

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

The Grant Tribune-Sentinel won three awards at the Nebraska Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest banquet held over the weekend.

First, second and third place winners were announced Saturday night at an awards presentation held at the Holiday Inn-Downtown in Lincoln with more than 150 journalists in attendance.



There were more than 4,000 separate entries representing 12 daily and 79 weekly newspapers in the state.

The entries were judged by members of the Michigan Press Association.

The Tribune won first place in the Front Page category, second place in the Headline Writing category, and third place in the Breaking News category.

Other Johnson Publication papers did extremely well at the contest, with The Imperial Republican winning six awards and The Wauneta Breeze bringing home 19 awards, along with placing second in the Class A sweepstakes at the annual contest.

The Aurora News-Register, whose publisher, Kurt Johnson, has ties to Johnson Publications, won the Loral Johnson Community Weekly Sweepstakes Award for one year. Johnson is the brother of the Tribune's co-publishers, Russ and Lori Pankonin and the son of former publishers, Elna and the late Loral Johnson of Imperial.

The Kearney Hub was a winner in the daily category, which excludes Omaha and Lincoln.

The weeklies are judged in 42 categories; the dailies are judged in 43 categories. Both focused on writing, photography, advertising, design and creativity.