

# 2015 MPA Better Newspaper Contest



*Embargo: Do not release before 6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 28, 2016*

## Bigger Contest Spotlights Better Journalism

For the second year in a row, more members have submitted more entries in the Michigan Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. Members of Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association reviewed 3,833 entries submitted by 113 Michigan newspapers this year. The increased competition inspires all journalists to produce better work, which in turn, nurtures stronger communities.

"As our members evolve in a multi-platform world, they remain the foundation of vibrant communities across the Great Lake State," said MPA Executive Director Mike MacLaren. "We've seen double-digit increases in this contest and the tougher competition helps our members capture audience attention and build better communities."

**The 2015 "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) in all Editorial contest categories. Winners of those awards are listed below.

Daily Newspapers of the Year			Weekly/Specialty Publication Newspapers of the Year		
Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper	Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper
Class A	1,190	Detroit Free Press	Class A	890	Bridge Magazine
Class B	850	Bay City Times	Class B	1,040	Detroit Jewish News
Class C	800	Grand Haven Tribune	Class C	700	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	1,090	Greenville Daily News	Class D	630	State Line Observer, Morenci

**Circulation Class Breakdown:** Daily Class A – over 20,000; Daily Class B – 11,001-20,000; Daily Class C – 5,001-11,000; Daily Class D – 5,000 and under; Weekly Class A/Specialty Publications – over 15,000; Weekly Class B/Specialty Publications – 7,001-15,000; Weekly Class C/Specialty Publications – 3,001-7,000; Weekly Class D/Specialty Publications – 3,000 and under.

**The 2015 Advertising Contest** winners experienced a new competition this year where all member newspapers competed against each other, submitting their best work in the areas of Community Business Promotions, Home Services, Home Furnishings, New and Used Vehicles, Real Estate, Entertaining Services, Restaurants, General Retail and Small Ads. The first place winners of best Home Services ads and best General Retail were awarded to **Ludington Daily News'** Harbor Design Contraction for Home Services and **Cadillac News'** Oasis Prom Dress Donations for General Retail.

**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: Bridge Magazine for "The Smartest Kids in the Nation," Detroit Free Press for "Detroit's emergence from a historic bankruptcy" and Traverse City Record-Eagle for "Ottenwess and Ayling Coverage," with the award going to **Detroit Free Press**.

**The MPA Rookie Writer Award** recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The three finalists are: Darcie Moran of the Ann Arbor News, Molly Young of the Flint Journal and Angie Jackson of the Grand Rapids Press, with the award going to **Molly Young**.

**The MPA Public Notice Journalism Award** recognizes stories that exemplify the importance of public notice in newspapers. The two finalists are Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News for "Special meeting overuse" and Bridge Magazine for "Michigan's Jobs Rebound also brings a Lower Paycheck" with the award going to **Bridge Magazine**.

**The 2016 MPA Better Newspaper Contest opens August 1, 2016**

## **Spot News Story**

### **Daily A - Spot News Story**

**32 Entries**

#### **1st Place**

*I-94 pileup*

Staff

*This entry exemplifies the best coordination of web and print, with breaking news posted online as soon as it's gathered and a robust curation transforming that news into a compelling print product. The initiative and talent of the reporting team is evident in the photos, video, and first-hand accounts from drivers.*

**Kalamazoo Gazette**

#### **2nd Place**

*Tornado Warning*

Ben Freed

*This entry exemplifies the value of one really good reporter. Ben Freed not only posted breaking news through the middle of the night, he did it with skill and style. In a category stocked with tornado stories, Freed's stood out as best capturing the human element. His writing goes beyond mere reporting; it captures the drama and the distinctive voices that make for a compelling read. Freed's work did justice to those affected by the tornado, holds appeal for readers far removed, and proves that sometimes one good writer can make all the difference. The space between this entry and the one in first is thin indeed. Digital journalism needs more reporters like Ben Freed.*

**The Ann Arbor News**

#### **3rd Place**

*Craigslist killings*

Staff

*This reporting team did an excellent job keeping up with a fast-developing story, supplying context stories all along the way. Interviews with the victim's father and the perpetrator's sister were particularly compelling and quickly developed. Readers were well served with regular updates and stories that added depth to the breaking news. The hard work behind the reporting is evident.*

**Grand Rapids Press**

### **Daily B - Spot News Story**

**22 Entries**

#### **1st Place**

*Kalkaska double murders*

Michael Walton, Matt Troutman, Michelle Merlin

*This entry could be called "Michael Walton's very long day," but it paid off. His 4 a.m. post with all the elements of the story meant Record Eagle readers had all the news when they woke up in the morning. This entry demonstrates admirable coordination between online and print - every post and every article adds fresh information advancing the story. The time stamps of the online posts are testament to a hard-working staff, and the print edition presents readers with a shocking fresh perspective on the killer and multiple profiles of the victims. Solid breaking news coverage others should use as a model.*

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

#### **2nd Place**

*Planet Fitness*

Jessica Shepherd

*This is a good example of enterprise spot news, proving that apparently mundane conflict within a community - a woman having her gym membership cancelled - can resonate well beyond the community's borders. The reporter deserves credit not only for recognizing the potential news value of the story but also for treating it with an even hand. The story was timely on several levels, obviously touched a nerve, and promoted conversation (not always pleasant) about a controversial topic. The timely follow-ups added depth and perspective.*

**Saginaw News**

#### **3rd Place**

*Military Tragedy*

Jim Hayden

*Printing news before it officially breaks - with anonymous sources - requires hard work and courage and deserves recognition.*

**Holland Sentinel**

### **Hon. Mention**

*No closer to closure*

Curtis Wildfong

*Wildfong's feature detailing official foot-dragging is a good example of how news organizations can hold local governments accountable.*

**Holland Sentinel**

### **Daily C - Spot News Story**

**23 Entries**

#### **1st Place**

*Good boy, Max - Beagle sacrifices himself protecting family from bear*

Rick Charmoli

*The main story captures the drama and action of the family's encounter with bear; the supporting stories provide context about bear behavior and bear safety, which served the readers well. Good work from multiple staffers on a challenging deadline. Photos compliment the whole package.*

**Cadillac News**

#### **2nd Place**

*Charges in Volp case*

Nikki Younk

*Good work in tracking down documents on deadline and pulling together important background information on a case that spanned numerous years. Delivered with clarity and authoritative writing.*

**The Daily News, Iron Mountain**

#### **3rd Place**

*Historic vows*

Susan Field

*Great splashes of color really set this entry apart. Good use of quotes capture the mood of the wedding ceremony, and nice touches of background material on same-sex marriage bring it all together.*

**Morning Sun**

### **Hon. Mention**

*Teen drowns in icy bayou*

Becky Vargo, Matt DeYoung

*Judge did not comment.*

**Grand Haven Tribune**

### **Daily D - Spot News Story**

**8 Entries**

#### **1st Place**

*Tornado Pummels Portland*

Lori Zadorozny, Nicholas Sulewski

*This was a total team effort to bring readers exhaustive coverage of a highly unusual event. Each story captured a different angle of the damage caused by the tornado and contained pertinent information. The photo coverage and space allotted to it was exemplary. Very thorough and well executed effort.*

**Sentinel-Standard**

#### **2nd Place**

*Greenville home destroyed in fire, all occupants escape safely*

Cory Smith

*The writer strikes the proper tone in this piece about tragedy averted and never veers into the sensationalistic or breathless. The quotes really serve to carry the narrative. Well done.*

**Greenville Daily News**

#### **3rd Place**

*Crop-dusting pilot makes successful emergency landing*

Cory Smith

*Good use of narrative that draws the reader straight into the cockpit during a harrowing plane malfunction. Good sourcing -- the pilot, mechanic, law enforcement official -- gives the piece its meat and its impact.*

**Greenville Daily News**

### **Weekly/Specialty A - Spot News Story**

**24 Entries**

#### **1st Place**

*Officials mistake cancels Head Start in Detroit schools; sin and a shame for district*

Chastity Pratt Dawsey

*The in-depth look at a government snafu that affected numerous children and families was written and researched well. The story clearly explained the impact to readers, contained pertinent background information on the issue*

**Bridge Magazine**

and included a number of knowledgeable sources to flesh out the piece. Nice reporting.

## 2nd Place

**The News-Herald**

Same-sex marriage ruling 'couldn't come at a better time' for Allen Park couple

Jessica Strachan

Well-detailed account of a gay couple's reaction to legalization of gay marriage. Lots of emotion conveyed in this piece, along with important background on the legal/court issues surrounding the ruling. Also included was the voice of opposition to the law change, important to add balance to the piece. Very well done.

## 3rd Place

**The News-Herald**

Downriver communities cleaning up after severe flooding

Staff  
This piece provided expansive coverage of an issue that affect a wide area readership. Details were comprehensive, and it was particularly smart to break down coverage into different municipalities, set apart by subheads.

## Weekly/Specialty B - Spot News Story

29 Entries

### 1st Place

**Detroit Jewish News**

Profound Impact: Rachel Jacobs

Ronelle Grier

This was an incredibly thorough news obituary, well written and packed with details of a remarkable life cut short. Plenty of voices help paint a picture of the subject as the narrative walks us through her life.

### 2nd Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

Days of mourning

Amy Hubbell, Alan Campbell

Nice team effort covering a community tragedy. The multiple stories dovetail nicely to provide a full report on the fatal crash, the victim and other aspects of the incident -- all for the benefit of readers. Nice work.

### 3rd Place

**Detroit Jewish News**

Reunited

Lynne Konstantin

Rich in detail and filled with emotion, this unique reunion story captures two life stories spanning the decades. A well-crafted piece of writing.

## Weekly/Specialty C - Spot News Story

19 Entries

### 1st Place

**Gaylord Herald Times**

New shopping center planned

Mark Johnson

Comprehensive coverage of planned shopping center based on an exclusive sit-down with government officials and planners. The writer does a nice job explaining the impact the project will have on the area, as well as the steps needed to bring the project to completion.

### 2nd Place

**Gaylord Herald Times**

Gaylord tornado coverage

Chris Engle, Judy Wagley

Interesting coverage of a twister, with a weather-predicting rock brought into the sidebar piece on the storm. Good detail on the tornado is presented clearly and it provides context to the severity of the event.

### 3rd Place

**White Lake Beacon**

Community leader dies

Greg Means

Well-done news obituary on a prominent community leader. Good quotes from those who knew him and plenty of biographical information makes this a solid piece of reporting.

### Hon. Mention

**The County Press, Lapeer**

Rover nixes pipeline through county

Jeff Hogan

Judge did not comment.

## Weekly/Specialty D - Spot News Story

22 Entries

### 1st Place

**The Advance**

In A Jam - Log jam, floods force U.S. 223 bridge closure-Public safety provided on both sides of river

Melissa Burnor

Extensive and pertinent coverage to benefit readers from a variety of approaches. The breaking news was handled well with good color reporting and logistical and safety aspects important to readers. Well done.

### 2nd Place

**Cassopolis Vigilant**

A difficult choice

Scott Novak

Defly handled writing and reporting laid out a sensitive subject with grace and style. Loaded with good quotes and solid background material.

### 3rd Place

**Clarkston News**

Gas station incident ignites social media

Andrea Beaudoin

A difficult challenge to keep a story like this balanced and unbiased, but the reporter managed to stay neutral and report the facts as they were available. Nice tone on this piece.

### Hon. Mention

**The Boyne City Gazette**

Show Me the Money ... & Records

Benjamin Gohs

Judge did not comment.

## News Enterprise Reporting

### Daily A - News Enterprise Reporting

47 Entries

Very impressive field of work that made deciding the winners very tight and difficult. I want to acknowledge some of the other contenders who did not win but made for a really rough decision, including the multimedia effort with the child abuse project.

### 1st Place

**Detroit Free Press**

Trouble with Aramark, Michigan's prison food contractor

Paul Egan

Free Press reporter Paul Egan displayed excellent investigative/enterprise skills in nailing down this story, combined with solid writing that compelled editors to move it from initial Local cover start to A1. The watchdog work looks out for inmates who generally have no one to turn to when food or conditions are unacceptable. Inmates ARE human beings, too.

### 2nd Place

**Flint Journal**

Stolen Flint police guns used in crimes around Michigan

Gary Ridley

Nice work to dig deeper into the disappearance of Flint police weapons with a revealing report showing they were used elsewhere in crimes out of state. Solid reporting.

### 3rd Place

**The Ann Arbor News**

Judge Easthope Resigns

John Counts

Great use of FOIA and following through with court battle necessary to bring to light emails showing an improperly close relationship between a judge and an attorney.

### Hon. Mention

**Flint Journal**

Flint water

Ron Fonger

Another strong effort by the Flint Journal that started with problems with water corrosion impact at the GM plant and led the reporter to pursue the next obvious issue: If the water is that bad for vehicle making, what about people consuming it? The photo of the Flint officials toasting their water was priceless.

## Daily B - News Enterprise Reporting

17 Entries

### 1st Place

**Saginaw News**

*Hot Pursuit*

Brad Devereaux

*Excellent storytelling, quotes, and people populating make this an interesting enterprise work detailing the risks for a 2-team county sheriff's dept. at night in pursuit situations.*

### 2nd Place

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Clarence Gomery

Michael Walton, Matt Troutman

*Bizarre murder for hire story makes for compelling reading. Record Eagle kept peeling back the layers of the onion and the more they did and published what they found, the more something didn't smell right.*

### 3rd Place

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*'They have blood on their hands,' lawyer says, blames prosecutor's office for child's death*

Danielle Salisbury, Teresa Ghiloni

*Reporter Danielle Salisbury's digging and the people she sources the story with raises serious questions about lots of official decision-making and a mother's decision making that would let a man suspected in one child's murder move into a home and become a suspect in a second before being charged. Wheels of justice moved too slowly and a child paid for it.*

### Hon. Mention

**Saginaw News**

Oakley

Brad Devereaux

*Brad Devereaux used FOIA and persistence to get to the bottom of the story of little Oakley's "reserve" police dept. with a membership the size of the village itself and deep pocket donors to boot. He revealed the real reason behind the demand for reserve officer status: People with guns trying to get around concealed carry limitations so they can go more places with their guns. Reserve officers used some other places in Michigan, but not like Oakley, where the money the reservists donated help keep the dept. afloat and even paid for hams for all the residents. Devereaux provided both the meat and potatoes with this strong contender in a tough field.*

## Daily C - News Enterprise Reporting

26 Entries

*This was a tough category to narrow down to the top three and an honorable mention. Many stories were great reads, featured interesting topics and had unique approaches to storytelling. All should be congratulated.*

### 1st Place

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Child abuse package*

Rachel Brougham, Steve Zucker

*This was stellar storytelling and reporting, backed by facts and figures that didn't bog down the reader. The personal accounts featured made the stories flow and held interest. Well-researched and well-written stories.*

### 2nd Place

**Grand Haven Tribune**

Dewey Hill Cross

Staff

*Holy smokes! You can just read the tensions of this topic. Excellent reporting covering both sides of this hot-button issue - from the initial complaint to the removal of the cross to the sailor's anchor. Well done!*

### 3rd Place

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Suicide package*

Sheri McWhirter-O'Donnell

*Emotional and compelling storytelling that put names and faces on the tragic topic of suicides. The writer artfully crafted families' stories with the effects on communities and national data. Informative with a timely news value.*

## Hon. Mention

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Do the crime, do the time*

Steve Zucker

*Dare I say this was a "fun" read? The graphic presentation and writing were informative and interesting. If anything, this should help the reader - and even some lawyers - understand the intricate, Good job.*

## Daily D - News Enterprise Reporting

21 Entries

### 1st Place

**Sturgis Journal**

*Other people's money a series on embezzlement*

Kathy Jessup

*Excellent series examining embezzlement from various angles. Interesting insight from criminal and psychological points of view. Sharing offenders' and victims' stories added to the appeal of the series. Punchy leads drew me in and kept me reading.*

### 2nd Place

**Sentinel-Standard**

*Tornado Pummels Portland*

Lori Zadorozny, Nicholas Sulewski

*Thorough and compelling coverage of the ongoing struggles of communities recovering and rebuilding after a tornado. Good mix of officials providing information and residents sharing their experiences for effective storytelling. The story about the pastor, her elderly husband and the church bell pulled me in - I wanted more.*

### 3rd Place

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Caged teen*

Kate Hessling, Chris Aldridge, Casey Johnson

*Wow. When I started reading this series, I thought I knew where it was heading - but I was wrong. Fascinating stories on a couple who apparently couldn't come to terms that they could no longer take care of all of their special needs children, especially the 19-year-old. Powerful quotes from both sides of the issue.*

## Hon. Mention

**The Pioneer**

*Homeless Big Rapids family struggles to find housing*

Emily Grove-Davis

*It's not often a reporter can get a homeless family to share their story. A compelling look at a serious issue that is in every community, yet no one seems to have an answer. Good stuff.*

## Weekly/Specialty A - News Enterprise Reporting

34 Entries

### 1st Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*Teen prison rape*

Ted Roelofs, Ron French

*Enterprise journalism can be effective, especially when a pertinent subject isn't necessarily a timely one, such as prison rape. This under-reported topic was well researched and well presented.*

### 2nd Place

**Michigan Capitol Confidential**

*Civil Asset Forfeiture Coverage*

Anne Schieber

*A good topic that is certainly of importance to the public, but I wanted a little more depth*

### 3rd Place

**The News-Herald**

*Downriver residents speak out about rising drug abuse, hopes of ending stigma*

Ashley Sword

*A good piece with interesting sources, and, most importantly, it's pertinent.*

## Weekly/Specialty B - News Enterprise Reporting

34 Entries

*Some very good entries overall, though most lack the research and overall depth warranted in the enterprise category.*

**1st Place****Detroit Jewish News***Blight Buster*

Sam Gringlas

*A very interesting topic that was well researched, and presented clearly and with passion.***2nd Place****The Citizen, Ortonville***Hope after heroin*

Susan Bromley

*Heroin is always a relevant, and while I preferred more stats about the problem in Michigan, the first person accounts are always engrossing and rarely the same story told twice. Very interesting.***3rd Place****Leelanau Enterprise***Where can we live*

Patti Brandt, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Alan Campbell

*A good topic that appears to affect everyone, and underneath it all is a restrained anger of nothing being done to better build up this town.***Hon. Mention****Tuscola County Advertiser***Vassar may house Central American immigrants*

Tom Gilchrist

*A very interesting topic of immigration that takes the polarizing views of the county and shrinks it down to Anywhere, U.S.A. Effective in showing a small town approach to the issue.***Weekly/Specialty C - News Enterprise Reporting****27 Entries****1st Place****Allegan County News***Preparing for 150th anniversary of Davis capture*

Virginia Ransbottom

*This story is more history than new news, but it's so thorough and interesting, it'll take first place. Uncovering news is one important part of what newspapers do, but informing and reminding a community about its history is another - well done.***2nd Place****The County Press, Lapeer***Locked up in Lapeer*

Phil Foley

*A comprehensive look at the prison in the paper's midst - an interesting, local take on an issue that has been part of the national conversation recently - prisons in America.***3rd Place****Tecumseh Herald***Tecumseh Products Site*

Anthony Alaniz

*You really followed this story - way to stay on it.***Hon. Mention****The County Press, Lapeer***Marijuana proposal fails by 6 votes*

Alex Petrie

*This is a very solid story on an interesting topic - if it had a little more depth or if the entry included more of the paper's coverage on the issue, it would have easily placed much higher.***Weekly/Specialty D - News Enterprise Reporting****24 Entries****1st Place****The Advance***No Water in Toledo/Two Humanitarian Efforts*

Melissa Burnor

*Solid, multifaceted coverage of an issue very important to readers. You came at this from several angles with good sources - well done.***2nd Place****Drummond Island Digest***EUPA Examines Rate Schedule*

Julie Covert

*This story explains an issue that clearly struck a chord with readers in this small community - good job keeping your ear to the ground for rumors and answering them with facts.***3rd Place****The Advance***Burkholder's farm toy collection spans history*

Melissa Burnor

*Good job getting the story after being stonewalled by officials - it was smart to go straight to the source.***Government/Education News****Daily A - Government/Education News****27 Entries***This category was difficult to judge because there were so many outstanding entries. All of these journalists should be proud of the work they've done.***1st Place****Detroit Free Press***Inconsistent justice for college sex assault survivors*

David Jesse

*This is an excellent, in-depth look at a very serious problem. It's a topic that is of interest nationally. This series of articles was handled with gravity and balanced the facts with the emotional elements of a topic such as this. It really brought to light the disparity of how sexual assault cases at universities are handled.***2nd Place****Detroit Free Press***U.S. House candidate David Trott made millions in mortgage crisis*

John Wisely, L.L. Brasier

*This was a really comprehensive and extensively researched. I think the interviews with some of the people who lost their homes added a lot to the overall picture. That component of the package really humanized that aspect of the foreclosure business. And, I think voters have a right to know who they are voting for when they head to the polls. This gives readers far more information and insight than they would have gotten through campaigns and less in-depth reporting.***3rd Place****Muskegon Chronicle***Uncertain refuge: Abused, neglected Muskegon County children with tentative net since Child Haven closure*

Stephen Kloosterman

*The plight of foster children is one that, I think, often goes unnoticed. I don't think many readers probably give them much thought or understand where children go after they are removed from their homes. This series of stories gives readers a glimpse into a serious flaw within that system. It was very well done.***Hon. Mention****The Ann Arbor News***Whitmore Lake annexation*

Amy Biolchini, Lindsay Knake

*This is a piece of solid reporting that I'm sure was very informative to the readers. I appreciated the subheads throughout the longer stories. I think they really help make a long story a bit easier to read.***Daily B - Government/Education News****23 Entries****1st Place****Jackson Citizen Patriot***Jacksons \$3.6 million silver bullet falling flat, demolition program has questionable results*

Will Forgrave

*This was a solid, comprehensive piece about an issue that plagues many municipalities. It was informative. Readers want to know how their money is being spent and the outcomes of those expenditures. I liked hearing from officials and residents alike.***2nd Place****Holland Sentinel***Justice for all*

Amy Biolchini

*I like how the writer got right to the point in the lead about disparity within the school and how she not only presented numbers, but put them in context for the reader.*

### 3rd Place

**Bay City Times**

*There are plenty of political ties on Bay City's nonpartisan commission*

Andrew Dodson

*Readers want to know who is representing them and where the interests of elected officials lie. This article gives readers insight into their elected officials and the dynamic between them.*

### Hon. Mention

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Firearms in schools*

Sarah Elms

*This was a good look at a timely topic that likely shed light on the legality of open carry in schools as well as a push to arm school staff members.*

### Daily C - Government/Education News

#### 16 Entries

*Some strong entries in this collection.*

#### 1st Place

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Emmet County attempts to by land connected to commissioner*

Ryan Bentley

*Excellent watchdog reporting on a controversial land deal involving a county commissioner. The reporter offered aggressive and balanced reporting.*

#### 2nd Place

**Morning Sun**

*Longtime deputy faces criminal charges*

Susan Field, Rick Mills

*Strong series of stories on a deputy charged with a host of crimes.*

#### 3rd Place

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Leaders respond to school enrollment declines*

Craig Currier

*This is a fascinating story with lively writing and a great lead. Very well reported.*

### Hon. Mention

**Petoskey News-Review**

*The impact of Common Core*

Craig Currier

*Strong writing and an ambitious and admirable attempt to dive deeper into Common Core and its implications for schools and students.*

### Daily D - Government/Education News

#### 9 Entries

#### 1st Place

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Part of local court case goes missing*

Dave Shane, Chris Aldridge

*Strong story about the questionable handling of a court case. Aggressively reported with balanced writing.*

#### 2nd Place

**Greenville Daily News**

*Outman making second attempt to keep e-cigarettes away from kids*

Cory Smith

*This is a well-written story on a hot issue with a wide variety of voices.*

#### 3rd Place

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Agent begins probe into possible corruption*

Dave Shane, Chris Aldridge

*A strong story raising additional questions about the handling of a case involving the son of a local judge.*

### Hon. Mention

**Niles Daily Star**

*Niles school bond*

Craig Haupt

*A fine series of stories giving readers a look at the ramifications of an important school bond issue.*

### Weekly/Specialty A - Government/Education News

#### 32 Entries

#### 1st Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*"Why college costs so much"*

Ron French

*Great focus person who is an excellent illustration of the issue. Bullet pointing the information is great and makes for a strong, easy to read structure. Lots of good graphs, charts. 1975 comparison is both informative and fun. Huge statewide issue that impacts future of all residents.*

### 2nd Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*"How a single powerful senator killed serious reform of teacher evaluation"*

Ron French

*Wow! Great read. Compelling intro with clear, early nut graph. Great sourcing. Topic has impact on entire state.*

### 3rd Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*"Rough road ahead"*

Pat Shellenbarger, Mike Wilkinson

*Got off to a strong, compelling start with focus people. The series is well sourced, well written, providing depth from both sides of the issue. Nice work with the database to bring the story directly into readers' backyards.*

### Hon. Mention

**The News-Herald**

*Lincoln Park emergency manager appointment*

Anne Runkle

*Strong and comprehensive presentation broken down into easy chunks for comprehension. The writer does not get bogged down in unnecessary detail. Nice touch providing direct access to original document of consent agreement.*

### Weekly/Specialty B - Government/Education News

#### 13 Entries

#### 1st Place

**The Citizen, Ortonville**

*Religious Diversity Journeys*

Susan Bromley

*I really enjoyed this series of stories following students studying different faith groups. This is what community newspapers should do: offer readers a window into aspects of their community they may not know.*

#### 2nd Place

**Bay Voice**

*Alleged composting site under fire*

Katelyn Larese

*A good selection of stories following an important community issue.*

#### 3rd Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*9-1-1 signs too small*

Eric Carlson

*The reporter's conversational, engaging writing style served readers well on this story.*

### Hon. Mention

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*Glen Lake Board of Education vs. Joan Groening*

Amy Hubbell

*The reporter and the paper showed admirable grit in pursuing this story.*

### Weekly/Specialty C - Government/Education News

#### 23 Entries

#### 1st Place

**Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-News**

*Dunsmore out at Houghton Lake series*

Cheryl Holladay

*This is a strong collection of stories about the ouster of a superintendent. The paper showed tenacity in pressing for answers regarding the board's actions.*

#### 2nd Place

**Belleville-Area Independent**

*Belleville gets \$50,000 judgment against it over car*

Rosemary Oztman

*This is an engaging, fascinating story with lively writing and strong reporting.*

#### 3rd Place

**Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-News**

*Resignations questioned*

Cheryl Holladay

*A good collection of stories examining irregularities in the resignation of school board members. The paper was aggressive on this story.*

**Hon. Mention** **Allegan County News**

*Township clarifies zoning: outdoor sales prohibited*

Ryan Lewis

*A fine series of stories detailing the dispute between a zoning board and a home-based business.*

**Weekly/Specialty D - Government/Education News**

**17 Entries**

**1st Place** **The Boyne City Gazette**

*\$700K Cuts Loom*

Benjamin Gohs

*In-depth, yet easy to understand and well-built look at the schools' budget issues. You can get the basics - as you should - from the first several graphs, while the rest offers detail. The story structure is well-thought through and presented logically. Nice use of subheads to highlight topics.*

**2nd Place** **State Line Observer**

*Alternative Ed*

David Green

*Creative story structure and approach here that helps us see the class through the students' eyes, supports the material and provides insight*

**3rd Place** **The Commercial Record**

*Protest 'butterfly' protected as art, men say*

Scott Sullivan

*Writers have provided good, clear and thorough summaries of issues involved which is a task with such a long-running and multi-faceted story. The coverage shows stamina and determination in following through on issue that has big impact on community.*

**Business/Agriculture News**

**Daily A - Business/Agriculture News**

**25 Entries**

*This was a strong and crowded category. You may want to consider a separate category for long-term projects, which did not compare well with the other, simpler features.*

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

*Bankruptcy guides to Detroit pensioners*

Susan Tompor

*The writer does a superb public service to Detroit's pensioners facing an enormously important vote. The effort put into this package demonstrates journalism at its best - helping the public understand the complex issues that can affect their lives.*

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

*Auto insurance rates put brakes on Detroit*

JC Reindl

*Excellent reporting, untangling the complicated relationship between insurance costs and its impact on real people and the city of Detroit.*

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

*Asian Influence*

Matthew Miller

*This could have been a boring numbers story, but it wasn't. Instead, the reporter shows us the impact Asian immigrants/students are having on the community through the eyes of the immigrants, students and business owners.*

**Hon. Mention** **Grand Rapids Press**

*Saving Walloon Lake*

Garret Ellison

*Impressive reporting and clarity of writing, combine for what, in the wrong hands, could have been a very dry story. Instead, we get a nuanced narrative about a town trying to survive and the entrepreneur with a romantic notion on how to do it.*

**Daily B - Business/Agriculture News**

**16 Entries**

**1st Place** **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*A tough sell: Jackson County isn't prepared for outside industry to move in*

Will Forgrave

*Wonderful set up for this story. The car dealer analogy immediately clues the reader into the challenge faced by the economic development group.*

**2nd Place** **Herald-Palladium**

*The Beer Boom*

Jeremy D. Bonfiglio

*Smart story about a wonderful dilemma. Can you have too many craft beers. Writing and sourcing are top notch.*

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

*Branching out: Hybrid grape varieties promise good crop*

Carol Thompson

*Solid writing. Knowledge of the subject shines through. I learned something from this story.*

**Daily C - Business/Agriculture News**

**7 Entries**

**1st Place** **Petoskey News-Review**

*Company marks 70 years on island route*

Ryan Bentley

*Interesting story. Well written with good detail on the company. A good addition would have been more comment from island residents or businesses who rely on the service when they are cut off from the mainland.*

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

*Winter puts chill in home sales*

Ryan Bentley

*Clearly written. Good grasp of subject. Missing, however, was a paragraph or two describing what was unusual about that winter. If it was bad for northern Michigan, I can only imagine that it must have been really bad.*

**3rd Place** **Grand Haven Tribune**

*Beaches and beer*

*Good trend story. Good use of sources. Delving into the brewers' motivation to start their companies and comments from patrons would have made it stronger.*

**Daily D - Business/Agriculture News**

**7 Entries**

**1st Place** **Greenville Daily News**

*A Country Boy Can Survive: Montabella High School Grad Fills His Father's Shoes On The Farm*

Elisabeth Waldon

*First rate story telling. There is a lot to like about this story. The writing. The reporting. Good pacing and organization. This was the first story I read in the category and it became and it set the bar high.*

**2nd Place** **Greenville Daily News**

*Greenville area hops farm reaping benefits of craft beer craze*

Cory Smith

*Good enterprise idea. Smith does a nice job of blending the rigors of hop growing, with the personal side of the Miller's story.*

**3rd Place** **The Pioneer**

*Fracking splits opinions*

Adam Gac

*Balanced and easy to follow story on a complex subject. Gac does a good job weaving the viewpoints with on-point comparisons to other states where fracking occurs.*



## Hon. Mention

*Wright's Bake Shop says farewell*

Karin Armbruster

*Nice, tight writing. Good ear for quotes - "the early bird gets the doughnut" - priceless.*

**The Pioneer**

## Weekly/Specialty A - Business/Agriculture News

17 Entries

1st Place

*Poverty in Paradise*

Nancy Derringer, Ted Roelofs, Mike Wilkinson

*Reporting on poverty often gets bogged down with numbers and percentages that end up meaning nothing to the reader. This in-depth series was a compelling from the first sentence to the last. Amazing reporting, writing and storytelling - real people sharing real stories. Bravo!*

**Bridge Magazine**

2nd Place

*"More jobs, less pay"*

Ted Roelofs, Chastity Pratt Dawsey, Mike Wilkinson, A.J. Jones

*This fantastic series shows that a decrease in the unemployment rate doesn't tell the whole story. This was a very informative and interesting look at wage gaps, working poor - and some entrepreneurial spirit of business leaders. Great read from beginning to end. Well done!*

**Bridge Magazine**

3rd Place

*"Twenty years after NAFTA, a min Detroit rises in Mexico"*

Serena Maria Daniels

*Not an easy topic to capture readers' attention - NAFTA - but the writers cleverly weaved in business owners, industry leaders and workers to tell the story of the good, the bad and the ugly of NAFTA in Michigan's economy and Mexico's.*

**Bridge Magazine**

Hon. Mention

*Downtown Wyandotte teems with development, highlighted by former*

*Sears building project*

Jim Kasuba

*Lots of detail and history contributed to this piece on redevelopment of a downtown eyesore. Solid reporting with plenty of sources made this a must-read.*

**The News-Herald**

## Weekly/Specialty B - Business/Agriculture News

14 Entries

*The top entries in this category were all very close. All were well-crafted, well-researched pieces about a variety of businesses.*

1st Place

*A new year, a changing McDonald's*

Sally Rummel

*Good insight about challenges facing fast food giant. Graphics and sidebars helped tell story.*

**Tri-County Times**

2nd Place

*Challenged vintners say they're 'OK'*

Jason Bushen

*Well-researched and gave good look at operations of vintners and wine-making industry.*

**Leelanau Enterprise**

3rd Place

*Mother Lode*

Lynne Konstantin

*Interesting, excellent graphics. Good insight into a start-up business.*

**Detroit Jewish News**

Hon. Mention

*Who the heck is Dewey?*

Sally Rummel

*Excellent retrospective that provided insight not only into the business, but also the person behind the name.*

**Tri-County Times**

## Weekly/Specialty C - Business/Agriculture News

19 Entries

1st Place

*Holy cow, that's timing!*

Brad Flory

*Interesting topic, well-researched. Make sure connection between topic and effect on business is clear.*

**The Exponent**

2nd Place

*Farm Rescue 9-1-1*

Phil Foley

*Very interesting look at a lesser-known event.*

**The County Press, Lapeer**

3rd Place

*Big changes in logging since early lumberjacks first settled this area*

Lorene Marshall

*Nicely written retrospective piece, that includes necessary present-day information.*

**Gaylord Herald Times**

Hon. Mention

*Group works to lure visitors to county*

Brad Flory

*Tightly written look at regional promotion. Connection between critics could be more aligned.*

**The Exponent**

## Weekly/Specialty D - Business/Agriculture News

10 Entries

1st Place

*Corporate Refugee Finds Success*

*Excellent lead. Well-drawn personality profile combined with business feature.*

**The Tri-City Times**

2nd Place

*Food Truck Report Reveals Mixed Views*

Benjamin Gohs

*Well-researched look at an issue that was of importance to community. Look at ways to provide data in graphic format versus all written.*

**The Boyne City Gazette**

3rd Place

*Farmers in limbo*

Maria Brown

*Nice story about issues affecting agricultural community.*

**The Tri-City Times**

Hon. Mention

*\$12 Min Wage Proposed*

Benjamin Gohs

*Well-written. Lots of research. Look at ways of summarizing information in alternate format, such as graphs, charts, tables, etc.*

**The Boyne City Gazette**

## Feature Story

### Daily A - Feature Story

81 Entries

*Super competitive competition. Oh, my, what terrific reporting and writing.*

*The winners should be very proud. My original trim from 81 entries got me to 34 that were worthy of recognition.*

1st Place

*What Poor Looks Like: The spirit and struggles of people getting by*

Mitch Albom

*This is what outstanding journalism looks like not only in Detroit but everywhere else. As heartbreaking as Margaret Terry and John Glover's story was, Diane Bailey's story even more impactful. It is amazing what the human spirit can endure. It's one of the best stories I've read in 30 years in professional journalism. The writing, the reporting, the emotional connection with the subject. Talk about putting a face on poverty in Detroit. When you see a Mitch Albom byline, you expect a lot. This exceeded expectations. A standout entry and easy first-place choice among a strong field.*

**Detroit Free Press**



**2nd Place****Flint Journal**

*The super-secret, epic journey of one pizza man's encounter with the Batmobile*

Scott Atkinson

*Fantastic tale. So well told. I couldn't stop reading it. Everything about this story was fun. Great, great job.*

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

*Laura's story: Fighting cancer, finding joy*

Rachel Greco

*Extremely well-written. The reporter captured the little girl's sense of humor and her positive outlook on life. She connected with readers who naturally would wonder how a parent would explain this to a child and if the child would understand. Terrific story. There were many stories like this, but this one was the best.*

**Hon. Mention****Grand Rapids Press**

*Detroit's first gay marriage unites college sweethearts after 45 years together*

Gus Burns

*Great storytelling without going on too long. Great use of quotes and humor. The matter-of-fact tone about this couple really made the story work well. It didn't get over-dramatic on an issue that was repeatedly over-dramatized in many corners of the country.*

**Daily B - Feature Story****34 Entries**

*Overall this was a strong competition. I went back and forth on my top five stories and here's where I landed. Congratulations to all. There was a lot of depth and 15 to 20 of these entries were worthy of recognition.*

**1st Place****Saginaw News**

*Black and white is the new orange? Sheriff buys jail jumpsuits after orange becomes 'cool'*

Andy Hoag

*This is a really good angle on a story that has news in it, but definitely hits on the features aspect. The reporter did a nice job of weaving in all the facts and issues and didn't overwrite the story. Nice job.*

**2nd Place****Bay City Times**

*Pulaski Hall to close after 113 years in Bay City, but not without one last polka party*

Andrew Dodson

*Really well done. Great historical piece. Good reporting. I got the feel of what it was like back in the day. I also understand the challenges and why it's closing.*

**3rd Place****Herald-Palladium**

*The Drunken Botanist*

Jeremy D. Bonfiglio

*Highly entertaining book review, essentially. The reporter did a nice job capturing the author's unique subject matter.*

**Hon. Mention****Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*'Since I've been shot, this is the first time I've truly been happy,' teen turns to Jackson College to reach dreams*

Leanne Smith

*Interesting story. Nice job of telling the young man's story, warts and all.*

**Daily C - Feature Story****50 Entries****1st Place****Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**

*Colorful condoms*

Abby Welsh

*Delightful story, started with an attention-getting lead. The reporter did a wonderful job of capturing the women's sense of humor and telling of their business. This is a nice treat for readers with a sense of humor.*

**2nd Place****Grand Haven Tribune**

*The hardest decision*

Marie Havenga

*Touching story. So sad. the reporter did a nice job of getting the family to talk and the boy to talk. It really brought home the tragedy the family was living through*

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

*A Healing Place*

Christopher Nagy

*Terrific story and history lesson. It debunked myths and enlightened. Very well done.*

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

*One-night stand: Pop-up restaurant opens, closes March 15 in Howell*

Christopher Nagy

*Loved the explanation of the pop-up experience and the way chefs can get recognized.*

**Daily D - Feature Story****21 Entries**

*The first-place winner won in a landslide. Just a really nice personality feature. Several good reads among the competitors.*

**1st Place****Huron Daily Tribune**

*A Dance to last forever*

Chris Aldridge

*Very nice story. The reporter did a great job with finding people to talk about this special person. He captured the heartbreak of losing her husband, and got her to talk about the laments such as missing on the kids' sports. Extremely well done.*

**2nd Place****Niles Daily Star**

*Lost & found*

Craig Hauptert

*Very nice story. well-reported. Could have tightened it up a little, but overall it was good.*

**3rd Place****Greenville Daily News**

*CEO Bauer recalls his World War II combat experience ... and life after*

Brad Klosner

*This was largely well-written and engaging but too long. Tightening it up would have helped. The gratuitous profanity wasn't needed, either. I enjoyed it, though.*

**Hon. Mention****The Pioneer**

*End of an era*

Candy Allan

*Nice story about a unique group. Putting their accomplishments up higher in the story and maybe an anecdote from someone they helped would have elevated it.*

**Weekly/Specialty A - Feature Story****61 Entries****1st Place****Bridge Magazine**

*One teacher 25 kids: A Detroit teacher goes to work*

Chastity Pratt Dawsey

*Such a great piece. It's a well-written story on an interesting topic. The reporter put a lot of effort and skill into the story.*

**2nd Place****Warren Weekly**

*We had to run for our lives*

Maria Allard

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place****Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle**

*Fraser family reflects on military background*

Nick Mordowanec

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Tri-County Citizen**

*Wedding dress endures 50 years and three generations of brides*  
Mandilee Hecht  
Judge did not comment.

**Weekly/Specialty B - Feature Story**

**49 Entries**

*With so many entries, multiples by some of the same writers, it was difficult to choose only four.*

**1st Place**

**Detroit Jewish News**

*Call Him Hunter*

Ronelle Grier

*Well-written, has quotes from variety of sources and some research information.*

**2nd Place**

**The Citizen, Ortonville**

*My Life as a Navy SEAL*

David Fleet

*Extensive narrative that keeps reader's attention.*

**3rd Place**

**Grosse Pointe News**

*A step forward*

Mary Anne Brush

*Well-written, has some information other than direct quotes.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Detroit Jewish News**

*Perfect Prom*

Stacy Gittleman

*Good lead, good quotes, good explanation of program.*

**Weekly/Specialty C - Feature Story**

**53 Entries**

*With more than 50 entries, loads of competition in this category.*

**1st Place**

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

*The transplant brothers*

Andrew Skinner, Mary Beth Crain

*Compelling tale of two friends drawn closer by a shared transplant donor.*

**2nd Place**

**Tecumseh Herald**

*Cold case justice comes to Tecumseh*

Mary Kay McPartlin

*Solid research and historical background helps bolster the retelling of an intriguing cold case.*

**3rd Place**

**The County Press, Lapeer**

*Inked for Eternity*

Stevie Thieda

*Nice storytelling, including anecdotes from the subject herself, about a "colorful" character.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Tecumseh Herald**

*A different normal*

Anthony Alaniz

*I kept getting drawn to this story of a 6-year-old who recognizes that he is different from other boys. A couple of notes: I wanted to hear from school officials, psychologists and the social-service agencies involved in this child's life. Also, by naming the parents and the school, you've identified the boy himself without naming him.*

**Weekly/Specialty D - Feature Story**

**41 Entries**

**1st Place**

**The Union Enterprise**

*Couple finds lasting love at local nursing home*

Virginia Ransbottom

*Judge did not comment.*

**2nd Place**

**Ile Camera**

*Steps for Stella*

Lena Khzouz

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

**Oxford Leader**

*O brother, where art thou?*

C.J. Carnacchio

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Drummond Island Digest**

*Ninety-Three Miles North*

Clare Benson

*Judge did not comment.*

**Best Editorial**

**Daily A - Best Editorial**

**25 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Supreme Court ruling brings no justice for state's juvenile lifers*

Brian Dickerson

*This national issue is going to have an enormous impact on Juvenile offenders. It is good to see someone shining a light on the situation.*

**2nd Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*West Michigan, let's talk about LGBT acceptance*

Zane McMillin

*Well-reasoned approach to this topic.*

**3rd Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Michigan must reform its school vaccination requirements*

Jen Eyer

*The immunization debate draws a lot of emotional responses, so it is good to see a newspaper take a nuanced look at the issue.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Using personal e-mail for public records? Don't*

Nancy Kaffer

*Promoting public accountability by officials should always be a primary goal of local newspapers. Keep up the good work.*

**Daily B - Best Editorial**

**15 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Slippery rock a flimsy excuse for law-breaking*

Mike Tyree

*Holding public officials accountable should always be a goal of the local media. Like the conversational tone of this piece.*

**2nd Place**

**Herald-Palladium**

*Welcome to St. No*

Dale Brewer

*Local business is the lifeblood of these towns. Glad to see a local newspaper standing up for advancement of the community.*

**3rd Place**

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Local politician helps us all understand good government*

Mike Tyree

*This writer really knows how to draw in readers, keeping them entertained while promoting his lesson.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Saginaw News**

*Efforts of Selma-to-Montgomery marchers 50 years ago allow us to make a difference today*

Bernie Eng

*Liked the use of links to stories to give readers a more complete view of this important social issue.*

### Daily C - Best Editorial

18 Entries

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

*Religious freedom bill wrong for state*

Mike Malott

*Using real-world descriptions of what could happen if the logic of this legislation was taken to the extreme really puts the issue in perspective.*

*Great job.*

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

*County administrator's, commissioners' actions shocking*

Editorial Staff

*Holding public officials accountable to their constituents should always be one of the primary goals of the media. Great community service by this entry.*

**3rd Place** **Grand Haven Tribune**

*City backed into corner on cross issue*

Mark Brooky

*When a community is roiled in a controversial discussion, it is the local newspaper that needs to step up and be a voice of reason. That is why this editorial does its job.*

**Hon. Mention** **Grand Haven Tribune**

*Save the memories, not the tree*

Matt DeYoung

*This editorial makes one think about what is more important, a tree or the public dollars that could eventually be saved by removing it. Very well reasoned.*

### Daily D - Best Editorial

9 Entries

**1st Place** **Huron Daily Tribune**

*Not in our lakes*

Kate Hessling

*A strong editorial standing up for a critical regional resource. The notion is disposing of nuclear waste near the lakes seems illogical and is clearly unlawful. This editorial amplifies the cry of local officials and residents and shows the publication's understanding of and connection with the region.*

**2nd Place** **Niles Daily Star**

*Guns have no place in school*

Michael Caldwell, Ambrosia Yoakum, Scott Novak

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place** **Huron Daily Tribune**

*County board drops the ball*

Dave Shane

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention** **Huron Daily Tribune**

*DTE official does not belong on county committee*

Dave Shane

*Judge did not comment.*

### Weekly/Specialty A - Best Editorial

3 Entries

**1st Place** **Spinal Column Newsweekly**

*Voters Deserve to see politician funding reports*

Jim Stevenson, Ali Armstrong

*Strong commentary on an important issue with solid analysis that helps readers know why a campaign deadline might be missed and why they should ultimately be concerned.*

**2nd Place** **The News-Herald**

*Good luck: Emergency manager faces tall task in Lincoln Park*

The News-Herald

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place** **Huron County View**

*Family of Shingle Man hopes to continue his legacy*

Kelly Krager

*Judge did not comment.*

### Weekly/Specialty B - Best Editorial

8 Entries

**1st Place** **Detroit Jewish News**

*U-M Must Monitor Students Civil Rights*

Robert Sklar

*The publication produces powerful editorials that challenge readers to think critically about important issues, that stand up for important ideals and that connect deeply with its readership. This editorial, supporting a student movement to challenge anti-Semitism, was superbly crafted - the strongest of several excellent pieces entered.*

**2nd Place** **Detroit Jewish News**

*Multitude Of Voices Key To Sustaining JCC*

Robert Sklar

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place** **Grosse Pointe News**

*A new beginning*

Joe Warner

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention** **Leelanau Enterprise**

*On being partisan, and the need for forums*

Alan Campbell

*Judge did not comment.*

### Weekly/Specialty C - Best Editorial

13 Entries

**1st Place** **Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-News**

*Another reason for concern*

Eric Hamp

*This publication embraces its role as watchdog on elected officials. It produces strongly worded editorials backed up by research, calls on officials to be transparent in their work and holds them accountable. The editorial board has no shortage of potential material and attacks each moment with focus and purpose.*

**2nd Place** **Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-News**

*Confidence lost*

Eric Hamp

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place** **The Exponent**

*Township role in double payment*

Matt Schepeler

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention** **The Exponent**

*Follow the rules JC, other township*

Jeff Steers

*Judge did not comment.*

### Weekly/Specialty D - Best Editorial

14 Entries

**1st Place** **Oxford Leader**

*Vote NO on community rec. center*

C.J. Carnacchio

*The Oxford Leader produces consistently strong editorials on topics that should be of utmost importance to its community. Here, voters are urged to shoot down a proposed project through a thought-out and informed argument for fiscal responsibility and commonsense. Well done.*

**2nd Place** **Oxford Leader**

*For the third time, vote NO on the Oxford Public Library tax*

C.J. Carnacchio

*Judge did not comment.*

### 3rd Place

*Coursers legislation*  
Catherine Minolli  
*Judge did not comment.*

### Hon. Mention

*Police presence a positive*  
Marcia Loader  
*Judge did not comment.*

### Best Column

#### Daily A - Best Column

23 Entries

##### 1st Place

*Kids fight -- and the teacher gets tossed?*

Mitch Albom

*Wow, strong opinion writing about an almost unbelievable event and delves into the questions surrounding it.*

##### 2nd Place

*Love can exist in the absence of memory*

Stephen Henderson

*A touching and heart-breaking column about dementia and the family.*

##### 3rd Place

*Six minutes in Eaton County led to tragedy*

Judy Putnam

*Judge did not comment.*

##### Hon. Mention

*I am affirmative action*

Stephen Henderson

*Judge did not comment.*

#### Daily B - Best Column

18 Entries

##### 1st Place

*Meet Bay City's Bob McMann, 4-time cancer survivor and the man behind those varsity letters*

Rob Clark

*A terrific column about a colorful cancer survivor*

##### 2nd Place

*Training Day*

Curtis Wildfong, Emily Brower

*An exciting, informative first-person looks into police training with the local department.*

##### 3rd Place

*Brad Flory column: Meet the waitress so special customers gave her a car*

Brad Flory

*A true feel-good story.*

#### Daily C - Best Column

20 Entries

##### 1st Place

*Keep the family unit strong, united*

Steve Murch

*An interesting take on family ties and disagreements*

##### 2nd Place

*Lessons learned from 105 years of a grandmother's love*

Rick Mills

*A terrific look back at a life and a family*

##### 3rd Place

*The punk rock hair*

Jeremy McBain

*A funny take on parenthood*

**The Tri-City Times**

**The Advance**

**Detroit Free Press**

**Detroit Free Press**

**Lansing State Journal**

**Detroit Free Press**

**Bay City Times**

**Holland Sentinel**

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

**Alpena News**

**Morning Sun**

**Petoskey News-Review**

### Hon. Mention

*Take a breath, folks, Corunna kids will be fine under plan*

Dan Basso

*Judge did not comment.*

### Daily D - Best Column

15 Entries

#### 1st Place

*Shark Weak*

Maureen Burns

*Compelling. Read the whole thing without thinking about it.*

#### 2nd Place

*Protecting our white gold*

Craig Hauptert

*Judge did not comment.*

#### 3rd Place

*Making it through our most difficult days*

Dave Shane

*Judge did not comment.*

#### Hon. Mention

*Audora Burg column entry*

Audora Burg

*Judge did not comment.*

### Weekly/Specialty A - Best Column

10 Entries

#### 1st Place

*Mother Lode: There's plenty of time for everything, but it comes disguised as waiting*

Cathy Runyon

*Judge did not comment.*

#### 2nd Place

*Phil Power*

Phil Power

*Judge did not comment.*

#### 3rd Place

*DEQ, MEDC and Snyder have a lot of explaining to do on Several permit*

Craig Farrand

*Judge did not comment.*

#### Hon. Mention

*Stein set a rare example*

Kelly Krager

*Judge did not comment.*

### Weekly/Specialty B - Best Column

28 Entries

#### 1st Place

*So You Think Elvis was Offensive?*

Alan Muskovitz

*Judge did not comment.*

#### 2nd Place

*Above the Fold*

Harry Kirsbaum

*Judge did not comment.*

#### 3rd Place

*At Home: Secret Retreat*

Lynne Konstantin

*Judge did not comment.*

#### Hon. Mention

*A summer of change for our family*

Mary Anne Brush

*Judge did not comment.*

**The Argus-Press**

**Greenville Daily News**

**Niles Daily Star**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

**Sturgis Journal**

**Grand Valley Advance**

**Bridge Magazine**

**The News-Herald**

**Huron County View**

**Detroit Jewish News**

**Detroit Jewish News**

**Detroit Jewish News**

**Grosse Pointe News**

*I laughed out loud at the beginning – the writing was that good. Rather Brautigan-esque. Loved the humor. Man, I'd buy a newspaper just to read this guy's column – what a character. Lots of personality in the writing. Only criticism: Not all jokes are winners. But enough of them were.*

#### Hon. Mention

Easter and God's forgiveness

Mike Dunn

*I would not normally gravitate to a column on religion, but the image of this writer walking down a prison corridor to minister to a serial killer was well-written, and stuck with me well after I read it. The lesson on Easter was pretty deftly written, too, so I rather enjoyed the catechism, after all. This writer has a knack for delivering the religious lesson in lively prose, judging from his other entries in this contest. My only suggestion to make this column better would have been to re-create bits of the writer's conversation with the killer – write it like you'd see it in fiction – but I wonder if the writer decided against it for the purpose of preserving the sanctity of his private ministering. Still, a vivid piece.*

**The Missaukee Sentinel**

### Best Newspaper Design

#### Daily A - Best Newspaper Design

6 Entries

1st Place

The Kalamazoo Gazette for Best Newspaper Design  
Staff

*Very strong graphically. This newspaper pays a lot of attention to space, including negative space, and does a wonderful job presenting the news. I especially appreciated the design team's ability to segment stories in bite-size chunks for easier comprehension.*

2nd Place

'We had a job to do' Veteran's edition  
Staff

*Strong, functional design throughout the edition. The presentation for the Veterans package is exceptional. Great images combined with crisply written vignettes show the strong support for military and veterans.*

3rd Place

Ann Arbor News  
Staff

*Another very strong design entry. The design is airy, functional and easy to read. I particularly liked the Faces in the Crowd feature from a presentation standpoint. It's simply and shows the reader that the event is important to your market.*

Hon. Mention

Open for business  
Staff

*Very clean design with great readability. The staff knows how to use lift outs and accent items to move a reader through the sections. Overall very strong.*

**Muskegon Chronicle**

#### Daily B - Best Newspaper Design

3 Entries

1st Place

'Naming Names' of Oakley Police Department reservists  
Staff

*Fantastic. From the Naming Names A2 centerpiece to the functional sports design and all of the wonderful photo play in between. Great design work.*

2nd Place

Drawing Conflict  
Staff

*Fine use of typography and graphical elements leads to an enjoyable reading experience. Nicely executed.*

3rd Place

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Staff

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

**The Mining Journal**

### Weekly/Specialty C - Best Column

34 Entries

*Excellent entries, but could only choose four, and the four I chose really stood out because of the authors' writing style.*

1st Place

Doomed to repeat and repeat  
Lorene Parshall

*I LOVED this piece. Smart writing by a smart writer. Clear, informative, well-researched. It was a joy to read. Since I'm editor of my newspaper, I've edited many, many columns for my paper's editorial page, and I must say that this is one of the best pieces I've read – anywhere. The lead drew me in, and the information packed into it was impressive. I believe in constructive criticism, but I honestly can't think of anything I could offer. It was pretty darn perfect. Congrats! Well done!*

**Gaylord Herald Times**

2nd Place

I've got to say, I really miss Kevin Daley  
Phil Foley

*A great piece of humor. I laughed throughout – and I don't even know Kevin Daley, though as a journalist I've encountered politicians like him. Great turns of phrase. Example: "Some would suggest that if divine intervention were involved that one might do slightly better than 36 percent of the primary vote." Brilliant stuff! This writer's other entries were humorous, and good. This was a grand slam home run – well-written, opinionated, funny, informative.*

**The County Press, Lapeer**

3rd Place

Brain in Neutral, Mouth in Gear  
Alex Petrie

*Love this writer's style. The lead is particularly effective because of his style. Great prose in the beginning. Remainder is good too, and I like the way the writer's ending connects with the beginning.*

**The County Press, Lapeer**

Hon. Mention

Passing on fatherly advice  
Jeremy Speer

*Loved the writer's style. The lead hooked me. Because of the good writing, felt like I was there, awaiting word on whether my child would be a boy or girl – an experience many, many readers can identify with. Clear and crisp writing galvanized the connection with the lead. The advice at the end was deftly handled, too.*

**Gaylord Herald Times**

### Weekly/Specialty D - Best Column

32 Entries

*There were some entries that clearly stood head and shoulders above the rest, writers whose columns went beyond simply providing information. I gravitated toward those pieces that were particularly evocative, writers who wrote with emotion.*

1st Place

Don't Get Me Wrong  
Benjamin Gohs

*Very well written, point is clearly states. Particularly enjoyed the ending, with concise questions posed rapid-fire style – it was VERY effective. The clarity of the writing impressed me a lot. Only criticism: Watch punctuation. Separating a long sentence into two can at times be more effective.*

**The Boyne City Gazette**

2nd Place

Branding Idea  
Catherine Minolli

*The lead was very well-written and effective, with its short sentences (one only a word long). Using the "branding" trend to draw me in worked, the idea was clever. Clear writing throughout. Criticism: Verb tenses got funky, and punctuation mistakes stopped me occasionally. But the writing is passionate – I felt I, the reader, could feel the conviction and desire to make the point. It pours forth.*

**The Tri-City Times**

3rd Place

Blue Star: Something Else  
Scott Sullivan

**The Commercial Record**

*Comprehensive packaging. Some attention to detail (like the A1 cutout of the Marquette player) hold this newspaper back a little with design. Overall, however, lots of graphical elements and a fast-paced design.*

### Daily C - Best Newspaper Design

2 Entries

1st Place

**Petoskey News-Review**

May 22 edition

Staff

*Great use of photography and strong attention to detail throughout the edition. This newspaper cares for its readers and community and it is obvious in the great care put into organization and design of the newspaper - all built around community coverage.*

2nd Place

**Grand Haven Tribune**

Grand Haven Tribune

Staff

*Nice design -- err, redesign -- work. The edition flows logically with a lot of nice use of photos, graphics and typography.*

### Daily D - Best Newspaper Design

1 Entries

1st Place

**Greenville Daily News**

Design

Staff

*There is only one entry in this category, which is unfortunate. The Daily News does a nice job with clean, crisp page design and likely would be a winner even in a full field of contestants.*

### Weekly/Specialty B - Best Newspaper Design

3 Entries

1st Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

May 21, 2015 edition

Staff

*Great style and design. The designer keeps a common theme and moves the reader through the section with elegant and purposeful design. Wonderfully executed.*

2nd Place

**Tri-County Times**

Tri-County Times July 19, 2015

Staff

*Jam-packed sections with interesting an innovative design touches. Clearly the design team at the Times puts a lot of time and attention into making compelling pages that draw in readers.*

3rd Place

**Detroit Jewish News**

Detroit Jewish News issue April 2, 2015

Staff

*Major undertaking. Voluminous section. The staff does a wonderful job producing this section.*

### Weekly/Specialty C - Best Newspaper Design

6 Entries

1st Place

**The County Press, Lapeer**

Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014

Staff

*Clean and balanced, this design was easy on the eyes with good spacing and typography.*

2nd Place

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

OHJ 9-25-14

Staff

*A colorful and dynamic design, this paper was eye-catching.*

3rd Place

**Gaylord Herald Times**

Gaylord Herald Times Entry

Staff

*Though very restrained, the simplicity of this design made for easy reading.*

Hon. Mention

**Tecumseh Herald**

07\_24\_14\_Tecumseh Herald

Staff

*Judge did not comment.*

### Weekly/Specialty D - Best Newspaper Design

6 Entries

1st Place

**State Line Observer**

State Line Observer

Staff

*Typography and balance stood out in this entry. A great example of designing for the reader.*

2nd Place

**The Commercial Record**

(Whole issue, Commercial Record, July 9, 2015)

Staff

*On the whole, a clean and easy-to-read design.*

3rd Place

**The Advance**

July 1, 2015

Staff

*Straight-to-the point layout.*

Hon. Mention

**The Lake Orion Review**

New housing on the horizon in Orion Township

Staff

*Judge did not comment.*

### Best Page or Pages Design

#### Daily A - Best Page or Pages Design

19 Entries

1st Place

**Detroit Free Press**

SACK INK

Ryan Ford

*Fantastically dense with information, but easy to read and interesting. Spot on typography. Beautiful.*

2nd Place

**The Oakland Press**

Gay marriage decision

Mike Sandula

*Strong design honors lengthy coverage of a momentous event.*

3rd Place

**The Ann Arbor News**

Ann Arbor News

Staff

*Effective centerpiece juggles a lot of pieces of information while still being clear and simple.*

#### Daily B - Best Page or Pages Design

20 Entries

1st Place

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Food cover from April 18

Rich Lakeberg

*The overall page design is clean, balanced and well-planned. This particular design stands above all other entries in its understated but masterful treatment of the centerpiece art: the left edge of the mint leaf breaks just outside the lines; the cherry stem becomes a dramatic - yet restrained - swoosh of color linking head and subhead, underscoring the "T," bisecting the comma and ending with a gesture toward "nosh." Replicating the green mint leaf through a transparency in the initial drop cap adds balance and another connection between art and text. It is both subtle and effective - the kind of design that ties all elements together and enhances the reading experience.*

2nd Place

**Herald-Palladium**

Holding Out For A Hero

Katie Krawczak

*This design is less subtle - and intentionally so - than the first place entry, but it accomplishes similar goals: the choice of headline font, primary colors, starburst and art all play up the comic book element of the "hero" theme of the story and of the Oscar entries. Well done.*

**3rd Place**

Front page

Bud Sargent

The Mining Journal's banner - requiring multiple cutouts - is an invitation to disaster that can mar otherwise good page designs. Here Bud Sargent avoids the pitfalls and creates a perfectly-balanced banner (thereby elbowing it into the background just like the basketball player) so that his design below can shine forth. The main page design uses available art and headline text effectively to create an atmospheric presentation appropriate to the story topic.

**The Mining Journal****Daily C - Best Page or Pages Design**

5 Entries

**1st Place****Grand Haven Tribune**

Wild Weather

Staff

This display let the striking photos really shine. Good, clean and simple.

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

Sept. 4 front page

Renee Tanner

These sorts of issues stories are difficult to illustrate. This was effective, especially down page.

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

May 9 front page

Renee Tanner

If anything, this felt slightly overdesigned; each individual piece was well executed, but there was a lot going on in that centerpiece overall. Scaling back on display would actually make things clearer.

**Daily D - Best Page or Pages Design**

6 Entries

**1st Place****Dowagiac Daily News**

A zest for life

Ambrosia Neldon, Ted Yoakum

The typography here is refined and attractive on the main centerpiece. The display makes best use of scrapbook-type photos into an engaging display.

**2nd Place****Niles Daily Star**

Summer Brandywine's Way

Ambrosia Haupt

Simple layout makes best use of the art available and reinforces the theme of the story.

**3rd Place****The Pioneer**

Police memorial

Staff

Reserved and solemn design honors the gravity of the story.

**Hon. Mention****Greenville Daily News**

2 Men In, 1 Man Out

Darrin Clark

A restrained black-and-white display enforces the feel of the story.

**Weekly/Specialty A - Best Page or Pages Design**

4 Entries

**1st Place****West Bloomfield Beacon**

V-E Day 70th Anniversary

Jason Clancy, Brian Louwers

The typography is lovely and fits the subject at hand. The photo is nice and large, allowing us to see the subjects as well as the subject of the photo they themselves are holding. The index was clean and well-designed as well. A standout entry.

**2nd Place****Spinal Column Newsweekly**

Pg. design entry - Champs

Ali Armstrong

The title and photo say it all. The chart was a nice, simple and effective presentation.

**3rd Place**

Construction Page

Amber Frye

An amusing juxtaposition with between headline and the dreaded orange barrel resonates with anyone who's had to deal with road construction.

**Hon. Mention****Spinal Column Newsweekly**

B1 page design entry

Amber Frye, Ali Armstrong

Judge did not comment.

**Weekly/Specialty B - Best Page or Pages Design**

11 Entries

**1st Place****Detroit Jewish News**

At Home: Secret Retreat

Michelle Sheridan

Beautiful typography, well-organized and simple to read layout and design, supported with clear display and sidebar treatments and art.

**2nd Place****Detroit Jewish News**

Mother Lode

Michelle Sheridan

Terrific use of photos to support and illustrate the story at hand. Typography is clean and simple as well. What held this back is the placement of the group image, which buried the lead graph.

**3rd Place****Tri-County Times**

All about eggs

Jennifer Ward

Informative sidebar, balanced display type, and a surprisingly effective display head. What held this submission back was the triple-play of breakout pieces which caused confusion which was subhead, which was breakout title, and which was otherwise display type.

**Hon. Mention****Detroit Jewish News**

Beauty &amp; Brains

Michelle Sheridan

Clean, simple display. A little more contrast in size and weight of typography would have really made this layout pop.

**Weekly/Specialty C - Best Page or Pages Design**

19 Entries

**1st Place****Allegan County News**

ArtPrize: 24 county artists show work in 2014 art contest

Matt Gliwa, Ryan Lewis

Clean, simple and straightforward layout. Readers can appreciate the inclusion of the art pieces discussed.

**2nd Place****Allegan County News**

A great crusade: Allegan grad recalls D-Day landing

Ryan Lewis, Matt Gliwa, Virginia Ransbottom

Judge did not comment.

**3rd Place****Allegan County News**

Teen will be tried as adult for murder (lead)

Ryan Lewis, Ryan Shek

Judge did not comment.

**Hon. Mention****The Exponent**

Finally!

Paul Snyder, Staff

Judge did not comment.

**Weekly/Specialty D - Best Page or Pages Design**

10 Entries

**1st Place****Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

More than meets the eye

Sean Quarles

Judge did not comment.



*The Mining Journal's U.P. Beer Guide may have surprised even the most avid fans of local brews with just how many breweries are in the area.*

## Daily C - Special Section

8 Entries

1st Place

**Ludington Daily News**

*To Honor Our Fallen Heroes ... Vietnam Traveling Wall*  
Staff

*Ludington Daily News staffers did an outstanding job honoring fallen heroes telling poignant stories from veterans. Historical photos added realism to the reading experience.*

2nd Place

**Grand Haven Tribune**

*Discover, Boardwalk, Year in Sports*  
Staff

*The history of Grand Haven's boardwalk was celebrated nicely in this special section for locals and visitors. Reprint possibilities for years to come.*

3rd Place

**Cadillac News**

*Our Community 2015*  
Staff

*Nice emphasis on people stories makes this Cadillac News section a readable review of life in the community.*

Hon. Mention

**Cadillac News**

*Brides in the Know*  
Staff

*This classy, well-designed weddings section made good use of Erin Johnson's excellent photography skills.*

## Daily D - Special Section

8 Entries

1st Place

**Niles Daily Star**

*Horizons*  
Staff

*The Niles Daily Star shone brightly with this special Horizons section. A nice package of very readable people stories that holds the reader for all 104 pages.*

2nd Place

**Niles Daily Star**

*Explore Michiana*  
Staff

*Explore Michiana is a model for acquainting readers with all the nearby opportunities to enjoy the area. A keeper for residents and visitors alike.*

3rd Place

**Sturgis Journal**

*Shoreline March/April 2015 edition*  
Staff

*Shoreline is a lively presentation of things to do in the area. Story selection shows editing with an eye toward what people really like to do in their leisure time.*

Hon. Mention

**Greenville Daily News**

*Weddings*  
Staff

*The Greenville Daily News staff presented an attractive weddings section with eye appealing layout.*

## Weekly/Specialty A - Special Section

14 Entries

1st Place

**Spinal Column Newsweekly**

*Kickoff 2014*  
Staff

*Spinal Column sports staff presented a comprehensive overview for football fans.*

2nd Place

**Lapeer Area View**

*Farm to Table*  
Staff

*The View staff created an inviting special section not just for foodies.*

## 2nd Place

*Jet ski show upside down and all around*

Meg Peters

*Judge did not comment.*

## 3rd Place

*Back Talk*

Sean Quarles

*Judge did not comment.*

## Hon. Mention

*Images in Sand*

Marcia Loader

*Judge did not comment.*

**The Lake Orion Review**

**Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

**The Advance**

## Special Section

### Daily A - Special Section

11 Entries

1st Place

**Detroit Free Press**

*How Detroit Was Reborn*  
Staff

*Detroit Free Press staffers gave readers a compelling read on what their city went through as leaders struggled to find the road to financial recovery. Extraordinarily detailed reporting like "haircut at the haircut" put you in the room.*

2nd Place

**Lansing State Journal**

*Knapp's Centre: An icon reborn*  
Staff

*The State Journal staff's report on the Knapp's Centre development went beyond being a good business story well told -- it was a fine history lesson as well.*

3rd Place

**Lansing State Journal**

*MSU Football: Moving to the Front*  
Staff

*This beautifully packaged Spartan football section might well serve as the model for attracting and keeping readers. Every page had something to hook your attention.*

Hon. Mention

**Detroit Free Press**

*The Dance*  
Staff

*For anyone with even the slightest interest in college basketball, The Dance was a must-read. Outstanding coverage by a very talented team of sports journalists.*

### Daily B - Special Section

8 Entries

1st Place

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*VASA Special Section 2015*  
Staff

*Traverse City Record-Eagle staffers created a stunning cross-country skiing section with extraordinary photography, copy and video.*

2nd Place

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Grand Traverse Scene*  
Staff

*The Grand Traverse Scene is an inviting summer recreation guide well photographed and written to engage readers. Locals will be glad they live there ... visitors glad they came.*

3rd Place

**The Mining Journal**

*Superiorland Magazine: The Great Outdoors*  
Staff

*The Mining Journal staffers created a reader-friendly Superiorland Magazine to showcase their great outdoor activities.*

Hon. Mention

**The Mining Journal**

*U.P. Beer Guide*  
Staff

**3rd Place***Downriver Directory 2015*

Staff

*The News-Herald published a useful, year-around keeper guide for readers to keep by their telephone for quick reference.***Hon. Mention***Cheeseburger Festival*

Staff

*Huron County View staffers put together an entertaining package interesting to readers -- both those who went to the festival and others who couldn't make it.***Weekly/Specialty B - Special Section****9 Entries***Some tremendous special sections in this division. Great work. The top three were separated by the slightest of margins.***1st Place***Leelanau Visitors Guide*

Staff

*Book the tickets. You've convinced me. I'm coming to Leelanau! This section is invited and alluring thanks to wonderful and insightful storytelling, designs and advertisements. This section accomplishes everything you want in a visitors' guide.***2nd Place***Celebrate!*

Staff

*Wonderful mix of content -- news and advertising. This section really hits a target audience with valuable information displayed in an elegant and easy-to-use way. Great work by the editors who crafted this section.***3rd Place***Main Street USA*

Staff

*You get a great sense of place from this entry. The section highlights everything about Main Street in Michigan in a fun and interesting way. Nice work.***Hon. Mention***Fall Sports Preview*

Staff

*Superb pre-season football section with all of the nuts and bolts a reader wants. The only quibble with this section is the cover design which has a lot of shadows and motion.***Weekly/Specialty C - Special Section****16 Entries****1st Place***2015 Winter Homefront*

Staff

*A clear-cut winner on every level. This seasonal special section combines robust content with superb design. The section is engaging and interesting.***2nd Place***2014 Year in Review*

Staff

*Very solid year-end section. It is organized well with classy design. Nice work.***3rd Place***2015 Spring Homefront*

Staff

*The Herald has the right formula for special sections. It is clean, well organized and classy.***Hon. Mention***Lake Life*

Staff

*Strong presentation made this entry standout.***The News-Herald****Huron County View****Leelanau Enterprise****Detroit Jewish News****Tri-County Times****Tri-County Times****Tecumseh Herald****The Exponent****Tecumseh Herald****The Exponent****Weekly/Specialty D - Special Section****11 Entries****1st Place***Blueberry Festival*

Staff

*What a fun section! It really gives a reader a sense of both pride and place. Nicely done.***2nd Place***Fall Sports Preview*

Staff

*Nice seasonal sports section. It clearly fulfills a mission to give a lot of names-and-faces coverage. An enjoyable section.***3rd Place***Woofstock: Pets, Love & Music*

Staff

*A fun section that hits a growing readership. Nice work.***Hon. Mention***Fall Section*

Staff

*This is a well-supported section with a lot of information. It certainly serves its niche audience well.***News Photo****Daily A - News Photo****43 Entries****1st Place***Domestic violence victim*

Mark Bugnaski

*Judge did not comment.***2nd Place***Pedestrian Crash*

Melanie Maxwell

*Judge did not comment.***3rd Place***Tears for Omarion*

Christian Randolph

*Judge did not comment.***Hon. Mention***Photos of 2014*

Katie McLean

*Judge did not comment.***Daily B - News Photo****26 Entries****1st Place***Losing dad*

Yfat Yossifor

*Judge did not comment.***2nd Place***Sugar beet truck tips over in downtown Bay City*

Amanda Ray

*Judge did not comment.***3rd Place***Graduating*

Yfat Yossifor

*Judge did not comment.***Daily C - News Photo****16 Entries****1st Place***Candles for Trevor*

Julie Angell

*Judge did not comment.***The Tri-City Times****The Tri-City Times****The Boyne City Gazette****The Missaukee Sentinel****Kalamazoo Gazette****The Ann Arbor News****Flint Journal****The Ann Arbor News****Bay City Times****Bay City Times****Bay City Times****Grand Haven Tribune**

**2nd Place**

*Pallet Recycle fire*

Jeff Kiessel

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

*A home for a hero*

Jeff Kiessel

*Judge did not comment.*

**Daily D - News Photo**

**6 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Firefighter saves cat from fire*

Cory Smith

*Only six entries in this category. The emotion of the woman being reunited with her cat after a fire made it the clear choice for first place.*

**2nd Place**

*Sheridan area home destroyed by fire*

Cory Smith

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

*Responders overturn flipped vehicle*

Chris Aldridge

*Judge did not comment.*

**Weekly/Specialty A - News Photo**

**8 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Nichole Clement and her mom*

Lamont Lenar

*Judge did not comment.*

**2nd Place**

*Early morning fire destroys residential home in Melvindale*

Ian Kushnir

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

*Officer Mitch Quirin of the Frankenmuth Police Department puts Ben*

*Salowitz of Saginaw Township,*

Lamont Lenar

*Judge did not comment.*

**Weekly/Specialty B - News Photo**

**7 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Winter claims first fatal crash*

Tim Jagielo

*Judge did not comment.*

**2nd Place**

*Heavy rains lead to flooding*

Tim Jagielo

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

*Family, fraternity, ski team, mourn local teen*

Tim Jagielo

*Judge did not comment.*

**Weekly/Specialty C - News Photo**

**14 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-*

*News*

*Fire Destroys Two Homes*

*Thomas Reznich*  
*First place rose above the other entries with a well-composed shot of an unusual fire scene.*

**Ludington Daily News**

**Ludington Daily News**

**Greenville Daily News**

**Greenville Daily News**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

**Township View**

**The News-Herald**

**Township View**

**Tri-County Times**

**Tri-County Times**

**Tri-County Times**

**2nd Place**

*Graduation days*

Judy Wagley

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

**Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-**

**News**

*Hard Fire to Fight*

Thomas Reznich

*Judge did not comment.*

**Weekly/Specialty D - News Photo**

**9 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Saugatuck man, 83, dies after one-car crash*

Scott Sullivan

*The first place winner rose to the top with a well-composed photo that shows some urgency on the part the emergency personnel trying to free the accident victim.*

**2nd Place**

*Salute to the fallen*

Lonnie Allen

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

*One of the four air ambulance take off*

Melissa Burnor

*Judge did not comment.*

**Feature Photo**

**Daily A - Feature Photo**

**40 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Till death do us part*

Jake May

*A strong photo accompanying a touching story. It's a great feature photo which captivates the viewer.*

**2nd Place**

*Dance*

Joel Bissell

*Taking a routine assignment and doing something special with it. Wonderful job. Great photography!*

**3rd Place**

*Ann Arbor Summer Festival*

Melanie Maxwell

*An attention-getting photo which makes the viewer wonder what it's all about.*

*The color is fantastic. The angle of the photo is great. It's different from your everyday photo.*

**Hon. Mention**

*Solar eclipse*

Melanie Maxwell

*While this photo is self-explanatory, the accompanying pics are incredible. Great feature. This photo is an excellent lead-in to the rest of them.*

**Daily B - Feature Photo**

**28 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Grave marker and craggy tree*

Jeff Schrier

*Inanimate objects are usually discouraged in journalism. This photo defies that rule. An old grave marker with a tree that weathered the same storms captivates the viewer. Great photo.*

**Gaylord Herald Times**

**The Commercial Record**

**Charlevoix Courier**

**The Advance**

**Flint Journal**

**Muskegon Chronicle**

**The Ann Arbor News**

**The Ann Arbor News**

**Saginaw News**

## 2nd Place

*Snow ball examination*

David C. Bristow

*Snowball fights make for great photos - especially home photos. This photographer found a different angle. Awesome.*

## 3rd Place

*Cassidy battles cancer*

Yfat Yossifor

*Nothing captures sadness like a great photo. Viewer grasps the heartbreaking topic immediately. That's what a great photo is supposed to do.*

## Hon. Mention

*Icy World*

Don Campbell

*Awesome job showing Michigan winters. Good composition, depth of field and exposure.*

## Daily C - Feature Photo

24 Entries

### 1st Place

**Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**

*Drone enthusiast turns hobby into business*

Gillis Benedict

*Excellent photo. Good depth of field. Image puts emphasis on the drone.*

*Also a timely topic.*

### 2nd Place

*Field work*

Steve Begnoche

*Farm work is difficult, and the photo clearly accentuates the toil. Good color.*

*For a photo to be great, it has to be able to tell the story by itself. This one does.*

### 3rd Place

*Fair opener*

Holly Richer

*Anybody who shoots a lot of fairs and festivals will tell you how it is difficult to come up with something different. The expression on the front girl's face tells the fun story in this picture.*

## Hon. Mention

*Gathering storm*

Randy Goss

*Awesome weather photo. It certainly gains the viewer's attention.*

*Composition is perfect. Wonderful job.*

## Daily D - Feature Photo

11 Entries

### 1st Place

*Fun for youth*

Michelle Patrick

*Girl's expression makes this photo special and the photographer knew just how to capture it. Good job.*

### 2nd Place

*Songs at Sunset*

Cory Smith

*Remarkable job making an ordinary moment extraordinary. Great capitalization of available color.*

### 3rd Place

*Taming the Skies*

Brad Klosner

*Fantastic angles by the photographer to capture this special event. The main picture has a good variety of accompanying pics.*

## Hon. Mention

*Finding fun with fall*

Chris Aldridge

*A great "aww" photo. It certainly captures the attention of the viewer.*

**Saginaw News**

**Bay City Times**

**Herald-Palladium**

**Ludington Daily News**

**The Daily Press**

**Petoskey News-Review**

**Sturgis Journal**

**Greenville Daily News**

**Greenville Daily News**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

## Weekly/Specialty A - Feature Photo

10 Entries

### 1st Place

*The end and the beginning*

Brian Louwers

*Old wedding photo makes this otherwise routine picture a winner. That it was taken with available light helps with to capture the ambience.*

### 2nd Place

*Eye for detail photo*

Brian Forde

*Awesome vision by the photographer to capture this picture. Also, the tight crop accentuates the concentration this little girl is putting into her project.*

### 3rd Place

*Thrill ride photo*

Brian Forde

*Good photo. Good angle and great depth of field to capture the moment.*

## Hon. Mention

*Local cancer survivor, 5, spends time with Monster Jam champions*

Dave Herndon

*A touching moment. Congratulations to the photographer for displaying the celebration of the youngster's second chance.*

## Weekly/Specialty B - Feature Photo

18 Entries

### 1st Place

*Who knows?*

Patrick McAbee

*Excellent photo thanks to the angle and the depth of field. The expression on the child in the background is priceless.*

### 2nd Place

*Tree hive*

Ken Scott

*An attention grabber. Good crop job by the photographer.*

### 3rd Place

*Focusing on fire safety*

Tim Jagielo

*Like other place winners, this photographer took a routine assignment and made it special with this picture. Expressions add a lot to the photo.*

## Hon. Mention

*2 women, 2 years, 1 boat Champagne rains*

Patti Brandt

*It's a fun moment that the photo clearly depicts.*

## Weekly/Specialty C - Feature Photo

33 Entries

### 1st Place

*An upstream battle*

Andrew Skinner

*An amazing tale of struggle captured in just one photo. The salmon with the fishermen in the background shows not only great photography skill, but keen artistic ability. A photo is supposed to capture the viewer. This one does.*

### 2nd Place

*Seeing Colors*

Andrew Skinner

*Rainbow shots are plentiful but the placement of the rainbow between the two structures is what sets it apart from others. In addition, the colors are vivid. A breathtaking photo.*

### 3rd Place

*Celebrating Veterans Day*

Jeff Steers

*An emotional photo. It captures what Veterans Day is all about, with a different angle presented.*

**Warren Weekly**

**Cadence Newspaper**

**Cadence Newspaper**

**The News-Herald**

**The Citizen, Ortonville**

**Leelanau Enterprise**

**Tri-County Times**

**Leelanau Enterprise**

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

**The Exponent**

**Hon. Mention***Checking off my bucket list*

Phil Foley

*Great presentation of individual story-telling. The finite cropping targets the intended subject, the woman getting her first ride. and not the balloon even though it still depicts the balloon as the intimidating mode that it is.***The County Press, Lapeer****Weekly/Specialty D - Feature Photo****31 Entries***Excellent entries. Love it when there's tight cropping with an exception being the second place finisher, the boy playing the guitar on a lonely street. Close to honorable mention were Boogie Down and Feeling the Heat.***1st Place**

Celebration

David Green

*This is an awesome photo that tells the reader what happened without reading the caption. Lots of emotion and fun in the picture.***State Line Observer****2nd Place**

Street musician

David Green

*It's almost like a country song encapsulated in one photo. What makes the photo more gripping is the lonely street behind the boy. Good composition.***State Line Observer****3rd Place**

Making up angels

Scott Sullivan

*Enjoyable photos that tell the story. Good choice of pics for the layout. Excellent job.***The Commercial Record****Hon. Mention**

Resorter (cover)

Scott Sullivan

*Good color. Good expression. Awesome job. It's an eye-catcher; a photo worth 1,000 plus words.***The Commercial Record****Photo Story****Daily A - Photo Story****21 Entries****1st Place***Search for Omarion Humphrey ends tragically*

The Flint Journal photo staff

*Judge did not comment.***Flint Journal****2nd Place**

Royal Youth

Brittany Greeson

*Judge did not comment.***Flint Journal****3rd Place**

Mud, Sweat, Beers

Jake May

*Judge did not comment.***Flint Journal****Hon. Mention***Keeping History Alive Through Rowing*

Diane Weiss

*Judge did not comment.***Detroit Free Press****Daily B - Photo Story****10 Entries****1st Place***A new life for Balaal*

J. Scott Park

*Judge did not comment.***Jackson Citizen Patriot****2nd Place***From Jail to the Ring*

J. Scott Park

*Judge did not comment.***Jackson Citizen Patriot****3rd Place***No one fights alone*

Yfat Yossifor

*Judge did not comment.***Bay City Times****Daily C - Photo Story****7 Entries****1st Place**

Ice training

Jeff Kiessel

*Technically fascinating images. Despite the single setting, a good variety of situations. I wish cut lines had been included in the entry. I wanted to know what was going in the photos. Pictures are worth a lot of words, but actual words bring photos to another level.***Ludington Daily News****2nd Place**

Down &amp; Dirty Run

Gillis Benedict

*A prime event for photos, and this photographer captured humorous and interesting moments. I wish cut lines had been included in the entry. I wanted to know more about what was going in the photos. Pictures are worth a lot of words, but actual words bring photos to another level.***Livingston County Daily Press & Argus****3rd Place***The return of the Gladstone MSP Post open house*

Jenny Lancour

*The creativity of this page as a whole it was makes it work for me. Individually or as photos alone in a slideshow, I don't think the story would have come across as well. But this layout and the comic-book cut lines are what make it work and what drew me in. Whoever thought of this execution should be commended as well. What a creative way to present what easily could have been a less-exciting page of photos from a choreographed event.***The Daily Press****Hon. Mention***A Banner Year*

Chris Lamphere

*Good use of a dominant image. I laughed out loud at the cows.***Cadillac News****Daily D - Photo Story****11 Entries***Most pages in this category included some strong shots, but those were bogged down by too many one-column, tough-to-see detail shots. At least move those images inside and make the front page a showcase for the strongest images.***1st Place***Wet and Wild at Wall*

Garrett Fergeson

*This photo story stood heads above the others in this category. A clear dominant image and a variety of situations despite the topic being a single event, made this a pleasure to view. Photos ran large enough to convey emotion. Bravo!***Sturgis Journal****2nd Place***Songs at Sunset*

Cory Smith

*I'm sure the students' parents loved the many images, but I would have liked to see a tighter edit — especially on the front page. Perhaps pick the best five images and then refer readers to view the rest on your website or Facebook page. That way, the ones in print have the space to shine and run bigger. I agree with the colorful sunset shot as the dominant image***Greenville Daily News****3rd Place***Greenville home destroyed in fire, all occupants escape safely*

Cory Smith

*One of my favorite images is the one of with the flashlight beam. Would like to have seen this (and others) run larger — perhaps instead of the second-largest house image. A human often is more interesting and emotional than house — even when the house is on fire.***Greenville Daily News**

**Hon. Mention**

2 men in, 1 man out

Brad Klosner

*I like the black-and-white treatment for this situation. Whether it was because you didn't have color on this page or it was a deliberate choice, it works. I would have preferred to see a more carefully edited selection. Several images are similar or run too small to get a feel for the action and emotion.*

**Greenville Daily News****Weekly/Specialty A - Photo Story****9 Entries**

*The division was difficult to judge. Most of the entries were slideshows that appear to include every photo taken at the assignment. I encourage these photographers to edit their work instead of posting everything on their cards.*

**1st Place****Bridge Magazine**

Last stand of the one-room schoolhouse

Brian Widdis

*This entry was the clear winner compared with others in its group. The photos exhibit range and depth. I would've liked to have seen or two tighter shots — maybe a detail or a more close-up face of a student. Really get into the scene and zoom in — either with your feet or with your lens. Overall, bravo!*

**2nd Place****The News-Herald**

Sick children take Fantasy Flight to visit Santa at the North Pole

Jessica Strachan

*Kudos to you, Jessica, for shooting and reporting such an inspirational event. I applaud you for writing cut lines for every image of a 69-photo slideshow. For future contests (and, more important, for the sake of your readers), I encourage you to edit your work. Yes, people like to click and want to go behind the scenes, but it's your job and prerogative to tighten and curate. You could lose photos such as the sack of gifts on the floor with no humans in the shot or the blow-up decorations. Focus on the people. Weed out the blurry shots. Showcase your finest work and leave viewers and readers wanting just a little bit more. That said, you captured some poignant moments and are headed in the right direction.*

**3rd Place****The News-Herald**

Victory Day at Trenton High School 2014

Constance York

*I saw flashes of good instinct and storytelling in this entry, but it would have been so much more compelling if the photographer or editor had tightened the selection. Readers like slideshows and want behind-the-scenes access, but more than 100 photos is daring people to stop clicking — especially when some of those photos are blurry or repeats or not well-composed. Show off your best work. Just because you shot a chunk of your memory card doesn't mean it all has to go up. That said, I applaud you for writing cut lines for so many images. Next time, edit your work, and it will be even stronger.*

**Weekly/Specialty B - Photo Story****12 Entries**

*The winners provided some fun and heartwarming glimpses into their communities.*

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

Lakeside tales

Renee Landuyt

*A commendable variety of situations and mix of distances from your subjects. A bonus: I like that even the smaller photos ran large enough for readers to see them well and enjoy them.*

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

Our heroes

Renee Landuyt

*Heidi hugging her father ... how touching! Such events are photographed often, but this photographer captured situations I don't see as often in such stories — such as the high five.*

**3rd Place****The Citizen, Ortonville**

Strawberry Fields

Susan Bromley

*A great mix of young and old, tidy and messy. What a fun look into an everyday activity.*

**Hon. Mention****Tri-County Times**

Regional Final Game Box Score

David Troppens, Mark Bolen

*What a clever way to present a standard part of the sports section. I'll bet the players and parents went wild for this treatment.*

**Weekly/Specialty C - Photo Story****17 Entries**

*An interesting glimpse into the communities these papers serve.*

**1st Place****Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-News**

First Harvest

Thomas Reznich

*This photographer truly dug into the situation — approaching the event from high and low angles as well as from different distances. Consider a close-up detail shot to add further variety to photo stories.*

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

July 4th Celebrations Hadley

Phil Foley

*A lively look at what appears to be an active and fun community. A good variety of tight and wider shots and community members of all ages.*

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

This is just a test

Andrew Skinner

*An interesting look at the event. Would've liked to see the one-column photos run a little larger. Consider further editing photos to allow remaining ones to run larger — or just to keep the focus of the photo story.*

**Hon. Mention Houghton Lk. Resorter & Roscommon Co. Herald-News**

Trip a true honor for veteran

Krista Tacey-Cater

*An interesting documentation of what seems like an emotional and historic event. Bravo to the photographer for writing the story as well. Consider mixing in some tighter/more-closely-cropped images to bring viewers even closer to the action and emotion.*

**Weekly/Specialty D - Photo Story****28 Entries****1st Place****Oxford Leader**

Fair fun at Kingsbury

C.J. Carnacchio

*Black-and-white ink against color competitors was no problem for this photo story. The pie-eater ... the jousts ... what a joyous way to capture this event.*

**2nd Place****The Advance**

In a Jam

Melissa Burnor

*An interesting look at an aspect of a story that easily could have been ignored or condensed to one photo. What a fun treat for readers to get to see the entire process*

**3rd Place****State Line Observer**

Blast off!

David Green

*The photographer captured some fun and funny expressions of this activity.*

**Sports Photo****Daily A - Sports Photo****34 Entries**

Very difficult decisions in the strong category. A number of amazing photographs. Easily, another half dozen were among the final 'cuts.' The selfie coach and the bleeding swimmer were among the wonderful photos that did not place.

**1st Place****Flint Journal**

Dig deep

Laura McDermott

Wonderful capture of action, emotion and mud! Brilliant. Best in a very strong competition group.

**2nd Place****Grand Rapids Press**

Little League Portrait

Mike Mulholland

Top-notch capture of emotion. The combination of his freckles and laugh lines made this portrait.

**3rd Place****Detroit Free Press**

Flattened Fly

Julian H. Gonzalez

Judge did not comment

**Hon. Mention****Muskegon Chronicle**

Training camp

Ken Stevens

Another great action shot. Excellent movement and use of color.

**Daily B - Sports Photo****29 Entries****1st Place****Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Face wash

J. Scott Park

Excellent action photo. Great composition.

**2nd Place****Bay City Times**

They scored

Danielle McGrew

Phenomenal emotion shot.

**3rd Place****Bay City Times**

All hands

Yfat Yossifor

Another good action photo with great composition.

**Hon. Mention****Saginaw News**

Birch Run basketball halftime speech

Andrew Whitaker

Interesting venue makes this more than just a shot of worry and emotion.

Good use of color.

**Daily C - Sports Photo****21 Entries****1st Place****Grand Haven Tribune**

Mindset of a champion

Nich Wolak

Excellent capture of emotion following a game.

**Entries****2nd Place****Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**

Down &amp; Dirty

Gillis Benedict

Great moment. Much more here than simply an action shot.

**3rd Place****Morning Sun**

Carson City's upset bid comes up short as it falls to top-ranked New Lothrop in regional final

Paul Beroza

Excellent construction and use of light.

**Hon. Mention****Petoskey News-Review**

Bunker shot

James Gensterblum

Good action shot.

**Daily D - Sports Photo****15 Entries****1st Place****Sturgis Journal**

Garrett Fergeson sports photo entry

Garrett Fergeson

Nice capture of something that occurs before each game. Not easy to make something that happens so often special.

**2nd Place****Sturgis Journal**

Brandon Watson sports photo entry

Brandon Watson

Good moment. Especially like the context of the player's face in the background.

**3rd Place****Huron Daily Tribune**

Track photo on the front page

Paul Adams

Focus seemed off just a little, but still a solid photograph.

**Weekly/Specialty A - Sports Photo****12 Entries**

All about clarity and timing, somewhat disappointed in lack of overall human emotion and proper timing over more than half that entries. My order of honorees however are very deserving.

**1st Place****Township View**

Catcher Trent Alworden

Lamont Lenar

Excellent timing on the photo, a lot of good things going on with the facial expressions, and excellent clarity.

**2nd Place****Township View**

The North Saginaw Township All-Stars

Lamont Lenar

Excellent photo of emotion, readers young and old recall the last time something excited them as much as these young athletes.

**3rd Place****Township View**

Nouvels Cam Fluder gets tagged out diving back to first

Lamont Lenar

Benefit again from facial expression of desperation...he knows he's out....he hopes he isn't...captured perfectly.

**Hon. Mention****Spinal Column Newsweekly**

Whitney's jump to state finals

Chris Wall, Ali Armstrong

Pristine timing, luck of the draw on the facial expression of both concentration and desperation.

**Weekly/Specialty B - Sports Photo****15 Entries****1st Place****Tuscola County Advertiser**

Millington celebrates first regional basketball title

Kevin Gregory

Nice spin on a typical celebration shot.

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

One of the nearly 20,000 competitors

David Troppens

Interesting and eye-catching.

**3rd Place****Tri-County Times**

Lake Fenton's Bobbie Kinkaid

David Troppens

Great expression on athlete's face.



## Hon. Mention

**Tri-County Times**

*Blue Devils push Goodrich, but lose in district final*

Tim Jagielo

*Good emotion captured.*

## Weekly/Specialty C - Sports Photo

**25 Entries**

*So here it is:*

**1st Place**

**Allegan County News**

*Annual baseball tournament returns to Allegan*

Jason Wesseldyk

*It may "only" be a youth league baseball game, but there's a lot of action and emotion in this picture. I really like the two kids trying to catch the ball.*

*Well done.*

**2nd Place**

**Allegan County News**

*Bulldogs overcome shaky start to post win over South Haven*

Gary Shook

*Very strong action photo that captures a big play in the game.*

**3rd Place**

**The County Press, Lapeer**

*Swartz Creek's Katelyn Niezgucki*

Dan Nilsen

*Very unique. I like the fact that the photographer got in position to get this angle of the dive. Really shows the girl's form. Well done.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

*Hesperia Sweeps*

Andy Roberts

*I really like the picture of the Panthers carrying off their winning pitcher.*

*Shows lot of emotion. And if you read the story, the pitcher was indeed the hero.,*

## Weekly/Specialty D - Sports Photo

**24 Entries**

*Lots of good entries, difficult to pick winners.*

**1st Place**

**The Commercial Record**

*Springing for the stars*

Scott Sullivan

*Captures emotion, good stop action, lineup of hurdles adds without distracting.*

**2nd Place**

**Birch Run/Bridgeport Herald**

*Birch Run finally beats Frankenmuth to win first TVC East girls soccer title*

Greg Tunnicliff

*Pure emotion - caught at right moment.*

**3rd Place**

**State Line Observer**

*Not quite (softball)*

David Green

*Perfect timing, sharp image.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Clarkston News**

*Leap for the win*

Wendi Reardon

*Clear, sharp stop action photo.*

## Sports Writing

### Daily A - Sports Writing

**11 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*The rise and rise of Lourawls 'Tum Tum' Nairn Jr.*

Brendan Quinn

*Judge did not comment.*

**2nd Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Michigan State's Cotton Bowl comeback and saga, one for the ages*

Mike Griffith

*Judge did not comment.*

### 3rd Place

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Travis Trice's family aims for state title, Final Four berth and another overnight car trip*

Kyle Austin

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Detroit Free Press**

*It started with an alleged affair, three jobs were lost and then a civil-rights lawsuit*

Gene Myers, Perry Farrell, Kevin Bull, Patricia Montemurri, Jim Schaefer

*Judge did not comment.*

### Daily B - Sports Writing

**21 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Saginaw News**

*Cancer survivor Aubree Snow becomes 'mane' scorer in Saginaw*

*Heritage girls basketball Class A district championship*

Hugh Bernreuter

*Judge did not comment.*

**2nd Place**

**Bay City Times**

*Bay Area Thunder show resiliency in 7-0 win day after coaches resign*

Lee Thompson

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*31-year-old Jackson bowler dies twice after cardiac arrest, returns to lanes less than three weeks later*

Jeff Bleiler

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Saginaw News**

*Buena Vista dissolution lands freshman standout Mario Whitely on Frankenmuth basketball team*

Hugh Bernreuter

*Judge did not comment.*

### Daily C - Sports Writing

**24 Entries**

*Excellent competition, very challenging to pick these winners.*

**1st Place**

**Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**

*Brighton ends up top Dogs*

Brian Beaupied

*Had it all here, couldn't ask for more.*

**2nd Place**

**Ludington Daily News**

*Mason County Shines*

Dave Bossick

*Couldn't ask for better coverage at such an event.*

**3rd Place**

**Morning Sun**

*Window Washer: Belles cleans up the glass, leads Ithaca to district semifinal win*

Paul Beroza

*Nice story, good setup.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Grand Haven Tribune**

*20th win elicits tears of joy*

Matt DeYoung

*Otherwise basic game story but good setup with the student-athletes.*

### Daily D - Sports Writing

**14 Entries**

*Strong competition here.*

**1st Place**

**Sentinel-Standard**

*Ionia's Cameron Mahlich captures state title in comeback victory*

Chris Zadorozny

*Highlights singular achievement but makes use of multiple source quotes.*

## 2nd Place

## Sturgis Journal

Brandon Watson sports writing entry

Brandon Watson

Fine collection of playoff beat, multiple sources, singular and team stories, good combo.

## 3rd Place

## Greenville Daily News

State Wrestling Finals

Bruce Bentley

Multiple sources, good team stories.

## Hon. Mention

## Sentinel-Standard

'Well-rounded' Pirates capture 2nd track title in 3 years

Chris Zadorozny

Good team story, strong use of multiple source quotes.

## Weekly/Specialty A - Sports Writing

11 Entries

## 1st Place

## Huron County View

Patriots come away empty

Kelly Taylor-Jerome

Good work bringing a new approach and structure to covering a major loss.

## 2nd Place

## The Source-Sterling Heights

Stallions down Patriots in 5-set district final thriller

Kevin Lozon

Reference to Rocky Balboa in lead of story helps us quickly understand what this team did and paints a picture of the true struggle. This image is backed up by many strong quotes from coaches and players.

## 3rd Place

## The Source-Sterling Heights

Zeimis leads Eagles to district championship

Kevin Lozon

Good work here getting strong quotes and ample input from the player/main subject of this story. That is backed up with interviews from both coaches. Much better than your average game coverage piece.

## Weekly/Specialty B - Sports Writing

18 Entries

Very nice competition here.

## 1st Place

## Tri-County Times

Tigers headed to state semis

David Troppens

Good lead creativity, multiple sources.

## 2nd Place

## Grosse Pointe News

Friendship goes beyond words

Bob St. John

Excellent connection.

## 3rd Place

## Leelanau Enterprise

Runner-up Comets

Mike Spencer

You do very well with crafting your multiple-source quotes in place.

## Hon. Mention

## Leelanau Enterprise

Yaakoby's game winner

Mike Spencer

You do very well with crafting your multiple-source quotes in place.

## Weekly/Specialty C - Sports Writing

25 Entries

## 1st Place

## The County Press, Lapeer

Paul LaFontaine Jr. Finished first full Ironman on mark

Lisa Paine

Great story. Liked the in-depth portion of his training and journey through to the finish line and comments from the runner himself.

## 2nd Place

## Gaylord Herald Times

Former coach: Dombrowski one of the best punters on the planet

Brandon Folsom

Nice read. Comments from Coach himself would have made more personal.

## 3rd Place

## Allegan County News

Fifth-annual TRI Allegan sprint triathlon provides memorable moments

Jason Wesseldyk

Great inspirational story.

## Hon. Mention

## White Lake Beacon

Whitehall wins an instant classic

Andy Roberts

Felt like I was at the game. Enough stats but brief enough to want to read and follow to the end.

## Weekly/Specialty D - Sports Writing

16 Entries

## 1st Place

## State Line Observer

Semifinal contest / It took heart

David Green

Judge did not comment.

## 2nd Place

## Birch Run/Bridgeport Herald

Panthers share TVC East title

Greg Tunncliff

Judge did not comment.

## 3rd Place

## The Advance

Miranda Johnson wins fourth and fifth state titles

Melissa Burnor

Judge did not comment.

## Hon. Mention

## Mount Morris/Clio Herald

Mt. Morris volleyball team loses to North Branch in district finals

Greg Tunncliff

Judge did not comment.

## Best Sports Columnist

## Daily A - Best Sports Columnist

20 Entries

## 1st Place

## Detroit Free Press

'Put the shirt on' is no Hail to the Victors

Mitch Albom

Great idea to write a column about Jim Harbaugh taking off his shirt for "shirts & skins." But beyond that, exceptional writing and story-telling to turn the idea into a great read..

## 2nd Place

## Grand Rapids Press

Football world watches as Jim Harbaugh seems at peace, at home

as Michigan's coach

Nick Baumgardner

Jim Harbaugh is obviously big news in Michigan, and this column clearly captures just how big he is. Very well written column on the day Harbaugh arrived.

## 3rd Place

## Grand Rapids Press

Jim Harbaugh has a little crazy in him, so does Michigan

Nick Baumgardner

Another well-written piece on Jim Harbaugh's arrival in Michigan. There have no doubt been so many stories written about him, so I like the angle this columnist takes.

## Hon. Mention

## Detroit Free Press

DPS ignores Michigan law in Campbell case

Mick McCabe

Very strong commentary on a controversial matter. Well done.

## Daily B - Best Sports Columnist

21 Entries

### 1st Place

**Bay City Times**

*Pinconning football victory comes from the heart*

Lee Thompson

*Well written column after a very emotional game for a team that had finally experienced the thrill of victory*

### 2nd Place

**The Mining Journal**

*Football players need protection from elements*

Craig Remsburg

*This gentleman isn't exactly the best wordsmith when it comes to all the columns I read in this category. But he always offers up good opinion on touchy subjects. I like it.*

### 3rd Place

**The Mining Journal**

*MHSAA must alter football playoffs*

Craig Remsburg

*I also voted for this columnist for second-best column in this category. He's not afraid to take a stance. I like that.*

### Hon. Mention

**Bay City Times**

*Mauricio Diaz inspired by Laker brotherhood after death of father*

*Heart-warming story that helps explain how a kid whose dad died just a year ago has moved on but never forgetting his father.*

## Daily C - Best Sports Columnist

17 Entries

### 1st Place

**The Daily Press**

*"Area coaches deserve better"*

Keith Shelton

*Good, strong opinion piece on a topic that hits home with most school districts: too many people interfering with the coach. Good job.*

### 2nd Place

**The Daily Press**

*"Washing away the past"*

Keith Shelton

*Solid, well-written column on a magic moment for Rapid River*

### 3rd Place

**Morning Sun**

*Detroit Lions keep fans pessimistically optimistic*

Eric Stafford

*Decent read about a long-time Lions fan ... I really like the end reference to the hapless Cleveland Browns*

### Hon. Mention

**Morning Sun**

*The impact Keisha Brown made on our mid-Michigan community is immeasurable*

Nate Schneider

*Real good read about a woman who made a big impact and not just because of what a great coach she was.*

## Daily D - Best Sports Columnist

8 Entries

### 1st Place

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*World Cup: Things to love, things to hate*

Seth Stapleton

*This column was very funny. It was an entertaining explainer of World Cup soccer for people who are unfamiliar and those who are already fans of the sport will get it, too. The writer created some strong imagery and made creative comparisons.*

### 2nd Place

**Greenville Daily News**

Jackie Robinson West

Bruce Bentley

*This column offered perspective on the problem of adults who lead youth sports teams and cheat. It was a good commentary on adults who make decisions that adversely affect the children they are supposed to lead.*

### 3rd Place

**Sentinel-Standard**

*COLUMN: Raiders softball has made Ionia County proud with 2015 playoff run*

Chris Zadorozny

*This was a really nice column. It reinforces the idea that winning isn't everything without resorting to clichés. I think readers appreciated hearing the positive points out of what was a disappointing outcome.*

### Hon. Mention

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*The Bowl Game Staple*

Seth Stapleton

*I have no interest in college football, and I found this column amusing and enjoyable.*

## Weekly/Specialty B - Best Sports Columnist

4 Entries

### 1st Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*Unsporting behavior in high school*

Mike Spencer

*This was an informative column that highlighted an important topic in the youth sporting world. I appreciated hearing the writer's thoughts and reactions to some of the things happening in his area.*

### 2nd Place

**Tri-County Times**

*WE ARE CURLING CHAMPS BUT WE REMAIN HUMBLE*

David Troppens

*This was a fun way to introduce readers to a local curling team, something that seems to have gained momentum in the past decade. It was interesting to hear a first-hand account from someone who plays the sport.*

### 3rd Place

**Tri-County Times**

*Progression as a soccer fan*

David Troppens

*It seems like people either love soccer or just don't get it. I liked hearing from someone who has started to appreciate the sport. And it was written in an amusing way that held my attention.*

### Hon. Mention

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*Spring sports in limbo*

Mike Spencer

*This is a column that likely resonates with many readers, if even they aren't particularly sports fans. Ruminations on the seemingly never ending winter are something many people can identify with.*

## Weekly/Specialty C - Best Sports Columnist

12 Entries

### 1st Place

**The Exponent**

*The Race to 149 Jeff's Journeys*

Jeff Steers

*Nice comparison of two athletes from different eras allows the writer to both connect the past and the present and to show his own understanding of the context of what is happening currently. Strong work by the clear leader in this field.*

### 2nd Place

**The County Press, Lapeer**

*No timeouts*

Dan Nilsen

*Judge did not comment.*

### 3rd Place

**The Exponent**

*Jeff's Journeys Addison history maker*

Jeff Steers

*Judge did not comment.*

### Hon. Mention

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

*NCAA must fix broken model before it's too late*

Andy Roberts

*Judge did not comment.*

## Weekly/Specialty D - Best Sports Columnist

8 Entries

### 1st Place

Game On

Kevin Lange

Judge did not comment.

### 2nd Place

Joining a friend in her fight

Melissa Burnor

Judge did not comment.

### 3rd Place

Gordon moves over

Rich Foley

Judge did not comment.

### Hon. Mention

NASCAR Diversity

Rich Foley

Judge did not comment.

## Sports Feature

### Daily A - Sports Feature

45 Entries

This was a tough category to judge. The caliber of the entries was outstanding. Sports journalists are working hard to show their audience the people behind the stories and the trends that matter in sports.

### 1st Place

This is John Beilein

Brendan Quinn

A pleasure to read. Great insights into the coach's personality, family and philosophy.

### 2nd Place

DeAndre Levy: Tackling machine and reserved renaissance man

Justin Rogers

Thorough reporting, sharp writing make this an interesting read for fans and non-fans alike.

### 3rd Place

Legislation to protect referees: Any sport, any day

Jeff Seidel

Judge did not comment.

### Hon. Mention

Detroit Lions at Silverdome: The glory days

Paula Pasche

Really interesting series. Good description in first story to draw readers in.

### Daily B - Sports Feature

33 Entries

Lots of good writing and enterprise from sports staffs. The notes from the editors were helpful to provide background on the entries.

### 1st Place

Player of the Year Top 10: Faith, family drive Jackson Lumen Christis

Khari Willis to success on and off football field

Matt Wenzel

Nicely done profile; inspiring without being sappy.

### 2nd Place

Boston Marathon gives local runner one final Dad, I did it moment

Lee Thompson

Tight, bright, informative.

### 3rd Place

Pinning death

Good sourcing, description, explanation of medical condition.

**The Boyne City Gazette**

**The Advance**

**State Line Observer**

**State Line Observer**

**Grand Rapids Press**

**Grand Rapids Press**

**Detroit Free Press**

**The Oakland Press**

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

**Bay City Times**

**Holland Sentinel**

## Hon. Mention

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**  
High school football participation is down statewide, but reasons vary for why

Matt Wenzel

interesting trend story. Good context.

## Daily C - Sports Feature

28 Entries

Nice variety of stories here. Reporters tackled trend topics and people stories. I enjoyed all of the entries.

### 1st Place

Youth Sports

Matt DeYoung

Well-organized series on an important topic. Writer allowed the voices of those interviewed to come through. My guess is that this got readers talking!

### 2nd Place

Strong work ethic: O-E grad continues long tenure as Heat strength coach

Stephen Brooks

Very good profile. Lots of sources, background make this an interesting read.

### 3rd Place

Father, brother, coach, mentor

Matt DeYoung

Good sourcing on a tough assignment.

### Hon. Mention

Running blind

James Gensterblum

Good example of a true human interest story. Quotes are used to help readers learn more about the young woman profiled.

## Daily D - Sports Feature

18 Entries

Interesting selections of stories. One sad note - seems like a lot of Michigan athletes battling serious medical issues.

### 1st Place

Coming back strong: Big Rapids native, Stanford wrestler Schaner reaches NCAA championships after taking year off

Ryan Zuke

Solid feature writing. Reader gets a good insight into the character of the wrestler. Good reporting.

### 2nd Place

Dream Job: Former Bulldog Jeff Blashill named head coach

Ryan Zuke

I liked the way the writer got into this story. It set the reader up for the surprise that this volunteer coach would go on to the top of a profession.

Interesting throughout even for a non-hockey fan.

### 3rd Place

Railroaders beat Biscuits in annual vintage baseball game

Brandon Watson

The writer captured the moment here, at times slipping into a very old school style of newspaper writing. Very enjoyable.

### Hon. Mention

Decker twins are state championship contenders

Bruce Bentley

The story of the twins was compelling. The writer made the best of this opportunity with solid reporting.

## Weekly/Specialty A - Sports Feature

24 Entries

This was a tough field. There were many, many interesting sports story, colorful writing and good research. It's clear that Michigan sports writing is strong.

**Grand Haven Tribune**

**The Argus-Press**

**Grand Haven Tribune**

**Petoskey News-Review**

**The Pioneer**

**The Pioneer**

**Sturgis Journal**

**Greenville Daily News**

**1st Place Northwest Advance**

*Jared Scheidel finds a way to get it done for Kenowa Hills football team*

Greg Chrapek

*An excellent story about an individual who, although not a play, captures the competitive spirit. Very thorough, good background.*

**2nd Place The News-Herald**

*Anderson's Jaciuk shines as female football kicker*

Frank Wladyslawski

*Nicely written with good research. Keeps it real without going into gushing complimentary mode.*

**3rd Place Cadence Newspaper**

*Eastern volleyball team rallies in support of team captain Annalee Konsoer-Rose*

Jen Judson

*Nicely written and carries reader throughout. Could have used more explanation about medical aspect of story.*

**Hon. Mention Cadence Newspaper**

*Forest Hills schools unite toward historic competitive cheer season*

Larry Hirt

*An interesting look at a sport that is sometimes not considered a sport. Nicely written. Attribution needed on some comments.*

**Weekly/Specialty B - Sports Feature**

**13 Entries**

**1st Place Tuscola County Advertiser**

*Country strong: the Thumb's two 'Miss Volleyball' finalists*

Tom Gilchrist, Kevin Gregory

*This reporter really knows his beat and crafted a great story by noticing two local girls were battling for the same state-wide honor - he turned it into a very nice feature spread.*

**2nd Place Leelanau Enterprise**

*St. Mary volunteer Popp*

Mike Spencer

*Nice writing and a great subject - good job looking on the sideline for a story.*

**3rd Place Leelanau Enterprise**

*Finding, banding woodcock extends training for dogs*

Alan Campbell

*Good job capturing an unusual story - and well written.*

**Hon. Mention Tuscola County Advertiser**

*Ithaca's unexpected gift*

Tom Gilchrist

*This reporter made a human interest piece out of a game story - really nice job.*

**Weekly/Specialty C - Sports Feature**

**30 Entries**

*Great submissions - couple of other great articles as well. Hard to choose.*

**1st Place Gaylord Herald Times**

*Nick Harrington goes from tackling dummy to college athlete*

Brandon Folsom

*Kept my interest from beginning to end. Nice article*

**2nd Place Gaylord Herald Times**

*Wiltse dances in the face of fear, regret and cerebral palsy*

Brandon Folsom

*Great comments*

**3rd Place Gaylord Herald Times**

*A bucket list complete: Pingatore plays for Gaylord in hoops championship*

Brandon Folsom

*Inspirational and moving from beginning to end*

**Hon. Mention**

*A life in the game*

Dan Nilsen

*Liked the personal comments and in-depth look at all three sports*

**Weekly/Specialty D - Sports Feature**

**7 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Zoey is finalist*

Mike Dunn

*Good lead grabs the reader.*

**2nd Place**

*All-State*

David Green

*Excellent lead sets up the details to come and has the reader wanting more.*

**3rd Place**

*O'Malley Returns*

Mike Dunn

*The Boston angle provides an intriguing news hook.*

**Hon. Mention**

*Cardio Drumming*

David Green

*Interesting profile of "the next big thing" in exercise. I might have led the story not with the group's founder, but with some of the participants and what motivated them.*

**Herbert Spencer-Best Headline**

**46 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Don't go chasing waterspouts*

Staff

*I don't think I've ever seen a TLC reference this effortlessly and appropriately worked into a headline — let alone a winter-weather-related headline. Let alone without being a little bit too much of a stretch. Even a reader who hasn't been blessed to hear this classic '90s jam reads the headline, understands the directive and leaves the page more informed. If you HAVE heard it, you get a hefty chuckle out of it, too. BRAVO!*

**2nd Place**

*Surprise Finnish: Saarijärvi expected Wings to pick teammate*

Brett A. Sommers

*I love this headline on so many levels. So simple yet so witty. Many puns get 90 percent of the way there, and the remaining 10 percent is awkward and doesn't fit. This makes 100 percent sense while being entertaining and attention-grabbing as well.*

**3rd Place**

*JOBA THE HAUT*

Bill Collison

*So clever this headline is. Can't go wrong with Star Wars and baseball.*

**Hon. Mention**

*Bibbidi-Bobbidi boo-boo*

Susan Hall-Balduf

*I love that this goes beyond glass slippers and step sisters and goes for a less-trotted-out but just-as-clever movie reference.*

**Herbert Spencer-Best Photo**

**26 Entries**

**1st Place**

*Photos of 2014*

Katie McLean

*The light. The composition. Wow. I love the negative space. So often, the photographer doesn't get close enough or gets too close and doesn't give the subjects room to breathe and just be. The balance in this photo is breathtaking.*

**The County Press, Lapeer**

**The Missaukee Sentinel**

**State Line Observer**

**The Missaukee Sentinel**

**State Line Observer**

**Muskegon Chronicle**

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

**Detroit Free Press**

**Detroit Free Press**

**The Ann Arbor News**

## 2nd Place

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Die-in at UM Diag*

Patrick Record

*This photo grabbed me and continued to haunt me. An event such as this has the potential to be so canned, but I feel as if I got to see a candid moment of emotion despite the careful choreography of the event as a whole. The selective focus was a gripping choice.*

## 3rd Place

**Flint Journal**

*11-hour standoff ends in homicide suspect's death*

Laura McDermott

*The rawness and realness of this image leaped out at me. The depth of the tape and person in the foreground makes it even more captivating.*

## Hon. Mention

**Bay City Times**

*Cassidy battles cancer*

Yfat Yossifor

*I ache when I see this photo. It captures the pain and humanity with skill, respect and raw honesty.*

## Herbert Spencer-Best Writing

45 Entries

## 1st Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*One teacher, 25 kids, and the enormous challenge of turning around Detroit schools*

Chastity Pratt Dawsey

*What a great piece of journalism! The writing is excellent. The reader easily grasps the burdens the educator experiences. Not a word in the article is superfluous. In judging, this got a "10."*

## 2nd Place

**Muskegon Chronicle**

*From expulsion to graduation: How second chances transformed*

Alquan Evans

Lynn Moore

*It's obvious the writer took this assignment personally. She did a terrific job with it, conveying to the reader the excruciating task of the protagonist.*

*Enjoyed reading the article. The writer is brilliant.*

## 3rd Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*Poverty in Paradise*

Nancy Roelofs, Mike Wilkinson, David Zeman

*A fine job of portraying the contrast of two economic classes. Writers not only did a great job in their presentation, but did a lot of hard research.*

## Hon. Mention

**Detroit Free Press**

Mitch Albom

Mitch Albom

*A touching story that is presented tastefully and compassionately. You don't stop reading until the final sentence. The author includes impacting quotes and perceptive dialogue.*

## Herbert Spencer-Best Website

12 Entries

## 1st Place

**Tri-County Times**

*tctimes.com*

Staff

*Judge did not comment.*

## 2nd Place

**Sentinel-Standard**

*Best Website: [www.sentinel-standard.com](http://www.sentinel-standard.com)*

Lori Kilchermann, Chris Zadorozny, Nick Grenke, Stan Sulewski

*Judge did not comment.*

## 3rd Place

**Detroit Free Press**

*Freep.com, the online home of the Detroit Free Press*

Staff

*Judge did not comment.*

## Hon. Mention

**Kalamazoo Gazette**

*Kalamazoo Gazette for Best Website*

Staff

*Judge did not comment.*

## Herbert Spencer-Best Multimedia

29 Entries

## 1st Place

**Detroit Free Press**

*Life Aboard a Freighter*

Eric Seals, Jim Schaefer

*Expertly crafted look at what it's like to work on a freighter. Great camerawork and simple storytelling propelled this piece to a high standard in multimedia journalism. A story like this depends on the visuals, and it did not disappoint.*

## 2nd Place

**Flint Journal**

*Strong foundation: Swartz Creek couple marks nearly 70 years in same house*

Eric Dresden, Katie McLean

*The print story was wonderfully sweet, but when you look at the photos and see the video you feel like you've known this charming couple forever. At only 580 words long with just six photos and a two-minute video, it's the shortest winner, but it's a prime example of how all elements of modern journalism storytelling can complement each other. Great craftsmanship.*

## 3rd Place

**The Ann Arbor News**

*The legacy of Willow Run: From World War II bomber plant to national aviation museum*

Tyler Stabile

*This piece was beautifully put together. It captures a moment in time with a great use of archival elements and present-day interviews.*

## Hon. Mention

**Detroit Free Press**

*Ice Cream Man or War Criminal?*

Brian Kaufman, Jim Schaefer

*A through investigative piece that seems bigger in scope than what most traditional newspaper publications would produce.*

## Herbert Spencer-Most Innovative Story Telling

28 Entries

## 1st Place

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Urban renewal in Grand Rapids*

Garret Ellison, Cory Morse

*Incredible journalism. Great work with the graphics. A lot of research went into this piece and it shows. Also, virtually every angle possible was covered. Feature warrants a "10."*

## 2nd Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*The Crazy Cost of College - A Cultural Timeline*

Ron French, A.J. Jones, Mike Wilkinson

*This is a topic which hits home for many people. Reporters did a great job of going beyond the obvious. The comparisons of the present and past make it easier for readers to understand the situation.*

## 3rd Place

**Flint Journal**

*Repeat offenders*

Amanda Emery, Gary Ridley

*Excellent human interest. Interviews with repeat offenders does a whole lot more for the reader than just being fed statistics. Great reporting job.*

## Hon. Mention

**Bridge Magazine**

*Academic State Champs*

Mike Wilkinson, Ron French, David Zeman, Ben Freed, Chastity

Pratt-Dawsey

*Reporters did a fantastic job compiling information that affects so many people. They worked hard to dig beyond the surface of the subject. The piece was interesting, informative and very thorough. Good to see that good old-fashioned reporting is still alive and well.*

## 2015 BNC Advertising Award Winners

### Community Business Promotions

#### 24 Entries

While there were a lot of deserving entries in this competition, Ludington and Huron each had multiple stand-out ads in this category -- too many to award, in fact. Kudos to the staffs at these papers.

#### 1st Place

**Ludington Daily News**

Congratulations Lady Chippewas

Judy Lytle

There are a lot of things to like about this ad. The designer took a concept we've seen done for every local championship team and made it poster-worthy. Everything works. The headline font has a varsity feel. The photo fits without distracting background clutter. The use of solid background color and the rounded edge of a basketball draw attention to the advertiser support of the page. And those ads are all very clean -- nobody is trying to jam too much information, and the decision to make them all black and white gives them their own attention without taking away from the stars of the page

#### 2nd Place

**Huron Daily Tribune**

National Ice Cream Month

Staff

(Headline is presenting to us as if it's missing some separations. Looks correct on the thumbnail version, so we are assuming this ran correctly.) Nice array of advertisers, and all ads very nicely done. Also one of the better headings, as it provides more information about the page with the President Reagan info. Seems like it was produced for a reason and stands apart from a lot of pages that just seem to be put together to bring in additional revenue.

#### 3rd Place

**Ludington Daily News**

Mistletoe Market

Judy Lytle

The concept of this ad would appear to be a thank you to the participants of Mistletoe Market, but what it accomplishes is more than that. The photos used in the ornaments (while we've all seen that done in other ads) leaves the reader with a very positive image of this event. The art elements are eye-catching and tie the ad together top and bottom. Nice job.

#### Hon. Mention

**Huron Daily Tribune**

Holy Week Schedule of Services

Staff

Designer(s) did a nice job of presenting what is really an information directory in a way that gives each its own look and makes an overall attractive package. Nice job differentiating this page from the same pages that appear in every newspaper during the same week.

### Home Services

#### 21 Entries

#### 1st Place

**Ludington Daily News**

Harbor Design & Construction

Julie Eilers

Very nice, magazine-feel to this ad. Subtle design elements and well-chosen photos come together to draw the reader through the message. Nice-looking image advertisement.

#### 2nd Place

**Gaylord Herald Times**

Alpine Propane

Staff

Very well done overall... clean yet provides a lot of information. The reader clearly knows what they are selling and the contest information is presented in an interesting way.

#### 3rd Place

**Tri-County Times**

Irrigation Services

Judy Toaso, Tom Vander Meulen

The design is clean and the ad flows nicely. Great, descriptive choice of art leads to an open bottom fourth of the ad that uses white space effectively. The ad also has the benefit of great page placement, although that wasn't factored into the judge's decision.

#### Hon. Mention

**The County Press, Lapeer**

Congratulation - Kapala Heating

Mary Rouse

Accomplishes exactly what it intends with well-chosen photos, good blending and a dominant logo to get credit from the reader.

### Home Furnishings

#### 14 Entries

A fun category to judge as there were many interesting ads. There were really four more ads in this category that were in contention.

#### 1st Place

**Ludington Daily News**

Cooper's Floor Covering - Create your dream home

Julie Eilers

Very attractive ad using shapes in a very interesting way to draw attention to many different pieces of information. The dominant art provides a unique perspective, and the use of rectangles and a pleasing combination of colors shows the designer is a true professional. Many nice touches to this ad. Kudos to the designer.

#### 2nd Place

**Tri-County Times**

Lil House of Carpet

Terese Allen, Tom Vander Meulen

Looks like what would be delivered as a co-op stock ad, but I don't mean that in a bad way. Clean design. Uses an image that creates a positive feel for the product, along with a simple headline, a reason to pay attention to the ad, and three pretty good offers to create action. Very nice ad.

#### 3rd Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

Edward's Home Furnishings

Debra Campbell

Ads with photo collages don't always work, but this variety of photos seems to have been chosen well and creates an appealing eye-catcher. The overall ad is clean and has a good offer as well as the promise of exciting deals with "the special tags."

#### Hon. Mention

**Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County**

**Herald-News**

K2 Stoneworks

Samantha Corson

Doesn't try to do too much. Doesn't have the element of color to attract, but it still a pleasing design.

### New and Used Vehicles

#### 32 Entries

#### 1st Place

**Tecumseh Herald**

O'Hara

Nanci Heiney

Great ad! This ad is noticeable and makes me want to visit the car dealer!

#### 2nd Place

**Tri-County Times**

Hall Chrysler

Terese Allen, Tom Vander Meulen

Great ad! Very subtle and straight to the point!

#### 3rd Place

**Tecumseh Herald**

O'Hara

Nanci Heiney

This ad would have been tied for second but the Santa was off putting.

Great ad overall!



*You know what type of place this will be. Very good ad.*

## General Retail

**88 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Cadillac News**

*Oasis - Prom Dress Donations*

Jody Graff, Lindsay Elsholz

*Judge did not comment.*

**2nd Place**

**Grand Haven Tribune**

*Behm Blueberry Farm - Simply the Best*

Ryan Miller

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

**Tuscola County Advertiser**

*Dunn Hardware Liquor License*

Kristin Sherman

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Brown City Banner**

*Start Living Your Life - Miracle Ear*

Mary Rouse

*Made me want to sing, "You're so vain." Color is bright. The artwork is perfect for the ad.*

## Small Ads Work

**33 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*The Barber Shop*

Staff

*Excellent use of graphics and space. Grabs readers attention.*

**2nd Place**

**Gaylord Herald Times**

*N&J Auto Diesel Repair, Inc.*

Staff

*Ad is very clean and easy to read.*

**3rd Place**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Huron Travel Agency ~ Cruise To Alaska*

Staff

*Good graphics and ad copy*

**Hon. Mention**

*Celebrating History - Hank Graff*

Dawn Davis

*Nice old time feel!*

## Real Estate

**19 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Tri-County Times**

*Brants Real Estate*

Judy Toaso Tom Vander Meulen

*Judge did not comment.*

**2nd Place**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Team Sunrise Wrap*

Staff

*Judge did not comment.*

**3rd Place**

**Tri-County Times**

*Piper Realty*

Tiffany Marchand, Tom Vander Meulen

*Judge did not comment.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Ludington Daily News**

*Lighthouse Realty*

Lorie Klinger

*Judge did not comment.*

## Entertaining Services

**38 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Tri-County Times**

*Chasse Ballroom - Swingers Ad*

Tereese Allen, Tom Vander Meulen

*Great color contrast. Big eye catching image. Simple and to the point.*

**2nd Place**

**Burton View**

*Treat or Treat - Burton Parks*

Jandi Prich

*Very nicely put together. Great color contrast.*

**3rd Place**

**Spinal Column Newsweekly**

*MBIA-Boat Expo 2015*

Jim Stevenson

*The top 3/4 of this ad is perfect, the bottom half is cluttered and the picture quality is off.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Township View**

*Kochville Veterans Hall*

Mary Rouse

*Judge did not comment.*

## Restaurants

**44 Entries**

**1st Place**

**Lapeer Area View**

*Holiday - Achatz*

Mary Rouse

*Excellent use of art. Perfect ad.*

**2nd Place**

**Tri-County Times**

*Boston's Halloween Bash*

Tiffany Marchand, Tom Vander Meulen

*Everything in the right place. Lots of information - great layout.*

**3rd Place**

**Cadillac News**

*Lakeside Charles - Tini Night*

Staff

*Fantastic small space ad for a restaurant.*

**Hon. Mention**

**Tecumseh Herald**

*Tecumseh Brewery*

Nanci Heiney