



**2004 Editorial  
Better Newspaper  
Contest Winners**

## Daily Class A

### General Excellence 3 entries

1 **Detroit News**  
Editorials were good and the use of pictures was very good. The way the paper was laid out, it was easy to find the article continued on the next page. Excellent writing.

2 **Detroit Free Press**  
The design of the paper was very nice, everything right up front where you could find it, easy to navigate through the paper.

3 **Grand Rapids Press**  
There were quite a few smudges and ink splotches in the side columns, double print of words, In one paper, there were four or five of these, sometimes hard to read because of this.

### Spot News Story 9 entries

1 **Detroit News**  
Affirmative Action Staff  
This package has it all, an important societal issue, wonderful writing, a variety of perspectives and a seldom seen depth of coverage. Nothing is perfect, but this comes close.

2 **Detroit Free Press**  
Pacts Help Carmakers Battle Foreign Rivals  
J. McCracken, J. Butters  
Absolutely great coverage on all essential levels of a vital economic issue for both the region and nation. Great reporting. Great writing. Great planning.

3 **Detroit Free Press**  
Pontiac Murders Staff  
A tremendous crime story is told through a variety of perspectives, and told with power and style. This sustained reporting effort revealed many deadly blunders, miscues and short comings in law enforcement.

HM **Detroit News**  
Powerless Staff  
This was the best of many "lights out" submissions. It shows what a great newspaper can do with breaking news under the worst conditions.

### News Story 10 entries

1 **Grand Rapids Press**  
Electrolux Michael Lloyd  
Very thorough coverage of a story that impacted thousands of people. Reporting the human side of this story-from both sides of the border-made this a balance, complete story.

2 **Detroit News**  
Mental Health Crisis G. Krupa, J. Brooks  
A tremendous amount of research went into this series and it shows. The authors did a great job of telling the human impact of Michigan's mental health system.

3 **Detroit News**  
Fed Missteps Jeopardize Case  
N. Sinclair, R. Hansen and D. Shepardson  
The depth of the author's research is clearly evident. They did a great job of distilling that information into a compelling story that kept me reading. In an age of sound bites, this level of depth was refreshing

### Design 3 entries

1 **Grand Rapids Press**  
Nice consistency of type and look. Great use of photos. Organized nicely.

2 **Detroit News**  
Great use of photos and graphics.

3 **Detroit Free Press**  
Nice use of photos and graphics.

### Feature Story 12 entries

1 **Detroit News**  
Convicted Sexual Predator finds no post prison solace. Ron French  
An up close and personal account of a very real problem with real consequences. Good use of quotes. Great job of showing all sides and giving balance to an emotional issue.

2 **Detroit Free Press**  
Belief and Belonging Georgia Kovanis  
The article gets to the heart of cultural changes and interaction. Great use of quotes to bring the emotions of the situation home to the reader. Excellent work.

3 **Grand Rapids Press**  
The Catch Michael Lloyd  
Most people give no thought to where the food that lands on their plate comes from or even how. What a great piece the was most likely read by anyone who eats. The personal touch of following and interviewing fishermen was great. A great writer finds stories in everyday life and this writer did that.

### Enterprise Reporting 12 entries

1 **Detroit Free Press**  
Ford Insists Cars Safe, But... Jennifer Dixon  
This series tells thousands of people something the don't want to hear but need to. This well-researched, clearly written and courageous series has the potential of saving the lives of the people whose job it is to save ours.

2 **Detroit News**  
Always Suspect: Local Arabs and Civil Rights  
G. Krupa, F. Donnelly, J. Bebow  
An excellent report on a topic of particular interest and concern in Michigan. Exhaustive research, reluctant sources and tightlipped authorities that this team from the Detroit News assembled a report that needs to be reported.

**Enterprise Reporting, Daily Class A Continued**

**3 Detroit News**

Flawed Guns Melvin Claxton  
In other years, I suspect this would be a first place entry. Excellent job of going beyond the dry statistics to "putting a face" on tragedies that, in most cases, could have been prevented.

**HM Detroit Free Press**

Portraits of War J. Seidel, R. Johnson  
Excellent reporting including the observation of minor details.

**HM Grand Rapids Press**

Golden Handcuffs Jennifer Ackerman Haywood  
An excellent example of serving taxpayers by being a watchdog concerning how government spends their money.

**Editorial Pages 3 entries**

**1 Detroit Free Press**

Pages are attractive with a good use of various elements such as cartoons and quotes to reinforce the points. Editorials are interesting approachable and tightly written.

**2 Grand Rapids Press**

Attractive page design and local editorial content. Editorials make a point and then back it up at length-sometimes a little too much length.

**3 Detroit News**

Losing Liberty series an important topic. Design and wide column widths can be intimidating.

**Editorial Writing 9 entries**

**1 Grand Rapids Press Michael Lloyd**

Very courageous voice on national and local issues. There is a strong knowledgeable tone, and it is well written.

**2 Detroit News George Bullard**

It is apparent that the author is knowledgeable on the subject; important when writing an editorial. There are compelling arguments that truly make me question the legislation on privacy.

**3 Detroit News Shikha Dalmia**

Well written editorials on subjects that are important to all Americans. Use of graphs and sidebars show detail and depth of research.

**Local Columnist 11 entry**

**1 Detroit Free Press**

Rochelle Riley

The columns of Rochelle Riley are both challenging for the mind and a joy to read. She appears incapable of expressing a boring thought. Her writing is exquisite.

**2 Grand Rapids Press**

Tom Rademacher

Tom Rademacher as a different take on life than most people, and it shows in his wonderful columns. He writes with power, style and often with humor

**3 Detroit News**

Laura Berman

It doesn't matter if Laura Berman is writing about a mysterious death, a wily old politico, or the lingerie bowl; her columns always drive home a point. She is a stylish and clever writer.

**HM Detroit News**

Nolan Finley

His columns are fun to read, but Nolan Finley is at his best when sharing a personal moment. His yarn about the shy graveyard rates 4 stars.

**News Picture 16 entries**

**1 Grand Rapids Press**

My Marine Chris Clark

Good, clear crisp photo. Picture also tells a lot; sadness, fear, hope, what our nation is experiencing during these war times. This photo just stood out of all the ones in this class.

**2 Detroit News**

Metro Iraqis Women Max Ortiz

Another good, clear, crisp photo. Picture tells the story.

**3 Grand Rapids Press**

Watery Rescue Mark Copier

Good spot picture. Too bad the quality of the printing wasn't as good. The picture didn't stand out as much because of that.

**Feature Picture 20 entries**

**1 Grand Rapids Press**

Whoa! Mark Copier

The expression in the girls face says everything.

**2 Grand Rapids Press**

Look! Lori Niedenfuer

The word look and the one eye look sign are a great combo.

**3 Detroit News**

Ice Fishing Lures Michigan's Hardy

Dale G. Young

I like the contrast of dark and light. White snow and the yellow from the light.

**HM Grand Rapids Press**

The Grass is Always Greener

T.J. Hamilton

Very neat set up. White fence, all that grass on his side and yet the horse goes thru the fence to get grass.

## **Sports Picture, Daily Class A 21 entry**

- 1 **Grand Rapids Press**  
Holding On Delbridge Langdon Jr.  
The expression and action captured in this photo made it really stand out from the rest. Great timing.
- 2 **Detroit News**  
U-M Runs Over MSU John Greilick  
A photo that really communicates the speed and athleticism of college athletes. Great timing. Sharp photo. Breaks out of the pack of the usual football photos.
- 3 **Grand Rapids Press**  
Facing Pressure Lance Wynn  
Not your usual basketball photo. Made me stop and look twice.

## **Picture Story 8 entries**

- 1 **Grand Rapids Press**  
A Brave Face Chris Clark  
What a fascinating story of survival. Great photos!
- 2 **Detroit News**  
A Gift of Life Clarence Tabb Jr.  
Wonderful, graphic photos. Touching story.
- 3 **Grand Rapids Press**  
They Don't Have Many Options  
Lance Wynn  
Sad story. Great layout. I liked the photos.  
HM **Grand Rapids Press**  
80s Revisited Katy Batdorff  
Liked the photos, but wish there had been some actual 80s photos besides celebs.

## **Sports Writing 8 entries**

- 1 **Detroit Free Press**  
Waste of a Year Mitch Albom  
Great humor! Not just sports but had a lot of life lessons in there and the story just flowed really well.
- 2 **Detroit News**  
U-M Rose Dream Wilts Bob Wojnowski  
Very crisp words, made me feel like I was there watching the game. Coming from Michigan, the article wasn't biased at all, giving credit to the Trojans for having a better team.
- 3 **Detroit Free Press**  
Dream Cruise Nicholas Cotsonika  
I really liked how the story started off, with the minor league tie ins and the rent a car.

## **Sports Columnist 8 entries**

- 1 **Detroit Free Press** Mitch Albom  
An excellent selection of three columns that show why Mitch Albom sets the standard in the industry.

- 2 **Detroit Free Press**  
Michael Rosenberg  
Readers will never have to ask, so, Michael, how do you really feel about Denny McLain, or Billy Sims, or the BCS. Sharp criticism, sharp wit, sharp rhythm and pacing.
- 3 **Detroit News** Rob Parker  
Rob Parker makes readers not only see but feel what life is like for Eric Fields, an athlete living in deep poverty. This is a look that most readers never get.  
HM **Detroit News** Bob Wojnowski  
Excellent job of putting the big stories of the day in perspective.

## **Sports Feature 10 entries**

- 1 **Detroit Free Press**  
Stalked Jo-Ann Barnes  
Truly an outstanding achievement. Head and shoulders above the other entries in this category. Barnes' compelling tale of stalking has it all - depth, detail, range, creativity, insight and chills. Maybe above all, chills.
- 2 **Detroit News**  
Danger on the Sidelines Fred Girard  
This is must-reading. This well-researched and thoroughly documented story is one that should be required reading for anyone involved in youth sports.
- 3 **Detroit Free Press**  
Percy's Lifeline Michael Rosenberg  
A touching, poignant and insightful look at love and courage in the life of a star athlete. Masterful storytelling.  
HM **Detroit News**  
Toughman: Bouts with Danger  
Fred Girard  
Excellent look at the senselessness of toughman contests.

## **Sports Coverage 3 entries**

- 1 **Detroit Free Press**  
Sections have a lively, friendly yet sophisticated feel. The coverage of the Michigan scandal on deadline is impressive; the Jo-Ann Barnes feature "The Stalker" a tour de force. Clean, crisp design; photos evoke emotions; everything is reader-friendly. Excellent!
- 2 **Detroit News**  
On the plus side: thorough, exhaustive coverage and analysis of the big sports stories of the day. On the minus side: design doesn't always "pop" and the photo report is embarrassing. Can the reproduction not be improved?
- 3 **Grand Rapids Press**  
It's obvious you don't have the resources of the Detroit dailies, but you still have a sports section that serves your readers well. The sections are lively and newsy, and are a complete package.

## **Lifestyle Pages, Daily Class A 3 entries**

- 1 **Grand Rapids Press**  
Excellent, touching stories that are well written. The stories also appeal to emotions, important to a lifestyles page. Nice photography and layout.
- 2 **Detroit News**  
Nice articles that appeal to your community, diverse coverage and nice coverage of music and entertainment, which is important to a lifestyles section.
- 3 **Detroit Free Press**  
Nice articles on important subjects. Nice layout and photography adds to the interest of the articles.

## **Special Section 9 entries**

- 1 **Grand Rapids Press**  
Answer Book 2003  
Edition gives me plenty of information relative to area. Very appealing especially to someone new to the area.
- 2 **Detroit Free Press**  
Best of Detroit  
Local, local, local. Eye catching design and photos.
- 3 **Detroit News**  
100 Anniversary of Ford Motor Co.  
A local event captured in a great section.

## **Daily Class B**

### **General Excellence 6 entries**

- 1 **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
In a very competitive category, the top four entries are outstanding. The Oakland Press edges ahead because of its local news, quality and quantity. Layout and design are varied and energetic. All this sufficiently offset the absence of editorials on local themes (among the issues entered) and inconsistent color reproduction.
- 2 **Lansing State Journal**  
A very close second. Excellent newspaper. Local news, features and editorials.
- 3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Solid local report, complimented by excellent photos and picture usage.  
HM **Ann Arbor News**  
I like this newspaper. However, I wondered why the best local story of the day received play under wire copy (4/24/03). The Boulder comparison special report was well done.

### **Spot News Story 19 entries**

- 1 **Lansing State Journal**  
Fowlerville Crash Kelly Hassett  
Strong and sustained reporting, along with depth, made this a winner. Lesser reporters wouldn't have

stayed with this story in the manner of Hassett. The result? Sophisticated and complete coverage.

- 2 **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
Pontiac Triple Slaying J. Wisely, S. Huber  
Powerful lead, supported by layered, multi-source content. This very complete story was well researched and written beautifully. Despite the massive length, I was compelled to read every word.
- 3 **Ann Arbor News**  
Court Splits Sarah Kellog  
This was a well-planned, complete and in-depth examination of a hot button issue. It might have won first place if it had not relied almost exclusively on official voices. No real-people reactions?

### **News Story 34 entries**

- 1 **Lansing State Journal**  
MSU Med School Sharon Terlep  
Ms. Terlep broke a story of huge importance to the Lansing community. She continued to dig in order to bring her readers the complete story. This series shows balance, tenacity, diligence and resourcefulness. Well written.
- 2 **Flint Journal**  
Frequent Flier Matt Bach  
Matt's stories remind us why we're journalists. This well-crafted series kept me reading to the last word. Well done and thorough.
- 3 **Ann Arbor News**  
Greenbelt Coverage Staff  
The Ann Arbor News went out of its way to provide its readers with the information they needed to have in order to make an informed decision on a controversial city proposal.  
HM **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Bridge Separates Us Barbara Walters  
Well written, balanced and insightful. A difficult story to cover while tensions were high in the community.

### **Design 8 entries**

- 1 **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
Like your flag! Dominant front pages! Great photos throughout the entire issue. Feature sections and sport sections the best of the best!
- 2 **Ann Arbor News**  
Photos, heading have impact. Very crisp throughout the paper. Great looking paper!
- 3 **Lansing State Journal**  
Great photos, graphs, lots of great reading. Easy to find what you are looking for. Very organized!  
HM **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Not as strong in photography as the rest. Nice section heads. Good organization. You deserved to place in this category.

## Feature Story, Daily Class B 44 entries

1 **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
The Ruling on Enslens Craig McCool  
Extremely strong, well-written, incredibly well researched and reported profile. A lot of copy, but the reporter has skillfully chosen anecdotes and structure that are relevant and interesting. Transition from section to section and the ending were also well done.

2 **Flint Journal**  
At the Tone Jeff Johnston  
Light-hearted, informal writing style really connected with the reader and matched the tone of the story. Great topic and unusual story. Great structure also.

3 **Saginaw News**  
Revenge Not so Sweet Joe Snapper  
The fascinating topic and well written beginning and ending got me really excited about the story. Unfortunately the middle has severe structural problems and doesn't follow the great narrative set-up delivered in the first section. Despite that, the writing style and topic was better than most other entries.

## Enterprise Reporting 32 entries

1 **Flint Journal**  
Hungry for Help Rosemary Reiz  
This strongly written series educates the reader with depth, revealing the science of a little understood disease with human compassion. The stories do not gloss over the flaws of the main subjects. Excellent.

2 **Lansing State Journal**  
Hepatitis C Michigan's Silent Epidemic  
Stacey Range  
This series worked because of the detail it revealed about the people affected. The access to prisoner's lives allowed the writer to explain why the average law abiding reader should care.

3 **Saginaw News**  
Hip Hop, Can Saginaw Be Cool?  
A. Grimm, B. Barber, B. Hoffman, J. Stettler  
We talk in this business about being relevant and reaching out to new readers. This paper did something about it. The effort gets good marks for taking a different twist to the usual stories about improving a city.  
HM **Muskegon Chronicle**  
A Marine's War David J Kolb  
Gripping take, rich with detail. Good story telling that gave us an interesting cliff hanger at the end of day one.

## Editorial Pages 7 entries

1 **Muskegon Chronicle**  
I enjoyed seeing both editorials from the paper and from readers. Reader participation is excellent. The opinions showed variety in local, state, and federal issues.

2 **Flint Journal**  
The "Our View" and "Your View" is an excellent combination.

3 **Saginaw News**  
Good layout of page and variety.  
HM **Lansing State Journal**  
Good involvement with readers in editorials.

## Editorial Writing 14 entries

1 **Flint Journal** Jeff Johnston  
The tribute column brought names and faces to those lost in war.

2 **Lansing State Journal** Mark Nixon  
A variety of topics. All three were well written.

3 **Flint Journal** Michael J. Riha  
Points well made. Numbers bring validity to GISD chief story.

## Local Columnist 24 entries

1 **Kalamazoo Gazette** Chris Meehan  
Chris Meehan is blessed as a trite. His calm deliberate prose in "A little angel goes home" delivered an emotional blow to my heart. I grew tearful and I'm sure others did too. His columns say much about who we are.

2 **Pontiac Oakland Press** Tracy Ward  
In her columns, Tracy Ward skillfully examines the minutia of daily life, giving perspective to larger societal issues. Her column on a fearful woman motorist and lazy police earns four stars.

3 **The Macomb Daily** Ed Fitzgerald  
Ed Fitzgerald is fun to read. His spare deliberate prose is a delight. There is always a deeper thought underlying his treatment of daily life

HM **Muskegon Chronicle**  
Susan Harrison Wolffis  
This is the work of a marvelous writer. Her ability as a wordsmith especially shines in her treatment of a soldiers death.

## News Picture 38 entries

1 **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
First Casualty Charlie Cortez  
Phenomenal picture. The little boy grieving with the teddy bear captures not only emotion but plays in the fact of how young this boy is who is now without a father. Powerful image in the reality of war.

2 **Saginaw News**  
Freedom is Not Free Michael Hollenbeck  
Awesome picture. Too bad there were other people off to the side which distracts from the photo. If you could have gotten the picture with just the man slanting it would have been a very powerful picture. The picture still tells a lot though.

**News Picture, Daily Class B continued**

3 **The Macomb Daily**  
Hit & Run Ray Skowronek  
Good on the spot pictures. Photo with arm out of door is quite a picture. Then to get photo of suspect with blood running down her car...quite a story told with pictures  
HM **The Macomb Daily** Marine Buried David Posavetz  
Obviously emotional picture. A photo you really look at. You look at the survivors faces. Touching.

**Feature Picture 49 entries**

1 **Flint Journal**  
Tiny Dancers Lisa DeJong  
Loved it! Tiny dancers-Great expression. Best of the Best. Black and White-Yes!  
2 **Flint Journal**  
One for the Road Ryan Garzo  
What expression! The photo tells the story of kids v. shots!  
3 **Flint Journal**  
Hero's Parade Erik Holladay  
Photographer captured the noise of the parade through a child. Great!  
HM **Flint Journal**  
Santa's Kiss Steve Jessmore  
Whoa-Santa. I think it's his mustache. Cute.  
HM **Muskegon Chronicle**  
Best Friends Cory Morse  
Way to capture swings in air and smiling glance back at her friend.

**12 - Sports Picture 30 entries**

1 **Lansing State Journal**  
Too Little Too Late Chris Holmes  
Great emotion beautifully captured. Nice composition with complimentary information. Great reproduction.  
2 **Lansing State Journal**  
Photo Finishes Rod Sanford  
Wonderful moment. Great expressions, good light that reproduced well.  
3 **Muskegon Chronicle**  
A Nightmarish End Cory Morse  
Very clean, complete image. Nicely composed.  
HM **Muskegon Chronicle**  
Dogs Bounce Back Ken Stevens  
Great expression, beautifully lit and exposed under trying conditions.

**Picture Story 24 entries**

1 **Muskegon Chronicle**  
That's Shoe Biz Kendra Stanley-Mills  
Great variety of photos. I felt I had a better understanding of horseshoeing.

2 **Lansing State Journal**  
Extreme Measures Becky Shink  
Very graphic photos. Good overall layout.  
3 **Saginaw News**  
Leelanau Vines, Saginaw Roots Jeff Schrier  
Nice photos. Love the Fall colors.  
HM **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
Santa's Big Day Vaughn Gurganian  
What an awesome Santa. I would like to have seen him getting ready.

**Sports Writing 26 entries**

1 **Lansing State Journal**  
MSU Plays Giveaway and Blue Devils Roll Joe Rexrode  
Story demonstrated originality while capturing the frustration associated with losing a high-profile game in a particularly ugly fashion.  
2 **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Title Night Paul Bowker  
Excellent use of colorful quotes from the coaches made this an enjoyable read.  
3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Big Time for Bishal Scott Jungman  
Interesting feature on NHL player with local ties.  
HM **Ann Arbor News**  
Michigan Players, Fans Revel in Win . . . John Heuser  
Comprehensive summary of the biggest college football game of the season for UM.

**Sports Columnist 18 entries**

1 **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
Keith Langlois  
Excellent analysis and perspective of the big issues of the day with the area's pro teams. Writer with authority, wit and clarity.  
2 **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
Jim Hawkins  
Provides a compelling closer look at some of the icons of the sports world. Readers won't be able to put his columns down until they read the last word.  
3 **Muskegon Chronicle**  
Cindy Fairfield  
This columnist knows her community and what's important to her readers. Takes solid stands on the issues.  
HM **Saginaw News**  
Hugh Bernreuter  
Enjoyable reading!

### **Sports Feature, Daily Class B 29 entries**

- 1 **Muskegon Chronicle**  
Money and Sports  
C. Fairfield, T. Kendra, M. Mattson  
Good informative series. Sheds light on problem facing many. Covers all the angles.
- 2 **Muskegon Chronicle**  
Code of Conduct Staff  
A well-researched series. Writing gets to the point and is easy to follow
- 3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Female Wrestler Joel Wishievsky  
Interesting lead-in feature that was informative and made me want to know more.

### **Sports Coverage 8 entries**

- 1 **Ann Arbor News**  
Great use and quality of photos. Creative, quality writing. Overall design excellent. You'll find all the stats you want!
  - 2 **Pontiac Oakland Press**  
All the sports are covered - photos, stats. Quality columns by Langlois and Hawkins. Readers should appreciate the overall quality of sports coverage.
  - 3 **Lansing State Journal**  
Excellent photos, good special features, good stats. Todd Schulz's column is a real plus to the sports coverage. Football, Golf, Tennis, Racing - all get quality coverage.
- HM **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Photo coverage a strong plus. Interesting sport feature by Paul Bowker.

### **Lifestyle Pages 10 entries**

- 1 **Lansing State Journal**  
Nice layout and diverse subject matter. Articles are well written and take national issues, giving them a local angle.
  - 2 **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
Very diverse and nice use of taking popular issues and making them relevant to your community. I enjoy the food and restaurant coverage - always a good subject for lifestyle pages.
  - 3 **Ann Arbor News**  
The stories are personal and well written. Nice editors column. Personal, local touch. Also nice layout.
- HM **Flint Journal**  
Cover stories are interesting and well written. Calendar is also nice, however, too much use of wire/news service stories on the inside.

### **Special Section 14 entries**

- 1 **Saginaw News** Focus 2003  
Wow! What a section! Local content, photos and a great balance with ads!

- 2 **Ann Arbor News** Outlook  
A thorough "outlook" of business in your town. Photos of "real people" in town very appealing.
  - 3 **Ann Arbor News** M-Edition  
Should be used by university in admissions department. Sold me on school!
- HM **Kalamazoo Gazette**  
100 Years of Learning  
Nice section to preserve an important institution.

### **Daily Class C**

#### **General Excellence 12 entries**

- 1 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**  
A solid newspaper edges to the top in an extremely competitive division. Strong local news, sports and feature stories displayed in an attractive but not flashing manner.
  - 2 **Monroe Evening News**  
A very close second; quality journalism.
  - 3 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Clean design. Makes better use of white space than most.
- HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Readers in the Traverse City community are well-served, I believe, after seeing this entry.

#### **Spot News Story 39 entries**

- 1 **St. Joseph Herald-Palladium**  
Riot! Staff  
Two days worth of detailed, layered and comprehensive coverage. Day one is notable for the incredible detailing compiled on deadline. Day two shows the commitment of the paper to its' community-the paper of record.
  - 2 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
3 Sisters Die in Fire  
J. Steele and J. Deinlein  
This story of tragedy was beautifully told through the voices of real people. It's a fine example of story telling with a hard news event. The writing has passion and a voice. The reporting is very thorough.
  - 3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Shipwreck Dive Tragedy Marla McMackin  
Very thorough reporting and excellent writing. Nice mix of sources; real people, authorities, and a medical expert.
- HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Lula Thought Lost in Fire Keith Matheny  
This tale of community tragedy was told completely, sensitively, and comprehensively. Hours of reporting obviously preceded this fine spot news account.



**News Story, Daily Class C 39 entries**

- 1 **Bay City Times**  
Wickstrom Here Jeff Kart  
This chronicle of a community's response to the presence of a racist group in its' midst was well done. Getting the kind of access he did to Wickstrom made this series a winner.
- 2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Northern Michigan Hospital Keith Matheny  
Good job covering an emotional story that spanned over a year. Reporting was balanced, thorough and included a human touch that helped me understand the issues.
- 3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Thiebaut Murder Tom Carr  
Resourceful reporter. His ability to get sources for his stories when officials wouldn't talk made this entry stand out.
- HM **Royal Oak Daily Tribune**  
Slumlord Charged Staff  
Strong entry. Reporters covered the story from many angles.

**Design 12 entries**

- 1 **Adrian, Daily Telegram**  
Crisp, clean consistent, creative in design. Ads on page two typically on left but they look good on the right.
- 2 **Monroe Evening News**  
Crisp, nicely organized. Layout could be consistent for each day.
- 3 **Royal Oak Daily Tribune**  
Really like the title sections on the right side.
- HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Really clean. Laid-out nicely.

**Feature Story 43 entries**

- 1 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
The Court is His Stage Howie Magner  
Very sophisticated writing and structure. Artfully done. The story structure is very creative and takes chances with a fabulous payoff. Great from beginning to end.
- 2 **Royal Oak Daily Tribune**  
A Promise Delivered Michael McConnell  
Nice narrative with strong visual opening.
- 3 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Unanswered Prayers Don't Deter Victor Kelly Carr  
Touching story that captured interest early on because of a great opening. Context to national issue is nicely woven in. Perfect ending that matches the beginning.
- HM **Port Huron Times Herald**  
The Fabric of Her Life Mary Lou Creamer  
Nice piece on an unusual topic, but the readers enjoyed reading this. The ending could be better; it's unsatisfying.

**Enterprise Reporting 34 entries**

- 1 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Sara's Story Mike Connell  
Powerfully written thoroughly reported. This story can change lives. Sara's trust was well placed with the reporter who told her story eloquently. An absolutely riveting series that shatters stereotypes and shows the triumph of the human spirit.
- 2 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**  
Friend of the Court  
P. Rombyer, S. Hepker, B. Wheeler  
Balanced approach on an important social justice issue. Thoroughly reported, well written. This is a valuable public service that takes some of the mystery out of an often misunderstood process.
- 3 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
An Island Apart Deanna Weniger  
Deeply reported, this is an engaging series about a people's struggle to cling to its culture. It should be required reading for anyone interested in diversity. Well done.
- HM **Royal Oak Daily Tribune**  
School Choice Staff  
A must-read for parents.

**Editorial Pages 7 entries**

- 1 **Royal Oak Daily Tribune**  
Nice layout, nice variety of opinions/editorials all on one page. National and local interests all mixed together.
- 2 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Roses and raspberries is a nice addition.
- 3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Good balance between opinion of paper and opinion of readers.

**Editorial Writing 15 entries**

- 1 **Battle Creek Enquirer** Staff  
I like the sidebar that summarizes the issue and the opinion of the writers. Tough topics, written well. You cover local, city and national issues.
- 2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Mike Tyree  
Not afraid to criticize high profile people and tell it like it is. I like the sidebar summarizing the issue and your view. Not much difference between first and second place.
- 3 **Adrian, Daily Telegram** Staff  
Well written, you get your point across. Tackled some tough issues. The top three in this class were all close.
- HM **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Tom Walker  
I especially liked the two editorials on the school boards and councils needing to be accountable. It's great you aren't afraid to point that out.

**Local Columnist, Daily Class C 22 entries**

- 1 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**  
Bradley Flory  
I disagree with almost everything he writes, but I hope his column is online so I can keep reading him. He tackles local issues with humor and a style that makes them approachable and interesting.
- 2 **Bay City Times**  
Crystal Harmon  
Good topics. Well handled rape column-particularly true to life.
- 3 **Adrian, Daily Telegram**  
Michael Miller  
Okay, a Valentine's column that wasn't sappy. Column on family is sensitively handled. Good writing overall
- HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Lorraine Anderson  
Column put what many feel about cancer, criminals and war into words.

**News Picture 26 entries**

- 1 **Holland Sentinel**  
Training Day Brian Forde  
The first image of the day to really "wow" me. Beautiful color. This has an artistic impressionistic feel that I really dig. Great job.
- 2 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Storm Damage Kevin Hare  
Nice subtle emotion. Great framing/composition really lets this image sing.
- 3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Memorial Day Vets Jim Bovin  
Nice silhouette with a brilliant splash of color. As great as the image is, I wish it could have been worked into something much stronger.
- HM **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Helping the Injured Doug Allen  
Great emotion on the EMT. Very clean.

**Feature Picture 34 entries**

- 1 **St. Joseph Herald-Palladium**  
Go With The Flow Neal Vaughn  
This was a tough category with lots of great photos. I kept coming back to this because of the way repeating shapes and light let my eye flow through the image. Beautiful.
- 2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Sky Walker Elizabeth Conley  
Wonderful graphic image. Framing pulls my eye to the silhouette dangling. Great moment. I preferred the black and white in the paper to the color ink jet.
- 3 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Ice-Framed Lighthouse Kevin Hare  
Beautiful framing. Great color contrast. I would have liked to have some additional light on the foreground ice to really let it sing.

- HM **Midland, Daily News**  
Fair Nap Erin Wigger  
Cute moment. Great light. We've all seen the kids, we've all seen the animals - together they make a great image.

**12 - Sports Picture 25 entries**

- 1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Hometown Showdown Jim Bovin  
I really liked the aerial view and the contrast of bright lights and pitch dark surrounding the stadium, spotlighting the game.
- 2 **Midland, Daily News**  
Game of Horses Ryan Wood  
The way the picture was taken in a reflection of a puddle was very creative. Even though it was taken in this manner, you could still clearly see the shot and the basket.
- 3 **Royal Oak Daily Tribune**  
Kimball Collides with Berkley Rosh Sillars  
The expressions on the face and the reactions of their bodies were captured at the right time. You can tell no one expected to be where they were and how much they were willing to sacrifice to win.
- HM **Midland, Daily News**  
"Eye" got it Ryan Wood  
I like the way the picture captures the entire moment the ball and players eyes locked on target.

**Picture Story 22 entries**

- 1 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Crafting a Dream Tony Pitts  
Wonderful photos. Shows process start to finish.
- 2 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Off to the Races Melissa Wawzysko  
What a great story. Interesting topic.
- 3 **Marquette, The Mining Journal**  
World Cup Speedskating Aaron Peterson  
Great action photos. Wish they had been in color.
- HM **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Set in Stone Mark Rummel  
Great photo spread. It was a tough call between HM and 3rd place.

**Sports Writing 31 entry**

- 1 **Bay City Times**  
History Lesson Lee Thompson  
The first paragraph caught my attention with the descriptive way the players were described. Very real.
- 2 **Marquette, The Mining Journal**  
Reed Scorches Field Renee Prusi  
The description of the heat and the conditions of the race course, very detailed made me sweat just reading it.

**Sports Writing, Daily Class C continued**

3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Down by 11 Bill O'Brien  
The coaches quotes were nicely placed in the story, made one want to put on a helmet and play.

**Sports Columnist 29 entries**

1 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**  
Chris Iott  
Chris Iott is an entertaining columnist - one readers will follow to the last word.

2 **Marquette, The Mining Journal**  
Michael Murray  
Michael Murray takes us right to the heart of the matter - and we have fun along the way.

3 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Rick Jakacki  
Interesting perspective and insight into local sports. Columns serve the community well.

HM **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Howie Magner  
Sharp wit, excellent writer.

**Sports Feature 45 entries**

1 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Sprawl Howie Magner  
Very nice introduction. It made me want to finish the story.

2 **Bay City Times**  
In the Spotlight Bruce Gunther  
Very well written. You made me like the kid.

3 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Going the Distance Daren Tomhaue  
Nice Story. Any questions I may have had were all answered in the story. He may not be a famous athlete, but his story deserved to be told.

HM **Monroe Evening News**  
Niles Kruger  
It was a heartwarming story. Shows the kid has a lot of spirit and determination.

**Sports Coverage 10 entries**

1 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Thoroughly enjoyed the submission for judging, the quality and usage of the photo's as related to the stories was a perfect blend. You can tell the entire sports staff takes pride and believes in their publications. High school coverage was excellent for a publication your size.

2 **Monroe Evening News**  
Appreciate the effort on covering prep athletics. All three submissions lead with a prep article which was wonderful. Layout design was crisp, sharp and professionally well done.

3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Nice blend of local coverage with prep and college athletics along with national. The hometown showdown left you with the feeling of the rivalry and bragging rights whose best. Tremendous effort.

**Lifestyle Pages 9 entries**

1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
Nice change of topics in section each week. Very interesting topics with photos and layout offering additional variety.

2 **Battle Creek Enquirer**  
Nice variety of topics covered. "Neighbors" an eye catching way of brining all topics, issues together. Also enjoy school section.

3 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Good mix of local and national issues.  
HM **Jackson Citizen Patriot**  
Stories are very relative to today's lifestyles.

**Special Section 22 entries**

1 **Marquette, The Mining Journal**  
Neighbors  
Really liked the cover! Creative use of title. Different idea for a section, one you don't see. Not usual typical special section. Layout could have been more creative. Quality of pictures was one of the best in this class. Print quality also good. Just really liked idea!

2 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**  
Back to School  
A special section that would be pertinent to many readers. Liked the colorful cover. Mix of stories and information/facts. Good, clear photos. Also not too long of a section. Something people would flip through. Not sure if I like the stack of ads on the right side of each page though.

3 **Port Huron Times Herald**  
Milestones  
Personal look of milestones from one-year-old through school, getting job, married, etc. A little long though - not sure how many people are going to really look through it all. But it was a good section.

HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**  
2003 Football  
Liked cover. Covered a wide range of events from high school through NFL. Team photos could have been better.

## Daily Class D

### General Excellence 21 entries

- 1 **Livingston County Press & Argus**  
Good mix of writing. Strong layout and ad content.
- 2 **Petoskey News-Review**  
Very clean and easy to read. Excellent reproduction. Good ad content.
- 3 **Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**  
Strong photos with well balanced layout. Vivid photo reproduction. Strong ad content.

### Spot News Story 47 entries

- 1 **Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**  
The Ultimate Sacrifice E. Alberty, R. Olson  
The quality of the writing and the breadth and depth of coverage made this amazingly detailed report the winner. Strong leads, multiple sources, powerful quotes; this package had it all.
  - 2 **Greenville, The Daily News**  
Electrolux Announcement L. Befus, D. McGillis  
This amazingly complete package was compiled under the toughest deadline pressure. The breakouts were excellent! Better storytelling would have made this piece the first place winner.
  - 3 **Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**  
Tompkins Fired Ryan Olson  
This report told the reader everything they could possibly want to know about the removal of a longtime college president. The writing is straight forward and easily understood. The detailing shows good reporting ability.
- HM **Greenville, The Daily News**  
Bear Takes a Lunch Break Elisabeth Waldon  
This was the nicest piece of pure writing in this category. The lead focused on an ordinary person dealing with an extraordinary event. The narrative flowed beautifully.

### News Story 60 entries

- 1 **Manistee News Advocate** Staff  
A Burning Issue  
Well organized and well written series of articles. Concerning a topic which has an affect on many people. Excellent photo coverage.
- 2 **Petoskey News-Review**  
Strike Courage Lisa Doublestein  
Story starts out as another story and then becomes a prominent issue for many. Becomes history.
- 3 **Greenville, The Daily News**  
Electrolux Leaving L. Befus and D. McGillis, C. Gustin  
First article draws nice comparison to local story, and the articles continue to show progression to an unpleasant ending. Good use of photos and layout.

HM **Petoskey News-Review**  
Downtown Development R. Bentley,  
K. Fredrickson  
Very well reported with editorial and photos.

### Design 16 entries

- 1 **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**  
Wonderful consistency. Good use of color. Consistent headers. I like the weather in the preview section.
  - 2 **Alpena News**  
I liked the masthead. Good use of photos. A close second to the Morning Sun.
  - 3 **Escanaba, Daily Press**  
Like the TOC. Good use of spot color. Lots of photos! I liked the consistency in masthead and headers.
- HM **Big Rapids, Pioneer**  
I liked the preview photos. Good use of color. A tough decision between 3rd and 4th. Didn't like the reversed text.

### Feature Story 67 entries

- 1 **Greenville, The Daily News**  
The Secret of Bob Powers Ryon List  
You took a chance by setting up a "Big Secret" to be told in this narrative and it was justified. Nice job. But, many thumbs down to the designer/copy desk for giving away the "secret" in the photo captions. That carelessness can really ruin a story for the reader.
- 2 **Hillsdale Daily News**  
Worth a Thousand Words Nikki Sattler  
New spin on the Iraq war made this an interesting read. I would have liked to have read more about the flight attendant and less about the Wilcox boy's military background. The flight attendants story was more compelling.
- 3 **Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**  
He's Fearless Brad Salmen  
Solid profile-one of the few in this category. The story was made richer by multiple sources, not simply a one-source story. Timely, as well. There was clearly a point to profiling this person.

### Enterprise Reporting 40 entries

- 1 **Alpena News**  
A Heroin Haze H. Mace, M. Bray  
This is an important topic. Kudos for approaching it in a community newspaper. I'm baffled as to why you didn't use "Jack's" last name. It's public record. Given the sensitivity of the topic, it's not unusual that sources won't give up their last names, but I don't like it!
- 2 **Manistee News Advocate**  
What Lies Beneath Allison Batdorff  
Good environmental study. This could have been organized better. In some respects the writer didn't quite get me there.

**Enterprise Reporting, Daily Class D continued**

**3 Alpena News**

The Changing Face of Alpena Jeremy Speer  
This covers all the angles. But shame on you for that gratuitous plug for your newspaper in the second installment (Robinson periodically checks the classified ads in the Alpena News) I'm feeling generous today and blaming your publisher for making you do it.

**HM Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**

The Final Bell Zac Anderson  
Great local impact, very well written. Zac Anderson spins a good read.

**Editorial Pages 14 entries**

**1 Livingston County Press & Argus**

Well written editorials address local topic; the editorial on the Brighton High School Bible Club doesn't shy away from tackling a tough local subject. There are plenty of columns by staff members, and perhaps most importantly for a local paper, there's plenty of space devoted to letters.

**2 Petoskey News-Review**

Editorials address local topics and syndicated material is kept to a minimum. The paper's staff members also play a role. Each entry has a personal column by a reporter or editor. Good consistent and easy to read design.

**3 Owosso -The Argus-Press**

All the content except the cartoons is locally generated, and there's plenty of reader participation through letters. However, the wide columns can make text difficult to read.

**Editorial Writing 19 entries**

**1 Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

Rick Mills

Outstanding. All three editorials in the entry address hot local topics. The paper is clearly not afraid to take a stand. The author's arguments are well-articulated, and the issues he addresses are obviously important to the community. Not pabulum here.

**2 Livingston County Press & Argus**

Matt Smith

The editorials are well written and take clear, well explained positions on local topics. The community seems to be served well by this paper's voice.

**3 Ludington, Daily News**

Staff

Editorials on local topics are articulate and persuasive. The paper also wins points for its explanation of its legal efforts to ensure openness in government.

**HM Escanaba, Daily Press**

Rick Rudden

Well written editorials that take clear positions even when those positions might be unpopular.

**Local Columnist 50 entries**

**1 Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

Rick Mills

Well written, persuasive columns on local topics. First class

**2 Livingston County Press & Argus**

Maria Stuart

Stuart's compelling columns focus on the people behind the local stories, giving a human touch to the news.

**3 Petoskey News-Review**

Kristina Hughes

Hughes's columns are engaging and fun to read. She discusses current social issues through the lens of her own life. She writes with a friendly, conversational tone and a natural voice. She makes it look easy.

**News Picture 30 entries**

**1 Hillsdale Daily News**

Hiding from the Camera D. M. Stanfield

Clever use of reflection kept bring me back to this image. Clean, complete image does a wonderful job of quickly communicating to the reader.

**2 Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

Tractor/Truck Collision

Katherine Johnson

Nice photo. The more I looked at it the more my eye went back. I would have liked a bit more depth of field to let the people in the background "pop" and bring more of a cohesive feel to the image.

**3 Bad Axe, Huron Daily Tribune**

On the Road Again? Stacey Langley

Stirring image. Very clean, but complete. Leading lines help pull me into the picture.

**HM Livingston County Press & Argus**

The Chrysler Fire Gillis Benedict

Far and away the best fire photo in the group.

Wonderful reproduction, nice reflection. Very close.

**Feature Picture 44 entries**

**1 Manistee News Advocate**

Remembrance Ken Grabowski

Powerful photo. This little boy taking the moment to ponder over a veteran's grave. You captured the three R's.

**2 Livingston County Press & Argus**

Spider Spins Web Alan Ward

She's having fun. What great expression.

**3 Ludington, Daily News**

Chasing Geese Jeff Kiessel

The start of any fair is capturing and a Kodak moment with kids and animals. Love the little boy and his rubber boots.

### **Feature Picture, Daily Class D continued**

- HM **Big Rapids, Pioneer**  
Kickin' Up Dust Candy Allan  
Rounding the corner, sliding, expression, dust. Good photo.
- HM **Petoskey News-Review**  
Can you Keep a Secret Steve Zucker  
Good photo but could have been better if you cropped around the little girl and boy in front.

### **12 - Sports Picture 39 entries**

- 1 **Livingston County Press & Argus**  
Howell Excels at State's Best  
Gillis Benedict  
Great expression. Truly captures essence of wrestling. Nice composition, good light good reproduction, Well Done!
- 2 **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**  
Joyful Celebration Lisa Yanick  
Big beautiful photo. Great moment. Wonderful expressions, nicely composed. Very Clean
- 3 **Livingston County Press & Argus**  
Mountain Bike Alan Ward  
Great colors. Sharp on the main subject. Visual variety. Pleasantly surprising among the other clips.

### **Picture Story 34 entries**

- 1 **Livingston County Press & Argus**  
Making Spirits Soar Gillis Benedict  
Great colorful photos. I felt like I was there.
- 2 **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**  
Spirit of the Stadium Lisa Yanick  
Awesome photo of the drum major. Nice color match in headline.
- 3 **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**  
Looking Good Katherine Johnson  
Wonderful action shots. Would liked to have seen coloring and perming as well.
- HM **Greenville, The Daily News**  
Belding's Homecoming Joseph Veselenak  
Wonderful variety of photos.

### **Sports Writing 47 entries**

- 1 **Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**  
Walleye Tournament Staff  
A great effort by a staff of writers. This was informative, factual and easily understood. This week-long coverage left you wanting to come back the next day.
- 2 **Livingston County Press & Argus**  
Joy and Sorrow Tim Robinson  
The thrill of victory and what it took to get there was all felt in the well-written story. The commitment of the writer to acknowledge the accomplishments and feat of the coach and the players.

- 3 **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**  
The Sound and the Fury Matthew Mowery  
Right away it caught your attention with an excellent headline. Subtitle and flow of the story was descriptive in a way it left you feeling like you were there.
- HM **Owosso -The Argus-Press**  
Banner Season Jerome Murphy  
No Comment Given

### **Sports Columnist 33 entries**

- 1 **Manistee News Advocate**  
Greg Gielczyk  
Greg Gielczyk is an authoritative voice for the local sports community. He states an opinion, then backs it up. He has a good feel for what's important to his readers.
- 2 **Big Rapids, Pioneer**  
Sandy Gholston  
Excellent work. Good look at how many pitch in to cover for those called to war. Insightful work on Chris Kunitz.
- 3 **Petoskey News-Review**  
Andy Sneddon  
Thoughtful yet entertaining columns. He brings readers up close to the athletes.
- HM **Petoskey News-Review**  
Steve Foley  
Good insight into the local sports scene.

### **Sports Feature 51 entry**

- 1 **Livingston County Press & Argus**  
One Week Tim Robinson  
Different concept from others; comprehensive; showed human element.
- 2 **Grand Haven Tribune**  
Coach Matt DeYoung  
Enjoyable read; gave various perspectives on the man.
- 3 **Ludington, Daily News**  
Carving Instead of Catching Brian Mulherin  
Colorful, easy writing style.
- HM **Manistee News Advocate**  
Hard Work Ethic Greg Gielczyk  
Good read; human interest.

### **Sports Coverage 14 entries**

- 1 **Bad Axe, Huron Daily Tribune**  
Seasonal sports special section require a great deal of work in a small amount of time. Job well done with these features.
- 2 **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**  
Good photos of Beal City's football team. Feature article on Joe Carr was enjoyable beyond the sports.
- 3 **Ludington, Daily News**  
Recapped the games very well. I felt I had a good vision of the game.

**Lifestyle Pages, Daily Class D 10 entries**

- 1 **Alpena News**  
Stories throughout section cover many lifestyle areas. Good variety. Many interesting stories. Good use of photos with stories, especially front page.
  - 2 **Ludington, Daily News**  
Local education always appealing to readers. Good use of photographs with stories.
  - 3 **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**  
Content remained local in a variety of areas. Pictures definitely added to stories local appeal.
- HM **Escanaba, Daily Press**  
Page layout appealing to eye. Local content was enjoyable to read.

**Special Section 43 entries**

- 1 **Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**  
Copper County Snapshots  
A magazine-style format. Good pictures and short, grabby articles about local people make this section a fun read. The design is creative without being tacky. The stories cover a broad range of people.
  - 2 **Niles Daily Star**  
Horizons  
This attractive, well-designed special edition is packed with interesting stories. The only downside is that some of the inside pages are pretty dense with text. The sections are well-organized by theme. All in all, a classy publication.
  - 3 **Big Rapids, Pioneer**  
Big Rapids Football  
A great cover photo grabs the eye and the inside pages lead us easily through a game-by-game narrative of the team's season.
- HM **Sturgis Journal**  
Family Ties  
The section gives readers a look inside their neighbor's homes and also includes useful articles for parents.

**Weekly Class A**

**General Excellence 14 entries**

- 1 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Leader in category for amount of local news. Good photos and layout. Pages are "crowded" but lots of content.
- 2 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
Good local content. Nice layout and reproduction. Better photos and news stories tipped scales in favor of first place winner.
- 3 **Warren Weekly**  
First and second place winners had more news and sports depth. Good reproduction and layout. This paper had better photos and design than sister publications.

**Spot News Story 23 entries**

- 1 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Lights Out A. Pinon, T. Powers, and K. Lowrey  
Covered several different enables on the power outage. How it affected businesses and resident and also tried to look into the cause.
  - 2 **Southgate News-Herald**  
House Explodes Jim Rajuba  
Reporter did good job of finding and interviewing the rescuers and witnesses.
  - 3 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Man Drives Pick-up Truck into Crowd  
K. Lowrey, J. Mitchell  
Good on the spot coverage. Thorough description of what happened.
- HM **Southgate News-Herald**  
Facing Sex Charges, Businessman Kills Self.  
Klint Lowrey  
Quite a shocking change of events, from expecting to cover this man in court to instead covering his suicide.

**News Story 39 entries**

- 1 **Mt. Clemens-Harrison Twp. Journal**  
The Jeffrey McCutcheon Trial Cortney Dueweke  
Very interesting series. Follows through until the trial ends.
  - 2 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
Moving Day Jon Ottman  
I loved the historical accounts in this story. I also liked the old photo.
  - 3 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Giant Tire Nail V. Hickey, L. Khzouz  
What a great story. I love to see something be restored. I also liked the timeline.
- HM **Mirror Of Clawson**  
Clawson Police Merger Todd Davis  
This is an important news piece. The writing could be a bit tighter.

**Design 10 entries**

- 1 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Broadsheet newspaper was the best out of entries. Great photos, especially liked the veterans remembered. Very consistent type and look. July 16 paper-don't bump heads on the front.
- 2 **Warren Weekly**  
Very creative tabloid. So many ads, it seems more like a shopper. Broadsheet classifieds throw me off.
- 3 **Shelby Utica News**  
Because the same company owns the paper, same comments.

**Feature Story, Weekly A 38 entries**

- 1 **Detroit, Metro Times**  
Sarah Klein  
What insight into the life of this young man. The writer vividly explained his ordeal. Pictures added to this very interesting story. Good job.
- 2 **Detroit, Metro Times**  
Cold Case Jeremy Voas  
Great job on revisiting this local story. This was a helpful piece of journalism for everyone.
- 3 **Detroit, Metro Times**  
Welcome to the War Mom Curt Guyette  
What a unique story to read. With so many war stories being written this one offered a creative angle to the war.
- HM **Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle**  
Afghan Experience Cortney Dueweke  
Hopefully this was the beginning of changes. Good perspective.

**Enterprise Reporting 22 entries**

- 1 **Detroit, Metro Times**  
Health Care Snake Pit Curt Guyette  
This puts a very human face on a social and economic issue. Very well done from start to finish
- 2 **Detroit, Metro Times**  
Death taxes Lisa Collins  
Brings an otherwise mundane issue to the forefront. Has good "real people" content.
- 3 **Detroit, Metro Times**  
Open for Foreclosure Lisa Collins  
Humanizes an economic and social problem. Good use of specific real people quotes. Could have been shorter.

**Editorial Pages 3 entries**

- 1 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Good combination of editorial staff opinions along with guests and readers. Not afraid to take a chance.
- 2 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Very similar to the first place entry. Not as strong in editorial comment or cartoon.
- 3 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
This needs to take a position on issues and have names on letters to the editor.

**Editorial Writing 1 entry**

- 1 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Karl Ziomek  
Short, to the point. Explains issues then gives opinion.

**Local Columnist 14 entries**

- 1 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Paula Evans-Newman  
Paula Evans Neuman has a warm, inviting approach that beckons one to read her column. She manages to touch our emotions in an entertaining, informative style.
- 2 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Klint Lowrey  
Crisp, concise, provocative. Klint Lowrey has the ability to write about simple, mundane subjects and make them more exciting than it would otherwise appear.
- 3 **Mirror Of Royal Oak**  
Ken Marten  
Straight forward commentary. He gives a good foundation for his opinions. He has a flair for commentary on both local and national subjects. Very solid writing style.
- HM **Southgate News-Herald**  
Lena Khzouz  
Her column on bigotry was powerful and well written. An excellent piece of writing, especially in these perilous international times.

**News Picture 16 entries**

- 1 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Do Not Enter Millard Berry  
Awesome action shot. Love the sign in the foreground.
- 2 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
Two Face Changes Larry Lajdziak  
I think this is a good example of a "news" photo. An arrest is certainly news.
- 3 **Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle**  
Welcome Home Papa David Schreiber  
I saw lots of photos of returning soldiers, but this one was very touching.
- HM **Warren Weekly**  
John Kerry "The Real Deal" Deborah Jacques  
I liked the angle the photo was taken from.

**Feature Picture 37 entries**

- 1 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Tribute to Officer Millard Berry  
Photo captures the emotion and anguish felt by the boys. Placement and size of picture makes it a very powerful illustration.
- 2 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Deep Roots Larry Caruso  
Large, bright photo is an excellent compliment to the feature story.
- 3 **Troy Times**  
Farm Fun David Schreiber  
For anyone who wonders what happens when kids go under the parachute, this photo illustrates the absolute fun and wonderment felt by 4 year olds.



**Sports Picture, Weekly Class A 31 entries**

- 1 **Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle**  
Up and Over Patricia O' Blencs  
This is another photo that just jumped out at me. I like everything about it.
- 2 **Warren Weekly**  
Everyone's All-American David Schreiber  
Normally I would select more "action oriented" or "gut wrenching" shots, but I like this one because it lends itself to so many interpretations by the viewer. Plus, it's a cool shot.
- 3 **Eastsider, Roseville Eastpointe**  
The Winner Is David Schreiber  
Victory cannot be as appreciated without the shadow of defeat nearby. It's easy to put yourself in either of these young men's shoes.  
HM **Southgate News-Herald**  
Which Way is Up Dave Chapman  
No doubt an interesting photo, but it didn't quite have that "oomph" to make it outstanding.  
HM **Sterling Heights Sentry**  
Handball David Schreiber  
Great shot! Just didn't grab me quite as much as the others.

**Picture Story 18 entries**

- 1 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Mourning Death Millard Berry  
Photos are very compelling and vivid. Very well done. You can almost feel their pain. A simple outline defines the pics and tells the story.
- 2 **Romeo Source**  
Fair Play Larry Lajdziak  
Nice, neatly done segment, with a colorful and well-thought out design. The pics make you want to attend the fair.
- 3 **St. Clair Shores Sentinel**  
A Teary Goodbye David Schreiber  
Tells the story of a 4-year-old school girl. You can see and feel the fact she is scared to death.  
HM **Troy Times**  
Finally David Schreiber  
Nice assortment of good shots. Lost the effect somewhat by jumping way inside, instead of facing pages perhaps.

**Sports Writing 15 entries**

- 1 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Forever a Jaguar David Komer  
Excellent sports reporting and a sad subject. Your lead sets the stage for the entire story. This piece won for going beyond the realm of day-to-day sports coverage.
- 2 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Lions Superfan Jennifer Mitchell  
Once again, beyond the ordinary sports story makes this entry work. Good reporting from a fan's

perspective. Would have been interested in his assessment of the team. Maybe a few comments from the Lions P.R. Dept. as well.

- 3 **Southgate News-Herald**  
A Downriver Legend is Lost Joe Slezak  
Solid style in re-capping a coach's career. A sidebar story on the disease which claimed his life would have been beneficial to the reader.  
HM **Southgate News-Herald**  
Perfect 10 Hank Minekiewicz  
Great coverage.

**Sports Columnist 4 entries**

- 1 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Hank Minekiewicz  
Best local subject matter, although lengthy. Kept your interest and got directly to the point. Would have liked better insight about friend who died.
- 2 **Shelby Utica News**  
John McTaggart  
Most readable column but needs more local focus and research and less effort on trying to be funny.
- 3 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
Kevin Lozon  
Good subject matter but took too long to get to the point, losing reader's interest.  
HM **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Scott Salowich  
Too negative to rank any higher.

**Sports Feature 17 entries**

- 1 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
Taking Next Step Kevin Lozon  
Nice feature story. I like how you don't just focus on her athletic achievements, but also her academic. In fact, you started off with her academic success which was neat. A good role model story.
- 2 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Hugh's House Joe Slezak  
Neat story on a deserving honor. Writer makes you realize what this coach must mean to his athletes.
- 3 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Just 2 Good David Komer  
Like the way you tied the Playstation lead in with the end of the story. Also just good digging to know about him playing the playstation and how he feels when he is on the "screen." Nice story.  
HM **Southgate News-Herald**  
Uncommon Courage David Komer  
Tough subject but writer did a nice job explaining disease and how it affected the player.

### **Sports Coverage, Weekly Class A 4 entries**

- 1 **Southgate News-Herald**  
The use of pictures and the design of the front page really set this paper apart from the rest. Very creative in using spacing and blending pictures and story together.
- 2 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
Good use of quotes on the stories and the pictures went well with each headline.
- 3 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Use of stats was good in this paper, the right mix of stats and quotes.

### **Lifestyle Pages 3 entries**

- 1 **Shelby Twp./Utica Source**  
Nice, crisp design, modules complement each other. Be careful not to get too "busy" with creativity.
- 2 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Interesting front pages. Catches the eye. Inside pages are just a little "busy," and lacks the well-put together look.
- 3 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Lacks some punch, but generally heading in the right direction. Inside page layout looks good.

### **Special Section 9 entries**

- 1 **Press & Guide Newspapers**  
Not only did you provide me with needed local and area information, but you also gave me fun facts about Michigan. I know and learn!
- 2 **Southgate News-Herald**  
Great local content. Eye appealing and user friendly.
- 3 **Detroit, Metro Times**  
First half of guide gave great local content. Overwhelmed with extra info in second half.

## **Weekly Class B**

### **General Excellence 27 entries**

- 1 **Bedford Now**  
Due to the unlevel playing field created by zoned weeklies we went with the independents. This was the best. Well organized, strong writing and layout. But lose the split cover. Rising smoke cover was the strongest.
- 2 **Detroit Jewish News**  
Niche publication, but extremely well done. You take the standard community newspaper approach in covering your community. Strong editorial pages and advertising. Crisp layout and relevant outside the Jewish community.
- 3 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
Why are you putting your news columns up for sale? Ads on the bottom of page one and supermarket prices on the flag are a true bastardization. Overall quality merited an award, but we also relished the opportunity to publicly call you out for this.

### **Spot News Story 23 entries**

- 1 **Roscommon County Herald-News**  
Student Report BB Gun Linda Sherwood  
Interesting story. I like how the reporter got the complete story from when school officials first got suspicious until the gun was found. The story was written in a way that made me want to keep reading it.
- 2 **Westland Observer**  
Tragic, Tragic Event Darrell Clem  
A lot of good descriptive writing. "Bonnie and Clyde style", eerie. Gives a feel that this was a very unusual event and shocking for this area.
- 3 **Garden City Observer**  
Happy to Be Alive Jack Gladden  
Quite an interesting story. More than just facts, the reporter sought out family and friends to try to find out the type of person Jones is and why he jumped.
- HM **Troy Eccentric**  
Car Crash Sandra Armbuster  
Would like to have seen more than one person interviewed.

### **News Story 40 entries**

- 1 **Detroit Jewish News**  
Dream Come True Diana Lieberman  
In-depth report on a "good news" event. The reporter gives the reader the opportunity to be there at the school.
- 2 **Detroit Jewish News**  
John Kerry's Jewish Brother Sharon Luckerman  
Nicely done! Multi-sourced and well written.
- 3 **Westland Observer**  
Video Capture Darrell Clem  
The events easily could have lead to "over-written" melodramatic reports. However, the reporter professionally conveyed the emotion and drama of the proceedings without going "too far".
- HM **Oxford Eccentric**  
"Dead" Barn Steven Kowlaski  
Nicely written story that keeps the reader connected. Good lead.

### **Design 10 entries**

- 1 **Fenton, Tri-County Times**  
I loved the look of this paper. Cut out background photos are great! Very consistent.
- 2 **Detroit Jewish News**  
Wonderful organization. Good mix of ads and stories. I really like the format.
- 3 **South Haven Tribune**  
I really liked the previews and the headers. Unique.
- HM **Portland Review & Observer**  
Good overall. I don't like the ad on the front page.

**Feature Story Weekly Class B 66 entries**

1 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
 Time For Tea Krystal Kaltz Johns  
 She brings to life a simple business. Her words create such vivid pictures in the mind that no photographs are needed.

2 **Detroit Jewish News**  
 New Guy on Campus Sharon Luckerman  
 A good blend of historical facts and giving the reader a personal glimpse of a unique individual that many may not have ever known was in their community.

3 **Roscommon County Herald-News**  
 Stick Em Up Tony Root  
 The writer is as artful with his wording as the artist he is writing about is creative. Concise. Holds the reader's interest the whole way through.

HM **Grand Blanc News**  
 Facing Holidays Without Dad  
 Linda Angelo  
 The writer takes a news event and localizes it to touch the hearts of everyone in her community. Great leads, emotional content, great way of using a feature that documents history.

**Enterprise Reporting 26 entries**

1 **Northern Express Weekly**  
 Dr. Kevorkian Breaks Silence  
 Rick Coates  
 Congratulations on 2 scores; getting the newspaper association to admit free circulation alt weeklies and more important the interview with one of the most controversial figures in modern times. This was superbly done.

2 **Detroit Jewish News**  
 Refusing to Be Silenced Sharon Luckerman  
 I'm surprised to see this story in the Jewish press. Pleasantly so. Dialogue on this issue is vital and you get extra credit for tackling it. I'm sure you got some flack for it. Extremely well written. Public Service journalism at it's finest.

3 **Grand Blanc News**  
 Identity Theft Linda Angelo  
 You have performed a valuable public service to your readers. This is thoroughly reported and well written.  
 HM **Detroit Jewish News**  
 Jewish Voices in Education  
 Diana Lieberman  
 This appeals to a specific audience. Lieberman appears to be one of the best reporters in the class.

**Editorial Pages 13 entries**

1 **Detroit Jewish News**  
 Good content that pulls no punches. I would like to see editorial staff listed on the page.

2 **Southfield Eccentric**  
 This is the best of several identical looking entries. I would like to see paper distinguish itself and eliminated photos that don't belong.  
 HM **Rochester Eccentric**  
 Same as second place.

**Editorial Writing 15 entries**

1 **Livonia Observer**  
 Dave Varga  
 Writer is not afraid to say it how it is.

2 **Plymouth Observer**  
 Brad Kadrich  
 Discusses issues, gives opinion and provides what he feels is a good solution. Not just criticizing.

3 **Redford Observer**  
 Matthew Jachman  
 Too much difference between top five. Again the writer discusses the issues gives his opinion and presents solutions.

**Local Columnist 37 entries**

1 **White Lake Beacon** Debra Carte  
 Good writing style. Humorous but hits current issues. Enjoyable.

2 **Livonia Observer** Dave Varga  
 Excellent style, keeps it local without being boring. Smooth reading

3 **Westland Observer** Sue Mason  
 Clever Family style writing. Makes you want to read the whole article

HM **Roscommon County Herald-News**  
 Linda Sherwood  
 Cute and effective for what she's trying to relate. Any mother could identify.

**News Picture 16 entries**

1 **Fenton, Tri-County Times**  
 Toppled Tree Anna Troppens  
 I really like the perspective-through the tree.

2 **Northern Express Weekly**  
 Environmental Illness Robert Downs  
 This picture tells a story. I like the way you captured the feel of the subject through her eyes.

3 **Tri-County Citizen**  
 Carnival Fun Keith Salisbury  
 I love the concentration on the boy's face.  
 HM **Lapeer, The County Press**  
 Oh Deer! Mike Mecier  
 Good action shot. I would've liked to have seen the men attaching the ropes.

**Feature Picture Weekly B 32 entries**

- 1 ***Detroit Jewish News***  
Fighting Addiction Angie Baan  
This picture screams "wow" very moving.
- 2 ***Tri-County Citizen***  
Big League Wind Up Keith Salisbury  
Very cute, you captured his determination. I wish his face would show up better around his eyes.
- 3 ***South Haven Tribune***  
Showoffs! Kelly Weber  
One of those shots you had to be there at the right time. Cute!
- HM ***Lapeer, The County Press***  
Riders in the Sky Domenic Centofanti  
Great fun in summer shot. Expressions on the riders and the ride "pop" out at you.

**12 - Sports Picture 19 entries**

- 1 ***Lapeer, The County Press***  
A Rough Landing Dennis Slagle  
I like the suspended look. The color, action size, picture clarity all combine for an eye-catching photo.
- 2 ***Fenton, Tri-County Times***  
Fenton's Eric Donnelly David Tappens  
This looks so spooky/creepy in black and white. I found myself being constantly drawn back to the photo. Eye-catching in an out of the ordinary way.
- 3 ***Bay Voice, The***  
AB Goal Keeper Dave Angell  
Like the sense of anticipation. Your mind can see the ball dropping into his hands.
- HM ***Troy Eccentric***  
Battle Creek Bound Lawrence McKee  
Like the emotion it invokes.

**Picture Story 25 entries**

- 1 ***Oxford Eccentric***  
Horsepower Lawrence McKee  
Wonderful collection of images! Great variety, well designed. I was especially drawn to the action shot, portrait of the stallion, high angle shot, the silhouette, and the detail of the vein. Truly a stand-out picture story, well worth the year of shooting.
- 2 ***Lapeer, The County Press***  
Bringing Back Memorials Mark Merrier  
Another strong submission in a relative weak showing. Clean layout, nice variety in shots. Good job getting the local angle in the opening two rubbing shots, and also "behind the scenes" in polishing and moving shots. Would like to see more variety in head sizes.
- 3 ***New Buffalo, Harbor Country News***  
Crash Course Ray Culas  
Nice collection of images. Would like to see more variety in lead sites. The mother with picture of her son would be more strong if much tighter. Clear, simple, layout.

**Sports Writing 25 entries**

- 1 ***Bay Voice, The***  
Walleye Tournament Kyle Lohmeier  
The writer takes what could be a routine outdoors story and finds an angle - someone winning the tournament using good-old fisherman's common sense. The explanation of pre-fishing's value brought inside information to the casual reader.
- 2 ***Farmington Observer***  
Hawks win wild 65-64 Shootout  
Dan O'Meara  
Fun lead to a story about a game with a known outcome. Writer could have led with the fact printed out later in the story about an extra point deciding this game. Either way, it was an interesting read.
- 3 ***Troy Eccentric***  
Battle Creek Bound Jim Toth  
Lively story written on deadline. Tuesday game - Thursday paper. The lead captured the achievement and drama of the game.
- HM ***Lapeer, The County Press***  
West Beats East, 54-50 Mark Spezia  
Good game summary about a big game with a big local history, all written on deadline. Friday game - Sunday paper.

**Sports Columnist 7 entries**

- 1 ***Rochester Eccentric***  
Jim Toth  
Easily best of the category. Has fresh angles at looking at business side in two golf columns. Good use of quotes to let those who know tell the story especially with the football player who died.
- 2 ***Northern Express Weekly***  
George Foster  
Good thought process and insight with positive spin.
- 3 ***Lapeer, The County Press***  
Mark Haney  
Good observations, but a little slow getting started.
- HM ***Redford Observer***  
Paul Beaudry  
Very descriptive and local football recap was interesting. Lack of by-line confusing to readers and column needs to be shortened.

**Sports Feature 25 entries**

- 1 ***Redford Observer***  
Class Dismissed, No Ordinary Joe  
Paul Beaudry  
Very positive article about the obstacles we can all overcome if we put our minds to it.
- 2 ***Lake Orion Eccentric***  
Not Just for Kids and Kicks Daniel Stickrad  
I liked the creative aspect of the story, not just your average baseball, football or hockey story. Offered something different and reminded me of some old kickball dreams I had.

**Sports Feature, Weekly B continued**

3 **Rochester Eccentric**  
Life is Good . . . Jim Toth  
Very good perseverance story. Every kid says they're going to be a big player someday, and here's a story of someone who is living that dream.  
HM **Mason, Ingham County News**  
Perseverance Will Kangas  
I liked the way Will handled a story that is very humiliating in the sports world getting shut out. Even though they scored 0 points the positive article still came through from the team.

**Sports Coverage 13 entries**

1 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
Layout excellent, nice mixture of stories (variety) over entire sports sections. Good action collected photos add to the editorials. Quality of writing is well above average. The Head of the Class in Weekly B. The report card is a definite "A."  
2 **New Buffalo, Harbor Country News**  
Best with related photos to editorial. Photos are outstanding, editorial tells the story. Very descriptive, would have liked to see a little more with statistic information. Design of sports page is very friendly. David Johnson did an outstanding job with the three entries. Best at reporting high school in weekly B.  
3 **Farmington Observer**  
Good leads with headlines and openings of editorials (stories) nice diversity of coverage of different events related to sports. Nice mixture (gender equality of coverage).

**Lifestyle Pages 9 entries**

1 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
Interesting stories - subjects that should definitely be covered in lifestyle pages. Very nice community calendar, rail is being used effectively and nice layout.  
2 **Fenton, Tri-County Times**  
Great layout. Nice use of local/community people and events - that is what lifestyle pages are for. Nice variety of subjects covered by the articles.  
3 **Clarkston Eccentric**  
Very nice look, layout. Interesting subjects for articles and nice community calendar. Also, I enjoy the food/recipe coverage; I feel that is an area of interest and should be included in lifestyle pages.  
HM **Northern Express Weekly**  
Great subject matter and well written. I'm glad to see you devoted the space necessary to give the story the depth it needs.

**Special Section 20 entries**

1 **Portland Review & Observer**  
2004 Portland Kids Edition  
Awesome layout. I love the ads designed by kids and the mix of photos. Front page is striking.

2 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
Progress  
Great front page layout. I liked the separate sections.  
3 **Detroit Jewish News**  
Platinum  
Great use of photos. I love the name. Interesting wedding section.  
HM **Detroit Jewish News**  
Celebrate 2004  
I liked this one because it has great information. Needs more stories.

**Weekly Class C**

**General Excellence 24 entries**

1 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Clean design, good leads, solid editorial page.  
2 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Attractive paper with good writing and lots of reader participation on editorial page. Might consider simpler fonts. The serif one is a bit hard to read  
3 **Novi News**  
Strong, simple, clear design. The paper's coverage of the blackout makes this one stand out. Opinion page could be stronger and the photos on it seem a bit out of place.

**Spot News Story 44 entries**

1 **Hamtramck, The Citizen**  
Lights Out Charles Sercombe  
Many newspapers submitted stories about the August 2003 blackout, but this entry stood out because of its' story telling. Clever touches included the paragraph about the "semi-cold beer in hand."  
2 **Wayne Eagle**  
Woman Charged in Killings Theresa Wherrett  
Chilling description of senseless crime that touched all the bases: names, ages, the sources you'd want to check in with. Vivid descriptions.  
3 **Milford Times**  
Police Fatally Shoot Teen David Aguilar  
This story answered the basic questions about what happened and what issues the incident posed. It would be stronger with names of officers involved. Tough story.  
HM **Standish, Arenac County Independent**  
Fire Destroys Building-Not Business  
Roberta House-Forshee  
This story has some glaring holes; dollar damage for example. But it's tough to write about your boss. This deserves honorable mention because they got the paper delivered.

## News Story Weekly B 50 entries

- 1 **Milan News-Leader**  
The Price of Darkness Kim Boelter-Muckler  
One of the few true news stories in this category.  
(most were features or enterprise) You covered the angles.
- 2 **Milford Times**  
Year-Round Plan Erin Johnson  
Journalism that matters to the community. Could have been first place, but it's more feature than news.
- 3 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Real Life Survivors Michael Jones  
Nice Job. No doubt well read by the community.  
HM **Cedar Springs Post**  
Ribbon Fiasco Judy Reed  
Seeing red after reading this. But really we all should avoid cliché's like the plague.

## Design 14 entries

- 1 **Tecumseh Herald**  
Clean, crisp pictures with bold headlines. Well balanced.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Big features on section fronts make it very appealing. "What's inside" just under masthead pulls reader into paper.
- 3 **Allegan County News**  
Good selection of stories on the front. Nice bold masthead. Sharp pictures.

## Feature Story 62 entries

- 1 **Milford Times**  
Facing Freedom David Aguilar  
Strong writing put this entry at the top. Story tells us why people want to be American and the there are ideas that are more important than things.
- 2 **Milford Times**  
Local Marine Returns Aileen Wingblad  
Strong writing throughout was the difference between 2nd and 3rd. Easily the best of many "home from the war" stories in this category.
- 3 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
A Family Tragedy Laurie Lounsbury  
Truly a tragedy. A generally well written piece. Some awkward phrasing hurts it. Information in chronology interesting, but long and doesn't always add to the story.  
HM **Allegan County News**  
Saving Christmas Ryan Lewis  
What could have been a pretty standard story is lifted above ordinary by good writing, multiple sources and directions for doing the Heimlich maneuver.

## Enterprise Reporting 32 entries

- 1 **Leelanau Enterprise**  
Lake Michigan Fishery E. Carlson, A. Campbell  
Tightly written, with absolute relevance to the fishing

community the paper writes for. Interesting read, but would have liked to hear more from local fisherman affected by the issue.

- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Growing Pains Laurie Lounsbury  
Well researched series and interesting issue to explain. What kept this from being overall winner was first, the writing style was dry and needed more visuals to keep the readers attention, and second, the series was too long and needed a better job of picking the most important information for print.

## Editorial Pages 14 entries

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Great mix of local viewpoints. Lead editorials are concise and to the point. This looks as if you have a different staff writer pen a column each week. That helps offer more viewpoints. Local columns and letters make these pages the best of class.
- 2 **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**  
Good job with consistency in editorials.
- 3 **South Lyon Herald**  
Nice mix of staff and individual editorials/essays. I like how you present the government listing as well.
- HM **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Good content, but need to strive for consistency in layout and content. Noting the letters posted on the website is an excellent idea and way to drive readers to the site.

## Editorial Writing 22 entries

- 1 **Milford Times** David Aguilar  
Well rounded. Very well written from top to bottom.
- 2 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Mary Sanford  
Very tough editorial talk in a small community shows ability to not be swayed by small town politics. Good job.
- 3 **Canton Eagle** Scott Spielman  
Great way to present opinion and solution to a very local issue...Christmas lights. Great job.

## Local Columnist 46 entries

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times** Jim Grisso  
Mr. Grisso explains the problems and uses common sense to make his point. I liked the editorial on Hesselink.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times** Mike Dunn  
This is total coincidence. I choose five columns from around 50 and came up with 3 from the same paper. It shows good writing. I liked the "under God" column. It was right on target.

**Local Columnist, Weekly Class C continued**

- 3 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Chris Grosser  
I liked how Chris put personal feelings and memories into the expose of the servicemen
- HM **Brooklyn, The Exponent**  
Matt Schepeler  
Matt has a very reader friendly style. He writes like your next door neighbor talks.
- HM **Tecumseh Herald**  
Deb Wuethrich  
Very brave and sincere in writing about "passion". "Kind Acts" made my day too! Thanks.

**News Picture 41 entries**

- 1 **Tecumseh Herald**  
A Thousand Words on Logan St.  
Mickey Alvarado  
I love the bus and children in the background. A picture can be worth a thousand words.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Wind Gust Michael Jones  
Awesome photo. Love the large size of the photo.
- 3 **Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser**  
A Caro Armed Robbery Amy Joles  
Right place, right time. I like the officers with guns drawn. Good action.
- HM **Brooklyn, The Exponent**  
National Day of Prayer Matt Schepler  
What an unlikely sight at an auto race. I would like to see who he's waving at.

**Feature Picture 55 entries**

- 1 **South Lyon Herald**  
Last Look Back Hal Gould  
This photo personifies what graduation is and what it means to the students. Photographer did a fantastic job of finding one good shot!
- 2 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
They Think I'm Mom Andrew Skinner  
Cute, cute shot. You can feel the emotion of both participants.
- 3 **Ortonville, County Line Reminder**  
A Pretty Little Lady Patrick McAbee  
Adorable shot. The puppy pops out at you among the pumpkins.
- HM **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**  
Seniors Say Goodbye Kevin Kissane  
Actions sometimes speak louder than words. Very true here, great photo.
- HM **South Lyon Herald**  
A Day of Remembering Hal Gould  
Emotional scene. Nicely done. Cropping a bit closer would even make it more effective.

**12 - Sports Picture 37 entries**

- 1 **Milford Times**  
Track Hal Gould  
I like the shot, but more so the impact it has being run in such a large size. It literally leaps off the page.
- 2 **South Lyon Herald**  
Family Tradition Hal Gould  
Actually, I like this shot better than the one I chose for first place, but would have preferred it to be cropped more on the hurdler and no hand. By having a wider shot, I think it loses some of it's impact.
- 3 **Milford Times**  
Boxing Hal Gould  
Again, tighten up the shot. Anything below the fold was unnecessary. All focus should have been on the glove hitting the face.
- HM **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
Consolation Brent Baker  
Nice photo, but didn't convey enough emotion.

**Picture Story 35 entries**

- 1 **Houghton Lake Resorter**  
A Fall Tradition Thomas Reznich  
Large, colorful photos combined with colorful layout makes a very effective presentation.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Garden Club Michael Jones  
Beautification story well told through use of large photos and effective insets.
- 3 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
Paying Tribute Deanna Surbrook  
Nice layout with large photos, yet nicely balanced. Images do a nice job illustrating the tribute.
- HM **Northville Record**  
Swingers John Heider  
Effective layout, complemented nicely with font and graphics gave page a nice "aged" look.

**Sports Writing 41 entries**

- 1 **Milan News-Leader**  
Champion Nathan Bomey  
Draws you into the story with good crisp writing.
- 2 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
W-P Falls Brent Baker  
Good reflection and history from previous year.
- 3 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Pirates 42, Shelby 6 John Szegda  
Good job conveying importance of game from players' and coach's point of view. Headline needs work.

**Sports Columnist 18 entries**

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Mike Dunn  
Good local topics written in conversational manner that is easy to read. Would like to have seen the writer stick to one topic.

**Sports Columnist, Weekly Class C continued**

- 2 **Milford Times**  
Stan Frank  
Good variety of topics and local insight.
- 3 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
Brent Baker  
Good research and topic, I like the light-hearted approach. Writing does get too long needs to get to point.  
HM **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
John Szegda  
Easy to read with positive spin but a bit repetitive.

**Sports Feature 43 entries**

- 1 **Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser**  
Old School Taylor  
Brandon Allensdorfer  
Unique story, unusual topic, well researched, good quotes, good length to keep the reader interested.
- 2 **Milan News-Leader**  
Milan High Summer Brian Cox  
This feature brings honor to a modest young swimmer. Feature keeps the reader's interest. Headline excellent, makes the reader want to know the details. Good length. Well written.
- 3 **Saline Reporter**  
Former Saline Star Nancy Bomey  
Success stories are always well received. Nancy keeps the readers interest with good quotes and lots of information.  
HM **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Marathon Man! Mike Dunn  
Excellent feature. Written with the feeling of the runner's desire. Good focus on the marathon.

**Sports Coverage 18 entries**

- 1 **Standish, Arenac County Independent**  
Brent Baker is the complete sports editor. Great diversity of coverage, usage of statistics topped this class. Nice blend of photos to editorial. No overkill of photos compared to editorial.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Articles informative, very reader-friendly and easy to follow. Robbie Heska, hockey wheelchair editorial was heartwarming. Photos crisp. Mike Dunn has his sports pages looking very professional.
- 3 **Brooklyn, The Exponent**  
An underdog of sorts compared to the top two finishers. However, what captured my attention was their winter sports preview. It was excellent. The features on the teams were in-depth and well written.

**Lifestyle Pages 8 entries**

- 1 **South Lyon Herald**  
Nice layout, great photography, nice variety of subjects. Nice coverage of seniors in Seniors On the Move. Also cover children/students well in Class Notes.

- 2 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
This is what I think community and lifestyle pages are all about. You cover subjects of interest to people in your community. I also like the food/recipe coverage - I feel that is a good thing to add in lifestyle pages.
- 3 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Excellent covers but inside lacks the same punch. However, coverage of subjects of interest in your community is done well. Nice photography as well.

**Special Section 32 entries**

- 1 **Novi News**  
Very user friendly. If I moved to your community, this would be all I would need!
- 2 **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**  
Gave me what I needed to know about festival. Pictures helped tell about festival. Nice use of blue throughout.
- 3 **Milford Times**  
Good balance in all aspects. Could use more photos.  
HM **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Good content. Could use more color.

**Weekly Class D****General Excellence 21 entries**

- 1 **Chelsea Standard**  
Excelled in all categories. Best I saw. Good job.
- 2 **Belleville, The View**  
Front Page layout is pleasing to the eye. Lots of local content. Photos helped enhance score.
- 3 **Manchester Enterprise**  
Good use of color and variety of photos. Local content is good, especially in holiday section.  
HM **State Line Observer**  
Nice photos and local content.

**Spot News Story 28 entries**

- 1 **Chelsea Standard**  
Couple Dies in Blaze Sheila Pursglove  
Under deadline pressure the reporter quickly gathered the facts about a deadly house fire. What sets this entry apart from the others is the in-depth quotes from friends and family of the victims. Great job under trying circumstances. Strong lead.
- 2 **Marshall Chronicle**  
Missing Woman Shelly Sulser  
Excellent article with detailed information outlying the disappearance of this woman. Tracking down a large quantity of information is not an easy task, but the reporter presented it all in an easy to read format.
- 3 **Oxford Leader**  
Tornado in Addison CJ Carnacchio, D. Rush  
News staffs can never be fully prepared to cover a devastating storm such as this. Well written articles tell readers what happened and the affect the tornado had on the community.



### **Spot News Story Weekly Class D continued**

HM **Baldwin, Lake County Star**  
Suspect Steals Police Car Brett Fischbach  
Quick reaction to a breaking story. Good quotes.

### **News Story 46 entries**

- 1 **Chelsea Standard**  
Player Accusation Scott Hagen  
Very well researched and written article about a touchy local matter. Fair and balanced by having comments from everyone involved. Nice placement above the fold and good follow-up article.
- 2 **Belleville, The View**  
Suspicious Deaths Linked Jamie Banas  
Very well written and easy to understand. I'm sure the case was important to the community and placement above the fold reflects that. The headline is simple yet gets right to the point, which is important for an article like this.
- 3 **State Line Observer**  
Draft Board David Green  
Nice article about a touchy subject that affects your community. Good explanation of what the draft is and what it means to local citizens.

### **Design 15 entries**

- 1 **Chelsea Standard**  
Best of this class. Very consistent, great use of photos. Bold headers, good kickers, curb-appeal is great. The paper has a great flow!
  - 2 **Kalkaska, Leader and Kalkaskian**  
Very clean looking paper! Lots of air and creativity. Great curb-appeal. It would be easy to sit back and read this front to back.
  - 3 **Marshall Chronicle**  
Nice looking front page. Sky boxes at the top get the reader inside. Photos on the front are good, but could be stronger inside. Headlines have a lot of different types and styles.
- HM **Rogers City, Presque Isle County Advance**  
Nice paper but a little to crowded on the front page. Lots of photos on the front and spread throughout the paper. Headlines could be larger.

### **Feature Story 57 entries**

- 1 **Kalkaska, Leader and Kalkaskian**  
Holiday Homecoming Bob Diehl  
Great lead, unique subject. This pulls the reader right into the story. Unique perspective.
- 2 **Brown City Banner**  
This is One "Amazing" cornfield  
Cathy Barringer-Rourke  
Good play on words and descriptive.
- 3 **Dexter Leader**  
Green Machines Paul Fletcher  
Fletcher's storytelling abilities hook readers from the

first paragraph to the last. He makes readers feel like they are listening to the interview.

HM **Dexter Leader**  
Finding Zebulon Chad Livengood  
Turned a boring historical account into a good readable mystery.

### **Enterprise Reporting 19 entries**

- 1 **Homer Index**  
Mayor Problems Mike Warner  
Well chronicled stories on frustrations an failure of cities mayor. Stories cover controversial mayor to his ultimate political demise. Good job!
  - 2 **State Line Observer**  
Ethanol Plant to be Built David Green  
Comprehensive analysis on a very vital issue. Story gets good perspective from both sides, although it seems slightly slanted on the negative side. Good job!
  - 3 **Charlevoix Courier**  
Walmart Impact Jeremy McBain  
The writer gets several good sources for his stories and is able to make points pro and con. Very objective piece on an emotional issue.
- HM **Charlevoix Courier**  
Fish Tale Amy Sayre  
Well written story with several great pictures.

### **Editorial Pages 14 entries**

- 1 **Blissfield Advance**  
Excellent editorial pages, full of local issues. Great lead editorials, Letters to Editor and publishers column. Your staff makes thoughtful comments regarding key issues in your community.
  - 2 **Charlevoix Courier**  
Good mix of editorial, letters and columnists; all tied to local issues. Suggestion: group all letters to the editor on a single jump page. Preferably without advertising.
  - 3 **Homer Index**  
Well written editorials. Nice guest columnists as well.
- HM **Armada Times**  
Nice layout.

### **Editorial Writing 12 entries**

- 1 **Reed City Osceola Edition of the Pioneer**  
Jim Crees  
Powerful, solid editorial writing. Good use of graphics and illustrations. Editorial writing in story form. His opinions are strong and decisive. Great writing.
- 2 **Homer Index** Mike Warner  
Excellent presentations of quotes to support editorial commentary. Strong yet fair criticism of local mayor. He makes a great case for resignation in the modest length of an editorial.

**Editorial Writing, Weekly Class D continued**

- 3 **Blissfield Advance**  
Doug Goodnough  
Larger type helps. Very good concluding paragraphs. Appealing editorial reading for just about anyone.  
HM **Oxford Leader**  
C. J. Carnacchio  
Good use of sub-head and bold print. Very very good editorial writing. This could have been number 2 or 3 ...very close competition.

**Local Columnist 35 entries**

- 1 **Dexter Leader**  
Paul Fletcher  
Fletcher uses a writing style that sets apart his stories, making his column stand out in the entries.
- 2 **Lake Orion Review**  
Elaine Stieb  
Stieb does an excellent job of sharing stories from her life with readers in these columns.
- 3 **Baldwin, Lake County Star**  
Brett Fischbach  
Fischbach's thoughtful columns are well written reflections on his life.  
HM **Oxford Leader**  
Don Rush  
These columns on local issues and people strike a chord with the reader.

**News Picture 25 entries**

- 1 **Lake Orion Review**  
What a Sinker Elaine Stieb  
Great shot. I wasn't expecting to see something like this today.
- 2 **Dexter Leader**  
Main Attraction Michelle Rogers  
Very graphic. I would love to know what the man is saying.
- 3 **Reed City Osceola Edition of the Pioneer**  
Community Celebrates Class of 2003  
Jim Crees  
Great job capturing the caps in the air.  
HM **Charlevoix Courier**  
Fire Jeremy McBain  
I like this because it's not your standard fire photo.

**Feature Picture 37 entries**

- 1 **Rogers City, Presque Isle County Advance**  
Sunrise Richard Lamb  
Feel the warmth of the morning sun. Helped to forget the cold Michigan morning.
- 2 **State Line Observer**  
Too Early? David Green  
Both faces tell a story. A definite moment in time.

- 3 **Vassar Pioneer Times**  
Chair Picture Sandy Walker  
The eyes show the intensity of the artist. Project importance.  
HM **State Line Observer**  
Cool Down David Green  
To be a little kid again!

**12 - Sports Picture 32 entries**

- 1 **Cassopolis Vigilant**  
Tough Yards Scott Novar  
After looking through a large stack of photos, this is the one that stuck in my mind. I like that the photo is zeroed in on the action, not just a wide shot. I'm immediately drawn to the principal figures and get a sense of the action.
- 2 **State Line Observer**  
Leaping David Green  
Nice, clear shot. Not cutline was needed to tell me what happened. I felt myself stretching along with the catcher.
- 3 **Rogers City, Presque Isle County Advance**  
No Title Richard Lamb  
Again great action shot. Not as crisp as I would have liked but you can feel the intensity of the two players.  
HM **Chelsea Standard**  
Piggy Back Kim Fairley Gillis  
I liked the emotion it evoked which came more from the background people than principal figures.

**Picture Story 48 entries**

- 1 **Marshall Chronicle**  
Where is Mary Denise Lands Shelly Sulser  
The excellent composition and layout of photos told the story. No words were necessary!
- 2 **Harbor Springs, Harbor Light**  
Showtime! Kate Bassett  
The photos were very effective translating what normally is an auditory experience into a visually stimulating one. Nice job of capturing the energy and enthusiasm.
- 3 **Marshall Chronicle**  
Why Would Anybody Jump Out of a Perfectly Good Airplane?  
Michonne/Marcella Omo  
Effective composition. Did a nice job of illustrating the jump from beginning to end with top-down layout.  
HM **State Line Observer**  
Fields of Fun David Green  
Very nice balance to the page with large, colorful photos.

## **Sports Writing 24 entries**

- 1 **Blissfield Advance**  
Technical Fall Doug Goodnough  
So much easier to write about any exciting win or upset than a crushing misstep. Good job!
- 2 **Chelsea Standard**  
Twice as Nice Don Richter  
Added a lot of human interest elements; quotes from players. I like that.
- 3 **Chelsea Standard**  
Chelsea Football Survives Don Richter  
Nice, straight-forward, easy to follow account of game.
- HM **Charlevoix Courier**  
State Final Allen Telgenhoff  
Again, straight forward, easy to follow.

## **Sports Columnist 11 entries**

- 1 **Homer Index**  
Jerry Posey  
Good information that is helpful to readers and held together well.
- 2 **Edwardsburg Argus**  
Larry Lyons  
Good information and variety of topics. Structure could use some work.
- 3 **Blissfield Advance**  
Doug Goodnough  
Good local content and humor.

## **Sports Feature 32 entries**

- 1 **Blissfield Advance**  
Strength in Numbers Doug Goodnough  
Good read. Not so out-of-ordinary topic, but kept me interested. Everyone likes to read an underdog-makes-good story.
- 2 **Harbor Springs, Harbor Light**  
Need for Speed Kate Bassett  
I liked the light touch, tongue-in-cheek flavor. It kept me interested and wanted to know more.
- 3 **Harbor Springs, Harbor Light**  
A Gridiron Gal Kate Bassett  
Catchy title and a fun read.
- HM **State Line Observer**  
Racer David Green  
Easy read (and I know nothing about racing).

## **Sports Coverage 11 entries**

- 1 **Edwardsburg Argus**  
Best utilization of statistics in class. Scott Novak had super, action-packed, quality photos. Sports calendar of schools. These three items separated him from remainder of entries.
- 2 **Dexter Leader**  
Don Richter was the best. Thoroughly enjoy reading his "On the Sideline" and coverage of different events.

Stands alone as a writer. Great support shown of bowling league results and stats.

## 3 **Rogers City, Presque Isle County Advance**

Great job in writing of keeping the readers involved, attached to the story. You can tell the writer takes pride in their work. And does excellent job of reporting on respective school gender equality.

## **Lifestyle Pages 8 entries**

- 1 **Chelsea Standard**  
Very nice stories and subject matter. The articles seem to be of interest directly related to your community. Nice community calendar, nice photographs and nice layout.
- 2 **Dexter Leader**  
Nice stories and subject matter. The entire page and content seem important to your community. Nice photography, nice community calendar and layout.
- 3 **Blissfield Advance**  
Nice layout. Nice home and garden coverage. Good event coverage in holiday issue, however all three issues do not seem to reflect your community or seem personal to your coverage area/readers.

## **Special Section 23 entries**

- 1 **Rogers City, Presque Isle County Advance**  
A lot of dedicated staff members worked hard to put out this section. It is full of information, photos and history. It should have been a keeper for everyone who received it.
- 2 **Harbor Springs, Harbor Light**  
Good job in showing project from start to finish. Writing was informative and easy to follow. Layout was pleasing to the eye.
- 3 **Blissfield Advance**  
Pictures, graphics and writing worked together to make a fine section. Local picture on front was nice.
- HM **Vassar Pioneer Times**  
It's a great section. Parents and grandparents are sure to keep it. Loved the idea of having kids do ads!

## Sustaining Newspapers

### General Excellence 1 entry

- 1 **Porcupine Press**  
I question the "taste" on some editorial content. There is an abundance of good stories and pictures. Very interesting publication.

### Spot News Story 3 entries

- 1 **NorthernIslander**  
Solutions to the Island Internet Problems Promised by Transworld Network  
Elaine West  
Informative story about a high impact problem that touched all the bases. Try to stay away from quotes that aren't attributed to someone by name in your stories; name provides credibility.

### News Story 5 entries

- 1 **NorthernIslander**  
Health Center Controversy Elaine West  
Good news coverage for this area. Well written, good information. Does not shy away from controversy.
- 2 **Porcupine Press**  
Icy Fun at Tip-Up Town Connie Thompson  
Pick the topic and you can read about it in the news stories. Toilet seats? Frozen Turkeys? Stories that are not usual newspaper news coverage. Photos are a plus.

### Design 1 entry

- 1 **Porcupine Press**  
Very attractive design. Appealing to the reader. Nice graphic design work.

### Feature Story 6 entries

- 1 **Porcupine Press**  
Father Jims Lambeau Leap Terry DuFour  
Nicely done descriptive writing about Father Jim Baraniak, Green Bay Packer Chaplain. The subject appears to be very compelling yet the writer maximized the opportunity with good balance and technique.
- 2 **NorthernIslander**  
Students at BICS assist with Lighthouse Restoration Project Elaine West  
Clear consistent writing. Story told in very orderly compelling style. Keeps reader's interest high. The writer mad an ordinary newspaper story special.
- 3 **NorthernIslander**  
Once a Marine Steve West  
Clearly written. The author really knew the topic and relayed experience directly to the reader.

### Enterprise Reporting 2 entries

- 1 **Porcupine Press**  
Pack Your Bags Connie Thompson  
Fine writing on timely subject. Well illustrated.
- 2 **NorthernIslander**  
Island Health Center Elaine West  
Detailed account on controversial health center.

### Editorial Pages 1 entry

- 1 **Porcupine Press**  
This was the only entry in this category but could've stood up to plenty of competition. The pages are impressive visually and editorial copy is thoughtful and daring.

### Editorial Writing 3 entries

- 1 **NorthernIslander** Steve West  
Steve gets right to the point with his views. He offers suggestions and more. Good variety of topics.
- 2 **Porcupine Press** Arthur Brisbane  
He has his strong opinions. A variety of topics for the readers. Most certainly some readers would disagree with his opinions and that is the way it should be. Unusual style.
- 3 **NorthernIslander** Elaine West  
Hard time selecting 1, 2 and 3. Elaine's columns were well written, contained some excellent opinions and were a close runner to 1st and 2nd. Keep doing your fine editorials.

### Local Columnist 2 entries

- 1 **NorthernIslander** Elaine West  
Enjoyable reading. The style is very identifiable and entertaining. Good job!
- 2 **Porcupine Press** Roseanne Grosso  
A touch bizarre. Clever, fun reading.

### News Picture 3 entries

- 1 **Porcupine Press**  
Dive In Connie Thompson  
Great shot. Those polar bear members are an interesting group.
- 2 **Porcupine Press**  
Finnish Hot Tub Terri Martin  
Good photo. Most parade photos aren't as good.

### Feature Picture 3 entries

- 1 **NorthernIslander**  
Whitetails Elaine West  
You can almost see the fear in their eyes. She captured the moment extremely well! Very eye catching.

**Feature Picture, Sustaining Newspapers  
continued**

2 **Porcupine Press**  
Frosty Beard Jerry Harpt  
Good job of not only a frosty beard, but also you captured his wonderment of his thinking "I can do this."

3 **NorthernIslander**  
Winter View Elaine West  
Fantastic Winter Scene

**12 - Sports Picture 1 entry**

1 **Porcupine Press**

**Picture Story 2 entries**

1 **Porcupine Press**  
Memories in Miniature Robin Lindenberg  
Use of color and close-ups reveals the level of detail and realism associated with the model trains featured.

2 **NorthernIslander**  
Beaver Island 4th Elaine West  
Excellent clarity of photos capture the festival's atmosphere. The brevity of the caption had me searching for photos not pictured, however.

**Sports Writing 7 entries**

1 **Porcupine Press**  
Connie Thompson  
Good mix of stories which are very interesting. All of them help tell a story the reader can understand and enjoy.

2 **Porcupine Press**  
Jerry and Karen Harpt  
Nice job. Shorter leads would help.

3 **Porcupine Press**  
Terry DuFour  
You tackled a subject you didn't know much about and did a good job.

**Sports Columnist 1 entry**

1 **Porcupine Press**  
Richard Smith  
Good information for the reader. Shows knowledge of the subject and presents it in readable fashion.

**Sports Feature 2 entries**

1 **Porcupine Press**  
Icy Fun Rules Connie Thompson  
Only entry in this category, but had there been competition, it would have done well. I enjoyed it.

**Sports Coverage 1 entry**

1 **Porcupine Press**  
Pick the topic and you can read the sports coverage, hunting, ski topics, racing and more. Good coverage not only with new but also photos and unique features!

**Lifestyle Pages 1 entry**

1 **Porcupine Press**  
Humorous, entertaining articles and photography. Nice recipe coverage, nice features. However, your paper really needs captions for the photos and there is too much use of red. Otherwise, nice magazine.

**Special Section 1 entry**

1 **Porcupine Press**  
Great catchy cover. Variety in ads and content.

**SPECIAL ALL-CIRCULATION CATEGORY CONTEST**

**Humor Column 70 entries**

1 **Ludington Daily News**  
Kelly Aloe  
I'm not a runner, but for a butt like that, I might start!  
Writer makes exercise sound like fun.

2 **Detroit Free Press**  
Mitch Albom  
Easily one of the strongest writers. Fun topics.

3 **Saginaw News**  
Bryce Hoffman  
Takes on local issues and covers them with humor. Entertaining reading with a point.

HM **NorthernIslander**  
Elaine West  
A quiet humor that truly captures the locale. Makes me want to visit.