

Anna Beth Smith  
Lovejoy High School-Broadcast Journalist of the Year

This year has not looked like how I would have ever expected, and being a student and a journalist during a national pandemic is definitely not something I thought I would experience, but although the year was a difficult one, the hurdles that have come along with it have shaped me into the leader, student, and story teller I am today. As the Executive Producer for the Lovejoy News Network I had the unique challenge of trying to bring together a team that was the most divided it had ever been. We were not able to meet together in class for a portion of the year so we had to get creative with how we would produce stories, giving birth to what we call Leopard Pause. With this new production came new training, many debriefs, and a slew of kinks to work out, but with a determined team and the right leadership we quickly mastered the new content. Along with planning new content I also stepped into a larger leadership role, leading teams, reviewing packages, and editing together our final production. This larger role meant I was now not only in charge of my own success, but the success of an entire staff. With this new found responsibility and a determination to better myself even under the unique circumstances, I pushed myself to put everything I had into LNN, even traveling to another state for a story. I used my love for storytelling to encourage the staff to produce content they and I could both be proud of. We grew closer together as a team, furthering the staff's excitement to keep the community informed and create engaging stories. As a team we put out almost double the amount of stories as we did last year, and I would have never thought the amount of success, grit, or determination the staff has shown in such trying times would have been possible, let alone truly happen. I am immensely proud of how far the staff and I have come from the beginning of the year, and I am excited to see what bigger and better things we can go on to accomplish in the year to come.

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**Video Packages:**

Distracted Driving PSA: <https://youtu.be/5a-qztFqKQQ>

Ranch Roots: <https://youtu.be/4RLUeDcvIjY>

Words Matter: <https://youtu.be/8qeiDMaGLh8>

Booming Business: <https://youtu.be/kZZbarwwB9Q>

Beyond the Diploma: <https://youtu.be/hMLJgCCZXCg>