



2011 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

Members of Colorado Newspaper Association reviewed 2,542 entries submitted by 102 Michigan newspapers when they judged the 2011 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 2011 "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		
Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper	Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper
Class A	1490	Detroit Free Press	Class A	800	Press & Guide Newspapers
Class B	1260	Lansing State Journal	Class B	1070	Grosse Pointe News
Class C	1220	Traverse City Record-Eagle	Class C	1180	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	580	Livingston County Daily Press & Argus	Class D	1450	State Line Observer

Circulation Class Breakdown: Daily Class A – 70,000 or more; Daily Class B – 30,000-69,999; Daily Class C – 15,000-29,999; Daily Class D – under 15,000; Weekly Class A – 25,000 or more; Weekly Class B – 10,000 – 24,999; Weekly Class C – 4,000-9,999; Weekly Class D – under 4,000.

The Best Website Award

Division A: 1st Place, The Detroit News; 2nd Place, Detroit Free Press; 3rd Place, Grand Rapids Press

Division B: 1st Place, Traverse City Record-Eagle; 2nd Place, Times Herald; 3rd Place, Niles Daily Star

Division C: 1st Place, Sentinel-Standard; 2nd Place, Morning Sun; 3rd Place, Metro Times

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 Advance (Blissfield) for "Midwest's largest wind farm visited," the Petoskey News-Review for "Helping Hands" and the Times-Herald (Port Huron) for "Neighbors laud MDOT progress."

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The three finalists are: Nico Rubello of The Pioneer (Big Rapids); James McClenathen of The Advance (Blissfield) and Dave Harris of the Flint Journal.

The winners of the 2011 MPA Public Service Award and the MPA Rookie Writer Award will be announced Saturday, January 28, 2012 during the Awards Presentation of the Michigan Press Association Annual Convention at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

2011 MPA

Better Newspaper Contest

Editorial Results

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

April 14, 2010; July 15, 2010; Oct. 17, 2010

Winner is a complete newspaper, well designed, attractive; emphasis on local and state news.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

July 15, 2010; November 5, 2010; March 15, 2011

Great local news and sports coverage

Daily B

1st Place

Saginaw News

July 15, 2010; August 22, 2010; March 15, 2011

This paper really has it all - great use of photos throughout and the little touches that make it special, such as color obit photos. The content is good, ad design is clean and creative and the designers make great use of white space when possible to give the pages a clean feel without being too boxy. This newspaper is a pleasure to look at it and to read.

2nd Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

No comments given.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

No comments given.

Daily C

1st Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Nice balance of local and national; sharp ledes and photos.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Lots of news.

3rd Place

Times Herald

Nice ledes. Community kiosk gets important community information in the news every day.

Daily D

1st Place

Morning Sun

The Morning Sun had everything the rules called for--excellent photos, design, layout, color. A first class job.

2nd Place

Sturgis Journal

Candice Phelps

Sturgis had great color and ample use of it. Also, very good page design and layout. Very eye catching.

3rd Place

Daily Telegram

2011 Better Newspaper Contest Editorial Results

The Daily Telegram gave the judge a real tough job. Excellent color, design, layout. There was a temptation--impossible--to say the first three place finishers were in a three-way tie.

Weekly A

1st Place

The County Press, Lapeer

Strong local coverage; local editorial message; attractive feature pages; a good community newspaper that shows it cares about the people it serves.

2nd Place

Saline Reporter

No comments given.

3rd Place

Ile Camera

Lena Khzouz Magyar

No comments given.

Weekly B

1st Place

Grosse Pointe News

Impressive newspaper to browse, read, take in, simply packed with quality content. Not sure who or what they haven't reported on, shot a photo of, or sold an ad to -- a comprehensive, well organized effort of entire staff. Quality ads, graphics, typography.

2nd Place

Tri-County Times

Content is terrific, reporting is a strong point. Great paper to read through, highlighted by eye-catching graphic work and layout. Colorful, with eye to detail. Very nice product.

3rd Place

Northern Express Weekly

The River Wild/Inside the Fashion World/The Indians in Winter Exceptional tabloid with good mix of news and feature material. Nicely packaged with attention to the look and feel of a well organized community newspaper.

Weekly C

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Main blaze

Great package overall. Outstanding breaking news coverage, and individual feature pages. Nice variety of layout and graphics, while still being a cohesive whole. Good choices of type, vibrant photos, great range of ads. Nice, tight class section. Haven't missed a thing in the easy to find sections just full of news and features.

2nd Place

The Exponent

Good clean layout, utilizing extra white space. Nice organization of articles and photos. Easy to read. Content shows you really care about local people. Love the attention to local news, plus Sports and More, and Attic sections.

3rd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

A lot of content, a lot of ads make this a busy paper with much to offer the community. Extensive classified/legal section as well. Diversions, sports and events coverage are impressive.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE (CONT.)

Weekly D

1st Place *Cass City Chronicle*
Clarke Haire, Publisher, Tom Montgomery, Editor, Harmony Doerr, Office / Advertising Manager, Tina Pallas, Digital Media Director, Deb Severance, Composition
No Comments Given

2nd Place *The Advance*
Marcia Loader, Tran Longmoore, James McClenathen, Mike McHone, Deane Erts, Melissa Burnor
No Comments Given

3rd Place *Charlevoix Courier*
Steve Zucker, Wendy Wolfsen, Jessie Healey
No comments Given

SPOT NEWS STORY

Daily A
1st Place *The Detroit News*
Kilpatrick, dad charged in City Hall racketeering case
Mike Wilkinson, Paul Egan, Laura Berman, Darren A. Nichols, Catherine Jun, Christine MacDonald
The Detroit News reporting of the Kilpatrick scandal was outstanding. Thorough reporting with great quotes. Excellent sidebars.

2nd Place *Detroit Free Press*
'We hope the culture of corruption is over'
M.L. Elrick, Tresa Baldas, David Ashenfelter, Jim Schaefer, Joe Swickard, Jennifer Dixon, Eric Millikin, Martha Thierry, Kofi Myler, Patricia Beck, and Detroit Free Press Staff
Detroit Free Press was a VERY close second. Also excellent quotes, background.

3rd Place *Detroit Free Press*
Where are 3 missing boys?
Gina Damron, Naomi R. Patton, Eric D. Lawrence, Kathleen Gray, Christina Hall, Susan Tusa, Andre J. Jackson, Martha Thierry, Mandi Wright, Kathleen Galligan, and Detroit Free Press Staff
The story of the three missing boys was a remarkable job. Good quotes, good follow-up on the father.

Daily B
1st Place *Lansing State Journal*
5 young people from area killed in 2 wrecks
Louise Knott Ahern
Great work by these reporters to get the tip, make the tough but important phone calls and within the span of two hours on a Sunday night, get enough detail to post a story to the web. This is tough to do in any newspaper and these two made it look easy.

2nd Place *The Oakland Press*
Pot patients perk up Waterford business
Carol Hopkins
We love the curiosity of the reporter who reads a Tweet and acts upon it. Great job breaking a story that you didn't know would be good, but that you followed your gut instincts to write.

3rd Place *Saginaw News*

'I knew it was bad'
Gus Burns
No comments given.

Daily C
1st Place *Holland Sentinel*
'Shocking' death
Jon Schultz
Not all sports reporters are capable of reporting hard news. Jon Schultz obviously can, and The Holland Sentinel was fortunate to have someone with a sports reporter's deadline savvy to deliver this story as quickly and thoroughly as he did on a tough deadline.

The story starts with an strong summary lead, then goes into a logical progression of ensuing events, reactions and scene description. Schultz deftly contrasted the excitement of a thrilling finish to an important basketball game, punctuated by its star player's winning basket, with the tragic, anxiety-filled aftermath when that star player collapsed and later died. I could envision the people standing around, jolted from celebration to confusion and devastation. I could picture the opposing team players' praying for their fallen rival in the locker room afterward. Schultz made the scene real to me.

There's little to nitpick about what more could have been included in this story when Schultz gathered the variety of relevant interviews that he did while working against the clock. This category is spot news, and Schultz was spot on.

2nd Place *Jackson Citizen Patriot*
Woman dies in crash, baby saved
Holly Kluft
Holly Kluft did a fantastic job of tracking down people after 7 p.m. on a Saturday night to get the insight needed to write a wonderful lead on a sad story. She followed through with a solid news account and details that let us know the victims a little and empathize with the loss suffered by the survivors.

Reaching the deceased woman's father-in-law and the couple's employers and getting them to share the details they did helped fill in what the State Patrol could not. Instead of the straight-forward report from a news release that this could have been, Kluft added the human element that often isn't available until the next day on a late-breaking story like this one. I wouldn't expect anyone to speak poorly of the dead after such a tragedy, but the information Kluft gathered and presented gave the reader a sense of the high regard people had for the victim and the importance of the child to the couple.

Kluft worked fast as a reporter and crafted a touching, fact-filled account as a writer.

SPOT NEWS STORY (CONT.)

Daily C

3rd Place

Times Herald

Man holes up in apartment
Liz Shepard, Stephen Tait

Standoffs with police are serious business, but this one had a bevy of entertaining elements that Liz Shepard and Stephen Tate fashioned into a fact-filled, fun read.

The main story documented all of the details that the reporters, like many residents, got a good look at. The suspect was a gold mine for fun elements, from throwing out the police phone to flying a remote-control helicopter to asking negotiators for a soda. The main story struck the right balance of entertaining elements and serious ones.

Meanwhile, the sidebar is an absolute gem, wonderfully illustrating with words what was happening with the amassed crowd outside the police tape. You can visualize the people craning their necks and sitting in lawn chairs taking in the event. The writing puts you there with the crowd. The collection of quotes were varied, informative and funny.

The accompanying timeline was a nice touch, allowing readers to get that information separately without bogging down the reporters' narratives.

One minor criticism: I'm fine with playing it straight on the lead, I just think this one was a little ho-hum given all of the other elements available. I think a couple of the prime details could have gone into a stronger summary lead or served as the setup to a straight-played second paragraph.

Daily D

1st Place

The Argus-Press

Owosso native shaken up during Japan quake
Sally York

Kudos to this newspaper for getting every element right - from deadline reporting and use of technology to clean and appealing layout and design, this package was the hands-down winner for taking a global issue and localizing it on deadline. The staff was resourceful and thorough and this rare piece makes readers appreciate breaking news a world away.

2nd Place

Ludington Daily News

Girl, man die in stabbings

Jennifer Linn Hartley, Kevin Braciszewski

This piece is the example every community newspaper should follow for deadline news reporting. A thorough story with all of the necessary information, photos, an online press conference that should have beat most local television programming all packaged together on the front page of the same-day edition. Strong work.

3rd Place

Morning Sun

Plane crashes

Mark Ranzenberger, Linda Gittleman

This package was lacking in photos and artistic appeal, but the message was great and immediate online coverage brought the facts and the shock in the community together in a compassionate way. Great job covering this story on deadline.

Weekly A

1st Place

The News-Herald

Officer killed in early morning apartment complex shooting
Nate Stemen, Rene Cizio, Jason Alley, Angie Favot, Karl Ziomek, Sean Delaney

Great job for a weekly newspaper staff to meet deadlines, get the story online and compete with other local newspapers for fastest and most thorough coverage of the type of event that stuns a community.

2nd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Factfinder suggests teacher concessions

Katie Hetrick

Great job following a story to completion and getting an online edition up to supplement the later print edition. Spot news is all about being first and best. Kudos to the Press & Guide for doing both.

3rd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Explosion rocks West Dearborn, Heights neighborhood

J. Patrick Pepper

No comments given.

Weekly B

1st Place

Livonia Observer

'He gave his life so others can sleep at night'

Ken Abramczyk, staff writer, Karen Smith, editor, Aileen

Wingblad

Comprehensive, caring treatment of the kind of story no one really wants to have to research or write. Covers all angles well with solid writing and reporting skills.

2nd Place

Tri-County Times

Judge: Mother failed to protect her child

Sharon Stone Assistant Editor

In-depth, solid coverage of a tragic series of events. Good organization and writing skills, missing nothing. Couldn't stop reading this.

3rd Place

Birmingham Eccentric

Crowd (un)control: Streets overflowing with teens raise concerns
Jay M. Grossman, staff writer

Good initial coverage of a trend across the country. Good initiative in interviewing both sides of the issue. Easy, informative read.

Weekly C

1st Place

Tecumseh Herald

Condition of dam on Red Mill Pond in hands of bankrupt developer

DEB WUETHRICH, MICKEY ALVARADO

The writers do a great job detailing why the condition of the dam is important. They tell the readers about the dam's history and make officials say who is responsible. Good work.

2nd Place

The Tri-City Times

Imlay teen accused of murder

Marie Brown

This is a great example of the writer letting the story tell itself. There is no need to over dramatize here and the writer knew that. Nice job.

SPOT NEWS STORY (CONT.)

Weekly C

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Gaylord student in Cairo for studies looks to flee protest torn city
Michael Jones

The writer does a very nice job of describing a father's fear, weaving in international news and building suspense. Good story telling.

Weekly D

1st Place

The Boyne City Gazette

Fatal Traffic Crash Takes Boyne Man
Christopher Faulknor, Editor
No Comments Given

2nd Place

The Boyne City Gazette

County Threatened with \$100 Million Suit
Benjamin J. Gohs, Associate Editor
No Comments Given

3rd Place

The Advance

Ice storm leaves area powerless, downs trees
Mike McHone, Marcia Loader, Darin Wolfe
No comments Given

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Daily A

1st Place

Grand Rapids Press

Michigan 10.0
Staff

Easy to read. Grabs reader's attention and then provides clear, concise information. Writing is excellent. Graphics are brilliant and enhance the story. Overall interesting concept and great way of breaking it down for the reader.

2nd Place

Grand Rapids Press

Time to Crime: Guns Gone Bad
John Agar
No comments given.

3rd Place

Flint Journal

Flint haunted by homicides
Laura Misjak, David Harris, Kris Turner, Khalil AlHajal, Beata Mostafavi, Kristin Longley, Sarah Schuch
No comments given.

Daily B

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

Mapping Michigan's Recovery
Louise Knott Ahern

The unique idea behind this story was impressive enough, but the way the authors, photographers and copy editors put it together makes the articles a fun read. The reporters did an excellent job of finding the right sources and getting interesting viewpoints from them.

2nd Place

Saginaw News

Oh the places they've been
Kathryn Lynch-Morin

This is an informative and creative way to approach a topic many people have heard about but few journalists know how to report in a tangible way.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

Foreclosures
Matthew Miller

The sources in these articles share experiences that some people may find too personal or painful to share. The paper did a good job of wringing the best out of the information they gathered.

Daily C

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Hidden Pregnancies, Shattered Lives
Vanessa McCray

Excellent commitment to addressing a community issue by shining a light on three infant deaths, with attention to resources, prevention and what it means to society.

2nd Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Case closed
Danielle Salisbury
Rich in detail and comprehensive, with difficult to get interviews. Get a sense of the newspaper's commitment to this story for the past 1 1/2 years.

3rd Place

Times Herald

'It has to be somewhere'
Stephen Tait
This is a social question that is difficult to answer, but the reporter artfully readers through the complicated issues, with quantification to back up anecdotal evidence.

Daily D

1st Place

The Mining Journal

Getting up, getting active; Feeling healthy; Make wise choices
Johanna Boyle
This was an excellent job, including accompanying the people to San Diego.

2nd Place

Ludington Daily News

Plane crash in Lake Michigan
Excellent writing and digging into vital information such as water temperature and how long a person can survive.

3rd Place

The Daily Globe

Night shift suits them
David Sim
This was a fascinating look at a subject seldom approached.

Weekly A

1st Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Resident foils attack on Dearborn mosque
J. Patrick Pepper
Great job of taking a routine breaking news story and finding the stories beneath the stories, bringing to light stereotypes, prejudices, real life and turning it all into a package of information that brings clarity to the issue.

NEWS ENTERPRISE REPORTING (CONT.)

Weekly A

2nd Place

Milan News-Leader

Watch for warning signs of teen suicide; Community copes with teen's suicide; Milan teen's suicide prompts community forum; Superintendent confirms second suicide; Schools providing resources after tragedies; Resolution addresses suicide

Alyssa Stuart, Art Aisner, Joyce Ervin, Steven Howard
Kudos to the News-Leader for their efforts to shed light and hope on a subject that communities across the nation struggle with daily. Education and removing the taboo are what journalists can do to help stop these tragic deaths.

3rd Place **Milan News-Leader**

Young and Pregnant Part I: Prevention; Young and Pregnant Part II: Support; Young and Pregnant Part III: Looking Back; It's scary to find out you're pregnant as a teen
Jana Miller, Gerald LaVaute, Jodie Mason, Nikki Parsons
Many communities won't touch this project, and certainly not in the up close and personal way that the News-Leader did. Congratulations on helping your community to grow as a result of education.

Weekly B

1st Place **Canton Observer**

Pt. 1: Long road home // Pt. 2: Temple opens with celebration
Darrell Clem
A compelling piece about an issue involving religious freedom, community relations and individual morality. Well researched, balancing facts with the human connection. Good job!

2nd Place **Northern Express Weekly**

Nightmare on the Border
Rick Coates
Great job in humanizing an issue of national concern. You were able to condense and clarify a topic that typically draws knee-jerk responses from citizens who don't realize the human toll and suffering. An award-winning piece!

3rd Place **Milford Times**

Chicken fight
Aileen Wingblad
Excellent effort to put a human face on the old "you can't fight city hall" story. Well balanced, thoughtful, and thorough. Funny and serious at the same time! Sure it was an eye-opener for many of your citizens.

Weekly C

1st Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Mental Illness
Reporting Team, Lead Reporter: Amy Hubbell, Staff Writer: Chris Olsen, Staff Writer: Eric Carlson
This is a very good comprehensive look at issues of mental illness from funding to living with it. The writer does a nice job of showing the readers the story, not just telling it. Nice work.

2nd Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

SPECIAL REPORT - Alpine House fire: 1 year later
Lorene Parshall, staff writer

The writer does a great job of drawing the reader right to the heart of the story -- the people, those who lost their homes and their struggles. The reader immediately knows the impact this fire had. Good job.

3rd Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Superintendent Under Fire
Amy Hubbell
This is a great example of a reporter following the twists and turns of a story without repeating old news. The writer stayed focused on the newest bits of news and did not get bogged down in the mud slinging. Good work.

Weekly D

1st Place **The Advance**

Midwest's largest wind farm visited; Reporter makes first-hand observations of wind farms; Wind farm in 'Thumb' up, running
James McClenathen
This series was the hands-down winner for its role in educating and informing the public about wind energy. From visiting wind farms in other communities to understanding local impact, community members found a lot of resources to draw from in their local paper.

2nd Place **The Missaukee Sentinel**

Sunday Liquor Ban
Mike Dunn
These two stories captured the key points and arguments in the Sunday liquor sales approval. Residents of the community should walk away from these pieces with an understanding of the issue and the impact.

3rd Place **State Line Observer**

Waiting for the phone call
David Green
This story is a great look at the added challenges that educators face in times of tragedy when students are involved. This is a great look at a school's candid realization that they weren't prepared for some challenges, but they got prepared.

DESIGN

Daily A

1st Place **Flint Journal**

Great use of white space throughout; attractive section headings; creative layout; a newspaper readers will love to read.

2nd Place **Detroit Free Press**

No comments given.

3rd Place **Grand Rapids Press**

West Michigan Regional Copy Desk
No comments given.

Daily B

1st Place **Bay City Times**

Knows how to design big and small. Little things such as briefs, obits and agate pop as much as anything else, very easy to read and move through. Story-photo combos are very strong.

DESIGN (CONT.)

Daily B

2nd Place **Lansing State Journal**

Excellent understanding of how to draw the reader in with pullquotes, sidebars, and then how to direct them online, not to mention get them to just turn the page. Solid typographical choices and understanding of centerpiece design.

3rd Place **Saginaw News**

Very clean pages, each one easy to navigate, good breathing space between story packages. Typographical changes used properly, to grab the eye when necessary. Consistent, good work.

DESIGN

Daily C

1st Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Consistent design throughout - including special treatment and attention to detail even on inside pages.

Digest page is clean and easy to read.

Every page held my attention. Thank you.

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

Brian Steele, Andy Taylor, Dan Nielsen, Brenda Coglianese, Christy Succop, Pat Putney

Consistent and clean. Would have liked to see more attention to inside pages on special packages.

3rd Place **Times Herald**

Great teas and dedication to special treatment for community events.

Daily D

1st Place **Petoskey News-Review**

Good palette and typography, type and headline heirarchy, and strong, well-organized and designed online presence on Page 2.

Page 1 sells the design and content. Inside pages were easy to read and cleanly designed, in most cases. The News-Review was the clear winner.

2nd Place **Sturgis Journal**

Candice Phelps, Dennis Volkert, Corky Emrick

Cleanly designed, though skimpy on content. Good use of photos and type on Page 1. Needs to strengthen content -- entry points, breakout boxes, summaries on what readers need to know at a glance.

3rd Place **Daily Telegram**

The content is there, but design has not caught up with it. Good use of photos and type on Page 1. Good refers, entry points, schedules, glance boxes headline hierarchy and a mix of photo sizes.

Weekly A

1st Place **Saline Reporter**

No Comments Given

2nd Place **The County Press, Lapeer**

No Comments Given

3rd Place **Manchester Enterprise**

No comments Given

Weekly B

1st Place **Northville Record**

Cal Stone, Pam Fleming, John Heider, Sam Eggleston

A very clean and cohesive design. The headline typography fits with the design elements to create a product that feels like a unified product. I would like to see bigger headlines in some places, but that's a relatively minor issue in what's a very strong overall design.

2nd Place **Novi News**

Cal Stone, Nathan Mueller, Chris Jackett, John Heider

This shares the same basic design as the Northville Record, which means it shares the same strengths and cohesiveness. The execution just wasn't quite as strong in these examples as it was in the Northville issues.

3rd Place **Tri-County Times**

There's a lot to like here, but there's also a lot going on. All the different fonts and colors work well in isolation (each individual story looks good), but there's no cohesive elements that say "Tri-County Times." In some places, it's difficult to distinguish ads from news copy, and nothing stands out because everything is flashy. With a little more restraint and better use of white space to set off elements, this could be a strong contender in this category next year.

Weekly C

1st Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

No Comments Given

2nd Place **Harbor Country News**

David Johnson

No Comments Given

3rd Place **The Exponent**

No comments Given

Weekly D

1st Place **Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

Maria Trejo, Dawn Davis

No Comments Given

2nd Place **State Line Observer**

No Comments Given

3rd Place **Charlevoix Courier**

Steve Zucker, Wendy Wolfsen, Jessie Healey

No comments Given

FEATURE STORY

Daily A

1st Place **Flint Journal**

Sagas of Service

Beata Mostafavi

This is a very touching story and extremely well done.

FEATURE STORY (CONT.)

Daily A

2nd Place **Flint Journal**

Life on Flint's most dangerous streets

David Harris

You can almost feel yourself entering this Most Dangerous street.

Descriptive was great.

3rd Place

The Survivor

Terri Finch Hamilton

Great writing on this story. Details about this man's fight back from death were fascinating.

Grand Rapids Press

Daily B

1st Place

Queen of the Cage

Kathryn Lynch-Morin

No Comments Given

Saginaw News

2nd Place

Never too late.

John Hausman

No Comments Given

Muskegon Chronicle

3rd Place

Steely determination

Lindsay Knake

No comments Given

Saginaw News

Daily C

1st Place

Passion & Purpose: Author Michael Collins Uses His Own Story to Teach Emerging Writers at SMC

Jeremy D. Bonfiglio, Herald-Palladium Features Writer

There's nothing like the pressure of trying to write well about an accomplished writer, but Jeremy Bonfiglio pulls it off with finesse.

In focusing on Collins' students at the story's start and end, he also reveals how there's a writer in all of us who are willing to bare our souls. And that sometimes these writers are lucky enough to have someone like Collins as a teacher.

Herald-Palladium

2nd Place

Recovering together

Aaron Aupperlee

What an upbeat but moving piece about two teens bringing a great attitude to a horrible challenge, and uplifting each other in the process, with the support of their families and communities. Their playful anecdotes are wonderful to read, but the story also doesn't hold back on showing how difficult a turn their lives have taken. The homecoming scene was a fantastic way to wrap up the story, although I'm guessing it actually served as the genesis for the piece.

Jackson Citizen Patriot

3rd Place

In the Driver's Seat

Bob Wheaton

The writer puts us in the driver's seat with this woman, helping us understand the terror she faced, how it affected her, and the magnitude of her courage in overcoming it. Riding the bus to document her interplay with students helped make an excellent story out of what otherwise might have been just a good one.

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Daily D

1st Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Carpenter won't let blindness hold him back

Frank Konkell

What an amazing story of hope, courage, happiness and success in the face of adversity. Hats off to this reporter who uncovered a gem of a story and wrote about it so eloquently that others with disabilities can feel empowered to reach their dreams. An amazing story that we loved reading.

2nd Place

Butterflies are free to fly

Patty Ramus

What a beautiful story about a beautiful creature. Great job by the writer to include information about the Monarch butterfly. This story is fun, entertaining and educational. Great photos, too.

Alpena News

3rd Place

Horror recalled

Dan Cherry

We always love a story that can speak to days gone by, share a history lesson with the reader and ensure that others don't forget - or learn for the first time - about history nobody wants to repeat. I didn't know about this disaster, but the stories made me feel as if I was there all those years ago.

Daily Telegram

Weekly A

1st Place

Desolation Angel

Detroit Blogger John

An ambitious, heavy-hitting piece. Great writing and reporting. It's a story that hits you in your guts and sticks with you when you're done. Characters are vividly and fearlessly rendered. This is the kind of story that has the power to shift how you view the world.

Metro Times

2nd Place

Letter Man

Matthew Wolfe

Brilliant, funny, quirky. The whole piece, to borrow one of many, many astonishing phrases from the writer himself, basks in a post-coital glow. There is indeed a place in the world for such characters, and a place in the world (and this contest) for such writing. Schwa on!

Metro Times

3rd Place

Got Pot? Cities struggle with new law

Austen Smith

The writer manages to put his arms around a hugely complex issue, writing about it comprehensively and with great lucidity, skillfully bringing in both hyper-local and broader implications. Really nice piece of journalism.

Ypsilanti Courier

Weekly B

1st Place

The Queen Moves On

Lawrence Cosentino

Superb piece about an important local figure. A "legacy" piece that wraps history around the lifestyle of someone who played an important role in the community's business, social and cultural community.

Lansing City Pulse

FEATURE STORY (CONT.)

Weekly B

2nd Place

The Citizen, Ortonville

Help for the Homeless

Susan Bromley

Great job in addressing an important community issue in a feature format. Certainly puts a face on the topic of homelessness. Well written, sensitive and hard-hitting.

3rd Place

Canton Observer

Linked in ink: Women cherish 65-year pen-pal friendship
Darrell Clem

A classic feature article! Well written and formatted. Links contemporary and historical connections in a most readable story.

Weekly C

1st Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Corn, cows, and keeping them both happy

Alan Campbell

Not only did this story paint a good picture of the changing agricultural landscape, it was just a fun read.

2nd Place

**Houghton Lake Resorter &
Roscommon County Herald-News**

Recording daily miles, waves and smiles

Mike Metzger

A great example of the value of community journalism and a reporter willing to look deeper for a good story.

3rd Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

A Pumpkin-Perfect Day

Stacey Tucker

We often think of feature stories needing to be long and drawn out. This was short, sweet with a nod to the quirkiness of the whole event.

Weekly D

1st Place

Charlevoix Courier

100 years of Amazing Grace

Steve Zucker

The headline says it all and the story makes you love Grace, whether you know her or not. This is community journalism at its best.

2nd Place

State Line Observer

Ministering to the victims of AIDS

David Green

It is always heartwarming to read stories of humans helping humans. This feel-good story makes readers realize there is a greater good.

3rd Place

State Line Observer

Kitten rescue

David Green

EDITORIAL WRITING

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

The D Diaries: Tailor demolitions to sculpt a smaller, more sustainable city; Connecting with at-risk kids is the key to a DPS turnaround; Police can't do it all by themselves

Jeff Gerritt

Great combination of praising they mayor and tasking him to meet a challenge. His leadership will make or break the city and he's running short on time. Captivating editorial that highlights some of the real darkness of a great city, but makes room for the future sunshine, too.

2nd Place

Grand Rapids Press

The Voice of Michigan - A mosque near Ground Zero - More disclosure of public money

Ed Golder

Anyone who reads the editorial about Ernie Harwell feels like they know him and you can almost hear his voice reverberating throughout the stands. What an incredible tribute to a great man.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

Find ways to repair dysfunctional legislature; Write greater flexibility, balance into state taxes; Too many costly layers of local government

Barb Arrigo

We love the no nonsense approach to a critical local problem. This hard-hitting editorial demands action and holds government accountable.

Daily B

1st Place

Bay City Times

Clear the haze that clouds legal medical marijuana in Michigan

Clark Hughes

No Comments Given

2nd Place

The Oakland Press

Allan Adler

No Comments Given

3rd Place

Saginaw News

Clark Hughes

No comments Given

Daily C

1st Place

Times Herald

Court wrong in township sewer case

Mike Connell

No Comments Given

2nd Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

It's time to restore order in this court; Prosecutors bark up the wrong tree; Make strong case to get more money

Brian Wheeler

No Comments Given

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Editorials -- Mike Tyree

Mike Tyree

No comments Given

EDITORIAL WRITING (CONT.)

Daily D

1st Place

Daily Telegram

Overindulgent 'parents' in the Statehouse/Teachers union in Sand Creek sets a strong example/Wrong to blame sides after

Arizona shooting

Staff

The Telegram had hard-hitting editorial on sensitive subjects. They took on the teachers' union, union raises in tough economic times.

2nd Place

Petoskey News-Review

Our View

Ryan Bentley, Doug Caldwell, Jeremy McBain, Neil Stilwell, Babette Stenuis Stolz

A very good entry, but we particularly were impressed by the editorial on ferry companies. Light house and compromise also were part of a very good package.

3rd Place

The Pioneer

The Pioneer package was impressive. Their editorial took on a college faculty with no holds barred. Sunday liquor sales and a tragically bad baseball call had to resonate with readers.

Weekly A

1st Place

The News-Herald

Feb. 9, 2011, Town Hall meeting; Dec. 15, 2010, DRIC; Nov. 20, 2010, Good vs. Evil

Karl Ziomek/ Managing Editor

Our judges appreciated the community perspective on important issues as well as the courage of the writers/editorial boards to stand up for what they believe is right, even if it is unpopular. It takes courage to go against the grain.

2nd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Our Point of View

No comments given.

3rd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

In Our Words

Nancy Elliott

Weekly B

1st Place

South Lyon Herald

"Undeserved criticism", "Don't support recall", and "A grand opening"

Kurt Kuban

Excellent job in addressing issues of local concern. Balanced, strong and definitely community oriented. Use of photos a plus.

2nd Place

Birmingham Eccentric

Fight to save Hills post office branch

Greg Kowalski, editor

Strong opinions about topics of utmost concern in your community.

The editorials must certainly elicit response, and result in wide discussion. The use of the photos draws attention to the issues being addressed.

3rd Place

Grosse Pointe News

Don't take our heroes for granted; Forbidding businesses to display neon; Work together to solve shortfalls

Joe Warner

Appreciate the old-school approach: well-written, readers know where you stand, and you obviously encourage public discussion of important issues. Good job!

EDITORIAL WRITING

Weekly C

1st Place

The Tri-City Times

High price for...what?; State needs to step up now; Outsourcing transportation requires careful consideration

Catherine Minolli

No Comments Given

2nd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-N

Editorial Writing Entries

Tom Hamp

No Comments Given

3rd Place

The Tri-City Times

Middle College makes economic sense; Walk the talk, register to vote; A winning initiative

Maria Brown

No comments Given

EDITORIAL WRITING

Weekly D

1st Place

Clarkston News

Editorial

Phil Custodio, Don Rush

No Comments Given

2nd Place

Cass City Chronicle

Union's fingerprints were all over report

Tom Montgomery, Editor

No Comments Given

3rd Place

Armada Times

Embattled former Armada treasurer took the money and ran

Matt Fahr

No comments Given

EDITORIAL PAGES

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

April 4, 2010: Vision 2020; June 20, 2010: Clean the spill, pass the bill; March 20, 2011: Off the mark on city schools

Detroit Free Press Editorial Board

A positive voice for Detroit and Michigan; strong ideas clearly and well stated; 2020 front page puts city issues into perspective; well designed pages; setting the standard for editorial page design invites readers, encourages views

2nd Place

Flint Journal

Flint Journal Voices/Echoes page

Clark Hughes, Jackie Braun

Design encourages readers to read; points of view clearly stated; a strong editorial voice for Flint

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

The Grand Rapids Press' editorial page entries - see urls

Ed Golder, Staff

Positions clear and stated well; a variety of voices present on pages

EDITORIAL PAGES

Daily B

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

Use one-off..., Approve tax incentives..., Capitol panel should reconsider...

LSJ Staff

No Comments Given

2nd Place **Saginaw News**
Saginaw News Editorial Pages
Saginaw News Staff
No Comments Given

3rd Place **Bay City Times**
Clear the haze that clouds legal medical marijuana in Michigan
Staff
No comments Given

EDITORIAL PAGES

Daily C

1st Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Editorial Pages
Staff
Excellent package in response to a controversial photo that had been run on Page One. Big issues deserve big dedication of space. Use of color, photos engaging. Forum a more easily understandable term than op-ed. Advisory Board good use of community outreach.

2nd Place **Times Herald**
Editorial Pages
Mike Connell, Michael Eckert, Tom Walker
Good community outreach and interaction through editorial board community members and Talk Balk, which I imagine is a popular feature. In addition to effective editorials, can tell community interaction is valued.

EDITORIAL PAGES

Daily D

1st Place **The Mining Journal**
03.20.11; 05.16.10; 06.23.10
Bud Sargent
The Mining Journal had an excellent entry. Standouts included column by the managing editor, good display to letters to the editor.

2nd Place **Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**
March 20, June 10 and October 31 Opinion pages
Staff
Livingston has a worthy reader panel, a fine range of columnists and a good column on election endorsements.

3rd Place **Alpena News**
The Alpena News editorial pages
Editorial pages staff
Alpena had very good looking editorial pages. The judge liked the "Cheers and Jeers" portion, the online poll and a fine layout on letters from readers.

EDITORIAL PAGES

Weekly A

1st Place **The County Press, Lapeer**
Opinion
Jeff Hogan
No Comments Given

2nd Place **Milan News-Leader**
Editorial Pages
Staff
No Comments Given

3rd Place **Grand Blanc View**
VIEWpoint
Staff
No comments Given

EDITORIAL PAGES

Weekly B

1st Place **Grosse Pointe News**
Editorial pages (2 per week)
Diane Morelli
Engaging pages; nice lay-out; good mix of letters, columns, editorials. Wouldn't be surprised if readers turn to these pages first!

2nd Place **Milford Times**
Milford Times editorial pages
Philip Allmen
Obviously a "formula" editorial page layout used by your assorted sister publications, but yours it a bit breezier, with nice use of white space. Very attractive!

3rd Place **Bay Voice**
The Voice Editorial pages
Voice editorial
A bit haphazard, but nonetheless proof of your commitment to your readers, your community and diverse opinions. Would guess the page is quite well read. Good effort at straight-forward community journalism!

EDITORIAL PAGES

Weekly C

1st Place **White Lake Beacon**
Sounding the Water
Greg Means, John Keene
No Comments Given

2nd Place **Belleville-Area Independent**
Opinions
Rosemary Oztzman, Editor, Bob Mytych, Cartoonist
No Comments Given

3rd Place **Leelanau Enterprise**
Leelanau Views
Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Chris Olsen
No comments Given

EDITORIAL PAGES

Weekly D

1st Place **State Line Observer**
State Line Observer
Staff
No Comments Given

2nd Place **The Advance**
The Advance
Marcia Loader
No Comments Given

3rd Place **Clarkston News**
Viewpoints
Phil Custodio, Wendi Reardon, Trevor Keiser, Don Rush, Jim Sherman Sr.
No comments Given

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Daily A

1st Place

The Detroit News

Nolan Finley columns

Nolan Finley

Nolan Finley tells it exactly how it is. He raises hackles, ruffles feathers and says it like he sees it. His approach is hard hitting, fast-bally style with a wicked sense of humor that adds a unique touch. His topics are broad and his insight matches.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

Mayhem overshadows all of the good in Detroit; It's time for Michigan to legalize fireworks; We know our lakes are great -- let's make sure others do, too

Ron Dzwonkowski

Ron Dzwonkowski isn't afraid to take a tough subject, stare it in the face and then challenge it to a dual. He takes popular topics and gives them a careful look. His writing is fun to read and his genuine love of what he writes about shines through.

3rd Place

The Detroit News

Marney Rich Keenan columns

Marney Rich Keenan

Marney Rich Keenan blends a magical combination of cynicism and just-the-facts ma'am into her writing. She's got the perfect spunk and unique flavor to keep readers wondering what she'll say next.

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Daily B

1st Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

1. Guns don't kill people, people with guns do 2. Cancer: Inspiration and reality collide 3. Roe vs. Wade didn't resolve abortion issue

Julie Mack

No Comments Given

2nd Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Columnist Cindy Fairfield

Cindy Fairfield

No Comments Given

3rd Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Columnist John Hausman

John Hausman

No comments Given

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Daily C

1st Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Jackson lost a lot of history in flames; Searching for the bare facts isn't easy; Autumn is best time for pure taste of Michigan.

Brad Flory

Judges like strippers, too.

2nd Place

Herald-Palladium

1st. column: One stupid epithet can mar years of work to improve area; 2nd column: The mode of the music changes, but not for the better; 3rd column: Pedestrians and traffic need to be separated

William F. Ast III

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Local Columnist - Bill O'Brien

Bill O'Brien

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Daily D

1st Place

The Pioneer

Brandon Fountain columns

Brandon Fountain

No Comments Given

2nd Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Various

John Counts, Staff Writer

No Comments Given

3rd Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Back Talk

David L. Barber, Managing Editor, Dylan Savelle, Staff Writer

No comments Given

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Weekly A

1st Place

Lapeer Area View

The VIEW from here

Nancy Elliott

Here is a beautifully literary, intelligent and versatile writer who seems to have mastered the art of column-writing. Her pieces seem to come from such an authentic, effortless place, and are drenched in a sense of time and place that makes me just want to savor them. If I subscribed to this paper, I'm sure her column would be the first thing I'd always turn to.

2nd Place

Metro Times

Politics and Prejudices

Jack Lessenberry

This guy writes like a pro, and has an unerring ability to hunt down, and flesh out, the kind of subject matter that matters.

3rd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

The Good Word by Morris Goodman

Morris Goodman

The columnist tackles complex, fascinating, heavy-hitting topics and writes about them in a way that at once preserves and reveals his own humanity, while opening new windows on the world for his readers.

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Weekly B

1st Place

Plymouth Observer

Use facts; Easy to criticize; Fracture in school board

Brad Kadrich

Enjoyed the handling of tough local and regional topics with wit and common sense. The column on budgeting elevated this entry to the top spot.

2nd Place

Grosse Pointe News

Perhaps St. Anthony could help?; Punted into reality;

Hiding behind the cloak of anonymity

Joe Warner

Witty, engaging, drew me into the column, into his life . . . worth my time to read. Loved the lawnmower escapade.

3rd Place

Birmingham Eccentric

It's a fitting time to remember Hudson's; Curl up with a good copy of "Gerusalemme"; Down memory lane in the old Packard Greg Kowalski, editor
Like the personal take on broader topics. Obvious reader connection, i.e. the copy of past special edition.

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Weekly C

1st Place

My Two Cents
Matt Schepeler

Very good job of keeping an eye on what is happening in the community, and pointing out the good and the bad. Everything I look for in a column - wit, a watchful eye to nudge people in the right direction, a scolding when necessary. Able to make your point and then move on. A very close decision, but the lesson "we count on the community to help us stay balanced" elevated this entry to the top spot.

The Exponent

2nd Place

**Houghton Lake Resorter &
Roscommon County Herald-N**

Make It Plain by Glenn Schicker

Glenn Schicker

This entry pulls the reader directly into the writer's life in a compelling way. I wanted to read more, to see how he draws strength from his faith in the real world. Good word craft, well developed themes with consistent treatment. Each column was a good read, collectively a very strong entry which had an influence in his community.

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Word Sandwich

Chris Engle, staff writer

Good, solid entry with strong personal story-telling skills. Would be much stronger by expanding beyond "my friend, Matt, and I" to telling similar tales about others in your community (such as Matt Schepeler's column on Charlie Howland and his dad). Good feel for story-telling . . . a little word craft to tighten your prose makes this writer a consistent contender.

LOCAL COLUMNIST

Weekly D

1st Place

Dr. McMillian's Mental Health Corner
Tammy Croy McMillian, Ph.D.
No Comments Given

The Boyne City Gazette

2nd Place

Cass City Chronicle

Reporter's notebook

Tom Montgomery, Editor

No Comments Given

3rd Place

State Line Observer

Nowhere Road

Rich Foley

No comments Given

NEWS PICTURE

Daily A

1st Place

Hoarders Sorrow

David Coates

This photo tells a story of tragedy, sorrow, fear and all of the emotions surrounding crisis. Without knowing the story first, this

The Detroit News

photo tells everything except for the exact event details.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

Fallen officer remembered

Patricia Beck

A fallen officer photo always stirs emotions in all who view the photo. The loss of a father and husband is captured in the family. The lips on the female officer show the difficulty of losing a fellow officer.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

'He Was Fennville'

Emily Zoladz

This photo captures the raw emotion felt by a young team in a moment difficult to comprehend. The close nature of the team without words speaks volumes.

NEWS PICTURE

Daily B

1st Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Shooting scene

Kendra Stanley-Mills

Great job bringing back a compelling shooting scene photo that the editors would have no problem putting on the front page. Composition and framing puts the focus on the very telling faces in this photo.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

'You killed my best friend'

Rod Sanford

A photo filled with emotions that illustrate the story perfectly.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

Fatal fire

Greg DeRuiter

Photo does a great job of illustrating how intense and consequently deadly this fire was. I think I would have liked to see more of the house and the smoke billowing out.

NEWS PICTURE

Daily C

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Leelanau house fire

Keith King

Nice lighting, lines, overall scene-setting. Excellent photo.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

OLD TOWN TRAGEDY

Jan-Michael Stump

3rd Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Duty Calls

Katie Rausch

NEWS PICTURE

Daily D

1st Place

**Livingston County Daily Press &
Argus**

Stepping up against cancer

Gillis Benedict

No Comments Given

2nd Place

Livingston County Daily Press &

Argus

Home explosion takes man's life
Alan Ward
No Comments Given

3rd Place **Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**

Reaching for hope
Gillis Benedict
No comments Given

NEWS PICTURE

Weekly A

1st Place **Press & Guide Newspapers**

Fire spreads through line of trucks
Millard Berry
Seems like the good stuff always comes out when tragedy strikes. This is a great photograph! Congratulations.

2nd Place **The News-Herald**

Lt. Dan Kromer, 1955-2010
Larry Caruso
This is a very touching but great photo. Any person that looks at this automatically knows its importance. I like the use of natural light. Very nice.

3rd Place **The County Press, Lapeer**

Driver lives to tell about it
Phil Foley
Great angle on this photo. You can pretty much tell the entire story by looking at this photo. You have the two pieces of the car, cops, railroad tracks and survivor. Fantastic look at a near major tragedy. Congrats.

NEWS PICTURE

Weekly B

1st Place **Grosse Pointe News**

CCD buildings destroyed
Brad Lindberg
Shot of firemen against backdrop of pure wall of flames is phenomenal. Drives readers to the story.

2nd Place **Grosse Pointe News**

A special good-bye
Peter Birkner
Heartfelt image of grieving woman after unimaginable loss stays with you long after storyline is read.

3rd Place **The Citizen, Ortonville**

Groveland Twp. Firefighters
Patrick McAbee
Excellent job of capturing a breaking fire story. Well shot and reproduced. Good eye.

NEWS PICTURE

Weekly C

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

News Picture Skinner 1
Andrew Skinner
It's a picture that explains the event -- a huge snowstorm -- without need of a caption. The framing was just right. Glad it was in color; otherwise, it would have lost something in the translation.

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

News Picture Skinner 2

Andrew Skinner

Love the picture -- good emotion on the man's face together with the spray of the snow he's trying to clear. Love the presentation on the page ..

3rd Place **The Commercial Record**

Students escape crash
Scott Sullivan
Nice work to get as close as you did without getting in the way of the rescuers. Nothing wrong with the framing either. There were two others that were better in this class. Nice job.

NEWS PICTURE

Weekly D

1st Place **State Line Observer**

Bee-utiful Day
David Green
Not only was the subject matter interesting, but I liked the angle the photographer shot from. I also liked the closer-up shot being placed on top of the other.

2nd Place **State Line Observer**

Into the flames
David Green
The photo makes us feel that we are in line with the firefighters marching toward the fire. Instead of just a fire picture, it focuses on the firefighters, which I think interests people more.

3rd Place **Oxford Leader**

Timber!
C.J. Carnacchio
I like how the big tree is the focus, but the chain saw man's face is fully visible, as is his chain saw. It's good to show faces, and this action shot shows just how big that tree was.

FEATURE PICTURE

Daily A

1st Place **The Detroit News**

Windsor Fire Sends Smoke To Detroit
David Coates
Beautiful lighting and catching the right photo at the right time capture a story all unto itself.

2nd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Command Performance
Kimberly P. Mitchell
The banner on the wall says it all. These students, who are in jeopardy of their school closing, are performing on stage and following dreams.

3rd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Trunk Show
Susan Tusa
What warms the hearts of readers more than a father and a son sharing special time.

FEATURE PICTURE

Daily B

1st Place **Bay City Times**

Pool on Deck
Michael Randolph
A unique setting and a well-timed click= winner!

2nd Place **Lansing State Journal**

A longstanding tradition
Rod Sanford
It would've been hard to blow this shot with such an interesting subject, but a good shot nonetheless

3rd Place **Lansing State Journal**

Cooling off
Rod Sanford
A bit dark, but good timing makes up for it.

FEATURE PICTURE

Daily C

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

Snow angels
Keith King
What a fun photo highlighting the simple, well-known tradition of winter snow angels. Great color and dimension.

2nd Place **Herald-Palladium**

Taking the fight to the streets
Herald-Palladium Staff Photographer Don Campbell
This photo highlights a rare disease and the struggle for those living with it. But it also shows great dimension and draws the reader into the story.

3rd Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Homeless sleeper
Jan-Michael Stump
The compelling element of this photo is the human nature shown in a homeless man's feet combined with the sterility of institutional floors and plastic totes.

FEATURE PICTURE

Daily D

1st Place **Petoskey News-Review**

Hilarious
G. Randall Goss
No Comments Given

2nd Place **Ludington Daily News**

Wave
Jeff Kiessel
No Comments Given

3rd Place **The Pioneer**

Football player
Matt Yeoman
No comments Given

FEATURE PICTURE

Weekly A

1st Place **Press & Guide Newspapers**

Defendants await their court hearings
Millard Berry
Not sure what it is about this photo, but I really like it. It's simple but there is a lot of emotion coming from it. You can really tell how the people are feeling and you don't even see their faces. Winning photos don't always have to be fun and happy. This one definitely tells a story. It wasn't my first choice right away but after coming back to it multiple times, it is the feature photo winner in this class for sure. Congratulations!

2nd Place **Ile Camera**

Ho, no, no
E.L. Conley

Little kids always seem to do it. This is a great photo that I'm sure many parents have seen before. My one suggestion would be try this from a different angle, if possible. I'd like to see what this would've looked like from a worm's-eye view. Nonetheless, great photo. Congrats.

3rd Place **Manchester Enterprise**

Adriannah Wallen photo by Kathy Schriber
Kathy Schriber
Wonderful photo! Kids are always fun to photograph and when is a better time than around hungry animals! Congrats on a nice photo.

FEATURE PICTURE

Weekly B

1st Place **Grosse Pointe News**

Warbirds this weekend
Brad Lindberg
Best subject, shot could've been better

2nd Place **Tri-County Times**

Dancing with the stars ; of the future
Tim Jagielo
Honestly, this could've been swapped with 3rd place; not a very good selection, quite frankly. Sorry -

3rd Place **Tri-County Times**

Hats for Rory
Tim Jagielo
See second place comment.

FEATURE PICTURE

Weekly C

1st Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Big Ticket moments
Chris Engle, staff writer/photographer
Good timing, creative, something different. Kudos.

2nd Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Upsetting the Queen: Pageant winner, Rachel Bartow (center), first runner-up.....
Matt Wenzel, staff writer
Overcomes "posed" photo because of great facial expressions

3rd Place **Oceana's Herald-Journal**

Feature Picture Skinner 1
Andrew Skinner
Just a cool looking photo - sometimes that's enough

FEATURE PICTURE

Weekly D

1st Place **State Line Observer**

Skeeter eater
David Green
Great job capturing a snapshot in time that is difficult to catch. Beautiful colors. Great moment.

2nd Place **State Line Observer**

Not so fast
David Green
Anyone who reads this caption will chuckle. Great moment captured by this photog.

3rd Place **Charlevoix Courier**

So long, summer
Steve Zucker

If this doesn't say "summertime," our judges don't know what does. It's a feel-good photo that brings everybody to a time and place in their life where memories are made.

PICTURE STORY

Daily A

1st Place

Grand Rapids Press

Waiting to Exhale

Emily Zoladz

Your photos brought tears to my eyes. You truly captured this woman's and this family's story beautifully. Lovely moments and striking details. Well done.

2nd Place

Grand Rapids Press

The Grand Tour: Discovering Our Grand River

Rex D. Larsen

Your use of color and detail is remarkable. You did a wonderful job balancing your images with one another and telling the story. My only complaint might be that there were too many stories happening at once here; they are all about the river but narrowing the selections down might have assisted you.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

Oil spill spreads downriver

Andre J. Jackson

The photographer does a terrific job telling a story through photos ; I don't need cutlines to tell me what's happened here. Great balance of detail and wide shots.

PICTURE STORY

Daily B

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

MSU championship over Penn St.

Rod Sanford

A great mix of action shots and reaction. I love the story you tell through emotion. Great colors, sharp images and terrific details. Well done.

2nd Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

Oil spill

Jonathon Gruenke

Telling images of a tragedy, though I think the photographer could have pushed through a bit more to tell the story. I really enjoyed the detail shot of the oil against the water.

3rd Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Highwire High Jinks When Circus Comes to Town

Kendra Stanley-Mills

Good use of light and good colors. Tells the full story.

PICTURE STORY

Daily C

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Dog Stars

Garrett Leiva

With pet owners spending more than 43 billion on pet food alone in 2010, this photo essay speaks right to the heart of America and pet owners everywhere. Refreshing, fun and it tells a great story.

2nd Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Recovering Together

Katie Rausch

Photos like these might be the only way a story like this one can be told completely. The photos are engaging and powerful and pay

tribute to the long road ahead for these friends.

3rd Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Living Life to the Fullest

Nick Dentamaro

PICTURE STORY

Daily D

1st Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

St. Pat's spirit takes over downtown

Gillis Benedict

This entry best meets the judging criteria of story-telling quality, impact, reader interest and composition. Good variety of content, and images from different perspectives. Depicts this event pretty completely.

2nd Place

Daily Telegram

High Dynamic Range

Vicki Schmucker

A fascinating and adventurous adventure in photography that should delight any reader with an interest in art and imagery. A fresh departure from the usual range of newspaper work.

3rd Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Raindrops keep falling

Jeanne Barber, photographer

An imaginative way to look at a rainstorm; vivid imagery that elevates a simple natural event to art; pretty advanced work, nicely done.

PICTURE STORY

Weekly A

1st Place

Metro Times

Fash Bash

Travis Wright, Joe Gall

This project brings a WOW factor that is hard to capture in photographs. Fashion, style, creativity and individuality come slamming through in this photo essay.

2nd Place

The News-Herald

Happy Halloween; Way to go, Y&Dot!

Larry Caruso

Way to go, Y&Dot brings together in photos the pride that small communities feel when their kids achieve greatness. It's a feel good photo package.

3rd Place

Metro Times

Basketball in the D

Travis Wright

The black and white contrast coupled with unique angles and dimensions bring life to the joy that basketball brings to so many in D-town, the pastime it represents and the city's desperate need to find revitalization and a fresh start.

PICTURE STORY

Weekly B

1st Place

Grosse Pointe News

High seas

Brad Lindberg

Great angles and variety of shots. Good colors.

2nd Place

Grosse Pointe News

The highs and lows of flight

Brad Lindberg

I like your use of the planes to frame the scenery and help tell the story. Good colors. Sure wish they could have given you color on the main page. And I'd like to see some people in the shots.

3rd Place

Grosse Pointe News

Cars at concours

Dana Kaiser

Great colors and details included. I'd like to see a bit more journalist approach instead of posed shots and maybe at least wide shot.

PICTURE STORY

Weekly C

1st Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-N

Sergej and the Osprey

Thomas Reznich

Great mix of photos that truly do tell the story by themselves. Excellent quality and varying photographic perspectives of a unique individual in your community.

2nd Place

Oceana's Herald-Journal

Picture Story Skinner 1

Andrew Skinner

Unique and very entertaining idea. Quality of photos and reproductions make for a great page. A monthly page such as this would make for a collectible package at year's end.

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

A day in the Pigeon River Forest

Chris Engle, outdoor writer/photographer

Themed pages are beautifully shot and laid out. Story is documented, handled with care, and given to your readers as a gift.

PICTURE STORY

Weekly D

1st Place

State Line Observer

Bikes on ice

David Green

I finally chose this as first place because I think it's a story that hasn't been told very often. So it's a story readers will want to find out about, plus each shot captured a different element of the event (not just racers.) I liked the close-up of the tire, and the shot of the people waiting in their trailer. It gives you a sense of what the lifestyle might be like if you're into that sport.

2nd Place

Oxford Leader

Share the World

C.J. Carnacchio

The individual photos all show great composition. I especially liked the one of the sloth hanging in the foreground as the children sit in the background. Some great shots added up to a fun and visually interesting picture story.

3rd Place

Clarkston News

Path to paszkis

Phil Custodio

This was very visually interesting. Each photo shows a different step, and I think it gives readers a peek into someplace not many have gone. I think the rise in popularity of shows such as "Cupcake Wars" and "Cake Boss" prove that people like going behind the scenes to see how this stuff works. And the photographer gets great candid shots of the woman working.

SPORTS PICTURE

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Touchdown for Sparty

Rashaun Rucker

I love everything about this photo, the person who needs to be in focus, is. I love the action in the photo such as the wide receiver in the air and how the lighting and everything is just right!

2nd Place

Grand Rapids Press

Professional Bull Riders Tour at Van Andel Arena

Darren Breen

The lightning in the back ground made me take a triple take at the photo and was a little distracting, however, the action of the bull and the rider being in midair really adds to it. Looks like it was a crystal clear photo.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

Second Inning Stretch

Julian H. Gonzalez

It's not very often that you can get subjects such as professional baseball players who go all out to give photographers great shots like this, however, you did a fantastic job at capturing it at the exact moment. The focus and everything were exactly where they should be.

SPORTS PICTURE

Daily B

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

MSU victory over Notre Dame

Rod Sanford

Entries in this class were all very good. This photograph stood out because of the emotion in the players face and the framing of the photograph.

2nd Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Dejected kicker

Ken Stevens

This is the moment every sports photographer wants to capture when they go to the game. In one glance the whole story is revealed for all to see.

3rd Place

Saginaw News

Young boxer

Emily-Rose Bennett

Great light sets the mood and makes this photograph stand out.

SPORTS PICTURE

Daily C

1st Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Royals fall

Nick Dentamaro

Every reader can feel the emotion in this picture and can imagine what is going through these two players' heads as they collide. Great timing to capture all of the drama in action.

2nd Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Berry, Berry good

Nick Dentamaro

This photo represents true, unedited surprise and excitement.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Soaring to the basket

Luke Kermode

The Colorado judges loved the lens, angle and depth of this photo. Not your normal take on an otherwise normal basketball shot.

SPORTS PICTURE

Daily D

1st Place

Football Tears

Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis

The great part about covering sports is the emotion it can bring out. I thought this was the best of this category due to how the photo reads. I do not even have to read the caption to understand what just happened on this day. Nice crop I liked how he was not centered in the frame.

Morning Sun

2nd Place

The Daily Globe

Jay Creagh, from Minneapolis, takes a drink with an ice-covered beard.

Jason Juno

Sometimes in sports photography it does not have to be action. I loved this detail shot because me a great feel of the event. Makes me shiver just looking at it.

3rd Place

Ludington Daily News

stretched out

Jeff Kiessel

Just missed!! Nice action shot for girls softball. Very nice crop to bring the action right into the frame.

SPORTS PICTURE

Weekly A

1st Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Crestwood's Wardeh Alcodray collides with Dearborn High goalie Samantha Wilson

Millard Berry

Yes! This is a fantastic photo! It is the kind you pray is in focus after looking at it on the camera screen. It's always nice to get lucky and capture these photos! Great job and congratulations!

2nd Place

Tri-County Citizen

AMAZING GRACE

Hillary Grigonis

Great work! This is a tough photo to get, especially during High School football. It is in focus and the ball is placed just right. You worked about as hard to capture this image as that player did to get the ball. Good job!

3rd Place

Lapeer Area View

Athletes must once again guard against heat injuries

Lisa Paine, Sports Editor

Wonderful photo. Little kids seem to always do the trick. Love the emotion from these little guys! Good job!

SPORTS PICTURE

Weekly B

1st Place

Novi News

A bunch of Wildcats...

John Heider

Great capture of the action, though a funny crop for this photo.

2nd Place

Tri-County Times

Second in state

David Troppens Sports Editor

Good capture of emotion.

3rd Place

Novi News

Wildcat Scotty Stanford

John Heider

Good capture of emotion. More background would be nice.

SPORTS PICTURE

Weekly C

1st Place

The Exponent

Eye on the volleyball

Jeff Steers

Loved the angle! -- wish I had access in some of the gyms I visit for a shot like this. The expression on her face is wonderful. Nice job.

2nd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

GHS cheerleaders on fire

Bill Serveny

Nice shot on this one. Captured the moment at the right time, cropped the picture just right. Wouldn't change a thing.

3rd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-N

Alone With His Thoughts

Thomas Reznich

It's a great picture -- it didn't really need a caption, that's how good it was. You were in a tough class this year, and there were two that were better. Nice job.

SPORTS PICTURE

Weekly D

1st Place

State Line Observer

A little too much

Dale Bates

Great timing and great angle.

2nd Place

State Line Observer

Broken up

David Green

Great timing and nice shot of the football.

3rd Place

State Line Observer

Safe

David Green

The faces on these players are priceless. Good work.

SPORTS WRITING

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

So long, Sparky

John Lowe

What a story to tell. The history and the information made me feel like I knew Sparky, and truth be told, I had never heard of him before the story. Great work!

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

Joyce's agony/Wrong call, right man

Shawn Windsor, Mark Snyder, Jo-Ann Barnas, John Lowe

A good angle and it painted a picture well.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

GR Central golfer leaves course proudly

Dean Holzwarth

Loved this piece. What a way to tell the story of great sportsmanship.

SPORTS WRITING

Daily B

1st Place *Muskegon Chronicle*
Muskegon Community College softball wins national championship.
Tom Kendra
Writer keeps it simple and doesn't try to do too much. Entertaining, concise and fun to read.

2nd Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Hawkins emotional after beating CMU
Graham Couch
Writer has a good grasp of his subjects and it shows in his writing.

3rd Place *Lansing State Journal*
Hail to the Champs! MSU Conquers Penn State for program's 7th Big Ten crown
Joe Rexrode
Interesting take on a big story.

SPORTS WRITING

Daily C

1st Place *Holland Sentinel*
'Shocking' death
Jon Schultz
This was a well-written story that captured the horror of the sudden death of a student-athlete moments after a great victory. This story got national attention, but I still got choked up reading this story months later.

2nd Place *Holland Sentinel*
A night for Wes
Alan Babbitt, Jon Schultz
A good follow on the death of a high school basketball player, capturing the emotion of the event.

3rd Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*
POINT TAKEN: Hines nets state scoring record
Mike Eckert
A good story on a local girl setting the state scoring record.

SPORTS WRITING

Daily D

1st Place *The Pioneer*
SENIOR MEMORIES: After injury, Nowlin takes the court one last time for Cards
Martin Slagter
Compelling angle to an otherwise routine game. Well-developed story with all the right details and quotes.

2nd Place *Manistee News-Advocate*
Chips Kenny skis to D2 state title ... AND ... Manistee boys place second
Dylan Savelle, Sports Writer
Newsy pair of stories with good, human angles that tie together well. Nicely written.

3rd Place *Daily Telegram*
AC coldcocks Concordia
Scott McNeish
Paints a vivid picture of a historic occasion, just the kind of piece you want for a "first of its kind" event.

SPORTS WRITING

Weekly A

1st Place *The County Press, Lapeer*

Two teams, one cause
Lisa Paine, Sports Editor
No Comments Given

2nd Place *Chelsea Standard*
Backyard Crawl / Big Reds Make Big Statement / Trying to Move On
Terry Jacoby
No Comments Given

3rd Place *Press & Guide Newspapers*
'Mission' Accomplished; DC wins another state baseball title
Scott Salowich
No comments Given

SPORTS WRITING

Weekly B

1st Place *Novi News*
Novi roars to Division I state hockey title
Chris Jackett
Solid championship article. Great lead, organization, flow. Tons of information, good quotes. Good hockey writing style from a talented writer.

2nd Place *Tri-County Times*
Brancheau takes lead, holds on to win title
David Troppens Sports Editor
Great overall treatment and writing of a major event. Good lead, use of quotes, organization. Writer shows he knows and cares about the sport.

3rd Place *Tri-County Times*
Corcoran follows dad's footsteps, becomes a champ
David Troppens Sports Editor
Close third with other entry on this event. Really paints a picture of what happened following this big win for this young man. Good job again.

SPORTS WRITING

Weekly C

1st Place *The Exponent*
Columbia Central wears out scoreboard in rivalry win
Jeff Steers
Loved the lede -- you've been around the area for a while to include observations like that. It made what was a rather routine recap stand out from the rest.

2nd Place *Tecumseh Herald*
Harvick picks up first Cup win at Michigan
Mickey Alvarado
You did more leg work on this than a lot of the other entries submitted in this class. The recap was quite concise, too .. nice effort all the way around.

3rd Place *Allegan County News*
Blackhawks carry on with heavy hearts
Jason Wesseldyk, Sports Editor
Nice mix of a game recap and thoughts about their fallen teammate and friend and done in a way that wasn't overly dramatic.

SPORTS WRITING

Weekly D

1st Place *State Line Observer*

Bulldogs claim regional cage title
David Green
No Comments Given

2nd Place

Oxford Leader

Investors Green to Yield Blue Turf
C.J. Carnacchio
No Comments Given

3rd Place

Clarkston News

Five grapplers finish All-State at state finals
Wendi Reardon
No comments Given

SPORTS COLUMN

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Ernie: A voice for the fans/ Never to be forgotten; A fighter all his life/ Probert's tough story ended all too soon; Hoop star's death is tragic and senseless
Mitch Albom
Mitch Albom is a joy to read. He's such a good storyteller that you often don't want the story to end. It's like going on an extended vacation.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

Perfect gentlemen/ After all, who is perfect?; 'Big mistake'/ He said right things, but not quite enough; Rip vs. Q: The root of all evils
Michael Rosenberg
Michael Rosenberg just might be the best No. 2 sports columnist on any daily sports staff in the country. His gripping story about Galarraga and Joyce really tugged on your emotions. Great work.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

New Year's Nightmare
David Mayo
I really enjoyed David Mayo's ability to put passion and athletic politics on the same rung throughout his column.

SPORTS COLUMN

Daily B

1st Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Tom Kendra Columnist
Tom Kendra
This was a tough category with lots of good entries. But nothing really stood out until I got to the Pringle column. The emotional high combined with the terrible lows caught my interest and made this column jump to the top.

2nd Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Ron Rop Columnist
Ron Rop
Loved the story about the Lumberjacks and the connection the reporter and the community shared with the team.

3rd Place

Saginaw News

LaMarr, Loons and a linebacker
Hugh Bernreuter
Stories take readers beyond the field and give readers a nice feel for who the subjects are off the field of play.

SPORTS COLUMN

Daily C

1st Place

Times Herald

Carp problem shows Lacey Act ineffective
Michael Eckert
A great selection of impactful, well-written columns.

2nd Place

Holland Sentinel

More compassion, please
Alan Babbitt
Pointedly written column about a decision to play a state playoff game so soon after a player's death.

3rd Place

Holland Sentinel

On cusp of greatness
Jon Schultz
Good column on a local prep star finding success at the collegiate level.

SPORTS COLUMN

Daily D

1st Place

The Mining Journal

Truly an exhibition; Unequal relationship; Roddick outburst needed immediate response
Steve Brownlee
These columns reflect a good variety of topics and thoughtful, substantive point of view

2nd Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Various
Dylan Savelle, Sports Writer
These columns offer imaginative approaches and contain clear messages

3rd Place

The Mining Journal

It's time for Northern Michigan University to commit to hoops with a real home for the 'Cats; Gals showing guys how it's done in hockey; Anastos bails on league
Matt Wellens
Strong opinions in two, timely commentary overall

SPORTS COLUMN

Weekly A

1st Place

The News-Herald

Bowling smiling rock star will be sorely missed; Years of the Chiefs; Like it was scripted
Dave Komer
You're a smooth writer. I like your flow of columns. Your piece on Matt was great. It's always tough to lose someone in your work place, but it's nice to be able to tell people about it and you did an excellent job of it.

2nd Place

Chelsea Standard

Equestrian column / Back to Back / Trying to Move On
Terry Jacoby
I'm not much into equestrian either, but a very nice read and you got me interested in it. Enjoyed the story on Dexter's 48 hour of bliss. Death, especially suicide is tough write. You did excellent with it.

3rd Place

The News-Herald

Redemption/ 2010 Football Season/ Everyone enjoys Wyandotte's big win
Sports Editor Hank Minckiewicz
You have a passion for sports obviously hockey! It show! All there were very close. I liked your look back on the area football season.

SPORTS COLUMN

Weekly B

1st Place

Tri-County Times

David's Dabblings columns: SO LONG, OLD FRIEND; GALLARAGA'S ATTITUDE - PERFECT; MY RON KRAMER MEMORY

David Troppens Sports Editor

Informative, easy style, yet packed with personal observations to which readers can relate. A really good, solid columnist.

2nd Place

Bay Voice

Andrew Benoit

Andrew Benoit

Good voice for the outdoors enthusiasts, but style can appeal to all readers. Informal, yet knows and cares about his subject matter.

3rd Place

Grosse Pointe News

Thanks for the fond memories, Sparky; Braker on scribe's list of top athletes; Sports world provides peaks, valleys

Bob St. John

Good columns, more in news style, with enthusiasm for sports figures and the local community as well.

SPORTS COLUMN

Weekly C

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

One more cast

Chris Engle, outdoor writer

Columnist has a real talent for writing, sports or otherwise. Good organization, flow and storytelling. A natural at something not as easy as it looks.

2nd Place

Allegan County News

Press Box Perspective

Jason Wesseldyk, Sports Editor

With more experience he could be a great columnist. Has a flair for writing that evokes emotions. Honest, clean, well planned columns.

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Fuel for thought

Jim Ryan

Another future columnist, with a talent for building a story on facts and events.

SPORTS COLUMN

Weekly D

1st Place

State Line Observer

NASCAR Notes

Rich Foley

No Comments Given

2nd Place

Clarkston News

Back in play

Wendi Reardon

No Comments Given

SPORTS FEATURE

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Fielding Dreams: Tracking a day's worth of foul balls, and the fans who nabbed 'em

Jo-Ann Barnas, Kevin Bull, and Detroit Free Press Staff

Anyone who's ever had a foul ball fall near them or into their lap has to love this. What a fun read and great graphics to go with it. It's fun and informative at the same time. Great, great work. What an original idea!

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

Tailgating in the ruins

Shawn Windsor, Susan Tusa

This was a story that had to be told in such a way that it made you feel that you were right there. This does exactly that. It also makes you happy and sad at the same time. A really fine piece of writing.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

Sad Centennial

David Mayo

I found this story very interesting. I had never heard of this boxer or his tragic death. It appears that many in the boxing community were aware of him. This is the kind of story that screams to be made into a movie. Thanks for sharing.

SPORTS FEATURE

Daily B

1st Place

Saginaw News

Memorable Knight

Hugh Bernreuter

I love the story behind the short, the story behind one shot in one basketball a few decades ago, how it happened and what it meant. Great research and interviews.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

First family of Spartan football: Freshman Max adds to Bullough legacy

Joe Rexrode

There are a lot of different story threads at work here, with all the different family members. The writer does a great job weaving them all together.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

Classic at the Crossroads

Geoff Kimmerly

I can see this story being pitched, a bunch of ideas scribbled down in a notebook. This is an example of all those good ideas coming to fruition. The package is great and it makes the story of a high school softball tournament -- at first glance, who cares? -- really stand out and seem important. The history related here is fun.

SPORTS FEATURE

Daily C

1st Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

High School Sports face budget crunch; The cost of competing; Uncertain future

Gary Kalahar

Good in-depth coverage of how state budget cuts were impacting high school sports.

2nd Place

Times Herald

Turf change a muddy issue

Joseph Hayes

A well-written feature on how the poor field conditions, due in part to budget difficulties, were causing injuries and affecting play.

3rd Place

Holland Sentinel

Born from strength
Jon Schultz
A well-written feature on a student athlete facing unique challenges.

SPORTS FEATURE

Daily D

1st Place

Daily Telegram

There's always hope
Scott McNeish
The most complete entry, reflecting writing quality, creativity and good reporting in developing a compelling subject.

2nd Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Battle tested
Matt Wenzel, Sports Editor
Very interesting story that provides another dimension to the subject's life at this time.

3rd Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Living a lifelong dream
Dylan Savelle, Sports Writer
This piece earned third on the strength of a promising writing effort.

SPORTS FEATURE

Weekly A

1st Place

Dexter Leader

Yarrows and LaMore feature stories
Terry Jacoby
Unique approaches to stories and very strong leads. Great capture of personalities.

2nd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Winning is all in the family for DC siblings; Murf's Law
Scott Salowich
Captivating leads. The reporter did a great job of getting out of the way and letting the boys tell the story.

3rd Place

The News-Herald

More than meets the eye
Dave Komer
Attentive reporting and good, in-depth analysis of team's strengths and weaknesses.

SPORTS FEATURE

Weekly B

1st Place

Farmington Observer

Tackling a different kind of foe
Dan O'Meara, Observer Sports Editor
Very well-written story. Great quotes, great editing, uplifting and compelling. A clear first place

2nd Place

Northern Express Weekly

Ice, Baby, Ice - Scaling the Falls
Erin Crowell
Wonderful, illustrative writing. A close second. As good as a sports feature on ice climbing can get.

3rd Place

Northville Record

Julie Foucher takes fifth at CrossFit Games
Sam Eggleston
A well-written, nice piece. Nothing jaw-dropping, though.

SPORTS FEATURE

Weekly C

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Earning their stripes
Jeremy Speer
Great read and an interesting look at prep sports. The Gaylord Herald Times simply had this category whipped. All of their submissions truly embodied what a reader hopes to get out of a sports feature ; a compelling story, creatively executed.

2nd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Iron five: A team, a coach and the game they love
Jeremy Speer
Fantastic lead. This is how you take a straight-forward season preview and make it interesting to an average reader.

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

The GHS hockey family
Jim Ryan
The story is slow to gain momentum, but is well-written nonetheless. It was lacking somewhat in the colorful storytelling we've seen from other entries in this category.

SPORTS FEATURE

Weekly D

1st Place

Clarkston News

Coach Whitehead inspires one last time
Wendi Reardon
Legendary coaches always have a place in players' hearts and in the heart of the community. We appreciated understanding Coach Whitehead's physical challenges with MS, which helps to make the story that much more inspiring.

2nd Place

Clarkston News

Six-year-old finds his footing on water
Wendi Reardon
We love the unusual nature of this sports story - a six-year-old and a water sport that is rarely reported. It's interesting and fresh.

3rd Place

State Line Observer

There are always horses in Russ's life
David Green
This is a great non-traditional sports story and we appreciate the writer finding importance in stories that a different segment of the community can relate to.

SPORTS COVERAGE

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Aug. 1, 2010: Sports and Mitt sections; Nov. 5, 2010: A section and Sports; Jan. 2, 2011: Sports and Blitz sections.
Detroit Free Press Staff
Their coverage was exceptional. Every major and minor sport was covered. The writing was outstanding and the photos were compelling. I particularly enjoyed the enterprise reporting, especially the six-page spread on foul balls at baseball games. What a wonderful idea. I'm sure it was a great read

2nd Place

Flint Journal

The Flint Journal - Sports - May 7, 2010; August 29, 2010; March 20, 2011
The Flint Journal Staff
The coverage was good. The writing was generally good. The covers were nice but a bit busy which made it difficult to tell what the most important story was. I would recommend cutting back a

story and using an emotion-evoking photo with the lead story.

3rd Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Grand Rapids Press sports coverage entries
Staff

The coverage and writing was good, especially on the cover. Inside, however, it became kind of crazy trying to find what was the most important story on each page. The inside pages felt too crammed. The cutoff rules were more annoying than helpful. I would suggest that a redesign of the inside pages (and more space if you can get it) would really help the reader to understand what's being covered and where to expect to find it.

SPORTS COVERAGE

Daily B

1st Place **Bay City Times**

The Bay City Times - Sports - March 24, 2011; March 27, 2011;
June 20, 2010
Bay City Times Staff

Good mix of local stories and national coverage. Strong photos and it was an easy read.

2nd Place **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Kalamazoo Gazette Sports Coverage
Howard Thomas

Good local coverage. Attention grabbing headlines made this entry stand out.

3rd Place **Saginaw News**

The Saginaw News - Sports - June 20, 2010; October 10, 2010;
November 28, 2010
The Saginaw News Staff

Clean looking section that serves its readers. Good local copy and good use of photos.

SPORTS COVERAGE

Daily C

1st Place **Holland Sentinel**

March 10, November 27, January 27 sections
Alan Babbitt, Jon Schultz, Lee Lamberts, Dan D'Addona, Dennis R.J. Geppert

Good writing and strong presentation make the Holland Sentinel a clear winner in this category.

2nd Place **Times Herald**

Sports Coverage
Staff

Solid local sports coverage.

3rd Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

'Part of our family' (Ernie Harwell dies); Crosstown Showdown 2010; Bayshore Marathon 2010
Sports staff, Mike Tyree

A well put-together sports section.

SPORTS COVERAGE

Daily D

1st Place **Livingston County Daily Press &**

Argus

Oct. 15, March 6 and Oct. 29 Sports sections
Staff

A pretty complete sports section, the one I'd be most satisfied seeing daily. Nice use of photos and engaging design

2nd Place **The Argus-Press**

AP Sports Sections

Matt Wilson, Jeff Arenz, Jerome Murphy

Nix mix with good images and some attractive design.

3rd Place **Manistee News-Advocate**

Various dates

Sports staff

Some promising writers, particularly Savelle and Wenzel, elevate this section.

SPORTS COVERAGE

Weekly A

1st Place **The County Press, Lapeer**

The County Press Lapeer issues: 10-10-2010; 4-14-2010; 2-20-2011

Lisa Paine, Sports Editor, Michael Selecky, Erik Hohenthanner, Dan Nilsen

No Comments Given

2nd Place **Press & Guide Newspapers**

Champions Again

Scott Salowich

No Comments Given

3rd Place **Brown City Banner**

Brown City Banner issues: 9-13-2010; 12-13-2010; 3-28-2011

Lisa Paine, Sports Editor, Michael Selecky, Erik Hohenthanner, Dan Nilsen

No comments Given

SPORTS COVERAGE

Weekly B

1st Place **Tri-County Times**

Tri-County Times Sports WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

David Troppens Sports Editor

Excellent, creative, colorful planning and layout, topped off by great lead and story writing. Sections are fun to browse and read.

2nd Place **Grosse Pointe News**

Sports coverage

Bob St. John

Just a ton of coverage of the schools they cover. Very clean and professional in layout and design.

3rd Place **Northville Record**

012711,

Cal Stone, Sam Eggleston, John Heider

Sports sections with a real affinity for the community. Nice writing style and clever leads highlight well balanced coverage.

SPORTS COVERAGE

Weekly C

1st Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Gaylord Herald Times entry

Jeremy Speer, Chris Engle, Jim Ryan

Packed with information and photos, highlighted by excellent layout, graphic and color work. Nice sections accented by larger heads help guide reader. Writing and columns stand out as this paper covers everything from schools to local and outdoor news and events. Great work.

2nd Place **The Exponent**

Brooklyn Exponent Sports and More

Jeff Steers, staff

Close second, with clean layout and inventive graphics and color.

Covers it all, including schools, locals, outdoors, and some sports others miss. Favorite Frames a nice touch. Nice work with editor/columnist who cares.

3rd Place

Allegan County News

11-4-10 / 2-17-11 / 3-10-11

Jason Wesseldyk, sports editor

Nice job of covering the schools and community with lots of timely info and good photos. Another hard-working editor/columnist who knows his audience.

SPORTS COVERAGE

Weekly D

1st Place

State Line Observer

State Line Observer

Staff

We appreciated the broad scope of coverage in this edition from fishing to cross country and anything happening in between. Sports tends to be centered on the popular school sports, but community news means the whole community. Good Job to the State Line Observer for thinking outside of the box.

2nd Place

The Advance

The Advance ... Sports

Tran Longmoore, Mike McHone, James McClenathen, Melissa Burnor, Marcia Loader

3rd Place

The Missaukee Sentinel

Missaukee Sports

Mike Dunn, Julia Cavanagh

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Life section: Oct. 10, 2010; Life section: Oct. 17, 2010;

Entertainment-Travel section: Feb. 6, 2011

Detroit Free Press Staff

The stories, the color, the layout and the photos are exceptional in this entry.

2nd Place

The Detroit News

Arts & Style, Eats & Drinks pages

Staff

Very colorful, easy to read and good layout.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

Grand Rapids Press lifestyle pages entries

Linda Odette, Staff

Liked the easiness of this one as well.

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Daily B

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

LSJ Lifestyle Pages

LSJ Staff

Good variety of content, each one crispy edited and presented with eye-grabbing detail.

2nd Place

Bay City Times

The Bay City Times - February 10, 2011; February 24, 2011; March 24, 2011

Bay City Times Staff

Good mix of narrative and briefs, shows a solid understanding on

taking the personal and relating it to a wider audience.

3rd Place

Saginaw News

The Saginaw News Social pages - April 2, 2010; May 7, 2010; May 28, 2010

The Saginaw News Staff

Quality content, but presentation suffers a bit. Don't be afraid to think outside the box.

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Daily C

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Lifestyle Pages

Staff

We loved the clean layout and feature feel to these pages. The content was solid, but its display was what made these sections the winning entry.

2nd Place

Times Herald

Lifestyle Pages

Staff

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Daily D

1st Place

The Pioneer

Pioneer Lifestyle Pages

The Pioneer Staff

Strong entry with nice touches throughout. Gets a little heavy handed with color and type but there's a great deal of energy and liveliness to all of this. Loved the "Draw Your Mom" pages and the packaging of the story of the Russian couple. A little more design discipline would go a long way to transform this from very good with potential to outstanding.

2nd Place

Petoskey News-Review

Arts pages

Babette Stenuis Stolz

Some definite high notes here. Especially like application of headline type in a few weights and values (though "The wonders of nature" font was a disappointment). Good visual hierarchy throughout with some packages appropriately weighted over others in both headline and photo play. There's a strong sense via design of what this entry is trying to be. It is in control of its "voice". Not entirely all the way there but well on its way.

3rd Place

Daily Telegram

The Daily Telegram - Life in Style

Staff

Well organized for the most part though the sandwich page was pulling apart. Would have been better to group the photos than spread them apart. But, easy to navigate. Appropriate and disciplined use of screen tints. Solid grid. Might suggest using less bold type on heads and summaries. It makes the pages feel more like news pages than feature. It did work, however, with color, adding spark to the Dynamic Range page. The pi page really stood out -- in a good way. An argument could be made that it was the best in the entire category.

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Weekly A

1st Place

The News-Herald

Lifestyle pages

Paula Evans Neuman

The paginators take risks with their designs, which often pays off. I like that events are split into categories to avoid jumping listings. The community images page is a nice community service and lovely package. Staff photos are mostly posed ; I would have liked to see more journalistic-style images. Also, I don't like to see the newspaper making the news on the first page of this entry.

2nd Place

Saline Reporter

Lifestyle Pages

Staff

There is a good balance of photos, color blocks and text, though this mix could be improved as the reader progresses in the section. I think the calendar should be divided into categories and run on different pages of the section to avoid double-jumping the events listings, multiple pages removed in one instance.

3rd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

Marquee

Staff

There is a good use of photos on the section's main page but past that first page could use more images to break up the gray of all the text. The calendar is divided smartly. I don't understand using briefs on an obits page, especially without having their own header to divide them.

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Weekly B

1st Place

Tri-County Times

Lifestyle pages Jan 30 2011 March 6 2011 Aug 22 2010

Tri-County Times Editorial Staff

Designs and topics are fun, interesting, creative and engaging. You get a lot of faces in there, which is great. You've got a good mix of content and images. The only thing I don't like are the ads on the front page, but that's the editor in me speaking.

2nd Place

Grosse Pointe News

Lifestyle pages

Ann Fouty

The design is clean and simple. I really enjoy the Yesterday's Heads feature. The styles used throughout are inconsistent and sometimes sloppy. The photos are mostly posed, and I would like to see more journalist-style shooting. The main negative I see is the design of the milestones page. You are doing couples quite a disservice if their announcements are run as they were in the July 29th edition.

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Weekly C

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

LifeStyles

Frank Michels, design editor, Staff writers

Great sections kicked off with fun and information front pages. Nice layout packed full of all kinds of community news, events, photos, people, places. Love the Community-Family & Children pages. Just a great job overall every issue.

2nd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Divisions: Memorial Day; Cribs of Interest; Non-Combustible Tour

Leelanau Enterprise Staff

Exceptional themed sections that are well-planned and written. Great photos and layout. Wouldn't doubt some readers keep these

awhile.

3rd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-N

Lifestyle Pages

Staff

A lot of information going on here. Especially like the Education sections. Vibrant photos, good mix of all types of community news.

LIFESTYLE PAGES

Weekly D

1st Place

State Line Observer

State Line Observer

Staff

The content is fun and well-balanced. The section includes great coverage of what makes a community what it is. Mixing photos throughout the section might improve its flow and readability.

2nd Place

Clarkston News

Lifestyle Pages

Staff

The section includes a lot of faces and photo, which is terrific for a community newspaper. There's a good mix of content as well. Its design could use improvement.

3rd Place

The Grass Lake Times

Christian Students In Public Schools, Jump Start, The Nature of Faith- Deer, the Dentist and Driving in Michigan

Christian Students in Public Schools: photo by Alex R. Weddon,

written by Jessie Holdridge, Grass Lake;; Jump Start: Mike Hanson, Grass Lake Lutheran Church; , The Nature of Faith- Deer, the Dentist and Driving in Michigan: Rev. Phyllis Stutzman, Grass Lake

This section is a great service to the community. I think it could benefit greatly from expanding the content to include more features. Also, photos would do a lot to increase interest and readership.

SPECIAL SECTION

Daily A

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

We'll miss you, Ernie

Detroit Free Press Staff

What a great tribute. Layout, color, editorial ... this had it all. Great work.

2nd Place

The Detroit News

Michiganians of the Year

Jaclyn Trop, Laura Berman, Ursula Watson, Michael H. Hodges,

Kim Kozlowski, Oralandar Brand-Williams, Bryce G. Hoffman,

Neal Rubin, Felecia Henderson

Good photos, good layout. A unique way to spotlight individuals.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

Grand Guide 2010-2011

Staff

What a great piece of information.

SPECIAL SECTION

Daily B

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

2010 Prep Football Preview

LSJ Staff

Now this is how to do a prep football tab. Nice photography combined with rosters and easily readable capsules, not a lot of

dense text. The Fourcast is a good idea that's carried out with consistency. Good features upfront, too, especially the historic rankings.

2nd Place **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Generations: On a Mission of Love
Lee Dean, Kathy Gibbons, freelance writers
Sure, this section didn't have the same visual appeal and design pop of some of the other entrants, especially the sports tabs. But it featured really compelling and well-written content. It's good to see a newsroom take an obligatory monthly section and put some heart and soul into it. That effort deserves an award.

3rd Place **The Oakland Press**

2010 Tigers Preview
Matthew B. Mowery, Sports Staff
Good cover and good writing throughout. The section is well organized and uses capsules effectively.

SPECIAL SECTION

Daily C

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

On Guard
Sheri McWhirter
No Comments Given

SPECIAL SECTION

Daily D

1st Place **Sturgis Journal**

Twenty in their ...
Candice Phelps, Dennis Volkert
Good and interesting portraits -- in photos and words -- of local people. The photography stands out among all the other entrants. Good use of faces on the cover. This must have been a well-read section.

2nd Place **Petoskey News-Review**

A storm to remember
News-Review staff
A good news photo section, done on a tight deadline. Nice rainbow images on the back page. The photos were strong enough that I could have done without the background graphics.

3rd Place **The Mining Journal**

Special Section (three entries, 14 total files)
Mining Journal
The award is for Superiorland Magazine -- solid writing, photography and design throughout.

SPECIAL SECTION

Weekly A

1st Place **Metro Times**

The Pot Issue
Metro Times staff
No Comments Given

2nd Place **Metro Times**

The Best of Detroit
Metro Times staff
No Comments Given

3rd Place **Metro Times**

The Hamtramck Blowout
Metro Times staff
No comments Given

SPECIAL SECTION

Weekly B

1st Place **Lansing City Pulse**

Phoenix Risen: A Special Report
Lawrence Cosentino, Vince Joy, Berl Schwartz
Good narrative writing on a major local story. It's great to see a newspaper make such a commitment to in-depth coverage of a landmark story.

2nd Place **Tri-County Times**

fall sports
Tri-County Times Editorial Staff
Really nice cover. Looks like SI. Nicely designed and smartly written capsules. The Take 5 interviews are entertaining and also well designed.

3rd Place **Tri-County Times**

shop local
Tri-County Times Editorial Staff
Good writing and design, even if the section does at times stray into boosterism.

SPECIAL SECTION

Weekly C

1st Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Celebrating National Cherry Month
Leelanau Enterprise Staff
This is a rare special section that tackles complicated questions, policy matters and challenges for cherry growers. It's civic-minded and journalistic at the same time. Good work. I know the news staff can't do anything about this, but I would have loved to see four-color on some of the inside photographs.

2nd Place **Tecumseh Herald**

Homefront Fall 2010
Jim Lincoln, Suzanne Hayes, Hollie Smith, Mickey Alvarado, Deane Erts, Rebecca Peach, Cristina Trapani-Scott, Deb Wuethrich, Joseph Romero, John Beyer, Carla Reed
Visually, this was the most appealing entry of the bunch. I especially loved the layout on the used books page and the barnyard page. The photography on the center spread was great, too.

3rd Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Color Tour Leelanau Style
Leelanau Enterprise Staff
Reader-friendly section filled with practical information and lists of things to do. The writing is engaging, too.

SPECIAL SECTION

Weekly D

1st Place **Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

Leaders in the Law
Brian Frasier, Doug Levy, Gary Gosselin, Dawn Davis, Ed Wesoloski, Maria Trejo, Carol Lundberg, Mark Bialek
No Comments Given

2nd Place **Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

Up & Coming Lawyers
Mark Bialek, Carol Lundberg, Maria Trejo, Gary Gosselin, Brian

Frasier, Dawn Davis, Doug Levy
No Comments Given

3rd Place

Trends
Staff
No comments Given

Clarkston News