



2012 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

Members of North Carolina Press Association reviewed 2,776 entries submitted by 109 Michigan newspapers when they judged the 2012 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 2012 "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	2060	Detroit Free Press	Class A	850	The News-Herald
Class B	2580	Lansing State Journal	Class B	860	Tri-County Times
Class C	3160	Traverse City Record-Eagle	Class C	1000	Leelanau Enterprise
Class D	500	Livingston County Daily Press & Argus	Class D	1320	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 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 Lansing State Journal for "Heavy Burden," the Detroit Free Press for "Homeowners Forced Out While Seeking Relief" the Petoskey News-Review for "Charlevoix County FOIA fight with News-Review series" and the Grand Rapids Press for "No one here gets out alive."

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The four finalists are: Blake Thorne of the Flint Journal; Anthony Fenech of the Detroit Free Press; Laura Misjak of the Lansing State Journal and Amanda Ingraham of Munising News.

The winners of the 2012 MPA Public Service Award will be announced Friday, January 25, 2013 during the Legislative Lunch and the MPA Rookie Writer Award will be announced Saturday, January 26, 2013 during the Awards Presentation of the Michigan Press Association Annual Convention at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

General Excellence

Daily A

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

This paper looks like every single page is chock full of strong design thinking, great use of excellent photos, good graphics, a strong blend of watchdog, community and entertainment news. Everything is labeled, easy to read, logical and yet with whimsy used in an intentional and effective way. Great.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

A clean, strong newspaper with good design, good local content.

3rd Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

Daily B

1 ENTRY

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

Well-designed paper with a flare for the dramatic that I appreciated. Local stories on fronts were well done and well illustrated; readers might appreciate more local content that goes deeper into the paper. Too bad there were no other entries; the LSJ would have done well against competition.

Daily C

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

The well-planned and well-executed 9/11 anniversary edition was the clincher, but this paper is strong in many areas -- exceptionally well designed and readable, solid writing, good opinion and sports sections.

2nd Place

Times Herald

The Times Herald shows a commendable commitment to local news throughout. Readers must appreciate the effort. A quibble: the cutout photos that obscure the Page One "flag."

Daily D

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

Grand Haven Tribune

2nd Place

The Pioneer

3rd Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

General Excellence (cont.)

Weekly A

10 ENTRIES

1st Place

The County Press, Lapeer

Jeff Hogan

Well, your onion page in the first paper I looked at may have won this for you guys. It's the first page I've seen in this entire category where anyone thought outside of the box and tried something different. That said, you really, really need to open your paper up and let your packages breathe. Don't try to cram too much onto a page and a little white space goes a long way. Remember to have dominant art on each page. It just gives the reader an hierarchy of what is important on the page. Too many pages included photos of the same size.

2nd Place

Manchester Enterprise

3rd Place

Chelsea Standard

Honorable Mention

Ile Camera

Weekly B

9 ENTRIES

1st Place

Livonia Observer

Karen Smith, Ken Abramczyk, Brad Emons, Bill Bresler
Good usage of dominant photo. Clever headlines: Be like Mike, etc. Great mix of columns and jam-packed with local news. Nice photo pages, like the Girl Scouts page. Excellent use of color pages throughout. Sports pages sometimes a bit too gray. Nice "what do you think" boxes.

2nd Place

Northern Express Weekly

Excellent layouts and usage of color. Love the column logos throughout. Good headlines and presentation: Who would not read a story about a hammer death? Clearly this publication is interested in real journalism; lots of stories on controversies and funding issues.

3rd Place

South Oakland Eccentric

Sandra Armbruster, Steve Kowalski, John Stormzand, Greg Mullin
Good use of dominant photos. Good promos at the top of A1. Good headlines like the Sweet! Lemonade. Interesting biz profiles. And great usage of headline: Companies hiring this month.

Honorable Mention

Lansing City Pulse

DAMAGE REPORT, TEN YEARS OF FALLOUT FROM 9/11
Excellent front pages, but the inside pages are a bit too gray. Would have ranked higher if the issues had had more local news. Very good vehicle for news about events.

Weekly C

10 ENTRIES

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Ultimate sacrifice; Aerospace in Otsego County?; Fatal police shooting protest
An excellent paper overall. Nice clean layout throughout. Hard-hitting news and strong editorial content. Good use of photos and section fronts, entertaining articles and columns. Paper is arranged very well. I bet readers and advertisers love this paper. Community journalism at its best. Nice job.

2nd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Nice clean layout with good use of graphics and photos. Design flows from page to page. Strong editorial pages and letters that show this paper has readers involved. Ads are varied and attractive. Again, a beautiful product for readers and advertisers to enjoy.

3rd Place

The Exponent

Clean design and strong news content. Good use of photos and strong opinion pages. Nice feature pages in this newspaper. Another strong community newspaper.

Honorable Mention

Oceana's Herald-Journal

Andrew Skinner, John Cavanagh

General Excellence (cont.)

Weekly D

10 ENTRIES

1st Place

Charlevoix Courier

Steve Zucker, Wendy Wolfsen
The transition to broadsheet did improve this already excellent community newspaper. Very strong on community news, bold photos and headlines, strong news fronts, great use of color and layout. All around clean design with well-written stories. Overall, a delightful read. Well done!

2nd Place

State Line Observer

This paper isn't far from first place at all, because of its strong community news and editorial content. Nice clean layout with great use of white space and photos. Another staff of excellent writers that covers the community and packages stories with information readers need to know. An overall excellent job.

3rd Place

Allegan County News

Again, another excellent community newspaper. This is a tough category to judge because the competition is outstanding. The County News is very, very strong on community news and is a very readable paper with good use of color, bold headlines and an orderly design that readers and advertisers should love. Nice job!

Honorable Mention

The Commercial Record

Spot News Story

Daily A

17 ENTRIES

1st Place

Grand Rapids Press

A DAY OF HORROR
I can appreciate the team effort that went into delivering this comprehensive package to readers. Each story was a must-read, from the main story to the neighborhood reaction to the profile of Dantzler. The historical look at previous multiple murders and a timeline of how things unfolded were outstanding. Nice job of reporting, writing and editing.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

GM, UAW REACH DEAL
 Greg Gardner, Brent Snavey, Chrissie Thompson and the Free Press Autos Team
Outstanding coverage of a late-breaking story. The expertise of this staff shines in the coverage both days. The first day story lets people know about the deal, what happens next and has the background that puts it into context. The second day stories do a great job of explaining the details of the contract. Nice reaction from workers as well. Great planning and reporting beforehand. Super hustle by a reporting team that writes with authority.

3rd Place

Flint Journal

STATE TAKEOVER ECLIPSES ELECTION
 Kristin Longley, Ron Fonger
Really nice job reporting this story.

Daily B

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

MAN, 38, CHARGED IN DELTA TWP. HOMICIDES
 Kevin Grasha, Lindsay VanHulle
This is the kind of story that makes people say, "How did this happen?" This report helps answer that while also raising more questions. Nice watchdog reporting.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY? DeWITT COUPLE SUES BIRTHING CENTER IN NEGLIGENCE CASE
 Louise Knott Ahern
Nice job telling readers about this proposed legislation through the Snyders. Their story helps bring this issue home for readers. A well written and reported story.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

LIBYAN STUDENTS REJOICE AT NEWS
 Matthew Miller
Nice job of showing how this issue hit home for some people in the community.

Spot News Story (cont.)

Daily C

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

BODY FOUND

Alex Piazza

Outstanding job by the TCRE staff. Their hustle and contacts with law enforcement to tell this late-breaking story paid off big for the community. They covered a lot of ground, from the apparent discovery of Carly Jean Lewis' body, to the confession by the suspect, to the relationship between the missing girl and the suspect. Good job! The sidebar on Carly's last day reminds people about the case.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

STUNNING TWIST IN FRANKFORT BLAZE

Art Bukowski, James Russell

Nice job of following the twists and turns in this fatal house fire that turned into a possible murder-suicide. Good job of pushing sources for information and profiling the victims.

3rd Place

Times Herald

TRAGIC MORNING

Good hustle on this story, from details of the wreck, to news about the victims, and including background on a previous attack that affected this community.

Daily D

35 ENTRIES

1st Place

Grand Haven Tribune

CLINGING TO LIFE

Cheryl Welch, Becky Vargo, Nate Thompson, Matt DeYoung
The staff at the GHT did a remarkable job reporting this crash that severely injured 5 teenagers. It is spot news at its finest -- not only reported with gripping detail from every angle on tight deadline, but written powerfully to capture the community's shock and emotion without resorting to sensationalism. The reporters did a commendable job going beyond the basics from authorities, proving that awesome storytelling is possible even under the most difficult circumstances. Well done!

2nd Place

The Pioneer

PIERCE FIRED

Martin Slagter, Bob Allan
It was difficult picking a winner in this category. The Pioneer sports team did a fantastic job reporting the late-in-the-day firing of a head football coach. The reporter goes far beyond the statement from athletic officials (and doesn't even get to talk to the coach) to get reaction from players and colleagues, a full report on the coach's career and plenty of context. The story is very well-written, and well-played in print. Great job.

3rd Place

Petoskey News-Review

SNOW MY GOSH!

Rachel Brougham, Ryan Bentley, Sheri McWhirter, Heather Lockwood
The reporters at the News-Review did a good job covering this massive snowstorm for their readers, hitting it from every angle (and with nice photos and design, too).

Honorable Mention

Daily Telegram

FIRE RAVAGES APARTMENTS

Erik Gable, David Panian
Good reporting at the scene of this fire, and well-written.

Spot News Story (cont.)

Weekly A

16 ENTRIES

1st Place

Dexter Leader

REBOUNDING: DEXTER UNITES AFTER TORNADO STRIKE; DUMC LOOKS TO 'BE A LIGHT' TO COMMUNITY; RETIREMENT COMMUNITY OFFERS TEMPORARY HOUSING; PARENTS, CHILDREN RECONNECT AT WYLIE POOL; BUSINESSES LEND A HAND IN TORNADO'S AFTERMATH; TREE DAMAGE NOT COVERED
Sean Dalton, Erica McClain, David Veselenak, Amy Bell, Krista Gjestland, Ben Baird, James David Dickson, Michelle Rogers

2nd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

LAPEER MAN STRUCK, KILLED BY FREIGHT TRAIN
Phil Foley

3rd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

WIND CAUSES FIRES, POWER LOSS
Julie Walker Altesleben, J. Patrick Pepper

Honorable Mention

The News-Herald

MORE THAN 100 PROTEST COUPLE'S FORECLOSURE
Alan Burdziak

Weekly B

16 ENTRIES

1st Place

South Oakland Eccentric

DAUGHTERS SEEK HELP, HUNDREDS ATTEND MEMORIAL, CITY STAFF GRIEVES, POLICE: NO LEADS, QUIET STREET WHERE GALE LIVED
Sandra Armbruster, Steve Kowalski, John Stormzand
These reporters did a nice job in this comprehensive package about the death of Helen Gale. Readers get a sense of who this woman was and the impact she had on the community. They covered a lot of ground in a way that was not overwhelming to the reader.

2nd Place

Farmington Observer

HILLS MAN SENTENCED IN FATAL HIT-AND-RUN
Stacy Jenkins
After reading this report, you can feel the emotion and disappointment that Diane Goetz felt when sentencing was imposed on Michael Kramer. Nice job of telling what some may have seen as a routine sentencing hearing in a way that puts the reader in the courtroom.

3rd Place

Tri-County Times

FENTON TEACHERS PROTEST \$2.8 MILLION IN CUTS
William Axford
Good, comprehensive report. Nice balanced reporting.

Weekly C

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

Leelanau Enterprise

STORM CENTER
Great work dealing with a storm that clearly caused a hurricane's worth of damage!

2nd Place

The Tri-City Times

HEROIC ACTIONS SAVE GIRL'S LIFE
Catherine Minolli
Very cool story, these boys are definitely heroes!

3rd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

BIG BUST
Krista Tacey-Cater
Wild stuff -- great pictures!

Honorable Mention

Gratiot County Herald

LARRY'S HARDWARE IN ITHACA CLOSES ITS DOORS
Greg Nelson
Nice work -- it'll be interesting to see if Larry's is able to reopen after the legal matter is resolved, or if they must close for good.

Spot News Story (cont.)

Weekly D

14 ENTRIES

1st Place

Leader and Kalkaskian

IN LIKE A LION
Bryce Martin

2nd Place

The Advance

DRIVER SWIMS TO SAFETY ON FLOODED
CARROLL ROAD; RESCUE
Melissa Burnor, James
McClenathen

3rd Place

The Advance

HOT, DRY WEATHER STRESS AREA
CORN; CORN
James McClenathen

Honorable Mention

The Boyne City Gazette

EDGY FLOAT FUN A FAMILY TRADITION
Benjamin J. Gohs

News Enterprise Reporting

Daily A

30 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

TRUST AND NEGLECT
Robin Erb, Kristi Tanner, Moses
Harris, David Pierce, John Sly,
Andre Jackson, Eric Seals,
Kathleen Galligan, Patricia Beck
*Exhaustive, important study
that makes a difference in the
lives of readers. Phenomenal
package of story across
multiple platforms. A graphical
"wow" in terms of storytelling.*

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

HOMEOWNERS FORCED OUT WHILE
SEEKING RELIEF: FANNIE MAE
PRESSURES BANKS TO FORECLOSE,
CONTRARY TO ITS PROMISES TO KEEP
FAMILIES IN HOMES, PRESERVE
NEIGHBORHOODS
Jennifer Dixon, Regina H. Boone,
Susan Tusa, Kofi Myler, David
Pierce, Moses Harris, Patricia
Besh
*Well-done study from every
angle. Provides help for
homeowners while telling well-
informed, important and timely
stories. Stunning graphics help
tell the story.*

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

LIVING WITH MURDER: THE AGONY OF
DETROIT'S NEIGHBORHOODS AND
THEIR CRY FOR HELP
Suzette Hackney, Romain
Blanquart, Kathy Kieliszewski,
Kristi Tanner, Kofi Myler, Eric
Millikin, John Sly and Staff
*Powerful storytelling that
posits positive change in the
communities served by the
newspaper. Excellent use of
research and multiple
storytelling platforms. Strong
graphics.*

Honorable Mention

Grand Rapids Press

LAW & DISORDER
John Barnes, John Agar, Blake
Thorne, Aaron Aupperlee, Rex
Hall Jr.
*Tells a story with exhaustive
research and, more
importantly, fires a warning
shot through the community.
Excellent use of FOIA. Well-
formed graphics.*

Daily B

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Oakland Press

SUICIDES
Monica Drake
*This is a great example of a
reporter who wouldn't give up.
In a community with a young
person suicide rate as great as
this, this topic deserved the
research and attention it got.
The writer not only did a great
job talking statistics and
providing resources and insight,
but also did an excellent job
telling the story of the people
who died and those who knew
and loved them.*

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

DERRINESHA CLAY SHOOTING
Kevin Grasha
*This was a great piece of work.
The writer did an excellent job
looking beyond the paperwork
and really looking for the heart
and truth of this story. Great
job.*

3rd Place

The Oakland Press

WALLED LAKE WESTERN HAZING
SCANDAL
Dave Phillips, Keith Dunlap,
Jason Schmitt
*This entry shows what happens
when a reporter is tenacious.
Few people want to talk when
something goes wrong with
kids and athletics. This reporter
did a great job tracking down
rumors and turning them into
solid facts for a story.*

Honorable Mention

Lansing State Journal

ROAD BACK FROM RECESSION: A TALE
OF TWO ECONOMIES
Lindsay VanHulle
*This is a great piece of work
with a lot of detail on data and
solid first-person accounts. The
writer did a great job of turning
a topic into stories with interest
for a diverse readership.*

News Enterprise Reporting (cont.)

Daily C

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

EX-COACH, TEACHER CHARGED

Art Bukowski, James Russell,
Vanessa McCray

What I liked about this package was the mix of breaking news and analysis. You were clearly in front of the story, asking tough questions and getting answers. Good job.

2nd Place

Times Herald

CITY FOR RENT

Liz Shepard, Michael Eckert

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

CARLY LEWIS

Alex Piazza, Art Bukowski, James
Russell

Honorable Mention

Times Herald

COLLISION AT THE CORNER OF KRAFFT
AND MAYHEM

Bob Gross

Daily D

42 ENTRIES

1st Place

Petoskey News-Review

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY FOIA LAWSUIT
SERIES

Sheri McWhirter

Thank goodness Michigan has newspapers like the PNR that are willing to put their resources on the line when government attempts to hide their actions from the public. The dogged coverage and lawsuit filed by the paper shows the important role that print journalism plays in standing up for the public's right to know, despite government leaders attempts to drag the newspaper's name through the mud. Well done!

2nd Place

Huron Daily Tribune

FOLLOW THE MONEY, MSP CLOSES
INVESTIGATION, FINDS NO CRIMINAL
WRONGDOING, STATE REP'S ACTIONS
QUESTIONED, SHERIFF WANTS
DAMROW CHARGED FOR FILING FALSE
POLICE REPORT, LAWSUIT
FORTHCOMING, LOCAL REPUBLICANS
OUST DAMROW FROM HURON
COUNTY GOP, DAMROW DENIES
Stacy Langley-Hagen, Kate
Hessling

The HDT exposed the brash attitude of an elected official and his attempts to wield his political power in improper ways. It is no doubt the newspaper's role in sticking with this story and uncovering the truth behind what otherwise could have been brushed aside as a he-said, she-said story resulted in this official having his feet held to the fire.

3rd Place

The Argus-Press

SAFETY CONCERNS DIVIDE CORUNNA-
CALEDONIA FIRE

Curtis Wildfong

It was no doubt a tough job to apply 20-20 hindsight to the fire department's actions, but this in-depth analysis shows the critical role newspapers serve in dissecting an issue. Examining the safety record and policies of the fire department and wading past the political fray will hopefully provide an eye-opening and potentially life-saving reflection.

Honorable Mention

The Mining Journal

BATH SALTS: (FIVE PART SERIES)
Kyle Whitney

The MJ submitted several excellent entries in this category, many of them multi-part series that show the newspaper's dedication to providing readers valuable information on pertinent issues facing the community. This particular series shines

News Enterprise Reporting (cont.)

Weekly A

30 ENTRIES

1st Place

The News-Herald

ANALYSIS OF RIGHT-TO-WORK

Craig Farrand

Impressive effort at trying to explain the "right-to-work" issue and answer the questions that come along with it. Challenging topic, successfully tackled, with thorough reporting from a number of different perspectives.

2nd Place

Saline Reporter

A LOOK INSIDE OUR DOWNTOWNS;

DOWNTOWNS LOOKING TO FILL

VACANCIES; PRESERVING THE

CHARACTER OF DOWNTOWN

David Veselenak, Krista

Gjestland, Joe Gray, Erica

McClain, Amy Bell

Comprehensive look at two areas' efforts to revitalize their downtown districts amid the down economy. Well done.

3rd Place

Saline Reporter

REMEMBERING 9/11

James David Dickson, Gerald

LaVaute, David Veselenak, Amy

Bell, Donna Iadipalo

Thorough package on anniversary of 9/11, with several angles and perspectives presented, led by an analysis of local institutions and what they have done in light of the threat that remains ten years later.

Weekly B

25 ENTRIES

1st Place

Tri-County Times

LIBYA REPORTING

Tim Jagielo

Detailed reporting that gave a glimpse into the issues facing a country unfamiliar to many. Going to Libya to report took courage and brought insight that wouldn't have been accomplished through interviews back home.

2nd Place

Farmington Observer

SUICIDE CALLED THE 'GORILLA IN THE ROOM'

Stacy Jenkins

Great research into a taboo topic. Good use of numbers and wide variety of subject. Great job!

3rd Place

Grosse Pointe News

CLUB CLAIMS \$1 MILLION

OVERCHARGE; TOLLING AGREEMENT

OBTAINED; WATER DISPUTE MUDDY;

AWASH IN RUMORS; COUNCIL CLUED

IN; RECALL EFFORT LEADER: VOTERS

KEPT IN DARK; MANAGER UNDER FIRE;

VICK OUT IN SHORES

Brad Lindberg

Great use of public documents to draw out a contested situation. Good dogged reporting to convince city officials to talk. Way to keep the city honest!

Honorable Mention

South Haven Tribune

A CURE OR A CRIME?

Kim Ingalls, Becky Burkert

Good research. Well presented. Good job representing many different faces of the issue.

Weekly C

23 ENTRIES

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

COMING HOME; MARINE KILLED WHILE

SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN; SGT. DAVID

DAY FUNERAL SET; MILITARY ESCORT

FOR DAY; ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Chris Engle, Michael Jones,

Jeremy Speer, Cathy Landry,

Frank Michels

2nd Place

The Exponent

FIRE CHIEF HELPS THWART ARSON

Jeff Steers

3rd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

PENSION SYSTEM EATS AWAY COUNTY

FINANCES.

Alan Campbell

Honorable Mention

Leelanau Enterprise

SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION

Amy Hubbell, Alan Campbell,

Eric Carlson, Chris Olson

News Enterprise Reporting (cont.)

Weekly D

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

Leader and Kalkaskian

MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN MICHIGAN
Heidi Berden , Bryce Martin
Outstanding series taking a balanced look at a controversial issue from a range of perspectives. Great reads all the way through.

2nd Place

The Advance

BLISSFIELD FIRE DEPT., TOWNSHIP
DISAGREE ON FIRE TRUCK
PURCHASE/TRUCK; TOWNSHIP
DEBATES FIRE TRUCK/BLISSFIELD;
BLISSFIELD TWP. OKS AERIAL TRUCK
PURCHASE/ FIRE TRUCK; PURCHASE
EXPLAINED/BLISSFIELD; FIRE TRUCK
PURCHASE QUESTIONED/FIRE TRUCK;
ADDED-ON AUTHOR
Melissa Burnor
Combination of issue and event coverage as story developed. Nice job sticking with the story. Clear compelling storytelling.

3rd Place

Cass City Chronicle

KABOOM!
Thomas Montgomery
Nice exploration of a finger-pointing story between public officials.

Design

Daily A

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Some might prefer less variety in the use of type styles, but it definitely makes each page stand out and make a strong statement with bold design well-suited to the tone, news value and content. Fantastic Osama bin Laden front page.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

Balanced, consistent, strong design.

Daily B

1 ENTRY

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

This is a beautiful newspaper with clean, crisp layouts. The front pages are most attractive to the eye and the reader is easily drawn into the page. The use of photographs throughout is well done. Congratulations to the editors -- this is an attractive newspaper to read.

Design (cont.)

Daily C

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Brian Steele, Dan Nielson, Brenda Coglianese, Andy Taylor, Kate Milewski, Chris Dobrowolski, Christie Succop
Clean pages, and reader's eye is captured but not distracted. It's the kind of presentation a reader can appreciate for artistry and ease to maneuver.

2nd Place

Times Herald

Excellent work, cut-outs are great. Newspaper goes to the edge of magazine look in presentation.

Daily D

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

Sturgis Journal

Sturgis Newsroom, Corky Emrick, Candi Phelps, Dennis Volkert, Brandon Watson, Rosalie Currier, Terry Katz
LOVE THIS newspaper! Not cluttered, well organized layout. White space! It breathes! Ads don't fight with editorial. One of the best I've seen in the contest, if not THE best. Actually, it IS the best. First place, hands down.

2nd Place

Morning Sun

Brilliant use of space, fonts. Advertising doesn't fight editorial; a great balance. Engaging visually. Well done, folks.

3rd Place

Midland Daily News

Jack Telfer
Stunning, consistent design. Nice use of space. Nothing cluttered. Translates as honest and trustworthy. Excellent work!

Honorable Mention

Petoskey News-Review

EXCELLENT use of Myriad Pro throughout. Really like this publication...a lot. News doesn't fight with the advertising, either. Wish I could subscribe! :)

Weekly A

8 ENTRIES

1st Place

The County Press, Lapeer

Jeff Hogan

2nd Place

The News-Herald

3rd Place

Chelsea Standard

Erica McClain, Joe Gray, Carrie Kennedy

Honorable Mention

Burton View

Gary Gould

Weekly B

10 ENTRIES

1st Place

Tri-County Times

Jennifer Ward

2nd Place

Grosse Pointe News

FARMS BOOSTS FUNDS; DIA PAINTS THE TOWN; NEIGHBORS LEERY OF REZONING

3rd Place

Westland Observer

Greg Mullin

Honorable Mention

Northern Express Weekly

GIFT GUIDE
Colleen Zanotti, Kyra Cross and staff

Weekly C

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Tecumseh Herald

2nd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

3rd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Eric Hamp, Krista Tacey-Cater

Honorable Mention

Oceana's Herald-Journal

Andrew Skinner, John Cavanagh

Design (cont.)

Weekly D

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

State Line Observer

Clear winner in this category. The SLO has a very clean and consistent page layout that makes great use of white space to ease the eye. Photos help anchor the pages and are displayed very well. Headlines help draw in the reader. Designers of this paper do an excellent job.

2nd Place

The Commercial Record

*Scott Sullivan
Great use of photos throughout this paper, and a good, clean design. News stories are presented well and pages are consistently balanced with strong artwork and headlines.*

3rd Place

Charlevoix Courier

*Steve Zucker, Wendy Wolfsen
Another paper that is strong in design. Good use of photos. Very readable.*

Honorable Mention

The Boyne City Gazette

Benjamin J. Gohs

Feature Story

Daily A

18 ENTRIES

1st Place

Flint Journal

*TOY SOLDIER
Blake Thorne*

This is a deceptively well-done story that features the "unusual literary excellence" and "originality" that the category judges. From its simple lead, it gives clean, careful description that makes a scene probably viewed by many readers come alive, just as a toy soldier comes alive in a child's dream or "The Nutcracker." And its short, but contains so much in just a few sentences, even noting how some people yell at Goodrich to get a life, or say "hard job." Wonderful work.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

*OUT OF TENT CITY
Khalil AlHajal*

Again, simplicity works. A touching small chapter in the life of a group of homeless men, presented clearly, with no sentimentality.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

*SUICIDE OR THE PERFECT MURDER?
Joe Swickard*

A good yarn, strong reporting to tell as much as can be told about an inconclusive story. It does a good job of veering from straight chronology without getting confusing but allowing the story to skip over some parts of the characters' lives for the sake of keeping the narrative going.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

*HERE COME THE BRIDES
Patricia Montemurri
Sweet, well-told story.*

Daily B

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

GENERATION F: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ADDRESS CHILDHOOD OBESITY?

Louise Knott Ahern

The reporter did a fine job of combining solid research, compelling interviews in a well organized and well written package on an major issue in the community and the nation. Clearly there was a lot of work behind the stories.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

CONTROVERSIAL CONNECTION: AFTER MSU, ALUM WENT ON TO BECOME KNOWN AS THE 'ENVOY OF DEATH' IN LIBYA

Matthew Miller

Very nice job of painting a portrait of someone without the advantage of interviewing the subject directly. Very good sourcing and research on fascinating individual. I wanted more.

3rd Place

The Oakland Press

SON'S RESEARCH HELPS IDENTIFY MOTHER'S BODY

Dave Phillips

Unsolved murder/mysterious should make for a great read and this did not disappoint. The son's tenacity came through.

Honorable Mention

The Oakland Press

WHO TWEETS?

Charles Crumm

Very topical and timely story with entertaining examples of how politicians use tweets, the power of the short message today and historically. Good job.

Feature Story (cont.)

Daily C

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

A NUN'S LIFE

Vanessa McCray

The reporter has a nice writing style and a great eye for details that conveyed the subject's personality. I applaud the effort to interview more than just the subject to add some depth and context.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

TRAVERSE CORRIDOR: A PREHISTORIC CROSSROADS

Loraine Anderson

Reporter blended the personality of the anthropologist with research to create an interesting and informative story.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

LIVING WITH AUTISM

Marta Hepler Drahos

This was more news enterprise than feature. Reporter's research was very solid and she did a good job putting a face on the issue.

Daily D

47 ENTRIES

1st Place

Huron Daily Tribune

BREAKING PAST GRIEF TO HELP OTHERS
Kate Hessling

Very well done with a story that is the nightmare of all parents' nightmares. Great quotes from Mary, the mother. Wonder why there were no quotes from the father? Almost too much from the book but it worked okay. Well organized moving from the shock of death to current feelings, then to the book for explanation and ending with an emotional zinger. Great interviewing to get this all out. Clearly the best entry.

2nd Place

The Mining Journal

IN MEMORY OF RALPH: STRAY SLED DOG WINS HEARTS, HOME IN GRAND MARAIS
Renee Prusi

Good lead, nice recount of a touching story, not too maudlin. I would have liked more support for the claim that everyone in Grand Marais knew Ralph and cared about him for the intervening years between his arrival and adoption. It's a good way to highlight the race, which could have used a little more explanation.

3rd Place

Midland Daily News

REMEMBERING GOAT HILL:
REFLECTIONS FROM A FORGOTTEN MIDLAND NEIGHBORHOOD
Ralph E. Wirtz

A lot of research went into these stories but it's hard to capture the essence of an area that ceased to exist 50 years ago; it's not a topic that would appeal to people without a historical bent. At times it was hard to follow all the different people being quoted. The sidebars helped a bit in this respect and added greater dimension to the story.

Honorable Mention

The Mining Journal

PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR
Jackie Stark

Good story about a Pearl Harbor survivor that never gets old since only a few of those WWII vets remain. The writer lets Kline basically tell the story from an enlisted Navy man's perspective. Most vets don't like to talk about their war experiences so the reporter did a good job getting Kline to recall his memories.

Weekly A

26 ENTRIES

1st Place

The News-Herald

"Whatever happened to the 10 Foucher children?"

Craig Farrand

This is a compelling story and the reporter did an excellent job weaving the individual siblings' stories together into a narrative. I actually would have wanted more detail about the other family members.

2nd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Veteran part of team sent to rescue Fitzgerald crew

Katie Hetrick

Very good use of details to put the reader on the ship with the subject. She obviously conducted a good interview to draw out her subject on an event that happened more than three decades prior.

3rd Place

Milan News-Leader

The people you meet at the marijuana dispensary

James David Dickson

The reporter took you inside a medical marijuana "store" and really put a face -- multiple ones -- on the issue. Solid reporting and crisp writing.

Honorable Mention

The News-Herald

Best and bravest

Andrea Blum

This is one case in which I wanted another third place to award. The reporter really captures the relationship of the Vietnam War victim's daughter and her father's war buddy. Great story.

Feature Story (cont.)

Weekly B

36 ENTRIES

1st Place

South Oakland Eccentric

A HOUSE DIVIDED

Steve Kowalski

What a cool story. In the hands of most reporters, this would have been treated as your standard, inverted-pyramid look at a ballot initiative. Instead, the reporter did something unconventional, examining how one family is split on the proposal and why. Kudos to the reporter for the idea. The writing and reporting are strong, too. I enjoyed reading this.

I'm going to see if I can take this idea back to my own newsroom.

2nd Place

Garden City Observer

'HE'S WITH GOD' FAMILY PLANS

MEMORIAL TO HONOR MISSING SON

Sue Mason

Really strong writing and reporting. Excellent use of detail. Very readable. This is quite a talented reporter. Editing could have been better, though.

3rd Place

Birmingham Eccentric

A LIFE TOO SHORT: PARENTS

CHRONICLE THEIR CHILD'S TRAGIC

STRUGGLE

Jay M. Grossman

Strong reporting and writing made this a moving story. The reporter did an excellent job getting the family to share details about such a painful subject. This story could have used some better editing, though. Lines like "she was crying as if she was pain" and "Possibly it was colic or some time of protein allergy" hurt the story.

Honorable Mention

Northern Express Weekly

NOTHING FOR GRANTED

Erin Crowell

This story was moving in parts. But it was overwritten. Less is more. There were too many quotes, both from sources and from famous people.

Weekly C

22 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Tri-City Times

TROUBLES NOT YET DONE, THANKFULLY

Catherine Minolli

Great job of helping the reader find the silver lining in this dark cloud ... I'll bet Troubles would have hugged Richard if he could ... and I'm sure Richard did!

2nd Place

The Exponent

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Jeff Steers

Just nudged out ... great effort and a great story about one tough young lady

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

CYBER BULLYING 'GETTING WORSE' AT

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Michael Jones

A story that more newspapers need to tell because this is so widespread.

Honorable Mention

Leelanau Enterprise

THE FISHER BROTHERS

Alan Campbell

Great story.

Weekly D

29 ENTRIES

1st Place

State Line Observer

GOOD THINGS FROM THE VINEYARD

David Green

2nd Place

Allegan County News

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT: CONFERENCE

FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WARNS OF ABUSE

Tim Keith

3rd Place

The Union Enterprise

MILL ARTIFACT RETURNED TO

PLAINWELL

Dan Pepper

Honorable Mention

Allegan County News

FATHER DON TO RETIRE FROM ST.

MARGARET CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tim Keith

Editorial Writing

Daily A

8 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

JUST BUILD IT

This series of editorials hits all the important economic, ethical and community issues surrounding this bridge, calling for action in no-doubt-what-we-mean language.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

THE AUTHORITY TO MOVE AHEAD; THE BIG

STALL; JUST COME CLEAN ABOUT YOUR

AGE, MAYOR FOUTS

Jeff Gerritt

Although this entry contains one of the pieces in the winning entry, Jeff Gerritt offers two strong editorials with specific recommendations.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

DEAD AGAIN? LAKE ERIE'S DECLINE

MUST BE SEEN AS CALL TO ACTION;

HEY OHIO

Barbara Arrigo

The writing is so simple and clear that this does a great service to the readers.

Editorial Writing

Daily B

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

INEPT LANSING BOARD IMPERILS
DISTRICT

Elaine Kulhanek

In her three editorials, Kulhanek does a great job outlining community issues in a concise manner (some of which have been lengthy and ongoing) and effectively promotes a suggested change. The writer doesn't back down from calling out those whose behaviors are potentially negative to the community. This is an editorial voice that deserves to be listened to.

2nd Place

The Oakland Press

LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM, KEVORKIAN
LEFT HIS MARK; OVERLAPPING
ELECTION SEASONS ARE CONFUSING;
CONGRESSIONAL REMAP SHOULD GO
TO COURT
Charles Crumm

Daily C

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Mike Tyree

Strong stances, well-written, clearly communicated. Gutsy.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

David Miller

A close second. Very strong pieces, adequately supported.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Loraine Anderson

Good use of examples and supporting information.

Daily D

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

Greenville Daily News

OUR VIEW | RYAN JELTEMA
Ryan Jeltema

Close race between first and second; both had two strong editorials and one less strong. This won out on the strength of the writing -- concise with a little edge.

2nd Place

Daily Telegram

Editorial Board

This entry stood out for the tough issues it tackled.

3rd Place

Livingston County Daily

Press & Argus

Howell e-mail decision sends wrong message; Questions linger months after dispensary raid; Brighton teachers should take lesson from Dearborn
Mike Malott

The dispensary editorial and the e-mail editorial raised important issues. The background threatened to get in the way of the opinion.

Honorable Mention

Greenville Daily News

OUR VIEW | ELISABETH WALDON
Elisabeth Waldon

Weekly A

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

The News-Herald

Clear analysis of issues with local and regional importance.

2nd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

Jeff Hogan

Decent writing and discussion, though less effort to lead public opinion.

Editorial Writing (cont.)

Weekly B

9 ENTRIES

1st Place

Plymouth Observer

END THE BICKERING; SUNDAY SNUB;

UNVEIL THE PLAN

Brad Kadrich

2nd Place

Birmingham Eccentric

NIGHT FIGHTS: GET TOUGH ON

BRAWLERS; ENOUGH: RECALL FAILURE

SHOWS SUPPORT FOR BOARD; NO

DETOUR: MAPLE ROAD PLAN

SCRUBBED RIGHTLY

Greg Kowalski

3rd Place

Oxford Leader

C.J. Carnacchio

Weekly C

10 ENTRIES

1st Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Tom Hamp

It's not easy to be the watchdog, but it's important. Keep up the good work, and keep telling your readers what is going on.

2nd Place

The Tri-City Times

CUTTING MORE THAN RECYCLING;

CAPAC WOULD RATHER SIT ON

SIDELINES; VALUING ACCESS TO

INFORMATION

Maria Brown

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Jeremy Speer, Cathy Landry,

Frank Michels, Chris Engle,

Michael Jones

Weekly D

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Boyne City Gazette

Christopher J. Faulknor

Clear writing with a viewpoint.

Wide variety of subject matter

tackled. Would like to see more

localized opinions, too.

2nd Place

State Line Observer

David Green

Clear opinions on community matters. A good mix of criticism and praise.

3rd Place

Allegan County News

Out of the Basement Office

Ryan Lewis

Easy to read opinions that raised some legitimate questions. Watch for spelling mistakes, and be careful not to turn the column into a run down of community events.

Honorable Mention

The Advance

Early detection still important;

People need opportunity to ask

hard question; Open for and to

business

Marcia Loader

Nice personable writing style.

Would like to see less focus on

upcoming community events and meeting notes.

Editorial Pages

Daily A

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Strong, coherent section that blends the news and opinion in clear language and strong design. The Needle, revved, idling and stalled snippets written with flair, adds a nice little touch.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

Clark Hughes

Strong editorial writing, good use of both print letters and the web to get reader voices in.

Creative use of editorial comment inserted after paragraphs of a news story, though that could be a little stilted to make work in some stories. But innovation is always worth a try.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

KEEPING OUR HEADS ABOUT HELMETS;

TENURE LAW OFFERS CHANCE ...;

DEVASTATED FAMILIES ARE NOT

FORGOTTEN

Todd Fettig, Ed Golder, GRP

Editorial Board

Another strong editorial page,

good use of guest columnists.

Editorial Pages (cont.)

Daily B

1 ENTRY

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

There are a lot of great components on these editorial pages. "Our point is..." is a great quick draw for editorial readership. Solid cartoons and columns, good reader interaction with letters, and a clear outline of expectations for readers to get their letters published. Clearly a lot of work goes into these pages, as they should in all newspapers.

Daily C

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

David Miller

Solid editorials, strong writing throughout. The one-two punch of the infant deaths/teen pregnancies pieces was superb. Attractive appearance, good use of graph and graphics, and healthy mix of columns and viewpoints.

2nd Place

Times Herald

Editorials informative but could make some stronger stands. Good mix of content, but entry unfortunately plagued with font issues and at least one editing error in an editorial.

Daily D

8 ENTRIES

1st Place

Ludington Daily News

OPINION

Steve Begnoche

Overall, a really nice presentation that is easy to follow and, I would guess, is well-read.

2nd Place

The Argus-Press

Just a step out of first ... really enjoyed the presentation of thoughts on 9/11.

3rd Place

Daily Telegram

Editorial Board

Nice effort

Weekly A

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

Saline Reporter

The Editorial page here is presented well, includes some engagement for readers even if they don't write in. The newspaper's opinion is important, and the reader can see that.

2nd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

Jeff Hogan

Readers clearly have a way to communicate with the 'Sound' feature. The presentation is excellent.

Editorial Pages (cont.)

Weekly B

8 ENTRIES

1st Place

Grosse Pointe News

CONGRATS

Joe Warner, Diane Morelli

Solid opinions pages with good diversity of opinions. The editorial cartoon and man on the street broke up the gray pages. Using kids for the man on the street was a nice way to make what can be a very serious page a little light hearted.

2nd Place

Livonia Observer

Karen Smith

Nice clean layout. A man on the street is a good way to get more reader insight, as is using online comments. Good strong editorials.

3rd Place

Birmingham Eccentric

OPINION

Greg Kowalski

Good layout and use of photos to break out the page. Editorials were well written. Nice variety in reader submitted opinions.

Honorable Mention

Milford Times

Philip Allmen

Nice layout. Man on the street is good to bring more reader voices. Try for more diversity in respondents.

Weekly C

5 ENTRIES

1st Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Eric Hamp, Tom Hamp, Cheryl Holladay, Jim Grisso, Glenn Schicker

Good variety with heavy emphasis on issues important to the community.

2nd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Jeremy Speer, Cathy Landry, Frank Michels, Chris Engle, Michael Jones, Lorene Parshall, Kurt J. Kolka

Weekly D

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Advance

STATE NEEDS TO REVERSE TRENDS; COVER UP CONTINUED TORTURE OF VICTIMS; ECONOMY IMPROVEMENT IS WHAT PEOPLE WANT
Marcia Loader

Editorials were insightful, but a bit too long. Good mix of opinions in reader submitted content.

2nd Place

Allegan County News

OPINION

Ryan Lewis

Good job taking government to task in editorials. Layout is very tight. It needs a bit more white space to breathe. I'm not sure that a news story should be on the opinion page. Be careful about mixing news and opinion.

3rd Place

The Boyne City Gazette

Christopher J. Faulknor, Benjamin J. Gohs
Quirky columns. Good editorial on community involvement. I would have liked to see more hard hitting opinions on local issues and reader submitted opinions.

Honorable Mention

State Line Observer

The one staff editorial submitted was good. I would have liked to read others. I didn't feel like there was enough opinions on the opinions pages.

Local Columnist

Daily A

18 ENTRIES

1st Place

Muskegon Chronicle

MEGAN HART COMMENTARY

Megan Hart

In a category chock full of incredible talent, this writer expressed the widest range of skill. Ms. Hart's subject matters couldn't have been more diverse, yet she nailed every column in a thoughtful method. Outstanding.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

VETERAN DIED ALONE: DID YOU KNOW

HIM?; A STROKE LEAVES HER YET

STEALS HER AWAY; TEACHER'S LEGACY

A BEAUTIFUL MELODY

Mitch Albom

This columnist knows how to grab your attention -- and does it in a magnificent way. Three varied columns, each fantastic in their own way.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

PUNISHMENT INSTEAD OF TREATMENT;

FACES OF THE CRACKDOWN; A STROKE

LEAVES HER YET STEALS HER AWAY

Jeff Gerritt

Strong, powerful commentary. This columnist is NOT scared to take on the tough subject.

Honorable Mention

Flint Journal

Andrew Heller

Daily B

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Oakland Press

BUILDING BRIDGES; CANCER DRUG'S

APPROVAL MATTER OF LIFE, DEATH;

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE? SNYDER'S

PLAN TO SIPHON \$900 MILLION FROM

K-12 FLYING UNDER THE RADAR

Glenn Gilbert

Columnist does a good job breaking down complex issues in a way that explains how these news topics affect readership.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

John Schneider

Daily C

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Garret Leiva

Great wordsmith. Columns come to life with the use of words. Great flow. Readers will return time and time again. They will welcome him in to their homes.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Jodee Taylor

Good flow and good leads. Nice topics and easy to read. Makes a point for the readers to think about.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Marta Hepler Drahos

The column about mom was really good. Something most people can relate to. Like the local flavor to the column

Daily D

29 ENTRIES

1st Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

BIG ELECTRONIC ROAD SIGNS SEND

DISAPPOINTING SIGNALS; HARD

TRUTHS ABOUT DRUNKEN DRIVING;

VISIONS OF DAD SPAN GENERATIONS

Rich Perlberg

Outstanding blend of wit, keen observation and relevant discussion of issues that affect local readers.

2nd Place

Morning Sun

POT DISPENSARIES

Rick Mills

Enjoyable treatment of tough topics without stacking the deck or belittling those who disagree.

3rd Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

NEW STUDY ON OBESITY LEAVES OUT

KEY POINTS; OPTIMISM CAN STILL

REIGN SUPREME EVEN DURING THE

HARDEST OF TIMES; SHORTCOMINGS

ASIDE, IT WAS HOME

Denyse Smith

Well-written look at life and the issues that affect us. Column on being forced to move especially poignant.

Local Columnist (cont.)

Weekly A

14 ENTRIES

1st Place

The News-Herald

Craig Farrand

An entertaining columnist who truly knows his community.

2nd Place

The News-Herald

Karl Ziomek

Fearless columnist who isn't afraid to share his views.

3rd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

Carolyn LeDuc-Krehel

Enjoyable writing style with the best series headline of the category.

Honorable Mention

Lapeer Area View

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

Jacob Hunsanger

Weekly B

10 ENTRIES

1st Place

Northern Express Weekly

SPECTATOR COLUMNS

Stephen Tuttle

Stephen Tuttle's columns are powerful, smart and well-researched. He writes about complex and serious issues with clarity, and from the perspective of his readers. His take on why people should bother voting in local elections is interesting and convincing. His critique of Congress is refreshingly sharp. His newspaper is lucky to have him.

2nd Place

Birmingham Eccentric

CAR TALK: REMEMBERING A ROTTEN

PINTO; AT WAR WITH THE MICE; MY

CUP RUNNETH OVER (WITH SCAMS)

Greg Kowalski

It's obvious that Greg Kowalski has a fantastic sense of humor. What's not always easy is translating that wit into a well-written and entertaining column. He succeeds. I'm sure his readers always look forward to seeing what he has to say.

3rd Place

Plymouth Observer

THEIR GUY IN PLACE, BOARD SHOULD

STAY OUT OF THE WAY; VIETNAM

WALL BRINGS CHANCE TO PAY

RESPECTS; POLITICS MOVES FRONT AND

CENTER

Brad Kadrach

Brad Kadrach seems to have a firm grasp on local politics and isn't shy about expressing his views. His column about the controversy over "Beloved" being read in schools was a well-crafted criticism.

Honorable Mention

Bay Voice

Jeff Payne

Jeff Payne's columns are well-written and show he has a strong connection to his community.

Weekly C

28 ENTRIES

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

THOUGHT TRAIN: SANCTITY OF LIFE

STEALING CHILDHOOD?; OCCUPY

YOUR MIND WITH OCCUPY WALL

STREET

Lorene Parshall

The top winner writes with passion, precision, and a strong sense of social justice. Amid 28 entries, hers stood out.

2nd Place

Tecumseh Herald

Mary Kay McCormick

Second and third place were very close. Mary Kay's columns stuck in my mind a bit longer.

3rd Place

Tecumseh Herald

Lee Smith

Lee Smith says what she thinks, and she says it very well. I can imagine that in person she has spunk, and I admired her for it.

Honorable Mention

Tuscola County Advertiser

STORYBOOK MEMORIES ARE IN THE

MAIL EACH MONTH

Amy Joles

The mom-editor does a good job in combining her personal experience with newsworthy items helpful to other readers. I particularly liked the column about the story books.

Weekly D

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Commercial Record

BLUE STAR

Scott Sullivan

Columns clear and well thought out. Gives all the info and lays out his thoughts very well. Enjoyable read even for someone with no interest.

2nd Place

The Boyne City Gazette

Benjamin J. Gohs

A great way with words.

Columns that readers can relate to. Enjoyable.

3rd Place

The Union Enterprise

STATE OF THE UNION (ENTERPRISE)

Dan Pepper, interim editor

Enjoyable, clear writing. Topics of interest that should appeal to readers

News Picture

Daily A

26 ENTRIES

1st Place

Grand Rapids Press

A DAY OF HORROR (GRIEF STRICKEN)

Chris Clark

A captivating photo taken in a moment of sheer tragedy. A photo one doesn't forget.

2nd Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

COMMUNITY SALUTES FALLEN SOLDIER

Mark Bugnaski

Great, fitting perspective. Good timing.

3rd Place

Flint Journal

MEMORIAL FOR ERAN "BUGSY"

TRYON

Sean Ryan

Cool angle. Good lighting.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

NO POWER NO MILK

Eric Seals

Turning fairly mundane subject matter into something that's interesting. Good job by the photographer get an interesting angle.

Daily B

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

CATA SHOOTING

Rod Sanford

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

JOHNSON DRUNK DRIVING

Rod Sanford

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

MARIJUANA

Greg DeRuiter

Daily C

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

DOWNTOWN FIRE

Jan-Michael Stump

It can't be everyday that you find a young man happen upon a scene who is dressed for the unfortunate event. He's watching intently, and the photographer captured the moment well.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

UN-BEAR-ABLE

Keith King

The photo certainly could provoke thoughts for the reader, such as what is the guy going to do if he can catch him? He's not far away either. Nice shot.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

TCAPS BUDGET

Jan-Michael Stump

A photo which captures the essence of what the story is: leaders pondering numbers on a page, only we get to see it projected. Nice work.

Daily D

17 ENTRIES

1st Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

FIRE LATEST BUMP IN 'LONG ROAD'

Gillis Benedict

This photo captures a moment of raw emotion and conveys the feeling to the viewer. Well done! There was no doubt in my mind that this was the strongest photo in the competition.

2nd Place

The Pioneer

E CO. FAREWELL

Kyle Leppek

This photo captures a moment of pain and shares it with others. It makes the viewer stop and think about the sacrifices our military families experience every day.

3rd Place

The Argus-Press

FIRE ROARS THROUGH APARTMENTS

Daniel R. Basso

Creative angle on shooting the fire. I really like the flames reflected through the water.

Honorable Mention

Ludington Daily News

SAYING FAREWELL

Jeff Kiessel

A special moment captured to share with others.

News Picture (cont.)

Weekly A

17 ENTRIES

1st Place

The News-Herald

FLOODS SPAWN OUTRAGE

Alan Burdziak

Good photo that truly shows devastating effects of the sewage backup and man's raw emotion. Photojournalism, not just a good picture.

2nd Place

Dexter Leader

REBOUNTING

Amy Bell

Good; shows breath of storm destruction yet illustrates how people are coping, reacting.

3rd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

PAST TENSE OPEN DESPITE FRIDAY

FIRE; WILL REBUILD

Jacob Hunsanger

Good action photo of flames

Honorable Mention

The County Press, Lapeer

TORNADO SKIPS ACROSS CENTRAL

OREGON TOWNSHIP

Jeff Hogan

Weekly B

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

Bay Voice

TRAGIC FALL AT SELFRIDGE AIR SHOW

Dave Angell

A stark photo that exemplifies why photographers should remain at such events from start to finish. You never know what might go wrong. A horrifying moment captured.

2nd Place

Oxford Leader

STOP THAT TURKEY!

C.J. Carnacchio

Love this photo. The combination of consternation in the face of the wildlife officer and the bemusement of the driver is priceless. The shot is perfectly framed.

3rd Place

Grosse Pointe News

THANK YOU

Renee Landuyt

Nice military homecoming photo package topped with a strong lead photo. The daughter's contented expression hugging her dad speaks volumes.

Weekly C

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

Leelanau Enterprise

FIRE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

Ken Scott

Great composition and color in this otherwise brown photo...wonderful job. This is one of those shots that all of us, as photographers, wish we'd have taken.

2nd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Chris Engle

The pure emotion is what makes this shot wonderful. Nice crop as well.

3rd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

BURING OAK ON FIRE

Thomas Reznich

This is a wonderful example of on the spot news photography. The reason it didn't get a higher mark was the lack of emotion or faces in the photo...maybe a different angle and this could have really been something special.

Honorable Mention

Tuscola County Advertiser

SHOPPING FRENZY

Amy Joles

A tighter crop showing more emotion on several of the people's faces would have made this shot a 1st place or 2nd place winner

Weekly D

12 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Commercial Record

CLAW FULL

Scott Sullivan

2nd Place

The Boyne City Gazette

A HERO'S WELCOME

Christopher J. Faulknor

3rd Place

State Line Observer

HOUSE FIRE

David Green

Feature Picture

Daily A

27 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

FIGHTING THE 90S

Mandi Wright

There was but a brief moment when this photograph could be taken; the exact moment it was taken. Photographer captured the child's glee through his face, and his powerless and timid struggle with his hand on the hose.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

HEAT WAVE....AHHHHH

Jarrad Henderson

Spreading the water drops with a slow shutter, and using light for an interesting halo effect helped create the mood of cool fun and relaxation the girl is obviously enjoying.

3rd Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

WISHES FOR SANTA

Nick Dentamaro

For every photographer who has dragged their jaded soul to yet another routine annual shoot, this is an inspiration. If you hang around long enough, the photographs will happen right before you. Just have everything ready and take them.

Daily B

5 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

1-147TH AIR ASSAULT RETURNS HOME

Rod Sanford

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

HEAVY SNOWFALL

Rod Sanford

3rd Place

The Oakland Press

TURTLE HURDLE

Vaughn Gurganian

Honorable Mention

Lansing State Journal

RAIN FEATURE

Greg DeRuiter

Daily C

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

BALLOON SHOW

Jan-Michael Stump

The show of emotion on the child's face makes this a first-place winner for sure! Great capture, nice crop... good job

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

FAREWELL TO THE FAIR

Keith King

The faces on the crowd make this shot. It is a nice stop-action shot for sure, but the emotion is in the crowd.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

GREAT LAKES BURN CAMP

Jan-Michael Stump

It's a nice, clear shot, but is just about devoid of emotion....just not a lot going on here.

Honorable Mention

Traverse City Record-Eagle

MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN AMERICA

Keith King

It's a pretty shot, but doesn't really tell a story or show emotion.

Daily D

25 ENTRIES

1st Place

Morning Sun

COMING HOME

Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis

Photo has strong impact. Good timing, strong emotion. Photographer has a good eye and is obviously always ready to shoot.

2nd Place

Morning Sun

FOURTH OF JULY

Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis

Nice photo. Good use of natural light. Photo speaks to the readers.

3rd Place

Ludington Daily News

SO MANY SEAGULLS, WHICH ONES TO CHASE?

Jeff Kiessel

Nice fun shot. Photographer was ready for the moment. Beautiful color and a spontaneous moment

Honorable Mention

Manistee News-Advocate

MORNING MOON OVER MANISTEE

David L. Barber

A beautiful pic. Clearly a place that is photographed a lot, but this has a nice impact. The morning sky a nice contrast to the ice.

Weekly A

21 ENTRIES

1st Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

QUIDDITCH GETS ROUGH

Millard Berry

Compelling mix of action and sideline photos puts the reader on the field. Page design begs for a dominant photo, though.

2nd Place

Ile Camera

SCHOOL'S OUT

Alison Snow Hartnett

Evidence that creatively staged photos can be effective. These kids are clearly ready for summer.

3rd Place

Grand Blanc View

TOP SECRET WISH

Amanda Braniecki

A charming moment captured. Santa's look says he's taking the little girl's secret wish very seriously.

Honorable Mention

Lapeer Area View

THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE

Jacob Hunsanger

Two girls frame the bubble nicely, and photo captures their reactions: satisfaction on the left and appreciation on the right.

Feature Picture

Weekly B

20 ENTRIES

1st Place

Milford Times

HOW COOL IS THAT?

Hal Gould

The photographer captured the girl's expression. I feel like I could walk into this photo.

2nd Place

Oxford Leader

PUPPY LOVE

C.J. Carnacchio

Love the way the photographer caught the dog's tongue and the man's face.

3rd Place

The Citizen, Ortonville

EGG-CITED

Patrick McAbee

Fun picture

Honorable Mention

Clarkston News

BUTTERFLIES TAKE WING

Wendi Reardon

The photographer caught the children's awe and amazement at nature taking flight.

Weekly C

18 ENTRIES

1st Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

DANGEROUS POSITION

Thomas Reznich

Really nice shot that shows the confrontation between the osprey and man. I love how the focus is on both subjects' eyes in this struggle. Displayed well, and a nice color quality. Well done!

2nd Place

Oceana's Herald-Journal

SKINNER

Andrew Skinner

Beautiful photos. The two images work together. And what a nice job this newspaper does in displaying the photographer's work.

3rd Place

Gratiot County Herald

HUMAN CRASH DUMMY?

Greg Nelson

There is no other way to tell, or show, this story except with multiple images. Good thinking on the photographer's part to plan this. Nicely done.

Honorable Mention

Tecumseh Herald

Mickey Alvarado

Very close to being in top three. Nicely framed shot with great reproduction.

Weekly D

20 ENTRIES

1st Place

Allegan County News

DRIVING THE POINT HOME

Ryan Lewis

This photo is an excellent example of a photographer taking what could have been a boring photo and creating an interesting portrait that did "drive home the point." Capturing the reflection in the mirror in the casket was clever. It took talent and patience.

2nd Place

The Commercial Record

SPARKS FLY

Scott Sullivan

The photographer took a welding photograph and turned it into a beautiful piece of art. Nice job.

3rd Place

State Line Observer

DRUMMERS

David Green

I love the expressions on the young musicians faces. The photo gives us an intimate peek into a special moment.

Honorable Mention

Charlevoix Courier

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Steve Zucker

The photographer took the time to capture the excitement on the children's faces instead of focusing on the principal alone as many photographers would have done. Nice job.

Picture Story

Daily A

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

TERRY JONES CONFRONTS DEARBORN

MUSLIMS

Andre J. Jackson

What sets this entry apart from the other outstanding photos in this competition is its diversity of people, emotions and locations for the total package, which tells a complete story. The photography is outstanding.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

OUT OF TENT CITY

Ryan Garza

This is as close of a competition for first place as you can get. This is high quality photojournalism that evokes emotion. Beautiful photography. Great story.

3rd Place

Grand Rapids Press

ONE SUNDAY

The amount of work that went into creating this entry warrants it a win in this competition. Great photography. Great story-telling.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

LIVING WITH MURDER

Romain Blanquart

Beautifully captured raw emotion.

Picture Story (cont.)

Daily B

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

SAFELY HOME: FAMILIES GREET
SOLDIERS BACK FROM IRAQ TOUR

Rod Sanford

Powerful photos truly tell the story here, capturing the range of emotions in these reunions -- the tears, the joy and the relief.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

WORTH THE WAIT: EMOTIONS POUR
OUT AS MSU GETS 1ST BOWL WIN OF
DANTONIO ERA

Rod Sanford

The lead image alone is strong enough to carry the story of triumph and vindication. Secondary images serve to reinforce those emotions -- and add the spice of celebration.

Daily C

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

EPIPHANY

Keith King

Outstanding photos with great impact. Love how they played in the paper.... I hope the photographer had input into that. Photographer took an opportunity and made the most out of it. Great job!

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN

Jan-Michael Stump

Great photos. Would love to see how they ran in the paper. Hope they got the treatment they deserved. Really great art.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

FACES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN VASA

Jan-Michael Stump

Good photos and framed nicely. Would like to see how they ran in the paper.

Daily D

9 ENTRIES

1st Place

Ludington Daily News

THE SEARCH FOR BABY KATE

Jeff Kiessel

This photographer has found telling moments in a difficult emotional story from the outset. The courtroom pictures are particularly well done. I really want to find out how this whole thing ended.

2nd Place

Ludington Daily News

SAYING FAREWELL, MANISTEE'S B
TROOP LEAVES FOR DEPLOYMENT

Jeff Kiessel

This is a well shot deployment piece with plenty of angles and nice moments between the families and their departing service members.

3rd Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

MOCK ACCIDENT

Gillis Benedict

I liked the pictures in this story, especially the feet picture. I suggested that a closer close-up and a wider overall could have improved the batch.

Honorable Mention

The Daily Press

FLYING HIGH FOR OWEN

Holly Richer, Mary Ann Heath

A nice lead shot of some talented riders.

Weekly A

18 ENTRIES

1st Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

SYNCH OR SWIM

Millard Berry

Wonderful action photos and nice shows of emotion

2nd Place

Chelsea Standard

A DAY FOR VETERANS

Burrill Strong

I love the crops on a few of these photos...nice overall page

3rd Place

Ile Camera

NO MORE PENCILS, NO MORE BOOKS

Alison Snow Hartnett

Wonderful capture of children which are sometimes very hard to shoot...nice page

Honorable Mention

Sanilac County News

8-MAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Dale Ball

Nice page, a few of the photos could have been thrown away and the page would have been better

Picture Story (cont.)

Weekly B

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

Tri-County Times

MUD BOG

Tim Jagielo

Great photos of an event that screams small town fun. Obviously, the creative layout helps to showcase the photos, but the photos themselves tell this story. And in terms of reader impact, this reader was thinking, "yuck!" Great stuff.

2nd Place

Oxford Leader

DA/OES PUT ON A HECK OF A FAIR!

C.J. Carnacchio

This photo page exudes everything that community is about. Great composition, good info for each picture.

I'm sure this paper sold well as the photos capture what is obviously a fun event for the Oxford community.

3rd Place

The Citizen, Ortonville

A HADLEY JULY 4

Patrick McAbee

Awesome main photo -- more awesome concept. Nice capture of what I'm sure is a signature community event.

Honorable Mention

Tri-County Times

'RECOVERING COUNTRY'

Tim Jagielo

Outstanding photos. The color and composition is fantastic -- definitely get the feel of the third-worldishness of this locale. In terms of having reader impact, this collection is only missing explanation of what is going on in some of the photos to completely draw the reader in. Nonetheless, love the man with the fish -- wet hand, cigarette. The whole thing.

Weekly C

16 ENTRIES

1st Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

BULL RIDING-UP NORTH STYLE

Thomas Reznich

The winner's photos really tell the story. You don't have to read a word of the copy to understand what is being conveyed. In terms of impact, reader interest and composition, hands down, this was the winner. Excellent work.

2nd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

ARE YOU GEOCACHER ENOUGH?

Krista Tacey-Cater

This second-place entry through photos alone draw the reader in to the world of geocaching. Main photo really tells the story -- hunting in the middle of nowhere for the target. And including the tattoo was brilliant.

3rd Place

Frankenmuth News

SNAPSHOTS OF BAVARIAN FESTIVAL 2011

Scott Wenzel

This Frankenmuth News set spills over in community charm. The tale of the town is clearly told in this page of photos. Well done.

Honorable Mention

The Tri-City Times

MEMORABLE RUN ENDS; IMLAY CITY WINS ALL THREE

Kevin Kissane

Making it to the finals and falling short -- you can see it in nearly every photo. Photographer did a great job of capturing the heart of this story with photos.

Weekly D

8 ENTRIES

1st Place

State Line Observer

WRESTLING IN WALDRON

David Green

Chosen for its variety of emotion, action/reaction and lens usage. The package would have been stronger using fewer photos with a larger dominant photo and greater variety in picture size.

2nd Place

The Advance

A GLASS RAINBOW; MARK WAGAR'S

ROCKIN' GLASS-KALEIDSCOPE WORLD

James McClenathen

The best of the group at attempting to tell a story.

3rd Place

State Line Observer

FESTIVAL FUN

David Green

The package is hurt by the use of too many photos. I'd rather see the best photos run bigger. It feels more like a scrapbook. Images cropped tight with clean backgrounds and are well toned.

Sports Picture

Daily A

16 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

TOE DRAGGING TD
Eric Seals

The image that tells almost the complete story with no need for a cutline -- the catch, the feet, the receiver, the result (TD!). The only need for a words would be to ID the defender.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

CRAZY CATCH
Julian H. Gonzalez

A well-captured moment of complete concentration in pursuit of a goal. A little out of focus, but the facial expression offsets that.

3rd Place

Flint Journal

HAPPY 35TH, CRIM
Ryan Garza

Good panoramic shot of a milestone accomplishment

Honorable Mention

Muskegon Chronicle

I SAW IT FIRST
Ken Stevens

Well executed capture of a split second in time, flying legs and all.

Daily B

5 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

MSU OUTBACK BOWL
Rod Sanford

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

MSU vs. U-M
Rod Sanford

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

MSU FANS
Greg DeRuiter

Daily C

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

INTO THE FINALS
Jan-Michael Stump

Each facial expression and the movement are all captured at just the right time. Compelling image.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

HALEY BALDINGER
Jan-Michael Stump

A great job catching the emotional moment and the tribute to the lost player.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

OUT AT THE PLATE
Keith King

Great action shot.

Honorable Mention

Traverse City Record-Eagle

CROSSTOWN SHOWDOWN
Keith King

A fun photo with a different take on the traditional water dunk..the moment before.

Daily D

35 ENTRIES

1st Place

Daily Telegram

ADRIAN COLLEGE TOUCHDOWN
Jessika Kintner

A shame that this ran secondary at the bottom of the page. Great moment of player giving it all to cross the line.

2nd Place

Huron Daily Tribune

PIRATES ERASE REESE 30 – 16
Paul Adams

Great job capturing the moment. Would love a cleaner background but the photographer was in the right place and got the moment.

3rd Place

Manistee News-Advocate

CHIPS SPLIT WITH NO. 6 CARDS (TAG AT PLATE)

Matt Wenzel
The reader can feel the impact. Nice play by the designer.

Honorable Mention

Midland Daily News

MAKING A SPLASH
Nick King

We've all seen this before but the photographer was well positioned, there's good reaction and the image was well toned.

Weekly A

14 ENTRIES

1st Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

GOOOOOOAL!
Mike Mousigian

You can see the obvious delight and celebration but the thing that draws me to this photo is the dejected and anxious faces of the losing team. A great juxtaposition of emotions captured in a second. Great photo.

2nd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

EXTREME FOOTBALL
Dave Chapman

Exceptionally sharp and tight photo capturing a great play in the game. Framing in excellent.

3rd Place

Davison Index

CARDS TAKE DOWN IMLAY CITY IN OPENER
Dan Nilsen

The kind of game action shot you almost never see because the moment is almost impossible to get. Well framed and timed.

Sports Picture (cont.)

Weekly B

14 ENTRIES

1st Place

Milford Times

FLYING ALONG THE LAKE

Hal Gould

Great photography is about timing. This was all about being in the right place at the right time. Great action shot!

2nd Place

Grosse Pointe News

STATE CHAMPS

Dana Kaiser

The vantage point is great. So many hurdle shots are from the side. This one gives you a view of the runners' eyes and focus on the next hurdle. Great job.

3rd Place

Milford Times

NORTHVILLE OFFENSE TOO MUCH FOR

LAKELAND - SCHUMACHER

John Heider

This photo was about the angle. The viewer is able to see the quality of the throw and of the catch. Good job!

Weekly C

36 ENTRIES

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

COMEBACK FALLS SHORT

Bill Serveny

This is the type of picture that every photographer wants to get at a football game. The crop and the use of the picture is very nice too.

2nd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

DIGGING DEEP

Thomas Reznich

Volleyball is a hard sport to capture good, in-focus action in and this photographer nailed it.

3rd Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

RIVALRY RENEWED

Kevin Gregory

Getting a good reaction shot after a game is something many photographers overlook and, despite a slight sharpness issue, this came across as a good ender.

Honorable Mention

Frankenmuth News

USING HER HEAD

Vicki Stenglein

Nice head shot!

Weekly D

12 ENTRIES

1st Place

State Line Observer

OVER THE TOP

David Green

Photo taken at critical moment in the game, and photo helps tell that story well because it was this moment on which the game turned.

2nd Place

The Union Enterprise

PLAINWELL SOCCER SLIDES INTO STATE

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Jason Wesseldyk

Photo showed the emotion of the team and caught the energy of the moment. It was also played well on the page.

3rd Place

State Line Observer

BLOCKED

David Green

Honorable Mention

State Line Observer

DODGE BALL?

David Green

Sports Writing

Daily A

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

Flint Journal

CRIM

Complete and thorough coverage of an important event for the community.

2nd Place

Saginaw News

BLAIR WHITE HELPS GREAT LAKES BAY

MIRACLE LEAGUE OPEN SEASON

Hugh Bernreuter

3rd Place

Flint Journal

IT'S AN AMAZING FEELING

Ross Maghielse

Sports Writing (cont.)

Daily B

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

FORCED TO SHARE: SPARTANS MUST
SPLIT TITLE WITH BUCKEYES, U-M

Joe Rexrode

The writer uses every tool at his disposal --- including social media -- to tell a story of a devastating defeat in more ways than one. Well organized with the right amount of historical perspective to put the MSU loss into context.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

ROSE BOWL SLIPS AWAY: SPARTANS
UNABLE TO HOLD ON IN FINAL MINUTES

Joe Rexrode

Another well-executed game story by a writer who knows his craft. Tightly written and organized in a way that a reader clearly understands what happened in the game and the implications of the outcome.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

DREAM REALIZED: MSU CLINCHES
FIRST BIG TEN TITLE IN 32 YEARS

Chris Solari

Lead graph tries to create a tad too much drama but the rest of the story unfolds nicely.

Daily C

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS FOR PLANNED
TC HALF MARATHON

Mike Eckert

There's a lot of strong reporting in this piece, but I think the reporter buried the real story. This guy, Reinke, apparently doesn't have a great reputation in the communities in which he's organized races. I would have made that the focal point of the story, not buried it. Still, strong reporting.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

CRUSHING LOSS FOR BEACH BUMS

James Cook

This was a nicely written summary of a baseball game. It had some good moments, like the exploding bat description in the beginning. But what if the reporter would have taken a different approach, say, spent the evening in the hospital with Andrew Davis or at least interviewed him after the game? It would have been interesting to hear what it's like to be an injured player sitting on the sidelines while your team celebrates a victory. The story could have gone back and forth between the action on the field and what was going through Davis' or Jodan Rivera's heads.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

TROJANS WIN OT THRILLER

Mike Eckert

This story had some good moments, like the lede. The reporter did a good job of helping me see the action in the game. The descriptions were good in sections.

Honorable Mention

Traverse City Record-Eagle

TC PREVAILS AS BADNER NETS TWO
GOALS

James Cook

This story had good moments. I liked the lede, which grabbed me. Other lines were good, like "It was that kind of game." But what about focusing the story only on Megariotis (a great last name for a hockey player, I must say) and his match penalty? It seems that his fellow players were shocked by his actions. Could the story not have focused on only Megariotis while also giving readers the score and some play-by-play info? Also, Fournier's first name was left off on first reference.

Daily D

50 ENTRIES

1st Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

DOGS PUT ICING ON THE SKATE; THE
TOP DOGS!; CALL 'EM WHAT THEY
ARE: CHAMPS; BRIGHTON CAPTURES
HOCKEY TITLE

Tim Robinson

Excellent angle on the story. Love the multi-generational input. Great writing.

2nd Place

The Pioneer

A LITTLE BIT OF REDEMPTION

Martin Slagter

Love the focus on losing the prior year and coming back and getting it together for next year. This is a great draw.

3rd Place

The Pioneer

PERFECTION

Bob Allan

Fantastic lede.

Honorable Mention

The Daily News, Iron Mountain

TROJAN'S TURN

Ron Deuter

Again, great lede.

Sports Writing (cont.)

Weekly A

12 ENTRIES

1st Place

The News-Herald

ALL 'CHARGED' UP!

Scott Held

A great lede on a well-organized, lean story. Mostly devoid of sports clichés. Good quotes amplify the game description. A nicely crafted ending.

2nd Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Scott Salowich

A really well-handled lead, exploiting the upset in a unique way. A good rundown of action with lively quotes. A little given to clichés ("with a goose egg on the record books....").

3rd Place

Milan News-Leader

PITCH & KATCH

Randy Castro

A well-written story that gives a good feel for the pitcher, Hoffman, and what makes her tick. Nice range of detail.

Honorable Mention

The News-Herald

RAILS CLAIM LEAGUE TITLE

Shane Preston

Clean, straightforward prose, a concise wrap-up with lots of solid information.

Weekly B

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Citizen, Ortonville

ONE DIRTY RUN-WARRIOR DASH

Susan Bromley

Fun feature on unconventional athletic event. Quotes and personal story gave entry a dynamic that put it above the competition.

2nd Place

Tri-County Times

TWO YEARS LATER, HOLLY'S GONZALES

WINS A SECOND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

David Troppens

Compelling, active play-by-play. Writer has strong voice that keeps the story moving and the reader reading.

3rd Place

Tri-County Times

FENTON WINS DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

David Troppens

Again, active voice and storytelling technique that keeps reader engaged. Good work.

Weekly C

18 ENTRIES

1st Place

Leelanau Enterprise

LELAND NATIVE RETURNS FOR BIG

ROAD WIN

Mike Spencer

The writer took a category that often receives little coverage -- and wrote a very nice, complete story that was easy to read.

2nd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

LELAND COMETS PULL OFF REGIONAL

THRILLER

Mike Spencer

Nice game coverage, which was well documented.

3rd Place

The Exponent

PURE MITCH AGAIN

Jeff Steers

Nice lead ... and concise to-the-point article.

Honorable Mention

Gaylord Herald Times

GAYLORD 9-10S PATIENCE, KEY HITS

SPARK COMEBACK VICTORY

Matt Wenzel

Nice work.

Weekly D

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

State Line Observer

BULLDOGS (DEFEAT) LOSE TO BD, 20-

15

David Green

Fun lead to the story. Definitely made me want to read it. (Great headline, too)

2nd Place

Allegan County News

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: PLAINWELL

SECURES FIRST STATE TITLE WITH 2-1

WIN OVER LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Jason Wesseldyk

Nice article, with a feature angle on a sports news story.

3rd Place

State Line Observer

TAYLOR BAUGH TAKES STATE LIFTING

TITLE

David Green

Nice, well developed lead to this story.

Honorable Mention

Allegan County News

WAYLAND ENDS 23-YEAR REGIONAL

TITLE DROUGHT

Jason Wesseldyk

Good feature/news approach to a timely sports story.

Sports Column

Daily A

11 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

MITCH ALBOM COLUMNS: FAREWELL TO THE MAN WHO GAVE ME MY START; A FOOTBALL STOPPAGE EVEN A FAN CAN LOVE; COACH SHOWS LOTS OF FIGHT; LIONS NEEDED A BIT MORE
Mitch Albom
Outstanding insights and writing. You can feel the emotion in the columnists' words.

2nd Place

Saginaw News

JOHN POZENEL'S DEATH LEAVES A JUMBO HOLE IN A NEWSPAPER'S HEART
Hugh Bernreuter
Quirky, intelligent, well-written.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

MICHAEL ROSENBERG COLUMNS: ALL HAIL THE KING; TRACTOR'S TROUBLES DON'T TELL WHOLE STORY; KICK STOPPED
Michael Rosenberg
This writer demonstrates the guts to tell a story.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

DREW SHARP COLUMNS: NFL SHOULDN'T LET THEM OFF THE HOOK; ALWAYS THANKFUL FOR NORTHRUP'S MEMORIES; FOR ONE YEAR, IT'S A GREAT MOVE! BUT FOR NINE, IT'S CRAZY
Drew Sharp

Daily B

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Oakland Press

MOWERY: SPARKY CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE, PLAYERS; 'THIS IS MY FAMILY'; MOTOWN SHOWDOWN
Matthew Mowery

2nd Place

The Oakland Press

CAPUTO: SEYMOUR WAS ONE OF OAKLAND COUNTY'S FINEST; CAPUTO: OHIO STATE'S JIM TRESSEL IS NO 'TRAGIC HERO'; RED WINGS ANNOUNCER TO BE INDUCTED IN HALL OF FAME
Pat Caputo

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

Joe Rexrode

Daily C

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Dennis Chase
Emotional moments happen often in sports. Being able to capture them in words so a reader has comprehension is a talent. Excellent work, particularly on the track athlete.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Mike Eckert
The writer knows about overcoming odds, whether a wrestling athlete or individually. Compelling journalism.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

James Cook
The columnist takes a stand and backs up his points.

Daily D

20 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Mining Journal

PRIVATE SCHOOLS STILL HAVE EDGE IN SPORTS; WHY IS UPPER PENINSULA BASKETBALL PLAY SO BAD THIS YEAR?; GIVE REFS A BREAK IN TOURNEYS
Craig Remsburg
Solid, engaging writing, but most important, this columnist expresses an opinion, a point of view. He doesn't write about himself -- a common failing among columnists -- but instead writes about issues and apparently isn't afraid of controversy.

2nd Place

Petoskey News-Review

GREAT EIGHT, ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT..., YOU GET OUT WHAT YOU PUT IN...
Andy Sneddon
Engaging, conversational writing style pulls the reader in to these insightful columns.

3rd Place

Midland Daily News

DUMARS NEEDS TO BE CALLED OUT FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE PISTONS
Chris Stevens
This columnist writes with authority and perspective -- a rare combination.

Honorable Mention

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

SMALL SIZE, BIG VOICE, HUGE IMPACT; CRITICAL PARENTS CROSS LINE; A LIFETIME TO REMEMBER A FINAL 40 SECONDS
Tim Robinson
Writer demonstrates deep knowledge and understanding of his local sports beat.

Sports Column

Weekly A

5 ENTRIES

1st Place

Grand Blanc View

A LITTLE HUMILITY, PLEASE
Jeff Day

2nd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

CIRCUMSTANCES; HELL HATH NO
FURY; MY TWO CENTS
Lisa Paine

3rd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

ANNIVERSARY; DALLAS; UNCHARTED
TERRITORY
Michael Selecky

Weekly B

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Tri-County Times

DAVID'S DABBLINGS
David Tropsens
The standout in this category was this writer's wonderful first-person account of plunging into curling (maybe especially intriguing to a southerner who's only seen the sport on TV!) The trip through the history of Detroit sports teams' performance and the writer's disappointment resonated, I'm sure, with many readers.

2nd Place

Clarkston News

WENDI'S WORD
Wendi Reardon
This writer is clearly enthusiastic about local high school sports. Some nice shout-outs for kids and coaches, and a neat idea to reach out for nominations for athletes of the week.

3rd Place

Bay Voice

Andrew Benoit
Informative columns, with especially nice ending on "Fishing isn't the same..."

Weekly C

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Exponent

JEFF'S JOURNEYS
Jeff Steers
Nice personal touch and conversational writing style. The columns about Bob Kerr and Dave Hill were stories I'd like to hear over a beer.

2nd Place

Tecumseh Herald

Mickey Alvarado
Good variety -- baseball, NASCAR and open wheel.

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

ONE MORE CAST
Chris Engle
I enjoyed the piece about the boat.

Honorable Mention

Gaylord Herald Times

FUEL FOR THOUGHT
Jim Ryan

Weekly D

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Allegan County News

PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE
Jason Wesseldyk
Jason is an excellent columnist, adept at bringing the human side of things.

2nd Place

State Line Observer

NASCAR NOTES
Rich Foley
Rich is a talented columnist, with an obvious insight to the motorsports world.

Sports Feature

Daily A

14 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

VERLANDER: HIS JOURNEY FROM BOYHOOD ROOTS IN VIRGINIA TO ALL-STAR PHENOM IN DETROIT
Jo-Ann Barnas
The writer hurls a blazing fastball of a story in this revealing look into the life of a major league pitcher whose family is almost quirkily in his corner. The writer uses humor and insight to move to the top of a category filled with excellent entries.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

FLINT BOXER WRITING HISTORY
Eric Woodyard
Absolutely compelling and candid tale of a young female boxer and her hard-scrabble start to life. Perhaps this entry would have moved to first place by starting earlier into the unusual father-daughter relationship that fueled her success.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

HOKE ALWAYS HAS GONE FULL SPEED
Michael Rosenberg
Insightful feature of a coach's rise to his dream job. So many wonderful elements, though you have to read past the lead to get to them: his often wild college days, the birth of his premature daughter and his recruiting of his own nephew.

Honorable Mention

Saginaw News

PARALYZED DRIVER MICHAEL JOHNSON READY TO TAKE NEXT STEP INTO PROFESSIONAL AUTO RACING
Kyle Austin
A young go-cart driver, paralyzed in an accident at 12, decides to race again. The writer had all the facts needed for a heartwarming story and didn't disappoint.

Daily B

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

PLAY FOR PAIGE: OKEMOS GIRL'S CANCER BATTLE INSPIRES SPARTANS
Joe Rexrode

2nd Place

The Oakland Press

MAGICAL CONNECTION
Paula Pasche

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

EVERYTHING IS A CHALLENGE:
EXPERIENCES SHAPE JOHNSON'S OUTLOOK ON BASKETBALL, LIFE
Chris Solari

Honorable Mention

The Oakland Press

VERLANDER'S SENSATIONAL SEASON NOTHING SHORT OF AN MVP YEAR
Matthew Mowery

Daily C

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

ULTIMATE TEAM PLAYER'
Mike Eckert
Nice story about what most of us never hear about in college sports.

2nd Place

Times Herald

WELCOME TO MACOMB COUNTY ... AGAIN
Paul Costanzo
Offers a solution to a travel problem for area high schools.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

TC TO HONOR UNBEATEN 1961 FOOTBALL TEAM
Dennis Chase

Daily D

45 ENTRIES

1st Place

Huron Daily Tribune

I DON'T THINK I COULD DO IT ANY OTHER WAY
Paul Adams
This story kept me interested in Mackenzie's initial injury, the medical challenges she faced and how she persevered to become a stellar athlete. The writer used a good number of sources to give several voices to the story. Well-written story kept my interest throughout.

2nd Place

Midland Daily News

WHEN COACH IS A PREDATOR, IT SHOCKS COMMUNITY
Dan Chalk
Very thorough examination of a relevant, unfortunately, topic in the world of sports. The series proved very comprehensive in talking to a variety of sources. It brought a national topic to the local level.

3rd Place

Petoskey News-Review

A MAN TO ADMIRE AND EMULATE
Andy Sneddon
My initial skepticism about a story focusing on an award winner quickly dissipated due to the excellent writing (I like the repeated use of So Batch). A strength of the story was the number of voices used to tell about the coach. What could have been a routine story became an interesting read.

Honorable Mention

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

QUEEN OF THE FIELD
Tim Robinson
Brianna's double triumph on the football field and in the homecoming court led to an interesting feature. The author made it a stronger story by talking to several sources and not just Brianna. The story also does a good job of tracing her career and not

Sports Feature (cont.)

Weekly A

20 ENTRIES

1st Place

Saline Reporter

KEITH LONG -- AND STRAIGHT

Terry Jacoby

The writer hits this flag with a well-written feature on a friendly golfer and the family ties that keep him in the fairway of life.

2nd Place

The News-Herald

"WHEELS FOR BLADES"

Dave Herndon

Catchy lead to an intriguing story of an athlete with a passion for an unusual sport.

3rd Place

Saline Reporter

ON HIS WAY BACK

Randy Castro

Intriguing look into unusual commitment on the part of a former major leaguer determined to work his way back to the team he loves.

Honorable Mention

Lapeer Area View

86-YEAR-OLD BOWLS IN SEVEN LEAGUES A WEEK

Dan Nilsen

Deftly written story of a woman for whom bowling has become a lifeline.

Weekly B

13 ENTRIES

1st Place

Canton Observer

HEAVY PEDAL

Tim Smith

Excellent angle and lead; a well-developed story.

2nd Place

Northern Express Weekly

A DOSE OF INSPIRATION

Erin Crowell

Wow -- What a gripping story! Well written and compelling.

3rd Place

Plymouth Observer

LOCAL-MOTION

Tim Smith

Very interesting story. It put a human face on these foreign players that fill the rosters of U.S. pro hockey teams.

Honorable Mention

Tri-County Times

HIPPLE HELPING FAMILIES

UNDERSTAND DEPRESSION

David Troppens

A very gripping story, it my attention from start to finish. One thing I wanted, though, was a comment from a doctor about depression and someone praising Hipple's perseverance. Still, an excellent piece.

Weekly C

20 ENTRIES

1st Place

Leelanau Enterprise

NORTHPORT ATHLETE PLAYS OVER MS

Mike Spencer

Very, very interesting. Excellent lead. A well-written story.

2nd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

SNOWMAKING VITAL WHEN MOTHER

NATURE DOESN'T DELIVER

Jim Ryan

An intriguing, inside look at the snow-making process. Nicely done.

3rd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

COACHING AT HOME

Mike Spencer

Very nice human interest story. Shows the personal side of a coach.

Honorable Mention

St. Ignace News

BROWN LED LASALLE TEAM IN 1969, THEN VIETNAM WAR SERVICE

CHANGED HIS PLANS

Mary Petrides

Excellent lead and angle on the story.

Weekly D

9 ENTRIES

1st Place

State Line Observer

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

David Green

Interesting and informative while captivating. The writer captures the essence of the sport and the hunter while educating the reader.

2nd Place

State Line Observer

RICK DAVIS RIDES THE UPPER GAULEY

David Green

The writer captures the sense of adventure and adrenaline. As a reader it took me back to my own whitewater experiences.

3rd Place

Allegan County News

'SEA OF RED': RED OUT GAME

BETWEEN FENNVILLE, SAUGATUCK

RAISES THOUSANDS FOR WES LEONARD

HEART TEAM

Jason Wesseldyk

Compelling.

Honorable Mention

The Union Enterprise

LEWIS EARNS RUNNER-UP HONORS AT DIVISION 3 STATE FINALS

Jason Wesseldyk

Not just your average football story.

Sports Coverage

Daily A

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

Comprehensive and compelling, the DFP offers powerful evidence that no medium can match an excellent metro daily for in-depth sports coverage.

Extremely impressive combination of news, features and commentary, presented in an inviting, easily accessible design.

2nd Place

Flint Journal

Excellent news, feature and commentary covering everything from pros to preps, from boxing to community sporting events.

Daily B

1 ENTRY

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

Comprehensive sports section that combines coverage of pros, preps and colleges. It demonstrates what paper's priorities are in regional coverage. I was most impressed by design. Each page consistently, top to bottom. Design makes those priorities clear as well. Writing is fun to read, and informative by staff writers. Baseball scoreboard page is clean and comprehensive; loved all the agate pages for crispness and readability.

Daily D

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Argus-Press

Jason Barczy, Ryan Weiss, Jerome Murphy

Good use of photos; right mix of local colleges and pros. Design and photos worked well together, and use of the left rail with quote and photos plus teasers to inside copy a real help to readers. It was only section that had an meaningful outdoors section. Fishing, hunting are big in Mich. Readers, though perhaps a small group, want to see it and they are loyal readers.

2nd Place

Daily Telegram

Well designed and prioritized; it gives the reader a sense of what's important. Photos help tell the stories, aren't just used to fill space. It's clear that Adrian College is top coverage focus. Family album idea is good one, well executed. I like the page 1 Sports Lineup; it gives the reader choices on content, a full meal or nuggets. Centerpiece of a good sports section is the agate pages. DT does clean, comprehensive job on those.

3rd Place

Petoskey News-Review

Andy Sneddon, Steve Foley, Kurt Grangood

Good, timely and telling photos for tennis, soccer, track. Writing is full of energy and informative. Headline good, too, and work well with design on section fronts but having stories jump within the section is not good at all for readers. Agate could be grouped differently on separate page, while stories are kept on individual pages. I did read 2-3 stories that could have been more tightly edited, eliminating the need for so many jumps. Andy Sneddon was good writer enjoyed column and stories. Overall, covered local sports thoroughly and had space for Detroit pros and colleges.

Honorable Mention

Manistee News-Advocate

Matt Wenzel, Dylan Savela

For small newspaper, a well-done sports section. Copy is well-written, fast-paced, with no clichés. Photos are telling, like the one by Matt Wenzel of Manistee's only score in 1-0 game vs. Reed City. On a small staff, where a staffer can write crisply and

Sports Coverage (cont.)

Weekly A

4 ENTRIES

1st Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Scott Salowich

The writing and a strong columnist stand out in this sports section, as well as good photography and an attempt to touch a lot of sports and include racing and hunting through creative use of non-local writers' copy.

2nd Place

The County Press, Lapeer

Lisa Paine

The range of sports covered by this section is impressive, as is the quality of the photos.

3rd Place

Grand Blanc View

Lisa Paine

Two good columnists add to what is a strong attempt to feature a wide range of athletes.

Honorable Mention

Sanilac County News

Dale Ball, Sports Reporting Team

Weekly B

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

Canton Observer

GOAL-DEN; ROCKS WEAR KLAA CROWN; 'P-C-S!'

Tim Smith

Great variety and energy. Good writing and headlines.

2nd Place

Tri-County Times

David Troppens

3rd Place

South Oakland Eccentric

Marty Budner

Weekly C

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Exponent

Jeff Steers

In a modern newsroom for a neighborhood paper, everyone has to wear many hats. Hard-working Sports Editor Jeff Steers wears ones that say reporter, editor and photographer - and his results make it look easy. Now Steers can wear one more hat - the one that says winner.

2nd Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Mike Spencer, Chris Olson

Sports Editor Mike Spencer and his team do a great job of covering a wide variety of sports. And when it comes to the high school teams, they give excellent even coverage to boys and girls sports.

3rd Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Matt Wenzel, Jeremy Speer, Chris Engle, Bill Serveny, Jim Ryan, Ian Callison

Good photos and a variety of sports - from kids soccer to outdoor fishing to ice hockey - make this paper a powerhouse in sports coverage.

Honorable Mention

The Tri-City Times

Kevin Kissane

This paper exhibited strong writing in the sports department.

Weekly D

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Advance

Strong local sports coverage, comprehensive and well written.

2nd Place

State Line Observer

This community is fortunate to have a local paper with such a dedicated focus on local sports.

Lifestyle Pages

Daily A

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

2nd Place

Flint Journal

Lifestyle Pages (cont.)

Daily B

1 ENTRY

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

Lifestyle pages that are as good as they get. Interesting stories, great layout and photography, and just a pleasurable Sunday read. Love the space given to the books.

Daily C

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

BODY & SOUL

Jodee Taylor, Vanessa McCray
Story of the nun was priceless, and great photos to accompany. That story made this entry rise to the top.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

FOOD

Jodee Taylor
Story of old-style cooking was interesting.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

GENERATION WHY

Jodee Taylor
Great layout here, but writing was not as strong in this entry.

Daily D

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

Petoskey News-Review

ARTS PAGES

Babette Stenuis Stolz
The front covers were attractive to the eye and immediately grabbed my attention. The photography and layout throughout the section was exquisite. This was an extremely nice entry worthy of a first-place award.

2nd Place

Midland Daily News

Lori Qualls

The front covers were very attractive. The layout throughout was clean and the copy was easy to read. Wish there had been more local copy.

3rd Place

Petoskey News-Review

PEOPLE

Babette Stenuis Stolz
This was an extremely attractive entry.

Honorable Mention

Manistee News-Advocate

Weekly A

1 ENTRY

1st Place

Press & Guide Newspapers

Jodi Rempala

Weekly B

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Tri-County Times

This section is filled with so much community news I'm sure it's a must read for local residents. Also very good layout and nice use of color. Good stuff.

2nd Place

Grosse Pointe News

SERVICE ABOVE SELF; TRIP COMES FROM THE HEART; PICTURE THE POSSIBILITIES

Ann Fouty and staff

This front page is very good, but overall quality and looks diminishes after the cover.

3rd Place

Clarkston News

MILLSTREAM

This is packed with information, but layout needs work and writing is not as strong as readers deserve.

Lifestyle Pages (cont.)

Weekly C

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

Leelanau Enterprise

2nd Place

The Exponent

YOUR LIFE, YOUR STYLE
Lynn Boughton, Karri Tarsha,
staff

3rd Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

HEALTH AND EDUCATION SECTIONS
Amy Joles, Mary Drier, Stacey
Tucker, Eric Andreychuk

Honorable Mention

Gaylord Herald Times

Frank Michels, Jeremy Speer,
Cathy Landry and staff

Weekly D

2 ENTRIES

1st Place

State Line Observer

The reader really catches a glimpse of sense of the community from these pages.

2nd Place

The Boyne City Gazette

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME
Benjamin J. Gohs

Special Section

Daily A

6 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

LIVING WITH MURDER: THE AGONY OF DETROIT'S NEIGHBORHOODS AND THEIR CRY FOR HELP
Great section on a heartbreaking topic. Superb reporting and writing, good layout, and all around quality work. This is what newspapering is all about.

2nd Place

Grand Rapids Press

BETTY FORD
Fitting tribute to an influential first lady. Photographs were wonderful and helped tell the story.

3rd Place

Flint Journal

BACK TO THE BRICKS
Community journalism with an exclamation point. Great story of local volunteers and a community's ties to the auto industry.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

READING WORKS: THOUSANDS IN OUR COMMUNITIES CAN'T READ THIS HEADLINE. WE CAN HELP. HERE'S HOW.
Important piece about an often-ignored social problem.

Daily B

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

9/11: 10 YEARS LATER
All three entries were well written. However, I could feel how much time and effort went into selecting each photo, cut line and the placement of photos. Well Done.

2nd Place

Lansing State Journal

ACCIDENT FUND
Nice to see creative thought processes on this section. The readers certainly enjoyed this one cover to cover.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

100 YEARS OF CHEVY
Well done.

Daily C

3 ENTRIES

1st Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

2012 WEDDINGS
Mark Urban
Nice looking section with some good local photography.

2nd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

FORECASTING OUR FUTURE
Bill O'Brien
Typical business outlook section, but done well. Could have used one or two stories with a human interest angle versus straight-up business angle.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

MY GENERATION
Mark Urban
Good idea, but came off as a bit formulaic.

Special Section (cont.)

Daily D

26 ENTRIES

1st Place

Cadillac News

OUR COMMUNITY

Beautiful design lured me into the pages of Our Community. Engaging stories on a wide variety of topics kept me enthralled until, with the turn of the final page, I felt like I connected with the Cadillac community.

2nd Place

The Mining Journal

SUPERIORLAND MAGAZINE/

ARCHITECTURE BY DESIGN

Taylor Jones

Nicely written, nicely designed.

Made me want to visit.

3rd Place

Sturgis Journal

BEYOND JUNE 2011: BUCKET LIST

Wonderfully engaging snippets of information covering an array of attractions that would appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Honorable Mention

Ludington Daily News

LOCALLY GROWN, LOCALLY OWNED

Locally Grown, Locally Owned is impossible to ignore in this super-competitive category. Nicely done.

Weekly A

10 ENTRIES

1st Place

Sanilac County News

24 HOURS IN SANILAC COUNTY

What a neat way to tell the day-in-the-life story of Sanilac County. Well done.

2nd Place

Tri-County Citizen

MONTROSE BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

3rd Place

The News-Herald

CRUISIN' DOWNRIVER

Karl Ziomek, Carol Brown

Weekly B

7 ENTRIES

1st Place

Tri-County Times

MADE IN AMERICA

2nd Place

Livonia Observer

LIVONIA SPREE

Beth Jachman

3rd Place

Tri-County Times

OUR TOWN

Weekly C

23 ENTRIES

1st Place

Gaylord Herald Times

WILD NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Frank Michels, Jeremy Speer,

Cathy Landry, Chris Engle

This was an outstanding publication, and unique in that it focused on wildlife. Stories were interesting, photos excellent and layout clean. Great job. A clear winner.

2nd Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

SUMMER SEASONS

This is an excellent magazine for visitors and locals alike. Stories of what to see and do fill the pages along with nice, large photographs. Looks like a lot of work went into this publication. Well done.

3rd Place

The Tri-City Times

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Nice job covering the festival in advance. This publication would be a must-have for anyone planning to attend the Blueberry Festival. Enjoyable articles and nice graphics.

Honorable Mention

The Exponent

2011 IN REVIEW

Jeff Steers, Karri Tarsha

The Exponent added pizzazz to covering the year in review, a lesson many newspapers could learn. The clean layout made it easy to read and the nuggets of information and photos were packaged nicely. Good job.

Weekly D

5 ENTRIES

1st Place

The Commercial Record

THE RESORTER, FALL 2011, ARTPRIZE SPECIAL SECTION

Matt Gliwa, Scott Sullivan, Sara Ramaker

2nd Place

The Advance

MAKING HISTORY

Melissa Burnor, Marcia Loader,

James McClenathen

3rd Place

The Advance

BLISSFIELD YULETIDE CHEER

Marcia Loader, Vickie Keith

Honorable Mention

The Boyne City Gazette

RAMBLER PRESS

Benjamin J. Gohs, Boyne City High School Journalism 2010-2011, Rick Fowler, Teacher

The 5 Herbert Spencer* Contests...

Michigan Press Association members "Active" (daily or weekly print newspapers), "Specialty Publication" and "Online only" publications entered these NEW Herbert Spencer* contests. All entries were judged on merit alone. Your work stands on its own. None of that competing against similar publications stuff here. These Herbert Spencer* contests did NOT count toward the "Newspaper of the Year" award.

1. Best Photo

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

Lansing State Journal

CATA BUS SHOOTING

Rod Sanford

The photographer must have arrived while first responders were still waiting on EMS, then he found this dramatic, low shot with an eerie and somewhat disconnected background, and selected this frame with the man strolling past, the woman reacting in horror.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

CRAZY CATCH

Julian H. Gonzalez

Perfect shot. Why not first place? It was taken in more of a controlled environment (sporting event), making the whole process a little easier.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

WINNER AT THE BUZZER

Jarrad Henderson

Great victory shot. Got to respect the challenges of dim gymnasiums and capturing subjects who are not hamming for throngs of media.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

ABOVE THE CROWD

Julian H. Gonzalez

Nicely framed. Beautiful emotion and timing.

2. Best Website

11 ENTRIES

1st Place

Grand Rapids Press

MLIVE.COM

Great website. I really like the format-larger photos-multiple points of entry for readers and the comment tool really grabs the attention. Thanks for the explanation you gave as well. Congratulations on your site and your recent growth!

2nd Place

Flint Journal

MLIVE.COM

Similar site as Grand Rapids. Great site overall.

3rd Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

RECORD-EAGLE.COM

Jeanne Ehinger, Alison Widmer, Jodee Taylor, Andy Taylor

I really like the site. There a ton of information but it's displayed or positioned well. My only suggestion is to code the vertical navigation bar to move with the scroll bar. It could perhaps assist with time spent on site as the reader could just point and click on new area of interest without scrolling back to the top of the page. Great job overall.

3. Best Headline

19 ENTRIES

1st Place

Petoskey News-Review

PLANNERS POOH-POOH POOCH PARK

Neil Stilwell

A good headline should make you laugh and convey, at a glance, what the story is about. This one did.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

EMPIRE STRIKES OUT: VALVERDE

WHIPS YANKS AT HOME TO SEND

TIGERS TO TEXAS

Ryan Ford, Jeff Tarsha, David Darby

3rd Place

Milford Times

PROPOSERS BUZZ OVER MEDICAL

MARIJUANA LAW

Aileen Wingblad

Honorable Mention

The Union Enterprise

GUN PLAIN BOARD SAYS BOO TO

GHOST HUNTERS

Dan Pepper

4. Best Multimedia Presentation

15 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

ASIAN CARP: MANAGING A MENACE
Brian Kaufman, Tina Lam
Great content on a subject that is relevant to the area. Very creative.

2nd Place

Dexter Leader

VIDEO: EVEN AFTER THE DEXTER
TORNADO, THE COMMUNITY STAYS
STRONG
James David Dickson, Sean Dalton, Erica McClain, Michelle Rogers, Amy Bell, David Veselenak
Gripping footage of the tornado and the residents. It was as if we were there.

3rd Place

Detroit Free Press

LIVING WITH MURDER
Romain Blanquart, Suzette Hackney, Kathy Kieliszewski, Carlton Winfrey
Another relevant topic. Well done on the story telling!

5. Best Writing

33 ENTRIES

1st Place

Detroit Free Press

THE WENDROW SAGA: A FAMILY'S NIGHTMARE
L.L. Brasier, John Wisely
This series was compelling written, massively documented and riveting. It was a classic newspaper investigation of a miscarriage of justice with sensitive insights and illuminating detail. Beyond the human stories involved, the writers meticulously explained complicated issues such as the debate over - and debunking of - facilitated communication. It handled the issues with sensitivity and respect for the humans involved. It was a marvelous piece of work.

2nd Place

Detroit Free Press

SUICIDE OR THE PERFECT MURDER?
Joe Swickard
The scene-setting for this story is wonderful, and the pivot to the mystery about to be laid out is perfect ("But there was another plan for Widlack...."). This was a riveting detective story with suspense, mystery - and vivid writing. The story unfolds in a compelling narrative, with illuminating and engaging detours such as the description of Ann's return from her trip. I found this story impossible to put down from start to finish.

3rd Place

Lansing State Journal

'I DON'T WANT TO BE DEFINED BY THIS'
Louise Knott Ahern
A solid and well-done piece of writing and reporting that helps us see this kid through his eyes, and that of his family. It handles the question of obesity sensitively and reminds readers that children can be wounded by sometimes well-meaning efforts of adults in their lives.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

MICHIGAN'S HOMELESS STUDENTS
AFTER SCHOOL, THERE IS NO HOME
THE EXPLOSIVE INCREASE OF HOMELESSNESS IN MICHIGAN HITS KIDS PARTICULARLY HARD
Jeff Seidel
An eye-opening and moving portrait of a group of children suffering from family misfortunes and reverses over which they have no control. If I had any complaint about the stories, it is that they seemed a bit overlong and hence somewhat plodding in places. Might have been a more effective and impactful body of work at 75 percent the length.

***Herbert Spencer** was an English philosopher, biologist, sociologist who is best known for coining the concept “**survival of the fittest**” in 1864. These contests are sort of a “survival of the fittest” microcosm. Although the phrase conjures up an image of a violent struggle for survival, in reality the word “fittest” seldom means the strongest or the most aggressive. On the contrary, it can mean anything from the best camouflaged or the most fecund to the cleverest or the most cooperative. Forget Rambo, think Einstein or Gandhi.