumulated for 22 award categories. The Clarksville daily competes with small and midsize daily newspapers.

The Leaf-Chronicle also won first-place in three other categories:

- Education Reporting, for a collection of work by Ritchart and reporters Regan Huneycutt and April Rushing.
- Best News Photograph, for a picture taken by Greg Williamson showing a girl holding her pet rabbit after a tornado had ravaged her home.
- Make-up and Appearance, which recognizes excellence in presentation of news, photographs and headlines in all

sections.

Overall, The Leaf-Chronicle earned 15 awards, including in these categories:

- Local Features, second place.
- Sports Writing, second.
- Editorials, second.
- News Reporting, third.
- Special Section, fourth, for "Agenda 2005: Owing Our Growth."

Photo caption:

This photo by Greg Williamson won Best News Photograph.

DETAILS

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