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Great Falls student named high school journalist of year

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NEWS RELEASE

April 28, 2009

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GREAT FALLS STUDENT NAMED HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALIST OF YEAR

MISSOULA –

Great Falls High School senior Megan Gretch has been named Montana's High School Journalist of the Year.

Gretch, editor-in-chief of the school's student paper, The Iniwa, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Montana Newspaper Association. Six student journalists were nominated for the honor by their newspaper advisers.

The annual competition, which also honors the best in high school newspaper writing, photography and design, is sponsored by the Montana Journalism Education Association, The University of Montana School of Journalism and the Montana Newspaper Association. It is judged by newspaper professionals and UM journalism faculty.

The judges were impressed with Gretch's dedication to journalism and the excellence of her work. She has worked at The Iniwa since her sophomore year, was co-editor her junior year and this year assumed the top post at the paper. She's written compelling stories, is an excellent page designer and shows leadership in overseeing her staff. She also has worked as an intern at the Great Falls Tribune and plans to study journalism at UM in the fall. She'll receive her scholarship at the MNA convention June 20 in **Kalispell**.

Gretch has received a number of other awards, including National High School Journalist of the Year from the Journalism Education Association, and was selected to represent Montana at the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Conference, held in Washington, D.C., in March.

Pacesetter Awards, given to the top newspapers in each of four classes, were won by the Great Falls C.M. Russell Stampede (Class AA), the **Polson** High School Salishian (Class A), the Panther Press (Class B) at Jefferson High School in **Boulder** and **Ennis** High School's The Stang (Class C).

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