Twelve contest awards were earned by The Holyoke Enterprise staff members Saturday, Feb. 23 at the 135th annual Colorado Press Association convention and awards ceremony at the Westin Denver Downtown Hotel.

Enterprise managing editor Darci Tomky also received the Rising Star award at Saturday's ceremony.

Holyoke Enterprise staff members Darci Tomky, Brenda Brandt and Ashley Sullivan show off their awards from the Colorado Press Association convention last weekend. —Enterprise photo

The local newspaper competed in the Class 2 division for weekly newspapers with circulation from 1,001-2,000.

Awards received by staff members include:

—First-place black and white ad, S & W Auto Supply's Holiday Extravaganza from Dec. 15, 2011, designed by Tomky.

—First-place restaurant or dining ad, The Skillet's 2 for $25 Fridays, designed by Tomky.

—First- and second-place classified pages, for the Sept. 22, 2011 and March 8, 2012 editions, by Ashley Sullivan and Tomky.

—Second-place sports event story, Mark Edmonds' three-time state wrestling champion article from the Feb. 23, 2012 paper, by Brenda Brandt.

—Second-place photography portfolio by Chris Lee.

—Second-place automotive ad, Bonanza Ford's More to Love from April 26, 2012, by Tomky.

—Third-place advertising layout and design by Tomky, Sullivan, Lee and Brandt.

—Third-place sports photograph, Trevor Dalton's football photo from Oct. 13, 2011, by Lee.

—Third-place news story, Todd Peckham aiding injured in Aurora tragedy from July 26, 2012, by Tomky.

—Third-place small space ad, Circle of Friends' retreat from April 5, 2012, by Tomky.

—Third-place real estate ad, Two Dandy Houses for Sully Team SellState Ace Realty from June 14, 2012, by Tomky.

Brandt hands off gavel

As president of the Colorado Press Association board, Enterprise publisher Brenda Brandt presided over the convention meetings.

She has served on the board since September 2007 and had an extra long term as president beginning in September 2011 when the current president Bob Moore moved and resigned. Brandt, who was serving as vice president, stepped in for the remainder of his term as well as her full term.

Saturday she handed off the gavel and will now serve a year as chairman of the board. Brandt was awarded a past president's desk set at the awards ceremony.

Colorado Press Association president Brenda Brandt prepares to hand over the gavel to Bryce Jacobson of The Tribune.—Enterprise photo

Brandt, Tomky, Sullivan and Kyle Arnoldy participated in informative break-out sessions and workshops during the 2013 "Engage" convention.

Presenters and fellow newspapermen encouraged others to look toward the bright future of newspapers, who are now embracing a technological age with social media, websites, mobile

devices and new marketing ideas.

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