



2013 Better Newspaper Contest Shows Growth

Members of Nebraska Press Association reviewed 3,108 entries submitted by 114 Michigan newspapers when they judged the 2013 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

“One thing that’s remained constant in our media transformation is the need to meet audience demands through local news coverage,” said MPA Executive Director Mike MacLaren. “With this year’s MPA Better Newspaper Contest showing an 11 percent increase over last year, we’re excited to see stronger competition for community content excellence because that is a key performance indicator in capturing audience attention and building better communities.”

Daily Newspapers of the Year			Weekly Newspapers of the Year		
Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper	Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper
Class A	1,370	Flint Journal	Class A	2,390	The News-Herald, Southgate
Class B	2,950	Lansing State Journal	Class B	1,280	Tri-County Times, Fenton
Class C	1,610	Kalamazoo Gazette	Class C	790	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	690	Grand Haven Tribune	Class D	690	State Line Observer, Morenci

The 2013 “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.

Circulation Class Breakdown: Daily Class A – 60,000 or more; Daily Class B – 30,000-59,999; 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: Grand Rapids Press for a series on Pediatric Hospice, Flint Journal for “#iwantyouknow,” and Lansing State Journal for “Homebirth movement raises questions of acceptable risk.”

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The three finalists are: Lauren Fitch of The Pioneer, Zane McMillin of Grand Rapids Press and Eric Woodyard of Flint Journal.

The winners of the 2013 MPA Public Service Award and the MPA Rookie Writer Award will be announced during the Michigan Press Association Annual Convention Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2014 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

General Excellence

Daily A – General Excellence

3 Entries

1st Place: **Flint Journal**

I loved the arson package, striking photos, good use of type, but I wish more of the story would have run on front page.

2nd Place: **Grand Rapids Press**

Good headlines, good stories, well-rounded paper.

3rd Place: **The Oakland Press**

Too much contrast in headlines. I'm normally a fan of all-caps headlines, but some of these are just too much, especially a three-column, three-line head in all caps.

Daily B – General Excellence

1 Entry

1st Place: **Lansing State Journal**

Really love the Labor Legacy page, great photo, big headlines, lots to see. Thorough coverage all around, from stories to photos to page design. Also, I really like the MQ-9 Reaper package.

Daily C – General Excellence

5 Entries

1st Place: **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Not afraid to try something different, such as Don't Fry Day, Divisive Era package. Final Farewell to soldier tastefully done with striking photos. Good job.

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

Clean-looking paper. Lots of photos but not too much that it leads to clutter.

3rd Place: **Petoskey News-Review**

Nice service clubs package, Uncle Sam draws you in. Also, nice Fourth of July package but too far down page. Don't like rounded boxes.

Hon. Mention: **Times Herald**

There's too much Franklin Gothic in the headlines, too many of which are too close in point size to distinguish from each other. Use of another typeface or two would add contrast.

Daily D – General Excellence

14 Entries

1st Place: **Ludington Daily News**

Great work on the gunman standoff, great photos and good design. Good use of white space throughout papers. Well done.

2nd Place: **Grand Haven Tribune**

I liked the story on the coach sacrificing himself for his daughter. Compelling read. Good stories and good design work on those stories. Design could use more white space, and too many two-word headlines that don't say much.

3rd Place: **Sturgis Journal**

Clean design, and I like that you get a lot of local people and photos in your Community section.

Hon. Mention: **Midland Daily News**

I like the Cavalier's Last Ride design, which was tasteful and not over the top. Big photos, good use of white space.

Weekly A – General Excellence

2 Entries

1st Place: **The News-Herald**

In-depth local news coverage that integrates strong photography with helpful social media plugs. Good use of color throughout the classified pages. Content provokes thoughtful and insightful feedback from readers. This is what local journalism should aspire to be.

2nd Place: **Grand Blanc View**

Reads more as a feel-good publication promoting the region than a hard-news source. No front page photos that accompany stories, and overall a low level of original, high-quality content.

Weekly B – General Excellence

8 Entries

1st Place: **Livonia Observer**

The hard news coverage is what gave this paper the narrow edge over the others noted in its class. All three issues show an intense desire to excel in the local news industry.

2nd Place: **Tri-County Times**

This publication is one of the most well-designed newspapers that I have ever seen. The staff should be proud of both the content and design work that has went into this. An array of topics are covered masterfully by the reportorial staff.

3rd Place: **Press & Guide Newspapers**

Solid front page design to really entice the reader into delving into high-quality content. The local cartoon topics are something that separate this paper from those behind it.

Hon. Mention: **Lansing City Pulse**

Despite the fact that my personal taste is for hard news, the design of this publication immediately drew me into it. The staff does a masterful job on covering pertinent local issues, and the design is some of the best in the state. Despite it's excellent design, I felt, personally, it read too much like a magazine.

Weekly C – General Excellence

13 Entries

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

Good use of all the front page space. One of the most well-designed publications not only in Class C, but in the entire state. While reading one particular issue, I almost forgot that I was reading a local paper. National and state issues with the local touch put this paper a notch above the rest.

2nd Place: **Gaylord Herald Times**

Pages are well-designed. The 'TRIFECTA' front page was perfectly executed. Photos are strong throughout the entire paper, and the story on benefits featured a unique and personal touch absent from many papers. This was a neck-and-neck finish between one and two.

3rd Place: **Leelanau Enterprise**

Excellent coverage of events with such a small staff. The integration of strong photos and graphics set this paper apart from most. However, some design concerns were enough to keep it from the top spot in its class.

Hon. Mention:

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

Some design decisions were questionable, in my opinion, but the content is solid throughout the newspaper. Excellent job covering "negative" news stories in a smaller community. I felt that the paper would benefit from more stories that have top-notch photos better integrated.

Weekly D – General Excellence

16 Entries

1st Place: Saline Reporter

Combination of photography and news stories sets this newspaper apart from the rest. Refreshing to see amidst a class that seemingly blended together.

2nd Place: Tecumseh Herald

Minor design flaws were the only thing that separated this publication from the first-place finisher. Nonetheless, solid content throughout the paper.

3rd Place: Chelsea Standard

The peach boxes on the front page are unappealing to the eye, and distract from the news on the page.

Hon. Mention: Charlevoix Courier

Solid feature stories, but the design makes it look more like a magazine than a newspaper. It distracts from the news itself. Solid writing throughout.

Spot News Story

Daily A – Spot News Story

13 Entries

1st Place: Detroit Free Press

Kwame Kilpatrick fraud verdict

Detroit Free Press Staff

Superb coverage of a tale that made national news - and continues to do so.

2nd Place: Detroit Free Press

Right-to-work uproar in Lansing

Detroit Free Press Staff

Courageous coverage; you didn't leave one angle unturned.

3rd Place: Detroit Free Press

U.S.-Canada bridge announcement

Detroit Free Press Staff

This might've been a bit of overkill, but you did an excellent job, especially under sometimes trying circumstances.

Hon. Mention: The Oakland Press

Awaiting DNA tests: Sandra Layne murder case slowed by forensic lab backups

Dave Phillips

I liked this story - it highlighted a bigger issue while focusing on a grandmother sitting in jail.

Daily B – Spot News Story

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

'Monumental Decision': Right to work protests

Excellent coverage of a monumental decision, as the headline notes.

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

Labor legacy takes a hit

Staff

Good coverage and gripping pictures.

3rd Place: Lansing State Journal

Police: Woman shoots, cuffs armed intruder

Kevin Grasha, Laura Misjak

Excellent writing. Story can't compete with the right-to-work subject of first and second place winners, but the story held my attention and was so well written.

Daily C – Spot News Story

19 Entries

1st Place: Traverse City Record-Eagle

Boardman River Flood

Glenn Puit, Art Bukowski, Loraine Anderson, Keith King

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

3 children perish in fire

Emily Monacelli, Rex Hall Jr.

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Antiques dealer found dead

Fritz Klug

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: Traverse City Record-Eagle

Former first lady of Michigan dies at 89

Loraine Anderson, Anne Stanton

Judge did not comment.

Daily D – Spot News Story

39 Entries

1st Place: Battle Creek Enquirer

We are one

Justin Hinkley

You had me in the first paragraph. Great detail. Good job. I thoroughly understood the issue even though I live 1,000 miles away.

2nd Place: The Mining Journal

Fueling retaliation

Jackie Stark

Super topic!! People complain about gas prices. You're doing something about it, shaking things up. This is what journalists are supposed to do.

3rd Place: Ludington Daily News

Hart man charged with drowning wife in bathtub

Brian Mulherin

Good detail tells a sad story. Very good writing.

Hon. Mention: Grand Haven Tribune

Father's Sacrifice

Krystle Wagner

This story pulled at the heartstrings, and you covered all the angles.

Weekly A – Spot News Story

10 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Community mourns teen's suicide

Alan Burdziak

Good comprehensive coverage on an extremely sensitive topic. Well done.

2nd Place: The News-Herald

Huge fire destroys nightclub

Jim Kasuba

Nicely written and I appreciated the sources that were included. Nice job.

3rd Place: The News-Herald

Councilman lashes out at resident

Dave Herndon

This meeting is what every reporter dreams of having as they sit through hours of dull council meetings. I enjoyed the play by play of that meeting.

Hon. Mention: The News-Herald

Suicidal man pulled from burning truck; large dog found dead inside

Jim Kasuba

Nice job!

Weekly B – Spot News Story

19 Entries

1st Place: Tri-County Times

Communities mourn slain officer

William Axford

Strong writing. Comprehensive coverage. The writer did such a good job that I wanted to continue reading about the officer's life.

2nd Place: Tri-County Times

Team recovers body from Fenton Township

William Axford

The article was organized and had good flow.

3rd Place: Press & Guide Newspapers

DPS staff stunned by brutal killing of finance director Bob Cipriano

Katie Hetrick, Shaun Byron, Carol Hopkins

Solid comprehensive coverage on a tragic event. I appreciate the time the staff took to interview those involved and organize in a clear and organized manner.

Hon. Mention: Press & Guide Newspapers

Priest caught driving naked

Julie Walker Altesleben

Wow! That's really all I have to say about this one. The writer did a good job writing and organizing a bizarre scenario.

Weekly C – Spot News Story

25 Entries

1st Place: White Lake Beacon

Flames destroy Michillinda Lodge

Greg Means

Strong lead. Good comprehensive coverage on the loss of a community landmark.

2nd Place: Ypsilanti Courier

Man charged with sexually assaulting 14-year-old, possibly transmitting HIV

Strong writing with a solid lead. Details are laid out in an easy-to-read way. Overall, solid article.

3rd Place: Ypsilanti Courier

Autopsy reveals little in EMU death

Ben Baird

Compelling article. Good organization and structure.

Weekly D – Spot News Story

26 Entries

1st Place: The Advance

Murder in Blissfield Series

Melissa Burnor

Overall, good writing flow. Nice detail. This stood out among the class.

2nd Place: Ile Camera

DPS worker critical after cave-in

Lena Khzouz, E.L. Conley

Strong comprehensive coverage on a tragic accident. Overall, nice writing style.

3rd Place: The Advance

Body found near barn in rural Palmyra

Melissa Burnor

I appreciated the immediacy of this article. While it wasn't possible for the writer to have the identity in at this point, I wanted to find out the victims story. I'm sure readers were buzzing about who it was. Nice article.

Hon. Mention: Oxford Leader

When Animals Attack!

C.J. Carnacchio

The lead made me laugh. Interesting spin on a bull being shot. Overall, I thought the writer did a good job with working it into a serious spot news piece. Well done.

News Enterprise Reporting

Daily A – News Enterprise Reporting

20 Entries

1st Place: Detroit Free Press

Danger Zone

Chastity Pratt, Kathleen Galligan, Andre Jackson,

Kristi Tanner, Kofi Myler

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Grand Rapids Press

The Disappearing DUI: MLive finds wide disparities in drunken-driving arrests

John Barnes, Brandon Howell, Tim Martin, Dave

Eggert, Jonathan Oosting, Scott Levin

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Grand Rapids Press

Uneasy Riders: See the toll on the roads after Michigan's motorcycle helmet law is lifted

John Barnes, Jonathan Oosting, Kristin Longley, Dominic Adams, Lynn Moore, Aaron Mueller, Gus Burns, Angela Wittrock, Lisa Satayut, Zane McMillin, Erica Perdue, Scott Levin

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: Detroit Free Press

A ray of hope in the fight against a killer

Robin Erb, Kimberly Mitchell

Judge did not comment.

Daily B – News Enterprise Reporting

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

Bureaucratic collapse: St. Anne Lofts project bungled by lack of city oversight, developer

Lindsay VanHulle

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

A mountain of obstacles: Charles Lewis Jr.'s situation 'not surprising' when examining his past

Kevin Grasha

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Lansing State Journal

Michigan's gun laws 101; Mental health, guns get look

Kevin Grasha, Kristen Daum

Judge did not comment.

Daily C – News Enterprise Reporting

37 Entries

1st Place: Saginaw News

Saginaw's youngest victims

Justin Engel, Emily Pfund, Staff, Brad Devereaux, Andy Hoag

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Traverse City Record-Eagle

Man says firing was retaliation for report

Anne Stanton

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Bay City Times

Little Girl Lost

Cole Waterman

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: Petoskey News-Review

Storm water watch

Sheri McWhirter

Judge did not comment.

Daily D – News Enterprise Reporting

61 Entries

1st Place: Grand Haven Tribune

Water Woes

Alex Doty

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: The Argus-Press

Owosso reaches settlement in lawsuit filed by officer Curtis Wildfong

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Designer drugs

Frank Konkel

The research and work in this was impressive.

Hon. Mention: Grand Haven Tribune

Write-in candidates: Wild and funny

Alex Doty

I enjoyed this story. It's debatable whether this is a true enterprise effort, but I'll go along with it.

Weekly A – News Enterprise Reporting

9 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Belle Isle: Past, present and future

Rick Kessler

This is a great enterprise story - it outlines the situation facing Belle Isle, uses personal stories to show its importance and gives the reader an understanding of what is going into the decision process.

2nd Place: The News-Herald

New International Trade Crossing will have huge implications for southeastern Michigan

This story gives a survey of the various issues impacting a proposed international bridge, not allowing advocates to misrepresent the facts and explaining the impact on people who live and work in the area. The story was very informative and well-written.

3rd Place: The News-Herald

Genealogical group tackles Downriver history - one page at a time

Craig Farrand

This package of stories conveys the passion of those who stepped in to save local history before it was destroyed. The stories provide the reader a clear understanding of an expensive, technical process, allowing the reader to have an appreciation for how much work will go into saving the area's newspaper archives. It's hard to write about your own company, too, but Craig Farrand does it in a fair and straightforward way.

Hon. Mention: Lapeer Area View

Light it up Blue

Jacob Hunsanger

The Lapeer Area View showed a commitment to covering an important topic in the community, using great stories to illustrate the issue. However. The information about what autism is should not have been buried in the first stories, and some sort of overarching narrative (maybe keeping Ben Duff's voice throughout the series) would have really tied the series together and increased its impact.

Weekly B – News Enterprise Reporting
30 Entries

1st Place: Northern Express Weekly
Upland Forest of Forested Wetlands?
Patrick Sullivan

This is excellent reporting on what many wouldn't even recognize as much of a story. It carefully outlines the issue and is fair to the private developer while showing how much of a bully he has been. The reader understands the consequences, including the reasons for the huge legal fees, and the context is given to explain how this all happened.

2nd Place: Lansing City Pulse
As Gannett announces a paywall for online content, MLive moves in
Andy Balaskovitz

The City Pulse didn't allow MLive to kill this story by not participating but instead gave a very well researched, balanced, thoughtful overview of the issue. This is essentially industry news, but it was made engaging to a wide audience and showed the potential impact on the community that stems from internal business decisions.

3rd Place: Grosse Pointe News
Cases kicked to the curb
Brad Lindberg

Using examples that show serious the crimes that are not being prosecuted are, this entry not only exposes a major problem but explains to the reader the causes in terms that are easy to understand. Adequate context is given so the reader can reach his or her own conclusions.

Hon. Mention: Lansing City Pulse
The enviro and the ethicist
Andy Balaskovitz

Fact-checking without showing a bias toward one side can be hard, and this is a great presentation of both candidate's accurate criticisms while also calling both out for trying to score cheap points. This offers a great resource for voters.

Weekly C – News Enterprise Reporting
33 Entries

1st Place: Milford Times
Pyne Murder Trial
Aileen Wingblad

Aileen Wingblad set out to provide "comprehensive reporting" of the trial and accomplished the goal. The stories were fair, outlined the evidence and left it up to the reader to draw conclusions - even giving the family of the man convicted the opportunity to challenge the verdict.

2nd Place: Gaylord Herald Times

The death of William Reddie
Jeremy Speer, Cathy Landry, Frank Michels, Chris Engle, Michael Jones, Lorene Parshall

The Herald Times deserves praise for sticking to an issue and making sure the readers got to see behind the curtain of the official investigation. I would have liked to see a main story that pulled all the pieces together, but using lots of excerpts from the investigative report along with the paper's own reporting provided the reader with everything they needed to know about the shooting being discussed. The mention of the two other shootings suggested a trend, but the coverage didn't really jump into that issue as much as it might have -- but still overall a great effort.

3rd Place: Belleville-Area Independent
VBT man pleads guilty to Receiving & Concealing stolen goods

Diane Madigan, Rosemary Otzman
This story does a good job of highlighting the need for action after 70 years and more than 20 lives lost, explaining the issues so every reader understands how things came to be this way. I would have liked to see a little more detail on other deaths, though.

Weekly D – News Enterprise Reporting
32 Entries

1st Place: Ile Camera
Sugar Island
Lena Khzouz

It would be easy just to report what was said at public meetings, but Ile Camera gave the reader the complete picture, let local residents have their voice heard and contributed to the discussion by reporting on the crime on Sugar Island - even if some residents didn't agree with the facts found.

2nd Place: Allegan County News
Fire districts seek resolution on coverage dispute (trowbridge)

Tim Keith
The Allegan County News went in-depth using public records and dispatch logs to explain a complicated dispute that harms public safety. The map and charts make the story more reader friendly, too.

3rd Place: The Commercial Record
50-year Ganges street-end case nears end
Scott Sullivan

Despite a couple unfortunate typos, The Commercial Record explains what is a very technical lawsuit over right-of-way in clear terms, making sure the reader understands how wasteful the court battle has been while showing both sides of the dispute. Bravo

Hon. Mention: Michigan Lawyers Weekly
The scoop on Michigan's 2012 ballot proposals
Brian Frasier

Running a summary of ballot proposals is routine, but Michigan Lawyers Weekly made the information extremely easy to understand. The paper fairly presented the pros and cons of each issue, using experts to explain the real-life impact, and presented the meta-argument about the appropriateness of using ballot proposals to advance public policy choices.

Design

Daily A – Design

2 Entries

1st Place: **Detroit Free Press**

Detroit has flash and puts it on the front page.

2nd Place: **Flint Journal**

Flint creates a clean paper with bold headlines.

Daily B – Design

1 Entry

1st Place: **Lansing State Journal**

Way to think outside square boxes for your art to play with type for the best and most descriptive design for your stories.

Daily C – Design

3 Entries

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

Clean, crisp paper. It understands design concepts. Good job.

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

This paper hit me with items that create and keep subscribers, like the gas price update, the monthly war deaths log and the lawmaker how-they-voted graphic.

3rd Place: **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Staff

Would have helped if front pages had been submitted in comparisons to the other papers. But good use of white space. Clean paper.

Daily D – Design

11 Entries

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

Press Argus knows design and does it well.

2nd Place: **The Pioneer**

Nice-looking paper.

3rd Place: **Daily Telegram**

Big art and lots of entry points for readers.

Hon. Mention: **Sturgis Journal**

Like the 5 of 7. It's the little things like this that make a paper stand out.

Weekly A – Design

2 Entries

1st Place: **The News-Herald**

The layout of this paper is very clean and easy to follow. The Header is not cluttered and points directly to who makes it.

There are so many papers out there that it is important to name your brand. The photographs are clean and placed so that the reader is not overwhelmed by text.

2nd Place: **Grand Blanc View**

The size of the paper is great! Easily portable and all information can be seen without unfolding the paper.

Unfortunately, the text gets a bit small and there is text in many different areas. It gets a bit jumbled.

Weekly B – Design

7 Entries

1st Place: **Northern Express Weekly**

1st place goes to the Northern Express Weekly. This layout is great! Photos are a great way to attract readers. Many individuals focus on photos and look for text later. Pinpointing the articles inside is great! Readers may want to read the featured articles, but will look through the rest.

2nd Place: **Grosse Pointe News**

2nd Place goes to Grosse Pointe News' Clean header, with great color! The layout of the page is clean. Copy to photo ratio is organized and allows the readers' eyes to follow along the page.

3rd Place: **Press & Guide Newspapers**

3rd place goes to Press & Guide. Overall, I enjoyed the layout, but I feel that the header is not big enough. The name of the paper is placed in the corner in a smaller font. The name should be displayed proudly along the top.

Weekly C – Design

10 Entries

1st Place: **The Exponent**

1st place goes to Brooklyn Exponent. Photos are clean and crisp. The text is easy to follow and the story placement flows. Sections are broken down evenly. It is a very professional look and that is something to recognize with so many different papers out there today.

2nd Place: **Gaylord Herald Times**

2nd place goes to Gaylord Herald Times. The top header is fantastic! The use of a background image under the name is a great way to draw attention. The stories are well placed and easy to follow. The space between the articles and photos is great to give eyes a resting point before moving on. I feel the Inside the HT is too boring. The rest is colorful and that part doesn't look like it belongs.

3rd Place: **Leelanau Enterprise**

3rd place goes to Leelanau Enterprise. Header is clean. Love the font! A separation line among stories would help. The placement is a bit 'all-over the place' so a line would help distinguish the stories. I would like to mention that within the paper having the classifieds separate is genius! Many people just get the paper for the classifieds and this allows them to 'grab and go' Love it!

Weekly D – Design

11 Entries

1st Place: **Tecumseh Herald**

1st place goes to The Tecumseh Herald. The text, photos and colors are so crisp! The professional look of the pages ensures a reliable paper is in front of you. Not too much to say except AMAZING!

2nd Place: **Charlevoix Courier**

2nd place goes to Charlevoix Courier. The weather forecast at the top is very beneficial for readers. The larger photo in the middle with the articles or 'key points' to the sides is a great way to draw interest and still give information. Only concern is the text is very thin and a bit small in the articles.

3rd Place: The Boyne City Gazette

3rd place goes to Boyne City Gazette. The name of the paper is displayed well with photos to draw attention, which is great! I feel that the text and photos are a bit 'smushed' together and could be given some space. Photos are fuzzy - need to be cleaned up.

Feature Story

Daily A – Feature Story

12 Entries

1st Place: Flint Journal

Childhood Cancer

Sarah Schuch

It was amazing to see the different perspectives of cancer from both the children affected by it and their families. The story vividly show how these children persevere and their disease is not a death sentence. The story flowed very well and there was never a lull. It gripped me from the beginning, and I felt connected with each girl. Wonderful, quality work.

2nd Place: Grand Rapids Press

The Duck Lake fire: See how residents are coping four months after Michigan's massive wildfire

John Barnes

The story is filled with wonderful, vivid details. The premise of the story is extremely intriguing and covered very well. The lede yanked me in and kept in the story until the very end.

3rd Place: Detroit Free Press

Turning the tide

Jeff Seidel

What an amazing, courageous woman! The writer captured her spirit so well. I couldn't help but want to know more about what happened and if she was able to complete her swim. Amazing story!

Hon. Mention: Flint Journal

Suicide Survivor

Blake Thorne

Extremely interesting perspective. The story was covered very well to see how someone could consider suicide.

Daily B – Feature Story

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

U.P.'s Duck Lake blaze aftermath

Kathleen Lavey

Amazing story that covers so many perspectives, facts and more about the fire and how it has affected not only the people but the wildlife. Beautifully told with nothing left out.

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

No looking back: GM workers from Tennessee adjust to life in Lansing two years after transfer

Lindsay VanHulle

The story captured the heart of the people in the story and how the changes have not only affected their careers but also their personal lives. It showed the sacrifices they make to make ends meet.

3rd Place: Lansing State Journal

Preserving history: Ornate architecture shines in Michigan's restored Capitol

Kathleen Lavey

Interesting story filled with vivid details. I would have liked to see more perspectives and sources in the story. What were people thinking when the restoration took place? What type of painstaking tasks were necessary to make it happen? The description of the finished product was wonderful.

Daily C – Feature Story

22 Entries

1st Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Mlive series: Silver-collar economy

Yvonne Zipp

Extremely thorough, well-written series featuring a variety of different individuals. Each story gave life to the person it was covering. The subject was given life by using people who are an example of people over the age of 60 who are still thriving and enjoying working. I loved reading about their lives and what made them unique. Great job!

2nd Place: Saginaw News

Dilapidated "Dragon"

Justin Engel

I loved how the use of a dragon was used throughout the story. It was as if this house is a living thing. It was a very nice touch. I also liked the sidebar about the history of the house and the memories of the women who owned it. Both stories were filled with great details that added life to the house.

3rd Place: Petoskey News-Review

FOOD FIGHT: Food allergies in children on the rise

Rachel Brougham

A wonderful, well-written story that gives a face to children who suffer from food allergies. I liked how it showed the daily struggle these children and their families go through. It was very clear and concise.

Hon. Mention: Bay City Times

The War Room

Justin Engel

An incredibly touching, heartfelt story that captures this man's life history. It vividly told what he went through and what helped him get through his service. I loved the title, and how this room is a place for him to remember, reflect and mourn. Great story!

Daily D – Feature Story

58 Entries

1st Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

This whole house was transformed; Former white supremacist sheds hate to help all people

Aaron Aupperlee

What an incredible transformation! It was amazing to read about what this man was like before and how he has changed. I loved the details added in about why he was the way he was and what made him change. A very moving, well-written story.

2nd Place: Grand Haven Tribune

True grit

Marie Havenga

Great lede in this story. The story flows very well covering the way she was before and the challenges she faces. I also like the different perspectives added to the story.

3rd Place: Battle Creek Enquirer

Porch from the past

Annie Kelley

What a fun story! The story transported me to this couple's porch. Vivid details throughout. Interesting topic told with zest.

Hon. Mention: Cadillac News

A strange world

Chris Lamphere

An extremely interesting topic covered very, very well. What could have been muddled with medical terminology was explained simplistically and was easy to understand. Great sources.

Weekly A – Feature Story

14 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Support for cancer patient's estate sale beyond expectations

Jim Kasuba

This story is well written, and very nicely packaged with the pictures and cutlines. Good job!

2nd Place: The News-Herald

Wyandotte's beloved first family die just hours apart

Jim Kasuba

What a sad story. After reading this I almost felt like I knew the couple - great job of telling their story.

3rd Place: The News-Herald

School Days: Students raise, release salmon

Jim Kasuba

What an interesting concept for a classroom activity! Nice story.

Hon. Mention: The News-Herald

Dynamic duo thwarts armed robbery suspect

Jackie Harrison-Martin

This was a fun story; however, I would have liked to see a picture or two and more direct quotes. Also needed a more solid lead to draw the reader in.

Weekly B – Feature Story

66 Entries

1st Place: Grosse Pointe News

Doolittle legacy

Brad Lindberg

There were so many wonderful entries in this category I had to look for something to set one apart - and this was it! This story captures a remarkable piece of history, and is very well told.

Thank you!

2nd Place: Lansing City Pulse

A life they don't want

Sam Ingot

What an eye-opening story! Very well-written, loved the layout. Great job with a very tough, but important topic. Thank you!

3rd Place: Grosse Pointe News

Above and beyond

Brad Lindberg

To me, a good feature story should serve a purpose for writing it - and this story certainly does that! Thank you for preserving this piece of history so wonderfully!

Hon. Mention: The Citizen, Ortonville

A daughter's dream wedding

Susan Bromley

Heartwarming - I loved this story! There were just so many entries in this category, but please know this story is very, very good.

Weekly C – Feature Story

38 Entries

1st Place: The County Press, Lapeer

I can't walk very good but I can fly

Krystal Johns

Fantastic, inspirational story! The pictures are wonderful, and the page layout is superb! Wonderful job. I gave this a 10!

2nd Place: Birmingham Eccentric

The Search Goes On

Jay Grossman

I loved the lead on this story, and really loved the conclusion! Great job of telling a heart-wrenching story.

3rd Place: Gaylord Herald Times

The sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald

Kurt Kolka

What a great job of sharing an important piece of history. Well-written and put together.

Hon. Mention: Gaylord Herald Times

One woman's story

Lorene Parshall

A truly inspirational story on such an important subject! This was a very difficult category to judge - there were many entries. But I truly loved this piece!

Weekly D – Feature Story

52 Entries

1st Place: The Commercial Record

S.S. Keewatin: Farewell, old friend

Scott Sullivan

The story was extremely well-written; absolutely loved the pictures! This is the total package - great job of chronicling local history!

2nd Place: Cass City Chronicle

No more cancer!

Tom Montgomery

What a heartwarming, wonderful story! This was such a tough category with lots of entries! This story was very, very good.

3rd Place: State Line Observer

Can you write that in cursive?

David Green

What a great story - and I loved the presentation! Thank you for proving that you don't necessarily have to have a good picture to make for a good story. Loved the subject!

Hon. Mention: Tecumseh Herald

Bus ride highlights Michigan School Bus Safety

Week

Deb Wuethrich

What a great idea for a story! And I really liked that it was written from a personal perspective. This was just a very tough category with lots of entries. But this is a very nice story!

Editorial Writing

Daily A – Editorial Writing

4 Entries

1st Place: *Flint Journal*

The Flint Journal Editorial Board

A tough decision in this category because lots of good entries. This one tops the field because a reader can't help but be impacted by the writing, logic and emotion all rolled into one.

2nd Place: *Detroit Free Press*

Nancy Kaffer

A very close choice for second place. You know the editorial writer has done a good job when the person doing the judging doesn't happen to agree with the point being made but yet can't help up being persuaded by what was written. Excellent work.

3rd Place: *Grand Rapids Press*

Dave Murray

Nice work throughout.

Daily B – Editorial Writing

1 Entry

1st Place: *Lansing State Journal*

Staff

Another category with only one entry, but that doesn't mean a default winner. Good choice of topics. Clear writing. Nice work.

Daily C – Editorial Writing

7 Entries

1st Place: *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Staff

Strong pieces. Clever writing in numerous places. Good choice of topics. I bet readers appreciate the clear views expressed by this newspaper.

2nd Place: *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Dave Miller

A close call in determining who got first and second place. These editorials don't pull any punches, but yet they're nuanced and subtle at times. Excellent work.

3rd Place: *Muskegon Chronicle*

Paula Holmes-Greeley

The "does anybody give a dam?" piece especially caught this judge's eye. Nice job throughout.

Daily D – Editorial Writing

16 Entries

1st Place: *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Michael McCullough

Strong writing. Good topic choice. Liked the providing of contact information, etc., where readers could take action. Excellent quality throughout the three submissions.

2nd Place: *Grand Haven Tribune*

Cheryl Welch

I liked the fact that the topics of your editorials were a little bit out of the norm -- but even so, they made excellent points. Conversational in style. Seems very in tune with the community being served.

3rd Place: *Greenville Daily News*

Elisabeth Waldon

A strong third-place finisher. Again, clear writing with point definitively made. Nice job throughout all three pieces.

Weekly B – Editorial Writing

1 Entry

1st Place: *Grosse Pointe News*

Joe Warner

Although just one entry in this category, that doesn't mean this newspaper wins by default. Its editorials are well-written, with an excellent choice of local topics and strong endings. Nice work.

Weekly C – Editorial Writing

12 Entries

1st Place: *Plymouth Observer*

Brad Kadrich

Strong writing. Good choice of topics to focus on. Clear and right to the point.

2nd Place: *The Exponent*

Matt Schepeler

Editorials ask a lot of good questions and raise valid points. Nice job throughout.

3rd Place: *The County Press, Lapeer*

Jeff Hogan

Solid work in all three submissions.

Weekly D – Editorial Writing

10 Entries

1st Place: *State Line Observer*

David Green

Best of the class. Engaging topics, important topics and clear points made in each. Nice job.

2nd Place: *Clarkston News*

Staff

Readers know where this newspaper stands on issues. It doesn't pull punches. One entry could have used more depth to it. But nice job throughout.

3rd Place: *Oxford Leader*

C.J. Carnacchio

When a newspaper submits two of its three pieces from the same edition, that makes me wonder about the rest of the year. Even so, nice writing.

Editorial Pages

Daily A – Editorial Pages

3 Entries

1st Place: *Grand Rapids Press*

Well organized, but more importantly, page does a great job examining issues.

2nd Place: *Flint Journal*

Another issues-oriented page, and well organized.

3rd Place: *Detroit Free Press*

I liked the surprise factor. Pages dished out opinion in varying ways.

Daily B – Editorial Pages

1 Entry

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

I liked the page organization and headline treatment. I also enjoyed the man-on-the-street segments.

Daily C – Editorial Pages

4 Entries

1st Place: Traverse City Record-Eagle

This page has a voice, and it's about the community. Good local opinions and lots of letters.

2nd Place: Times Herald

A lively and engaged opinion page. Good work.

3rd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

I like the organization and reader involvement.

Daily D – Editorial Pages

11 Entries

1st Place: Grand Haven Tribune

I am impressed with the high level of reader involvement.

2nd Place: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Graphically appealing page, this entry balances leadership and writing.

3rd Place: The Mining Journal

I like the organized appearance and the content. A very good effort.

Hon. Mention: Morning Sun

Well done.

Weekly A – Editorial Pages

1 Entry

1st Place: The News-Herald

I like the personal feel of this entry. The page really is about people and issues that affect them. Nice work on the man-on-the-street features.

Weekly B – Editorial Pages

4 Entries

1st Place: Livonia Observer

This page does a great job involving readers.

2nd Place: Grosse Pointe News

Good work providing an editorial voice and inviting community input.

3rd Place: Press & Guide Newspapers

Graphically strong, this page is consistent and enjoyable to read.

Hon. Mention: Davison Index

Nice work anchoring the page with a personal column.

Weekly C – Editorial Pages

7 Entries

1st Place: The County Press, Lapeer

Well written and well organized. Took on some tough issues.

2nd Place: The Exponent

I like the editorials. This page is written very well.

3rd Place: Gaylord Herald Times

This is an intriguing page. I especially like the opportunities to join the conversation online.

Weekly D – Editorial Pages

6 Entries

1st Place: Allegan County News

A very lively and involved opinion page. I liked the organization, typography and topics that garnered attention.

2nd Place: Ile Camera

This page packs a lot into a small space. I really enjoy the man-on-the-street features.

3rd Place: State Line Observer

Good organization and writing.

Hon. Mention: The Advance

Judge did not comment.

Local Columnist

Daily A – Local Columnist

12 Entries

1st Place: Flint Journal

Marjory Raymer

Funny and thought-provoking; I thoroughly enjoyed her writing.

2nd Place: Flint Journal

Blake Thorne

Blends the personal with the public in a very readable fashion.

3rd Place: Grand Rapids Press

Dave Murray

Unique concept of blending public opinion shared with the newspaper into a column.

Hon. Mention: Grand Rapids Press

Julie Hoogland

Community journalism will never go out of style, and it's nice to read the work of a journalist who's clearly in love with her city.

Daily B – Local Columnist

2 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

Mark Mayes

Enjoyable to read, interesting columns about local people.

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

Mickey Hirten

Thought-provoking.

Daily C – Local Columnist

10 Entries

1st Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Julie Mack

Insightful without being overbearing & a rare trait for a columnist. Well done.

2nd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Al Jones

Engaging style & informative and at times, laugh out loud funny.

3rd Place: Times Herald

Mike Connell

How often is fuel tax a topic that keeps a reader's attention all the way to the last sentence? Well-researched, well-written.

Hon. Mention: Kalamazoo Gazette

Mickey Ciokajlo

Writer has a balanced, reasoned tone.

Daily D – Local Columnist

21 Entries

1st Place: Greenville Daily News

Mike Taylor

Thoroughly enjoyed these columns - funny, poignant, clever.

2nd Place: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Arla McPeck

Clever, funny - I thoroughly enjoyed this columnist's work.

3rd Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

Brad Flory

Shows an impressive ability to cover a wide range of topics in a humorous and thought-provoking way.

Hon. Mention: Livingston County Daily Press &

Argus

Rich Perlberg

I'm not always 100% sure what the writer wants me to take away from reading his work, but I enjoy the road getting there.

Weekly A – Local Columnist

5 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Jackie Harrison-Martin

I like this writer's style - conversational, witty, hard-hitting when it's necessary.

2nd Place: The News-Herald

Dave Herndon

Clever way to incorporate the web side of the newspaper with the print.

3rd Place: Lapeer Area View

Krystal Johns

Funny, conversational tone.

Hon. Mention: The News-Herald

Craig Farrand

Judge did not comment.

Weekly B – Local Columnist

14 Entries

1st Place: Ad-visor & Chronicle

John Hendler

Nice range of topics covered & well-written and thought-provoking.

2nd Place: Davison Index

Gary Gould

Funny and direct & I like this writer's style.

3rd Place: Northern Express Weekly

Stephen Tuttle

The column about the writer's son is heart-wrenching and can't have been easy to write. Well done.

Hon. Mention: Grosse Pointe News

Karen Fontanive

Judge did not comment.

Weekly C – Local Columnist

20 Entries

1st Place: Tuscola County Advertiser

Bill Petzold

Excellent column about local leadership and what the role of a journalist is in reporting the news truthfully and accurately.

2nd Place: Canton Observer

Brad Kadrich

Insightful without being overbearing - well done!

3rd Place: Gaylord Herald Times

Matt Wenzel

The writer's column about his day labor experience was really well-written and was genuinely thought-provoking.

Hon. Mention: Belleville-Area Independent

Rosemary Otzman

I loved the snapshots of community events, people and decisions. The writer is clearly tuned into her local community.

Weekly D – Local Columnist

19 Entries

1st Place: The Advance

Marcia Loader

Great storytelling!

2nd Place: Cass City Chronicle

Tom Montgomery

Really enjoyed the column about shorthand.

3rd Place: The Union Enterprise

Walter Kaechele

Interesting take on China's policies.

Hon. Mention: Tecumseh Herald

Mary Kay McPartlin

Judge did not comment.

News Photograph

Daily A – News Photograph

8 Entries

1st Place: Flint Journal

Mary Street Shooting

Ryan Garza

A judge's comment really wouldn't add to this one... Best of a really tough class full of shots packed with emotion that convey the story. A lot captured in this one. Excellent.

2nd Place: The Oakland Press

Community comes together to mourn fallen officer

Vaughn Gurganian

Tough call between this and another similar photo in this class. The children's faces and sadness pull the reader into it. Hate that these happen, but it's a nice shot, played well (I think).

3rd Place: Flint Journal

Losing Lawrence

Jake May

The face on the man gave me all the information I needed though not the specifics, which weren't needed. And for this shot, I like that the pair hugging wasn't cropped shoulder-to-shoulder. The extra information in the photo is needed. Well done.

Hon. Mention: Grand Rapids Press

Good Samaritan

Cory Morse

Earns an HM over the others because the photographer got there in time to capture it. It's a moment that couldn't be planned for. The expression on the face of the man in the car got my attention, too.

Daily B – News Photograph

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

Lauren Wilhelm

Greg DeRuiter

Excellent shot.. Powerful. A lot of emotion at play by just two subjects. Like it a lot

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

Capitol protesters

Rod Sanford

Nearly a coin toss between 1st and 2nd. This photo carries a lot of emotion. Good camera angle. Probably had several views to pick from, but the hands and the faces say this was a good choice. Well done.

3rd Place: Lansing State Journal

Eaton County deputy with binoculars

Greg DeRuiter

Interesting shot..A lot of elements make it a good one. I like the balance - the chopper in upper left and cop in lower right.. It's a good one

Daily C – News Photograph

19 Entries

1st Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Schoonhoven burial at Fort Custer National Cemetery

Mark Bugnaski

We've some to see too many of these shots, unfortunately, but this one stands out because of the connection being made by the girl and the soldier. The eyes of the girl tell this story. Nice framing of the shot. Stood out in a category full of winners.

2nd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Returning home

Matt Gade

From what's written on the back of the shirt to the face of the soldier looking back... wow... Nice angle, nice eye to be aware of the surroundings that day. The anticipation of what's next for both subjects drips... a great shot.

3rd Place: Saginaw News

Family reflects on shooting death of 12-year-old boy.

Jeff Schrier

It's a unique way to tell the story of what happened. Took some thought. It's not just another photo of someone sitting on a porch after a shooting. It shows the consequences. News photo tell the story, and this one fills that bill.

Hon. Mention: Traverse City Record-Eagle

Empty Meetings

Jan-Michael Stump

Sometimes, a good photo conveys what's not happening. Photo sends a message that's needed: "Where is everybody?" Well framed. Like it a lot.

Daily D – News Photograph

36 Entries

1st Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

Water Tower rescue

J. Scott Park

A news event often helps make a good news photo. This event helped, but the photographer still did the work, and this image superbly captures the moment. Everything about it is top notch: cropping, framing, action, emotion, etc. Spot on.

2nd Place: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

National Guard families savor emotional reunion

Alan Ward

Not much separated 2nd and 3rd from a host of excellent entries considered. These images have become common, but this one isn't another run-of-the mill welcome home. It's full of emotion, and tells the story of what military families do go through. Nicely do

3rd Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

Arraigned

J. Scott Park

Powerful.... No caption or story is needed to tell the reader what is going on. That's news photography. Loved that you cropped it tight but not too tight. A lot of nice images in this paper.

Hon. Mention: Morning Sun

Stuck in Muck

Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis

The look on the young boy pulled this one ahead of others for HM. In this case I would have liked to have read a caption (if it was there it didn't show up on the web site).

Weekly A – News Photograph

3 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Man, 29, dies in motorcycle crash

David Komer

It's one of those photos that you won't see again. I might have played it another column wider and tried a wide angle lens from up close, but that's being a bit nit picky. Nice shot.

2nd Place: The News-Herald

Millage fails in close vote

Dave Herndon

2nd place was a tough call. I like to have the photo tell me more of the story. Standing alone, this one didn't tell me a lot, but when accompanied by the story I figured it out... It's a good news photo, which is what this category is.

3rd Place: Lapeer Area View

And the winner is...

Jacob Hunsanger

A nice shot. Good expressions.

Weekly B – News Photograph

13 Entries

1st Place: Tri-County Times

Dive team recovers body from Lake Fenton

Tim Jagielo

The clear choice in this division. Not only can these shots be tough for some to hit the shutter release button, they aren't always easy for the editor to let run. Tells the sad story, and that's what news photography is about.

2nd Place: The Citizen, Ortonville

Home

David Fleet

Emotional...would have liked to seen a bit more of the child's face, but not always possible. I think a bit higher and tighter crop would have made it even better, but the moment still was captured.

3rd Place: Lansing City Pulse

That's our mayor

Sam Ingot

Tough call on third, but like it for a bit of quirkiness that the photographer captured. But why buried so deep inside? If you think it's worthy of a news photog entry, get it a better spot!!!

Hon. Mention: Ad-visor & Chronicle

Marshall City Council delays decision on Overlay

District until December

Corinne Kellogg

Liked this and your other entry. But one problem I have is of placement in paper. It was entered in color but looks like it ran in B&W, and deep inside, and much too small... If you have a photo worthy of entering, do it justice in where you place it.

Weekly C – News Photograph

21 Entries

1st Place: White Lake Beacon

Flames destroy Michillinda Lodge

Greg Means

Photos need to tell a story, and this one certainly accomplishes that... great shot. Especially like the way photographer silhouetted the ladder and firemen in front of the flames. That made the shot.

2nd Place: Gaylord Herald Times

A tearful rededication

Bill Serveny

Emotions, emotions... this one captures them. This one conveys sadness, inspiration and hope all in one. Well done.

3rd Place: The Exponent

Burger King burns

Matt Schepeler

The way it was cropped and played on the page helped pull this into 3rd in a very close call. Timing was right, too, to capture the white foam. I just liked a lot about this one... turned a routine fire fighting shot into something different.

Hon. Mention: The Exponent

A Fair Goat

Jeff Steers

The shot definitely pulls the reader in... I kept going back to it. Tough class, but had to give this a mention.

Weekly D – News Photograph

13 Entries

1st Place: Charlevoix Courier

Stellar send off

Steve Zucker

There's a lot of joy and a tinge of sadness all rolled into this shot. So many faces, so much emotion pushed it to the top. Definitely tells a story.

2nd Place: Munising News

Hanging up the curling iron - a bittersweet retirement

Amanda Ingraham

Proof that photos don't have to be color to be good. Well framed, with the subject at one side and reflection on other edge... Not your run of the mill retirement shot. Good job.

3rd Place: Clarkston News

House fire off Holcomb

Phil Custodio

I would have liked to see the left photo cropped a bit tighter and played another column bigger. Their faces pushed it to 3rd but we needed to see them easier.

Hon. Mention: Allegan County News

Looking for a home

Tim Keith

Cute shot. Like the wide angle shot for a close up look. It's a good shot. 3rd and HM was a hair splitter.

Feature Photograph

Daily A – Feature Photograph

11 Entries

1st Place: Grand Rapids Press

High Five

Chris Clark

I didn't really realize that the top 3 were from the same paper, but they are the 3 best and this one stands out. Taking the reader someplace they wouldn't ordinarily be is the mark of a good photog. It's not luck that makes these shots, it's instinct and perseverance. Excellent!

2nd Place: Grand Rapids Press

ArtPrize Lights in the Night

Cory Morse

I want to know more about what is taking place here, but don't need the info to know it's a great shot. Floating lanterns are framed wonderfully and exposure is spot on, as is focus. It's art.

3rd Place: Grand Rapids Press

Triple degree heat in Grand Rapids

Emily Zoladz

The girl in the wheelchair didn't play on my emotions to award this 3rd. It's the expressions, the care freeness of youth. A lot at play in this photo works.

Hon. Mention: Flint Journal

Getting down with God

Lauren Justice

Sometimes just one photo is worth more than a photo page to tell a story, and this is one of them. Church service photos don't have to be boring anymore! A lot of emotion at work here. Nice.

Daily B – Feature Photograph

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

Miracle League

Rod Sanford

Wonderful, wonderful... This is one of the better moments I've seen captured. Imagine there were more than just this one shot of the girl to choose from, but you chose the right one... It's a keeper's keeper!

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

Wali Mahmoud Islamic Center

Rod Sanford

Nice shot. A lot of joy expressed. On this one I like that it wasn't cropped tighter, also. Good photo.

3rd Place: Lansing State Journal

Eagle near Muskegon State Park

Greg DeRuiter

Third because there are only 3 entries. A good shot, but not great. Also looks like a lot of photoshopping around the wings. Maybe not, but it looks like it on what I can see.

Daily C – Feature Photograph

19 Entries

1st Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

First Day of Vicksburg School

Mark Bugnaski

A close call between 1st and 2nd... The eyes of the young boy and capturing his apprehension made this the winner. Well cropped, too, showing just enough of the other elements but keeping the focus where it's needed.

2nd Place: Muskegon Chronicle

Dog kiss

Ashley Miller

Yuch and ooh all in one shot. No one can argue that this isn't deserving. I can't decide if I would have cropped it tighter, but I think you have it right. Nice.

3rd Place: Traverse City Record-Eagle

Slush Cup

Keith King

This is another entry that I would have liked seeing how it was played on the page... It has a lot of elements working... face of someone about to be frozen, spray of ice water... almost makes the reader shiver for the subject.

Hon. Mention: Bay City Times

Haunted Temple preparations underway in Bay City

Colleen Harrison

It gets bonus points for a bit of creativity. The shot through the panel, for me at least, makes it a better photo than just showing the characters. It works.

Daily D – Feature Photograph

43 Entries

1st Place: The Daily News, Iron Mountain

Cooler kid

Theresa Proudfit

This one rose to the top in a class full of variety, both in subjects and quality. The reader can feel the cool. I would have liked to see how it was treated on the page. For me, the clear winner.

2nd Place: Herald-Palladium

Light Show

Don Campbell

2nd place was a tough choice. Any of about 7 shots were in running. It's rare that I move a non-human element photo ahead of others, but this one just has a lot of things working. Nice timing, composition, focus and framing. It's a good photo.

3rd Place: Morning Sun

Breakfast on the farm

Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis

There is a small line between a feature photo and a news photo, but this is one of the better feature shots in this class. Photographer captured the moment when eyes met eyes, and that and way it was cropped made the shot. Nicely done.

Hon. Mention: Greenville Daily News

149 Belding graduates walk and receive diplomas

Cory Smith

Feature photos don't have to be serious, and this one is proof. It's just a fun shot that no one could have planned. Photographer didn't have time to prepare, but caught the moment all the same.

Weekly A – Feature Photograph

2 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Monkey business

Alan Burdziak

This one earned 1st because it wasn't as posed as the other entry. I don't like running type over photos, and in this case I found it very distracting.

2nd Place: Lapeer Area View

Holiday classic

Jacob Hunsanger

Feature photos mean different things to different people. This one looks too staged for me. Nice focus and it works that the subject isn't centered.

Weekly B – Feature Photograph

11 Entries

1st Place: Tri-County Times

Climbing in the clouds

Tim Jagielo

The question begs: How did you get the photo? Anyone who goes to that height to grab this attention getter is deserving! But it is an attention getter, and that's what great feature photos are. Unique shot, well done. Everything about it works.

2nd Place: Ad-visor & Chronicle

Kids Day at the Calhoun County Fair

Corinne Kellogg

Nice photo that deserved more of the stage... Should have played this a lot bigger on the page and used fewer photos that detracted from this one... Too main photos in this category were staged, but not this one... good shot

3rd Place: The Citizen, Ortonville

Looking Forward

Patrick McAbee

Like the 2nd place photo, good photos are even better if given their space.. Two columns? Should easily have been 3X. Bonus for the idea and the cropping.

Circulation Class Breakdown: Daily Class A – 60,000 or more; Daily Class B – 30,000-59,999; 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.

Weekly C – Feature Photograph

29 Entries

1st Place: Oceana's Herald-Journal

Splash down

Andrew Skinner

This was a tough decision, but when judging strictly the photo and not the story, it was the clear choice. As a package, all of Andrew's entries were superb, and he "gets it" when knowing what a feature photo is all about. Great expression on kid's face.

2nd Place: The Exponent

Good days, bad days

Jeff Steers

A tough choice between 1st and 2nd... This is a story-telling photo. Nice shot. I like how it was played on the page and that you gave it size it deserved!! Not sure all photographers would have caught the shot. Has news value and more. Keeper.

3rd Place: Oceana's Herald-Journal

Sunset fishing

Andrew Skinner

Wrestled between this and Andrew's sledding shot for 3rd. This one one out because of the mood it sets, and I love the silhouette against the orange backdrop, and that you left plenty of dock to form a line from the left leading to the boys. A lot went into this shot.

Hon. Mention: Houghton Lake Resorter &

Roscommon County Herald-News

RHS WINTER CARNIVAL

Krista Tacey-Cater

It's good to have fun with photos, and this one is proof. More papers and photographers need to look at the lighter side. You did and captured a good photo.

Weekly D – Feature Photograph

37 Entries

1st Place: State Line Observer

Rounding the bend

David Green

Even though 1st and 2nd were of similar themes, they deserve the placings...this paper understands what feature photography is about. This one wins out because of the facial expression of the boy. It's an attention grabber. Nice action, nice cropping.

2nd Place: State Line Observer

On the ropes

David Green

Even though 1st and 2nd were of similar themes, they deserve the placings... Another fun shot, well played on the page. The flying hair helps make the shot.

3rd Place: Allegan County News

The kindest cut of all (reading winners cut Martin principal's hair)

Tim Keith

This one might have moved all the way to the front of the pack had we seen some kids cutting her hair... I can only guess the faces of the students would have made this good shot that much better... Still, this is a good feature shot.

Hon. Mention: Clarkston News

Surviving the heat

Wendi Reardon

Proof that black and white photography still has its place... A nice photo showing fun and "ahhhh"... A lot to be liked here.

Photo Story

Daily A – Photo Story

9 Entries

1st Place: Detroit Free Press

Staying Grounded

Diane Weiss

Beautifully photographed and comprehensive. A variety of graphic images nicely edited and presented.

2nd Place: Grand Rapids Press

Remembering Zachary Sanafelt

Emily Zoladz, Cory Morse

Compelling human drama in nearly every photograph. Overall best for news impact, but a few redundant images. Wonderful angles with attention to background.

3rd Place: Flint Journal

The final pin

Jake May

Leaves the reader with a thorough tale through photographs. Not a weak sister in the bunch.

Hon. Mention: Detroit Free Press

Judge releases brothers on bail after 25 years in prison

Andre J. Jackson

Photographs show impact and emotion in a tough venue. Tighter editing could have moved it up a slot. Very moving.

Daily B – Photo Story

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

Right to work protests

Rod Sanford

Very strong opening image, impactful selections in this story. Good variety.

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

Wali Mahmoud Islamic Center

Rod Sanford

Although this contained a lot of emotion in some images, edit could have included more technical variety, i.e. lens lengths, angles, etc. to add interest.

3rd Place: Lansing State Journal

Heritage Guitar has international appeal

Rod Sanford

Some pretty images, better than the usual "how to do it." Some are a bit redundant, however.

Daily C – Photo Story

9 Entries

1st Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Bringing home Sgt. Mark Schoonhoven

Mark Bugnaski

Best of the class, with some sensitive and powerful images.

2nd Place: Saginaw News

Murder trial of Ken Blue

Jeff Schrier, Colleen Harrison

Tough subject matter, but good variety, especially considering the venue.

3rd Place: Petoskey News-Review

Winter concert

M. Chris Leese

Eye-pleasing images but a bit redundant.

Hon. Mention: Kalamazoo Gazette

Young sisters progress despite degenerative disease

Josh Mauser

A few very nice images here, but needed to be edited down.

Daily D – Photo Story

27 Entries

1st Place: Herald-Palladium

Autumn Ambiance

Don Campbell

Although not a powerful subject like some others, no question that the photos are high art and done with sensitivity. Layout is a big plus, as well.

2nd Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

Former white supremacist sheds hate to help all people

Sean Proctor

A wide range of emotion here, showing different sides to the same person. Very good impact on the viewer, with a tough subject to define.

3rd Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

Badly burned when a drunk driver hit his family's van, Christopher Klavon helps others heal

Hannah Potes

Assuming it was shot in grayscale on purpose. Very strong images in any case, showing emotion and optimism.

Hon. Mention: The Argus-Press

Hero's return

Edited tightly with strong images that tell just enough and avoid being trite.

Weekly A – Photo Story

5 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Michigan Renaissance Festival kicks off

Dave Herndon

Good variety and editing. Deserved the whole page.

2nd Place: The News-Herald

Hibernal hijinks

E.L. Conley

Some nice images, but a bit repetitive. Needed a few more close faces.

3rd Place: Lapeer Area View

Students give thanks

Jacob Hunsanger

Well done for a simple story. A bit too much eye contact.

Hon. Mention: The News-Herald

Towering Ambition

J. Patrick Pepper

Nice piece with interesting photos. Human factor is a bit short, however.

Weekly B – Photo Story

13 Entries

1st Place: Grosse Pointe News

Our heroes

Renee Landuyt

Excellent variety to tell the whole event. Layout is a plus.

2nd Place: The Citizen, Ortonville

Balloon with a view

Susan Bromley

Graphically interesting pictures of balloons. Could have had a bit more human element.

3rd Place: Press & Guide Newspapers

Flying high

Millard Berry

Nice behind-the-scenes treatment of theatrics involved in "flying."

Hon. Mention: Press & Guide Newspapers

Some gave all

J. Patrick Pepper

Direct and to-the-point treatment of a subject that's hard to show in a different light.

Weekly C – Photo Story

25 Entries

1st Place: Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Wellington keeps broom making alive

Krista Tacey-Cater

First place was far and away the best in terms of lighting, interest, layout, editing and composition.

2nd Place: Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

No Hill Necessary

Thomas Reznich

Although the photos are a bit repetitive, they are well done and the page design is good.

3rd Place: Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

A retirement full of 'glad-ness'

Thomas Reznich

Tough assignment done well. Just needs to capture her personality a bit more.

Weekly D – Photo Story

35 Entries

1st Place: The Commercial Record

High flying (kiteboarder)

Scott Sullivan

Very well photographed and layout was well thought-out. Clean and pleasing to the eye. Each photo would stand on its own, as well.

2nd Place: Charlevoix Courier

Pop Warner Football

Steve Zucker

Nice cross-section of pictures from youth football. Top photo is a screamer.

3rd Place: The Commercial Record

Looking up (light fixtures)

Scott Sullivan

Graphically striking and simple. Sometimes clean and beautiful is better than 33 photos on one page.

Hon. Mention: Oxford Leader

Lakeville Field Day

C.J. Carnacchio

Fun photos. Has a few layout problems but each photo is eye-catching and the photographer obviously worked the angles.

Sports Photograph

Daily A – Sports Photograph

9 Entries

1st Place: Detroit Free Press

Down Pour

Julian Gonzalez

Shot captures the emotion and puts the fan right there. The other photographers behind them sure couldn't get this shot!!!

2nd Place: Detroit Free Press

Heads up

Julian Gonzalez

It's all about timing and anticipating good shots like this.

3rd Place: Grand Rapids Press

Warrior Dash

Matt Busch

Shooter got right down almost level with the fire. Cropping made the photo.

Hon. Mention: The Oakland Press

Leap of Faith: Detroit U-D Jesuit catcher Harrison

Wenson

Vaughn Gurganian

Shot captures the action and brings viewer into the scene.

Daily B – Sports Photograph

13 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

MSU v. Iowa

Rod Sanford

Really captured the action and put the fan right there.

Daily C – Sports Photograph

10 Entries

1st Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Western Michigan 23, Eastern Michigan 29

Matt Gade

I would have liked to taken this shot myself. Shows great intensity and captured a view the fan never sees.

2nd Place: Muskegon Chronicle

Red Card in soccer

Nikole Hanna

Soccer action at its best (or should I say worst). I'm guessing the original ran much bigger. Way it was entered as a photo page made it hard to judge.

3rd Place: Traverse City Record-Eagle

Mancelona Rallies to Win Quarterfinal

Keith King

This is one of those shot where composition made a difference as well as the clarity of the shot.

Daily D – Sports Photograph

54 Entries

1st Place: Grand Haven Tribune

One down for Lakers

Matt DeYoung

This is a great shot. It took perfect timing to capture the image. Great eye.

2nd Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

Leaping

J. Scott Park

This shows great athleticism and puts you right in the action.

3rd Place: Jackson Citizen Patriot

Early Season Injury

J. Scott Park

Composition helped tell the story, as the injured player is left all by himself-not even the water boy is there.

Hon. Mention: Herald-Palladium

Underwater Champ

Joe Rondone

This was an enterprising shot.

Weekly A – Sports Photograph

4 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

One for the record book

Larry Caruso

Peak action caught by photographer. Best of the lot.

2nd Place: The News-Herald

Long live the king

Larry Caruso

Thoughtful selection that tells the story of intimidation.

3rd Place: Lapeer Area View

Woods-N-Water comes to Imlay City

Jacob Hunsanger

Nice juxtaposition of deer and sign.

Hon. Mention: Lapeer Area View

Post-season title hopes still alive

Lisa Paine

Standard fare for action picture.

Weekly B – Sports Photograph

21 Entries

1st Place: Grosse Pointe News

Blue Devils drop heartbreaker

John McTaggart

Captures all of the emotion of a sports contest. Nice image.

2nd Place: Tri-County Times

Fenton's Cassidy Rourke hugs

David Troppens

Good celebration picture, Would have been first place except for the eye contact. The image printed below it would have won.

3rd Place: Tri-County Times

Fenton's Samantha Moss

David Troppens

Perfect timing and tight crop. All it needs is a more interesting face.

Hon. Mention: Grosse Pointe News

Norsemen pummel

Paul Kania

Flying helmet adds drama to an otherwise unremarkable image.

Weekly C – Sports Photograph

43 Entries

1st Place: The Exponent

Brooklyn Legion baseball

Jeff Steers

Great angle, composition, framing and timing. Tells the whole story in a moment.

2nd Place: Gaylord Herald Times

Airborne in the snow

Bill Serveny

Good action on any day, but add the snow and it's a killer.

3rd Place: Tuscola County Advertiser

Broncos break through to State Title game

Kevin Gregory

Great shot that involves the players, bench and coach.

Hon. Mention: Gaylord Herald Times

District champs

Matt Wenzel

Pure joy of sport is captured in this one, and the banner tells the story.

Weekly D – Sports Photograph

21 Entries

1st Place: Charlevoix Courier

Got it!

Steve Zucker

One shot tells it all.

2nd Place: State Line Observer

Time's up

David Green

Good timing and content in the bull riding picture. It should have been run separately and larger.

3rd Place: The Commercial Record

Having a ball

Scott Sullivan

Nice, tight crop with good action.

Hon. Mention: The Advance

Bobcat Zach Perry catches a pass in the end zone under coverage of BD's Leighton Merritt

Melissa Burnor

A quality picture in any conditions, especially during a downpour.

Sports Writing

Daily A – Sports Writing

13 Entries

1st Place: The Oakland Press

Lions let another one get away

Paula Pasche

Best story in the class. Concise, catchy and get me going further into the story.

2nd Place: Flint Journal

Claressa Shields - Golden girl

Eric Woodyard

Good effort to wrap this all together under deadline pressure.

3rd Place: Grand Rapids Press

First River Bank Run 25K turns into record breaker for women's winner

Pete Wallner

First graph grabbed me. Second one was simple but told all it needed to.

Daily B – Sports Writing

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

Thomas, Payne battle it out

Chris Solari

Opening graph pulled me in. I could see him following the guy on the floor.

Daily C – Sports Writing

13 Entries

1st Place: Saginaw News

Hessbrook in the center of it all

Hugh Berneuter

Strong, catchy lead pulled me into the story.

2nd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

WMU football coach Bill Cubit fired

David Drew

Enterprising reporting on deadline.

3rd Place: Traverse City Record-Eagle

Central shuts out TC West

James Cook

Strong lead sets off the story.

Daily D – Sports Writing

40 Entries

1st Place: *Sturgis Journal*

Stewart is Badger bound

Brandon Watson

Sharp, concise lead. I knew what the story was about as soon as I read the first two graphs.

2nd Place: *Grand Haven Tribune*

Destiny's awaiting!

Matt DeYoung

Lead paragraph pulled me into the story.

3rd Place: *The Daily News, Iron Mountain*

No more doubting these Knights

Burt Angeli

You wrote it as if you were telling it to me in person. Good job.

Hon. Mention: *The Argus-Press*

Shocker at Breslin

Ryan Weiss

Good solid writing.

Weekly A – Sports Writing

6 Entries

1st Place: *The News-Herald*

Gabriel Richard snags Division 4 bowling title

Dave Gorgon

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: *The News-Herald*

Wow-haven: Warriors' unstoppable offense buries

league-leading Roosevelt

Shane Preston

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: *The News-Herald*

Robichaud blown away by Grosse Ile's 70-point

effort

Scott Held

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: *The News-Herald*

No stopping these Chiefs

Dave Herndon

Judge did not comment.

Weekly B – Sports Writing

9 Entries

1st Place: *Grosse Pointe News*

South gets upper hand with North

Bob St. John

We don't know much about hockey or girls hockey BUT the writer kept me interested in the game all the way through.

2nd Place: *Tri-County Times*

Bade caps career as a three-time state champion

David Troppens

This was entered in three places and I thought this was the best of the three writers. All those writers know their wrestling pretty well.

3rd Place: *Tri-County Times*

Fenton volleyball headed to state quarterfinals

David Troppens

This guy knows his volleyball and writes it well. Really good description of the match.

Hon. Mention: *The Citizen, Ortonville*

Home Run

Susan Bromley

Thought this should have been in a different category

Weekly C – Sports Writing

23 Entries

1st Place: *The Exponent*

Bruner makes history

Jeff Steers

A very well written unusual sports story bowling and wrestling champions at the same time. Written well about those sports.

Keep up the good work.

2nd Place: *The Tri-City Times*

Capac Shocks Rival Almont

Kevin Kissane

Good football write up in a close last minute battle. Writer knows his football.

3rd Place: *Gaylord Herald Times*

Round 1 goes to Cards

Matt Wenzel

Basketball is nearly always exciting but this writer kept you right with the game with the details.

Hon. Mention: *Swartz Creek View*

Creek grad honored for service at Tigers game

Lisa Paine

Great story but I thought it should have been in a different category.

Weekly D – Sports Writing

15 Entries

1st Place: *State Line Observer*

Taylor Baugh repeats as state champion

David Green

Amazing accomplishment by the subject but an even better job by the author. This relatively unknown subject was covered well. Excellent.

2nd Place: *Tecumseh Herald*

Tecumseh's Jordan Richard makes history

Mickey Alvarado

A very unusual accomplishment covered well by the writer in this sport. Hard to believe how many sports your state writers have to cover.

3rd Place: *Clarkston News*

Clarkston pulls last minute win over Lake Orion

Wendi Reardon

Always good to hear about a come from behind win and this one was covered very well by the writer.

Hon. Mention: *Allegan County News*

Plainwell remains undefeated in league (swim)

Walt Kaechele

Good swimming story for a group continuing their dominance in the area for the sport.

Sports Columnist

Daily A – Sports Columnist

10 Entries

1st Place: *Detroit Free Press*

Mitch Albom

Witty, incisive, interesting and informative. What a column should be.

2nd Place: *Detroit Free Press*

Mick McCabe

The columnist is unafraid, addressing issues with fact, engaging readers with logic.

3rd Place: *Detroit Free Press*

Jeff Seidel

Poignant and difficult to pull away from. The writing sticks with you.

Hon. Mention: *The Oakland Press*

Pat Caputo

Judge did not comment.

Daily B – Sports Columnist

2 Entries

1st Place: *Lansing State Journal*

Graham Couch

Informative and balanced, yet never dreary. The column captures the reader with fact and reason rather than gimmick.

2nd Place: *Lansing State Journal*

Chris Solari

Not many are capable of taking on a sprawling topic like climate and baseball in the space available for a column.

Daily C – Sports Columnist

6 Entries

1st Place: *Kalamazoo Gazette*

David Drew

Columnist puts you in his seat-the search, the embrace at the end of the game are real-and then backs up the imagery with good journalism.

2nd Place: *Muskegon Chronicle*

Mark Opfermann

Great ledes and solid reasoning.

3rd Place: *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Dennis Chase

An engaging writer with a broad range.

Hon. Mention: *Times Herald*

Paul Costanzo

Judge did not comment.

Daily D – Sports Columnist

22 Entries

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

Brian Beaupied

Crisp, interesting, even evocative. Well written and engaging.

2nd Place: *The Daily News, Iron Mountain*

Ron Deuter

Puts you right there, allows readers to become involved in the subject.

3rd Place: *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Rich McGowan

Great job expanding on a moment. And bringing in the voices and emotions of the kids is critical.

Hon. Mention: *The Argus-Press*

Jason Barczy

Solid, intriguing ledes, Nice flow. And the goalpost column just keeps a reader fixed.

Weekly B – Sports Columnist

2 Entries

1st Place: *Grosse Pointe News*

Bob St. John

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: *Tri-County Times*

David Troppens

Judge did not comment.

Weekly C – Sports Columnist

11 Entries

1st Place: *The County Press, Lapeer*

Dan Nilsen

So good. A standout at any level. Columns are not only interesting, but also a real pleasure to read.

2nd Place: *Gaylord Herald Times*

Thorough, informative and engaging-even for someone unaccustomed to the outdoors.

3rd Place: *Tuscola County Advertiser*

Chad Wingert

The columnist takes you with him.

Hon. Mention: *Swartz Creek View*

Lisa Paine

Judge did not comment.

Weekly D – Sports Columnist

4 Entries

1st Place: *State Line Observer*

Rich Foley

Columnist doesn't back down from making a point-and backs it up with reason.

2nd Place: *Allegan County News*

Jason Wesseldyk

You get to know the teams or the moments through his column inches.

3rd Place: *The Boyne City Gazette*

Kevin Lange

Tackling national issues from a distance can be tough. The columnist manages neatly.

Sports Feature

Daily A – Sports Feature

19 Entries

1st Place: *Flint Journal*

Standing tall

Eric Woodyard

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Detroit Free Press

Game of change

Joe Rexrode

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: The Oakland Press

OU women's coach survives sexual abuse

Paul Kampe

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: Detroit Free Press

U.P. dad's crusade

Shawn Windsor

Judge did not comment.

Daily B – Sports Feature

3 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

After loss, family finding hope through hockey

Chris Solari

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

1963 NCAA Regional at the Center of Change:

Loyola vs. Mississippi State/March 15, 1963/East Lansing

Graham Couch

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Lansing State Journal

Family first: Izzo has built nationally elite program with old-fashioned focus

Chris Solari

Judge did not comment.

Daily C – Sports Feature

18 Entries

1st Place: Saginaw News

For Loon's pitcher with Tourettes, baseball field is the calmest place he knows

Hugh Berneuter

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

A final gift to Dad

David Drew

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Times Herald

Recruiting: Hold on for the ride

Joseph Hayes

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: Kalamazoo Gazette

Hands on Holwerda forges ahead

Scott DeCamp

Judge did not comment.

Daily D – Sports Feature

46 Entries

1st Place: Battle Creek Enquirer

Great Lakes Journey

Bill Broderick

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

She's my happy

Tim Robinson

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: Grand Haven Tribune

Head-hitting issue

Matt DeYoung

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: Grand Haven Tribune

Price to play

Nate Thompson

Judge did not comment.

Weekly A – Sports Feature

4 Entries

1st Place: The News-Herald

Comaraderie, fitness and the lure of the water draw oarsmen (and women) to Wyandotte club

Brian Kalisher

Great combination of photos and well written.

2nd Place: The News-Herald

Taking the long view

Dave Herndon

Well done and very deserving feature. Wish coach Bluhm would have been more dominate in photo.

3rd Place: Grand Blanc View

Kayla Run returns for 7th annual race

Erik Hohenthauer

A little too many facts and not enough creativity.

Hon. Mention: Lapeer Area View

Archery - it's still cool

Lisa Paine

100+word opening paragraph never a good option.

Weekly B – Sports Feature

17 Entries

1st Place: Tri-County Times

Reporter joins in on fun during camp

David Troppens

Nice to see the writer get into his story ... literally. Great behind-the-scenes feature.

2nd Place: Tri-County Times

Working at Super Bowl just another day on job for retired NBC cameraman

David Troppens

Great photos help this very interesting story. Well done.

3rd Place: Grosse Pointe News

A throwback to 1860s baseball

A.J. Hakim

Other than layout, this feature was well worth the effort.

Hon. Mention: The Citizen, Ortonville

Disney run

Susan Bromley

Good story ... just wondering why this wasn't given front-page attention?

Weekly C – Sports Feature

37 Entries

1st Place: *The County Press, Lapeer*
North Branch man one 'tough mudder'
Krystal Johns

Great "off the beaten path" feature. Well done.

2nd Place: *Tuscola County Advertiser*
The Olympian next door: Caro's Scot Severn gears up for London 2012 Paralympics

Bill Petzold

Inspiring feature.

3rd Place:
Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Grand Ledge swim team makes seventh annual Houghton Lake swim

Krista Tacey-Cater

Great behind-the-scenes feature.

Hon. Mention: *The Exponent*

Brian Stuard PGA golfer

Jeff Steers

Enjoyed reading this feature.

Weekly D – Sports Feature

11 Entries

1st Place: *Allegan County News*
Serving as an inspiration: Plainwell's Claudia Klein continues to face challenges with a smile

Jason Wesseldyk

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: *Allegan County News*
All in the family: Running together serves as source of bonding for Fennville's mendoza family

Jason Wesseldyk

Judge did not comment.

3rd Place: *The Advance*
BD parents work to keep some games in Deerfield

Melissa Burnor

Judge did not comment.

Hon. Mention: *State Line Observer*

Beaver trapping nets four

David Green

Judge did not comment.

Sports Coverage

Daily A – Sports Coverage

2 Entries

1st Place: *Flint Journal*

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: *Detroit Free Press*

Judge did not comment.

Daily B – Sports Coverage

1 Entry

1st Place: *Lansing State Journal*

Judge did not comment.

Daily C – Sports Coverage

3 Entries

1st Place: *Times Herald*

Strong team of writers. The copy grabs you, as does the layout. Solid all around.

2nd Place: *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Clear and clean layout, which readers much appreciate. Stories are sharp. There's a thoroughness to the section. It's all here.

3rd Place: *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Images pop. Well-rounded, thorough and interesting section.

Daily D – Sports Coverage

10 Entries

1st Place: *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Crisp, eye-catching and well organized. The breadth of coverage is impressive.

2nd Place: *The Argus-Press*

Good looking pages. Readers surely must appreciate the obvious passion for local sports and activities.

3rd Place: *Daily Mining Gazette*

Clean and appealing. The color-in particular the bold images above the fold-pop. Solid coverage, all around.

Hon. Mention: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*

Judge did not comment.

Weekly A – Sports Coverage

1 Entry

1st Place: *The News-Herald*

Wow. Hard to imagine more striking swimming images. A good looking section with solid coverage.

Weekly B – Sports Coverage

2 Entries

1st Place: *Tri-County Times*

David Troppens

Stunning pages. Solid coverage, interesting and varied. Sports trivia on the sidebar is a fun idea.

2nd Place: *Grosse Pointe News*

Strong all around. And very encouraging to see youth sports receive that kind of attention.

Weekly C – Sports Coverage

8 Entries

1st Place: *Birmingham Eccentric*

Clean and accessible. Comprehensive, compelling stories. Solid use of images. This is a very good sports section.

2nd Place: *The Exponent*

Game writing that attracts, an obvious commitment to covering the region and good use of images.

3rd Place: *The Tri-City Times*

Although it is difficult to be everywhere at once, this paper appears to manage it.

Weekly D – Sports Coverage

5 Entries

1st Place: *Allegan County News*

The sports writers appear to be everywhere. And the section is thoroughly illustrated. This is a reader's sports section.

2nd Place: State Line Observer

The devotion to youth sports stands out.

3rd Place: The Advance

Truly comprehensive and some eye-catching images.

Hon. Mention: Clarkston News

Judge did not comment.

Most Innovative Story Telling

Daily A – Most Innovative Story Telling

7 Entries

1st Place: Flint Journal

Lost in the flames

Gary Ridley, Dominic Adams, Blake Thorne

Excellent job sharing a lot of information and packaging it so that the pieces work together for ultimate impact. You added personal impact elements and were creative in using a photo gallery of old newspaper clippings. Use of the map showing arson locations had big impact as well. Videos were nice addition and photos of the firefighting were excellent. Great group effort!

2nd Place: Flint Journal

#iwantoutoknow

The Flint Journal Staff

Powerful subject matter explored from many angles. The personal stories of those who lost someone to suicide and the story about the girl who shares her own experiences with depression are compelling. The public service aspect was a unique initiative that helps tie all the elements together. Informative elements approach subject in variety of ways. Story of the warning signs and community resources topped it off nicely.

3rd Place: Grand Rapids Press

Justified to Kill: An MLive special report on self-defense homicides in Michigan

John Barnes, John Agar, Rex Hall Jr., Gary Ridley, Jonathan Oosting, Brad Devereaux, Tim Martin

Incredible stories about the experiences of those who have killed in self-defense. Quite eye-opening. Graphs were well done and informative. Surveillance videos, of course, are riveting. Wonderful job taking a national issue and thoroughly exploring your state's laws and cases.

Hon. Mention: Grand Rapids Press

MLive series explores the history and development of downtown Grand Rapids' main street, Monroe Center

Garret Ellison, Cory Morse

Yes! The history certainly contributes strongly to reader interest and an understanding of how the business district got to where it is. The photos of the past and present buildings is of great interest. The guest essays added another dimension.

Daily B – Most Innovative Story Telling

2 Entries

1st Place: Lansing State Journal

Michigan's Right To Work

Staff

Well covered with a variety of sources and tools. Many related stories online. Could see that there were live chat and video posted but the links did not work. The time line feature is great and nicely used. Reader opinions add to the viewpoints included.

2nd Place: Lansing State Journal

Bureaucratic collapse: St. Anne Lofts project bungled by lack of city oversight, developer

Lindsay VanHulle

Certainly a great example of an in-depth story with a lot of leg work put in by staff to flesh out the sequence of events. Time line is particularly useful.

Daily C – Most Innovative Story Telling

5 Entries

1st Place: Muskegon Chronicle

Miss Michigan coverage

Lisha Arino, Libby March, Ashley Miller

Photos are the star - in print and online. Great story in print and nice job with a preview story online so in print and online aren't repetitive. Social Media! Great job incorporating Twitter and facebook and pointing out social media sources. Ice skating video was nice. I understand the sub categories for the photo galleries, but some combining would have been maybe more use friendly than going from one to another. For a total package, your staff deserves the crown!

2nd Place: Kalamazoo Gazette

Local man creates petition to save buildings slated for demolition

Mark Bugnaski, Ursula Zerilli

Interesting story and clearly a passionate issue for many! Photos of the buildings are artfully done and nicely incorporated into the video interview. Nice job cutting away to the photos. The roundtable element was a nice touch and good presentation.

3rd Place: Muskegon Chronicle

Farmers Market coverage

Dave Alexander

Nice job complementing online preview story and in print coverage. Live streaming a great option! And a poll!

Hon. Mention: Kalamazoo Gazette

Lost for 67 years, then found

Ian Kullgren, Mark Bugnaski

This entry may not have had as many components as the winners, but the story, photos and video are wonderful and deserving of recognition. The subject matter is a wonderfully touching one in and of itself, but the video of the package actually being opened and the contents seen for the first time is wonderful. Close up of the items added a whole new dimension as well. Fascinating to see the items this boy carried with him so many years ago.

Daily D – Most Innovative Story Telling

5 Entries

1st Place: Greenville Daily News

Legacy Field

Bruce Bentley, Cory Smith

Great job creating a complete package in which elements complement each other rather than repeat each other. Nice job taking a news angle and sports angle, though I would like to have seen the front page story focus more on the new field and leave more of the game coverage for the sports story. Nice game story. Video was AWESOME... Great job with voice over, graphics, etc. Wow... nice video clip of the team coming at the camera. Great time lapse element!

2nd Place: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Soldiers return to salutes, surprises

Alan Ward, Amanda Whitesell

Nice package of in print coverage supplemented by the video and photo galleries. Video had some nice shots... such as of the boots, closeup of patches. Voice over was simple. Some sounds from the event may have been a nice touch. Photo gallery included some nice angles. Good response for the reader photo gallery. Nice promotion of online elements.

3rd Place: The Mining Journal

Thurber leads NMU to sweep of Badgers

Matt Wellens

Good game story and tons of videos. For die-hard fans, coach and player comments are great video clips. Matt's hockey report video was engaging. The Newspaper did not offer anything unique from online.

Hon. Mention: Morning Sun

Sacred Heart bans gay graduate for speaking

Staff

Excellent follow up stories and wide variety of angles approached in the coverage. Nice job tapping into the social media flurry surrounding the issue. Would like to have seen PDF's of the newspaper pages. The "see pagination" links did not work on either browser I tried.

Weekly A – Most Innovative Story Telling

1 Entry

1st Place: The News-Herald

Towering ambition: Museum goes big with new

LEGO exhibit

Dave Herndon, David Komer, J. Patrick Pepper

Great layout highlights interesting photo angles. Break out box good, but a bit much... might have picked 4-5 of the most impressive structures to highlight. Video is well done with cutaways well placed and clear audio. Nice job bracketing the designer interview with information about the museum and exhibit. Nice job using a combination of close up photos and longer-range shots to show the scale and intricacies of the pieces. I feel your pain on the technical issues. Nice job overcoming them!

Weekly B – Most Innovative Story Telling

4 Entries

1st Place: Tri-County Times

Fatal mobile home fire reveals safety issues

Tim Jagielo

The combination of stories - one focusing on the individuals and one on the safety issues - provides more depth of coverage than the other entries. Video is skillfully made and certainly adds another dimension to the package. The viewer really gets the "feel" of the situation.

2nd Place: Tri-County Times

Fenton Marching Band

Tim Jagielo

Nice photo for print sets it apart from the video. Story includes some nice descriptions of the scene. Video includes great variety of angles and catches the early morning light well.

3rd Place: Tri-County Times

Giant pumpkin

Tim Jagielo

Video tells the story and captures the crucial time of loading the pumpkin up. The print component really doesn't add anything.

Weekly C – Most Innovative Story Telling

1 Entry

1st Place: Gaylord Herald Times

WILD Northern Michigan

Chris Engle, Morgan Sherburne, Frank Michels, Cathy Landry, Jeremy Speer, Matt Wenzel

Sweet! Great package of stories and photos. Well written, engaging copy with eye-catching, interesting photos. Beautiful job using online content to complement the print. Each is fresh. Quite a large package. Nice photo gallery. How about a video next year?

Weekly D – Most Innovative Story Telling

2 Entries

1st Place: The Boyne City Gazette

Kirtland Ticketed

Benjamin Gohs

An interesting story with the concerns of citizens highlighted. The frustration of officials is well expressed. Good use of variety of quotes.

2nd Place: The Boyne City Gazette

Marina Deal Sunk

Benjamin Gohs

Catchy headline but not too cutesy. The conflict between parties is emphasized with good use of quotes. Clearly a major issue to the community.

Special Section

Daily A – Special Section

5 Entries

1st Place: **Detroit Free Press**

The Packard Plant: Why it has to go

It's haunting, this section, and I'm impressed at the range of stories and features in this package. Great composition, both written and visual. Really well done.

2nd Place: **Detroit Free Press**

Reading Works

Wow - this is a great community effort, spanning multiple media outlets and utilizing the power of print and web journalistic resources.

3rd Place: **Flint Journal**

Back to the Bricks

Nice section - visually appealing, engaging copy. Good use of photos and infographics.

Hon. Mention: **Grand Rapids Press**

New Beginings -- High School Football 2012

Judge did not comment.

Daily B – Special Section

2 Entries

1st Place: **Lansing State Journal**

Broad Art Museum

Judge did not comment.

2nd Place: **Lansing State Journal**

2012 MSU Basketball preview

Judge did not comment.

Daily C – Special Section

2 Entries

1st Place: **Times Herald**

Blue Rising

Great section - like the profiles of community leaders, very readable and sure to engage community interest.

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

2012 Iceman Cometh Mountain Bike Race

Good profiles of winners, interesting competitors.

Daily D – Special Section

28 Entries

1st Place: **Battle Creek Enquirer**

Progress 2013

Nice layout - good blend of stories, photos. Engaging headlines, tight copy.

2nd Place: **Midland Daily News**

Dow Weekend of Races

Nice section - interesting articles, human interest pieces, good photos.

3rd Place: **Herald-Palladium**

Senior PGA Championship

Nice guide - good layout, pertinent and easy-to-digest information for visitors.

Hon. Mention: **The Daily Globe**

Faithful Servants: Salem Lutheran Church celebrates 125 years

Nice section - very comprehensive. Like the hymn verses at the bottom of each page.

Weekly B – Special Section

1 Entry

1st Place: **Lansing City Pulse**

Welcome to the Broad: A Special Issue

Nice layout, great ads and photos, good copy.

Weekly C – Special Section

16 Entries

1st Place: **The Exponent**

2012 End of the Year

A unique way to recap the previous year. Nice layout and use of photos.

2nd Place: **Frankenmuth News**

Frankenmuth Bavarian Festival 2012

Good local coverage.

3rd Place: **Gaylord Herald Times**

Spirit of Volunteerism

Great profiles of community volunteers!

Hon. Mention:

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Tip-up Town News

Judge did not comment.

Weekly D – Special Section

6 Entries

1st Place: **The Advance**

Railroad Day

Good overview of the local event - liked the map.

2nd Place: **The Advance**

Boy Scouts: 100 years in Blissfield

Nice coverage of a local group.

3rd Place: **The Advance**

Destination: Detroit

Great staff effort to put out this special section!

Hon. Mention: **Ile Camera**

IslandFest

Judge did not comment

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 do NOT count toward the “Newspaper of the Year” award.

Herbert Spencer - Best Headline

14 Entries

1st Place: *Bridge Magazine*

In some cities, it's cash that's burning

Hits on the subject perfectly without using the word fire. Awesome!

2nd Place: *Grosse Pointe News*

Soil not so boring

Brad Lindberg

I can see this going over so many heads.

3rd Place: *Michigan Capitol Confidential*

Money motivates, but a dollar is simply insulting

Manny Lopez

You can hear the irritation in the headline.

Hon. Mention: *Bridge Magazine*

\$1-billion economic impact? That's Pure Michigan.

Nancy Derringer

Thank you for not putting the word program in the headline.

Herbert Spencer - Best Photo

7 Entries

1st Place: *Flint Journal*

Mary Street Shooting

Ryan Garza

Far and away the best photo. Contains all of the elements of an epic moment with the photographer knowing what to do at the right time.

2nd Place: *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Paranormal search

Mike Mulholland

Obviously well thought-out graphic representation of the subject under tricky lighting.

3rd Place: *Grand Rapids Press*

High Five

Chris Clark

Simply a beautiful human moment, and the right angle to show it all.

Hon. Mention: *Flint Journal*

Motel Fire

Sammy Jo Hester

Graphically a very beautiful image, would have placed higher with slightly more emotion. Very clean image.

Herbert Spencer - Best Writing

23 Entries

1st Place: *Grand Rapids Press*

Pediatric Hospice in Grand Rapids

Sue Thoms

It's a difficult class to judge, but this story is in its own stratosphere. This is the one. If you want to know what good writing looks like, this is the one.

2nd Place: *Flint Journal*

Flint's battlefield

David Harris

A great approach to an important topic. I can't know for sure, but I get the sense that this story didn't start from a police report or a lawyer's summation at a trial, but started with one journalist and the quest for some sense of reason and truth. I placed it second because I thought the first place was a tougher subject.

3rd Place: *Bridge Magazine*

Urban farm plan reels in cash, tilapia

Nancy Derringer

I liked the play-by-play pace at the story's start. I felt as though I was being rejuvenated along with the city.

Hon. Mention: *State Line Observer*

Moth Chaser

David Green

When you start making scientific names seem interesting, you know you've got a masterful, dexterous writer.

Herbert Spencer - Best Multimedia Presentation

12 Entries

1st Place: *Flint Journal*

Childhood Cancer

Ryan Garza, Brett Carlsen, Lathan Goumas

I never imagined that as winner in this category I would choose a series of photo galleries rather than a video presentation. But these photos are so incredibly powerful and carry so much meaning with them, that they tell a huge story. We truly get a sense of how cancer impacts these kids' lives... while also capturing the "normalcy" of the kids. The picture of waiting at the hospital, for example, captures that sense of boredom and that sense of "been here a thousand times." Incredible job. Unique presentation with the various photo galleries capturing different "stages" of the process. Love the photos of the kids with different hats and bandanas..... really presents the strength and coping of these kids. I could go on and on. Which is why this was my winner.

2nd Place: *Michigan Capitol Confidential*

City Shuts Down Teen's Hot Dog Vendor Cart

Anne Schieber

This video tells the story, from many angles! Great job incorporating interviews with city officials, with the boy, with his parents, with other organizations. Quite informative about the whole issue. Thoughtful and thorough.

3rd Place: Grand Rapids Press

ArtPrize in Motion

Cory Morse

Wonderful videography. Skillful and beautiful. Recognized because it explored many aspects of the art event... different times of day, we see artists at work, the public enjoying the displays, etc. Although I would normally have looked for some supplementing text or voice over, for this project it was not needed and would have been a distraction. An artful use of video for storytelling!

Hon. Mention: Greenville Daily News

Battle for Legacy - Greenville Vs. Belding 2012

Cory Smith

This Honorable Mention is well deserving of recognition and was a close call for third place. Wonderful incorporation of many techniques. The time lapse segment, for example, was awesome! Great variety of clips incorporated. Seemed like the video was really two stories in one... the second part (game review/analysis) had a different focus and tone, and it seemed to address a different audience. The people who are general fans or interested because it's the new stadium and first game there (and even us non-Michigan viewers!) appreciated the first part of the video but, beyond game highlights, our interest was lost with the analysis segment. Seemed like two stories, which would require two videos. But incredibly well done video technically!

Herbert Spencer - Best Website

7 Entries

1st Place: Bridge Magazine

Bridge Magazine

Minimal design, excellent typography and color in design, and advertising possibilities are boundless. Good work!

2nd Place: Flint Journal

MLive-Flint Journal

Unique fonts, excellent full grid layout and elements that break up the design visually, good advertising spaces with leaderboard and billboards; overall excellent site.

3rd Place: Greenville Daily News

www.thedailynews.cc

Love the huge slideshow selling out the home page, good article pages, has room to grow style wise and ad revenue wise.

Hon. Mention: Traverse City Record-Eagle

www.Record-Eagle.com

Not as trendy looking as other entries, but a solid site design with good ad spaces and possibilities.