

Release



October 2, 2005

2005 “Newspaper of the Year” Awards

Embargo: Do not release before 12:01 a.m., Sunday, October 2, 2005

Members of Virginia Press Association studied over 4,498 entries submitted by 138 Michigan newspapers when they judged the 2005 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

Judges’ decisions and comments are listed on the following pages. Complete results will be available online on Monday, September 26 at the Michigan Press Association home page: www.michiganpress.org. Newspapers are encouraged to use these results to promote their newspaper during National Newspaper Week, October 2 – 8, 2005. Newspaper Week materials for promotion can be accessed electronically through a link on our website at www.michiganpress.org.

The 2005 “Newspaper of the Year” award is presented to the top newspaper in eight circulation classes based on points accumulated (100 for first, 70 for second and 40 for third – points are doubled in the General Excellence contest) in all Editorial contest categories. Winners of those awards are listed below.

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

Daily Newspapers of the Year

Circ. Class	Total Points	Newspaper
Class A	1,960	Detroit Free Press
Class B	910	The Oakland Press, Pontiac
Class C	1,500	Traverse City Record-Eagle
Class D	620	Petoskey News-Review

Weekly Newspapers of the Year

Circ. Class	Total Points	Newspaper
Class A	1,200	Southgate News Herald
Class B	1,000	The County Press, Lapeer
Class C	890	The Herald Times, Gaylord
Class D	1,140	Dexter Leader

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

The MPA Public Service Award recognizes a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper or newspaper individual that has made a significant contribution to the betterment of their community. The three finalists out of 17 entries are the News Staff of the Kalamazoo Gazette for the series “Pfizer – A Year Later;” Lisa Zagaroli, The Detroit News for “Military Vehicle Safety;” and Marty Hair of the Detroit Free Press for coverage of the Emerald Ash Borer crises.

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into newspapers. The three finalists out of 17 entries are: Amy Joles of the Tuscola County Advertiser, Caro; Nick Bunkley of the Detroit News, and Kyle Moroney of the Grand Haven Tribune.

The winners of the 2005 MPA Public Service Award and the MPA Rookie Writer Award will be announced January 28, 2006 during the Association’s Annual Winter Convention in Grand Rapids.

Daily Class A

General Excellence - 3 entries

1 **Detroit Free Press**
Good, clean use of type and photos. Stories like Kerry Conran and "Ra-Ra-Rasheed" give window into unique Detroit identity. Headline fonts and type seem nicely retro.

2 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Deanna Gillean, as lead on Sunday, helps show this newspaper with soul. But it has humor too – thanks to clever headlines like "Iraq: The Vote."

3 **The Detroit News**
Love to see lots of cars are on front of Detroit paper – it fits. Good graphics of things like PCBs – I'll be reading that if I live anywhere nearby. Love the headshot of Betty Deramus – lures you into her fun, saucy column.

Spot News Story - 9 entries

1 **The Detroit News**
Detroit News Business Staff - Kmart Buys Sears
Incredibly thorough, easy to read. Hit many different angles. Sure to interest the most diverse readership.

2 **Detroit Free Press**
Free Press Business Staff - Kmart Buys Sears
Great perspective on deal, repercussions. Full of detail, yet easy to read. Hit many angles.

3 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Ken Kolker - Family Sees Boy In Casket: It's Not Our Son
Amazing story, told well. Great detail, especially conversations within the families.

HM **Detroit Free Press**
Staff - Melee at the Palace
Detail of action takes the reader there.

News Story - 12 entries

1 **The Detroit News**
B. Vlasic, J. Plungis - Danger Overhead
An impressively researched, clearly written report on a chilling problem. The writers excelled in pointing out the contradictions between what the auto industry said publicly and what it knew to be true.

2 **The Detroit News**
Brad Heath - Starving for Care
Another terrific entry that sheds light on a hidden problem. The stories were thorough, even-handed and offered many practical tips for relatives of people in nursing homes.

3 **The Detroit News**
S. Lewis, K. Kozlowski, B. Heath - Infants at Risk
This entry just barely missed 2nd place. It makes the community aware of a long-neglected crisis. More detail on the possible reasons for the disparity in the wealthy suburbs would have helped.

HM **The Grand Rapids Press**
Ed White - Backyards Hold Deep Trouble
Great job uncovering a dirty little secret the local police tried to bury!

Design - 3 entries

1 **Detroit Free Press**
The Ryder Cup section was a highlight, with its clever cover illustration. Good illustration on the pension package and good concept for the Hummer story. Freep gets the details right.

2 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Excellent photo reproduction, both color and black and white. Good visual storytelling throughout. Nice effort in 9/12 paper of photo usage from different corners of the community. Paper has an inviting feel.

3 **The Detroit News**
Paper is bland. Photos are used poorly and the design is messy. We were underwhelmed.

Feature Story - 11 entries

1 **The Detroit News**
Louis Aguilar - St. Ignacio
Very in-depth look at an interesting issue. Well written and filled with stories of real people.

2 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Terri Finch Hamilton - The Inside Track
An engaging and magically written story about an author who brings alive fantasy for children.

3 **The Detroit News**
Kimberly Hayes Taylor - Can't Hurry Love
A great read about a couple who waited a long time for each other. Good details and flow.

Enterprise Reporting - 13 entries

1 **Detroit Free Press**
T. Audi, J. McCracken, J. Butters - GM in the New World
This is a well-researched series that is characterized by fluid writing and rich detail. The subject is important to the community. The series does test the patience of today's newspaper reader with its length.

2 **Detroit Free Press**
J. Seidel, E. Seals - Homicide in Detroit
This is probably the best written of all the entries. It is evocative and hard to lay down. The story is told without an overburden of statistics. A story close to home.

Daily Class A Enterprise Reporting Cont.

3 **The Detroit News**

Ron French - *Driven Abroad*

This is an excellent example of good storytelling on one of the day's most nagging issues.

HM **The Grand Rapids Press**

Ken Kolker - *Deanna Gillean*

Good reporting, nice writing, interesting story.

Editorial Pages - 3 entries

1 **Detroit Free Press**

The series of short editorials on the death of Regan and the Bush Inaugural were very effective in presenting the newspaper's view in a way that was not overwhelming. The packaging of letters around a specific subject also was well done.

2 **The Detroit News**

A good overall job, particularly with letters. Editorial tone a bit solemn. Commentary covers had an over- newsy look for my taste.

3 **The Grand Rapids Press**

Pages have an aura of competence, but grayness is a problem.

Editorial Writing - 10 entries

1 **The Detroit News**

I didn't think not endorsing a candidate for president was a gutsy move...till I read this editorial. For a strongly conservative paper. This was bold.

2 **Detroit Free Press**

Amazing story of abuse of power, written with consummate skill. Editorial on Terri Schiavo & Congress does an excellent job of providing perspective on the issue.

3 **The Detroit News**

Clear crisp prose. Outstanding organization of ideas.

Local Columnist - 11 entries

1 **The Grand Rapids Press**

Ruth Butler

Butler's columns are edgy and entertaining.

2 **Detroit Free Press**

Brian Dickerson

Obnoxious approach works when addressing city hall topics, and on the golf course.

3 **The Grand Rapids Press**

Julia Bauer

Bauer's lively, easy-to-read writing style keeps reader in the column.

HM **The Detroit News**

Neil Rubin

Folksy writing adds to human appeal of subject matter.

News Picture - 22 entries

1 **Detroit Free Press**

David Gilkey - *Afghan War Flares*

The true face of War!!! Easy pick.

2 **Detroit Free Press**

Roman Blanquart - *Military Mom's Goodbye*

Pulled at our hearts, great shot!

3 **The Detroit News**

David Guralnick - *Friends React to Beating*

Brutal horror, brutal shot...life as it is.

HM **Detroit Free Press**

David Gilkey - *Alpha Troop*

Super shot.

HM **The Detroit News**

Velvet S. McNeil - *Day-Care Shooting*

Nice.

Feature Picture - 25 entries

1 **The Grand Rapids Press**

Mark Copier - *Helluva Boat*

The best graphic shot!

2 **Detroit Free Press**

David Gilkey - *Saying Goodbye to Winkie*

Big hand, great shot!

3 **Detroit Free Press**

Kathleen Galligan - *Like a Miracle*

The power in this shot was great.

HM **Detroit Free Press**

J. Kyle Keener - *Dream Cruise*

Very nice lighting!

Sports Picture - 18 entries

1 **The Grand Rapids Press**

Delbridge Langdon, Jr. - *Air Ride*

Awesome moment. Great Picture

2 **Detroit Free Press**

Julian H. Gonzalez - *Luck Stopped Here*

Key moment.

3 **Detroit Free Press**

Mandi Wright - *Kobe Who?*

Different, amusing photo.

Picture Story - 15 entries

1 **Detroit Free Press**

David Gilkey - *The Ripping of Hearts*

Strong images of a sad situation. Well played except for the page one image. Good idea to include a print.

2 **Detroit Free Press**

Eric Seals - *Homicide in Detroit*

Important subject to Detroit. Good concept, well executed. Strong images abound; emysha and bible, street scenes, etc.

Daily Class A Pictory Story, cont.

- 3 **Detroit Free Press**
David Gilkey - Window on Iraq
Great idea- portraits from Humvee. Nice images of Iraq citizens living daily lives in war time.
- HM **Detroit Free Press**
Kathleen Galligan - Mental Health Series
Very nice presentation. Part 2 was stronger than one and three. Nice work.

Sports Writing - 17 entries

- 1 **Detroit Free Press**
Curt Sylvester - Thanks, Bears
Story almost made you feel the weight of the streak coming off the backs of the fans.
- 2 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Brian VanOchten - Ippel Leads Millikin University
Big win and big moment for a family captured.
- 3 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Greg Johnson - East GR's Grady Gets a Bunch
A tale of two halves story not rooted in cliché.
- HM **The Detroit News**
Mike O'Hara - Lions Find Swagger
Nice Lead right through to "First Place Lions" and solid support behind it.

Sports Columnist - 10 entries

- 1 **Detroit Free Press**
Mitch Albom
Compelling leads and strong story telling. Use of metaphors, contrasts, excellent imagery combine to paint pictures and evoke and emotional response.
- 2 **Detroit Free Press**
Michael Rosenberg
Approach to issues, athletes balances irreverence and humor with empathy, compassion, and personal insights. Readability plus!
- 3 **Detroit Free Press**
Drew Sharp
Judge did not comment
- HM **The Detroit News**
Bob Wojnowski
Judge did not comment.

Sports Feature - 23 entries

- 1 **The Detroit News**
Fred Girard - Danger on the Sidelines
This was an incredibly tough category. This story rose to the top of the because of length and breadth of research. The clear writing and the scope of the topic. It's one that affects communities, families and children everywhere.

- 2 **Detroit Free Press**
Jo-Ann Barnas - Running for Rachel
Touching story with wonderful writing. Read every last word of it.
- 3 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Jane Bos - The Lowell Supper
Loved the "Five Fatties". Good crisp writing from start to finish. More entries should be short and sweet like this one.
- HM **Detroit Free Press**
Michael Rosenberg - Why We Must Listen
Incredibly well-researched and written. The only reason it didn't place higher was because of the column undertones would have been perfect as a straight news or feature.

Sports Coverage - 3 entries

- 1 **Detroit Free Press**
Wow! Top notch well over the top actually. Coverage of everything local. Outstanding writing, photography and presentation.
- 2 **The Detroit News**
A little more restrained than the Freep. Still a fine package. Picture choices less exciting and not as well displayed.
- 3 **The Grand Rapids Press**
It's a shame that the Press is in the same division as the two 800-pounders. This is a fine local paper with lots of good coverage.

Lifestyle Pages - 3 entries

- 1 **Detroit Free Press**
The stories are inspirational, disturbing. The layout is consistent and eye catching. The articles incorporate issues with personal stories and the photos round out the package
- 2 **The Detroit News**
Good pick of issues, features and informative sidebars. The layout is consistent...especially like the large red word at the bottom of each front page.
- 3 **The Grand Rapids Press**
Through coverage of local Chris Van Allsburg. Entry was a bit confusing, however.

Special Section - 10 entries

- 1 **The Detroit News**
Driven Abroad
This section gripped me right from the start. Pictures, graphics and layout worked seamlessly. Standout effort!
- 2 **The Detroit News**
Getting Personal
Great package with bright writing. I liked the idea of the front, but would have liked to see more story and fewer cars. It would still get the point across.

Daily Class A Special Section, cont.

3 **Detroit Free Press**
Best of Detroit 2004
 One of the better efforts of this type of publication. The stories are like haiku...short and vivid portraits, and the pictures really help give readers a feel for the flavor of Detroit.

HM **The Grand Rapids Press**
Snapshots in Time
 Loved this! You really captured Grand Rapids while clueing in readers about the press change. Writing much livelier than new presses for the Press.

In-Paper Promotion of Upcoming Content - 3 entries

1 **The Detroit News**
 - *Aug. 19, 2004 Front Page*
 Great use of humor ("poor little figs") keeps a light touch.

2 **The Detroit News**
 - *Aug. 18, 2004 Front Page*
 Good use of a way to get folks inside the newspapers.

3 **The Detroit News**
 - *July 15, 2004 Front Page*
 Judge did not comment.

Daily Class B

General Excellence - 16 entries

1 **Kalamazoo Gazette**
 The Gazette offers relentlessly local coverage that is crisply designed and makes good use of color. There was plenty to pique my interest, from the series on interracial marriage to the election bite on the bakery. More effort on the investigative side would take this paper from very good to great.

2 **Lansing State Journal**
 Staffers Kelly Hassett, Chris Holmes and Rod Sanford showed great hustle covering the 200-car pileup, which got a compelling presentation. This paper also has a strong local lens, especially in the sports section and on the editorial pages. More hard news enterprise and a more substantial business coverage would be a great addition.

3 **Muskegon Chronicle**
 Some nice surprises here, including the tax man in trouble and the profile of the WWII veteran. The design is logical and does a good job highlighting content inside the paper. More variety and risk-taking in presentation would be welcome, as would a more aggressive local report.

Spot News Story - 22 entries

1 **The Oakland Press**
G. Gosselin, C. Hopkins, J. Szczesny, D. Henze - *Kmart, Sears Merger*
 An amazingly comprehensive package with plenty of

"real people" on what could have been a boring business story.

2 **The Ann Arbor News**
E. Jackson, T. Davis - *Massive Fire Destroys Yankee Air Museum*
 Classic police spot news done well with plenty of background.

3 **The Saginaw News**
Mike Thompson - *Council Axes Kimble*
 Thompson's A1 story is a perfect example of you "stay 'till the end."

HM **The Ann Arbor News**
T. Tolen, A. Nash, S. Oppat - *Teen Killed After Firing At Police*
 Great details in next-day coverage of breaking news.

News Story - 28 entries

1 **Kalamazoo Gazette**
L. Kurtzman, B. Walters - *Lakeside*
 This entry wins almost solely because of the superior story of July 25. Exhaustively reported in what looks like a very short amount of time. Well done.

2 **The Oakland Press**
C. Hopkins, S. Gustafson - *Soldiers Roundtable*
 A very good idea, nicely executed. I wish it had been even longer.

3 **Flint Journal**
Joe Lawlor - *Westwood Contracts*
 The best entry from a paper committed to investigative reporting.

HM **The Saginaw News**
M. Rocha, C. Mitchell, M. Thompson - *Closer to the Dream?*
 You would have been better off focusing on 1-2 angles of the ruling's aftermath. A good job, though.

Design - 8 entries

1 **Flint Journal**
 Consistently clean. Bold and bright section fronts show strong connectivity. Clean inside pages strike a good balance.

2 **Muskegon Chronicle**
 Well organized with attention to all section fronts.

3 **The Ann Arbor News**
 Well organized with good use of type. Some minor inconsistencies, such as the lack of a rail on Sunday section H. Outlook's focus on faces works well.

HM **Kalamazoo Gazette**
 Clean with some flashes of potential: Color of family design; Otsego art play; In Flight. Other fronts just average.

Feature Story - 37 entries

- 1 **Flint Journal**
Carol Azizian - *Gay Prom Goer*
Great details, plus enough background to make the reader feel like a part of the event.
 - 2 **The Oakland Press**
Jena Passut - *Aileen's Dawn*
A wonderful lead that fed seamlessly into a new and compelling take on a well-known story.
 - 3 **The Oakland Press**
Tracy Ward - *Dr. Death Speaks From Jail*
An excellent job of providing narrative "mortar" to cement the quotes from Jack Kevorkian in place.
- HM **The Ann Arbor News**
Geoff Larcom - *After Years of Pain, Peace*
A great story that came along in a year with a number of other outstanding entries. It was touching without being maudlin and yet treated a sensitive issue unflinchingly.
- HM **The Oakland Press**
Dave Birkett - *Trek Into Thin Air*
Almost like being there, without the oxygen deficiency.

Enterprise Reporting - 33 entries

- 1 **The Ann Arbor News**
A. Aisner, L. Cobbs, C. Forsyth, S. Prince, A. Schimke - *Failed Background Checks*
This series had to shake any parents of school aged children. Schimke was dogged to get at the truth and uncovered several alarming findings. Passion met shoe-leather reporting on this project and resulted in great watchdog effort.
 - 2 **The Oakland Press**
Korie Wilkins - *Death Remains Mystery*
Wilkins followed the money – \$4 million in taxpayer money – to a large society conundrum: how should police handle the mentally ill and defend themselves? More important, there worries showed police need more training. Survivor's story was compelling.
 - 3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**
Gazette Staff - *The Color of Family*
A story about a book spawned an illuminating series on a topic few want to discuss openly. In another year, this series could have won this category. This was a remarkable look at a common, but mysterious social situation.
- HM **Flint Journal**
Matt Bach - *GPA Series*
This category was incredibly competitive. Both of these packages easily could have placed.
- HM **Lansing State Journal**
Kelly Hassett - *Deadly Crossing*
This category was incredibly competitive. Both of these packages easily could have placed.

Editorial Pages - 6 entries

- 1 **Flint Journal**
These pages have a lot of life – the use of graphics is deft, especially to illustrate letters. The editorials are relatively short, a plus, and on point. The Journal opinion pages have a lot going for them.
- 2 **Lansing State Journal**
A very attractive layout and strong content, well-mixed-mixed, make these pages superior. Tasteful use of graphics.
- 3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**
Ambitious "Blueprint for 2005" with nice use of screens and grouping devices. Integration of photos is outstanding. Nice editorial on Coach Shiels.

Editorial Writing - 10 entries

- 1 **Kalamazoo Gazette**
Author shines spotlight on problems with locking up foreign nationals with example from her own paper. Her stand for personal rights is consistent and impassioned. An excellent writer.
 - 2 **Lansing State Journal**
Clear, concise writing. Rational straightforward style. "Not Cool" does a great job explaining why Lansing and E. Lansing didn't get the state grants.
 - 3 **The Oakland Press**
In "Repealed Insurance Fine" does a fine job pointing out the stupidity of a state law. Sound analysis of tax issues.
- HM **The Oakland Press**
Strong analysis of health care crisis and on Detroit's poor reputation. The Oakland Press has a top-notch editorial staff.

Local Columnist - 20 entries

- 1 **The Macomb Daily**
Ed Fitzgerald -
Fitzgerald addresses community issues with insight, flare and zest.
 - 2 **Kalamazoo Gazette**
Julie Mack -
Mack's columns have emotional appeal.
 - 3 **The Oakland Press**
Robert Musial -
Musial's "Great Lakes Humor" offers respite from the day to day news.
- HM **Muskegon Chronicle**
Susan Harrison-Wolfiss -
This series might stretch the definition of a column, however, the perspective it offers can't be underestimated. Well-told, well-written, well-done.

News Picture - 23 entries

- 1 **Lansing State Journal**
Rod Sanford - *Grieving Mother*
Nice light, well composed, great moment.

Daily Class B News Picture, cont.

2 **Muskegon Chronicle**

Kendra Stanley-Mills - *Video Arr.*
Beautiful moment. Hysterical.

3 **The Ann Arbor News**

Leisa Thompson - *Peace March*
Very well seen.

HM **The Saginaw News**

Melanie Sochan - *Window of Opportunity*
Humorous photo. Nice moment

Feature Picture - 29 entries

1 **The Oakland Press**

Gary Malerba - *Nutcracker Rehearsal*
Beautiful light. Nice play.

2 **Lansing State Journal**

Becky Shink - *Basket Hang*
Very funny photo. Well executed.

3 **Lansing State Journal**

Rod Sanford - *Nuzzled By Pig*
Humorous photo. Well lit, good composition.

HM **The Oakland Press**

Jose Juarez - *Bushed Bassets*
Bushed bassets-very funny.

Sports Picture - 20 entries

1 **The Ann Arbor News**

Leisa Thompson - *H.H. Hockey*
Great anchor shot.

2 **The Oakland Press**

Charlie Cortez - *Header*
Nice moment.

3 **The Macomb Daily**

Ray J. Skowronek - *Bored to Wrestle*
Hilarious.

Picture Story - 16 entries

1 **Muskegon Chronicle**

Ken Stevens - *And Then There Were Seven*
Nice complete package. Good set of images.

2 **Lansing State Journal**

Rod Sanford - *Heart of Life*
Nice set of pictures. Good variety

3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Mark Bugraski - *Calhoun County*
Nice pictures. Needs a better closer.

Sports Writing - 28 entries

1 **Lansing State Journal**

Joe Rexrode - *Devastation*
Lead catches your interest. Second paragraph explains it all. The whole story reads well.

2 **Muskegon Chronicle**

Cindy Fairfield - *Fruitport stuns Marysville*

You bring the feel of high school sports to the reader with clear crisp sentences. Great style..keep it up.

3 **The Oakland Press**

Paula Pasche - *Woe is U.S.*

Your lead is great and you follow with great writing. Like the quotes and the use of stats.

HM **The Ann Arbor News**

Nathan Fenno - *Wolverines Close to Record*
Good Lead! Good use of statistics. Keeps the flow going.

Sports Columnist - 13 entries

1 **Muskegon Chronicle**

Cindy Fairfield -

It's a tough thing to write first person without placing all the attention on you, but you've done this in the ok vote piece. Very well done. Submission overall were smart, well-paced interesting and solidly written. Definite stand-outs in a field of tight competition. Quality of work is professional and would fit well with even larger circulations.

2 **The Oakland Press**

Jim Hawkins -

For writing style and pace, your work stands alone. And for topics choice-very creative. Even with the comparatively longer submissions, the writing was so expert that the reader had to continue. Best was steroids piece; all 3 however are top quality.

3 **Muskegon Chronicle**

Tom Kendra -

Your leads are your greatest strength Interesting quick and to the point. Next comes your clarity of writing and expert segues from paragraph to paragraph. For interest and pure writing skill, your Notre Dame piece was the absolute best. With a little more punch to your opinion, submissions would be first place.

HM **Lansing State Journal**

Todd Schulz -

Arguably your writing is the best in this pool of competition. Smooth, clear, concise, and grammatically perfect. With more strength of opinion, future submissions would easily meet 1st or 2nd place criteria. Good Job!

Sports Feature - 26 entries

1 **Lansing State Journal**

Joe Rexrode - *Source of Strength*

Wonderful story that shows sports fans and readers alike a side of a popular sports figure (Coach Smith) that's not often seen. Loved the family stories, the honest tone and the ending. Great.

2 **The Ann Arbor News**

John Heuser - *Breaston was Special..*

Another terrific example of looking at a sports icon beyond the arena of sports. Readers really get a feel for what this young man is like and why after meeting his family.

Daily Class B Sports Feature, cont.

3 **The Ann Arbor News**

Mark Heller - The Most Popular Man in Dexter
Sports stories don't always have to be about those on the field, and this is a wonderful example. Writer tells a charming tale of this special man and the community who loves him.

HM **The Saginaw News**

Hugh Bernreuter - Sharp Ax Takes a Whack
Funny feature...loved the description of what she DOESN'T like and the quote about "chicks with chainsaws" was terrific!

Sports Coverage - 5 entries

1 **The Oakland Press**

This staff really rose to the occasion for big events (the Piston's NBA Title, the Ryder Cup) but also didn't forget the more mundane local coverage.

2 **Lansing State Journal**

The Final Four coverage was outstanding. I also loved the fact that an entire page was given over to the all-pre-high-school bowling team.

3 **Muskegon Chronicle**

Exceptional prep coverage.

Lifestyle Pages - 6 entries

1 **Flint Journal**

Interesting local features mixed with regular sections. Books and games are a good combo. Lively layout, light and serious topics.

2 **Lansing State Journal**

Strong front page layouts. Newsy, especially like the "Get Out!" sidebar. Wide range of topics and articles.

3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Local front page stories have wide appeal. Mini page insert always a favorite for kids and of course cartoons.

HM **The Macomb Daily**

Strong topical coverage on the front-page. Informative side bars.

Special Section - 14 entries

1 **Flint Journal**
Pressing On

I'll admit it. I wasn't crazy about giving a first place to a paper writing about it's own building at first. But I was won over by the bright writing, you guys had fun! Kudos all around and enjoy that building.

2 **The Ann Arbor News**
AA Football '04

There were several football sections entered in this category. Yours stood out because it used the front for pictures and stories, had a great centerfold and presented the material in a clear easy to use format.

3 **Kalamazoo Gazette**
Gilmore Notables

I'd never heard of this event, but now I want to go!

Loved the Festival at a Glance on p.2 and the playful centerfold using music notes as a time line..genius! This would have scored higher with a story on the front.

HM **The Oakland Press**

Stellar Cast and Catching Crew
Great sections. I would have liked to see a story on the stellar cast? Also, needs a more inviting list of college team schedules in catching crew.

In-Paper Promotion of Upcoming Content - 5 entries

1 **The Oakland Press**

Coming this Week
Pluses at top of page are uncommonly visually exciting! Love the use of supplied promo photos. Interesting way to tease "Baseball's Latin Influence."

2 **Lansing State Journal**

Business Week Section Inside
Beautifully designed "plusses under the mast head. Visually interesting, with great headlines. Good stuff!

3 **Muskegon Chronicle**

Coming this Week
Very straightforward. No nonsense. Gives you three great reasons to keep reading all week. Good photos.

Daily Class C

General Excellence - 10 entries

1 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Special sections make the newspaper stand out. ("Making of a Marine" and "Friday Night Faces"). Lots of local content. The format could use some updating.

2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Best overall design. Consistent throughout in both packaging and writing. Sections tend to blend together.

3 **The Daily Telegram**

Attention-grabbing front pages, would have liked to have seen more of that inside. Nice editorial section.

Spot News Story - 26 entries

1 **Battle Creek Enquirer**

J. Rode, S. Hanna - Change At The Top
Great job giving insight to Gutierrez's job with Kellogg and what he will do for the president. Made what could have been a dry story very readable. Also, telling the community what's next with story about Jenness. Again, good insight on his role (or lack thereof) in the community

2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

V. McCray, I. Storey - Road-end Drownings
I was glad to see the story explain the road/lake layout and a past incident there as well as the tragic details of this accident. Descriptions of the girls, the recovery, the reaction of the guy that lives near the lake – all added to the story.

Daily Class C Spot News Story, cont.

3 **The Holland Sentinel**

P. Revere, K. Chambers - Pfizer Plant Closing
The amount of detail made this story – from the skill level of the employees to the decrease in sales of Neurontin. Nice job making different angles (employer/employee).

HM **The Bay City Times**

Jeff Kart - Fire Guts Storefront Church, Church
The lead is great – gets the point across while giving the reader an inkling as to what is in store. The "colorful" store owners make the piece. You did a nice job bringing them out.

News Story - 30 entries

1 **Battle Creek Enquirer**

LaToya Thompson - Critical Condition
A great inside look at local hospitals dealing with a national problem – a nursing shortage.

2 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

L. O'Connor, L. Harris - Francis Street
Wonderful stories and images about the rebirth of a community.

3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

T. Carr, P. Sullivan - Migrants
follows the daily lives and dreams of migrant workers; nice imagery.

HM **The Bay City Times**

Steve Neavling - Bay County – No. 1 With A Bottle
Interesting look at a community plagued by alcohol abuse.

Design - 9 entries

1 **Monroe Evening News**

Clean and classy. Adequate white space and overall good organization. Good balance of art. Body copy leading is too tight.

2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Crisp and airy look, courtesy of rag type and rules. Election front works.

3 **The Daily Telegram**

Someone is working hard on A-1 centerpiece designs. A little more work on scaling heads and secondary art element will help overall impact.

Feature Story - 28 entries

1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Vanessa McCray - Trying Times
Comprehensive look at contemporary Northport, residents concerns, problems followed by history of town. Especially liked the section on schools, how students face uncertain future.

2 **Monroe Evening News**

Ray Kisonas - Miracle Man
What an emotional story of persistence. The writer did

an excellent job pulling the reader in to experience what Godi when through. Nice job!

3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Tom Carr - 24 Years Old Adopts Life of Solitude
Writing style reflects austerity of a nun's life. What an unusually choice today for a young woman – well told.

HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Gina Goodman - Long-missing Bible
What are the odds of this story? Would have liked more about his reaction to receiving the Bible, looking through the old pages.

Enterprise Reporting - 20 entries

1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Patrick Sullivan - Spotlight on Sheriff
Tenacious, meticulous and bulletproof – and written compellingly. Now it's up to the Benzie County residents to demand accountability. Terrific investigative reporting in the face of intimidation.

2 **The Herald-Palladium**

Ted Hartzell - Gearing Up for a Blitz
This was a monumental undertaking by a small newspaper that took an extremely local event and gave it an international twist. Hustle combined with smooth deadline writing.

3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

B. O'Brien, B. McGillivray - Cherry Festival Lobbying
Until this series, it's likely that few readers ever thought of anything other than cherries when thinking of this festival. Terrific watchdog reporting that, in a less-competitive year, could have won this category.

HM **The Bay City Times**

Steve Neavling - Age of Turmoil
Solid watchdog efforts.

HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Bill O'Brien - Cool Cities
Solid watchdog efforts.

Editorial Pages - 6 entries

1 **Times Herald**

A meaty section with a good mix of commentary and one that clearly strives for reader involvement.

2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

A clean, uncomplicated layout and an emphasis on letters combine to make these pages readable. Some graphic elements in letters section would make page even better.

3 **Battle Creek Enquirer**

A lot of good commentary, community-oriented. A slightly livelier layout would emphasize this strength.

HM **Daily News**

An impressive job of soliciting local op-eds.

Daily Class C, cont.

Editorial Writing - 10 entries

- 1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
This writer has a comprehensive knowledge of the court system and is able to convey the details to his readers.
- 2 **Times Herald**
Clear writing style. Persuasive, straight-forward narrative. Editorial on "Laramie Project" was heart-felt and moving.
- 3 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**
Interesting take on issue of employers firing smokers. Disturbing information on dropout rates. The writer does an excellent job of laying out arguments.

Local Columnist - 19 entries

- 1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Garrett Leiva -
Engaging from the opening line. Clever twists of phrase. Finds humor in the everyday situation.
 - 2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Tom Carr -
A down-to-earth "guy next door" voice. Column reads like a chat with a neighbor.
 - 3 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**
Brad Flory -
Straightforward style packs a punch.
- HM **Monroe Evening News**
Ron Montri -
Judge did not comment.

News Picture - 21 entries

- 1 **Daily News**
Channing Johnson - President Bush
Wonderful moment. Very nice composition.
- 2 **Battle Creek Enquirer**
John Grop - Homecoming
Just sweet, nice and tight.
- 3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Lara Neel - Crying Sister
Nice moment. Good and tight.

Feature Picture - 34 entries

- 1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Josh Biggs - Entertaining Evening
The photo has a very nice composition.
- 2 **Times Herald**
Tony Pitts - Kids Rally
Judge did not comment.
- 3 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Douglas Tesner - Turkey Standoff
Very nice crop.

HM **Times Herald**
Tony Pitts - Eye on Prize
Good frame.

Sports Picture - 27 entries

- 1 **Daily News**
Danielle Rappaport - Home Run Cheer
Awesome moment. Different/great composition.
 - 2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Douglas Tesner - Football Kick
Great moment for evening anchor.
 - 3 **The Herald-Palladium**
Neal Vaughn - Same Team, Same Results
Good anchor.
- HM **Monroe Evening News**
Valerie Tobias - Slow Motion Replay
Nice pan. Good symmetry.

Picture Story - 19 entries

- 1 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**
J. Scott Park - Road To Recovery
Nice set of images. A complete story, very well done.
 - 2 **Daily News**
Channing Johnson - A greater Hope
Beautiful images. Wonderful design. Solid story.
 - 3 **Monroe Evening News**
Alexander Cohn - Struggle for Independence.
Nice story. Some repetition.
- HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Doug Tesner - Call to Duty
Some solid images.

Sports Writing - 28 entries

- 1 **Monroe Evening News**
Jason Haupricht - Jefferson Picks Up First Win
Writer exposed the core of the story...not so much the team's first win of the season, but the dedication of the win to a fallen teammate.
 - 2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
D. Chase, M. Urban and J. Cook - TC West-Central Showdown
Blanket coverage of a rivalry, from the stands to the field to the locker-room.
 - 3 **The Bay City Times**
Jon McQuinn - Photo Finish
Good time reference with Lead. Very creative.
- HM **Monroe Evening News**
Niles Kruger - Answering the Call
Practice comments really add to the piece.

Sports Columnist - 21 entries

- 1 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**
Chris Iott -
Fast moving funny and refreshing. This author shone in a field of deep competition. What else to say? Entry was definitely the best.

Daily Class C Sports Columnist, cont.

2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Jeff Peek -
Lively writing that wove current events and used colorful analogies to make interesting points. Columns do not just speak to the sports choir, but rather pull the reader who might not normally read this section. Stood apart from other entries in terms of creativity.

3 **The Herald-Palladium**

Jason Mitchell -
Great voice-authoritative, factual and great writing skill. The only thing that keeps submissions from high placing is the pace of writing. A faster pace and these works would rise above the competition.

HM **Times Herald**

Tony Paul -
Good writing style, good pace, good interest level of topics choice. Probably had the best leads of all the entries. Narrow miss of 3rd place.

Sports Feature - 35 entries

1 **Battle Creek Enquirer**

Howie Magner - A Major Road Trip
Extremely well written. Great narrative and storytelling. Held my interest to the last line.

2 **Monroe Evening News**

Jeff Meade - Boxing Helps Hoyer Rebuild Life
Great start to story. Grabs attention and makes me want to keep reading. Good flow and mix of current information with background. I got to know Hoyer as a person.

3 **The Holland Sentinel**

Eric Gaertner - Family Game
I like the inclusion of the whole family in a story that revolves around the father. I usually don't like subheads, but they work here. Good start. It hooked me.

HM **Monroe Evening News**

Niles Kruger - Picking Up the Pieces
Interesting story. Goes well beyond the basketball court and touches the reader, sports fan or not.

Sports Coverage - 9 entries

1 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Great local focus. Clean and easy to read with some quality photos.

2 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

A close second. Fantastic local art and good copy. Some local writing is far too long.

3 **Times Herald**

A lot of information. Really deserves more space.

HM **The Holland Sentinel**

Strong Photos. Furniture needs updating.

Lifestyle Pages - 6 entries

1 **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Generation why is an excellent idea to get teens engaged in issues and concerns. The two other feature stories were also eye-catching. Good mix of columns, home-garden, books etc.

2 **Battle Creek Enquirer**

Lively layout. Engages different populations in the community. Good mix of travel, columns and colorful "occasions" section. The High School pro v. con section is a good way to engage teens.

3 **The Holland Sentinel**

Snappy small sections. "A List", "Hot and Not" "PM" and stuff to do. Good organizing tool. Easy to find and return to.

HM **Daily News**

Strong front page layouts, garden page. A lot of space devoted to crosswords and games.

Special Section - 17 entries

1 **Battle Creek Enquirer**

Working in Michigan

Well-written section that focuses on the Battle Creek job market. Help illustrate the situation, along with articles that put everything in prospective. Good work!

2 **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Road To Recovery

I felt I knew Frances Street after reading this section. Great writing and photography brought it and it's hopes and sorrows to life. You lost me on the hand-colored photos.

3 **The Daily Telegram**

Year 2

Good effort, but I would have liked to see some text on the front, a table of contents and an intro. Kudos for the stories in the back that broaden the scope of this section.

HM **Times Herald**

Edison Still Lights our World

Great idea! I bet you got a lot of positive feedback on this unique vintage section.

In-Paper Promotion of Upcoming Content - 6 entries

1 **The Herald-Palladium**

Your Page is Coming

Great series...true "teaser" campaign. The best way to build anticipation of a new regular in-paper feature. Clever copy and white space grabs attention. We should all do more of this.

2 **Battle Creek Enquirer**

May 2, 2004 Front Page

Strong design for "plans" banner at top of A-1. "I Feel Fortunate" is great. It drives readers to the web and to two related stories. Good graphics too.

Daily Class C In-Paper Promo, cont.

- 3 **Battle Creek Enquirer**
March 20, 2005 Front Page
 Beautifully designed "plus" across the top. Gives you a great photo and three different reasons to find the page being promoted.

Daily Class D

General Excellence - 20 entries

- 1 **Petoskey News-Review**
 Clean layout, including ads and classifieds. Heavy emphasis on local content and good utility info. In-depth stories, locally written. Presswork above average. We liked the fun you have with flag.
- 2 **Sturgis Journal**
 Very clean, excellent press work in general. Back-page features pages nicely designed. Good sports photography.
- 3 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
 Newsy fonts that tend toward busy inside pages. Newsy, but appearance falls off rather quickly. Comprehensive community coverage; good packaging (school budgets), but consider a single byline for all three.

Spot News Story - 26 entries

- 1 **The Daily Mining Gazette**
Erin Alberty - Fire Kills Chassell Father, Son
 I was impressed with the contacts you made and details you got in a short amount of time. The mother/wife's account of the event was particularly heartbreaking but really made the story. I wish you had told the reader more about her emotional state – was she telling this through tears? In shock? Otherwise, very good.
- 2 **The Daily Mining Gazette**
B. Salmen, E. Alberty - Mayor Arrested for OUIL
 Nice job gathering detail pertinent to the story – blood alcohol content, etc. –but also giving perspective on the political scene.
- 3 **Ludington Daily News**
P. Klevorn, B. Mulherin, J. Miller - Sabrina's Murder
 The story conveyed the tragedy well and how it touched community. I would have liked the paragraph about the link between the suspect and something in Sabrina's house higher in the story. Otherwise, very nice job. Other stories rounded out coverage of a community sharing the family's pain.
- HM **The Alpena News**
Kerri L. Miller - Body Found Near River
 Gave all the necessary details without making the story read like a police report. Story had a good flow, good job including perspective on where Smalley lived, etc.

News Story - 43 entries

- 1 **The Daily Tribune**
Michael McConnell - A Killing Machine
 This story had everything I was looking for – compelling subject matter, gripping photos, consistently good page layout. Most of all, the writer's style was outstanding and his writing ability was superior.
- 2 **The Mining Journal**
Staff - Bush Visits Marquette
 From the first article to the last, this series was well-written, the subject was well-covered, and the photos and page layout were consistently superior. As a staunch Democrat, this judge was somewhat dismayed.
- 3 **The Daily Tribune**
C. Kavanaugh, C. Strawser - Church Breaks Gun Laws
 Consistently good, thoughtful coverage of a sensitive issue. Good photos and page layout, especially in first and second articles.
- HM **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
S. Demas, L. Medd - Klan Controversy
 Thoughtful reporting, good coverage of all sides of the controversy. Would have liked to have seen a photo of the Klan uniform in the first story.

Design - 18 entries

- 1 **The Daily Tribune**
 Good use of photos, paper is clean and organized, but paid attention to small details. Promos in front-page rail don't include page numbers. Section flags down the side don't impress us.
- 2 **Sturgis Journal**
 The white space incorporated in the design works well. Paper stays true to its design. The blue highlights everywhere get tiresome. Photo usage drops off on inside pages.
- 3 **The Daily News**
 Pages generally are clean, although the headline hierarchy is poor. Nice section front on 10/28 and color photo page inside. The 150th anniversary section was impressive.

Feature Story - 57 entries

- 1 **Petoskey News-Review**
Lisa Doublestein - It Can, and Does Happen Here
 Riveting! I was hooked from the first sentence.
- 2 **The Daily Tribune**
Christy Strawser - Special Day for Father of 12
 Fantastic story and very well told. Touching, funny and insightful.
- 3 **Manistee News Advocate**
David Barber - The Homecoming
 Very thorough; nicely written and uses plain language to describe medical problems and procedures.

Daily Class D Feature Story, cont.

HM **Sturgis Journal**
Terry Katz - Cat-astrophe Averted
 Bittersweet and touching.

Enterprise Reporting - 44 entries

1 **Manistee News Advocate**
News Advocate Staff - Standing Tall
 Every newspaper in the country tackled a story about sending its citizens to war, but the News Advocate staff used clear, judicious reporting to tell the story of a community sending loved ones to a dangerous place. The shortness of the stories is to be applauded.

2 **Petoskey News-Review**
R. Bentley, K. Hughes - Here, There, Now Wal-Mart
 Finally, a thorough "Wal-Mart Coming to Town" story explored through facts in interesting stories told through real people. A+ for balance.

3 **Daily Globe**
Daily Globe Staff - What's Best for Our Kids
 Wow! Valuable, well-researched school series, but twice as long as it should have been. Parts 2 and 4 could have been combined as could parts 5 and 6. Part 3 needed graphics for numbers. A work to be proud of, however.

Editorial Pages - 18 entries

1 **The Alpena News**
 These pages offer, literally, a lot. Engaging readers directly and non-traditionally through on-line surveys. Sometimes the graphic elements run into each other, and the editorials – the newspaper's voice – gets buried and amid the commotion, but all in all an energetic product.

2 **The Daily Tribune**
 The page does a lot without looking cluttered. The "Sound off" feature is readable. The whole page is attractive, and the editorials are the central focus despite the non-traditional layout.

3 **Morning Sun**
 A lot of substance to these pages. The presentation is clean and accessible. Editorial wrap around non-related cartoon is a flow the should be easy to correct.

Editorial Writing - 27 entries

1 **The Mining Journal**
 Powerful editorial voice. Keen oversight of questionable behind closed doors maneuverings. Marquette is lucky to have the Mining Journal looking out for its' welfare!

2 **Dowagiac Daily News**
 Very well written and structural. Lays out a persuasive argument.

3 **Petoskey News-Review**
 Clear, crisp writing style. Good use of facts and figures to back up arguments.

Local Columnist - 46 entries

1 **Petoskey News-Review**
Steve Zucker -
 Funny, warm and well-written.

2 **The Mining Journal**
Deb Pascoe -
 Humorous insights on everyday family life.

3 **The Daily Mining Gazette**
Nancy Barr -
 Interesting thoughts, though a bit wordy.

HM **Manistee News Advocate**
David Barber - Hi-Def TV
 Really liked this one column. One other didn't have the elements of a column.

News Picture - 37 entries

1 **The Daily News**
Greg Dekraker - Farewell 1073rd
 Shows strong emotion and evokes strong emotion.

2 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
Gillis Benedict - Coon Lake Collision
 Very strong photo.

3 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
Alan Ward - Marine Receives Final Salute
 All around excellent photo. Good light and composition. Very Graphic.

HM **Petoskey News-Review**
Steve Zucker - Put Out The Fire
 Intense fire, good composition.

Feature Picture - 43 entries

1 **The Mining Journal**
Andy Nelson-Zaleski - Flying Snow
 Nice action.

2 **Ludington Daily News**
Jeff Kiessel - At Peace
 Nice photo.

3 **Huron Daily Tribune**
Stacy Langley - Fishing Time

HM **Huron Daily Tribune**
Stacy Langley - Ice Olated
 Cool shot.

Sports Picture - 43 entries

1 **Morning Sun**
Lisa Yanick - Last Play
 Wonderful moment.

Daily Class D Sports Picture, cont.

2 **Daily Press**
Pat Goddard - *Taking Off*
 Definitely needs to crop. Nice photo.

3 **The Argus-Press**
Roxanne Allen - *Eyes on the Ball*
 Nice scrambling anchor.

Picture Story - 32 entries

1 **The Daily Mining Gazette**
William Rice - *Picture This*
 Nice dominant, good package.

2 **The Daily News**
Greg DeKraker - *Goodbye, God Bless*
 Good Variety. Solid package

3 **Petoskey News-Review**
G. Randall Goss - *American Legend*
 Nice set of images.

Sports Writing - 50 entries

1 **Dowagiac Daily News**
Scott Novak - *Willingham Fired*
 Great job taking a breaking regional /national story and localizing it.

2 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
Tim Robinson - *Fun Fantasy*
 Brought out the spirit of the event with great cross section of subjects.

3 **The Pioneer**
Sandy Gholston - *Buzzer Beater*
 Showed the big play can be so much more important than the play-by-play.

HM **Morning Sun**
Eric Herter - *Ford's Theater*
 Good job sorting through coach-speak for the first quote.

Sports Columnist - 24 entries

1 **The Pioneer**
Robbie Sgro -
 Lively engaging fast-paced and interesting. Two of your columns-Kobe Bryant and Athens could easily compete in larger markets. The 3rd, "Roommate" deviated from the style of the other two because it focuses more on you. But your first two were of such high quality it showed work that far exceeded any others competing. Good Job!

2 **The Mining Journal**
Renee Prusi -
 Good topics and refreshing blunt writing style. Only downfall would be the length-too long. But author displays a passion and knowledge of topics that engages the reader and the writing skill is definitely above average.

3 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
Tim Robinson
 Author is a great writer. That is obvious and the main reason for recognition in this contest. Would have liked to see a bit more opinion woven into pieces, a bit stronger view and then author's work would easily secure 1st or 2nd in future contests. Overall, writing shines.

HM **Grand Haven Tribune**
Matt Tjapkes
 Kudos for the "Media Still Loves Lakers" piece. Engaging introduction, lively pace and overall interesting read.

Sports Feature - 50 entries

1 **The Alpena News**
Chris Dobrowolsk - *The Preuss is Right*
 Good lead...first three paragraphs get you right into the story. Outstanding use of stats. Good quotes and good selection of quote to complete the story.

2 **Grand Haven Tribune**
Matt Tjapkes - *Erny Does Everything.*
 Love the lead and following with Erny's quote.

3 **Huron Daily Tribune**
Mike Bogan - *Team comes First for Hatchets*
 Really excellent lead. Very well written. Great tribute to a team in a sport not often written about. Use of quotes is excellent...especially the one at the beginning of the article. Ending is also A-plus.

HM **The Daily News**
John Raffel - *Wiffle Mania*
 Interesting lead. It makes you want to know why the international flavor is in his backyard. Well written and good use of facts and quotes. Where is wiffle ball hall of fame? His home?

Sports Coverage - 16 entries

1 **The Daily News**
 Great play throughout section. Quality writing in-depth, local stat packages and plenty of local art.

2 **Petoskey News-Review**
 Good center pieces and well-placed national coverage. Good balance.

3 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
 Good center pieces and well placed national coverage. Good balance.

HM **Morning Sun**
 Solid presentation. Solid writing.

Lifestyle Pages - 11 entries

1 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
 These lifestyle sections offer the best mix of interesting stories, attractive photos and appealing designs. Kristin also has an interesting voice as a columnist. Loved the reference to Floridians being surprised by hurricanes.

Daily Class D Lifestyle Pages, cont.

2 **The Daily Tribune**
Attractive sections with interesting centerpiece features. Inside sections are clearly marked. Interesting columns.

3 **Ludington Daily News**
Lots of interesting features and tidbits in the weekend sections. The layout is attractive, the inside pages are equally interesting and the format for the calendar/planner is a nice change from standard calendars.

Special Section - 51 entries

1 **Daily Globe**
Mining our Heritage
It was refreshing to read a special section not tied to a festival or a sports season. This section is a compelling account of the iron ore mining industry, it's dangers and economic benefits. This was one of the few sections that began with a question. Content a little thin toward the end. Best photo's were chosen.

2 **Niles Daily Star**
President Bush
Wow. A ten page section produced the day after Bush's visit is a marvel of planning and mobilization. A little partisan toward "W"; would you have done the same for Kerry?

3 **The Daily News**
Hometown Fame
Nice variation on the "neighbors" theme.

HM **The Mining Journal**
Progress 2005
Best of the "progress" sections: comprehensive and nicely designed. Liked the "food" section.

In-Paper Promotion of Upcoming Content - 11 entries

1 **The Mining Journal**
Progress promo
Great promo for Progress Edition. It showed covers, started stories, differentiated the promo with a shadow box with color . . . It all made the Progress Edition seem important.

2 **Livingston Co. Daily Press & Argus**
March 30, 2005 Promo
"Pluses" across the top really invite readers. Good photography, good variety of subjects, strong headlines.

3 **The Mining Journal**
Looking Forward
Nice tease for tomorrow's paper. Great photo, interesting subject. Very straitforward promo. Strong.

Weekly Class A

General Excellence - 21 entries

1 **Birmingham Eccentric**
Great layout and photos. Need bylines on all original stories. Very connected to their locality. Great photo department overall. Nice headlines. Good writing. Design is "big market," community involvement is wonderful.

2 **West Bloomfield Eccentric**
A-1 local news is great! But still, where are the bylines? Beautiful photos, fast-paced writing. Strong headlines. Lots of different voices on editorial/opinion page.

3 **Redford Observer**
Very strong, overall design and "look." Very good news writing. Interior "Local News" pages need a stronger design. Good writing. Very nice entertainment tabloid.

HM **Canton Observer**
Loved the local news content, but story placement could be stronger or more thoughtful. Nice At Home section fronts. Strong writing. Not boring!

Spot News Story - 20 entries

1 **Garden City Observer**
LeAnne Rogers - Custodian's Camcorder
Nice work finding a deeper, disturbing story behind a death that could have been briefed.

2 **Troy Times**
Linda Shepard - Woman Suspected of Poisoning Her Husband
Interesting story, great details. I would have liked to know what medicine she gave them and how much. Otherwise, nice job.

3 **Metro Times**
Gurt Guyette - Internal Affairs?
Nice work explaining various aspects of the story – helping the reader understand how the different players are spinning it. Good read.

HM **Fraser-Clinton Township Chronicle**
David Wallace - Board Hires IT Director
Nice hustle! Got the history between the players across very well.

News Story - 47 entries

1 **Metro Times**
Ann Mullen - Lessons on Denial
Fascinating tale about a school system that ignored complaints about a teacher's inappropriate behavior.

2 **News-Herald Newspapers**
Jason Alley - Officials Cut All Phones
Alley dug into cell phone records and held one official to the fire when her bill showed ridiculously high number of personal calls.

Weekly Class A News Story, cont.

3 **Metro Times**

Curt Guyette - Off the Deep End

I never thought a magazine-style piece about the Heimlich Maneuver could be such a great read!

HM **Eastsider**

Maria Allard - FBI Scandal

Allard does a great job covering this corruption case from beginning to end.

Design - 10 entries

1 **Livonia Observer**

Great use of pictures. Headline fonts evenly placed. One criticism – A "sex slave" story belongs at the top of the page. Than you, thank you for using rules between stories.

2 **Livingston Community News**

Great use of dominant photo, especially chef. Other fronts are cluttered. Outlook section is nice and would be seen at bigger paper.

3 **Troy Eccentric**

Try harder for good headlines. Even if editors give you bad ones, don't let them get away with it. And don't run pictures that look grainy.

Feature Story - 55 entries

1 **Metro Times**

Sarah Klein - Building the Better Vagina
Gutsy story handled with grace and sensitivity.

2 **Plymouth Observer**

Kurt Kuban - How Much Is Your Life Worth
Great account of an amazing story.

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Paula Evans Neuman - The Bacon and Egg Ballet
Informative, funny and very well written.

Enterprise Reporting - 30 entries

1 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Jackie Harrison-Martin - Histoplasmosis Health Scare
Scope of this series boggles the mind. Read every word. Great work.

2 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Jennifer R. Mitchell - Detroit River Stream of Life
Very good job. Impressed by the fact you are only a year out of college. Good feature writing.

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Jason Alley - Buyout Will Save City 2 Million
Great job of tracking a lead. Writing is excellent. Good coverage of difficult subject.

HM **News-Herald Newspapers**

Annie Sullivan - The GI Bill
Enjoyed the story. Hope some people who don't know

about the GI bill learned something. I know they are out there.

Editorial Pages - 5 entries

1 **Birmingham Eccentric**

Judge did not comment

2 **Southfield Eccentric**

Judge did not comment

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Judge did not comment

HM **Troy Eccentric**

Judge did not comment

Editorial Writing - 17 entries

1 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Concise, firm, well reasoned, persuasive.

2 **Redford Observer**

Pulls no punches saying what needs saying.

3 **Troy Eccentric**

Solid editorials on matters of importance to the area.

Local Columnist - 21 entries

1 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Jackie Harrison-Martin

A masterful combination of tribute to her father coupled with a stark warning to others that "it didn't have to be this way." Her use of understatement in the "Boo" column was just right. Her piece about the generosity of school children should have inspired all who read it.

2 **Plymouth Observer**

Brad Kadrich

Wisdom, humor emotions empathy...Brad's got a handle on the full spectrum of humanity in these pieces. Wonderful writing. Tremendous story teller. Not surprised to learn you like Manilow.

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Karl Ziomek

Nice combination of approaches. Not afraid to wade right in with strong opinion and good info regarding "delightful" school superintendent. Driver's ed recollections were a hoot. Poignant piece about air museum fire.

HM **Birmingham Eccentric**

Greg Kowalski

Powerful opinions expressed in concise, well-written prose.

News Picture - 18 entries

1 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Larry Caruso - Down River Bush

Very nice Bush pix!

2 **News-Herald Newspapers**

Larry Caruso - Laid to Rest

Nice moment.

Weekly Class A News Picture, cont.

3 **Redford Observer**
Tom Hawley - *Killing*
Judge did not comment.

Feature Picture - 33 entries

1 **Eastsider**
David H. Schreiber - *Back to School*
Nice back lighting.

2 **Livingston Community News**
Jamie Charbeneau-Pisella - *Making Feed at Mill*
Good lighting of subject.

3 **Rochester Eccentric**
John Stormzand - *Feeding Squirrels*
Good feeling pix.

Sports Picture - 25 entries

1 **Eastsider**
David H. Schreiber - *Celebration*
Nice framing. Great moment.

2 **Macomb Chronicle**
David H. Schreiber - *Safe at Home*
Great peak action. Dodging and burning a bit much?

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**
Dave Chapman - *Hurricane Tampa*
Good light.

HM **Shelby Utica News**
David H. Schreiber - *State Champ Wrestling*
Great reach.

Picture Story - 14 entries

1 **Birmingham Eccentric**
Lawrence McKee - *Chillin*
Nice, complete set of images.

2 **Livingston Community News**
Jamie Charbeneau-Pisella - *Overnight Vet*
Good variety.

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**
Larry Caruso - *Nature*
Nice color.

Sports Writing - 20 entries

1 **News-Herald Newspapers**
David Komer - *Roosevelt Edges Past Truman*
Vivid writing, even capturing the roar of the crowd.
Did not overlook small but important facts.

2 **Lake Orion Eccentric**
Daniel Stickrad - *Still Going Strong*
Research done well. History piece which doesn't read like a textbook.

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**
Joe Slezak - *Island Caddy Wins Amateur Crown*
Balanced coverage which played to the key points.
Significance of win and the player's background.

HM **Shelby Utica News**
Kevin Lozon - *So Post and yet So Bar*
Honest, straight forward coverage of a tough loss.

Sports Columnist - 8 entries

1 **Canton Observer**
Ed Wright -
A very clever writer with a knack for making connections. I also liked his collective take on a high school O-line and using his three year old as the lead in to a column about "effort".

2 **News-Herald Newspapers**
Hank Minckiewicz -
These samples reflected one valuable facet of a sports column...using it as a sidebar to a game story. Mr. Minckiewicz did that very well, inserting his own considered opinion but not stepping on the lead piece.

3 **Livonia Observer**
Brad Emons -
All of these did what a column is supposed to do express an opinion emphatically and with factual and emotional backup.

HM **Livingston Community News**
Jason Deegan -
Well-written quirky little pieces on sports that are out of the mainstream.

Sports Feature - 29 entries

1 **Canton Observer**
Ed Wright - *Aluminum Bat Usage Sparks Debate*
Strong issue story. A lot of information to fuel the debate.

2 **Livingston Community News**
Jason Deegan - *Runner rediscovers herself in training*
Just a good story. Well told. This would have worked on a news page as well as sports.

3 **Southfield Eccentric**
Mike Rosenbaum - *Long and Winding Road*
Mike managed to step back and write a solid feature on a local athlete made good without fawning all over him.

Sports Coverage - 11 entries

1 **Troy Eccentric**
All area baseball centerpiece was nicely done under what must be some tight deadlines.

2 **Livingston Community News**
Judge did not comment

3 **News-Herald Newspapers**
Judge did not comment

Lifestyle Pages - 8 entries

1 **News-Herald Newspapers**
Front pages and stories are immediately engaging and friendly. Academic action is a good addition to the section.

Weekly Class A Lifestyle Pages, cont.

- 2 **Livingston Community News**
Strong local stories with pictures and layout. Good community calendar, local stories and information.
- 3 **Birmingham Eccentric**
Insurance story pushed entry into winning category.

Special Section - 10 entries

- 1 **Rochester Eccentric**
24 Hours
A window into Rochester. Staff really had fun and looks like the community did too. It looks like not a lot of ads so bravo to publisher for doing it. The kind of thing more newspapers need to do. Love the aerial of Eminem's house.
- 2 **Michigan Chronicle**
Diabetes
Simple approach to deadly disease works and presents solutions for minority readership. Clean, simple layout, with good photos, makes readership want to read what can easily be a boring, clinical subject.
- 3 **Livingston Community News - On The Road 2004**
Thanks for having fun with a boring section idea cooked up by the sales department. Loved the folks and their cars. Glad to know city manager would rather have a Lamborghini.

Weekly Class B

General Excellence - 12 entries

- 1 **Bedford Now**
Tabloid size easy to read, manipulate information. Useful 2004 election section. Helpful index on page 2 invites readers into the section, tells them what's inside and where. Need more color inside.
- 2 **The County Press**
Lots of local news, plenty of color and a variety of story choices to suit young and old.
- 3 **The Citizen**
Very readable, design is clean, appealing. Lots of sports, which local readers love. I particularly like the citizen opinion page.
- HM **The Detroit Jewish News**
By far the best-looking and best designed. Has well-written stories but they're geared to a particular audience. Needs wider appeal, more offerings for general audience.

Spot News Story - 7 entries

- 1 **The Press & Guide**
Karen Scally - SeverStal Explosion
Great job getting the facts together in a hurry. Seems like you covered all your bases.

- 2 **The County Press**
Kimberly DutKiewicz - Hands Simply Tied
Important story. Good background information.

- 3 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Jewish News Staff - For the Ages
Well-written and very in-depth. Would have possible placed higher in "special sections" category.

News Story - 38 entries

- 1 **The Press & Guide**
Staff - Iraqi Voter Coverage
Well done. Thorough, interesting to read, brought a world issue to the local front.
- 2 **White Lake Beacon**
D. Carte, R. Howell - Tsunami Eyewitness
Captivating. Brings world story home.
- 3 **The Banner**
Cathy Barringer-Rourke - I'm Not Trying To Stir Up Trouble
Agree that this series shows the important role local newspapers play in keeping public informed. These people could easily have been overlooked or disregarded, but weren't.

Design - 8 entries

- 1 **The Detroit Jewish News**
What a credit to the community. A focus on today, with a great sense of history, infused the clear design. The Max Fisher issue is beautiful, and a great credit to a great American figure. The kind of newspaper you don't throw away. Other newspapers can look as good as the Detroit Jewish News.
- 2 **White Lake Beacon**
The design change from 2004 to 2005 is much improved. Loved the centered headlines and the straight forward approach. Old flag was kind of awful. Times Roman doesn't have to be everywhere though.
- 3 **Roscommon County Herald-News**
Very straight forward design, though cluttered masthead. Missing woman story "found" (8/29) should not have been buried. If editors ask, designer should insist that spicy stories go to top. Job #1, sell papers!

Feature Story - 36 entries

- 1 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Shelli Liebman Doreman - Jewish Uganda
Great story. Simple as that.
- 2 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Elizabeth Applebaum - Saying Goodbye
Hard-hitting feature, well-written, wide appeal.
- 3 **The County Press**
Krystal Kaltz Johns - Margaret Scrimger: Nurse And Go
Not really local to your area but a neat story about a local person. Great lead!

Weekly Class B Feature Story, cont.

HM **Grand Valley East Advance**
Cathy Runyon - Tough Love
 Simple story, touching and well written.

Enterprise Reporting - 24 entries

1 **The County Press**
Krystal Kaltz Johns - An Addict Speaks
 A beat reporter paying attention to the daily drudgery of compiling the police blotter noticed an alarming trend and turned it into illuminating journalism. That is the very definition of enterprise reporting.

2 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Robert Sklar - Two-way Bridge
 This was an informative and comprehensive piece that not only was enterprising but explanatory. The readers were clear winners with this one.

3 **Grand Ledge Independent**
Kurt Madden - Single Parenthood
 This covered one of society's most important but overlooked issues and did it in an interesting way. Statistics helped.

HM **Roscommon County Herald-News**
Linda Sherwood - Hatch Act/EMD
 Good aggressive local reporting.

Editorial Pages - 6 entries

1 **The County Press**
 Judge did not comment

2 **The Bay Voice**
 Judge did not comment

3 **White Lake Beacon**
 Judge did not comment

HM **The Detroit Jewish News**
 Judge did not comment

Editorial Writing - 15 entries

1 **The Detroit Jewish News**
 Great analysis of a seemingly simple and positive proposal. Writer made his opinion plain, then supported it with facts and ideas. Impressive argument against what could be a popular policy.

2 **Roscommon County Herald-News**
 In-depth treatment of a local controversy. Well written. The writer expresses opinion clearly, supports it and raises new provocative questions. It exposes the politicizing of a part of government that should be apolitical.

3 **The County Press**
 Great piece. It decried the politicizing of a public health issue and held the Health Boards feet to the fire. Well-written too. As an aside...I like the "Ours" and "Yours" headers on the opinion page.

Local Columnist - 25 entries

1 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Sy Manello -
 These pics had me laughing until I had tears in my eyes. Setting out to write humor is courageous; pulling it off once is remarkable, but three times?? Sy you are one courageous and funny columnist.

2 **Ottawa Advance**
Jeffrey Cunningham -
 It must have been difficult for Jeff to experience his father's dementia and death; He shared it with his readers in a touching manner without becoming maudlin...really touched my heart. A Shoemaker for a Rod touched me deeply too.

3 **The County Press**
Krystal Kaltz-Johns -
 Sizzling and effective sarcasm in Aug. '04 "Purple Ink" column gives way to reflection and tenderness of Feb. and March of '05 columns regarding pending birth of her child. I wonder if she'll feel the same as she did in Aug '04 column when her child is 10 years old?

HM **The Press & Guide**
Lanetta Williams -
 Lanetta Williams is a name to remember. It's hard to believe she's only been writing columns for less than a year. She'll be heard from; trust me on that.

News Picture - 13 entries

1 **The County Press**
Don Lockrey - Fire fighters
 Nice spot news.

2 **The Press & Guide**
Millard Berry - Respect
 Nice shot.

3 **The County Press**
Mike Mercier - Respectful Pause
 Good shot from bad accident.

HM **The Press & Guide**
Millard Berry - SWAT Team
 Judge did not comment.

Feature Picture - 21 entries

1 **The Press & Guide**
Millard Berry - Sr. Annuncia-90 years.
 Loved this shot.

2 **Penasee Globe**
Scott Sullivan - Shadow Bike
 Nice/graphic.

3 **South Haven Tribune**
Kelly Weber - It's all Mine
 Cool bird pix.

Sports Picture - 21 entries

1 **The Press & Guide**
Millard Berry - Hot Start
 Nice, engaging.

Weekly Class B Sports Picture, cont.

- 2 **The County Press**
Mark Haney - *L. East Junior*
 Great anchor.
- 3 **Tri-County Citizen**
K. Salisbury - *Football Fun*
 Good action/clean.

Picture Story - 19 entries

- 1 **White Lake Beacon**
Greg Means - *Frosty but Kindly*
 Nice weather images.
- 2 **The Press & Guide**
Millard Berry - *Winter*
 Some repetition. Nice moments.
- 3 **The County Press**
Mark Haney - *Emotional Ending*
 Nice dominant.

Sports Writing - 17 entries

- 1 **Sparta/Kent City Advance**
Paul Konyndyk - *Dramatic Call*
 Would like to have seen a punchier lead. Overall a good story with good quotes.
- 2 **The County Press**
Eric Demink - *East Nips West*
 Like your lead, but who is Matt Topie?
- 3 **The County Press**
Mark Haney - *Powers-lessness*
 A Cinderella story without the typical fairy tale ending.
- HM **Tri-County Times**
David Troppers - *A Historic Day*
 Interesting story. Would have liked to see "great escape" reference. Also not much about actual tennis match.

Sports Columnist - 6 entries

- 1 **The Press & Guide**
Scott Salowich -
 Nice package. Three of the stronger columns in the category. Especially like "The Meter".
- 2 **The Bay Voice**
Joe Gray -
 It's always difficult to write about a students death. Did a nice job with that.
- 3 **The County Press**
Mark Haney -
 The "Coin Flip" column was your strongest and most informative.

Sports Feature - 15 entries

- 1 **The Press & Guide**
Scott Salowich - *You've Got To Be a Football Hero*
 Catchy lead! Nice ending.

- 2 **Armada Times**
Joe Gray - *Hunting Becomes Way of Life*
 Interesting topic. A catchier lead would have mad this a contender for first place.

- 3 **The Press & Guide**
Scott Salowich - *Tarick, The Contender*
 Good story about a guy pursuing a dream.

Sports Coverage - 8 entries

- 1 **The Press & Guide**
 Great big pictures! The writing was very strong.
- 2 **White Lake Beacon**
 Good broad coverage. Hitting all sports fans.
- 3 **Tri-County Times**
 Nice variety of coverage and strong writing.
- HM **South Haven Tribune**
 Poor quality photos keep the paper from 3rd place finish.

Lifestyle Pages - 4 entries

- 1 **Tri-County Times**
 With nice looking fronts and jam packed sections, Tri-County Living seems to offer something for all aspects of it's community. Lots of interesting features including "Look Who's Talking." The front-page design is attractive.
- 2 **The County Press**
 These sections offered a wide range of features. From hard-hitting topics such as heroin use to the more typical stories about gardens, student plays and social news.
- 3 **The Press & Guide**
 Interesting mix of stories, attractive pages and photo layouts. Contains lots of items of interest to the community.

Special Section - 24 entries

- 1 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Platinum
 Lush and beautiful section. Interesting stories well written and presented. Surely connected with readers.
- 2 **Grand Ledge Independent**
Kid's Edition
 The ads even become content in this section when kids design them. Neat idea and entertaining on many levels.
- 3 **Tri-County Times**
Source Book
 Clean, crisp and useful. The best of several efforts in this genre.
- HM **Tri-County Times**
Fall Sports
 Well written and comprehensive. Well organized.

Weekly Class C

General Excellence - 19 entries

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Nice packaging, excel coverage of the community. Press work could be improved. Good writing. Appropriate use of ads and local editorials.
- 2 **South Lyon Herald**
Not the best fronts, but strong local content with good pictures and writing.
- 3 **Northville Record**
Excellent coverage of the area. Photos are good but reproduction is spotty.

Spot News Story - 34 entries

- 1 **Northville Record**
M. Johnston, K. Kovelleville - Broken Dreams
The reporters were all over this heist. They should consider themselves suspect in the crime.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Michael Jones - Tragedy On Otsego Lake
Concise, straight, informative coverage of an informative event.
- 3 **Milford Times**
Aileen Wingblad - Woman Dies in Apartment Fire
A touching lead to an otherwise tragic account.
HM **Gaylord Herald Times**
Nicole Laskowski - Strike Vote Authorized
Serendipity – on the spot routine coverage leads to enterprising article/package of value to the community.

News Story - 61 entries

- 1 **Leelanau Enterprise**
Alan C. Campbell. - O'Non Murder Trial
Well written and informative given the tight deadline. Just wish I could have learned what happened in the end! By far the best writing skills of the group.
- 2 **Milford Times**
Aileen Wingblad - Metropark Land Sale
Shows the importance of the service of a local newspaper to readers. Great story of how a town can control its own destiny.
- 3 **Northville Record**
Maureen Johnston - Tracking Big Foot
Great presentation, graphics, etc. A story that's hard to tackle, but it was well done from all sides.
HM **Cedar Springs Post**
Sarah Read - From Missing to Murder
What a heartbreaking story. Good follow-through coverage from beginning to end. Good informational graphics.

Design - 14 entries

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Great curb appeal. Well organized. A-1 centerpieces are creative but sometimes too text heavy. Strong use of photos. Good use of white space.
- 2 **Milford Times**
Very similar to other entries in this category. Very clean and consistently scored well in all judging categories. Good use of photos inside.
- 3 **South Lyon Herald**
You highlight some very good photography. Front pages lacked visual punch compared to your inside pages.

Feature Story - 62 entries

- 1 **Milford Times**
Aileen Wingblad - Tooted Santa
Wonderful story, great subject, well written. Different than the regular X-mas feature. Love the main character.
- 2 **South Lyon Herald**
James Mitchell - Autism on Rise
Great way to bring a national story to the local front. Your description of Matt's relationship with his mother is chilling. Great relevant side-bar info.
- 3 **Tuscola County Advertiser**
Amy Joles - Every Day is a Gift
This story grabbed me in a pile of stories about teens dying too young. Well written and contained an important message about organ donation.
HM **South Lyon Herald**
Kate Phillips - The New 9 to 5
Liked the subject though the writing could have been a little tighter.

Enterprise Reporting - 40 entries

- 1 **Northville Record**
D. Aguilar, V. Sadlocha - A Village of Hope
This series is a terrific example of narrative writing. An narrative writing requires exhaustive reporting. The series was moving and informative, the writing eloquent but muscular. First-rate journalism.
- 2 **Saline Reporter**
Brian Cox - Past Problems End Negotiations with Benefactor
These stories were the definition of enterprise/investigative reporting. The only missing element was the benefactor's name – a poor decision by the newspaper's management. The reporter demonstrated dogged pursuit of an important story.
- 3 **Northville Record**
Maureen Johnston - Town or City
The reporter took a potentially dry topic and brought it to life with deft writing and shoe-leather reporting. This series was an excellent example of enterprise AND explanatory journalism.

Weekly Class C Enterprise Reporting, cont.

HM **Tuscola County Advertiser**

A. Joles - *Caro Center Security*

Judge did not comment

HM **Gaylord Herald Times**

N. Laskowski - *Autism Series*

Judge did not comment

HM **South Lyon Herald**

James Mitchell - *South Lyon to Sri Lanka*

Judge did not comment

Editorial Pages - 13 entries

1 **Gaylord Herald Times**

A very vibrant opinion section. Clear distinctions among editorials, columns, letters and other features. A "clean" look invites the reader to linger over these pages. Good balance, visually, and a nice variety of opinions offered. Clearly No. 1.

2 **County Line Reminder, Ortonville**

Editorials are not overly long. "Kids Say" feature must be popular in the community. Paper could do with another half page to run more letters or local column.

3 **Leelanau Enterprise**

All the components are there, including a good crop of letters to the editor. Squaring off ads on letters page would greatly help overall appearance. Grater attention on design would make this section a strong contender for No. 1.

Editorial Writing - 15 entries

1 **County Line Reminder**

Hard-hitting questions for public officials, as well as efforts to educate readers about editorial standards and choices.

2 **Northville Record**

Informative and provocative...concern for the community comes through. Also the desire to evoke response from the reader.

3 **Gaylord Herald Times**

Judge did not comment.

HM **South Lyon Herald**

Judge did not comment.

Local Columnist - 41 entries

1 **The Exponent**

Matt Schepeler

What wonderful work. The Santa column had me howling in laughter. "Who do you Think you Are?" asked hard questions in an easy-to-read way. "So Long Arch" captured a man I wish I had had the opportunity to know. Matt has a remarkable gift. His readers are lucky he shares it with them.

2 **Gaylord Herald Times**

Chris Grosser

When readers reach into Chris Grosser's "Grab Bag" they must always come away with something of great value. Her honesty and willingness to share her

vulnerability and strength touched me deeply. The punctuation piece was truly funny.

3 **The Exponent**

Roddy Ray

Roddy has a wonderful eye for detail and elevates every day life to a form of supreme entertainment. I'm glad they found the ring.

HM **South Lyon Herald**

Sam Black

Sam obviously feels deeply about his community. It comes through in each of his columns.

News Picture - 37 entries

1 **Gaylord Herald Times**

Bill Serveny - *Community Grieves*

Touching photo that evokes strong emotion from the reader.

2 **Oceana's Herald-Journal**

Andrew Skinner - *Oops!*

Spot news with humor and no one hurt. Very good.

3 **Gaylord Herald Times**

Chris Grosser - *Firefighters/EMS Rescue*

Photo has impact and shows great action.

HM **Northville Record**

David Aguilar - *Branch Falls on Van*

Great angle gives the photo visual impact.

Feature Picture - 61 entries

1 **Milford Times**

Hal Gould - *Dance Away*

Good shot!

2 **The Exponent**

Roddy Ray - *Gone with the Wind*

Judge did not comment.

3 **Oceana's Herald-Journal**

Mary Sanford - *Tuba Reflections*

Good thinking shooter.

Sports Picture - 42 entries

1 **Milford Times**

Hal Gould - *Raising the Bar*

Nice light/clean.

2 **Milford Times**

Hal Gould - *No Harm, No Foul*

Great moment. Awesome expression.

3 **Novi News**

John Heider - *Shiver Me Timbers*

Good peak anchor. Nice physicality.

Picture Story - 32 entries

1 **South Lyon Herald**

Hal Gould - *History Lesson*

Nice set of pictures. Good variety

Weekly Class C Picture Story, cont.

2 **Houghton Lake Resorter**
Thomas Reznich - *Life on the Ice*
Nice main image. A bit of repetition though.

3 **Oceana's Herald-Journal**
Andrew Skinner - *The Season*
Judge did not comment.

Sports Writing - 39 entries

1 **Novi News**
Sam Eggleston - *Cold Nights in Da UP*
Really brought out the entire journey towards a pair of wins for a local hockey team.

2 **Leelanau Enterprise**
Alan Campbell - *Hot Spot for Bucks*
Offered a glimpse into the family, the entire day and the heart-felt importance of the event.

3 **Milford Times**
John Mueller - *Double Trouble*
Unique incidents. Twins with matching results merged into a food story.

HM **Harbor Country News**
David Johnson - *Bobcats Stun Valley*
Use of quote for lead effective in this instance.

Sports Columnist - 13 entries

1 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Mike Dunn -
Exactly what it should be. Additional and interesting information about local sports. Cheerleaders story and Kate stories just great. Kate crawling toward the finish and cheerleaders preparation excellent.

2 **Oceana's Herald-Journal**
NB Sawyer -
Short and to the point. Well written and interesting. Good information. Really liked the columns.

3 **The Tri-City Times**
Kevin Kissane -
Your lead was always a hook for the column. The "'B' Team" was especially good. This column, along with the one on "Tiger By the Tale" and Boyne showed versatility of the writer.

HM **The Exponent**
Jeff Steers -

Like your style of writing. Very readable. The wrestling story especially appeals to me. The "Emotions" story. Good use of quotes in the cross country story.

Sports Feature - 39 entries

1 **Tuscola County Advertiser**
Brandon Allendorfer - *Reese Football Still Best*
Writer evoked an era with a deft pen and great quotes.

2 **Saline Reporter**
Brian Cox - *Another Chance at Gridiron*
He nailed it with his graph. After "Way to go dad" you had to keep reading.

3 **Milford Times**
Aileen Wingblad - *Former Pro-ball Player a Hit With Fellow Seniors.*
There was women's pro-baseball in 1943? Who'd of think it? Neat story.

Sports Coverage - 15 entries

1 **Northville Record**
Creative layout and strong photography made this entry stand out. But features made it the best. Good mix of event coverage, commentary, analysis and features.

2 **Milford Times**
Very hard to call this second. Photography is outstanding and layout is worthy of first. Features mixed with team coverage would have pushed to the top.

3 **Tuscola County Advertiser**
Good diversity. Great use of stats. Track montage is outstanding. Outline of photographs too heavy. Features would help mix with game coverage.

HM **Houghton Lake Resorter**
Most extensive coverage of any entry, but photography and design keep it from placing.

Lifestyle Pages - 10 entries

1 **Milford Times**
the entire section is newsy and covers it all...schools, seniors, health, sports, business, church and community calendar. It's a section that a Milford resident could spend a pot of coffee on.

2 **The Exponent**
Newsy and with several unique columns. The weekly look at racing adds a very local touch.

3 **The Tri-City Times**
The "Express Yourself" section engages the community, but I wonder if the lifestyle section is the right place for the editorial page?

HM **Saline Reporter**
This feature is too funny. Good pick on issues people square off on.

Special Section - 30 entries

1 **Tuscola County Advertiser**
2004 Football Preview
Loved the cover! Everything a small-town sports preview section should be. Some very well designed pages. Strong!

2 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Prime Times
Outstanding cover-very human. Good mix of news, news you can use and features. Interesting photography, good writing.

Weekly Class C Special Section, cont.

- 3 **Cedar Springs Post**
Welcome Guide
Inviting cover. Elegant. Looks very comprehensive. Nice welcome from the mayor.

In-Paper Promotion of Upcoming Content - 5 entries

- 1 **Oceana's Herald-Journal**
After You Bag Your Buck
Great Promo! It brings local people to the paper and visa-versa! Nice photography. This sells papers.
- 2 **Milford Times**
Award-winning Sports Coverage
Great Photo! You cannot go wrong promoting local sports coverage. Makes me want to see more of their sports photography.
- 3 **Oceana's Herald-Journal**
Your News In Print
Nice design. Excellent idea! Holding media relations seminars is a great way to connect with your community. I like the idea even more than the promo.

Weekly Class D

General Excellence - 16 entries

- 1 **Dexter Leader**
Excellent layout, arresting headlines, excellent use of photography, graphics. Solid story selection and writing. Clearly covers its area well. Powerful headlines and layout make this paper top notch.
- 2 **Presque Isle County Advance**
Excellent photography and selection (use of strong colors very good). Solid writing – covers its area well.
- 3 **State Line Observer**
This is a charming paper well "made by hand" by a small staff that knows its business and its region. A good solid weekly.
- HM **Chelsea Standard**
Frankly, this paper could be first place and all said about the Dexter Leader could be said of it. Apparently produced by the same talented team.

Spot News Story - 17 entries

- 1 **The Advance**
Matt Crenear - Up In Smoke
Good use of quotes to relay the story. Strong first sentence.
- 2 **Marshall Chronicle**
Sally Sulser - Train Mishap Derails Traffic
Details keep reader interested in story beyond learning what stalled traffic.
- 3 **Chelsea Standard**
Steve Ricci - Bank Robbery Reign Ends For "Sysco Kid"
Mr. Ricci is a master storyteller.

- HM **Clarkston News**
Don Schelske - Fire Leads to Arson Arrest
Strong, straight news. Could have been enhanced with quotes from neighbors or acquaintances.

News Story - 30 entries

- 1 **Dexter Leader**
Scott Hagen - Budget Woes Spur Criticism
Mr. Hagen is an excellent writer and reporter. He stood out among the crowd. Enjoyed the simple lead. Good, thorough research presented in a conversational manner. Quotes were a little long and too frequent.
- 2 **State Line Observer**
L. Klok, D. Green - Fayette Contamination Series
Good team effort. Solid reporting. Thorough coverage. Nice breakdown of complex issues.
- 3 **The Advance**
Doug Goodnough - Ethanol Plant
Followed the story well. Writing a little dry, but kept readers informed about a very important issue. Very thorough, good detail.

- HM **Dexter Leader**
Scott Hagen - District Surplus
Again, very well written. Covers all the important questions and presents information in a conversational manner. Good flow. Quotes are too long.

Design - 14 entries

- 1 **State Line Observer**
A generally clean design with simple typography that is used well. Photography and use of photos distinguished this entry.
- 2 **Dexter Leader**
I had some reservations about the typography, overuse of dull photos. This is generally clean, well-organized entry. Lively, adventurous attempts at design stand out.
- 3 **The Leader and The Kalkaskian**
This keeps it simple and generally clean, although the typography. In a category with entries that blend together, it stands out.

Feature Story - 47 entries

- 1 **Homer Index**
Mike Warner - Family Copes
A timely subject sensitively written. Writer was able to get a wealth of detail from the family during what must have been a difficult time for them.
- 2 **State Line Observer**
David Green - Heading for the Rockies
A fun read! You really captured the interaction between these two guys, and I loved the ending.

Weekly Class D Feature Story, cont.

3 **Dexter Leader**
Maria Sprow - Shooting Your Own Angel
 Your story sucked me in from the start, and I loved the playfulness of including the play's title in the list of tabloid headlines. You have a promising career ahead of you!

HM **Chelsea Standard**
Steve Ricci - 100 Years and Counting
 Good job on a tough subject. You handled it well.

Enterprise Reporting - 13 entries

1 **Chelsea Standard**
Steve Ricci - Chelsea Water Woes
 Reporter went beyond beat reporting to educate readers about an issue vital to everyone served by that water district. Tenacious effort.

2 **Dexter Leader**
Scott Hagen - The Changing Face of Special Ed
 Reporter waded through the emotion and ignorance surrounding this issue and crafted an illuminating primer on a topic important to every school district.

3 **Dexter Leader**
S. Hagen, M. Sprow - Growth Brings Shifting Voices
 This series transcended politics and hit on issues of historical and demographic importance.

HM **Manchester Enterprise**
Marsha Johnson Chartrand - Community Resource Center
 Good watchdog reporting of an issues that affects pocketbooks.

Editorial Pages - 11 entries

1 **The Advance**
 Very clean appearance – uncluttered and easy to read. Space deviated to letters is commendable. Cartoons are well used. Editorial column could benefit by featuring some graphic element. Suggest two or more shorter editorials as sometimes alternative to one long one.

2 **The Leader and The Kaskaskian**
 Attractive appearance with clear boundaries among various elements. Parsimony of letters on issue to address, but otherwise very nice package.

3 **Chelsea Standard**
 These pages hold a lot of content. Letters are given play, and the number published shows this pays off. Design could stand some work. Vertical staff listing and letters-policy box disrupt flow of communication in columns and letters.

HM **Homer Index**
 Headlines are superb. "Short adults in Spiderman Suits get Candy" and "No, Horsey, the World is Not Doomed" must hook readers.

Editorial Writing - 11 entries

1 **State Line Observer**
 Subjects of interest and concern to readers. Author not afraid to push sensitive issues.

2 **The Leader and The Kaskaskian**
 Good discussion of issues.

3 **Homer Index**
 Problems stated clearly..solutions offered.

Local Columnist - 31 entries

1 **The Oxford Leader**
Don Rush -
 Funny, conversational and insightful.

2 **State Line Observer**
Rich Foley -
 A funny collection of musings.

3 **Marshall Chronicle**
Wanda Nash -
 Nice change from the usual column and deals with real animal issues.

News Picture - 27 entries

1 **Chelsea Standard**
Scott Hagen - Holding On
 Nice moment, good feel.

2 **Dexter Leader**
Scott Hagen - Back to School
 Good angle and composition.

3 **State Line Observer**
David Green - Searching
 Amusing image.

Feature Picture - 32 entries

1 **State Line Observer**
David Green - Morning Haze
 NC

2 **The Advance**
Amy Campbell - Pumpkin Time
 Judge did not comment.

3 **State Line Observer**
David Green - Little Piggy
 Good reaction pix.

Sports Picture - 23 entries

1 **Edwardsburg Argus**
Scott Novak - Going for the Pin
 Great face. Nice anchor.

2 **Chelsea Standard**
Craig Watson - SCC Showdown
 Great anchor.

3 **Clarkston News**
Nash Purcell - Jumpin Ahead
 Judge did not comment.

Weekly Class D, cont.

Picture Story - 31 entries

1 **Dexter Leader**
Maria Sprow - *Dancing the Day Away*
Nice complete package. Sweet pictures.

2 **Dexter Leader**
Scott Hagen - *Dexter Homecoming*
Good variety.

3 **Dexter Leader**
Rita Fischer - *Apple Dazed*
Judge did not comment.

Sports Writing - 13 entries

1 **Dexter Leader**
Don Richter - *State Champs*
Provided complete coverage of the event, it's significance and past history while invoking the emotion of the event.

2 **Leslie Local Independent**
Larry Hook - *Victory at Last*
Detailed the reason a one-point home win was important. With the final seconds played in print well.

3 **The Advance**
Doug Goodnough - *Queens of the Court*
Did a good job with a tough sport to cover. Worked well with player quote. Could hear her make a face as she said uuhhh.

HM **Chelsea Standard**
Don Richter - *Gut Check Time*
Gave all the facts in their proper place.

Sports Columnist - 7 entries

1 **The Advance**
Doug Goodnough -
Judge did not comment.

2 **State Line Observer**
Rich Foley -
Judge did not comment.

3 **Chelsea Standard**
Don Richter -
Judge did not comment.

HM **Marshall Chronicle**
Michonne Omo -
Judge did not comment.

Sports Feature - 22 entries

1 **State Line Observer**
David Green - *Habitual Ritual*
I've read stories like this before, but never one with this much research. The repetition athlete after athlete merely strengthened Mr. Green's point.

2 **Marshall Chronicle**
Michonne Omo - *Wheelchair Proves No Barrier*
Wheelchair athletes are no novelty any more, but this

in-depth look at a wheelchair bound person put a new poignancy and a different spin on the subject.

3 **Dexter Leader**
Don Richter - *Determined and Skilled*
A solid athlete feature that told us not only what this young woman had accomplished, but how and why.

HM **Homer Index**
Mike Warner - *Ex-A.D. went From Superb to Fired*

This deserved an honorable mention if only for Mr. Warners initiative in getting a FOIA to see why this AD got canned.

Sports Coverage - 13 entries

1 **Dexter Leader**
Broadest coverage of any entry in this circulation. Good layout and photography, but sports cover needs a more dominant piece of art.

2 **Chelsea Standard**
Mr. Richter proved to be his own toughest competitor. Obviously close to being first because of similar coverage and layout.

3 **Manchester Enterprise**
Low story count. Didn't like placement of story above the sports header. Solid photography. Good wrestling package.

HM **State Line Observer**
Not very extensive coverage. Good photography. Good writing.

Lifestyle Pages - 5 entries

1 **Dexter Leader**
Excellent use of photography. Subjects interesting and useful.

2 **Chelsea Standard**
Good photography and layout.

3 **Clarkston News**
A lot of good material in a light package.

HM **State Line Observer**
Good story selection.

Special Section - 11 entries

1 **The Advance**
Ambitious projects for a small publications but ones that would resonate with readers. Lot's of photos and newsy stories.

2 **Charlevoix Courier**
Hit all the bases: graduation and fall and spring sports teams. Keepers for parents and students.

3 **Presque Isle County Advance**
Entries cover areas of festivals, info on area, churches and tourists attractions.

HM **Chelsea Standard**
Inviting section on community fair. I liked all the photos of queen contestants.

Sustaining Member

General Excellence - 2 entries

1 **NorthernIslander**
Judge did not comment.

2 **Porcupine Press**
Judge did not comment.

News Story - 3 entries

1 **NorthernIslander**
Elaine West - Emerald Ash Borer
Judge did not comment

2 **Porcupine Press**
Richard Smith - Wolf Attacks Bear
Judge did not comment

Design - 2 entries

1 **Porcupine Press**
Colorful and energetic but lacks focus and organization.

2 **NorthernIslander**
Good organization but lacks visual appeal.

Feature Story - 4 entries

1 **Porcupine Press**
Connie M. Thompson - A Packer Wish Come True
An interesting story about a teen's good day in the midst of struggle.

2 **NorthernIslander**
Elaine West - Beaver Island's July 4th
The story conveyed the day and how the community dealt with mother nature.

3 **NorthernIslander**
Jim Gillingham - Snakes of Summer
Helpful information for residents.

Enterprise Reporting - 3 entries

1 **Porcupine Press**
Arthur Brisbane - State Beat
Excellent details presented in lively writing; writer's editorial comments seem out of place in "Enterprise Reporting."

2 **NorthernIslander**
Elaine West - 911 Memorial Service
Thorough treatment of an important event in the community. Some quotes from residents about what it meant to them would have been good.

3 **NorthernIslander**
S. West, E. West - Iraq Not on ABC/NBC/CBS
This article would be stronger with a couple of detailed vignettes that reinforced J.C.'s broad statements. Actually international media did cover some "good" things.

Editorial Pages - 2 entries

1 **NorthernIslander**
Judge did not comment

Sustaining Member

2 **Porcupine Press**
Judge did not comment

Editorial Writing - 3 entries

1 **Porcupine Press**
Excellent handle on national issues and how they impact locally. Strong writing style, well researched. Graphically a little weak-awfully gray, but interesting artwork.

2 **NorthernIslander**
Her love of this community shines through in her writing. Extremely familiar with issues of her area and is able to convey them effectively.

3 **NorthernIslander**
Like his partner on the Northern Islander, Steve West shows a thorough knowledge of his community and people. His "My Turn" column, however, is little more than a news story with a few editorial comments.

Local Columnist - 5 entries

1 **NorthernIslander**
Elaine West -
This lady is seriously funny.

2 **NorthernIslander**
Steve West -
Articulate, intelligent, biting humor. Makes his points.

3 **NorthernIslander**
Ted Nicholas -
Computer stuff you can read!

News Picture - 3 entries

1 **NorthernIslander**
Elaine West - St. Pats
Judge did not comment.

2 **NorthernIslander**
Steve West - Eco Tour

Feature Picture - 3 entries

1 **NorthernIslander**
Steve West - Little Stone House
Nicely composed.

2 **Porcupine Press**
Connie Thompson - Jousts
Nice picture, design kills picture.

3 **NorthernIslander**
Steve West - Harbinger of Spring
Nice feeling of departure.

Picture Story - 2 entries

1 **Porcupine Press**
Robin Lindenberg - *Water Taxi*
Nice array of images.

Sports Writing - 3 entries

1 **Porcupine Press**
Connie Thompson - *The Udder Race*
Udderly entertaining. Writer offers great mix of detail, fact and humor for an unusual sport. The basics of the racing are written well enough to not lose readers.

2 **NorthernIslander**
Frank Solle - *Season Overview*
Wrapped up a rivalry and two league championships in the work.

Sports Columnist - 1 entry

1 **Porcupine Press**
Richard Smith -
Good use of photos. Very informative pieces. Writer speaks with authority on topic. Seems like topic must be a good niche market. Author was smart to capitalize on this.

Sports Feature - 1 entry

1 **Porcupine Press**
Connie Thompson - *A Packer Wish Come True*
Lot's of good detail made this different from most stories of it's type.

Lifestyle Pages - 1 entry

1 **Porcupine Press**
I was speechless but also fascinated...in a weird sort of way.

Special Section - 2 entries

1 **NorthernIslander**
Very straightforward.