

# 2023 Media Outlet of the Year

## Washington County News

The Washington County News has been named the 2023 Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Media Outlet of the Year. The sports coverage for the WCN has been led by Backroads News & Media owner/publisher Dan Thalmann for the last several years. He took over for long-time sports editor Marcia Hubbard, who was also a KBCA award winner.

The sports coverage by the team of reporters and freelancers at the WCN has been honored with many awards from the Kansas Press Association during the last decade, including winning top awards in sports pages, sports photography and sports writing. The WCN was named the top mid-sized weekly newspaper in Kansas in 2015, 2016 and 2019.

Coverage in the WCN is focused on all of the KSHSAA sports for Clifton-Clyde, Hanover, Linn and Washington County High Schools, along with junior high sports and various community sports activities like summer youth baseball and softball. Particular attention is given to stats, box scores, standings and records, to help serve as a historic archive of each schools' athletic programs. Extensive coverage of post-season success has also been well-received by readers.

After 23 years in the newspaper business so far, Thalmann said one of the main connections he has had to the community has been through youth sports, and he's been doing it long enough now to have been able to cover a second generation of activities.

"The opportunity to document kids' sports activities from their first time stepping up to the T-ball tee until their final state track appearances as seniors and then lately, starting over with their kids at T-ball a few years later, has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my news career," said Thalmann. "I treasure the opportunity to document this part of our community experience."



**Dan Thalmann**

Owner/Publisher  
Backroads News & Media, Inc.

