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**Brooke Yurick of Bermudian Springs High School Wins
PNA Foundation, AT&T It Can Wait Editorial Contest**

HARRISBURG, Pa., February 19, 2018 – Brooke Yurick, a senior at Bermudian Springs High School, York Springs, is the 2018 winner of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation’s “It Can Wait” editorial contest.

Yurick receives a \$500 cash prize to be awarded on March 14, in conjunction with the PNA Foundation’s Student Keystone Press Awards luncheon during the America East Media Business and Technology Conference in Hershey, Pa.

Since 2015, the PNA Foundation, along with PNA and PNA member newspapers, has partnered with AT&T to host an “It Can Wait” editorial contest to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. This year, high school students were asked to write a column or editorial that best answers the question, “Why is it important to take the It Can Wait pledge that distracted driving is never okay?”

Beginning last fall, PNA members hosted local contests and encouraged high school students to help to make our roadways safer for Pennsylvanians. A winner was recognized in each community and entered in the statewide contest, which drew close to 240 entries from across the state. Yurick was recognized by the *Gettysburg Times*.

In selecting Yurick as the Pennsylvania winner, judges commented that, “Brooke’s essay was hauntingly simple, yet powerfully strong. Her potent words as well as her use of poetry touched us and we couldn’t turn away from her impassioned plea of making the correct choices. Her work is truly worthy of recognition.”

With a record number of outstanding entries received this year, additional awards were added. Treston Johnson, a senior at Carlisle High School, receives second place honors, while Julie Bauer, a Bellwood-Antis High School senior, places third. Johnson, Bauer and their parents are invited to the Student Keystone Press Awards luncheon where they will receive cash prizes and framed certificates.

Distracted driving is involved in more than 200,000 vehicle crashes each year, often involving injuries and death. Despite knowing the risks, more than seven in 10 drivers engage in smart phone activity while driving, and four in 10 teens admit to social networking while driving.

“It Can Wait” is a national movement urging drivers to visit www.ItCanWait.com, where they can pledge to keep their eyes on the road, not on their phone, and share their pledges via Twitter (#ItCanWait) and Facebook. Since its launch in 2010, the campaign has helped increase awareness of the dangers of texting while driving to about 95 percent for all audiences surveyed and inspired more than 23.5 million pledges not to text and drive.

About PNA Foundation:

The PNA Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to provide training and resources to PNA members, to develop the next generation of readers and journalists, and to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press.

About PNA: The PNA, founded in 1925, is the nonprofit trade association for print and digital news media in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote a free and independent press. It has more than 300 newspaper and media-related members, including daily, weekly, and college newspapers and online publications.

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