



2010 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

Members of Minnesota Newspaper Association reviewed 3,341 entries submitted by 126 Michigan newspapers when they judged the 2010 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

Judges' decisions and comments are listed on the following pages. Complete results are available online at www.michiganpress.org.

The 2010 "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.

Daily Newspapers of the Year			Weekly Newspapers of the Year		
Circ.	Total	Newspaper	Circ.	Total	Newspaper
Class	Points	Class	Points		
Class A	1,980	Detroit Free Press	Class A	1,710	News-Herald, Southgate
Class B	1,010	Lansing State Journal	Class B	800	Dearborn Press & Guide
Class C	1,130	Traverse City Record-Eagle	Class C	460	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	710	Petoskey News-Review	Class D	770	State Line Observer, Morenci

Circulation Class Breakdown: Daily Class A – 75,001 or more; Daily Class B – 30,001 – 75,000; Daily Class C – 12,001-30,000; Daily Class D – under 12,001; 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 are: The Pioneer (Big Rapids) for a series on domestic violence; Traverse City Record-Eagle for the Meijer series and Detroit Free Press for Detroit Public Schools series.

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The three finalists are: Laura Angus of the Flint Journal; Gus Burns of the Saginaw News and Travis Wright of the Metro Times (Detroit).

The winners of the 2010 MPA Public Service Award and the MPA Rookie Writer Award will be announced Saturday, January 29 during the Awards Presentation of the Michigan Press Association Annual Convention at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center.

New this year, The "Newspapers Fighting Cancer" contest and awards are sponsored by the Andrew E. Shapiro Cancer Foundation (AndrewEShapiroCancerFoundation.org). Newspapers submitted entries showcasing their efforts to help the battle against cancer by entering any cancer-related features, sections, specialty pages or Web efforts. Entries were judged by the Lansing affiliates of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. First place is awarded to Marquette Mining Journal for Candid Cancer, second place to Milford Times for a series of stories about Christopher Cooper, third place to Cadillac News for The Cadillac News Believes in a Cure. Awards will be given at the Annual Convention in January.

2010 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Editorial Contest Winners



General Excellence

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Clear winner in this division. Each section tightly edited and packed with information. First-rate investigative and enterprise reporting of local issues and news. Sunday edition is super-sized treat. Design is crisp and avoids clutter. Great paper.

2nd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

High-quality local enterprise reporting. Michigan 10.0 is great public service effort. Impressive Sunday edition.

3rd Place *Flint Journal*

Strong opinion pages with lots of local voices. Aggressive local reporting on Page 1A all days. Well-written local stories with telling details.

Daily Class B

1st Place *Lansing State Journal*

Strong page one content sets the tone for a first-rate local report. Writing is crisp and understands value of story-telling. Sports coverage and Opinion pages deserve praise.

2nd Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Very close to winning this category. Paper's design packs loads of information, but avoids clutter. Good use of photos. Paper is packed with local news. Outstanding effort.

3rd Place *The Oakland Press*

Loads of local news on the wider-format pages. The readers get a wide variety of content. Advertising jumps off pages.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

This paper serves a wide region, bringing local and national news to readers well. The beautifully crafted front page sets the tone for the entire product. This is a top-notch product--news, sports, ads and production/press.

2nd Place *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*

The staff produces a well-balanced, locally dominated paper. The editorial of Aug. 28 was especially well done. The People's Choice section brought community to the business discussion.

3rd Place *Times Herald (Port Huron)*

We missed seeing an Opinion page in the Monday edition (something that may signal decreased local input of community involvement.) Otherwise, the paper is solid. Especially nice in design.

Daily Class D

1st Place *Petoskey News-Review*

Quantity and quality, this newspaper averaged 32 pages per issue and was above average in every category. Quality writing with strong local coverage. Editorial pages had it all--editorials, locally written columns and reader input. Crisp page design, great use of photos and color-creative ad design.

2nd Place *The Morning Sun (Mt. Pleasant)*

Very strong layout and design. Good presswork, color photos work. Strong writing with ample local content. Below fold advertising over front page unique option. Creative ad content throughout. Op-ed page few letters, lots of syndication, did have local editorials. Close 2nd.

3rd Place *Ludington Daily News*

Above average local coverage, but only average writing, generally boring leads. Smallest paper among the leaders. Exceptional editorial page--local columns, editorials, lots of reader letters. Above average design and reproduction. Very average ad content and creativity. Nice special section and expanded Thursday section.

Hon. Men. *Hillsdale Daily News*

Above average writing, but only 5-6 bylined stories per 12-page paper. Crisp, clean design, but photos mostly point-and-shoot. Good reproduction. Average advertising content and creativity. Local editorials, but no local column, one letter-to-ed in 3 issues.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *The County Press (Lapeer)*

The spot news coverage made this paper jump out at readers. Excellent use of photographers. Nice, easy-to-read layout made this paper enjoyable to read. There is a nice, balanced use of color throughout the paper. Readers are fortunate to have a quality publication like this.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

The overall quality of this paper seemed to be overshadowed by advertising. The placement of a car ad in a news story clearly took this out of the running for first. The overall layout is catchy and fun to look at. Photography is superb.

3rd Place *Source Newspapers*

This publication does a great job of covering local news. Nice headline writing captures the attention of readers. The photography is above average. It's impressive to see all the interest generate through letters-to-the-editor.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Grosse Pointe News*

No Comments Given

2nd Place *Northern Express Weekly (TC)*

No Comments Given

3rd Place *Tri-County Times (Fenton)*

No Comments Given

Hon. Men. *The Citizen (Ortonville)*

No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

By far and away, the best entry! Great color, layout, advertising and strong writing. Great product, cover-to-cover.

General Excellence (cont.)

Weekly Class C

2nd Place Brooklyn Exponent

Very nice layout, interesting stories, good pictures and excellent color.

3rd Place Tecumseh Herald

Another strong entry. Color was consistent and it had strong articles. Great job!

Hon. Men. Oceana's Herald-Journal

Great job. Good mixture of feature stories and news stories. Great use of pictures.

Weekly Class D

1st Place Harbor Light Newspaper

Great use of photos, coverage of local news and good advertising. This is the total package! Keep up the great work!

2nd Place The Independent (Dundee)

Solid from cover-to-cover. Good job with local stories.

3rd Place The Clare Sentinel

Strong writing helped bring this entry forward.

Spot News Story

Daily Class A

1st Place Detroit Free Press

Staff *A Fighting Chance*
Great section, very informative.

2nd Place Detroit Free Press

Staff *Terror Foiled in Flight*
Great detail, excellent writing

3rd Place Flint Journal

Staff *Owosso Shooting*
Very detailed and informative.

Hon. Men. Grand Rapids Press

Cami Reister, Shandra Martinez *Lakeshore in Ruins*
No Comments Given

Daily Class B

1st Place Kalamazoo Gazette

Rex Hall, Jr., Gabrielle Russon *4 Children Dead in Fire*
Great writing

2nd Place The Bay City Times

Jeff Kart *Wolverine Found Dead*
Great description.

3rd Place The Oakland Press

Shaun Byron & Ann Zaniewski *Holly in Shock Over Sex Offender's Slaying*
Well-written.

Daily Class C

1st Place Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Lisa Roose-Church, Christopher Behnan *Man to Officers: 'Just Shoot Me'*
Straightforward reporting in which the facts show readers the drama of this tragedy. Excellent.

2nd Place The Mining Journal (Marquette)

John Pepin *Homicide: Pawnshop Owner Killed in Overnight Incident*
Nice initial report under extremely tight deadline. Well done.

3rd Place Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Leah Boyd *Swine Flu Concerns Hit Home*
The reporter did a fine job getting what facts she could and localizing a topic of national interest.

Daily Class D

1st Place Ludington Daily News

Kevin Braciszkeski *Lake Rescue*
Very good writing, readers had the story the day it happened--and talk about site access. The reporter covered the capsizing story from a boat on Lake Michigan. How much more enterprising could Braciszkeski have been! Great photos of the actual rescue.

2nd Place The Argus-Press (Owosso)

Nathan Brutell, Michael Peterson *Two Men Shot, Killed*
A very close second. This pair of reporters teamed up to reach numerous source for information on this

3rd Place Petoskey News-Review

Steve Zucker, Christina Rohn *Conway Landmark Destroyed*

Up, close and personal with a fire--great photos. Reporters were on the scene early and stayed late talking to just about everyone involved with the fire--business and home owners, fire fighters, fire chiefs, neighbors and more.

Hon. Men. Huron Daily Tribune

Team *Death of Student*
Reporters were on the scene talking to school personnel and EMTs. Team covered all the bases in describing the circumstances surrounding the teens death, reactions and feelings of people about the young man.

Weekly Class A

1st Place The News Herald (Southgate)

Angie Favot *Melvindale Football Racial Flier*
The way Angie kept tabs on this story and always found new information was very impressive. All sides of the issue were investigated.

2nd Place The News Herald (Southgate)

Rene Cizio, Jackie Martin, Jason Alley *Officer Wounded*
The collaboration on this story was impressive. Nice job at walking the reader through the events that took place.

Spot News Story (cont.)

Weekly Class A

3rd Place **The News Herald (Southgate)**

Jim Kasuba *Charged with Soliciting*

Sex, Officer Kills Himself

The detail into the investigation and the PO Samson was impressive.

Hon. Men. **The News Herald (Southgate)**

Jackie Harrison-Martin *Priest Accepts*

Disorderly Charge

Well-written and to the point. Obviously the issue here was important. Facts were triangulated nicely.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Canton Observer**

Darrell Clem *Questions Still Unanswered*

Well-written--good facts.

2nd Place **Bedford Now**

Danielle Portteus *Bus Driver Makes Stop*

for Accident Victim

No Comments Given

3rd Place **Canton Observer**

Darrell Clem & Brad Kadrach *I'll Never Forget*

No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place **Oceana's Herald-Journal**

John Cavanagh *Book Back in Class*

No Comments Given

2nd Place **South Lyon Herald**

Nathan Mueller *Primal Scream*

No Comments Given

3rd Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Michael Jones *Police Probe Drowning*

No Comments Given

Hon. Men. **Birmingham Eccentric**

Jay Grossman *Groves Band Director*

Blasts Board Decision Over Assault Case

Good details on story, but the spot story was actually the top story "The presses roll on--for now."

Weekly Class D

1st Place **Cass City Chronicle**

Tom Montgomery *Busted*

Great story. Good information

2nd Place **The Advance (Blissfield)**

Tran Longmoore & Deane Erts *Fire Erupts*

Great details. Good information.

3rd Place **The Oxford Leader**

C.J. Carnacchio *Pipe bursts*

Easy to read and good information.

Hon. Men. **The Commercial Record (Saugatuck)**

Scott Sullivan *Fired Cop Payout tops \$30K*

Very interesting story. Great information.

News Enterprise Reporting

Daily Class A

1st Place **Detroit Free Press**

Staff *Rising from the Wreckage*

What a huge undertaking! The reporting team did an outstanding job explaining the collapse and the events leading up to the bailout. Personalizing the stories really drew me in and helped me put a face on the people affected. I liked how their stories were intertwined with each day's coverage and the timeline of events. I found myself really pulling for them and wondering where their lives are today. I also enjoyed the stories of people moving ahead in careers outside of the auto industry. Those stories must have offered hope and inspiration to community members.

2nd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Jennifer Dixon, Tina Lam *Detroit's Public Pension Plans*

Individual stories of pension fund mismanagement were shocking. The total scope was simply unbelievable. I am curious to know more about how and why the fund broke away from city control in the 1980s. What was behind the board's desire to be autonomous and how did they think they could avoid corruption and fund mismanagement? I thought the sidebar about Denver's policies gave a great context about how a board should work and easily explained a lot of what was lacking with Detroit's system. The series was a great example of the need for newspapers and their role as watchdog. They did whatever was necessary to do to keep the investigation moving forward, and it was obviously worth it.

3rd Place **Flint Journal**

Ron Fonger/Staff *Beecher Water*

In a time of financial hardship across the state, it's hard to believe board members could justify extravagant travel and over-spending. Board members appeared to think these types of perks and travel were owed to them. It makes me curious to know what their annual salaries were and how many hours per week they were expected to spend on water and sewer board-related business. I would have never expected an investigation into a city water and sewer board to expose such extravagance. Great work!

Hon. Men. **Grand Rapids Press**

Knape, Bauer, King, Harger, Luke, Haglund & Alexander
Michigan 10.0

You did a good job helping readers understand what kind of change is necessary in order for recovery to continue. You outlined the industries where growth could likely be expected and did a great job emphasizing the need for education. My favorite quote from the series was, "Businesses locate where smart people are." The days when a graduate could walk into the local manufacturing plant after high school and expect to earn a decent wage and enjoy job security and great benefits until retirement are likely over.

News Enterprise Reporting (cont.)

Daily Class B

1st Place *Lansing State Journal*

Mathew Miller *Displaced Confidence*

This story was a great take on an important topic that went beyond government spin. It was well-written, well-researched and had great balance between stats and personal stories.

2nd Place *Lansing State Journal*

Louise Knott-Ahern *Unmasking the Violence*

Nice job comparing how domestic violence was handled 25 years ago with today. Great interviews and brilliant writing with catchy leads and interesting phrasing. This story gave the reader a clear understanding of the importance and impact of the Hugh's case. Current stats provided nice context/relevance.

3rd Place *The Saginaw News*

Gus Burns & Justin Engel *Reseeding Saginaw*

This series contained interesting aspects of the revitalization issue as opposed to simply following up on events. The stories were well-written with good personal interviews.

Hon. Men. *The Muskegon Chronicle*

Lynn Moore *What Went Wrong & A Life Cut Short*

Good investigation and legal explanations and great interviews. Tighten up writing and improve flow. While stories provided great information, they also left some questions such as: what happened when Darga went to the prosecutor's office? Why are sentencing guidelines so lenient? How did Bernard break her ankle? Had she always had a drinking problem or did it develop after she couldn't find work? The meeting between Brown and Bernard could have been more climactic following the long build-up. Provide more context to the story by adding information on state/local domestic violence stats.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Brian McGillivray *Meijer Saga*

Excellent entry in a category that had many top-notch reports. The fact that the newspaper did not back off the story in light of a \$250,000 ad contract is testament to the commitment to inform readers of a vitally important story.

2nd Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Brian McGillivray, Art Bukowski *Soffredine*

Great job of investigative reporting and use of FOIA. Readers are well-served by the TC Record-Eagle's efforts to get the full story.

3rd Place *Times Herald (Port Huron)*

Angela Mullins, Liz Shepard *Citizens First Bank Crisis*

Community banks have been focus of much attention during recent recession. And reporting on private businesses is always a challenge. Nice job of following a story that's obviously being closely watched by a community.

Daily Class D

1st Place *The Pioneer (Big Rapids)*

Lindsey Wahowiak, Nico Rubello *Good Boy Turned Bad*
Absolutely riveting story. Extremely well-written with quotes and info from many sources. Well-researched and thoroughly documented for a story covering about a quarter century.

2nd Place *Ludington Daily News*

Kevin Braciszewski, Patti Klevorn *Lake Michigan Wind Farm*

Thorough report on proposed controversial wind farm set off-shore in Lake Michigan. Excellent graphics to support stories in 8-part series. Well-written spelling out process, technicalities and opinions.

3rd Place *The Pioneer (Big Rapids)*

Staff *Domestic Violence*

Extensive review of an emotional and complex issue. Outstanding--even if staged--photos and graphics to supplement text. Solid coverage of the many sides of domestic violence. Well-written and organized.

Hon. Men. *News Advocate (Manistee)*

Jodie Fletcher *Poverty*

Tall task for a single reporter in a week, but handled very well. Numerous touching, personal stories demonstrating the many faces of poverty--and causes. Well-organized and written.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *Source Newspapers*

Deanna Rose *SHAP Closing*

I was very impressed with the continued coverage of the potential plant closer...very informative, well done.

2nd Place *Metro Times (Detroit)*

Curt Guyette *Too Poor to Parent*

This story was very touching. I felt like I was there. A real story about poverty, it was fantastic.

3rd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Jackie Harrison-Martin *Mother Charged with Killing Her Children*

Very good reporting, the writing was superb.

Hon. Men. *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Jim Kasuba *Man Found Guilty in Double Murder*

Very detailed reporting, a lot of information. After reading the story I had no questions, very well done Jim!

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Northern Express Weekly (TC)*

Anne Stanton *Doubt*

Well done, draws the reader in.

2nd Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Sean Delaney *Animal Hoarding*

No Comments Given

3rd Place *Tri-County Citizen (Chesaning)*

Hillary Grigonis *New Lothrop Race to the Top Series*

No Comments Given

News Enterprise Reporting (cont.)

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

Alan Campbell *Northport Sewer*
Thorough, excellent writing, great reporting--the timeline of key developments was a plus. This category was ripe with reactive enterprise; this stood out as a proactive look back at the cause of a community division.

2nd Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

Eric Carlson *Sheriff Woes*
This paper should be proud of its writing staff. The reporting here was commendable, the topic disturbing and the writing made it hard to put down. The writer brought clarity to a murky situation without resorting to journalistic legalese. Good job!

3rd Place *Birmingham Eccentric*

Jay Grossman *Parks Enhance Life*
A great idea to show taxpayers what they're paying for. Treated capably by the writer. Written with authority and good detail. I would have liked some incorporation of the community's economy to put such a grandiose green plan into perspective.

Hon. Men. *Saline Reporter*

Krystle Dunham *Back to School*
Really engaging writing styles here. Brought an otherwise routine topic to life. Shorter pieces covering more ground would have elevated the story idea.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The Advance (Blissfield)*

Deane Erts *Life After Layoff*
Great! Good topic and easy to read

2nd Place *The Commercial Record (Saugatuck)*

Scott Sullivan *"Wild Heart" For Sale*
Well-written, every twist and turn in the land issue was expanded upon in great detail.

3rd Place *The Independent (Dundee)*

T.L. Whitacker *Non-Resident on Village Council*
Well-written. Great information.

Design

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Three fine dailies that serve Michigan well, but the Detroit Free Press is the winner here. Outstanding presentation with this multi-part series. Graphics are exceptional from page to page. The front pages of these three samples are so strong in content and presentation, they "demand" readership.

2nd Place *Flint Journal*

Judges were divided between Flint and Grand Rapids, but gave Flint the edge because of its clean--yet lively packaging of content. Photos were well-placed and sized. We liked the headline type.

3rd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Loved turning the front page of the paper into a "work of art" in honor of the citywide art contest. This was a clever way to display the newspaper's support of the community project.

Daily Class B

1st Place *Lansing State Journal*

Strong headline construction, combined with great graphics and photo placements gave Lansing the edge. We feel it had the strongest "curb appeal" of a very competitive group of entries. We all have mixed emotions about front page advertising, but the consistent presentation and unusual sizing of Lansing's front page advertiser--packaged with teasers and index items--is a good model for it.

2nd Place *The Bay City Times*

Bay City was a surprise, in a sense. Judges returned to it again and again, and concluded that its clean look, good headlines and good font choices was a winner. Color use and graphic presentation was subtle, yet effective. Photo presentation seemed more "traditional" than other papers, and we liked that.

3rd Place *Muskegon Chronicle*

Judges wrestled with third place, but gave the nod to Muskegon because of its innovative approach. Its fonts have a refreshing blend of graphics and a mix of big, bold headlines...and lighter fonts for different contexts. There was some mixed opinion on Muskegon, but judges back to it because of its originality.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Many strong entries in this category. This newspaper's "curb appeal" gives it the edge.

2nd Place *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Good use of graphics and spot color throughout newspaper.

3rd Place *Times Herald (Port Huron)*

Crisp, clean layout. Good organization. I liked the community kiosk.

Daily Class D

1st Place *Ludington Daily News*

Great use of white space to create a very clean paper. Excellent use of kickers. Uniquely-shaped flag pulls the reader in. Super job!

2nd Place *Petoskey News-Review*

Close call between 1st and 2nd. Nice, clean, easy-to-look-at page layouts. Good use of color--not over-done

3rd Place *Sturgis Journal*

Unique "Post-It note" ad on the front page. White space used effectively. Very easy on the eyes.

Hon. Men. *The Morning Sun (Mt. Pleasant)*

Loved the November 28th issue. Starting the side bar lower on the page made for a "cleaner" overall effect. Great work.

Design (cont.)

Weekly Class A

1st Place Metro Times (Detroit)

Well done, consistent. All the pieces work consistently to reach the paper's audience. Covers are typically very well done and catch the potential reader's eye.

2nd Place Lapeer Area View

Nicely layed out and organized, with excellent use of color. Good ad positioning. Covers are pleasing, but prominent advertising detracts somewhat.

3rd Place Source Newspapers

Front pages are attractive, and masthead is eye-catching. Extra points for seasonal front page masthead. Overall paper is layed out pleasingly, but visual elements seem under-utilized.

Hon. Men. The County Press (Lapeer)

Good curb appeal, well organized, and good use of color. Inconsistent type and appearance detract from what would otherwise be a stronger design.

Weekly Class B

1st Place Grosse Pointe News

No Comments Given

2nd Place Northern Express Weekly (TC)

No Comments Given

3rd Place Tri-County Times (Fenton)

No Comments Given

Hon. Men. South Oakland Eccentric (Southfield)

No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place The Dexter Leader

Solid fonts and outstanding second front pages inside. The use of the eye-catching graphics helped them stand out. All photo packages were treated equal!

2nd Place Novi News

Lots of white space and very readable layouts. Easy to read graphics and advertising.

3rd Place Ypsilanti Courier

No Comments Given

Hon. Men. Gaylord Herald Times

Good layouts and graphics. Could have been first, but the mast head threw us off.

Weekly Class D

1st Place The Commercial Record (Saugatuck)

Beautiful design from front to back. Nice use of photos and great "curb appeal."

2nd Place The Independent (Dundee)

Good writing, great photos, helps make this design work. Easy to follow.

3rd Place Clarkston News

Consistent week to week.

Feature Story

Daily Class A

1st Place Detroit Free Press

Mitch Albom *How Can Anyone Just Walk Away From This?*

Nice work making an international story local. Loved the descriptive language and use of first-person stories.

2nd Place Detroit Free Press

Jeff Seidel *Dad Gave His Life, Now Family is Finding Peace*

Very emotional story told in a very eloquent way. Enjoyed this piece.

3rd Place Detroit Free Press

Sylvia Rector *Café Nourishes Community*

Great, heartwarming story. Told very well.

Daily Class B

1st Place Muskegon Chronicle

John S. Hausman *The Long Road Back*
Great story with intrigue and first-person perspective is good here.

2nd Place Kalamazoo Gazette

Linda S. Mah *Journey to Womanhood*
Mah's writing style in this piece works well blending facts and compassionate writing.

3rd Place Lansing State Journal

Louise Knott-Ahern *Life Goes On*
No Comments Given

Daily Class C

1st Place Jackson Citizen Patriot

Danielle Quisenberry *Less is More*
This runner-up for the title of school Winterfest queen deserved more than a standard story. The reporter and newspaper delivered.

2nd Place Midland Daily News

Ralph E. Wirtz *Gallant in Battle*
I've read many war vet stories, this one kept my attention. Crisp and clean writing.

3rd Place Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Lisa Roose-Church *Deadly Heights*
Parents talked frankly about daughter's drug addiction and death, and reporter did a nice job in telling the story.

Hon. Men. Jackson Citizen Patriot

Holly Kluft *It's Her Big Day*
Feature offers insight into Latin American rite of passage that's likely unknown to most reader's. Great idea for other newspaper to pursue.

Feature Story (cont.)

Daily Class D

1st Place *The Pioneer (Big Rapids)*

Brad Klosner *Farmer Stout: Tilling the Soil of Tradition*
Great job of pulling your audience in to read the entire story.
Photos really bring the story to life.

2nd Place *The Alpena News*

Steve Schulwitz *Hunt of a Lifetime*
Not your average hunting story. You showed the reader the true value of this special gift that was given.

3rd Place *Petoskey News-Review*

Christina Rohn *Reason to Rejoice*
You touched the readers' emotions and kept them reading!

Hon. Men. *Sturgis Journal*

Terry Katz *Mutual Loyalty*
You really stepped "outside of the box" to find this story.
Thanks for the insight into another world.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *Source Newspapers*

Deanna Rose/Eric Perry *Knapp Gets New Home*
Any story like this always starts with a lot of sympathy involved, but the writers used the facts in an interesting compilation to get the humanity across.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Jason Alley *Just Say Yes*
An excellent style to recount a story that could have been maudlin without the writer's skill in weaving in the facts.

3rd Place *Metro Times (Detroit)*

Sandra Svoboda *To Bobb or Not to Bobb*
I really admired the creativity behind the writing anyone who is a Shakespeare fan would really enjoy this.

Hon. Men. *Metro Times (Detroit)*

Detroit blogger John *Home Free*
Human interest article like this always touch emotional sentiments. The writing style was appropriate for this subject.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Northern Express Weekly (TC)*

Erin Crowell *Undertaker*
Interesting subject. Never thought of undertakers as being women. Well-written.

2nd Place *The Citizen (Ortonville)*

David Fleet *Hey Duke, How About a Picture*
Nice to see coverage of Korean War Veteran. They always seem to be overlooked.

3rd Place *Redford Observer*

Pat Murphy *World of Memories*
It's not often you get to read about "old timers" in baseball.

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Northville Record*

Cal Stone & William Craft *France Honors*
Captivating story. Well-told from beginning to end. Great quotes.

2nd Place *The Allegan County News*

Ryan Lewis *Sky High with Ms. Wheelchair Michigan*
Great lead. Fun story. Well-written.

3rd Place *The Chelsea Standard*

Terry Jacoby *Stand Up*
Fun in-depth story. Well-written. Great quotes.

Hon. Men. *Tri-City Times (Imlay City)*

Catherine Minolli *Globe Trek*
Great story.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The Commercial Record (Saugatuck)*

Scott Sullivan *Hound for Holidays*
Very well-written feature. Touching story!

2nd Place *Cass City Chronicle*

Clarke Haire *He was a Friend, a Father*
Touching story of writer's father. Good overview of his life-- what an amazing man!

3rd Place *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio *Have Pizza, Will Travel*
What a great story! The couple (and business owner) will have a story to tell their grandchildren!

Editorial Writing

Daily Class A

1st Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Ed Golder
Strong, watchdog-style editorial, offering a clear analysis and sound reasoning that provides the power to influence opinion.

2nd Place *Flint Journal*

Clark Hughs
Editorials of great significance to the community. Not only is a problem posed and challenges identified, but solutions offered and call-to-action made.

3rd Place *Detroit Free Press*

Barb Arrigo
Extensive analysis of the subject(s) backed by litany of possible solutions.

Hon. Men. *Grand Rapids Press*

Julie Hoogland
Topics of significant community interest. Writing is crisp; arguments are clear.

Editorial Writing (cont.)

Daily Class B

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Jim Borden

Well-written and well-reasoned arguments that take bold stances on issues of significance to the community.

2nd Place *Muskegon Chronicle*

Paula Holmes-Greeley

Soundly argued pro-community editorials.

3rd Place *The Bay City Times*

Clark Hughs

Editorials lay out the argument well, then offer strong call-to-action.

Hon. Men. *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Rebecca Pierce

Well-written, captivating reads.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Brian Wheeler

Great job of reaching the average reader!

2nd Place *The Mining Journal (Marquette)*

Dan Weingarten

Got the point to the readers in the right amount of length.

3rd Place *TC Record-Eagle*

David Miller

Tackled a tough issue tracking law enforcement.

Hon. Men. *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*

Rich Perlberg

Like the layout and content.

Daily Class D

1st Place *Ludington Daily News*

Steve Begnoche

Smart writing, good leads, nice mix of local, state, and "big picture" opinions.

2nd Place *News Advocate (Manistee)*

David L. Barber

Tough and straightforward, holding local leaders accountable.

3rd Place *Huron Daily Tribune*

Kelly Jerome

Strong, well-supported opinion on local issues.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Karl Ziomek & Staff

This is textbook as to what editorial writing should be. The Risky Business editorial is extremely well-written and obviously had a profound effect on the community. It's great to see newspapers go beyond the obvious headlines and expose touchy issues.

2nd Place *The County Press (Lapeer)*

Jeff Hogan

This was a close second. The writer is obviously not afraid to take on an important issues in the community. Readers are given well-supported opinions on these issues. Good research helps make these editorials easy to understand.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *South Oakland Eccentric (Southfield)*

Staff

Editorials should bring results--these did.

2nd Place *Canton Observer*

Brad Kadrich

No Comments Given

3rd Place *Plymouth Observer*

Brad Kadrich

No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place *South Lyon Herald*

Kurt Kuban

These editorials handle with diplomacy and clarity a nasty mayoral race. The writer doesn't flinch from entering the dialogue of personal politics and in doing so underscores the rapid nature of negative campaigns.

2nd Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

Alan Campbell

The writer knows the issue about which he writes. This authority, executed with a stylistic bite, carried the reader through some controversial local issues.

3rd Place *The Allegan County News*

Ryan Lewis

The first-person editorials stood out among a majority of entries that contained the same removed tone. Refreshing, with original subject matter.

Hon. Men. *Tri-City Times (Imlay City)*

Catherine Minolli

Brief editorials that took a definite stand on unique topics with a common-sensical writing style.

Editorial Writing (cont.)

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The Clare Sentinel*

Alan Blanchard

Not afraid to tackle tough topics. Great job!

2nd Place *Cass City Chronicle*

Tom Montgomery

Very well-written, invokes thoughts.

3rd Place *Clarkston News*

Staff

Good, strong editorials

Hon. Men. *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio

Another great entry. Keep up the great work!

Editorial Pages

Daily Class A

Entries were lost by judges.

Daily Class B

Entries were lost by judges.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

This was the most diverse entry--many letters/voices. The "Forum" is a good avenue for participation...made easy to accept because of strong editorials to get readers interested in the debate.

2nd Place *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Editorials make reader think.

3rd Place *The Daily Telegram (Adrian)*

Good solid page.

Daily Class D

1st Place *The Morning Sun (Mt.Pleasant)*

Bursting with good content--mix of local, national, reader contributions.

2nd Place *Hillsdale Daily News*

Nice design, good mix, but a bit light on content.

3rd Place *Petoskey News-Review*

Readable and engaging, well designed but light in content.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

This entry wins hands-down. The photographs used with the editorials make the pages stand out. The editorials are well-written and there is a good balance and variety of items on the pages. Readers are getting their money's worth with this paper.

2nd Place *The County Press (Lapeer)*

Strong editorials make this a solid entry. We especially like the organ/heroes editorial. It's obvious with the number of letters that this editorial page regularly stimulates reader interest in important topics. Layout is easy to read.

3rd Place *The Ile Camera (Grosse Ile)*

It's impressive to see the number of letters to the editor, but we would like to see some locally produced editorials or columns. The reader photos are a clever way to involve readers.

Weekly Class B

Entries were lost by judges.

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Birmingham Eccentric*

A note from the editor explained the emphasis placed on the opinion page, but it wasn't necessary. From local editorials and columns to letters and an appealing editorial photo, it's clear that creating a good, local opinion page is a priority here.

2nd Place *Milford Times*

Clearly from the same family as the winner with some nice touches of its own. "Town Talk" feature is nice and thank yous are a good source to the community.

3rd Place *Oceana's Herald-Journal*

Plenty of opportunities for readers to engage. A lot going on.

Hon. Men. *Brooklyn Exponent*

Good local content.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The Oxford Leader*

The editorials were very well-written and sparked talk around town, I'm sure. Not afraid to have opposing viewpoints on same page.

2nd Place *Clarkston News*

Especially liked the editorial "Defining Opinion."

3rd Place *The Advance (Blissfield)*

Great job covering businesses that suffered in large fire. It's good to get those thoughts out there to the community.

Local Columnist

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Rochelle Riley

The epitome of a local columnist: covering a community's soul and pulse with insight, emotion and heart; yet never feeling schmaltzy or contrived.

2nd Place *Detroit Free Press*

Michael Rosenberg

Fine wit weaved through oblique ideas we all can relate to--while laughing. But there might be too much of the writer--and not enough of the people in the community--in his columns.

3rd Place *Flint Journal*

Andy Heller

Quirky and fun, but how does he treat a serious subject?

Local Columnist (cont.)

Daily Class A

Hon. Men. ***Grand Rapids Press***

Charles Honey

The columnist writes the kind of columns that play at readers' emotional soft spots. But it kind of feels like the presentation is a bit contrived.

Daily Class B

1st Place ***Lansing State Journal***

Derek Melot

Good to see focus on news columns. Melot's focus on writing about news topics sets him apart in a talented field.

2nd Place ***The Saginaw News***

Justin Engel

Again nice focus on news topics with a personal column thrown in for flavor. Nice work.

3rd Place ***Lansing State Journal***

John Schneider

Nice writing style. Pleasing to the reader. Nice tribute to "mom."

Hon. Men. ***Kalamazoo Gazette***

Julie Mack

Would have liked to have seen another news column, but great style nonetheless. Touching piece on such a personal issue: "Body Talk: Time to Listen."

Daily Class C

1st Place ***The Mining Journal (Marquette)***

Deb Pascoe

Ms. Pascoe writes on current, meaningful topics in a humanistic style. The column speaks to people where they live.

2nd Place ***Battle Creek Enquirer***

Ryan Holland

Mr. Holland has an interesting way of pulling past and present together, strengthening the community.

3rd Place ***The Mining Journal (Marquette)***

Renee Prusi

A versatile writing style. Quite readable and entertaining. (Good output)...on issues we don't read in many papers today.

Hon. Men. ***The Daily Telegram (Adrian)***

David Panian

Nice column on open meetings--something several columnists touched on.

Daily Class D

1st Place ***The Argus-Press (Owosso)***

Daniel R. Basso

Basso is bold. He's not afraid to step up and take on issues that could, and possibly do, blow up in his face. He has a sense of humor, too.

2nd Place ***The Daily News (Iron Mountain)***

Jim Anderson

He had me at "the brain surgeons on 'Jersey Shore'." Clever, wide-ranging and entertaining perspectives.

3rd Place ***News Advocate (Manistee)***

Jodie Fletcher

She must be a good writer if she can make me give a (expletive deleted) about Chihuahuas. Nice job. Diverse subject material and well-considered.

Weekly Class A

1st Place ***Lapeer Area View***

Mike Arnholt

I am partial to a more folk-sy style and a variety of topics, which this columnist does well. Good, informal conversation.

2nd Place ***The News Herald (Southgate)***

Karl Ziomek

A variety of topics always lends itself to general interest readers. An informal style that lends itself to this type of subject matter.

3rd Place ***Lapeer Area View***

Emily Caswell

A casual style that is interesting for all average readers. Interesting topics to discuss.

Hon. Men. ***The Ile Camera (Grosse Ile)***

Courtney Flynn

In informal style always interests me, and the various topics lend themselves to this type of column quite easily!

Weekly Class B

1st Place ***Grosse Pointe News***

Karen Fontanieve

Very clever, uses tongue-and-cheek humor.

2nd Place ***Dearborn Press & Guide***

Morris Goodman

The Good Word

Well-written, informative.

3rd Place ***Northern Express Weekly (TC)***

Robert Downes

Random Thoughts

No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place ***The Chelsea Standard***

Terry Jacoby

Some good profiles of figures around the community. Engaging and well-written.

2nd Place ***Birmingham Eccentric***

Greg Kowalski

Engaging and entertaining. I liked the idea of Chinese workers basing their view of Americans on the products they were producing.

3rd Place ***Tecumseh Herald***

Cristina Trapani-Scott

Straight forward, but well-organized and well-written.

Local Columnist (cont.)

Weekly Class C

Hon. Men. *Gaylord Herald Times*

Frank Michels

Some good ideas and an interesting way of presenting information on CEO's salaries.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

Colleen Leddy *Midnight Musings*

Great writing. Fun stories. Easy to read.

2nd Place *Cass City Chronicle*

Tom Montgomery

Very fluid--fun to read.

3rd Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *By the Way*

Great writing--Good stories!

News Photo

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Brian Kaufman *Bagging a Bruin*

This photo is priceless!! Such a simple portrait describes so much. I feel like these folks could live up the road. Awesome.

2nd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Emily Zoladz *Remembering Jackie*

Far from average when it comes to a mourning shot. Nice capture of emotion while keeping the memories in play.

3rd Place *Flint Journal*

Oscar Durand *Fighting the Ride Tide*

Faces in the dark is a hard shot to get, but you did it beautifully. Soft and muted. The photo speaks volumes about the content.

Hon. Men. *Grand Rapids Press*

Dave Odette *Fire and Lighting*

Beautiful depiction of two forms of disaster-awesome colors and balance.

Daily Class B

1st Place *The Muskegon Chronicle*

Cory Morse *Karim's Journey*

Most people would have posed this son and his mom to smile at the camera, but not Cory. We see the frustration and feel the pain. Awesome job.

2nd Place *The Oakland Press*

Vaughn Gurganian *Wixom Teen Laid to Rest*

This photo is awesome, but you could have ditched the photo above it (too conflicting) and just ran it huge. Tell your paginator to have no fear!

3rd Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Mark Bugnaski *4 Children Dead in Fire*

No blazes or smoke, yet it says it all. A firefighter with his hands folded. Wow.

Hon. Men. *The Muskegon Chronicle*

Kendra Stanley-Mills *Historic Building*

Destroyed

An angle creative enough to call an honorable mention. Nicely done.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Battle Creek Enquirer*

John Grap *Fire Loss*

You were at the scene, and you captured the story of the fire better than all the flame shots in this category.

2nd Place *Midland Daily News*

John Tully *Home Again*

A unique perspective on an oft-photographed event. We're used to seeing emotions in faces, but the emotion in the girl's arms is stunning.

3rd Place *Midland Daily News*

Nathan Morgan *Fire Destroys Apartments*

Illustrates the aftermath of the fire in ways that wreckage shots can never do. Nice composition.

Daily Class D

1st Place *The Pioneer (Big Rapids)*

Brad Klosner *Putting Out the Blaze*

The angle, the lighting, the detail and the emotion--It's all there!

2nd Place *The Morning Sun (Mt.Pleasant)*

Ryan Evan *Silent Stare*

So touching. Great lighting...and you can feel this moment happening.

3rd Place *Sturgis Journal*

Rosalie Currier *A Shot at Prevention*

You can see the needle indentation...and you can feel the pain! Nice job.

Hon. Men. *Ludington Daily News*

Jeff Kiessel *Homeless*

You got the whole story from staring at this photo--it sums it up!

Weekly Class A

1st Place *Lapeer County Press*

Phil Foley *Tragedy in Mayfield*

Patience pays off. Composition gets the most out of a tragic situation.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Larry Caruso *Couple Returned to Burned House*

A beautiful moment that any reader can say, "That could be me!" Tough situation; good shot.

News Photo (cont.)

Weekly Class A

3rd Place *Lapeer Area View*

Jeff Hogan *Ready to Raze*
The bucket says it all. Good save in a non-photo bind.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *100+ Dogs Rescued*
The clever favorite from this category. Tells the story with emotion and solid technique.

2nd Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *Tragic Shooting*
Credit for being there and getting a good shot, if not the great shot.

3rd Place *Grosse Pointe News*

Brad Lindberg *On Ice*
An eye-catching photo that tells the story in a unique way.

Weekly Class C

1st Place *The Manchester Enterprise*

Daniel K. Lai *Fire Department Open House*
Very nice picture! I love the looks on their faces. Well done!

2nd Place *Brooklyn Exponent*

Jeff Steers *Driver was Texting*
A phenomenal shot of the crash.

3rd Place *Tuscola County Advertiser (Caro)*

Amy Joles *Truck and SUV Collide*
This picture shows how hard rescue workers work to save lives. Nice picture!

Hon. Men. *Tecumseh Herald*

Mickey Alvarado *Racism Ahead*
It shows the pride Native Americans have and how things need to change.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *Clarkston News*

Phil Custodio *Bike Rider Still Hospitalized*
The best of the true "news" photos submitted for this category. This captures the horror of the news story: a boy on his bike hit by a tanker!

2nd Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *Clearing the Way*
An interesting shot that creates punch for the story and illuminates the "how" of the news.

3rd Place *Harbor Light Newspaper*

Mark Flemming *On the Scene*
Nice interplay of light and shadow. Good, clear expression on the face of this on-the-job firefighter.

Hon. Men. *The Commercial Record (Saugatuck)*

Scott Sullivan *Let the Chips Fall*
I can't say this enterprise photo necessarily belonged in the "news" category; that's the only reason this shot--this very cool shot--didn't rank higher.

Feature Picture

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Andre J. Jackson *Parade Rest*
This photo touches the heart of every judge. Wow. Absolutely beautiful.

2nd Place *Flint Journal*

Ryan Garza *Long Goodbye*
Not only do you have the old gnarly hands, but the textures and lighting and the emotion all added up...to WINNER

3rd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Emily Zoladz *Coffee Break*
Most would have captured Santa with kids on his lap, but not Emily. This sums up the story. Nice work, girl!

Hon. Men. *Flint Journal*

Hollyn Johnson *Wheels of Fortune*
Not your ordinary gymnastics shot. Amazing focus.

Daily Class B

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Johnathon Gruenke *Reflection at Sunset*
Lots of great competition in this category, but this one took our breath away. We love the people in the silhouettes, too.

2nd Place *The Oakland Press*

Vaughn Gurganian *Block Party*
A fresh new angle on an ordinary block party. Love it!

3rd Place *The Bay City Times*

Michael Randolph *Ash Wednesday*
The expression says it all. Plug the great lighting and great cropping makes this a winner!

Hon. Men. *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Erik Holladay *Totally Rad*
The angle and the lighting made this ordinary event quite amazing.

Daily Class C

1st Place *The Daily Telegram (Adrian)*

Lad Strayer *The Haunting*
Great color and fantastic use of light! Really draws you in. Love it! Love it!

2nd Place *Midland Daily News*

John Tully *Carriage Festival*
Beautiful! The soft but rich color and wonderful negative space is absolutely stunning. Can't stop looking at it!

Feature Picture (cont.)

Daily Class C

3rd Place *The Mining Journal (Marquette)*

Andy Nelson-Zaleski *Ski Jump Prep*
Great vantage point. Makes you feel like you're on that ski jump. Wonderful!

Hon. Men. *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*

Alan Ward *MelonVision*
This photo really made me smile. Very in-your-face! Great color. Nice job.

Daily Class D

1st Place *Ludington Daily News*

Steve Begnoche *The Bubblemaster*
Nice use of environment and man-made art. The eye is drawn from the boy to the sun. There were many nice photos in this category, which made it difficult to pick a winner.

2nd Place *Ludington Daily News*

Jeff Kiessel *Reflecting Old Glory*
Unique use of light that tells the story in an unusual way.

3rd Place *Daily Mining Gazette (Houghton)*

Kurt Hauglie *Royal Snowfall*
Good job capturing the emotions of participants in a challenging weather situation.

Hon. Men. *The Morning Sun (Mt.Pleasant)*

Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis *Fireworks*
The placement of the spectators on the prairie is a nice contrast to the color of the fireworks.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *The Ile Camera (Grosse Ile)*

E.L. Conley *Circling in for the Kill*
Photos should show action and decisive moment, and this one captures the expressions and essence of tossing the Frisbee. Great study of human expression.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Larry Caruso *Tall Tradition*
This photo is good because it fully shows the tree and the effort of the boy on the scaffold leaning to finish the decorations. Nice presentation.

3rd Place *The Ile Camera (Grosse Ile)*

Lena Khzouz Magyar *Look What I Found*
Little kids are always cute and this package displays their curiosity and interest in nature.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *Runners Flinch*
Great variety of faces! You even caught the smoke from the pistol. One question though--Did anyone run?

2nd Place *The Citizen (Ortonville)*

Bob Flath *A Little Off the Top*
Nice contrast with the calm barber and wincing kid.

3rd Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *Iraqi Observance*
Very well-framed photo; it captures the imam's face and bearing well.

Hon. Men. *Tri-County Citizen (Chesaning)*

Hillary (Darling) Grigonis *Veteran Salute*
Nice way to capture spirit of Memorial Day.

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

Ken Scott *High Flyer*
This picture is great! Have been trying to figure out how he took it.

2nd Place *Oceana's Herald-Journal*

Andrew Skinner *Oceana Faithful*
Beautiful. Picture captures how beautiful Mother Nature can be, and how powerful.

3rd Place *Houghton Lake Resorter*

Cheryl Holladay *Just a Swingin'*
This picture captures how much fun people are having. Love the races.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *Off to Mexico*
Content is great and so is the angle of the shot. Colors are bright and appealing and the flag brings it all together.

2nd Place *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio *Have Some Turkey!*
The little girl's expression is priceless, and the headline works great with it. Nice capture of life in motion!

3rd Place *Harbor Light Newspaper*

Mark Flemming *Merry Christmas*
Beautiful photo of what appears to be a "silent night." It's hard to capture lights at night, but you've done it well--nice job.

Hon. Men. *The Commercial Record (Saugatuck)*

Scott Sullivan *Upward Bound*
Nice job thinking outside the shot and getting an interesting perspective!

Picture Story

Daily Class A

1st Place *Grand Rapids Press*

T.J. Hamilton *Enchanting the Night*
Beautiful night shot work--does what photos in this category should--tell a story with the art.

2nd Place *Detroit Free Press*

Rashaun Rucker *Yule School*
Fun, topical shots.

Picture Story (cont.)

Daily Class B

1st Place *The Muskegon Chronicle*

Kendra Stanley-Mills *Three-Ring Thrills*
Great pics from nice perspectives--great composition and play in the layout.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Midland Daily News*

John Tully *Haiti with Hope*
These photos are so compelling they draw you in and you can't stop reading. Wonderful composition. Top notch!

2nd Place *Midland Daily News*

Nathan Morgan *Gridiron Girl*
Nice composition! Grabs your interest. Love the mood of the photos. Very interesting.

3rd Place *Midland Daily News*

Nathan Morgan *Fair Folk*
Photos are stunning. Great layout and story-telling. The photos themselves draw you in and tell the story. Nice job.

Hon. Men. *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Jan-Michael Stump *Dancing Man*
Great story! Interesting photos. Love the dancing feet, very unique and clean.

Daily Class D

1st Place *Petoskey News-Review*

Staff *Remember their Sacrifice*
This could have been a routine Veteran's Day photo essay, but you transcended the stereotypes with photos that are interesting, creative, evocative and truly tell a story. Nice work.

2nd Place *The Morning Sun (Mt.Pleasant)*

Ryan Evon *The Music of Marching*
Interesting angles and variety make this a fun collection of photos. I was a band nerd and can attest to how authentically you captured the sights and atmosphere!

3rd Place *Petoskey News-Review*

M. Chris Leese *Iron Skills, Polka Power*
You made me want to attend the Iron Workers Festival (in spite of the rain and mud). The column climb photo was simply amazing--how did you do it? Nice photos--very atmospheric.

Hon. Men. *News Advocate (Manistee)*

Dylan Savelle *Crowd Pleasers*
It can be technically challenging to capture skate boarders doing their best moves, but you rose to the occasion. These photos are lively and interesting and really capture the moment.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *Metro Times (Detroit)*

Andy Cook *Faces of the Meltdown*
The photos achieve what the photographer set out to do: put focus to the economic story in a very powerful way.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

E.L. Conley *Happy Easter*
Well-played selection of photos with dominating photo that leads the eyes to an easy to follow, fun story.

3rd Place *Source Newspapers*

Eric Perry *Weekend Spectacular*
Photographer knows how to capture the spirit of the event.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *Iraqi Voting*
The photographer captured various aspects of a local news event. He captured personal faces with good photos.

2nd Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *A Special Prom*
The photographer captured a historic first prom for Howe Trainable School. He caught good photos, got the IDs and told the events of the story.

3rd Place *Plymouth Observer*

Bill Bresler *I'll Never Forget*
Photographer captured the tragic scene in a respectful manner--from both close and far perspective.

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Dexter Leader*

Lisa Allmendinger *Behind the Scenes*
The pics were great. The kids are cute. The subject good. It just works.

2nd Place *Brooklyn Exponent*

Matt Schepeler *A Very Good Burn*
The photos were awesome. Even though it was a practice burn, you can still feel the intensity of the fire and possible danger.

3rd Place *Houghton Lake Resorter*

Thomas Reznich *Playing Ball at Graham McDonald*
Kids and baseball--it's a win-win.

Hon. Men. *Ypsilanti Courier*

Tom Perrins *School Days*
He caught the excitement and pride the children were feeling.

Picture Story (cont.)

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio *Up, Up, and Away!*
Most entries in this class suffered from too many redundant pictures and no real story with a beginning, middle and end. This story did a good job in both areas, and it had a better variety of shots: close, medium, wide. Captions were well-written, as was the short accompanying story.

2nd Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *Young Wrestlers*
Good variety in the photos, bringing out the character of the wrestlers and their coaches, but the designer needs to make full use of the page space, with larger pictures and consistent internal margins.

3rd Place *Harbor Light Newspaper*

Mark Flemming *On Top of the Mac*
A couple of the photos are stunning mixed with the mundane. Too much redundancy. Use fewer photos and give your eye-catching ones more space, with better variety of close, medium and wide shots, especially detail shots.

Hon. Men. *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *Big Bird Fly-In*
Air shows are tough to shoot, but this page has some nice photos with fairly good variety. Use fewer pictures bigger and edit out redundancy.

Sports Picture

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Kirt Dozier *Ruffled Feathers*
Great moment. Needed a better crop, though. Right side took away from crunching action at goal mouth.

2nd Place *Detroit Free Press*

Julian H. Gonzales *What If*
What everyone was talking about and will for years--great game--good to have this to assuage fans in the morning. Go Twins!

3rd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

T.J. Hamilton *All into it*
Nice action.

Daily Class B

1st Place *The Muskegon Chronicle*

Cory Morse *Finish Line*
Great Emotion!

2nd Place *Lansing State Journal*

Rod Sanford *Euphoria*
Wonderful clarity and capture of emotion. Not a typical sports photo!

3rd Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Johnathon Gruenke *Three Rivers senior Drew Shutes*
Photographer snapped photo at just the right second with subject in clear focus.

Hon. Men. *Lansing State Journal*

Rod Sanford *State-ment: Durrell Summers*
No Comments Given

Daily Class C

1st Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Douglas Tesner *Bayshore Marathon*
What a unique photo. Love the reflections. Nice!

2nd Place *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Dave Weatherwax *Season's Too Short*
A true grit photo. This is what football is about: highs, lows, mud, grit and Gatorade. Love it!

3rd Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Douglas Tesner *Crash Course*
Great action photo. Way to capture the moment.

Hon. Men. *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Erik Holladay *Sights from the Shelby Classic*
Nice job! Love the feel of this photo. Can really feel the speed!

Daily Class D

1st Place *The Pioneer (Big Rapids)*

Brad Klosner *Take That*
Exceptional. Sports Illustrated quality. Sharp action, plus faces in the crowd. The clear winner among many excellent entries.

2nd Place *The Morning Sun (Mt.Pleasant)*

Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis *Butch Jones*
A good idea strikingly executed. Any sports page would relish this presentation.

3rd Place *The Morning Sun (Mt.Pleasant)*

Ryan Evon *Sibling Sympathy*
The agony of defeat is just as sharply felt at 11 as 77. Perfect shot cropping.

Hon. Men. *News Advocate (Manistee)*

Matt Wenzel *Head Over Heels*
Peak action captured as only a still photograph can.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Larry Caruso *He Scores*
Perfect composition and timing--linking the eyes of the crestfallen goalie, the puck in the corner and celebrating teammates, all crisply rendered.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Dave Chapman *East/West All Star Game*
An appealing action photo with a blend of color, brightness, peak action and a bit of emotion. Good sharpness.

Sports Picture (cont.)

Weekly Class A

3rd Place *Lapeer County Press*

Kevin Gregory *Heartbreaking Loss*
Great timing and lighting for a night photo. Soccer action is hard. To anticipate dramatic goalie moments can be few. Hats off!

Hon. Men. *Lapeer County Press*

Kevin Gregory *Bittersweet Ending*
The line ball lights up this important moment in an entertaining game.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *Fumble Recovery*
Positioning and luck make this an eye-popping photo. Note the photographer in background is in right place, but has no shot.

2nd Place *Tri-County Citizen (Chesaning)*

Hillary (Darling) Grigonis *14 Shutouts Strong*
Nice save and a fine photo--Sharp and perfectly trimmed.

3rd Place *Dearborn Press & Guide*

Millard Berry *Football Camp*
Expressions and close contact take this kid photo beyond the ordinary.

Hon. Men. *Tri-County Citizen (Chesaning)*

Keith Salisbury *Zac Hennigan Breaks Up Pass*
Nice anticipation to get this crisp photo.

Weekly Class C

1st Place *White Lake Beacon*

Mark Lewis *Seasons End for Rockets, 'Cats*
The faces captured. A winning photo all around.

2nd Place *Tecumseh Herald*

Mickey Alvarado *World Class Gymnast*
Great eyes--a real attention grabber.

3rd Place *South Lyon Herald*

Hal Gould *Second Base Crash*
Way to capture a moment.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *Stay Low*
What a great shot! Awesome.

2nd Place *The Clare Sentinel*

Robbie Scudder *State Track Meet*
Great stop-action photography.

3rd Place *Harbor Light Newspaper*

Ashley Wiggins *Soccer #2*
Great shot!

Sports Writing

Daily Class A

1st Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Jane Bos *VanArendunk*
This was conversational; the story, like the game, moved and split in two; great job of describing the scene. Easily best story I read.

2nd Place *Flint Journal*

Dan Nilsen *Mark Ingram, Family Overcome with Emotion*
Best use of the phone interview I've seen; simple, yet impactful; this put me in tears.

3rd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Greg Johnson *Martin Joining Kelly at Notre Dame*
These are hard, but it appeared effortless; good use of archives; way to own the beat.

Daily Class B

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Graham Couch *Crushing Blow for WMU*
Great job capturing an exciting game. Nice use of detail in breaking down the key plays.

2nd Place *The Saginaw News*

Kyle Austin *Playing Again*
Compelling story on a youngster coming back from adversity. Thought the lead could have pulled me in more. Anecdote about being helped up to shoot hoops was good.

3rd Place *Lansing State Journal*

Geoff Kimmerly *Sate Champs*
Good work capturing emotion of players. Very nice lead.

Hon. Men. *Lansing State Journal*

Joe Rexrode *Sweet as Can Be*
Solid game story. Good lead.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Travers City Record-Eagle*

James Cook *History Lesson*
Good writing. Loved the first paragraph and how it went with the picture.

2nd Place *The Mining Journal (Marquette)*

Bill Harris *Endurance is Key*
This was an interesting and entertaining story from beginning to end.

3rd Place *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*

Tim Robinson *Bare-Handed Baseball*
Great story that gave a feel of what "Old-Time" baseball was.

Sports Writing (cont.)

Daily Class D

1st Place *News Advocate (Manistee)*

Matt Wenzel *Moving On*
Fascinating work. Simply put, the best at writing a strong lead and getting the reader's attention. Strong and powerful. Descriptive read from start to finish. Good job with quotes on the game-makers and coach.

2nd Place *Petoskey News-Review*

Steve Foley *21 Innings Then Heartbreak*
Loved that the story wasn't simply win or lose, but rather about the journey it took to get there.

3rd Place *The Morning Sun (Mt.Pleasant)*

Nate Schneider *Big-Game Bechtel*
Good piece, tells about the impact one player had upon the outcome. Fact-filled, therefore maintains a reader's interest.

Hon. Men. *Ludington Daily News*

Brian Mulherin *A World Record?*
Took you inside what it took to land the huge fish. Made you feel like you were a part of the experience. Toward the final third of the story it spun off a bit. Still a good piece. Something even a non-fisherman would enjoy.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *Source Newspapers*

Kevin Lozon *Stallions Oust Pilots*
Well-written, well-organized. Was more than rote statistics, which soccer writing can be.

2nd Place *Source Newspapers*

Don Chamberlain *Unbelievable*
A very well-written account of an exciting game. I felt like I was there. Strong, solid, well-organized work--great job.

3rd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

David Komer *Soaring to New Heights*
An excellent account of the game--helped us get to know the athletes.

Hon. Men. *The News Herald (Southgate)*

David Komer *Mr.Hockeytown*
Well-written, lots of good info. Could have also been in features category.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Tri-County Citizen (Chesaning)*

Keith Salisbury *Jackets and Bulldog Playoff Run*
Well-written, great photos.

2nd Place *Redford Observer*

Jim Toth *One Hour (Martin)-izing*
No Comments Given

3rd Place *Tri-County Times (Fenton)*

David Troppens *Workmeister's the Man*
at the Michigan Amateur
No Comments Given

Hon. Men. *The Burton News*

Greg Chrapek *Surprise Finalist*
No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Milan News-Leader*

Don Richter *Big Reds Overcome Ghosts*
Richter is good. Every one of his stories made our "finals" pile. Lucky readers at Milan News.

2nd Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

Jeremy Speer *History in the Making*
Good start.

3rd Place *The Allegan County News*

Jason Wesseldyk *Otsego Holds Off*
No Comments Given

Hon. Men. *Milan News-Leader*

Don Richter *What a Game!*
No Comments Given

Weekly Class D

1st Place *Clarkston News*

Wendi Reardon *Cougars Caged*
Beardon immediately brought me into the game. Great job using play-by-plays.

2nd Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *Hudson Flattens Bulldogs*
Loved the intro paragraph--what a great "hook." Keep up the great work.

3rd Place *The Independent (Dundee)*

David Schankin *Bulldogs Nip Whit. Lake*
Another great entry.

Sports Column

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Mitch Albom
The context and perspective that he brings to his subjects are what sets these entries apart. Exceptionally well-written columns.

2nd Place *Detroit Free Press*

Drew Sharp
An excellent selection of work; strong opinions, nice perspectives, fluid writing and a mix of sympathetic and critical pieces.

3rd Place *Detroit Free Press*

Michael Rosenberg
Writer combines a very straight forward style with strong reporting and well-supported opinions.

Hon. Men. *Grand Rapids Press*

David Mayo
A very thoughtfully written selection of columns.

Sports Column (cont.)

Daily Class B

1st Place *Lansing State Journal*

Joe Rexrode

Well-written and convincingly presented opinions, with excellent big-picture context. A very polished sampling of work.

2nd Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Scott DeCamp

Writer does an excellent job of conveying the emotions of his subjects and their situations.

3rd Place *The Oakland Press*

Mathew B. Mowery

Extremely strong opinions, presented in a punchy and thorough style.

Hon. Men. *The Saginaw News*

Hugh Bernreuter

An interesting and diverse sample of opinions.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Midland Daily News*

Chris Stevens

Overall great column! Easy to read, variety of topics.

2nd Place *The Mining Journal (Marquette)*

Craig Remsburg

Loved the personal touch, ease of reading. A "feel good" sports column that is fun to read.

3rd Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

James Cook

Liked the overall style and ease of reading.

Hon. Men. *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Mike Eckert

Loved the column on Tiger Woods.

Daily Class D

1st Place *News Advocate (Manistee)*

David L. Barber

Barber writes with color, voice and focus. Young writers in this category should read him every week.

2nd Place *The Pioneer (Big Rapids)*

Bob Allan

The column about the two rivals sharing a laugh was a memorable bit of small-town writing. Warm and readable columns.

3rd Place *Petoskey News-Review*

Andy Sneddon

The turn of phrase and descriptive passages stand out, but sometimes they're lost in the sheer length of the columns.

Hon. Men. *Ludington Daily News*

Kelly Aloe

Although her attempts of pushing the boundaries didn't always work, these columns deserve mention for the writer's creativity and originality.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Hank Minckiewicz

These are well-written columns on a good range of topics. I especially enjoyed the piece about Bert Toschi as we got to know him through it--and 'State of the Game' was very good.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

David Komer

Solid and informative writing by someone who obviously knows sports and the people involved.

3rd Place *The County Press (Lapeer)*

Michael Selecky

I like the topics but work on sentence structure and organization.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *The Burton View*

Lisa Paine

Sports View

Loved her honesty. She holds nothing back. Especially liked the "No disrespect" and "In this corner."

2nd Place *Davison Index*

Jeff Day

Fat Guy's Corner

No Comments Given

3rd Place *The Bay Voice*

Andrew Benoit

No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Saline Reporter*

Don Richter

Adventurers in Sports Writing

This guy is good! A conversationalist and story-teller. His life is open and that makes him accessible.

2nd Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

Chris Engle

One More Cast

Another sportsman with good stories to tell.

3rd Place *Saline Reporter*

Jana Miller

Ready, Set, Sports

No Comments Given

Weekly Class D

1st Place *Clarkston News*

Wendi Reardon

Easy reading, likable from the start.

2nd Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

Rich Foley

Love your opinions on NASCAR. Keep up the great work!

Sports Feature

Daily Class A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Nicholas J. Cotsonika *The Lion Cub*
A cut above the competition. Writer drew parallels between two men from different eras, used multiple sources, weaved together an enthralling piece. A+

2nd Place *Flint Journal*

Bill Khan *Basketball Bloodlines*
Captivating story of Ingram, who reaches the highest level while overcoming tremendous personal obstacles. Great work.

3rd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Greg Johnson *Homeless as a Teen*
A similar story to others in "The Blindside," I enjoyed reading this compelling personal story. Would have liked even more of his impressions and how he feels about those who have taken him in.

Hon. Men. *Flint Journal*

Patrick Hayes *Grayers Develop Under Watchful Eye*
Great "catch up" piece on what is right about college athletes, and how they remain positive in a crime-riddled city.

Daily Class B

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Kris Kinkade *USA Curling Nationals*
Interesting; insightful.

2nd Place *Lansing State Journal*

Neil Koepke *Natural Wonder*
Good read that tackled a hard subject.

3rd Place *Lansing State Journal*

Joe Rexrode *Eternal Image*
I read other stories about this subject and this was leaps and bounds above everyone else.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Midland Daily News*

Dan Chalk *Come on Otto*
Loved the pics--they complimented a great story, making it better.

2nd Place *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Nick Buckley *Pound for Pound*
Great story covering more than just the "athlete," it included the students' academic accomplishments as well.

3rd Place *The Mining Journal (Marquette)*

Renee Prusi *A Community Mourns*
Awesome story.

Hon. Men. *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

James Cook *Motown Meetdown*
Loved the photos--very good.

Daily Class D

1st Place *News Advocate (Manistee)*

John Counts *Deer Camp Traditions*
Gritty, warm, rustic and well-written. Great use of quotes.

2nd Place *News Advocate (Manistee)*

Matt Wenzel *No Bigger Thrill*
Nice job. The support and competitiveness between father and son was very well-balanced. Rich in texture.

3rd Place *Daily Mining Gazette (Houghton)*

Brandon Veale *The Echoes of a Ring*
Well-written. Nice use of quotes. Pulled the reader into the excitement.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Jon Mochota *Jumping for Joy*
A well-written and solid story that rose to the top of a strong group. It was very well-organized and had a good variety of quotes. The story of these young men was told well.

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

David Komer *Family Affair*
I really liked both stories about this family but this one took the edge because of the way it was written and the candor of the father. This could have been sappy, but it was quite good.

3rd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Jason Alley *Waking up with a Roar*
Loved this! Terrific writing and pictures--not your typical sports feature, but a good piece.

Hon. Men. *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Hank Minckiewicz *Magic of TV*
I would have ranked this higher had we known--what happened to the injured player?

Hon. Men. *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Jon Mochota *Downriver's Olympic*
Could have been more organized.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Tri-County Times (Fenton)*

David Troppens *Super Senior Credits*
Father for Success
Great Story!

2nd Place *The Citizen (Ortonville)*

Susan Bromley *BHS Grad, Runner, Gets Over the Wall*
No Comments Given

3rd Place *Redford Observer*

Jim Toth *On Board*
No Comments Given

Hon. Men. *Davison Index*

Lisa Paine *Fish On!*
No Comments Given

Sports Feature (cont.)

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Birmingham Eccentric*

Marty Budner *The Week That Was*
Great looking package with strong writing. Sidebar 'Alexandra the Great' was a cute idea. Overall, it stood out among the rest.

2nd Place *Ypsilanti Courier*

Dave Merchant *Power Forward*
Strong and creative writing throughout the entire piece. Nice layout that grabs attention.

3rd Place *Northville Record*

Sam Eggleston *Matt Wegzyn*
No Comments Given

Weekly Class D

1st Place *Clarkston News*

Wendi Reardon *Wolves Fight Cancer*
Great story. They are playing for a good cause.

2nd Place *The Independent (Dundee)*

T.L. Whitacker, Russ Hudson *Hudson Competes in Rare Double*
Very unique story and person.

3rd Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

David Green *Wild Pig Reports Growing*
Very interesting and eye-catching story.

Sports Coverage

Daily Class A

Entries were lost by judges

Daily Class B

Entries were lost by judges

Daily Class C

1st Place *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Loved the layout with the giant pics! Very eye-friendly.

2nd Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Loved the front page coverage and great photos.

3rd Place *Monroe Evening News*

Excellent all-around. Really liked the all-region football.

Daily Class D

1st Place *The Pioneer (Big Rapids)*

The writing was good in these articles--they offer a variety of sports--from local to national; nice layout and great pictures. I wanted to read about local teams.

2nd Place *Sturgis Journal*

Corky Emrick
Great use of pictures, interesting writing. Liked sports and outdoors articles; involves readers of wide range of interests.

3rd Place *Daily Mining Gazette (Houghton)*

Good pics, writing and layout; liked design of "Ten area players picked for all-U.P. hoops Team."

Hon. Men. *The Daily News (Iron Mountain)*

Good pics, layout, variety of sports covered. Offers a lot of material for all.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *Source Newspapers*

Solid writing (reads very well) excellent photos and good layout make these pages a winner--very well-organized and attractive--great job!

2nd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

This paper had the best use of photos graphically and best features. Very fun to read. It was a tough call as all entries in this class are very strong.

3rd Place *The County Press (Lapeer)*

Good, clear and attractive layouts; strong photos and good writing make these pages shine. Good variety of stories.

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Grosse Pointe News*

Great coverage and layout.

2nd Place *Davison Index*

Nice variety, layout.

3rd Place *South Oakland Eccentric (Southfield)*

Nice variety.

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Novi News*

Very open, easy-to-read layout. Outstanding photos are displayed with nice color. Inside pages are well-executed.

2nd Place *Milan News-Leader*

Powerful headlines and photos. Nice packages.

3rd Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

Good photos and layout.

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The Advance (Blissfield)*

Good coverage--especially liked spotlights on younger players (youth teams). The weekly sports schedule was easy to read and very handy.

2nd Place *The Independent (Dundee)*

Very well done, from writing to photos.

3rd Place *The State Line Observer (Morenci)*

Good job covering a wide variety of sports, even bowling!

Lifestyle Section

Daily Class A

Entries were lost by judges.

Daily Class B

Entries were lost by judges.

Lifestyle Section (cont.)

Daily Class C

1st Place ***The Daily Telegram (Adrian)***

Nice layouts and pictures, plus useful information in all of them.

2nd Place ***Traverse City Record-Eagle***

I especially enjoyed "Generation Why," but submitted entries were nicely done.

3rd Place ***Midland Daily News***

Each section submitted had very different front page stories--each interesting.

Daily Class D

1st Place ***The Morning Sun (Mt. Pleasant)***

Stories were well done, thorough and were of significance to folks living in the area.

2nd Place ***Petoskey News-Review***

Though it was just a page or two devoted to lifestyles and not a whole tab, I thought the stories were relevant to folks living there and of interest.

3rd Place ***The Alpena News***

History and current events make this paper appealing to just about anyone.

Hon. Men. ***The Pioneer (Big Rapids)***

The human interest stories in this paper were not your usual stories, which I really enjoyed. Nice job by the staff to find them.

Weekly Class A

1st Place ***The County Press (Lapeer)***

Outstanding layout, great photos and strong writing helped this rise to the top. The columnists are fun to read. I especially enjoyed the pieces on Bill Gibbs and the pedometer challenge--great job!

2nd Place ***The News Herald (Southgate)***

Attractive layouts, great photos and solid, thorough writing also make this a sure winner. This is a very well-organized section. I loved the 'Stufz' and 'Allego!' features. Both were fun to read--great job!

3rd Place ***Lapeer Area View***

I like the writing very much on the cover features, but there were a few typos. Also, the front page layout seems busy--maybe letters to the editor should go elsewhere and free up space?

Weekly Class B

1st Place ***Tri-County Times (Fenton)***

Nice variety of articles and photos.

2nd Place ***Grosse Pointe News***

"Artsy"

3rd Place ***Dearborn Press & Guide***

No Comments Given

Hon. Men. ***Northern Express Weekly (TC)***

No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place ***Leelanau Enterprise***

Nice topics and photos; this is a nice way to get to know your area neighbors.

2nd Place ***Saline Reporter***

Nice article showing students learning different cultures.

3rd Place ***Gaylord Herald Times***

Neat story and photos for a good cause.

Hon. Men. ***Milan News-Leader***

Neat photos.

Weekly Class D

1st Place ***The Advance (Blissfield)***

Very well-organized! Great color overall...very nice.

2nd Place ***The State Line Observer (Morenci)***

Unique stories! Very good.

3rd Place ***Clarkston News***

Good stories...Interesting.

Special Section

Daily Class A

1st Place ***Detroit Free Press***

Staff *A Fighting Chance*

The depth, breadth, and immediacy of this report on a franchise topic shows how the "big story" should be done. Great reporting, writing, graphics, photos and headlines. Precise and perfect.

2nd Place ***Detroit Free Press***

Staff *Rising from the*

Wreckage: Chapter One

The stories in this section tell a historic business story with people in the spotlight--not numbers. Fantastic follow-up and writing on a story that changed Detroit, maybe forever. Ad-free and better that way.

3rd Place ***Flint Journal***

Staff *Buick Open*

A complete change of pace, but a good one. All the stats any golf fan could want, with perspectives that make golf interesting. Color, design and ads all drive the appeal.

Daily Class B

1st Place ***Muskegon Chronicle***

Staff *Prep Football '09--Armed and Dangerous*

A routine fixture of the newspaper calendar--the football section--treated with care and respect. Great depth, pics, stats show this staff has it all covered--well done.

2nd Place ***Kalamazoo Gazette***

Tim Lehman & Malcolm McBryde *Answer Book 2009*

A great idea + beautiful design + information to entertain and to use + strong ad support = success. The Answer Book is clearly a reader favorite.

Special Section (cont.)

3rd Place *Lansing State Journal*

Staff *Spartan Men of Motown*
Sparkling design made the difference for this section, which was light on staff-generated content. Print quality, photo usage were also stand outs.

Hon. Men. *The Oakland Press*

Staff *The Final Four*
Outstanding writing by David Birkett and Pat Caputo--with lots of support from Paula Pasche and David Bourges--brought this section up the ranks. An enjoyable read, a close call.

Daily Class C

1st Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Staff *150 Years*
Wow! Loved everything about this from the photos to the layout to the stories. (I would love to have a copy).

2nd Place *The Mining Journal (Marquette)*

Staff *Progress 2010*
Incredible amount of time and effort into this huge special section.

3rd Place *The Mining Journal (Marquette)*

Staff *Superior Land*
Loved it all the way around. Great pics.

Hon. Men. *Monroe Evening News*

Staff *Parent*
Useful and fun to look at.

Daily Class D

1st Place *Sturgis Journal*

Candice Phelps *Celebrating 150 Years*
This is a well-designed, well-written package. Readers must have looked forward to each edition. Variety and nice mix of photos, community participation, nice layout.

2nd Place *Ludington Daily News*

Staff *Communities*
"There's no place like home" includes stories, photos and ads that fit as well as enhance the title. Nicely done.

3rd Place *The Daily News (Iron Mountain)*

Staff *Northern Profiles-Neighbors*
Northern Profiles made the reader feel like a community.

Hon. Men. *Hillsdale Daily News*

Jim Pruitt & RJ Walters
Nice countdown of years in business. Good outlines.

Weekly Class A

1st Place *Metro Times (Detroit)*

Staff *Best of Detroit*
Fun to read! Lots of work goes into these types of issues--this was one of the best I've seen. Great layout and design. Rose to the top in a very competitive group.

2nd Place *The County Press (Lapeer)*

Lisa Paine, Mike Selecky, Dave Fredrick & Erik Hohenthanner *Inside the 20*
Wow! These kinds of sections are so hard to pull together on a tight deadline. This was done very well--hard to believe you have such a small staff! Great layout, outstanding photos and strong writing.

3rd Place *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Staff *Moving Forward*
I usually am ambivalent about these sections, as many are now (buy an ad, get a story). This is not the case here. These were interesting to read, well-designed and well-illustrated. I was impressed with the variety of articles. Good job!

Hon. Men. *Source Newspapers*

Kevin Lozon & Don Chamberlain *Kick-Off 2009*
This was a very solid season preview with sharp writing and strong photos.

Hon. Men. *The News Herald (Southgate)*

Joe Slezak *Downriver Directory*
Good layout, great photos, very attractive!

Weekly Class B

1st Place *Grosse Pointe News*

Bob St.John *Sports Preview*
Back to school and sports preview, good combination. Stories good--not too long. Photos good--nice ads.

2nd Place *Plymouth Observer*

Susan Rosiek *Hometown Life Inspire*
Nice variety of articles and ideas.

3rd Place *Tri-County Times (Fenton)*

Staff *Fenton Remember When*
Nostalgia is always fun--history is great.

Hon. Men. *Livonia Observer*

Staff *175th Anniversary*
Special Section
No Comments Given

Weekly Class C

1st Place *Tecumseh Herald*

Staff *Homefront Magazine*
Strong throughout. Good use of photos, colors, layout and writing. The nice, bright paper was a bonus. Simple, but powerful design.

2nd Place *Tecumseh Herald*

Staff *2009 Fan Guide to MI Speedway*
Eye-catching layout and outstanding photos. Issues with text and photo editing kept them from first place.

3rd Place *Northville Record*

Staff *21st Annual Victorian Festival*
Clean, easy-to-read layout.

Special Section (cont.)

Weekly Class D

1st Place *The Advance (Blissfield)*

Staff *Destination Detroit*
WOW! Great writing, wonderful photos, all around great product!

2nd Place *The Advance (Blissfield)*

Staff	<i>Holiday Lifestyles</i>
Good balance of local features and syndicated articles.	

3rd Place ***Clarkston News***

Staff	<i>2010 Moving Forward</i>
Impressive product. Good articles and good use of photos.	

Best Website

Division A

1st Place *Detroit Free Press*

Staff www.freep.com

Excellent main page intuitively organized. It is easy to find specific items or browse in a general area of interest. The site is focused on presenting a hierarchy of stories and other content that helps guide the reader to most important news. Good in-story links to related content. Good variety of news and sports blog content, but some were not updated recently. Great variety of stories, including many shorter pieces well-suited for online. Navigation is simple, clear and provides multiple links to local news. Wealth of local and business news with keys to where stories appear in the print edition. Produces its own online news show. Excellent variety and quality of photo slideshows and videos. Would like to see captions with all photos, especially those on the main page.

2nd Place *Lansing State Journal*

Staff www.lansingstatejournal.com

This was a close second. Main page was sophisticated and clearly focused on Lansing, including prominent Lansing content for Top Stories, Breaking News, Latest News and Lansing Area News. If you want to know something about Lansing, this is the source. Web site gave a strong sense that the news organization knows its coverage area and is out in it. Main page was cluttered near the bottom of the page. Some consideration should be given to eliminating some items that are not a priority for readers. Photo slideshows were adequate, but photographers should focus more on showing tighter images of people and expressions rather than overview images. Video content was fair (use tripod and tighter images of the subjects).

3rd Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Staff www.mlive.com/grpress/

Attractive, intuitive design helps readers find wide variety of news, sports and other content, though local/Grand Rapids news was not emphasized enough. Regional/state focus dominated site too much. Blog content was thin on Grand Rapids content. There was no clear sense of what Grand Rapids was all about from a news perspective. Good video and photo slideshow content, but not exceptional. Navigation to specific parts of the site were dead ends without bread crumb trail function.

Division B

1st Place *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Staff www.battlecreekenquirer.com

Clean main page. Like the scrolling lead story item with good sized photos, though consider using mug shots smaller. Latest headlines compressed in efficient space. Online readers don't scroll much, so consider a shorter main page with fewer items. Most impressive were the number of columns, commentaries and forums. Interaction with readers was a strong focus. Good use of video and slideshows with photo identification with each slide. Appreciate the main page horizontal content navigation bars and search function prominence. Editorial "Smarter Spending" did not have author attribution. The editorial opinion of the newspaper should be clearly labeled.

2nd Place *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*

Staff www.livingstondaily.com

Clean main page. Good horizontal content navigation bars and prominent search function. Like the lead scrolling lead story item with good sized photos. Latest headlines compressed in efficient space. Consider a shorter main page with fewer items, such as eliminating state and national news headlines and possibly more. Good use of video and slideshows. Opinion pages lacked much commentary or local staff columns.

3rd Place *Midland Daily News*

Staff www.ourmidland.com

Excellent video and photo slideshow content almost moved this one up on the rankings (great work by the photojournalists), but the main page design was dominated too much by headlines and no teaser text to compel readers further into the site. Blog content was strong, but some blogs had not been updated recently. Appreciated the visuals bar with a great reward by some wonderful videos and slideshows. This is what makes a website relevant - by showing readers aspects of stories we can't communicate in print. Long front page had too much information. Top stories list was too long. Liked the E-edition, breaking news bar and featured news story with photo.

Division C

1st Place *The Morning Sun (Mt. Pleasant)*

Staff www.themorningsun.com

Strong front page organization and nice feature with the slideshow of top stories with main photo. Good use of headline hierarchy, story post time use, and teaser story text. Appreciate the top stories and most commented boxes. Community Commentary--a blog with comments from citizen members of the newspaper's editorial board--is innovative. Search function on the main page a plus. Good video content. Comments from citizens were encouraged and impressive. Biz Buzz is an impressive feature for advertising revenue.

Best Website (cont.)

2nd Place *Ludington Daily News*

Staff www.ludingtondailynews.com

Strong lead page design. Like the main page scrolling photo with caption. Like the e-edition link on the front page. Good batch of main page news/video in a good location (use a tripod when filming and zoom in on subjects). Calendar function was positive. Video list was misleading most were only slideshows using a video program. Search function should not be buried under archives. Clicking on sports link under news did not take reader to the sport page. Webcams are an interesting feature.

3rd Place *The Daily News (Iron Mountain)*

Staff www.ironmountaindailynews.com

Lead page organization was strong but would have liked a larger image. News was well-organized. Good variety and quality of stories. Good search function on main page. Videos were bland and unnarrated leading the watcher to wonder what the essential story elements were. Use a tripod and zoom in on subjects.