

October 9, 2023

Dear Committee,

It is truly a privilege to recommend, Seth Boyes, News Editor of the Dickinson County Newspaper for this special award. Seth has benefited both his region and our organization, Friends of the Abbie Gardner Cabin Historic Site, with his tenacious investigation of a lead given to him several years ago. Seth was presented with both a great story and a stolen artifact, tempting him to utilize both for his own gain. However, he relinquished the "easy story" for the "right story" and it took him on a multi-year journey challenging him with the unknown. Mr. Boyes discovered that returning a stolen artifact to the State of Iowa required finding an original family member of the Gardner family. This task was very difficult and had several dead ends as Seth continued to pursue the rightful owner. After what he thought was success, the State asked more investigation from him and he once again pursued finding the family needed to accept and then pass on the artifact to finally rest in its current display in the Abbie Gardner Museum in Arnolds Park, Iowa.

Our Friends organization will be forever grateful for the diligence of Seth Boyes. Seth demonstrated the importance of utilizing local journalism in the betterment of our community and in the history of the State of Iowa. It is my desire that Seth Boyes be rewarded for displaying the best practice of journalism.

Sincerely,

Anita Bomgaars
President of the Friends of the Abbie Gardner Cabin Historic Site
Orange City, Iowa