



Nia Carrillo

Senior Reporter

ABOUT ME

Experienced reporter with 11 years covering energy, agriculture, municipal government, and rural affairs across regional newsrooms. Built the energy and agriculture beat's digital readership from 4,100 to 6,900 unique weekly visitors by developing data-driven feature series. Mentored 4 junior reporters on source development, editorial judgment, and beat sourcing while pitching up to 7 original story ideas per week.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Reporter | Sheyenne Prairie Media, Wahpeton, ND
2021 – Present

- Pitch 7 original story ideas each week by monitoring public meeting agendas, court dockets, and community tips, giving editors a pipeline of 28 vetted enterprise angles per month.
- Mentored 3 junior reporters on source development and editorial judgment, reducing their average revision rounds from 4 to 2 per story within 6 months.
- Grew the energy and agriculture beat's digital readership from 4,100 to 6,900 unique weekly visitors over 18 months by developing data-driven feature series.
- Arrange and conduct on-the-record interviews with county commissioners, tribal officials, and agricultural researchers, then evaluate notes to isolate facts for long-form features.

Reporter | Red River Valley Dispatch, Fargo, ND
2018 – 2021

- Pitched 5 original story ideas per week across the municipal government and infrastructure beats, with 3 advancing to published enterprise pieces each month.
- Mentored 1 incoming reporter during a 9-month onboarding period, co-bylined 11 stories to build their sourcing confidence on the education beat.
- Increased section readership by 1,740 unique weekly visitors within 14 months by filing SEO-focused stories on flood preparedness and zoning disputes.
- Captured photos and video at breaking-news scenes, processing media in Adobe Premiere Pro for same-day web packages alongside written coverage.

Staff Writer | Otter Tail County Observer, Fergus Falls, MN
2015 – 2018

- Pitched an average of 4 original story ideas weekly to the editorial desk, generating leads on county budget shortfalls, school consolidation, and rural healthcare access.
- Grew the paper's online readership by 1,230 unique monthly visitors within the first year by publishing enterprise stories on regional wind-energy development.
- Reviewed and evaluated reporting notes from county board sessions and court proceedings, distilling 90-minute meetings into 600-word articles filed within 4 hours.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

- BA in Communication
Valley City State University
Valley City, ND | 2011 – 2015

KEY SKILLS

- AP style
- Adobe Premiere Pro
- Content management systems
- Tableau
- SEO for news
- Public records research
- Beat reporting
- Enterprise story development
- Chicago style
- AI transcription tools