



Release

October 1, 2006

2006 “Newspaper of the Year” Awards

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Members of Illinois Press Association studied over 4,115 entries submitted by 138 Michigan newspapers when they judged the 2006 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

Judges’ decisions and comments are listed on the following pages. Complete results and statistical data will be available online on Monday, September 25 at the Michigan Press Association home page: www.michiganpress.org. Newspapers are encouraged to use these results to promote their newspaper during National Newspaper Week, October 1 – 7, 2006. Newspaper Week materials for promotion can be accessed electronically through a link on our website at www.michiganpress.org.

The 2006 “Newspaper of the Year” award is presented to the top newspaper in eight circulation classes based on points accumulated (100 for first, 70 for second and 40 for third – points are doubled in the General Excellence contest) in all Editorial contest categories. Winners of those awards are listed below.

“Newspaper of the Year” winners will receive plaques during the winter convention.

Daily Newspapers of the Year			Weekly Newspapers of the Year		
Circ.	Total	Newspaper	Circ.	Total	Newspaper
Class	Points	Class	Points		
Class A	2,000	Detroit Free Press	Class A	1,750	News-Herald, Southgate
Class B	940	Flint Journal	Class B	880	Detroit Jewish News
Class C	980	Jackson Citizen Patriot	Class C	1,090	Northville Record
Class D	910	Livingston County Daily Press & Argus	Class D	930	State Line Observer

Circulation Class Breakdown: Daily Class A – 100,001 or more; Daily Class B – 40,001 – 100,000; Daily Class C – 15,001-40,000; Daily Class D – under 15,001; Weekly Class A – 25,001 or more; Weekly Class B – 10,001 – 25,000; Weekly Class C – 4,001 – 10,000; Weekly Class D – under 4,001.

The MPA Public Service Award recognizes a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper or newspaper individual that has made a significant contribution to the betterment of their community. This year, the judge picked four finalists out of 13 entries. They are: the Kalamazoo Gazette for the series “The Menace of Meth;” Chris Grosser, Gaylord Herald Times for “Drop in for Life;” Lynn Moore and Teresa Taylor of the Muskegon Chronicle for Charter School series; and the Oakland Press of Pontiac for “Pontiac at the Crossroads.”

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into newspapers. The three finalists out of 13 entries are: Kristofer Karol of the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus; Kayla Stewart of the Daily Mining Gazette in Houghton, and Nicole Geary of the Lansing State Journal.

The winners of the 2006 MPA Public Service Award and the MPA Rookie Writer Award will be announced at the Association’s Annual Winter Convention in Grand Rapids.

NEW THIS YEAR

For the first time Michigan Press Association has offered a Best Web site contest. Newspaper’s Web sites were divided into two circulation categories. Winners are listed on the last page of the Editorial Contest winners press release with comments by judges for all participants.

Also, all first place Feature Story winners will be entered into a “Best of the Best” contest with the winning entry to be announced and plaque awarded at the Association’s Annual Winter Convention in Grand Rapids.

General Excellence

● Daily Class A 3 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Great design on covers and inside pages; local, local, local emphasis; ads seem to really stand out; lively editorial pages; hate the old-school headline fonts.

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Clean look with lots of white space; lively design; lots of faces in really expressive photos; lots of local coverage; edit page pretty standard.

3rd Place- *The Detroit News*

Good local content and hard-news approach; for such a large paper, design and use of photos is pretty mundane; reproduction seems flat.

● Daily Class B 8 entries

1st Place- *The Oakland Press*

Bold use of photographs: strong local coverage particularly in news; diversity of content throughout sections. The Oakland Press is a very good newspaper.

2nd Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Best designed newspaper in the group; good prep sports report; surprising lack of local business coverage; all in all, a very good newspaper.

3rd Place- *The Ann Arbor News*

Clean design; solid local news coverage across sections; held back somewhat by opinion, no staff written editorial in one, Sunday's pages are buried in the back of B section.

● Daily Class C 8 entries

1st Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Consistently good from front to back. Strong photo packages, interesting features and good leads of news make paper a great reader piece. Especially liked on-the-spot Katrina coverage.

2nd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

This paper is doing some unique stuff. Promo half-wrap is an interesting addition. In-depth packages keep community well informed.

3rd Place- *Monroe Evening News*

Good mix of hard news and people pieces. Pictures really tell stories, while stories really tell readers about the people making the news. Sports layout weak in comparison to rest of product.

Hon. Mention- *Port Huron Times Herald*

Good content and nice approaches to stories. Paper comes across as cluttered, however, and photos could be stronger.

● Daily Class D 18 entries

1st Place- *The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak*

Clean design; unusual vertical look to A1; short on local news after A1; even edit page lacking in local; good writing; lots of photos; reproduction washed out.

2nd Place- *The Daily Telegram, Adrian*

Great, lively A1 design; almost all local A1, but inside it's barren of local other than honor rolls; edit page needs more local; very strong design overall, but needs more content; good reproduction.

General Excellence Daily Class D continued

3rd Place- *Ludington Daily News*

Lots of local news; strong, hard news covers with sex abuse, youth prison; lots of faces in pictures; need more local input on editorial page.

Hon. Mention- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Lots of local news; good design on A1, but weak inside; all-local A1; edit page design boring.

● Weekly Class A 10 entries

1st Place- *Metro Times, Detroit*

I would have been more comfortable with this paper in an "alternative" category, but it looks good. The writing is very good, the reporting is extensive (though opinionated, as befits the audience). The key here is whether it's appropriate for its audience, and I think it is.

2nd Place- *Livingston Community News*

Strong local content, including particularly strong features with well-developed angles. Good use of photos, although reproduction isn't great. No editorial page? If it had one, it would've been 1st place.

3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Extensive local content, although writing still needs work. Good sized photos hurt by mediocre reproduction.

● Weekly Class B 30 entries

1st Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Head and shoulders the top paper in the group; strong stories and commentary; slick design and photography; standout advertising content.

2nd Place- *Bedford Now*

Filled with local news and features, packaged in an easy-to-read tab format.

3rd Place- *Rochester Eccentric*

Sports and features sections especially shine.

● Weekly Class C 24 entries

1st Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

High impact front page with nice big photos, quality writing and editorial pages. Creative advertising and nice overall reproductive quality. Sports, lifestyle sections really add reader interest! Nice job.

2nd Place- *Milford Times*

Lots of big color photos, great use of white space, nice combination of ads and news, well organized sections.

3rd Place- *The Tecumseh Herald*

Ads are really high quality and have big impact. High quality paper stock makes front and back pages really stand out and makes photos look fantastic! Nice idea.

Hon. Mention- *Oceana's Herald-Journal*

Photos are a knockout! Such high quality - also great ads, front page design is great. Nice job!

● Weekly Class D 16 entries

1st Place- *State Line Observer*

Overall top newspaper with clean lines, solid ad design and top-notch color used well. Headlines are clean, pages are open and just feel right. Organized consistently and easy to read.

General Excellence Weekly Class D continued

2nd Place- *Charlevoix Courier*

Good feel for this compact tab, press work is tight and right on the money. Could use more edit space but who couldn't. Good solid job in a convenient format.

3rd Place- *Dexter Leader*

Solid format with good use of photos. Paper sections tie package together with excellent design throughout.

- Sustaining Member 2 entries

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

A fun publication, very different from other entries. Not sure that it fits anywhere in any news contest, but it's an enjoyable and very strange read.

Spot News Story

- Daily Class A 9 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Staff *Good-bye, Mrs. Parks*
Wow! Beautifully told stories and commentary on a tight deadline. Outstanding work.

2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Staff *General misery*
Freep staff goes above and beyond to cover a story that will have such a side impact across the state.

3rd Place- *The Detroit News*

B. Vlasic, B. Clanton *Delphi*
Solid news coverage, commentary on Delphi's problems throughout.

- Daily Class B 22 entries

1st Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Staff *Cop shot*
Strong reporting; powerful writing; efficient storytelling; great work overall.

2nd Place- *The Oakland Press*

Staff *Sad day at Wixom*
Comprehensive coverage covers all the angles, from the spot news to impact on workers and community, combined with helpful information and commentary.

3rd Place- *Kalamazoo Gazette*

J. Mack, A. Jones *What a gift*
Uplifting story told really well

Hon. Mention- *Lansing State Journal*

K Grasha, H. Leach *Ricky's parents*
accuse each other
No comment given.

- Daily Class C 16 entries

1st Place- *Battle Creek Enquirer*

T. Christenson *Officer slain*
Strong news report packaged with personal stories about slain officer and his colleagues combine for outstanding coverage.

2nd Place- *Daily News, Midland*

J. Telfer, K. Nankorivis, K Marchlowski *Anthrax hoax*
Unusual story of a newspaper reporting a news story involving itself was handled professionally.

Spot News Story Daily Class C continued

3rd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

K. Roberts, P. Overeiner *TRW to close plant*
Quick response to news tip allowed reporters to find solid sources that helped the report.

- Daily Class D 30 entries

1st Place- *The Daily Telegram, Adrian*

Andy Rogers *40 Minutes on the loose*
Strong, in-depth reporting on deadline means readers got thorough coverage. Nice job holding prison officials accountable for the escape, and also personalizing the story of the man who was abducted.

2nd Place- *Ludington Daily News*

K. Braciszkeski *Body found in burning car*
Good work pulling together a complex story with many elements on a tight deadline. Story helped by added context of the 2004 abduction.

3rd Place- *The Daily News, Greenville*

Staff *Welcome home*
Breadth of coverage impressive

- Weekly Class A 14 entries

1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Emily Burtch *A witness to terror*
Great lead; really draws reader in and puts them at the center of the scene.

2nd Place- *Livingston Community News*

L. Smith, J. Mulcahy *Survivor's stories*
Excellent story written with great narrative style.

3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

J. Alley *Look out below*
Outstanding lead! Writer picked the best quotes and weaved a strong narrative.

Hon. Mention- *LA View*

J. Britt, C. Pierson, M. Corbin *Magnitude of loss...*
Good story.

- Weekly Class B 20 entries

1st Place- *Troy Eccentric*

Megan Pennefather *Leila*
Strong narrative style tells compelling, sad story. In a tough category, this was the clear winner.

2nd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn*

Karen Scally *Guido shares his battle with cancer*
A great story that speaks for itself. Top-notch writing.

3rd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn, Dearborn*

M. J. Happy, K. Scally *Candidate has criminal past*
Excellent story – good work talking with both the candidate's supporters and detractors. Well balanced.

Hon. Mention- *Farmington Observer*

Sue Buck *Bus vs. Barn*
This tightly-written story draws the reader in right away with an emotion-packed lead.

Spot News Story Weekly Class C continued

● Weekly Class C 29 entries

1st Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

M. Jones, P. Comings, M. Jergenson, C. Grosser

G-P Coverage

Entry is emotionally gripping and technically flawless. Perfect coverage of a controversial plant closing.

2nd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

M. Jones, P. Comings, M. Jergenson ***Shock and Grief***

Again, powerful writing. Coverage of event had impact. Well done.

3rd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

C. Grosse, M. Jones ***Trip to cinema ends in tragedy***

Another gripping, well-written entry complemented by good transitions. Writers did a great job making reader feel the community's pain. Great.

Hon. Mention- *South Lyon Herald*

Staff ***Thousands honor Paul Baker***

A great, powerful lead. Good story.

● Weekly Class D 9 entries

1st Place- *Presque Isle County Advance*

Staff ***Fire destroys buildings, not spirit***

What happened was every publisher's worst nightmare. Here's hoping the labor of love continues another 128 years.

2nd Place- *Manchester Enterprise*

Marsha Johnson Chartrand ***Escapee shot in Arkansas***

Great story on a tight deadline!

3rd Place- *Charlevoix Courier*

Benjamin Gohs ***Norwood planners unseat secretary***

Compelling story, well told.

Hon. Mention- *The Advance, Blissfield*

Doug Goodnough ***Thanks to BPD officer's efforts . . .***

Narrative especially well written. Good entry in a tough category.

● Sustaining Member 2 entries

1st Place- *NorthernIslander*

Steve West ***Arrested for drug charges***

Good work. It's tough when the arresting agencies won't talk, but you did a good job.

2nd Place- *NorthernIslander*

Elaine West ***CMU's purchase***

Good work on a tight deadline.

News Story

● Daily Class A 10 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

M. Elrick, J. Schaefer ***Mayor living large . . .***

The breadth of research brought to this series is amazing and the Free Press staff writers did an incredible job of "getting the story" in spite of all the city roadblocks. What helped in understanding all the details were the various points of entry that ran with each story.

News Story Daily Class A continued

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Steve Harmon ***Where have they been?***

A crisp look at the frequency of and extent to which congressmen take trips funded by lobbyists. Good points of entry.

3rd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

David Ashenfelter ***I'm missing 16 years***

A disturbing tale of a man unjustly imprisoned is told with sensitivity and objectivity.

● Daily Class B 25 entries

1st Place- *Flint Journal*

Robert Snell ***Bankruptcy in ranks of officials***

Nice piece of investigative work that turned up a surprising number of political figures who had filed for bankruptcy. Really raises questions about how little we know about some of the folks who are watching the money.

2nd Place- *The Saginaw News*

Scott Davis ***Within striking distance***

Good job of localizing a state debate with surprising results. Does a good job of raising both the pros and the cons of changing the sex offender laws.

3rd Place- *The Ann Arbor News*

Art Aisner ***Group says murderer deserves clemency***

A good look at a new twist on the "Burning Bed" story. Whether abused woman should be pardoned for murder demanded by boyfriend. Good job of showing both sides.

● Daily Class C 29 entries

1st Place- *The Bay City Times*

Jeff Kart ***Fighting for air***

Compelling questions raised about the extra-ordinary levels of asthma in town. Good investigative work.

2nd Place- *The Bay City Times*

Helen Lounsbury ***Cormorant Controls***

Nice job of capturing an interesting debate. Good reporting.

3rd Place- *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Stephanie Antonian-Rutherford ***One "wild" night***

The reporter does a good "you are there" account of this "girls gone wild" phenomenon. Eye-opening and sad.

● Daily Class D 52 entries

1st Place- *The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak*

Catherine Kavanagh ***A dirty deed***

Nice job laying out the details of a scam that robbed a couple of their paid-off house. Good reporting job and good work on details of how to avoid similar fraud.

2nd Place- *Sturgis Journal*

Terry Katz ***One step away***

Great companion piece to story on how easy someone can end up homeless. Really got to the human side. Plus, a payoff with readers coming to the woman's rescue.

3rd Place- *Three Rivers Commercial-News*

Virginia Ransbottom ***VFW wants ATF to return gun***

Interesting account of the feds' mysterious confiscation of a "concealed weapon" at the VFW hall without explanation as to why they can't get it back.

News Story Weekly Class A continued

- Weekly Class A 30 entries

1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Jason Alley *Hundreds of records falsified*
Great reporting on a newsworthy and fascinating development. Accused was treated fairly. The reporter was smart to listen to the cell phone conversation of the accused lawyer.

2nd Place- *Ypsilanti Courier*

Austen Smith *Hunt for killer*
Well-rounded and serious coverage of this bizarre occurrence.

3rd Place- *Livingston Community News*

Leanne Smith *Vandalism at cemetery*
Way to cover the emotions produced by this incident.

- Weekly Class B 47 entries

1st Place- *Flint Township and Swartz Creek News*

Robyn Rosenthal *Crimes of opportunity*
Interesting examination of crime in a community – when it's most likely to occur; where; types of offense – told through eyes of a crime victim.

2nd Place- *Northern Express Weekly*

Anne Stanton *The wolf man of Brethren*
Really well written, quirky tale of life and tragic death of one of society's outsiders. Story raises troubling questions of "suicide by cop" or an unjustified police shooting.

3rd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Shelli Liebman Dorfman *A helping hand*
Poverty in the Jewish community? This certainly is not a well-known problem and Dorfman's coverage takes readers on a tour of a Jewish food pantry.

- Weekly Class C 62 entries

1st Place- *Northville Record*

Victoria Mitchell *"No"ville*
Through a series of articles, the writer illustrates two complicated bond sale proposals clearly and with reader-friendly sidebars. The clear winner in this class.

2nd Place- *Milford Times*

Aileen Wingblad *Murder trial*
Well-written stories follow trial while capturing the brutality of the crime and feelings of the victims.

3rd Place- *Milford Times*

Kate Phillips *Police nab Internet predator*
Reporter backs up local story with state and national information and experts. Useful sidebars are included.

Hon. Mention- *Tuscola County Advertiser*

Mary Drier *Animal shelter*
Too often animals are forgotten. Reporter did a good job with seeing this through to the end.

- Weekly Class D 24 entries

1st Place- *Homer Index*

D. Cornelius, M. Warner *Litchfield recall*
Series of stories throughout summer gave readers information they needed on contentious issue of recall of school board members. Strong leads on each of the stories draw readers right from the start.

News Story Weekly Class D continued

2nd Place- *Chelsea Standard*

Steve Ricci *Water woes*
Water – we like to drink it from a bottle, but who wants to read about it? Steve Ricci's series of stories shows importance of water system to community.

3rd Place- *Benzie County Record Patriot*

Roland Halliday *The Maples*
Continued coverage over two-month period contributed to needed change at local health care facility.

- Sustaining Member 3 entries

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

Richard P. Smith *An effort to ban dry land shares*
Lots of good information about a topic important to local readers.

Design

- Daily Class A 3 entries

1st Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Consistent, clean. Good color. Great font. Great index.

2nd Place- *The Detroit News*

No comment given.

3rd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

No comment given.

- Daily Class B 7 entries

1st Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Good use of graphic elements, illustrations to complement photos. All section fronts given special treatment.

2nd Place- *Flint Journal*

Nice clean look. Good use of strong local photos.

3rd Place- *The Ann Arbor News*

No comment given.

- Daily Class C 8 entries

1st Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

The things this paper does best is great use of white space, clean design and good use of color/photos. For a smaller paper, it looks very professional and very attractive.

2nd Place- *The Bay City Times*

There are two things about this paper that is impressive design-wise: Excellent use of spot color and a kick-a** sports section. It's clear the designers are trying different things on the front page.

3rd Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Cool masthead. Nice typography. Effective use of white space and color.

- Daily Class D 15 entries

1st Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Clearly the best in this category. Everything from the big-picture presentation to the clean, crisp font choices make this a pleasure to read.

2nd Place- *The Daily News, Greenville*

Solid design with lots of elements. Fairly easy to navigate.

3rd Place- *The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak*

Solid centerpieces highlighted these entries.

Design continued

● Weekly Class A 8 entries

1st Place- *Metro Times, Detroit*
Effective and sometimes unorthodox use of art. Well-organized – easy to follow. Good white space and use of color.

2nd Place- *Livingston Community News*

For being a weekly, it's clear they put some thought into striving for a larger-paper look. They're particularly effective in their use of color.

3rd Place- *The Source, Shelby Twp./Utica*

No comment given.

● Weekly Class B 17 entries

1st Place- *Tri-County Times, Fenton*

Consistent. Clean. Great stories. Very readable paper.

2nd Place- *The County Press, Lapeer*

Traditional community newspaper. Local stories. Good color.

3rd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Excellent product. Great weekly. Great ads, especially glossy color.

Hon. Mention- *The Bay Voice*

No comment given.

● Weekly Class C 13 entries

1st Place- *South Lyon Herald*

In a category which saw all winners from the same company the Herald stands out. Sports presentation is strong. Edit pages for all could use some updating. Clean and consistent.

2nd Place- *Novi News*

Clean, easy to read. Would like to see more open pages – as I'm sure staff would as well. Excellent press work as are all winners in this category.

3rd Place- *Milford Times*

Bright engaging and aggressive design that showcases staff work in an engaging design. Photos are strong.

● Weekly Class D 12 entries

1st Place- *State Line Observer*

Beautiful header blend of photos and sections. Clean layout and good choice of fonts. Photos/copy balanced well throughout. Superb work all-around.

2nd Place- *Dexter Leader*

Well organized design. Good use of photography and fun headers with each story and section.

3rd Place- *Cassopolis Vigilant*

Consistent, readability is top notch. Horizontal and vertical columns provide nice contrast between stories. Dividing design elements, i.e. 5 lines/boxes/photos all placed intelligently – making for an overall pleasant reading experience.

● Sustaining Member 1 entries

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

A very "interesting" publication. It would be hard to pass it up on the newsstand. You've gotta love their use of photographs.

Feature Story

● Daily Class A 12 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Patricia Anstett *Stem cell medicine*

Very good package of stories that illuminates the potential for the use of stem cells in medicine – one of those topics that people are not very educated on. This goes a long way toward changing that.

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Terri Finch Hamilton *He's got game*

How crazy is this guy? Great read about someone marching to his own drum. Compelling, interesting, detailed and fun from beginning to end.

3rd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Ken Kolker *Restoration takes hold*

One of those "there but for the grace of God" stories that just sucks you in. Story really captures what the woman has gone through; her capacity to get beyond the ordeal is amazing.

● Daily Class B 31 entries

1st Place- *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Barbara Walters *Hope is stronger than fear*

A compelling story that delves into the far reaching effects of family tragedy. It is well told, touching and easy to read.

2nd Place- *The Oakland Press*

Stephen Frye *Tell it to the judge*

A very interesting story that shows a side of court cafes you never see or hear about. A great example of enterprise reporting that goes beyond the verdict. Excellent reporting and writing.

3rd Place- *The Ann Arbor News*

Jo Mathis *When the mind conflicts with the body*

An in-depth look at a controversial issue compounded by the fact that it centers on a 15-year-old. Mathis demonstrates an ability to leave a comprehensive and informative story with a personal touch.

Hon. Mention- *Lansing State Journal*

Nicole Geary *Voices from war*

A succinct, well-written story focusing on the miraculous recovery of an injured soldier in Iraq. It is an uplifting and easy read.

● Daily Class C 33 entries

1st Place- *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Andy Rathbun *Wrecked lives*

The reporter does a very good job of documenting a horror story that could happen to any parent. Good anecdotal lead; writing compels you to keep going; nice work gaining the confidence of the teen and his parents.

2nd Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Becky Kalajian *By children, against children*

Chilling account of a type of crime that's more common than most would think. Good job of bringing that home and really getting the mother to honestly relay her feelings.

Feature Story Daily Class C continued

3rd Place- *The Bay City Times*

Patti Brandt *Not nearly famous*
Great account of a tale that could be that of hundreds of aging rockers. The dream dies hard. Great job of getting into these guy's heads to see what they're thinking and how they keep going.

● Daily Class D 63 entries

1st Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Lisa Roose-Church *Officer never says die*
You're very good. Descriptive. Out of over 60 entries in this category, yours made me sit back and read. It gave me goose bumps and made me want to meet Officer Moll and shake his hand. I'm sure it left readers talking. Very concise.

2nd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Kristofer Karol *From paradise to hell*
Clean read, great quotes, made me smile and gave me inspiration. Good job finding this man to profile. You captured this man's spirit. Great photo inside, seeing Klein through cornfield as he walks by.

3rd Place- *The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak*

Michael McConnell *Anatomy of an addict*
Great descriptive inside view of a heroine addict. Reads clean and shines light on a serious situation.

Hon. Mention- *Grand Haven Tribune*

Alan Ingram *Skipping to her own beat*
Really cute. I read it all quickly and it made me smile. You captured her spirit and I'd love to catch a glimpse of her skipping through town.

● Weekly Class A 40 entries

1st Place- *The Source, Shelby Twp./Utica, Shelby Twp./Utica*

Joe Warner *Always a Mustang*
This is community news at its best. A small-town story made as important in the paper as it is to the people involved. Warner's writing tells the readers of the event's scope with subtlety. He lets the story tell itself.

2nd Place- *Livingston Community News*

Leanne Smith *The morel of the story?*
Smith's descriptive writing lets readers enjoy a simple rite of spring without the risk of poison ivy.

3rd Place- *Metro Times, Detroit*

Jonathan Cunningham *Romancing the hood*
When a great story is handed to a writer, making the most of it can be as difficult and intimidating as turning a mundane tale into something worth reading. Cunningham grabs the reader from the get-go.

● Weekly Class B 58 entries

1st Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Elizabeth Applebaum *Power of love*
Wonderful in-depth look at autism and list of resources for parents of children with this condition. Writer spent a great deal of time with this family.

2nd Place- *Flint Township and Swartz Creek News*

Robyn Rosenthal *The right one*
Beautiful story feature on a long love affair. Made me get tears in my eyes. Told concisely and passionately. Story I'm sure many readers related to friends/family.

Feature Story Weekly Class B continued

3rd Place- *Troy Eccentric*

Megan Pennefather *Over 50 ladies softball*
Uplifting story. Nice quotes. Makes you keep reading and is inspiring.

● Weekly Class C 73 entries

1st Place- *Northville Record*

M. Johnston, S. Eggleston *Got God?*
Interesting and original topic to explore. Great design, very informative, easy to read.

2nd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

Nicole Laskowski *Homeless for a night*
Great idea to get to the heart of a story you should try to feel it firsthand. Concise – just enough to shed light on a few people utilizing the shelter.

3rd Place- *The Tri-City Times, Imlay*

Catherine Minoli *The road to redemption*
Nice piece. Easy to read and compelling – educational.

Hon. Mention- *Wayne Eagle*

Scott Spielman *Home town hero*
Thanks for recognizing these amazing police dogs that protect our officers. Great touch (I laughed) interviewing the dog!

● Weekly Class D 36 entries

1st Place- *Cass City Chronicle*

Tom Montgomery *Dying for a drink*
Very well done. Thank you for sharing such a personal struggle and awareness to help others. Good luck to you.

2nd Place- *The Missaukee Sentinel*

Mike Dunn *LC vet understands...*
Thank you for sharing this veteran's story. Very compelling and definitely shows readers the price many pay for our freedom. Timely piece.

3rd Place- *The Advance, Blissfield*

Doug Goodnough *Mission accomplished*
Cute piece - nice graphic - captured the topic nicely.

● Sustaining Member 5 entries

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

Connie Thompson *Savvy Sculptor*
Very descriptive of park and artist. Sounds like a fun place.

2nd Place- *UP Magazine*

Michael VanDenBranden *Heaven is an Island*
Great history lesson with a touch of humor. Keeps reader reading and entertained.

3rd Place- *NorthernIslander*

Elaine West *People who saved Christmas*
Nice documentaion of a memorable Christmas.

Enterprise Reporting

● Daily Class A 8 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

J. Collier, K. Stringer, A. B. Memba *Driven away*
A very human look at the plight of the communities which depend on the auto industry – loss of jobs gets all the news coverage – this is insightful look at loss.

Enterprise Reporting continued

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

M. Lloyd, N Bickel *The story of Sedekie*
Melting-pot classroom puts human face on struggles schools across nation are facing. Emphasis on kids certainly brings story home for readers.

3rd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

M. Lloyd, N Bickel, K. Reinstadler *Double dipping or win-win*
Great reporting that highlights a common - and costly - practice probably known to few readers and taxpayers.

Hon. Mention- *The Detroit News*

Marisa Schultz *Disabled and denied*
This is a series every newspaper in the country should do.

● Daily Class B 32 entries

1st Place- *Flint Journal*

Matt Bach *Kicked out*
Important examination of the way a school district apparently has chosen to deal with problem students – by kicking high percentage of them out.

2nd Place- *Flint Journal*

Marjory Raymer *Shorted at the pump*
Great investigation – consumers are getting short-changed, and they don't even know it until they read this story.

3rd Place- *The Oakland Press*

Carol Hopkins *Who drives what*
A fun way to look at perks for public officials – we're always writing about officials' salaries, but that shiny new Caddy is a nice benefit that usually slips past the taxpayers.

Hon. Mention- *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Stephanie Esters *Barely grown and alone*
Heart-wrenching look at 'kids' forced to grow up too soon – foster kids too often overlooked by society.

● Daily Class C 27 entries

1st Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Steven Hepker *Slammer time*
Interesting look at difference in sentences handed down by different judges – it appears justice isn't blind. This is a great idea for other papers to pick up on.

2nd Place- *The Bay City Times*

Steve Neavling *Public money wasted*
Who knew public officials could waste our money in so many ways?

3rd Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Tom Carr *NMC travel*
This look at college officials' travel budget holds them accountable for possible frivolous spending.

Hon. Mention- *The Herald-Palladium*

Julie Swidwa *Life after prison*
No comment given.

● Daily Class D 41 entries

1st Place- *The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak*

McConnell, Strawser, Augh *Heroin series*
Series unveils drug problems in idyllic community - important issue which public officials apparently preferred to ignore - made even more powerful with kids, paramedics, parents as voice of the story.

2nd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Demas, Totten, Bennan, Roose Church *Religion in Livingston county*

Religion is huge part of readers' lives, and one which we routinely under-report. This series finds revival of religion's importance in community at a time when church going nationwide is dropping off.

3rd Place- *Huron Daily Tribune*

Josh Fahlsing *Stolen valor*
Interesting piece, sure to raise readers' ire.

Hon. Mention- *Petoskey News-Review*

Fred Gray *Start of something beautiful*
Stories of people enjoying retirement give us all something to look forward to.

● Weekly Class A 28 entries

1st Place- *Livingston Community News*

Casey Hans *Record number expelled*
The story identifies a troubling trend and tackles it from various, well-rounded angles. The reporter brings in context that helps readers understand what is behind the trend.

2nd Place- *Metro Times, Detroit*

Joseph Kirschke *Contributor*
The story of the dollar cost of a gunshot moves the reader through the excellent details of the shooting and aftermath. Could use a more balanced perspective, however.

3rd Place- *Livingston Community News*

Lisa Carolin *Growth likely to slow*
Great way to collect data to uncover a trend in development. The story is comprehensive, but it could use more transitions in the writing.

● Weekly Class B 33 entries

1st Place- *Tri-County Times, Fenton*

Sharon Stone *Handicapped teen*
This is what newspapers were meant to do - write heartfelt stories that get a response from their readers and eventually bring results – logged coverage over several months helped get handicapped teen a new home.

2nd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn*

Mary Jane Happy *Domestic Violence series*
Interesting treatment for usually police-blotter coverage of domestic violence – tell story through eyes of several victims.

3rd Place- *South Haven Tribune*

B. Burkert, K. Ingalls *Changing face of South Haven*
An important look at growing minority population and what community must do cope with the change.

● Weekly Class C 36 entries

1st Place- *Northville Record*

Maureen Johnston *\$500 and a bucket of paint*
Though not hard-hitting or muckraking, this series epitomizes what enterprise reporting is all about – take an idea that will impact on the community and give it a human face. Many communities have troubled downtowns. This series shows how little things can have a big impact.

2nd Place- *Arenac County Independent*

Roberta House-Forshee *Exceeding income*
Revealing story on how public employees make more than the general public.

Enterprise Reporting continued

3rd Place- *Northville Record*

David Aguilar *Late Czech fees*
Interesting look at international "intrigue" in a small Michigan town, and how it affects taxpayers.

Hon. Mention- *Gaylord Herald Times*

Staff *Over a barrel*
Good humanizer on high cost of gas.

● Weekly Class D 14 entries

1st Place- *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio *H2O Convoy*
This series is the definition of this category. It helped paint a picture of not one, but two communities; brought to life issues surrounding this national tragedy; and presents a first-person story in gripping reality.

2nd Place- *Homer Index*

Mike Warner *Amish series*
Warner shines a wonderfully personal light on a facet of the community many people often misunderstand.

3rd Place- *Chelsea Standard*

Jennifer McArdle *Facing prejudice*
By personalizing a blight of society and then delving into the issues behind the issues, the writer makes this issue real for her readers.

Hon. Mention- *Lake Orion Review*

Don Rush *Let my son come home*
This is an effort of which even much larger papers would be proud.

● Sustaining Member 3 entries

1st Place- *NorthernIslander*

Steve West *Junk Cars*
Coverage keeps readers abreast of issue facing the island – hundreds of junk cars, and the problems faced in attempt to get rid of them.

Editorial Pages

● Daily Class A 3 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

All winners offer strong opinions and serve their readers well. This entry rose above the other two by keeping me interested, making me feel smarter and helping me understand the "whys."

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

The blend of local opinion with the bigger picture set this paper apart.

3rd Place- *The Detroit News*

Informs me well, but does nothing to rise above the ordinary.

● Daily Class B 6 entries

1st Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Close contest between first and second, but this paper's ability to present multiple sides/voices on single issues gives it the top spot. Style of editorials and mix of topics, voices and style also strong.

2nd Place- *The Oakland Press*

Love the blend of content and the blend of voices. Would like to see style that brings editorials closer to the average reader.

Editorial Pages continued

3rd Place- *Flint Journal*

Good material, nice use of color and pictures to draw in readers. Really cries out for local columns on day other than Sunday.

Hon. Mention- *The Saginaw News*

The unique approach sets this newspaper apart. The lack of staff columnists, however, knocks it down a notch... or two or three.

● Daily Class C 7 entries

1st Place- *Port Huron Times Herald*

Pages offer readers more than just opinions. Question of the day, outboxes, local voices and editorials left me feeling well informed. This is what an opinion page should be.

2nd Place- *Daily News, Midland*

Love the fact you don't have to go searching for a staff generated view point. Local editorials, including localization of bigger issues. Whole package could be more reader-friendly, especially second page.

3rd Place- *The Holland Sentinel*

Glad to see local focus on editorials disappointed by absence of other local views on first page. Staff column and letters seem buried in both location and middle nature of second page.

Hon. Mention- *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Like the look and local editorials. Hate the absence of staff columns, they would have moved this entry up in the category.

● Daily Class D 15 entries

1st Place- *The Daily Telegram, Adrian*

Clean look and easy to read. Good blend of content. Easy to understand style on editorials. Ability to apply big picture to local concerns makes this paper the best!

2nd Place- *The Daily News, Greenville*

Close competition for second and third, but clean, easy-to-read construction gives this paper the nod. Love the "chatty," neighborly approach on editorials and strong use of local writers.

3rd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Great concentration on local issues and rave reviews for tackling multiple ones each issue. Smaller mugs and some changes in layout on second page would make pages much more reader-friendly.

Hon. Mention- *Dowagiac Daily News*

Good use of local columns. Local voices/issues in editorials would go a long way.

● Weekly Class A 3 entries

1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

The clear winner! Outstanding writing, attractive, well-organized layout, engaging cartoons.

2nd Place- *LA View*

Congratulations on fine work in your first MPA competition. Good writing and nice use of color.

3rd Place- *The Source, Shelby Twp./Utica*

Good writing, but "Speak Out" contributors should be required to provide their names.

Editorial Pages Weekly B continued

● Weekly Class B 13 entries

1st Place- *Birmingham Eccentric*

Nice, clear design. Good local edits, with an occasional third edit on a broader issue. Letters represent a range of readers, from officials to regular residents. I especially like the quote at the bottom of the page. The editor isn't afraid to show quotes of humor, such as the "just say no to this" piece.

2nd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Good use of tabloid space, with strong and well-researched edits. An interesting column and a comic strip-like editorial cartoon.

3rd Place- *The County Press, Lapeer*

Edits, letters, a man on the street (or rather phone) piece and a photo opinion – this page has it all. The kid's responses in the photo opinion ensures that this page appeals to young readers too.

● Weekly Class C 13 entries

1st Place- *Northville Record*

Boy does this paper give its readers a lot. The multiple editorials are a great service that, clearly, also generates a lot of conversation and letter writing. Also like the inclusion of guest columns, but would love to see more individual staff voices.

2nd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

There is just something I like about these pages. Maybe it is the open feel, maybe it is the way the columnists approach their pieces, maybe it is "The word in the Street," I don't know, but it's something.

3rd Place- *Novi News*

Nice blend of material. I'm not sure what the photo has to do with opinion, but it does draw in the reader.

Hon. Mention- *South Lyon Herald*

In a close contest, this entry just left me wanting something more. Nice blend of material, and kudos for pictures of elected officials.

● Weekly Class D 9 entries

1st Place- *Clare Sentinel*

This paper has the most to offer – strong, local editorials; good blend of local columns; and faces and voices of the public. This would be good mix even for a much bigger paper.

2nd Place- *State Line Observer*

Clean, informative and well written. Good use of local voices.

3rd Place- *Edwardsburg Argus*

Love the mix of content. It helps me understand your community.

Hon. Mention- *The Advance, Blissfield*

Good local editorials and voices throughout. I just found myself wanting something more.

● Sustaining Member 1 entry

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

Strong writing. Liked the use of photos to illustrate points. Enjoyed mix of multiple cartoons.

Editorial Writing

● Daily Class A 7 entries

1st Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

April Johnson

Johnson doesn't believe in backing info or argument – her editorials start out strong and serious. Her pieces are well-researched and easy to read. A winning combination.

Editorial Writing continued

2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Ron Dzwonkowski

Wow. If only all editorial writers could have as much fun with their topics as Dzwonkowski does. I enjoyed the form as much as the content.

● Daily Class B 12 entries

1st Place- *Muskegon Chronicle*

David Kolb

Kolb is a gifted editorial writer who knows how to weave facts into his argument without seeming heavy-handed on the information side.

2nd Place- *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Charlotte Channing

The repetition and rhythm works nicely in "consider the brilliance of the promise." Channing's other pieces also demonstrate her skill with language.

3rd Place- *The Oakland Press*

Roger Wingelaar

Wingelaar makes a lot of valid points in his editorials and his arguments are easily laid out for the reader. It's also refreshing to see an editorial writer who understands editorials don't need to be long.

● Daily Class C 12 entries

1st Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Mike Tyree

This guy should be working for the comedy channel, where his skills in sarcasm could be even better demonstrated. He's an intelligent writer who doesn't need to rely on big words to make his point, but he's not all about laughs – his piece about the trustees is a sign he has picked up on a trend all journalists should worry about – government centralizing the flow of information to the public.

2nd Place- *The Herald-Palladium*

Dale Brewer

An interesting range of topics. The piece on Ibrahim P??? Was particularly well researched and well written.

3rd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Ken Wyatt

Wyatt makes a smart argument about holding off on the release of the school "corrections" list.

● Daily Class D 24 entries

1st Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Matt Smith

Strong editorial writing with a lot of local flavor. The "mourning dove hunting" was particularly compelling and sharply written.

2nd Place- *The Daily Mining Gazette*

Bud Sargent

This writer shows a flair for editorial writing, and he is able to analyze on range of topics.

3rd Place- *The Alpena News*

Bill Speer

Sound arguments and a nice conversational tone.

Editorial Writing continued

● Weekly Class A 3 entries

1st Place- *Michigan Chronicle*

Keith Owens

Wow! Passionate, moving, informative editorials on substantive matter. Great writing – forceful but not "preachy." Writer has a really good grasp on subject matter and presents opinion eloquently!

2nd Place- *LA View*

Mike Arnholt

Good writing. Takes subjects that could appear mundane, volatile or complicated – and puts them in perspective in a "homespun" way. Interesting reading.

3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Karl Ziomek

Editorials are tough, filled with informative details, hand-hitting, yet plain-spoken! Well written.

● Weekly Class B 17 entries

1st Place- *Troy Eccentric*

Sandra Armbruster

Community journalism at its best! I love writers who are not afraid to take a stand! Bravely-written stories on volatile issues. Wow! Your readers are lucky to have you.

2nd Place- *Redford Observer*

Matt Jachman

Really compelling, localized editorials on matters of great concern. Good, solid writing; clear and concise.

3rd Place- *West Bloomfield Eccentric*

Larry Ruehlen

Really good local editorials with lots of information and solid writing. Very nice!

Hon. Mention- *Livonia Observer*

Dave Varga

Hard-hitting local editorials! Well written, compelling. This was a very tough category to judge. Any one could have been a winner!

● Weekly Class C 12 entries

1st Place- *Gratiot County Herald*

Greg Nelson

Column is engaging. This is an editor who cares about his community. Well done.

2nd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

Peter Comings

Diverse columns, well written.

3rd Place- *Northville Journal*

Scott Spielman

Columns have a good call to action.

● Weekly Class D 8 entries

1st Place- *Homer Index*

Mike Warner

The editorials achieve exactly what a local paper should be – all about delving into local issues of interest and taking a stance. "Getting rich off of controversy" is an interesting piece that demonstrates a newspaper's role to inform – not to sell newspapers with controversial headlines.

Editorial Writing continued

2nd Place- *Clarkston News*

Takes a stand on an issue that will directly affect its taxpaying readers. Gets readers involved by soliciting input through a clip-art survey.

3rd Place- *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio

From the open meetings act to the local political climate, these editorials work to hold public officials accountable. Well-written pieces that call for action.

● Sustaining Member 3 entries

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

Richard P. Smith

Smith takes strong stand on issue of major importance to his readers (hunting) in all these editorials; though much of editorial is spent recounting the issue, he firmly lets readers know his opinions.

2nd Place- *NorthernIslander*

Elaine West

West lets her readers know how they can get involved – every one of the editorials lists who to call to take action on where to get information. That is an important aspect of editorials – showing readers how to get their own opinions heard.

Local Columnist

● Daily Class A 8 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Mitch Albom

Reading Albom's column is like reading a letter from a friend – personal, genuine and written just for me.

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Tom Rademacher

Whether the subject is big or small, Rademacher writes about things his readers care about in a way they can relate to.

3rd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Nancy Crawley

Business writing can be cold. Nancy Crowley brings it warmth, in a style that the most non-business savvy reader can enjoy.

● Daily Class B 24 entries

1st Place- *Flint Journal*

Andrew Heller

Heller's writing is thought-provoking and pertinent without being preachy. It's a pleasure to read.

2nd Place- *Muskegon Chronicle*

Susan Harrison Wolffis

Wolffis brings local topics home with a quiet writing style that goes well with a morning cup of coffee.

3rd Place- *Flint Journal*

Rickey Hampton

Hampton seeks out local people deserving of their 15 minutes of fame and shares their stories in an uplifting, easy style.

● Daily Class C 19 entries

1st Place- *The Holland Sentinel*

Cheri McSpaden

McSpaden's great personality and acute slice of life observations are a winning combination. She writes about the kinds of topics we all can relate to – losing possessions.

Local Columnist Daily Class C continued

2nd Place- *Monroe Evening News*

Ray Kisonas

Kisonas is a funny guy who expands on anything from robo deers to how ice fishing should be in the Olympics. His "memory lane" column was particularly entertaining and undoubtedly brings back memories for anyone old enough to remember the days when parents – yes, good parents – actually disciplined their children.

3rd Place- *The Herald-Palladium*

William F. Ast III

Ast provides an interesting perspective on the issue of holiday greetings. This dry wit is evident in his other two pieces.

● Daily Class D 36 entries

1st Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Matt Smith

Nice approach on both the lighter stuff as well as the more serious fare. A fun read.

2nd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Christopher Nagy

Some interesting work here. Good mix of topics.

3rd Place- *The Daily News, Greenville*

Elisabeth Waldon

Insightful first-person stuff. Good style keeps you reading.

● Weekly Class A 23 entries

1st Place- *The Ile Camera*

Terry Jacoby

You don't have to live in Grosse Ile, or even know where it is to be drawn into Jacoby's column. His writing is engaging, yet his subject matter is pertinent to his readers' lives. A great combination not often found in a local column

2nd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Jim Kasuba

Kasuba takes global subjects and brings them home, with an easy writing style that keeps the reader interested in what he has to say next.

3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Jackie Harrison-Martin

It's not easy to be funny in a newspaper, but Harrison-Martin does it well. This diverse writer showed she can also take the simple story of a man's stolen wallet and make it matter to all who read the story.

Hon. Mention- *LA View*

Bill Kernan

Kernan accomplishes what a local column should – he takes a small town's everyday happenings and makes them sound as important as they are to his readers.

● Weekly Class B 27 entries

1st Place- *Rochester Eccentric*

Gary Winkelman

Impressive work. The local appeal is definitely there. Tough choice between 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

2nd Place- *Canton Observer*

Kurt Kuban

A great read. I'd follow your column if I lived in Plymouth.

3rd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

George Cantor

A good read with a nice length.

Local Columnist continued

Hon. Mention- *Canton Observer*

Carol Marshall

Written with heart.

● Weekly Class C 41 entries

1st Place- *The Exponent, Brooklyn*

Matt Schepeler

Refreshingly local. Easy read, but filled with a great message. If I lived in Brooklyn, it would be a must read.

2nd Place- *Novi News*

Sam Eggleston

Nice work. Real writing. I bet you have a following.

3rd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

Chris Grosser

Written with heart. I know your readers identify with you.

Hon. Mention- *The Tecumseh Herald*

Lee Smith

A nice read.

● Weekly Class D 24 entries

1st Place- *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio

Easy reading with a message. You didn't preach, but your points came shining through. Impressive work.

2nd Place- *Clarkston News*

Andrew DuPont

A nice read. Bold, with local appeal. You posed questions for readers, which is what a good columnist will do.

3rd Place- *The Leader and The Kalkaskian, Kalkaska*

Andy Tayler

Good writing. Wish it was more localized.

Hon. Mention- *Edwardsburg Argus*

Marcia Steffens

A nice local read.

● Sustaining Member 4 entries

1st Place- *NorthernIslander*

Ted Nicholas

Nicholas brings us low-techies into the 21st century with humorous answers to our stupidest cyberspace inquiries. From all of us needing help just to turn our computers on, thanks, Ted.

2nd Place- *UP Magazine*

Sheryl Simons

Yard sales, hot rods and bats in the bedroom. Simons tackles them all with a humorous touch.

News Picture

● Daily Class A 16 entries

1st Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Dave Raczkowski

Grieving relatives

One of the toughest assignments a photographer can face was handled with dignity and respect. Technically flawless but most importantly brings emotions directly to the reader.

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Delbridge Langdon, Jr.

Soldier Returns

Good timing, good feel. Execution was on the mark. Technical a bit off - could be print job. Photographer is on the mark with emotional connection.

News Picture Daily Class A continued

3rd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Jon Brouwer *Misspelled*
Excellent eye and composition brings the agony of deaf home to readers. Would liked to have seen picture played larger. Good timing.

● Daily Class B 32 entries

1st Place- *The Macomb Daily*

David Dalton *Parents tormented...*
If looks could kill the one captured on the face of this mom in the photo would send her son's killers straight to hell. Photographer did exceptional job in shooting this tough assignment. Technically superior.

2nd Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Becky Shink *Two brothers*
All elements captured and executed well in this compelling photo. Photographer did a wonderful job capturing this devastating moment. The child's innocence also tells the story as well.

3rd Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Rod Sanford *Hell on earth*
The agonizing portrayed in this photo tells the story. Photographer has skillfully executed his assignment to help illustrate this familiar pain. Photo used well also.

● Daily Class C 19 entries

1st Place- *Monroe Evening News*

Karl Collins *Final farewell*
Tells the story – technically on the mark. Tough assignment which is brought home to readers straight-forward but also with compassion.

2nd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Megan Gilshire *Parma fire*
Skillful composition captures the agony and support as father and son share in the tragedy. Photographer did excellent job in helping to tell this story.

3rd Place- *Monroe Evening News*

Craig Watson *After the fire*
A moment captured well by photographer who again completes the story by skillfully handling the situation.

● Daily Class D 32 entries

1st Place- *The Daily Mining Gazette*

Kurt Hauglie *Mass city standoff*
In spite of poor press work this image rose to the top of the category. Diligence paid off during the 11 hour siege as photographer walked away with this newsworthy photo.

2nd Place- *Petoskey News-Review*

Steve Zucker *Fire destroys...*
Excellent composition pays off for this photo which shows a high degree of technical expertise. Great shot.

3rd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Alan Ward *Baine road fire*
Played well and executed well. This photo stands out in the crowd. Good solid job. Good technical skills as well.

● Weekly Class A 12 entries

1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Adam Sparkes *Police standoff ends*
No comment given.

News Picture Weekly Class A continued

2nd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Dennis Oblander *Crash claims Flatrock man*
No comment given.

3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Larry Caruso *Look out below*
No comment given.

● Weekly Class B 11 entries

1st Place- *Tri-County Times, Fenton*

Sharon Stone *Plane crash*
Won for bottom photo. Liked the overall scene should have been the dominant photo.

2nd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn*

Millard Berry *Remember*
No comment given.

3rd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Angie Baan *Standing with Israel*
No comment given.

● Weekly Class C 38 entries

1st Place- *Houghton Lake Resorter*

Thomas Reznich *Head-on injures two*
Nice spot news photo.

2nd Place- *Northville Record*

David Aguilar *Sad goodbye*
No comment given.

3rd Place- *Arenac County Independent*

Roberta House-Forshee *Deadly crash*
No comment given.

● Weekly Class D 19 entries

1st Place- *The Oxford Leader*

Casey Curtis *Walking on thin ice*
Very nice photo but putting the headline on it counts as an 8th deadly sin.

2nd Place- *State Line Observer*

David Green *Total loss*
Very dramatic shot, liked overall.

3rd Place- *Benzie County Record Patriot*

Roland Halliday *Rollover accident*
Nice news photo with multi-layers, has all the information in it.

● Sustaining Member 3 entries

1st Place- *NorthernIslander*

Steve West *Bag Piper*
Not a news photo, but there were not any entries we actually considered news.

2nd Place- *NorthernIslander*

Elaine West *Winter beauty*
Also not a news photo.

Feature Picture

● Daily Class A 20 entries

1st Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Lori Niedenfuer Cool *Big laughs*
Timing is everything, as well as composition, technical expertise. This photo has it all. Strong emotions conveyed very well. Would have liked to see larger.

Feature Picture Daily Class A continued

2nd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Dave Raczkowski *The mice will play*
Photographer found the moment and executed at the right time. This award winner came from, I'm sure, a mundane assignment where the photographer went beyond the call to produce.

3rd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

Rex Larsen *First sign of winter*
Strong appeal – timing again – played well. Photographer showed a real eye for capturing a gallery shot. Great work.

● Daily Class B 23 entries

1st Place- *Flint Journal*

Lisa Dejong *Fishface*
The skill it takes to capture this moment is top-notch, technically excellent, played well and flawlessly reproduced added to the photographers capturing of this moment.

2nd Place- *Muskegon Chronicle*

Ken Stevens *Snowy stroll*
Great perspective that captures a host of interesting feelings. Photographer shared initiative in finding the right spot to record a snow day. Excellent composition contributes.

3rd Place- *Flint Journal*

Lisa Dejong *Piggy backstage*
Another moment captured at the right time. Photographer has it all timing, quality and technical know how.

● Daily Class C 31 entries

1st Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Travis Haughton *A close encounter*
Photographer caught the moment, and caught it well. All technical areas are executed well. What puts this photo on top is the time. Great job in turning an average assignment into a excellent one.

2nd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Marcia Butterfield *First day jitters*
Photographer caught this moment well also. So much that make a photo stand out is the emotion it provokes, and this is one that readers will instantly connect with.

3rd Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Tyler Side *Big dog, little dog*
Shows what paying attention will bring to a patient photographer. Excellent play contributes to this winner.

● Daily Class D 43 entries

1st Place- *The Daily News, Greenville*

Greg Dekraker *Daring dunker*
Very nice photo. Too bad it's so small.

2nd Place- *Ludington Daily News*

Jeff Kiessel *SERT Training*
Don't usually like training photos, but this was nicely executed.

3rd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Gillis Benedict *Frolic on the Fourth*
No comment given.

● Weekly Class A 17 entries

1st Place- *Livingston Community News*

Jamie Charbeneau-Pisella *Bill Leffel with morels*
Thoughtful photo. Good job.

Feature Picture continued

2nd Place- *Ypsilanti Courier*

Mark Mueller *Big wheeling*
Nicely framed. Good quiet moment.

3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Larry Caruso *Wyandotte*
Simple nice portrait.

● Weekly Class B 34 entries

1st Place- *Grand Blanc News*

Ryan Garza *Homecoming hopes*
Clear winner. All judges agree.

2nd Place- *Flushing Observer*

Ryan Garza *Final check*
Creative angle, interesting photo from a run-of-the-mill situation.

3rd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Angie Baan *Precious goal*
Beautiful, appropriate lighting.

Hon. Mention- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn*

Millard Berry *Funny hair*
Really nice idea. Good job spotting the moment and finding a creative angle.

● Weekly Class C 65 entries

1st Place- *South Lyon Herald*

Hal Gould *Cheered up*
Nice photo with an interesting crop.

2nd Place- *Oceana's Herald-Journal*

Andrew Skinner *Hog wild*
Nice feature pic, made us laugh.

3rd Place- *Leelanau Enterprise*

Ken Stott *Sunshine silhouette*
No comment given.

● Weekly Class D 24 entries

1st Place- *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio *Owl*
Nice composition.

2nd Place- *Benzie County Record Patriot*

Roland Halliday *Scenic stroll*
Amusing photos.

3rd Place- *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio *Face of a champion*
No comment given.

Sports Picture

● Daily Class A 22 entries

1st Place- *The Detroit News*

David Guralnick *Walking on air*
Beautiful photo, great emotion, clean composition, nice light. Perfect. All judges agreed.

2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Julian Gonzalez *Still beating*
Very unique image, so many layers captures the story.

Sports Picture Daily Class A continued

3rd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Julian Gonzalez *Curtain call*
Great capture. Slightly better expression than first place photo of same moment, but all judges preferred first place composition. Still, very nice job.

● Daily Class B 22 entries

1st Place- *The Macomb Daily*

Ray J. Skowronek *Laid out*
Funny, clear, great moment, total package.

2nd Place- *The Saginaw News*

Melanie Sochan *Hugs all around*
Good job of looking for something different, excellent moment.

3rd Place- *Muskegon Chronicle*

Kendra Stanley-Mills *Blindsided*
Very nice shot, liked the refs head and of course the action.

Hon. Mention- *Flint Journal*

Ryan Garza *Montrose beats Bentley*
Very nice expression on all subjects. Deserved to run so much bigger.

● Daily Class C 27 entries

1st Place- *Daily News, Midland*

Kevin Benedict *Dashed dreams*
Could have been cropped on the right. Great picture!

2nd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Megan Gilshire *Adrian's big win*
Nice moment, good composition, clean.

3rd Place- *The Herald-Palladium*

Neal Vaughn *New Buffalo celebration*
Thoughtful picture. The photographer took a risk.

Hon. Mention- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Erik Holladay *Nasty collision*
Funny sports moment.

● Daily Class D 37 entries

1st Place- *Ludington Daily News*

Jeff Kiessel *Agony*
Nice emotion and framing.

2nd Place- *Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant*

Lisa Yanick *Big win*
Good moment, interesting layers.

3rd Place- *Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant*

Victor Fitzsimons *Taken away*
Good action, good expression.

Hon. Mention- *The Daily Mining Gazette*

David Archambeau *AMA racing*
Funny photo.

● Weekly Class A 10 entries

1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Larry Caruso *Athletic Jags whip Titans*
Good action moment.

2nd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Larry Caruso *Bucks blast*
Unusual moment.

3rd Place- *Livingston Community News*

Jamie Charbeneau-Pisella *Brighton goalie*
Clean composition.

● Weekly Class B 27 entries

1st Place- *Birmingham Eccentric*

Lawrence McKee *Scooping it up*
No comment given.

2nd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn*

Millard Berry *Soccer jump*
No comment given.

3rd Place- *Southfield Eccentric*

Larry McKee *Southfield wrestlers*
No comment given.

● Weekly Class C 43 entries

1st Place- *Northville Record*

John Heider *Celebration*
Clear winner, great emotion. All judges agreed.

2nd Place- *Novi News*

John Heider *Untouchable*
Sharp action, nice expression.

3rd Place- *South Lyon Herald*

Hal Gould *By leaps and bounds*
Hard moment to capture, great face.

Hon. Mention- *The Tecumseh Herald*

Mickey Alvarado *Wrestler*
Good tension, standard wrestling shot.

● Weekly Class D 29 entries

1st Place- *Edwardsburg Argus*

Kelly Sweeney *Soccer collision*
Excellent moment but needed a crop on action.

2nd Place- *Cassopolis Vigilant*

Kelly Sweeney *Diving stop*
Good capture on player catching ball. Moment tells a story.

3rd Place- *Dexter Leader*

Joan Kelley *Victory*
You definitely captured the peak moment. Nice job.

Picture Story

● Daily Class A 3 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Romain Blanquart *The worlds new pope*
With only three entries for three places, this series was way above and beyond the other entries. A wonderful body of work.

2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Patricia Beck *Revisiting the rouge*
Nice work!

3rd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Kirthmon Dozier *Family circle*
No comment given

● Daily Class B 20 entries

1st Place- *Flint Journal*

Steve Jessmore *Sense of community*
Beautiful, good concept extremely well executed, fresh.

2nd Place- *Flint Journal*

Lisa Dejong *Every day is a miracle*
Beautiful images, story told well.

3rd Place- *Flint Journal*

Bruce Edwards *Jazmon*
Great idea, some images repeat.

Picture Story continued

- Daily Class C 25 entries
- 1st Place- *Daily News, Midland***
Brett Marshall *Four corners*
 Beautiful piece of work! We all enjoyed this clear winner, from front to back.
- 2nd Place- *Monroe Evening News***
Kim Brent *Sarah's second chance*
 Nice work!
- 3rd Place- *Daily News, Midland***
Channing Johnson *Learning to love*
 Must be nice to have Brett and Channing on the same staff. Nice job.
- Daily Class D 27 entries
- 1st Place- *The Argus-Press***
Anthony Cepak *The word of the Lord*
 A couple nice images.
- 2nd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus***
Alan Ward *Relay for life*
 Nice dominate image.
- 3rd Place- *The Daily Mining Gazette***
Will Rice *Eyes of the community*
 Skateboard photo is by far the best image it should have dominated the page.
- Weekly Class A 13 entries
- 1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers***
Adam Sparkes *Diamond days of summer*
 Some nice images, hated the headline going through the photos.
- 2nd Place- *Livingston Community News***
Jamie Charbeneau-Pissella *Chamber farm*
 Funny photo of goat licking child.
- 3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers***
Larry Caruso *Baseball as America*
 Too many photos on the page but a nice variety.
- Weekly Class B 22 entries
- 1st Place- *Livonia Observer***
Tom Hoffmeyer *XL looking back*
 Photographer worked hard trying different things and looking for a variety of images.
- 2nd Place- *Garden City Observer***
Tom Hawley *Hockey life*
 Didn't like the layout but some nice images.
- 3rd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn***
Millard Berry *Remembrance*
 Needed some close ups and more variety.
- Weekly Class C 47 entries
- 1st Place- *Houghton Lake Resorter***
Thomas Reznich *Every day Model T hits the spring roads.*
 Less is more. A clear cut winner! Many of the entries had too many pictures on the page. Nice job.

Picture Story Weekly Class C continued

- 2nd Place- *Northville Record***
John Heider *Lady liberty*
 No comment given
- 3rd Place- *Milford Times***
Hal Gould *Milford memories*
 No comment given
- Weekly Class D 20 entries
- 1st Place- *State Line Observer***
David Green *A civil encounter*
 Clear cut winner. All judges liked the main image of boy with confederate flag.
- 2nd Place- *The Advance, Blissfield***
Doug Goodnough *The great getaway*
 No comment given
- 3rd Place- *Cassopolis Vigilant***
Marcia Steffens *Memorial day to remember*
 No comment given
- Sustaining Member 3 entries
- 1st Place- *UP Magazine***
 No comment given
- 2nd Place- *NorthernIslander***
Elaine West *Autumn celebration*
 No comment given
- 3rd Place- *NorthernIslander***
Steve West *Acacia's annual visit*
 No comment given

Sports Writing

- Daily Class A 10 entries
- 1st Place- *The Grand Rapids Press***
Brian VanOchten *Another fiesta siesta*
 Good from the opening line. Solid game story with nice bullet-point statistical breakdown that illustrated Ohio state's dominance.
- 2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press***
Nicholas Cotsonika *Why Steelers will win*
 Witty and breezy, this story doesn't beat you down with statistical analysis or head-to-head matchups. It simply notes its points using good quotes and solid observation.
- 3rd Place- *The Grand Rapids Press***
Jane Bos *Reaching new heights*
 Good writing and nice descriptions make this a cut above your routine story.
- Daily Class B 19 entries
- 1st Place- *The Saginaw News***
Hugh Bernreuter *Harness raceway closing*
 Not your traditional sports story. Well written and full of imagery, this story captured the emotion of those who lost something that long was part of their lives.

Sports Writing Daily Class B continued

2nd Place- *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Graham Couch *WMU runs out of steam*
Strong, solid writing highlights this story. It goes beyond just the box score material to paint a picture of the contest.

Tie - 3rd Place- *The Ann Arbor News*

No Comment Given

Tie - 3rd Place- *The Oakland Press*

No Comment Given

● Daily Class C 31 entries

1st Place- *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Howie Magner *Hurler nearly perfect*
Witty and easy-to-read style makes this far better than your traditional game story. Descriptive language and good quotes made this solid from top to bottom.

2nd Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Jeff Peek *Stags win title*
Found an interesting and once-in-a-lifetime angle and tied it all together from beginning to end.

3rd Place- *The Bay City Times*

Lee Thompson *Movin' on*
Good use of quotes. Solid detail and description.

● Daily Class D 52 entries

1st Place- *Petoskey News-Review*

Andy Sneddon *A prayer answered*
Well written with good quotes. Sneddon captures the mood of this amazing, astonishing, shocking, unbelievable, unforgettable and almost surreal game.

2nd Place- *The Mining Journal*

Craig Remsburg *NMU rally*
Solid story with good detail. Strong quotes help flush out the piece.

3rd Place- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Rich Shepich *Heartbreaker . . . Again*
Captured the feel of the match and Hartland's ever-so-narrow defeat.

● Weekly Class A 17 entries

1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Hank Minckiewicz *It's a heartache*
Sweet, well-written story about how region got behind two girl's softball teams from their area. Writer uses clear, non-cliched language to tell their story.

2nd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

David Komer *Regional champions*
Catchy lead. Story sets up excitement of team's late season run.

3rd Place- *The Source, Shelby Twp./Utica*

Kevin Lozon *Year of the Titans*
Good story about transfers helping win state title. Lead a little wordy, but game story told well. Good choice of quotes.

Hon. Mention- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Lena Khzouz *Kids take to the field*
Nice behind-scenes feature about a day these kids will never forget.

Sports Writing continued

● Weekly Class B 22 entries

1st Place- *West Bloomfield Eccentric*

Mike Rosenbaum *Hancock's big plays*
Nice feature sidebar on Roy Williams' gloves "helping" in big victory. Good enterprise by reporter to get the story. Headline demands reference to Roy's gloves, though; Feature story requires feature head.

2nd Place- *The County Press, Lapeer*

Nate Caminata *King Joseph*
Very good lead gets us into story. Reporter tells us a lot about state champ in efficient story.

3rd Place- *Tri-County Times, Fenton*

Jason Alexander *Tigers believe for 30 innings*
Good job. Quotes and narrative support a gut-wrenching day of softball for girls team, winning two games by one run each.

Hon. Mention- *Clarkston Eccentric*

Dan Stickrad *Flatlander special*
Interesting angle on ski meet coverage, i.e.. Teams from southern Michigan are catching up to northern powerhouses.

● Weekly Class C 44 entries

1st Place- *Saline Reporter*

Brian Cox *Crew program makes splash*
Nice, tightly written feature story about a rowing team that finished despite setback. Medals vs. mettle shows contract, defines what "team" is about.

2nd Place- *Northville Record*

Sam Eggleston *Champion!*
Writer tells good story about underachieving swimmer who wins state title. I wonder, though, who the "critics" are.

3rd Place- *Saline Reporter*

Tom Kirvan *Dazed*
How do you write a sports story about a good team that loses 54-10? Writer does a good job and gets solid quotes from what seems like a very patient coach.

Hon. Mention- *South Lyon Herald*

John Mueller *Heading to the Big House*
Well-written, bright feature about a Michigan prep player's dream.

Sports Writing

● Weekly Class D 12 entries

1st Place- *The Advance, Blissfield*

Doug Goodnough *Pain delay . . .*
Sharp analysis of a baseball game that swings the other way after a rain delay, preserving a 70-plus game win streak. Solid lead sets up the story. Bright use of quotes.

2nd Place- *Dexter Leader*

Don Richter *Quad Squad*
Solid coverage of school's fourth straight cross-country state title. Mention of the lead runner writing the names of his teammates on his hand was a strong element in the story.

3rd Place- *State Line Observer*

David Green *Girls end with two players*
Compelling story of how team only lost by three points despite only having two players left on court at game's end. Perhaps should have focused more on why so many fouls were committed.

Sports Writing continued

- Sustaining Member 2 entries
- 1st Place- *UP Magazine***
- Rich Game** *This fever is contagious*
- No Comment Given
- 2nd Place- *UP Magazine***
- Connie Thompson**
- No Comment Given

Sports Columnist

- Daily Class A 7 entries
- 1st Place- *Detroit Free Press***
- Michael Rosenberg**
- Insightful and witty, Rosenberg stood out among a weak class of entrants. His smooth style was the best of a mediocre lot.
- 2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press***
- Drew Sharp**
- No Comment Given
- 3rd Place- *The Detroit News***
- Rob Parker**
- No Comment Given
- Daily Class B 12 entries
- 1st Place- *The Oakland Press***
- Keith Langlois**
- Very strong entries with a good mix of topics. Clear, excellent writing that portrays the human side of sports.
- 2nd Place- *Lansing State Journal***
- Todd Schulz**
- Insightful with a dash of humor, Schulz sheds light on Michigan State's athletics programs on several fronts.
- 3rd Place- *The Oakland Press***
- Jim Hawkins**
- Clear, descriptive writing helps point good portraits in this strong collection.
- Hon. Mention- *Muskegon Chronicle***
- Cindy Fairfield**
- Two strong local columns and one that framed the state's gender-equity lawsuit in a different light than others did.
- Daily Class C 23 entries
- 1st Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle***
- James Cook**
- Cook's easy-to-read style and humorous touch highlighted this category. A good mix of topics also stood out.
- 2nd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot***
- Gary Kalahar**
- Excellent mix of local columns and the stories of the athletes involved.
- 3rd Place- *Battle Creek Enquirer***
- Howie Wagner**
- Strong writing and easy-to-read style.
- Daily Class D 31 entries
- 1st Place- *The Mining Journal***
- Renee Prusi**
- Very good mix of columns went from the serious (Cory's memory honored) to the sublime (Lions fans livid).

Sports Columnist Daily Class D continued

- 2nd Place- *Dowagiac Daily News***
- Scott Novak**
- Solid writing and easy-to-read style.
- 3rd Place- *The Daily Telegram, Adrian***
- Brian Calloway**
- Very good writing and strong local presence.
- Hon. Mention- *The Pioneer, Big Rapids***
- Sandy Gholston**
- Strong writing and nice focus on local sports.
- Weekly Class A 6 entries
- 1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers***
- Hank Minckiewicz**
- Well-written and informative. Very descriptive language and good detail and quotes.
- 2nd Place- *Livingston Community News***
- Jason Deegan**
- Good mix of topics and clearly written.
- 3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers***
- Dave Merchant**
- No Comment Given
- Weekly Class B 8 entries
- 1st Place- *Livonia Observer***
- Brad Emons**
- Clearly written, yet evocative, Emons paints strong portrayals of his subjects and their respective sports.
- 2nd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn***
- Scott Salowich**
- Good local focus and details. Nice use of quotes.
- 3rd Place- *Plymouth Observer***
- Ed Wright**
- Excellent mix of topics provided good variety. Clean, crisp writing style.
- Hon. Mention- *Birmingham Eccentric***
- Marty Budner**
- No Comment Given
- Weekly Class C 17 entries
- 1st Place- *Northville Record***
- David Aguilar**
- In a very competitive category, Aguilar's columns were a head above the rest. Good, clear writing with a very local feel put him over the top.
- 2nd Place- *Novi News***
- Sam Eggleston**
- Very strong profiles that were well-written pieces with good quotes.
- 3rd Place- *Tuscola County Advertiser***
- David Bossick**
- Good mix of entries with a strong local presence.
- Hon. Mention- *Novi News***
- Courtney Ratkowiak**
- Shows good promise for a young writer. Good structure and strong language skills are solid foundation on which to build.

Sports Columnist continued

● Weekly Class D 4 entries

1st Place- *Homer Index*

Mike Warner

Intensely local and detailed. Goes beyond the games to the bigger issues and people involved.

2nd Place- *The Advance, Blissfield*

Doug Goodnough

The judges were in bliss reading this fine collection of local columns, which provided insight into several local sports figures.

3rd Place- *State Line Observer*

David Green

Good collection of local columns with a bit of humor to boot.

● Sustaining Member 1 entries

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

Richard P. Smith

Well-written hunting columns with a nice local focus. Good details that should appeal to the target audience.

Sports Feature

● Daily Class A 19 entries

1st Place- *Detroit Free Press*

T. Audi, M. Rosenberg

The Urbina kidnapping

No Comment Given

2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Mitch Albom

A Soldier's journey

No Comment Given

3rd Place- *The Detroit News*

Mike O'Hara

Pain game

No Comment Given

Hon. Mention- *Detroit Free Press*

Jo-Ann Barnas

Courage and grace

No Comment Given

● Daily Class B 20 entries

1st Place- *The Ann Arbor News*

Nathan Fenno

Messages from

Cameron

No Comment Given

2nd Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Geoff Kimmerly

Joy outweighs pain

No Comment Given

3rd Place- *The Ann Arbor News*

John Heuser

Never give up

No Comment Given

● Daily Class C 35 entries

1st Place- *Daily News, Midland*

Dan Chalk

How young is too young?

No Comment Given

2nd Place- *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Howie Magner

Making a pitch for life

No Comment Given

3rd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Mike Pryson

Bypass surgery

No Comment Given

Sports Feature continued

● Daily Class D 58 entries

1st Place- *The Pioneer, Big Rapids*

Robbie Sgro

Murderer's row

No Comment Given

2nd Place- *The Argus-Press*

Dan Basso

The Contender

No Comment Given

3rd Place- *Ludington Daily News*

Brian Mulherin

On the scout

No Comment Given

● Weekly Class A 23 entries

1st Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Paula Evans Neuman

Pint-sized layoff

A delightful feature story, filled with wonderful observations and a great sense of humor. Paula Evans Neuman captures not only the drama of the roller hockey game but the passions of the pint-sized players, their coaches and their moms.

2nd Place- *The Ile Camera*

Karin Risko

Moxlow team on track

An amazing look inside the world of the "privateers" of professional auto racing. For the Moxlows, who race against cars sponsored by major auto manufacturers, the love of racing is truly a family affair. For Karin Risko and the IIs Camera, this sports feature is a big winner!

3rd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Lena Khzouz

Super Bowl features

Lena Khzouz delivers a ton of excellent features in a preview of Super Bowl XL, the best of which is the story of Allen Park's Bob Mason and Michael Dougherty, who have made the big time with their a.m. "freak show" on WKST-FM in Pittsburgh. Khzouz makes the big time, too.

Hon. Mention- *Livingston Community News*

Jason Deegan

Passing on life's lesson

Heart-tugging sports feature about one inspirational coach. Nice work, Jason!

● Weekly Class B 28 entries

1st Place- *The Detroit Jewish News*

Staff

Regaining her edge

Good writing, pleasing presentation. The reporter does a nice job of combining quotes and narrative.

2nd Place- *Plymouth Observer*

Ed Wright

It takes their breath away

Excellent topic. This is an easy, informative read that does a good job of merging human emotion with must-know facts. I appreciated the break-out, too. Very informative.

3rd Place- *Birmingham Eccentric*

Marty Budner

Borovich's career

Clean writing. Nice profile of a man who obviously loves his sport.

● Weekly Class C 42 entries

1st Place- *Northville Record*

Sam Eggleston

More than just basketball

Writer does a good job of putting the reader at the scene – of helping the reader feel the emotions of these young players. He obviously watched for all the little details, which helps the story sing.

Sports Feature Weekly Class C continued

2nd Place- **Novi News**

Sam Eggleston *Immaculate reception*
Good topic – great design. The writing is clean, lively and makes for an easy read.

3rd Place- **Northville Record**

Sam Eggleston *Chasin' the scholarship dreams*
The writer talked to lots of kids in a variety of sports and circumstances. This is a good topic but was explored only at its most basic level. There is so much more to this story, could have been more emotional, explored the ups and downs in a deeper way.

● Weekly Class D 19 entries

1st Place- **State Line Observer**

Jeff Pickell *Licensed to demolish*
Nice lead. The writer places the reader squarely in the action. Tight clever writing sets the stage and helps the story come alive. By far the best of the group.

2nd Place- **State Line Observer**

David Green *What's the cache?*
Fun topic. An interesting read – especially for a sports section. The writing is clean and informative.

3rd Place- **The Missaukee Sentinel**

Mike Dunn *Ancel has been flagman*
Nice idea, focusing on this particular character in racing. Nice fluid writing, but could have used more color, more description.

Sports Coverage

● Daily Class A 3 entries

1st Place- **Detroit Free Press**

Mitch Albom's "A Soldier's Journey" is a devastatingly touching story. All-around great news/photo coverage of a huge event in town – Super Bowl XL.

2nd Place- **The Grand Rapids Press**

Creative, comprehensive pre-game coverage of Super Bowl. Hockey special section is outstanding. Strong design – reader gets money's worth with entertaining section.

3rd Place- **The Detroit News**

More solid pre-, post-game Super Bowl coverage. Celebrity predictions was creative, funny.

● Daily Class B 5 entries

1st Place- **The Oakland Press**

Sharp writing, solid presentation of sports issues close to the heart of Michigan residents. I especially liked Keith Langlois' column. Bettis' retirement was indeed "storybook," even what seems like a cliché works there.

2nd Place- **Lansing State Journal**

Nice looking sports page. Even in Spartan land, Journal is not afraid to put prep sports out front; i.e. state track finals. Good for them.

3rd Place- **The Saginaw News**

Strong photos. Nice feature on woman coaching boys team. Fast Break (left rail) is nothing new, but gets a lot of info at front – efficiently.

Sports Coverage continued

● Daily Class C 5 entries

1st Place- **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Strong design enhances section, good use of photos. Photo illustration really makes "Domino Effect" a strong feature/analysis. Good mix of prep coverage, pro and college.

2nd Place- **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

When Super Bowl is in your backyard, it's time to ramp up coverage; this paper certainly did. Readers got everything they needed, including non-Super Bowl sports. Nice looking section, in general.

3rd Place- **Battle Creek Enquirer**

Section chock-full of coverage. Page two is excellent. Local photos are strong, although color pix Saturday falls off a bit. Prep Game Day a nice read for football junkies.

Hon. Mention- **Daily News, Midland**

Good commitment to local preps. Left rail on Football Saturday is creative. Need stronger, larger headlines at top of front page.

● Daily Class D 16 entries

1st Place- **Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant**

Outstanding design, use of photos and story mix. This is backed up by solid local reporting. I like the "10 Questions With" rail; nice touch.

2nd Place- **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**

Football Friday is strong lead-in to section. I like "Beat the Pros" – clever treatment. Front page features are fun reads. In general, nice diversity of coverage throughout section.

3rd Place- **Sturgis Journal**

Nice clean look, good photos and strong local coverage. The rail "Playbook" is creative and entertaining. Good idea; that's why readers come to the page.

● Weekly Class A 8 entries

1st Place- **News-Herald Newspapers**

The most creative and most complete sports section in this competition. Excellent page design, very good writing and photography. This is a "wow" of a sports section!

2nd Place- **LAView**

Well-organized, content-rich and colorful. Lisa Paine and Nic McNeely work their tails off to make LAView a sports section to be proud of! Like the attitude of "Fat Guy's Corner." Great mix of brief and deep coverage.

3rd Place- **The Source, Shelby Twp./Utica**

Local stories, local content, local focus. The Source, Shelby Twp./Utica's sports section lives up to its name. This is "The Source, Shelby Twp./Utica" for high school sports in Utica, Shelby Township and Sterling Heights.

Hon. Mention- **Michigan Chronicle**

Centerpieces that take some risks, nice columns by Leland Stein III. It's Motown local.

● Weekly Class B 20 entries

1st Place- **Rochester Eccentric**

Creative design, great variety, quality writing and photography, stats, predictions, columns, from Kids' sports to pros, the Eccentric has it all.

2nd Place- **Plymouth Observer**

A ton of sports coverage. Very good quality writing. Color photos inside as well as section front. Great stories on the Whalers, prep football playoffs. Kudos to all who put this together.

Sports Coverage Weekly Class B continued

3rd Place- *The Press & Guide, Dearborn*

Spectacular front page photos and design set this sports section apart. Energy and attitude bring the excitement of the game onto the front page.

Hon. Mention- *Tri-County Times, Fenton*

Tie - The Tri-County Times knows who it is and what it wants to accomplish – local high school sports, recreation and area features. Nice work!

Hon. Mention- *The Bay Voice*

Tie - Joe Gray's column and Extra Point makes the Voice a fun, quick read. Smart use of breakout elements.

● Weekly Class C 17 entries

1st Place- *Northville Record*

Cover page design clever and entertaining photos played well – and big! Creative feature ideas; extensive high school coverage.

2nd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

Good mix of sports news – pro golf, NASCAR, lots of high school; cover pages creative design and approach. Lots of stats. Photos seem pretty static.

3rd Place- *South Lyon Herald*

Strong writing is strength of this section. Good action photos, well-played. Lots of high school sports. No stats, however.

● Weekly Class D 10 entries

1st Place- *State Line Observer*

Variety of local sports. Creative feature on "1,000-point club." Mixed in some auto racing. Stats boxes effectively used with game stories.

2nd Place- *Edwardsburg Argus*

Consistently good outdoors column. Wide range of high school sports. Better design and photos than most others in this category. Could use more stats. Occasional color photos help.

3rd Place- *The Advance, Blissfield*

Strong writing. Good, creative column. Local stats helpful. Could use better photos and design. Quality of writing makes this section stand out.

Lifestyle Pages

● Daily Class A 3 entries

1st Place- *The Grand Rapids Press*

The Sunday sections are very impressive. The centerpiece profiles very well-written and interesting. Good mix of inside content. Liked the "advice" page a lot.

2nd Place- *The Detroit News*

Nice mix of different types of stories. Both interesting and "news you can use." Inside Pages are packaged nicely.

3rd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Nice mix of stories. Names and faces page is a fun read.

● Daily Class B 8 entries

1st Place- *Kalamazoo Gazette*

If these three sections are indicative of what they do every day, hurray for them. The centerpieces are not just topics you don't read about often (or ever), they're presented in a clean, impressive design. Good inside content.

Lifestyle Pages Daily Class B continued

2nd Place- *Flint Journal*

The strength of this section is variety. If one story doesn't grab you, another will. The effective use of the inside center spread is impressive. Good inside content.

3rd Place- *The Oakland Press*

Nice design. Good mix of content. Pretty good mix of inside stuff.

● Daily Class C 6 entries

1st Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Diversity of topics from one day to the next. Reader-driven content. Solid if unexceptional design makes this the class of the group.

2nd Place- *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Good use of alternative story-telling. Nice diversity from one day to the next.

3rd Place- *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Strong design. Good story ideas.

● Daily Class D 10 entries

1st Place- *The Daily Telegram, Adrian*

Bold design gave the Daily Telegram the slight edge in a group where no paper stood out.

2nd Place- *Ludington Daily News*

Nice weekend section. Would have liked to see a lifestyle section from another day of the week.

3rd Place- *The Alpena News*

Good mix of story topics.

● Weekly Class A 6 entries

1st Place- *Livingston Community News*

Good local content. Nice, clean design. Impressive amount of local copy. Daily column by the managing editor well written and fun to read.

2nd Place- *News-Herald Newspapers*

Front-page centerpiece package well done in both contest and design. Good mix of local content.

3rd Place- *The Ile Camera*

Interesting approach to content and design that makes the section an appealing read.

● Weekly Class B 12 entries

1st Place- *Southfield Eccentric*

This paper looks good and has the content to match. Stories are local but topics are such that you don't have to be a local to want to read them.

2nd Place- *Livonia Observer*

Appealing design draws you into stories. Good local content and lots of stuff you can use.

3rd Place- *Birmingham Eccentric*

Good local content. Attractive layout.

● Weekly Class C 7 entries

1st Place- *Milford Times*

Love the headings – each category clearly defined for its particular audience. Nice variety of stories. Something for everyone. Very interesting stories. I only wish you could add more color photos.

2nd Place- *Gaylord Herald Times*

Nice use of color. Good organization. TV section a nice touch.

Lifestyle Pages Weekly Class C continued

3rd Place- *The Tri-City Times, Imlay City*

Great feature writing. Fonts are distracting, do nothing to add to stories. Why are opinion pages included?

Hon. Mention- *Houghton Lake Resorter*

No Comment Given

● Weekly Class D 8 entries

1st Place- *Clarkston News*

Lots of news for lifestyle section – not all fluff.

2nd Place- *Chelsea Standard*

Strong content and better design than other papers in category.

3rd Place- *State Line Observer*

Real down-home, fun flavor.

● Sustaining Member 1 entries

1st Place- *UP Magazine*

Good mix of stories. Not afraid to be different, take changes.

Special Section

● Daily Class A 10 entries

1st Place- *The Detroit News* *The Great Lakes*

A well-reported section on a vital topic. What journalism is about.

2nd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Torino 2006: The Ice Storm

A fun section with a lot of interesting, useful content.

3rd Place- *Detroit Free Press*

Mother Parks, Take Your Rest

Well done section done in short amount of time.

● Daily Class B 13 entries

1st Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Looking to the Future

An interesting look at what may lie ahead. Obviously a lot of work went into the planning.

2nd Place- *The Oakland Press*

Detroit's XL Best

Simple but fun. A good read.

3rd Place- *Lansing State Journal*

Sesquicentennial

Almost too much content. Exhausting. Well done, nonetheless.

Hon. Mention- *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Back to campus

Two words: spy guy.

● Daily Class C 13 entries

1st Place- *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

A Lifetime of Faith

A well-done commemorative of the life of Pope John Paul II.

2nd Place- *Port Huron Times Herald* *Defining*

Moments

Uplifting stories told, presented well.

3rd Place- *Port Huron Times Herald* *Take me there*

Interesting topic for a special section. Fun stories.

Special Section continued

● Daily Class D 33 entries

1st Place- *The Daily News, Greenville* *History of Gibson*

Strong design. Nice use of historical photos. Exhaustive stories are complete, if overly long.

2nd Place- *Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant* *Generations*

Well planned out stories.

3rd Place- *Sturgis Journal* *Road Trip*

No Comment Given

Hon. Mention- *Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus*

Fall Sports Preview

No Comment Given

● Weekly Class A 6 entries

1st Place- *Michigan Chronicle* *Rosa Parks*

A worthy tribute to a legendary figure. This is a particularly successful special section because even the ads have been made relevant to the subject matter. The variety of voices – especially those not on staff – adds to the feeling this is a community celebration.

2nd Place- *Livingston Community News*

Love your pet

This special section dedicated to pets has great appeal. A fairly attractive layout.

● Weekly Class B 18 entries

1st Place- *The Detroit Jewish News* *Celebrate!*

Creative story ideas give local businesses and sources plenty of play while offering readers plenty to read and enjoy.

2nd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News* *Gift Guide 05*

Nice use of local sources and advertisers. A service to both readers and business owners.

3rd Place- *The Detroit Jewish News* *Platinum*

A nice mix of local advertising and local stories in a high-quality package.

● Weekly Class C 39 entries

1st Place- *South Lyon Herald* *In Memory*

A truly special man was the focus of this special section. While this was non-traditional in nature it was a tremendous undertaking by staff to create something for the community. Remarkable effort.

2nd Place- *South Lyon Herald*

South Lyon to Sri Lanka

Mostly photos highlight this special section. It's nice to see newspaper taking initiative in producing a section such as this to highlight a community cause.

3rd Place- *Novi News* *Half Century*

Impressive section that is creative and informative to read. Organized by decades helps pull the section together. Well done.

● Weekly Class D 15 entries

1st Place- *The Advance, Blissfield* *Destination Detroit*

The special section on Blissfield's trip to the state football finals captures the excitement of that climate from cover to cover. Great pictures and a wealth of information for fans are neatly organized. Advertising complements the piece while not overwhelming it.

Special Section Weekly Class D continued

2nd Place- *Clarkston News* 75th Anniversary

Comprehensive, informative, interesting and very local. Great old photos. A real keepsake for Clarkston.

3rd Place- *Benzie County Record Patriot*

Children's Christmas Greetings

Terrific cover design and a lovely way to tie in advertising.

Hon. Mention- *Dexter Leader*

Dexter School Directory

A nice service to the community. Well organized and cleanly presented.

MPA Best Web site Contest Division A

1st Place- *Lansing State Journal*

I like soft looks, and this site is easy to navigate, too. I never felt lost trying to learn the ways around the site. I was surprised to see such low-key advertising. The site begs for a few more eye-catchers. I didn't understand the concept of the "Noise – Top 5 Buzz." I saw only three items the day I looked in particular for five. No Tigers page in sports?

2nd Place- *Detroit News*

It's clear: Detnews readers love cars, Red Wings, Tigers and lots of images. There seemingly isn't anything for Mrs. Cleaver, unless it's a blog. Detroit does a lot of things many newspapers should do online. I loved the Bloghouse. It got fun with "Bizarro News" and "Knittters See the Light." It didn't take long to figure out the navigation, but – wow – there are a lot of images. I am not sure where wire and local news intersected, unlike other sites in this competition. I liked that, but it looked like local news still rules, which is even better. Detnews benefited, or seemed to, from a non-subscribers perspective, from the one-week archive. The site has so much to read, it doesn't need to pad the look with archive material. I was surprised by the image headlines here. Is it really necessary and worthy the manpower?

3rd Place- *Metro Times, Detroit*

This site is focused on a particular community. It knows its identity. The look is ok, but it could be beefed up easily. The site calls itself an interactive guide, but I didn't really see that. The ads were very low key, but had room to grow. With the list of articles, it would be good to have dates on them when they were published instead of just on inside the stories.

• Other Web sites by order of place

Monroe Evening News

1st Judge's comments: I wasn't really drawn to explore the site. It was refreshing to see the multimedia photo galleries, but a "headline here" literally, didn't help the obvious lack of site support. Site is easy to read, but older people will struggle with small type.

2nd Judge's comments: It's a really long home page, with a lot of links. Can get kind off confusing and daunting.

Best Web site contest D continued

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

1st Judge's comments: This site caters to an obviously, or what seems to be, small audience. The news provided seems to be good.

2nd Judge's comments: It really could use a lot more attention and it really could use more content.

LAView

1st Judge's comments: On my first visit, I found three stories repeated in three locations on the home page. The navigation is super easy with links in multiple places. But there just isn't much to read. What I found was worth it. From a small perspective, it's not fair to go head-to-head with the Detroit News.

2nd Judge's comments: A lot of clicks just to get newsbriefs and Hot ticket.

Detroit Jewish News

1st Judge's comments: The site certainly knows its audience. Not only is the content focused and interesting, it requires not only registration, but subscription fees. Ads were almost non-existent. The link structure appears seemingly in random order. The content I was able to read was interesting. This site is probably the best definition of a gatekeeper, whatever that may be.

2nd Judge's comments: Static ads on every page makes one ignore them and that side after viewing a few pages.

UP Magazine

1st Judge's comments: I have a 22" monitor with 1280 resolution and I must use my browser in full screen or the page won't fit. Everything is an image. The local mix is there, but you wouldn't know it until you get there. Site doesn't take advantage of what could be a big audience seeking to be entertained. Is this a news site at all?

2nd Judge's comments: I noticed that all stories are images.

Division C

Tie - 1st Place- *Ludington Daily News*

1st Judge's comments - Very clean looking front, easy to navigate and makes good use of photos and other visual elements. The site is well organized. Discussion groups, movie reviews, news submissions, etc. are great ways to invite/foster user involvement.

Articles are varied, well-written and seem to represent the entire circulation area.

Especially liked the interactive "Golf Guide," poll and .pdf of the print version's front page.

2nd Judge's comments - The home page on this site is well organized. You have lots of story links, but they are grouped nicely. We think your home page header is one of the more attractive ones in this contest – very understated and not filled with ads. We like the gas price checker – a very high-demand piece of info these days. We notice you have navigation options going across the top and down the left side of your page. You should pick one and go with it. If you choose the left side of the page, consider tightening it. It is approaching too

long and contributes to the white space at the bottom of your page. The comment option is a nice, interactive feature. We hope it catches on. The big-box ad in the middle of the page is nice. Look into weaving more advertising into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there. If you're going to use small ads like the ones on the right side of your page, make sure the copy is large enough to read.

Tie - 1st Place- *Hillsdale Daily News*

1st Judge's comments: Smooth looking front but not enough content on it. Good use and placement of logo, talkback and polls. Lack of sponsor for Polls and Photo gallery is too obvious because of the "Polls sponsored by" and "Photo Gallery sponsored by" over an empty ad space. Some of the sections have few articles.

2nd Judge's comments: We like the fact there is not a large amount of story links on your home page. Too many news sites overload their homes with so many links it does not entice the viewers to click more into the site. That said, it might be nice to use a little less of the story intro on your lead story and perhaps replace it with two or three headline links to other top stories of the day. The use of the tabbed navigation and drop-down menus between sections is easy and clean. Advertising is nicely weaved into the content, a strategy that makes the advertising more effective and less annoying. You also do a good job making sure colors do not clash within your various design elements. We like the high level of interactivity and Web-only features on the site, which are nicely packaged in columns at the bottom of the home page. We suggest getting at least some text links to that interactive material higher on the home page (not just behind a drop-down menu). This stuff makes your site very different from your print product.

Capitalize on it. The mayor's blog is nice. Get him to update it more often. Your photo galleries are nice. You should consider having cutlines with your photos, especially staff-produced shots. Yes, it is more work. But we think fewer photos that provide more information will make for better galleries that are viewed more completely. Your Top Jobs box needs some redesigning to make the ads stand out a little better. Overall, a good site to build on. Good luck.

2nd Place- *Journal Newspapers, Wayne*

This site makes it very easy to figure out the main story of the weekly edition. We also like that you try to keep things updated with the "Web updates" box. We think this box should be moved higher on the site. It'll get people to return to your site several times a week, if you're able to keep it filled with fresh content. You have similar navigation options going across the top and down the left side of your page. You should pick one and go with it. We suggest sticking with the horizontal bar below the flag. That said, however, we do notice the series of links above the flag -- subscribe, classifieds, advertise, etc. Anything above the masthead is going to get lost. Move those down. The days we checked the site, there were matching ads on either side of your flag. If the advertiser is paying to be on the site twice, you should design two different ads. If not, remove the ad space and replace it with weather or some other self-updating utility. Look into weaving advertising into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed

to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there. Good move with the end-of-story comments. Hope they catch on.

3rd Place- *The Daily News, Iron Mountain*

1st Judge's comments: Pleasing front. Clean and visually appealing. Lack of photos detracts from the overall user experience though. Plenty of articles and a good number of ad placements. Very easy for users to submit news items. Would rather see when the page was updated than the current date and time on the front page. Easy to navigate.

2nd Judge's comments: This site does a good job of getting a lot of the day's top stories in one place. However, you may have too many headlines on your home page. Consider picking out a few truly top stories and then have a "more news" to take people inside to a page with more headlines. We like the "Respond to this Story" link on each story page. We suggest making it higher in profile to get some discussion going. Also, if you don't already, you should post those comments on the site fairly quickly. We could not tell where the comments end up.

The Virtual Newsroom is a good, one-stop location for submitting items to the newspaper. You have a nice amount of advertising on your page. Make sure the text in those smaller ads is large enough to read at all screen resolutions. Look into weaving more advertising into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there. The in-house ad for your Entertainment Section is a good idea. It seems a little out of place down at the bottom of the page, however.

Consider moving your online poll higher on the page. It's a Web-only feature. Use it to differentiate yourself from the newspaper.

• Other Web sites by order of place

Grand Haven Tribune

This site has a clean design, and it's easy to tell what the big stories of the day are in Grand Haven. We like the Recent Headlines ticker. The days we checked, it was always AP content in there. If you are able, you should look into getting local updates into those Recent Headlines, even if they are just two- or three-sentence summaries of a piece going into the paper tomorrow. You have navigation options going across the top of the page and down the left side of it. You should make a decision on one or the other. Navigation bars down the left side of the page are slowly going out of style, mainly because there is a tendency to let them get very long. Good work on getting the multimedia content in a high-profile place. Try to offer different video platforms. Not everyone has or is willing/able to download QuickTime. Good use of advertising on the site. Look into weaving it into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there. Buck the trend. We like the travel blog -- a nice Web-only feature. But June, the last time it was updated, is ancient history in Web time. If it's the only blog you have right now, move the link to a less noticeable spot. You can return it to prominence when you have blog(s) that are updated more frequently.

Milford Times

It's easy to see what the big story of the day is on this page. You also get lots of the paper's content on the front page. But you might want to consider a few less story links on the home page to entice people into more inside pages on your site. Your left navigation bar is nice and compact. We like it. Make sure links on the bar, however, have content behind it. The days we checked the site, some of the areas (At Home, Taste) had no stories. We realize your paper is part of a larger group under the HomeTown Life grouping, but you should try to do more on the site to make it clear it's the Milford Times, just to give readers a clear identity and idea of where they are at. The vertical bar containing the Election 2006 material has gotten long and contributes to the white space to the left. Consider building elements horizontally to help reduce these design roadblocks. We like the big-box ad at the top of the page. Look into weaving more advertising into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there.

Daily Press, Escanaba

This site does a good job of getting a lot of the day's top stories in one place. However, you may have too many headlines on your home page. Consider picking out a few truly top stories and then have a "more news" to take people inside to a page with more headlines. Also, on the days we checked the site, there was repetition between the stories with the larger headlines in the main area of the home page and the smaller headlines in the boxes to the right. We like the "Respond to this Story" link on each story page. We suggest making it higher in profile to get some discussion going. Also, if you don't already, you should post those comments on the site fairly quickly. We could not tell where the comments end up. The Virtual Newsroom is a good, one-stop location for submitting items to the newspaper. Make sure the text in your smaller ads is large enough to read at all screen resolutions. Look into weaving more advertising into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there. Consider moving your online poll higher on the page. It's a Web-only feature. Use it to differentiate yourself from the newspaper.

The Daily News, Greenville

We see your newspaper is struggling with the age-old question of how much newspaper content to give away online for free. We appreciate this dilemma and wish you luck in your decisions. We do suggest you offer a few extra stories for free if you wish to make your site an online destination for younger readers and local advertisers looking to use the Internet to get out their message. We like your short navigation bar on the left side of your page. Too many sites let those get much too long. Make sure the text in your smaller ads is large enough to read at all screen resolutions. Look into weaving more advertising into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there. Also, if you can manage it, try to add some breaking news content or, at least, a preview of what's going to be in tomorrow's paper. It's a good way to get visitors back to the site more than once a day. Consider moving your online poll higher on the page. It's a Web-only feature. Use it to differentiate yourself from the newspaper.

Sturgis Journal

Good level of interactivity on this site, from the email alerts to polls to reader comments. The days we checked the site, we didn't see many, if any, comments at the end of stories. So we hope this feature catches on and you are able to route comments onto your site fairly quickly. The photo galleries are nice. Would be good if you could get captions attached to the photos. Fewer photos with more info on them make for better galleries. The scrolling headline banner across the top is a nice touch, but it loses a bit of effectiveness if it links to the same stories just a few inches more down on the page. Consider using the scroll for breaking news, which can essentially be short summaries of stories you'll have in the paper tomorrow and electronic media is already reporting today. We like the variety of ad sizes on this page. Lots of options for advertisers. We have mixed feelings on including "advertise here" messages on unsold inventory. It might give the wrong impression to the usefulness of your site if those happen to stay empty. Might be better to fill the space with house ads and rely on your ad reps to make it clear to clients that there's advertising space available.

Oxford Leader

Frames tend to make Web site designs a little clumsy. It's better to stay away from them if you can. You should try to make better use of the screen space with your site. You could do much more with the organization of your story lists by stretching your page dimension to at least 800 or even 1,000 pixels wide. Using newspaper-designed ads (such as the used car collage we saw on the site) does not translate well to Web. Try to make a Web-only version. Look into weaving advertising spots into the middle of the page. Web readers instinctively learn to overlook the periphery of Web pages because we've been accustomed to seeing navigation, ads and other non-core-content items there. Work on some items that will differentiate your Web product from the print, so your readers will be compelled to use both. Think online polls, reader comments, midweek breaking news, photo galleries. Good luck to you.

State Line Observer

As your "About Us" section says, this is not a typical newspaper Web site. So it's somewhat difficult to compare it to the other "typical" sites in this contest. That said, we find this to be an interesting supplement to your printed version and we hope it is gaining a loyal following. The blog-style presentation works. However, you may want to get a few "top stories" from your printed version placed prominently on your home page. Someone visiting the site for the first time may get confused about the purpose of the publication if they see one of your random "Soup" blog entries at the very top. Glad to see you are accepting comments. Hope those catch on for you.

Contest Coordinator's Notes: The original circulation category breakdown was Division A (Circulation over 20,000); Division B (Circulation from 10,000 to 20,000); and Division C (Circulation under 10,000). Too few entries were received in Division B and those entries were moved into the closest category.

Web sites were judged on a point system. If you wish to see the total points per category, send me an email and I will reply with that info. Comments on the success of this contest are welcome, please email roselie@michiganpress.org.