



Release

2008 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

Members of Pennsylvania Press Association studied over 3,781 entries submitted by 116 Michigan newspapers when they judged the 2008 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

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

The 2008 "Newspaper of the Year" award is presented to the top newspaper in eight circulation classes based on points accumulated (100 for first, 70 for second and 40 for third – points are doubled in the General Excellence contest) in all Editorial contest categories. Winners of those awards are listed below.

Daily Newspapers of the Year			Weekly Newspapers of the Year		
Circ.	Total	Newspaper	Circ.	Total	Newspaper
Class	Points	Class	Points		
Class A	1,810	Detroit Free Press	Class A	2,060	News-Herald, Southgate
Class B	1,030	Jackson Citizen Patriot	Class B	1,020	Detroit Jewish News
Class C	1,300	Traverse City Record-Eagle	Class C	690	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	600	The Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant	Class D	650	State Line Observer, Morenci

Circulation Class Breakdown: Daily Class A – 75,001 or more; Daily Class B – 30,001 – 75,000; Daily Class C – 12,001-30,000; Daily Class D – under 12,001; Weekly Class A – 25,001 or more; Weekly Class B – 10,001 – 25,000; Weekly Class C – 4,001 – 10,000; Weekly Class D – under 4,001.

The MPA Public Service Award recognizes a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper or newspaper individual that has made a significant contribution to the betterment of their community. The three finalists are: Detroit Free Press for "Mayor's Lies" series; Ironwood Daily Globe for the "Ironwood City Commission" series and Jackson Citizen Patriot for their "County Road Commission" series.

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into newspapers. The three finalists are: Kristin Longley of the Jackson Citizen Patriot; Nicholas Deshais of the Port Huron Times Herald and Peter Daining of the Grand Haven Tribune.

The winners of the 2008 MPA Public Service Award and the MPA Rookie Writer Award will be announced Saturday, February 7th during the Awards Presentation in the Pantlind Ballroom, Amway Grand Hotel.

The "Best of the Best" Feature Story winner, a contest between all 1st place feature story winners in all divisions, will be displayed at the Association's Annual Winter Convention in Grand Rapids, in the contest display room.

2008 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Editorial Contest Winners



General Excellence

Daily Class A

1st Place [Detroit Free Press](#)

No comment given.

2nd Place [Grand Rapids Press](#)

No comment given.

Daily Class B

1st Place [Lansing State Journal](#)

An attractive paper, good reproduction, strong local presence with lots of local voices. Nice packaging, good ad presentation and use of alternative story forms (Rocky Roads), good spot news coverage (Homicide), well layered.

2nd Place [Muskegon Chronicle](#)

Solid A1 centerpieces each day, stories nicely layered. Strong local coverage, nice design.

3rd Place [Pontiac Oakland Press](#)

Good local coverage, reproduction, ad design. Nice writing. Design gets too busy, too many headline styles.

Daily Class C

1st Place [Traverse City Record-Eagle](#)

This paper is the most-polished, best-assembled of the class of papers. It also has the most news, local and non-local, the best use of photos and decent writing.

2nd Place [Livingston County Daily Press & Argus](#)

Good blend of local and non-local. Pages are fairly sharp and the writing is adequate.

3rd Place [Adrian, Daily Telegram](#)

The paper earns 3rd Place on the strength of several good and prolific writer-reporters. Sunday edition was also the 3rd strongest entry.

Daily Class D

1st Place [Petoskey News-Review](#)

Nice writing... superb local content, design and use of photos. This is a good, overall local newspaper that has something for everyone.

2nd Place [Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette](#)

Good writing and use of photos. In another year when the competition wasn't so stiff, this paper could easily win this category.

3rd Place [Iron Mountain, The Daily News](#)

Ok writing, ledes could be punchier. Excellent local coverage design and use of photos. Impressive editorial page.

HM [Owosso -The Argus-Press](#)

Has the making of a first place. Writing needs to be improved with punchier, more descriptive ledes and better story organization. Nice mix of local content. Good use of photos.

Weekly Class A

1st Place [Livingston Community News](#)

A clear winner. This is an enjoyable paper to read, with a good mix of hard and soft news. The writing is consistently solid and readable. Layout is clean and often creative. Photo and graphic reproduction is superb. The property sales featured with map & prices is an attractive addition. Below-the-fold teasers are apparently not intended for newsstand sales. Headline type is a bit overy-emphatic. They all scream. Outline type should mix bold & plain text.

2nd Place [Southgate News-Herald](#)

A true community newspaper with a strong blend of news, features, sports, automotive and more. The design is somewhat dated and the color palette is a bit dramatic. (yellow boxes on 1-A, for instance). Ads mingled with stories also are a drawback. This is offset by strong, local reporters – local content.

3rd Place [Ann Arbor Business Review](#)

While the content is closer to public relations than journalism, the writing is solid and readable, and the packaging is attractive. Each issue contains a broad mix of topics of interest to local businesses. Except for a few places where a badly placed photo cuts into a column of text, the layout is clean and sharp.

Weekly Class B

1st Place [Detroit Jewish News](#)

Truly a news publication about community people and events, beautifully presented with exceptionally good writing and attention to photography. The publication does what it sets out to do. Appealing ads.

2nd Place [Grosse Pointe News](#)

The newspaper is close to its community. The writing is well done and stories are close to the hearts of people who live in the area. Layout is appealing and reproduction is occasionally outstanding as in the "Champs" story.

3rd Place [Fenton, Tri-County Times](#)

Great tornado coverage, lots of local writers and local news. Thorough writing. Good photos.

Weekly Class C

1st Place [Gaylord Herald Times](#)

Excellent use of art, above the banner promos, well-written hard news, clearly organized. I especially liked the weekend section (Why Publish On Saturday?) The whole paper looks great.

2nd Place [Novi News](#)

Good hard news. Some photos were flat. Weekend planner was very helpful, excellent promos to the Web. The sports section really was a good local mix of news and features.

3rd Place [Leelanau Enterprise](#)

Good hard news, photos too amateurish, nice inside color, good editorial.

HM [Allegan County News](#)

Good design, nice use of promos, flat art.

General Excellence, continued

Weekly Class D**1st Place State Line Observer**

Great pictures, nice clean layout, with lots of local content and excellent writing. Clear editorial voice.

2nd Place Blissfield Advance

A+ on local content and use of photos. A real hometown feel, easy to read.

3rd Place Marshall Chronicle

Photos, local content and writing quality outstanding. Not quite as strong on design or advertising.

HM Dexter Leader

Within 1/4 point of each other. Both fine example of solid local journalism.

Spot News Story**Daily Class A****1st Place Detroit Free Press**

Staff *A New U.S. Auto Industry*
Staggering in its complexity and thoroughness, this package explained the process and meaning of the contract settlement in Detroit. Exhaustive in its scope, with a nice mix of technical information interspersed with real personal anecdotes.

2nd Place Grand Rapids Press

J. Agar, E. Piet *Horror, Then A Miracle*
Nice work pulling together a broad array of sourcing to explain the situation and its ramifications. Good graphics/photos really help pull the whole thing together. Nice "before" and "after" shots - nice touch.

3rd Place Grand Rapids Press

John Agar *Everybody's Hero*
Touching account of slain police officer mixed with good reaction comments from the community. Good work that was turned around quickly. The roll call of the fallen was a great touch.

HM Grand Rapids Press

Patt Shellenbarger *Dr. Stokes First Day Coverage*
No comment given.

Daily Class B**1st Place Jackson Citizen Patriot**

S. Hepker, D. Quisenberry *Golf Course Creator Killed In House Fire*
This is a second-day story done on a first-day deadline. Great details, great interviews, great sensitivity for those involved, great storytelling. Excellent job.

2nd Place Ann Arbor News

Geoff Larcom *Fallon Fired As EMU President*
This was great advance work coupled with great deadline work. Easy to read, informative without being tedious, interesting to the end. My only criticism: The wording of the second graph goes too far into speculation; a better approach would have been to attribute the alleged reason for the firing to Fallon.

Spot News Story, continued

3rd Place Ann Arbor News

A. Nash, T. Gantert, M. Rzepka, R. Rezler, J. Mathis, G. Larcom, A. Aisner *No Hope of Crash Survivors*
The content here is outstanding. I think the organization could have been better to prevent overlapping information, but the information that was gathered was riveting.

HM Bay City Times

Tom Gilchrist *Feds Raid Thumb Farm*
Great coverage. Well-written, great details, good interviews.

Daily Class C**1st Place Port Huron Times Herald**

Staff *1,400 Jobs*
Admirable hustle and a tip allow the paper to assemble stories and graphics on two auto-industry developments with huge employment consequences.

2nd Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

Dennis Chase *Death of a Runner*
The collapse and death of U.S. marathon runner was big news everywhere but especially northern Michigan, his home. Local sports editor fashioned a wonderful story.

3rd Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

Victor Skinner *Eviction*
Well-handled report on the eviction of elderly woman, the last resident of a state park.

Daily Class D**1st Place Royal Oak Daily Tribune**

M. McConnell, C. Kavanaugh *It Looks Like A Hit Job*
Hands-down winner. For spot news, it's hard to beat a downtown murder in broad daylight, a two-hour manhunt and finally an arrest. Clearly in this case, the team was. They handled it superbly with solid reporting, crisp writing. Great work!

2nd Place Owosso -The Argus-Press

Liz Shepard *Fire Destroys Apartment Building*
No comment given

3rd Place Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun

Lisa Satayut *Two Killed In Crash*
Two people die in a fiery collision after their car crashes into a Santa Express. A compelling story, in this case well reported. The only thing missing were comments from people on the train. Otherwise, good work.

HM Sturgis Journal

C. Emriek, R. Currier *Death A Homicide*
If not for the news cycle, this one was a winner. Technically, it's more of a photo but it's still very well done, dramatically capturing a small town's shock in the wake of a little girls' murder.

Weekly Class A**1st Place Southgate News-Herald**

Jason Alley *Election Fraud Alleged*
The reporter tackled an important breaking story. The arrest of a city official for ballot tampering. At the end of his shift; worked the story despite obstacles; and wrote an exciting, compelling story that answered as many questions as possible given the circumstances the background research gave the story a solid base.

Spot News Story, continued

2nd Place Southgate News-Herald

Rene Cizio *Chemical Accident*
A major event can fall in any reporter's lap. A good reporter makes it into a good story. This one has the pertinent details and some 'real people' affected by the accident.

3rd Place Southgate News-Herald

Jackie Harrison-Martin *Still Searching*
This is a decent meat & potatoes spot news piece. It lacks attribution and human voices, but to some degree, the reporter's 1st-hand observations offset that.

Weekly Class B

1st Place Fenton, Tri-County Times

Staff *August 24 Tornado*
Massive effort to cover all bases following tornado that destroyed much of the area. Great cooperative presentation.

2nd Place Fenton, Tri-County Times

Cheryl Dennison *Linden Fire*
Significant fire. Thorough reporting under time constraints.

3rd Place Farmington Observer

Dan O'Meara *Injured Soldier to Reunite...*
Swift action to report current story with short notice. Unusual story with action overseas, but knowledge of local connections.

HM Press & Guide Newspapers

Sean Delaney *Man Charged In Rape Case*
Significant effort made to keep up with current information.

Weekly Class C

1st Place South Lyon Herald

Alyson Iott *A Hero Was Needed*
Superb storytelling complete with drama, tension and a beautifully enhanced conclusion. Enhanced by a terrific photo (the men shaking hands with a strong diagonal graphic element). Sidebars were the perfect companions to this piece. Really enjoyed the writing style.

2nd Place Tecumseh Herald

D. Wuethrich, M. Alvarado *Lenawee Sheriff Dept.*
Written with great sensitivity to the fire victims, the story and photos do a lot to show the sense of loss to others in the community affected by their neighbor's tragedy. The author conveyed the sense of urgency in describing Oram's ordeal in the rescue.

3rd Place Tecumseh Herald

Cristina Trapani-Scott *Books, Documents Removed*
This article did a beautiful job of illustrating the suddenness of the closure of this town's landmark library. Loved especially the language describing in detail how the building had been steadily falling apart, and, the last graph that helps readers env

HM Novi News

Chris Jackett *Schools Enforce Interim Beef Ban*
Giving just enough description to elicit an "ick factor" in the reader. The article is informative and responsible. It sustains interest by raising some questions (and answering others) about the journey of the meat.

Spot News Story, continued

Weekly Class D

1st Place Milan News-Leader

Sue Collins *AutoLign Closes*
The circumstances of this article are the best example of the category's intent. Initial call came after deadline, and the reporter used good initiative and really scrambled to get a full story.

2nd Place Dexter Leader

Sean Dalton *Village President Seta Resigns*
An impressive collection of articles for such a quick turnaround. Inclusion of letter of resignation a smart move, and reader poll gives readers a chance to respond to surprising news... and pick up next week's paper.

3rd Place Dexter Leader

Sean Dalton *Fallen Dexter Native Honored*
Well-written tribute to a fallen soldier. The only change recommended would be placement as main story on front page so photo of family at the ceremony could be utilized in color.

News Story

Daily Class A

1st Place Detroit Free Press

Jennifer Dixon *Detroit Public Schools*
Jennifer Dixon's articles about spending by Detroit Public Schools brings to light many important community issues, such as taxes and education. Her coverage highlights how a newspaper is necessary to be the government watchdog especially on the local level.

2nd Place Detroit News

B. Vlasic, S. Terlep, L. Aguilar, N. Hurst, B. O'Connor, J. Valcourt, B. Hoffman *UAW Strike Coverage*
The package of coverage on the UAW strike provided compelling and informative stories about the issue and effects on the community from various angles. Combined with great photos, timelines and statistics, this entry provided the community with up-to-date coverage.

3rd Place Detroit Free Press

Sarah Webster *Dealership Overload*
Sarah Webster dives into the world of automobile dealers and highlights trends and economic aspects with the stories of real people. It is obvious that a lot of hard work went into providing comprehensive coverage of a local issue that has a far-reaching grasp.

Daily Class B

1st Place Jackson Citizen Patriot

D. Quisenberry, C. Gautz, H. Kluft, P. Rombyer *Soldier Soper*
Beautiful work. Often riveting reading. Great interviews, great double-truck, great funeral coverage. How did you get the poem he wrote? That was an awesome addition.

2nd Place Muskegon Chronicle

C. Fairfield, R. Burns, S. Gunn, J. Houseman *Sieradzki House*
This was a tremendous read, every word of every story and layer,

News Story, continued**3rd Place Lansing State Journal**

Kevin Grasha *Convicted Killer*
Nice job! Detailed, relevant description; good mix of quotes and paraphrases; succinct background; good layers. I enjoyed reading it.

HM Jackson Citizen Patriot

Kristin Longley *Road Commission*
Great job staying with the story and investigating pieces such as the conference trip, etc.

Daily Class C**1st Place Midland, Daily News**

Staff *MRSA*
This paper assembled a one-day report that really took the measure of an illness and explained it to its readers. It showed both awareness and versatility. Very smart!

2nd Place Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Lisa Roose-Church *Howell Bus Case*
The reporter stayed on a challenging story that would resonate with any parent and did it probingly but sensitively.

3rd Place Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Jim Totten *Immigrant Struggles*
A fine job explaining both the personal tragedy and the issues involved in a deportation case. He made the reader care about this.

Daily Class D**1st Place Petoskey News-Review**

R. Bentley, L. Nelle *Athletic Complex*
A solid, informative series chocked full of pertinent details. The reporting covered all the necessary angles and gave the readers, the voters, everything they needed to make an informed decision at the polls. Bentley obviously did his homework.

2nd Place Sturgis Journal

Audora Berg *Diary of a Vietnam Veteran*
A well-done series that shows creativity, initiative and enterprise. Berg did an outstanding job weaving Ganger's entries with quick-hitting transitions and crisp, well-crafted writing. There series was presented in a classy manner and not overdone.

3rd Place Big Rapids, Pioneer

News Staff *Troops Come Home*
All over the country, communities and newspapers, prepare for when "their" troops come home. The Pioneer's staff, specifically Lindsey Wahowiak, took a fresh approach to old stories and wrote them with a deft touch. The leads were catch and quick. Especially the feature stories leading up to the big day.

HM Manistee News Advocate

Christine Batzer *Horrible Price*
A story that needed telling, full of powerful quotes and enough conflict to make it very engaging. The one drawback is the writer let the quotes go to long. More paraphrasing would have helped.

News Story, continued**Weekly Class A****1st Place Southgate News-Herald**

Jason Alley *Father Suspect In Baby's Death*
This is a heart rending story that had us turning the pages to read more. Riveting leads, compelling details, human voices. Sensational content presented with sensitivity and craftsmanship. Apart from the ad floating in the middle of the lead stories, all pieces are played well.

2nd Place Southgate News-Herald

Rene Cizio *Perfect Day Turns Tragic*
The writing and narrative structure were perfectly suited to this sad tale. The reader's heart is engaged from the first sentence to the last. The headline is perfect, but the ad inside the story is distracting, and the juxtaposition with the adjacent feature photo is a bit jarring.

3rd Place Ann Arbor Business Review

Nathan Bomey *Pfizer Site*
Business news can be dry, but this story is clear and compelling. It covers a lot of territory without getting lost. The packaging-subheads, maps, box, layouts, 2 page info graphic, make it a total package. Useful, informative, and a good read.

Weekly Class B**1st Place West Bloomfield Eccentric**

Sara Callender *Roundabout Lawsuit*
Thorough, well-written story showing community's needs and results of publicizing. Not a sensational story, but writer recognizes its importance.

2nd Place Plymouth Observer

Brad Kadrich *Beheading Murder*
Grisly murder. Writer brings out details of families and background. Follows through as story unfolds.

3rd Place Troy Eccentric

S. Armbruster/ P. Murphy, S. Steidmueller *Troy Couple Killed*
Probing to get answers is evident. Well written exposition of a difficult situation.

HM Westland Observer

Darrell Clem *It Will Always Get Better*
Heartwarming holiday story with results.

Weekly Class C**1st Place Leelanau Enterprise**

Alan Campbell *Lakeshore Holdout*
Excellent job of pursuing and netting a prize interview with an elusive subject. Without the cover letter, I would not have known that this story was an "exclusive". Baumgardner, who never speaks publicly 'is' in an exclusive. Well written.

2nd Place South Lyon Herald

A. Iott, J. Mitchell, N. Mueller *McBurney*
Thorough coverage of an emotional trial. The complicated defenses were well and simply explained, very important. The detail from the trial and the testimony were fair and completely presented.

3rd Place Imlay City, The Tri-City Times

Catherine Minolli *It's a Miracle*
Well written, well done. What a talker. Reporter did a very good job of telling the complete story. Not strong enough of a news story for any higher award, but fun.

News Story, continued

HM Milford Times

Jessie Ellis *Mercury Spill Lock Down*
I thought there was good effort to explain mercury in this context and with a box inside, but the lead should have been more straight forward.

Weekly Class D

1st Place Chelsea Standard

Terry Jacoby *A Mother's Story*
Great placement sensitive, non-sentimental handling of what an injured serviceman and his family are experiencing.

2nd Place State Line Observer

David Green *The Buzz*
Fascinating story, well told. I learned a lot from reading it.

3rd Place State Line Observer

David Green *Freshman Prep*
Another story that describes, explains and enlightens.

HM Clarkston News

Laura Calvin *Neighbors*
Good treatment of the kind of story that is often ignored because the situation is long-standing.

Design

Daily Class A

1st Place Detroit Free Press

When the Press decides to do an in-depth piece, it does it well, complete with eye-pleasing art elements that, more importantly, further inform the reader. A well-organized paper all around.

2nd Place Flint Journal

The Flint Journal proves it knows how to tell a good story, not just with words, but through the use of well-placed graphic elements. The photography is superb.

3rd Place Grand Rapids Press

This paper is cleanly designed. The graphic artist helps set this paper apart. Especially when it comes to sports.

Daily Class B

1st Place Jackson Citizen Patriot

Clean, balanced design with a strong presence above the fold on A1. Excellent use of type, and good packaging for the light reader. Good use of photos on section fronts.

2nd Place Lansing State Journal

A close second. Overall design is very good with plenty of layers. Photos sometimes played too small on fronts. Sports uses photos and layers well.

3rd Place Ann Arbor News

Reader-friendly design and good overall packaging. Sometimes a dominant image is lacking on A1. Section fronts make good use of photos and layers.

Daily Class C

1st Place Port Huron Times Herald

Design and layout found ways to dramatize local news. Paper shows photo and design are content, along with text.

2nd Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

Good typography. A distinguished looking newspaper. Eye-catching pages and quite consistent.

Design, continued

3rd Place Adrian, Daily Telegram

The pages are striking. Photos are used well.

Daily Class D

1st Place Big Rapids, Pioneer

This smaller paper takes big chances that often pay off with surprises for readers. This paper is terrific above the fold, with plenty to grab the readers. Overall, excellent use of photos.

2nd Place Sturgis Journal

This is a nicely designed and consistent paper that is easy to navigate and gives its display content room to breathe. Nice job!

3rd Place Petoskey News-Review

This is a solidly designed paper with highly readable fonts. The design is not flashy but it is consistent and has some nice touches like pull-out boxes and well-placed cut-outs intersperses. Good paper!

Weekly Class A

1st Place Livingston Community News

The designers make good use of white space and rules and balance stories nicely on the page. The art is consistently played well, with some nice photo spreads. Body type is clean and easy to read.

2nd Place Southgate News-Herald

The fundamental structure is solid and orderly. The splashy color boxes, typefaces and huge headlines give it a dated feel, but features such as the catchy skyboxes help offset that.

TIE - 3rd Place Grand Blanc View, Lapeer Area View

These sister papers are essentially clones. Both switches from a broadsheet to small tabloid format. The typefaces are clean and rules lend some nice air to the pages. Photo placement is sometimes poor and distracting and the colored boxes are a bit too crayola to appear professional.

Weekly Class B

1st Place Detroit Jewish News

Non-traditional news format, skillfully executed, well ordered publication. Photographs well chosen and well placed. Consistent, appealing typography.

2nd Place Grosse Pointe News

Appealing arrangement of stories, good photographic reproduction. Champs! Page is a winner in its own right.

3rd Place Westland Observer

Boxed front page stories stand out from the crowd. Relatively pedestrian stories are enhanced by their surroundings, i.e., typography and layout.

HM Troy Eccentric

Layout clear and attractive with attention paid to importance of story. Good photo reproduction and placement. Good separation of advertisement and news.

Weekly Class C

1st Place Novi News

Clean type, good color and contrast in photos. Good headline designs, great sections i.e. food for thought, my government, my community, etc.

2nd Place Allegan County News

Nice design, clean type, nice headline style, black & whites could be a little crisper. Nice color pictures.

Design, continued

3rd Place **New Buffalo, Harbor Country News**
Nice design, nice inclusion of other communities good pictures.

HM **Belleville-Area Independent**
Easy paper to read, nice design, black & white pictures could be a little crisper, leading could be a little tighter.

Weekly Class D

1st Place **State Line Observer**
Spacious and clean design. Easy to read and follow.

2nd Place **Dexter Leader**
Eye-catching header and layout.

3rd Place **Chelsea Standard**
Creative and artistic, an attractive product.

Feature Story

Daily Class A

1st Place **Flint Journal**
Carol Azizian *When Autism Wears Pink*
A very touching feature. Azizian obviously spent a lot of time with the subjects, and vividly showed what life is like for the girls and their parents.

2nd Place **Detroit News**
Charlie LeDuff *Who Killed Tamara Greene*
An enthralling mystery. LeDuff held my attention from the first sentence to the last.

3rd Place **Detroit News**
Susan Whitall *Honor Killing*
Explaining a book in a feature story is not easy, but Whitall gives the most intriguing details to hook the reader. Great story.

HM **Grand Rapids Press**
Mike Lloyd *Steam Queen*
A great personality profile. The light-hearted piece is a fascinating look at a type of author who rarely receives much attention.

Daily Class B

1st Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**
Chris Iott *Surgery For Son Was Hard Choice*
Chris showed courage in deciding to lay bare what he and his family were going through. The story easily could have been sappy or overwrought. But Chris used a reporter's eye and a good writer's feel for how much emotion was enough.

2nd Place **Ann Arbor News**
Lynn Monson *Journey To A Monument*
A thorough detailed and readable story. I was struck most by the patient, unhurried pace and the quiet tone, which seemed to fit the subjects perfectly. Well done.

3rd Place **Muskegon Chronicle**
Lynn Moore *No Way To Live*
I applauded the diligent effort it took to tell the story of what happened to Rob, because it's a story that could have been overlooked. It's well-reported, particularly with the use of public records.

Feature Story, continued

HM **Muskegon Chronicle**
Eric Gaertner *Labor of Love*
A tough subject to write about, much less to witness; but an important story to tell.

Daily Class C

1st Place **Midland, Daily News**
Tony Lascari *Path To Eternity*
The topic alone, a dying 15-year-old is compelling, but the writer did it with grace and necessary restraint. Very good work. Top alone would not be enough.

2nd Place **Port Huron Times Herald**
Bill Chapin *A Need For Others*
With wonderful economy of words and some wonderful descriptions, writer makes this story matter.

3rd Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Sheri McWhirter *Mackinac at 50*
Anniversary stories can be bland and pro-forma. This one isn't!

Daily Class D

1st Place **Sturgis Journal**
Rosalie Currier *Now For Some Knitting*
Judging this entry began with trepidation, as it seemed likely it was expected to stand on its emotional impact. The writing, however, was clean and evocative. It conveyed the correct emotional weight without resorting to wordy descriptions.

2nd Place **Houghton, Daily Mining Gazette**
Kelly Fosness *The Sweet Taste Of Longevity*
By their nature, features must start strong to avoid losing readers unaffected by the topic. This entry's lead does just that. Add in a few interesting facts about the subject's life and good quotes, and you've got another good recipe!

3rd Place **Big Rapids, Pioneer**
Martin Slagter *Ramblin' Gamblin' Man*
This entry includes many details about its subject's brushes with fame, but its real success is in quickly capturing the essence of those near misses. That feeling of what almost was pervades the rest of the entry.

HM **Hillsdale Daily News**
Benjamin Ray *Blackwater CEO Recalls Time Spent In Hillsdale*
Sometimes localizing international news includes little more than soliciting local opinions on larger issues. This entry goes beyond identifying a local connection to international headlines by interviewing the headline-maker.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **Detroit, Metro Times**
Michael Jackman *Torch Song*
This is a feast of words that brings to life people who live in a world on the edge.

2nd Place **Southgate News-Herald**
Jim Kasuba *Long Journey Home*
A touching account of a family's long nightmare. Shows that WWII still reverberates today.

Feature Story, continued**3rd Place Detroit, Metro Times**

Brian Smith *Jesus of Suburbia*
 Second and third place come down to a tie-breaking vote. This story sings, but it also shouts. Once past the shouting, it's a pleasure to hear the singing.

Weekly Class B**1st Place West Bloomfield Eccentric**

Larry Ruehlen *Class of 57*
 Creative idea and reporter ran with it. Good, creative storytelling. Reporter called across the country to track down sources. Nice use of comments with corresponding class pictures.

2nd Place Birmingham Eccentric

Jay Grossman *Back In Tune*
 Creative story idea. Well written in a storytelling format. Plenty of interviews that were not repetitive information.

3rd Place Fenton, Tri-County Times

Jason Alexander *The Art Of Home Brewing*
 Great lede. Terrific quotes. Good flow and nice use of an info box.

HM Detroit Jewish News

Shelli Liebman Dorfman *A Stitch In Time*
 Well written story about an important time in history.

Weekly Class C**1st Place South Lyon Herald**

Nathan Mueller *Danice Closes After 33 Years*
 Well written, good insight, has history and personal viewpoint of workers. Good story regarding plight of manufacturing companies in today's economy.

2nd Place Ypsilanti Courier

Christine Laughren *A Virtual Connection*
 Well written, good background on state regulations, the struggles of the child to keep up and the teacher to keep class order.

3rd Place Milford Times

Aileen Wingblad *Victims Share Stories*
 Writer took a very sensitive topic and handled it well.

HM Ypsilanti Courier

Dave Duchene *Island Adventure*
 A light-hearted enjoyable read - needs better proofreading on captions.

Weekly Class D**1st Place Clarkston News**

Laura Colvin *On The Road to Recovery*
 Great idea for a series that turned from two to a three parter. Telling the story of sobriety court through the lives of two men made the account real & readable. Well developed, good storytelling, outstanding piece of journalism.

2nd Place State Line Observer

David Green *Jeannine*
 Test of a good story is one you read from beginning to end because you want to not, because you have to. Fascinating read; felt like I was there. David Green is a good story-teller.

Feature Story, continued**3rd Place Milan News-Leader**

Brian Cox *Finding a Purpose*
 The presentation of this story, the writing, set it apart. The lead entices the reader to continue. Story not overdone as are so many victim stories. Would have broken second graph into two.

HM Oxford Leader

C.J. Carnacchio *Ever Met an Accordion-Playing Troll*
 No earth-moving subject; just a simple one. But, ok how good is the writing. The turn of a phrase is priceless. In future, don't over attribute. We know who the speaker is. Use "says" instead of said.

Enterprise Reporting**Daily Class A****1st Place Detroit Free Press**

J. Schaefer, J. Swickard *Fatal Euphoria*
 An exhaustive look at a "local" problem with far-reaching consequences. Details are interwoven in a way that crystallizes the subject matter of the reader. Simply amazing work!

2nd Place Detroit Free Press

Bill McGraw *Driving Detroit*
 What a great concept for an in-depth package. Comprehensive treatment of the city street-by-street really opens eyes to the lines of our neighbors. Strong details throughout strengthens the piece.

3rd Place Detroit News

B. Vlasic, C. Tierney *Death of a Merger*
 Solid reporting effort help to peel back the layers of the onion on this important story. The narrator style is captivating - equal to or exceeding the finest national news magazines.

HM Detroit News

M. Wilkinson, R. French *Union Divide*
 A nice hit of data analysis went into this one. Breaks new ground with the side-by-side comparison of salaries. I'm sure this spirited outrage/discussion.

Daily Class B**1st Place Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Chris Gautz *Firm Moving Here Veiled In Secrecy*
 This reporter caught the scent of something and didn't stop pushing until he caught the company in lies and made the community ask, 'do we really want this company here?' If not for this piece of work, they never would have known to ask.

2nd Place Ann Arbor News

J. Carty, J. Heuser, N. Fenno, D. GersHMann *Academics & Athletics At MI*
 Great teamwork taking on a huge institution with a major interest in keeping stories like these out of the public eye. Excellent sourcing. And the concept and execution of the package really allows you to peer into a U-M strategy for producing winners on the field.

3rd Place Pontiac Oakland Press

David Birkett *Promises Unfulfilled*
 Super reporting and what I really liked was that the story took us inside the subject's world from their point of view in a non-judgmental way that avoided playing to stereotypes.

Enterprise Reporting, continued

HM Jackson Citizen Patriot

Chad Livengood *Teacher Sick Days*
Excellent idea, good use of public records and good job clearly identifying why this matters.

Daily Class C

1st Place Port Huron Times Herald

Mike Connell *Paid To Leave*
First-rate reporting. Reporter builds a case against the cash-strapped city for excessive payout to former city manager.

2nd Place Adrian, Daily Telegram

D. Panian, B. Calloway *Adrian College Title IX*
Smart reporting allows readers to determine strength of complaints against local college's men and women sports programs.

3rd Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

Brian McGillivray *Judge Pays To Settle Suit*
Using records and other reporting, reporter data is how a judge's conflicts of interests results in a lawsuit and expensive settlement.

Daily Class D

1st Place Petoskey News-Review

Ryan Bentley *Energy Costs*
Today, this entry seems like repeating information that's been around for months. But the entry was published almost a year ago, making it months ahead of the pack in mentioning the issue. True enterprise is alerting readers to problems before then even realize they exist.

2nd Place Greenville, The Daily News

Ryan Jeltema *Metron Problems*
With laws protecting the distribution of patient information, health reporting is difficult to start. Reporting on potential lapses in judgment that caused a patients' death is an even more delicate situation to handle.

3rd Place Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun

Lisa Satayut *POW Camps Remembered*
The letter accompanying this entry noted the importance of retaining oral histories. This entry did a good job binding scant official documentation with personal accounts to highlight a small local footnote in major world history.

HM Ludington, Daily News

Melissa McGuire *Lyric Closing*
The first two articles of this entry were fairly commonplace. However, they set the stage for the final one, which displayed an enterprising effort to commemorate an event that has become all too common in small towns.

Weekly Class A

1st Place Southgate News-Herald

Jason Alley *Man Held In Drug Death of Girl*
Tanacious pursuit of the story behind the story of a 17-year-old stripper dead of drugs. The community truly came to understand how many things had to go wrong for this girl to end up not only dead, but in the life she led.

Enterprise Reporting, continued

2nd Place Livingston Community News

Lisa Carolin *Foreclosures*
Proof that enterprise reporting need not be long and rambling. A succinct localization of the national foreclosure crisis, including an engaging lede, numbers making it easy to see how the national crisis is playing out locally, and an explanation of how people get themselves into the fix.

3rd Place Detroit, Metro Times

Curt Cuyette *Nightmare On Highbury Court*
Gripping blow-by-blow account that keeps you reading wondering how the well derailed story plays out.

Weekly Class B

1st Place Detroit Jewish News

Keri Guten Cohen *Holy Land Ties*
Compelling issue presented in an interesting fashion with great layouts and sidebars.

2nd Place Detroit Jewish News

Don Cohen *Christian and Zionist*
Well written with real people leading off each story. Explains a difficult issue in readable fashion.

3rd Place Northern Express Weekly

Anne Stanton *Politics of Poop*
Tough topic made understandable. Presented in a way that informs readers of an important issue.

Enterprise Reporting, continued

HM South Haven Tribune

Becky Burkert *Surviving Tough Times*
Plenty of information that covers all of the bases.

Weekly Class C

1st Place Belleville-Area Independent

Rosemary Oztman *City Manager Lies*
Getting a tip and running with it eeking out the truth. Great reporting and follow through.

2nd Place Milford Times

Staff *Targeting Breast Cancer*
A subject in the public eye daily. Well written and portrayed good editing.

3rd Place Gaylord Herald Times

J. Martinez, M. Jones, J. Schult *Recycle! Otsego County*
Another subject in the news daily. Well done. Nicely written, well edited.

HM Novi News

Kelly Murad *Ground Breaking*
Nice way of showing each venue of a new health complex nicely written.

Weekly Class D

1st Place Chelsea Standard

Edward Freundl *Adopt-A-Farm*
Wow! What a piece of journalism. I am left speechless by the magnitude of the effort and writing. Following two brothers throughout the year in a monthly series brought the world of farming home to the reader.

Enterprise Reporting, continued

2nd Place **Chelsea Standard**

Kathy Clark *Chelsea Clocktower*
No comment given.

3rd Place **Dexter Leader**

Sean Dalton *The Bucks Stops Where?*
No comment given.

HM **Lake Orion Review**

Colin Baumgartner *Was the Audit Worth It?*
Good in-depth reporting with the subject explained clearly to help the reader understand the issue. Like the timelines, too.

Editorial Pages

Daily Class A

1st Place **Detroit Free Press**

This was a difficult decision because all three entries had the hallmarks of a good editorial page. Strong local editorials, reader and staff input and strong graphical display. The Free Press stands out because of its use of staff created graphics.

2nd Place **Grand Rapids Press**

A very good editorial page. Good local editorials. Strong display of letters. A good mix of local and syndicated columns.

3rd Place **Flint Journal**

Overall look could be improved by more headline emphasis on the local editorials, but the use of staff columns on Sunday's op-ed page is very strong. Reader letters are well-displayed.

Daily Class B

1st Place **Lansing State Journal**

The "Overhaul"/ "Capitol Costs" package was phenomenal and propels these pages to the top of the pack. Otherwise, lots of letters, lots of voices. Thoughtfully done section.

2nd Place **Pontiac Oakland Press**

Visually well-done section, wise voices pulled from a number of different areas. Good work.

3rd Place **Ann Arbor News**

Good effort here. Editor is obviously working community well for content. Voices of Luke, Dow and Broden a little repetitious for 2-page section.

Daily Class C

1st Place **Port Huron Times Herald**

Nice, clean presentation. A wealthy local commentary delivered with clever techniques. Lead editorials are nicely written.

2nd Place **Adrian, Daily Telegram**

Strength of the page is the consistency interesting columns by editor Mark Lenz. Editorials are persuasive.

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

Editorials are driven by local news and issues, and are well-done. Good assortment of op/eds.

Daily Class D

1st Place **Greenville, The Daily News**

Organized, strong writing, contact info easy to locate (for readers). Included First Amendment cartoons as part of page, not dominating it.

Editorial Pages, continued

2nd Place **Ludington, Daily News**

Strong writing by rotating columnists. Bold headline type face.

3rd Place **Alpena News**

Viewpoint, Poll, Cheers and Jeers are interesting. Update graphics for more polished appearance, i.e. letters to the editor.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **The Mirror**

Attractive layout, good use of cartoons to relate to other elements on the page, plenty of letters/reader input with photos in "community voice".

2nd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Good use of space photos. Local cartoonist a plus. "Speak Out," local letters invite readers.

3rd Place **Grosse Ile, Ile Camera**

Good use of very limited space, including columns, short edits (edits ought to be stronger), community viewpoints with mugs and letters.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Grosse Pointe News**

Commentary appears to be locally produced by local writers, healthy number of letters, cartoons aimed at current issues in local community.

2nd Place **Detroit Jewish News**

Commentary well written for its audience. Layout and presentation exceptional in this category.

Editorial Pages, continued

3rd Place **Press & Guide Newspapers**

Editorial comment is focused and consistently in support of local community.

HM **Birmingham Eccentric**

Strong writing on local issue but interest hampered by sameness in layout and cartoon as part of a group.

Weekly Class C

1st Place **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**

Love your editorial page. Nice community involvement.

2nd Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Really enjoyed the columnist on this page.

3rd Place **Gladwin Co Record & Beaverton**

Clarion

Nice pages, good community involvement.

Weekly Class D

1st Place **Oxford Leader**

A nice mix on the editorial pages and some variety from week to week. The columnists, C.J. Carnacchio and Jim Sherman are excellent. Peeking in the Port and smile of the week are reader friendly. Editorial and guest columnist should be more frequent.

2nd Place **Saline Reporter**

The second and third place winners are owned by the same company and have the same format and same columnist, same cartoonist, etc. Saline came on top, though for its volume of letters to the editor. The editorial pages are very well done.

Enterprise Reporting, continued

3rd Place **Milan News-Leader**

A very close to the second place winner as both papers have basically the same content on the editorial pages. The elements, layouts, etc are all well done.

Editorial Writing

Daily Class A

1st Place **Detroit Free Press**

Stephen Henderson

Mr. Henderson's editorials on the scandal involving the mayor of Detroit show great empathy for the man, but intense outrage over the mayor's betrayal of the public's trust. His writing is insightful, informative and accessible.

2nd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Ron Dzwonkowski

Mr. Dzwonkowski shows a breadth of knowledge with editorials ranging from the mayor to the legislature to efforts to retain college graduates. His writing is consistently readable and on point.

3rd Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Monica Scott

The editorials written by Ms. Scott deal with a range of issues involving education. They inform and educate while offering a cogent argument for a reasonable solution.

HM **Flint Journal**

Michael Riha

Mr. Riha's editorials are written by a man who cares for his community and who endeavors to offer answers to its problems.

Daily Class B

1st Place **Lansing State Journal**

Derek Melot

This is a well-written, well-researched and well-presented series on reforming the Michigan Legislature. Graphics and sidebars helped reinforce points. Outstanding, ambitious venture!

2nd Place **Bay City Times**

Clark Hughes

Well-done editorials that are presented in a variety of engaging styles. Good topics and persuasive arguments.

3rd Place **Ann Arbor News**

M. Morgan, E. Petykiewicz

Strong, gutsy stances in taking aim at university leadership.

Daily Class C

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

B. Moorehouse, M. Stuart

Good topics, nice sharp tone filled with reasoned outrage. This entry shows how editorials can highlight problems and promote solutions in their communities.

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

Rich Perlberg

Strong points made in well-written edits that cover an impressive range of topics. This was a category with close calls among the top entries.

Editorial Writing, continued

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

Mike Tyree

A strong package, especially the "Funhouse" piece. Good detail, good questions asked. I would have liked to see stronger endings on the MADD and Interlochen shooting edits.

HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

David Miller

Three good edits, especially the Klan Flag edit - strong points made in it in lively prose.

Daily Class D

1st Place **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

Greg Nelson

Strong view point. Clear and concise writing style.

2nd Place **Greenville, The Daily News**

Carl Gustin

No comment given.

3rd Place **Owosso -The Argus-Press**

Richard Campbell

No comment given.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **The Mirror**

Karen Smith *Diverse Candidates, Driving Distracted, Mutual Aid*

Editorials are straightforward, take a position early on and argue clearly and concisely. Good use of numbers, not too many, to bolster the argument.

2nd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Karl Ziomek *Strip Joints, Troubling, Poor Judgment*

Edits lay out the situation early on and provide good rationale and examples to support the position. Sheriff edit overlong.

3rd Place **Grosse Ile, Ile Camera**

Lena Khzouz *No Time For Politics, Showing Off, Eyes On The Roads*

Edits are mostly short, concise and conversational, but writer should state position earlier and argue without such weak words as "hopefully", etc.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Canton Observer**

Kurt Kuban

Steadfast reporting and follow-up for a situation of significant community concern. Recognition of emerging segment of community.

2nd Place **Detroit Jewish News**

Robert Sklar

Excellent exposition of topics. Eminently readable, topics of interest to publication's audience.

3rd Place **Southfield Eccentric**

Wayne Peal

Writer sees issues clearly and explains his positions firmly. Topics are important to local community.

Weekly Class C

1st Place **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**

Catherine Minolli

If Catherine has something to say she's gonna say it. This writer seems to have a spit-fire attitude. Great job!

Editorial Writing, continued

2nd Place **Houghton Lake Resorter**

Whether it's state, county, or downtown, this paper has the coverage to lay it all on the line.

3rd Place **South Lyon Herald**

James Mitchell

It's refreshing to read and know there's a writer out there like you.

Weekly Class D

1st Place **Clare Sentinel**

Alan Blanchard

Open Meetings Act...

The writer does a nice job of making issues personal for readers. This is why you should care, and this is how you can get involved. This writer provides meaningful comments on important local issues.

2nd Place **Homer Index**

Mike Warnel

Privatization Pouring More Money Into Classrooms...

No comment given.

3rd Place **Oxford Leader**

C.J. Carnacchio

We Can Do Better...

No comment given.

HM **Manchester Enterprise**

Daniel Lai

Clinton, Obama Should Take Lessons...

No comment given.

Local Columnist

Daily Class A

1st Place **Detroit Free Press**

Susan Ager

Stunning amount of legwork in each of these entries. Ager's attention to detail and conversational writing style drums the reader in. Her topics reflect the human condition and she does her subjects justice.

2nd Place **Detroit News**

Laura Berman

As in-depth as a column can get, Berman obviously immerses herself in her subject matter and spares no effort to draw clear imaging with her words. Excellent.

3rd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Brian Dickerson

Dickerson fills a nice void in focusing his writing on the court system, which too often seems to operate behind the veil. Nice clean, concise writing brings the judicial system into focus for the reader.

HM **Grand Rapids Press**

Mike Lloyd

No comment given.

Daily Class B

1st Place **Ann Arbor News**

Geoff Larcom

Columnists must have a strong voice. Larcom's got it. His Shaky Jake piece was nicely done. Nice pace. Nice tone.

2nd Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Brad Flory

Strong voice.

Local Columnist, continued

3rd Place **Ann Arbor News**

Jo Mathis

Nice Job.

HM

Lansing State Journal

Derek Melot

Tough columns. Well written.

Daily Class C

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

Kathy Gibbons

The best of the columnists by some distance. Very readable style. Has a clear point of view. Column on young woman raped by step-brother was outstanding.

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

Bill O'Brien

News-driven columns on local commercial, civic and political matters.

Local Columnist, continued

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

Rich Perlberg

Solid writing. Blends the personal with his views in an acceptable manner.

Daily Class D

1st Place **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

Rick Mills

Crisp, clean writing. Rick pulls you in right from the top of each column. Good stuff.

2nd Place **Owosso -The Argus-Press**

Sarah Bazzetta

No comment given.

3rd Place **Ironwood, The Daily Globe**

Julie Wroblewski

No comment given.

HM

Owosso -The Argus-Press

Daniel Basso

No comment given.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Jackie Harrison-Martin

Racist, Sexist Comments Hurt

Personal, professional and polished. I doubt readers stopped before the end. Great subjects, the important things found in everyday life.

2nd Place **Detroit, Metro Times**

Larry Gabriel

Stir It Up

Big issues handled well. Intelligent writing, but not too dry.

3rd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Karl Ziomek

Vivid descriptions and vocabulary make sometimes bland issues ("stay in school" with activities) more interesting.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Birmingham Eccentric**

Greg Kowalski

Very enjoyable, readable columns on a wide range of topics, from light hearted to serious.

Local Columnist, continued

2nd Place **Plymouth Observer**

Brad Kadrach
Very in-depth columns on serious topics. Well-written.

3rd Place **Detroit Jewish News**

Robert Sklar
Strong, well-written columns on topics of serious social value.

HM **Troy Eccentric**

Sandra Armbruster
Enjoyable columns to read. Written with flair.

Weekly Class C

1st Place **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**

Catherine Minolli
I wanted more. After reading your entries I could have kept reading. I felt like I was in the kitchen feeling the breeze from the old fan. You are a great columnist and pull the reader in immediately. Great work!

2nd Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Chris Engle
Good work, you drew me in to your writing. By the way, my mom (God rest her soul) did the same thing with our Trick-or-Treat sacks! Ha!

3rd Place **Tecumseh Herald**

Christina Trpani-Scott
Your life seems as crazy as mine, plus you have your fight with cancer to add to the mix. Although I didn't know you, I admire you. Great work & keep up the fight!!

Weekly Class D

1st Place **Blissfield Advance**

Marcia Loader *Dialogue*
This writer tackles meaningful topics and brings larger issues home to her community. She writes articulately yet comfortably, and brings personal experiences to bear when analyzing broad topics such as politics, race and gender relation and local history. Good reading.

2nd Place **State Line Observer**

Rich Foley *Nowhere Road*
Despite the logo that accompanies his writings, the writer always takes readers somewhere special. His columns are humorous yet poignant observations of everyday life.

3rd Place **Marshall Chronicle**

Wanda Nash *Animal Scribe*
This writer grabs your heart and mind in her discussions of pet-related topics. No doubt her "signing off" column left readers wishing she had had more time.

HM **Saline Reporter**

Ryan Michaels *Movie Previews*
Young Ryan writes with a confidence and conviction that belies his age. The newspaper made the right choice in having the courage to welcome this 10-year-old to its writing team!

News Picture

Daily Class A

1st Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Paul L. Newby II *Hopping Mad*
Drama, emotion and reaction, all in one image.

News Picture, continued

2nd Place **Flint Journal**

Ryan Garza *Still In My Heart*
Light, graphics, and emotion too.

3rd Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Dave Raczowski *Jump Start Goes Badly*
Negative to negative, positive to BODY FRAME! Love to see the flames caught in action. Shows hustle or lucky he was ready for by photographer.

HM **Flint Journal**

Ryan Garza *Lost But Not Forgotten*
Nice angle, moment.

Daily Class B

1st Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Dave Weatherwax *Robinson Street House Fire*
Off beat. The fact it was the owner, added to impact of photo. Weak overall category though.

2nd Place **Muskegon Chronicle**

Ken Stevens *Standoff Ends*
Good photo. Needs tighter cropping. Blown out reproduction.

3rd Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Erik Holladay *DJ Claybrook Memorial*
Emotion, interesting framing.

HM **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Erin Mash *Soper Funeral*
Wish parents were focal point not casket. That's where the emotion is.

Daily Class C

1st Place **Midland, Daily News**

Jason Johns *Fallen Hero*
Nice image of a touching moment.

2nd Place **Midland, Daily News**

Alex Stawinski *Laid to Rest*
Well done. First place image was a little stronger.

3rd Place **Midland, Daily News**

Kevin Benedict *MLK Week 07*
Nicely captured the feeling of the crowd.

HM **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Jan-Michael Stump *South Airport Blaze*
No Comment Given

Daily Class D

1st Place **Petoskey News-Review**

Steve Zucker *Into the Fire*
Great shot of firefighters silhouetted as they fight fire. Well composed and properly cropped.

2nd Place **Ludington, Daily News**

Jeff Kiessel *Saying Goodbye*
Shot is simple and clean, but full of emotion. The uncle's gesture shows his grief and the casket tells the rest of the story. Well done.

3rd Place **Owosso -The Argus-Press**

Anthony Cepak *Motorcycle Crash Kills 1*
Elements in photo clearly tell story distraught driver, van and damaged motorcycle.

News Picture, continued

HM Petoskey News-Review

Steve Zucker *Fire Hits Gruler Family*
Homeowners in foreground as firefighters swarm over house adds note of sadness to photo.

Weekly Class A

1st Place Southgate News-Herald

Dave Chapman *Teens Released*
Good shot. The celebration of the people around the two guys, as well as the hands raised behind them, help to set the mood. Back of head in the foreground is distracting, though.

2nd Place Southgate News-Herald

Dave Gorgon *Lucky to Survive*
Photographer must have gotten to scene very quickly to capture woman still trapped inside. The body language of woman and her rescuers help tell story.

3rd Place Southgate News-Herald

Larry Caruso *Preparing For The Worst*
Photo captures tension of moment and is well composed. The fact that it was a drill dropped it to third place.

Weekly Class B

1st Place Press & Guide Newspapers

Millard Berry *Stubborn Fire*
Good news photo, with all needed elements to tell story. Composition nice and clean, highlighting firefighter as well as clearly showing fire and smoke.

2nd Place Fenton, Tri-County Times

Jason Alexander *Eli's Song*
The photo captures the community's grief in the body language of the three woman.

3rd Place Fenton, Tri-County Times

Jason Alexander *Game Ball*
The photo has all the elements to tell the story. Football player, football, sick teen and concerned mom. If the background was less cluttered, this might have placed higher.

Weekly Class C

1st Place Houghton Lake Resorter

Thomas Reznich *Almost Made It*
Perfect grabber! I had to read the caption because it was so intriguing. Good perspective and emotion.

2nd Place Gaylord Herald Times

Chris Engle *M-32 Roadblock*
Great detail. Really shows the weight of the problem.

3rd Place Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser

Stacey Tucker *Eight Alarm Fire*
Nice dramatic smoke.

Weekly Class D

1st Place Clarkston News

Phil Custodio *Bridging The Gap*
Good perspective, nice balance, nice depth. Photo really transpires the viewier. Makes you want to go there. Very compelling.

2nd Place Chelsea Standard

Edward Freund *Tractor-Trailer Rollover*
Great overhead shot.

News Picture, continued

3rd Place Chelsea Standard

Edward Freund *Dry Weather Taking Its Toll*
Nice emotion.

Feature Picture

Daily Class A

1st Place Flint Journal

Ryan Garza *Ready For The Ring*
Forced to judge features with illustration. Great found moment. Lighting, and color very nice. Nice caught moment.

2nd Place Detroit News

David Guralnick *It's The Time of Sacrifice*
Beautiful photo. Pattern, expression. Nice to see a vertical. Bet the page designer loved that.

3rd Place Grand Rapids Press

Lori Niedenfuer Cool *Here Is What The Snow Is Good For*
Nice snow photo. A lot packed into the frame.

HM Grand Rapids Press

Rex Larsen *Honoring His Sacrifice*
Double, triple hug notes a good eye.

Daily Class B

1st Place Bay City Times

Adrienne Bonafede *Young and Pregnant*
Strong category. Like comp. Moment. Photo had patience and the sox match the cabinet. Tells story in just one image. Better than category A features. Journalism edge.

2nd Place Muskegon Chronicle

Ken Stevens *Sunset*
It looks like they are on Mars.

3rd Place Muskegon Chronicle

Cory Morse *In Among the Tall Trees*
One of the best hoops stand alones we have ever seen.

HM Lansing State Journal

Rod Sanford *I Want One! Froggy Fun*
Faces in the paper and nice use of every bit of the frame.

Daily Class C

1st Place Midland, Daily News

Kevin Benedict *Her Daily Thing*
Like the feel of this photo. Low light, routine day, but interesting image pulls you in.

2nd Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

Douglas Tesner *A Wild Ride*
Nice low angle, use of motion and light.

3rd Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

Douglas Tesner *On The Table*
Sometimes a photo just puts a smile on your face.

Daily Class D

1st Place Owosso -The Argus-Press

Anthony Cepak *Hangin' Out*
Great shot! Photographer did the unexpected when he shot from underneath the monkey bars. The kids almost silhouetted draw the focus to the girl in the foreground with the long hair.

Feature Picture, continued

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

Theresa Peterson *Heat Wave*
Photo captures feeling of hot day with sweaty child wiping his face. Perfect shot to tell the story of the day - the heat wave.

3rd Place **Greenville, The Daily News**

Greg DeKraker *Hatch Watch*
Pattern of faces, all looking at the hatching chick, draw the eye to the little yellow bird emerging from his egg. Good composition, shot from a low angle.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Dennis Oblander *Gotcha!*
This photo made us laugh out loud. The body language of the little boy is hilarious. It must have happened in a split second and the photo gets credit for capturing it so well.

2nd Place **LA View**

Mike Arnholt *Cooling Off*
Good shot of kid in sprinkler. The angle of light helps the mist show up clearly.

3rd Place **Grosse Ile, Ile Camera**

E. L. Conley *Little Olympian*
Cute shot of kid trying to make her way through hoop. The intensity of her concentration is evident on her face.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Detroit Jewish News**

Angie Baan *Wrap Sure*
Nice set of images, one judge liked simplicity of lead image. Two judges really liked photo on bottom right for showing more context and thought it should have been lead image.

2nd Place **West Bloomfield Eccentric**

Larry McKee *The Old College Try*
Great photo, cropped pretty well. Better photo than you would expect from routine assignment.

3rd Place **West Bloomfield Eccentric**

Larry McKee *Leap Frog*
Good shot, well composed with background in soft focus so the eye goes right to the face of the boy.

Weekly Class C

1st Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Ken Scott *Shoe 'n Off*
Shot invokes curiosity and tells a story. Great juxtaposition of action and movement (hoes) and tranquility (shoreline).

2nd Place **Allegan County News**

Ryan Lewis *Theatre Marquee Dismantled*
Photo transpires you to the scene-cold, stark winter.

3rd Place **Houghton Lake Resorter**

Thomas Reznich *Hands Free Flight*
Great perspective.

Weekly Class D

1st Place **Saugatuck, The Commercial Record**

Scott Sullivan *Brrr Bath*
Beautiful. Lighting is perfect. Whimsical with a great perspective.

Feature Picture, continued

2nd Place **Saline Reporter**

Terri Sibbo-Koenig *Flying High*
Great sense of perspective, timing and motion.

Sports Picture

Daily Class A

1st Place **Flint Journal**

Stuart Bauer *Regional Volleyball Win*
No Comment Given

2nd Place **Detroit News**

Elizabeth Conley *Swin Cash*
No Comment Given

Daily Class B

1st Place **Bay City Times**

Kate Penn *Deep Passion*
Best photo we've seen. Absolutely beautiful image.

2nd Place **Bay City Times**

Alexander Cohn *Delta Slides To Nationals*
Peak action. Nice moment, faces, and the ball!

3rd Place **Muskegon Chronicle**

Cory Morse *Taking a Tumble*
Nice dog pile. Always go for nice action.

HM **Lansing State Journal**

Rod Sanford *Working the Bag, Game Winner*
No Comment Given

Daily Class C

1st Place **Midland, Daily News**

Brett Marshall *Pumped Up*
Key moment, nice triangulation and repetition of gesture between player with arms raised, first pump and goaltender reaching out.

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

Jan-Michael Stump *Blocked Shot*
Strong game action shot.

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

Jan-Michael Stump *Agony & Ecstasy*
Captures the highs and lows of high school sports.

Daily Class D

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

Anthony Cepak *Cavs Race Past Trojans*
Great image, capturing peak action. Background in soft focus, with action in foreground crisp and clear. Crop gives photo plenty of room to breathe.

2nd Place **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

Ryan Evon *Winning Embrace*
Great emotional moment, showing father and daughter celebrating win, with others celebrating in the background. Would have liked to see this run larger in the paper.

Sports Picture, continued

3rd Place **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

Ryan Evon *Despair*
Facial expression plus waving towel express the player's anguish at losing. Nice, loose crop leaves plenty of room for photo to have full impact.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Dave Gorgon *State of Joy*
Photo captures elevation of team members upon winning state championship. Good composition and appropriate cropping help.

2nd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Larry Caruso *Pile of Pioneers*
Good shot of team celebrating win. Would have liked to see more faces and looser crop on top.

3rd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Dave Chapman *Track & Field Preview*
Nice, clean shot with uncluttered background and good crop.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Fenton Press**

Jane Hale *Charlie Bell Photo*
We liked the low angle that showed a different perspective but still managed to have all the necessary elements to still tell the story very clearly.

2nd Place **Press & Guide Newspapers**

Millard Berry *Reaching New Heights*
We've seen a lot of high jump photos, but this one managed to capture the jumper, as well as all the athletes in the background watching, yet still showed a clean background.

3rd Place **Birmingham Eccentric**

Larry McKee *Oh So Close*
Great reaction shot, but it would have been nice to have some context in the photo, showing more about why she was so upset.

HM **Fenton, Tri-County Times**

Jason Alexander *Yes!*
Good shot showing athlete's triumph, but the cropping of hands and feet really hurts picture.

Weekly Class C

1st Place **Novi News**

John Heider *Soccer Celebration*
Clearly stood out among the entries, excellent emotion, photographer captured a great moment. Good composition and cropping.

2nd Place **Brooklyn, The Exponent**

Jeff Steer *Boys Soccer*
Photo shows a lot of intensity, image made at the height of the action, I question the cropping, a little tight.

Sports Picture, continued

3rd Place **New Buffalo, Harbor Country News**

David Johnson *Soccer Header*
Nice clean shot of a fast moving sport made at night, good job.

Sports Picture, continued

HM **Houghton Lake Resorter**

Thomas Reznich *Flying Through*
A tough choice not to give this photo a higher place overall a nice action shot. Lacked the emotion in the players faces, not the fault of the shooter.

Weekly Class D

1st Place **Dexter Leader**

Burrill Strong *County Rivalry*
Clearly stood out, shows lots of emotion in the faces of players, technically lit and exposed correctly, cropping on left a little too tight.

2nd Place **Oxford Leader**

Casey Curtis *That's Using Your Head*
Nice clean sharp image showing the intensity of the game. This photo stood out from other like photos of the same sport. Would have liked to see a looser crop on the left.

3rd Place **Rogers City, Presque Isle Co Advance**

Richard Lamb *High Flying*
An unusual photo where the photographer caught the peak of the action.

HM **Homer Index**

Pete Cunningham *Eyes Closed Catch*
A nice sharp night football action shot properly exposed and cropped.

Picture Story

Daily Class A

1st Place **Detroit News**

Todd McInturf *The Long Road Home*
Nice moments. Good edit.

2nd Place **Grand Rapids Press**

T.J. Hamilton *This Dog Does It All*
No Comment Given

Daily Class B

1st Place **Muskegon Chronicle**

Cory Morse *Karim's Journey*
Far and away the best.

2nd Place **Bay City Times**

Kate Penn *Gridiron Grit*
Too many scenic images from behind. Better edit.

3rd Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Dave Weatherwax *Impersonator Is The King*
Would liked to have seen photos, spend more time with subject.

Daily Class C

1st Place **Midland, Daily News**

Ryan Wood *Path To Eternity*
Laughter, emotional, gut wrenching pain. Aren't stories like Wood's picture story why we got in this business? He got close to his subjects to give us a window into a very private struggle.

2nd Place **Midland, Daily News**

Kevin Benedict *We Are Family*
Strong connection with his subjects let Benedict take very personal images.

Picture Story, continued

3rd Place Midland, Daily News

Brett Marshall *Dialed In*
Beautiful, graphic images.

Daily Class D

1st Place Ludington, Daily News

Jeff Kiessel *Remember Joseph Lancour*
Good, solid story covering military funeral. All images help tell sad story, with powerful image as lead. Photo of uncle with coffin would have also made good A1 lead photo.

2nd Place Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun

Ryan Evon *Sculpting Shadows*
Photographer did a good job of working the situation to get a variety of shots to tell the story, details as well as an overall, with the artist among his creations.

3rd Place Ludington, Daily News

Jeff Kiessel *I Am Still Me*
Good effort in telling the story of multiple amputee. Detail showing special strap used for writing is nice touch.

HM Alpena News

Amy Lisenbe *Getting To School Safely*
Good variety of shots, including bus maintenance and interior shots, tells the story of how buses get kids to school safely.

Weekly Class A

1st Place Detroit, Metro Times

Cybele Codish *Pain & Hope*
The judges were very impressed with the quality of these photos and the access was great. Images were creatively composed and cropped for maximum impact.

2nd Place Southgate News-Herald

Larry Caruso *Field Trip*
Photographer did good job of covering all the angles of the story, with a strong pictorial lead and good variety of images.

3rd Place Southgate News-Herald

Ed Conley *Party in the Park*
Great lead image! Photographer did good job of shooting variety of images from event.

Weekly Class B

1st Place Press & Guide Newspapers

Millard Berry *Fire and Ice*
Entry shows good variety, which helps tell the story. We could tell the photographer spent some time at the scene, working to cover it from a variety of angles.

2nd Place Press & Guide Newspapers

Millard Berry *Athlete's Now Coach*

3rd Place Birmingham Eccentric

Larry McKee *Dance Competition*
Good job trying to cover dance contest from various perspectives. We really liked photo of judge and would have liked to see it used on A1 as largest photo.

Weekly Class C

1st Place Northville Record

John Heider *Lighting Up Downtown*
Great use of color, nice use of motion, range of perspective.

Picture Story, continued

2nd Place New Buffalo, Harbor Country News

David Johnson *Flag Day*
Captures tremendous diversity of events and people involved.

3rd Place Imlay City, The Tri-City Times

Kevin Kissane *TCT Relays*
Varied action shots. Nice motion.

Weekly Class D

1st Place Chelsea Standard

Terry Jacoby *Timbertown*
Effort paid off! Artist brought new life to often-overused format.

2nd Place Saugatuck, The Commercial Record

Scott Sullivan *Mt. Baldy Challenge*
Great story told in minimal number of photos. Gives range of emotion of participants at a variety of skill levels.

3rd Place Blissfield Advance

Tran Lonamoore *Scene From Ford Field*
Lots of variety.

Sports Writing

Daily Class A

1st Place Detroit Free Press

Jo-Ann Barnas *So Tragic*
Fantastic, layered breaking-news coverage of heartbreaking event. Writer puts you right in the middle of the scene and does out great detail.

2nd Place Detroit Free Press

Jon Paul Morosi *Ver-rific!*
Fun piece. A well-written and well-observed account of breaking-news baseball history.

3rd Place Grand Rapids Press

Jane Bos *Something Extra For East*
Nicely-detailed account of a once-in-a-lifetime championship event. Enjoyable read.

Daily Class B

1st Place Pontiac Oakland Press

Jim Hawkins *Justin-credible*
Well-done, authoritative piece on a historic baseball night. Entertaining and impressive deadline piece.

Sports Writing, continued

2nd Place Lansing State Journal

Geoff Kimmerly *State Champs*
Great job on a high school championship. Kept me reading, since it wasn't all play-by-play. Really generous amount of good detail.

3rd Place Ann Arbor News

John Heuser *One and Done*
Great job on a big college football game. Story authoritatively conveys drama and impact of UM loss.

HM Pontiac Oakland Press

Jim Hawkins *Such A Deal*
Terrific example of in-depth and behind-the-scenes coverage of big baseball breaking news.

Sports Writing, continued

Daily Class C**1st Place** **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Dennis Chase *Running Star Dies*
Great hustle with a sports tragedy on deadline. Story works as a narrative and isn't just a pyramid-style news piece.

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

Rick Shepich *Two-Timer*
Great lede. Great detail and description throughout. This is what I'm looking for, as a reader, on a state championship piece.

3rd Place **Adrian, Daily Telegram**

Sara Beaubien *Hail Mary Lifts Royals*
Very nice job on the atmosphere and excitement of a huge high school football. Doesn't just rehash. It tells a story that's compelling, whether or not I was there.

HM **Adrian, Daily Telegram**

Brian Calloway *Madison Is Done In By Final Shot*
Great job of reporting and storytelling on a big game.

Daily Class D**1st Place** **Big Rapids, Pioneer**

Lindsey Wahowiak *Reclaiming the Title*
I love this story. Topic is super (and worthy), the writing is descriptive, showing vs. telling and well quoted. Also credit writer for taking pictures.

2nd Place **Manistee News Advocate**

Matt Wenzel *Kiss Taking His Shot*
Unlike a lot of stories in this division, this was concise. But it's recognized here for descriptive writing. You can picture the kid in his driveway and hear the ball bouncing. (As a side, we sort of got away from stock photos and used action instead).

3rd Place **Big Rapids, Pioneer**

Staff *Kuntz Visit*
Cool angle that localizes a great moment. Quotes (and graphs) a little long, but good job overall, including recurring courtesy pix.

HM **Petoskey News-Review**

Andy Sneddon *Finally Our Night*
Well organized and constructed story. Nice job on sidebar too.

Weekly Class A**1st Place** **Livingston Community News**

Jason Deegan *Veteran Driver Retires*
Gripping subject matter because this is a story very well-told.

2nd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Dave Gorgon *Cabrini Wins Title*
Very thorough coverage of a tremendous accomplishment. While there is nothing technically wrong with the story, the play-by-play makes a bit long-winded.

3rd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Hank Minckiewicz *Eleventh Heaven*
No comment given.

Sports Writing, continued

Weekly Class B**1st Place** **Farmington Observer**

Dan O'Meara *Sailing To Success*
Kudos to Dan O'Meara for taking a "largely uneventful" race and finding the most interesting aspects of it. It's nice to see a story about a non-traditional sport, and O'Meara is a very good story teller. Well done.

2nd Place **Flushing Observer**

Alex Smith *Going Left Not A Problem*
An attention-grabbing story and a well-written one too. One aspect of the story remains a bit muddy for us however: Why, when her ball broke, didn't she buy another right-handed ball? Overall, a fine job.

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

Jason Alexander *Bommarito Defends*
There's very little wrong with the story, but it's one we've heard before. The writing did not give it the impact/novelty to place above the first two entries. It remains, however, a good story.

Weekly Class C**1st Place** **Gaylord Herald Times**

Jeremy Speer *Hockey dream realized*
The event lent itself to a good story, but the writer really captured the moment. I could really sense what it meant to the player, his family and community.

2nd Place **New Buffalo, Harbor Country News**

Dave Johnson *Buzzer-Beaters*
Unexpected outcome came through the quotes and writing.

3rd Place **Novi News**

Jeff Theisen *Triple the fun*
Solid soccer coverage given the controversy. Comments from the competition would've lifted story.

Weekly Class D**1st Place** **Milan News-Leader**

Jerry Hinnen *Girls Hoops Coach Resigns*
Reporter clearly had good lines of communication in place and working. The story did a good job of blending the "newest news" -- the coach's resignation -- with background and reaction. With no prior knowledge of change, I was still able to quickly grasp the situation.

2nd Place **Manchester Enterprise**

Ed Patino *Kyler Instinct*
One of the better wrestling tourney wrap-ups I read. Mixed the expected well with the unexpected.

3rd Place **Saline Reporter**

Jerry Hinnen *Festival Of Feats*
Took a fringe sporting event and made it educational and fun to read.

HM **Lake Orion Review**

Colin Baumgartner *Blonde Bombers*
Story gave nice coverage of a rec-level event.

Sports Columnist

Daily Class A

1st Place **Detroit Free Press**

Michael Rosenberg

Writes clearly, entertainingly and with passion about the issues that are foremost in the mind of average sports fans. Terrific collection of columns.

2nd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Mitch Albom

Wonderful and emotional storytelling. He knows his subjects and topics inside-out and it all spills out in the writing.

3rd Place **Grand Rapids Press**

David Mayo

Terrific command of the topics he's writing about. Precisely what a columnist should be, an insider who delivers perspective and insights the average fan can't get.

HM **Detroit Free Press**

Drew Sharp

Entertaining writer who holds my attention.

Daily Class B

1st Place **Ann Arbor News**

Jim Carty

Leads are strong and enticing. Columns held my attention from beginning to end.

2nd Place **Pontiac Oakland Press**

Dana Gauruder

Writing is light and fun. Grabs the readers attention.

3rd Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Gary Kalahar

Columns are what I look for as a reader of local sports - pertinent issues with a good discussion.

Daily Class C

1st Place **Marquette, The Mining Journal**

Kurt Mensching

The writing stood out as very clean and had a nice rhythm. The leads pulled me in, enticing me to read more. It's obvious that the writer takes care with his word choice and phrases, they are kept simple but still paint a picture in the readers mind without going the obvious route.

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

Jeff Peek

The writer is quite adept at provoking an emotional response in the reader by making you feel the subjects journey. His stories flowed well and stayed strong until the end.

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

Rick Shepich

He injects a different take into what are more national/regional sports. His writing was smooth and uncomplicated with hints of humor thrown in.

Sports Columnist, continued

Daily Class D

1st Place **Bad Axe, Huron Daily Tribune**

Mike Bogan

Exceptional local topics. Easy to read writing style. Injects personal experiences without being overbearing. Scenic's Legend column especially well done. By far the best entry. Can tell Bogan is rooted in the community.

2nd Place **Royal Oak Daily Tribune**

George Pohly

Carr column sets scene, very direct with clear point. Column could have appeared in papers with much larger circulation.

3rd Place **Big Rapids, Pioneer**

Bob Allan

Good local topics. Dissects an important topic on athlete's eligibility. Feature column on girl who gave up golf to play volleyball was nice touch.

HM **Ludington, Daily News**

Ed Papes

Neat columns tracing history. Must have been well-received locally.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **Livingston Community News**

Jason Deegan

Jason Deegan has an engaging style that keeps the reader interested. The "Bald Pirate Wrestlers" was particularly well done.

2nd Place **LA View**

Jeff Day

The "Fat Guy" has created a solid column (pun intended) that exudes personality. We cringed initially at the third person self references, but the voice is consistent, wry and ultimately funny.

3rd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Hank Minckiewicz

Clearly an experienced voice that anchors this community sports section.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Plymouth Observer**

Ed Wright

Mr. Wright employs some very creative techniques in his story telling. It's clear he gives great thought, not only to the subject he's presenting, but also to how it is presented. A pleasure to read.

2nd Place **Flint Township News**

Patrick Hayes

Mr. Hayes has a very conversational, laid back style that's pleasing to read; however, the entries lack the conception zing and precision of execution of the first place entries.

3rd Place **Troy Eccentric**

Jim Toth

An interesting editorial voice, but somewhat erratic in execution.

Sports Columnist, continued

Weekly Class C

1st Place Gaylord Herald Times

Jeremy Speer
Loved the extra local insights vs. the "what-I-think" blather.

2nd Place Gaylord Herald Times

Chris Engle
One of the better outdoors columns I've read. Great sense of local place.

3rd Place Brooklyn, The Exponent

Jeff Steers
Good to see someone enjoys the golf-beat. It shows to the readers.

HM Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser

Jon Sicotte
No Comment Given

Weekly Class D

1st Place Blissfield Advance

Tran Longmoore
One great photo, one poor photo, two interesting engaging columns that gave the readers a glimpse into what we do without references to gas station coffee and road trips. Overall good columns.

2nd Place Manchester Enterprise

Ed Patino
I am not crazy about local columnists writing national because it isn't a small paper's franchise, but the other two columns were top-rate.

3rd Place Lake Orion Review

Colin Baumgartner
Quarterback column and fan column were solid because they didn't focus on the columnist, but the subjects.

Sports Feature

Daily Class A

1st Place Flint Journal

Dan Nilsen *Higher Hoops*
Terrific and in-depth enterprise piece. Enjoyed it throughout and really got a picture of Anthony Carter and his new home. Great idea, great reporting, great execution.

2nd Place Detroit Free Press

Shawn Windsor *It's Never Easy To Leave Home*
Another super example of the great things that can come from a reporting road trip. Terrific depth of detail here you can't get over the phone.

3rd Place Grand Rapids Press

Brian Vanochten *Think More Than Pink*
Nicely reported feature that could have been run-of-the-mill, but comes out well with excellent reporting and interviewing.

Daily Class B

1st Place Lansing State Journal

Joe Rexrode *Perfect 10*
Terrific, in-depth series on Michigan State basketball. A triumph from start to finish in reporting, writing and packaging.

Sports Feature, continued

2nd Place Jackson Citizen Patriot

Chris Iott *Why Can't We Win*
I loved this enterprise piece. Not enough folks delve into the dry numbers and do the legwork to dig out compelling trend pieces. Great analysis and presentation, too.

3rd Place Muskegon Chronicle

Troy Ruel *Harnessing In A Lifestyle*
Loved the idea for this piece. And the reporter hit a home run with reporting and great writing. So many nice, insightful details conveyed.

HM Bay City Times

Lee Thompson *A Moment of Triumph*
Compelling well-done.

Daily Class C

1st Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

Garret Ellison *Everlasting Moments*
Terrific read. There is much great reporting and writing here. It's a taut narrative, very nice.

2nd Place Midland, Daily News

Josh Grostefon *On The Road Again*
Not original idea, of course. But this is an extremely well-done version of this genre of feature. Loved the detail, the moments captured and the writing.

3rd Place Midland, Daily News

Fred Kelly *Dow High's Schroll Determined...*
Nice touch and writing on an in-depth feature. Captured a lot of terrific moments well through reporting and observation.

HM Livingston County Press & Argus

Tim Robinson *Training Leads To Top Dogs*
A lot of reporting and research went into this. Presents readers with nice amount of info on a neglected topic.

Daily Class D

1st Place Ludington, Daily News

Steve Begnoche *The Ice Hockey Man*
Wonderful subject that is well written and presented. Descriptive writing lets story tell itself with good quotes from fellow players. Writer ties ending together nicely. A real talker!

2nd Place Big Rapids, Pioneer

Bob Allan *Hurdle Cleared*
Great local story, deeply rooted in community. Superior way to localize world series. Nice touch using family picture. Only thing I was left looking for was a quote from Hurdle himself (though difficult to get them) on family influence.

3rd Place Owosso -The Argus-Press

Daniel Basso *State Crown Still Shines*
Well written and researched look back at lone state championship team. Writer puts you there. Timely in it happened 25 years ago. Good use of limited artwork.

HM Big Rapids, Pioneer

Brandon Fountain *High Speed On Ice*
Different and unique subject that writer presents well. We all get so rooted in sports with a ball. Nice job!

Sports Feature, continued

Weekly Class A

1st Place
Sandra Svoboda
No comment given.

2nd Place
Leanne Smith
No comment given.

3rd Place
Jason Deegan
No comment given

HM
Jason Deegan
No comment given.

Weekly Class B

1st Place
Mike Rosenbaum
No comment given

2nd Place
Gary Winkelman
No comment given

3rd Place
Alex Smith
No comment given

HM
Jason Alexander
No comment given

Weekly Class C

1st Place
Alison Bergsieker
Packed with lots of tips, thoughts and perspectives. I have never seen a story on recruiting along these lines. This was a welcomed read.

2nd Place
Thomas Wearing
Great topic for a community paper to tackle. Shed light on something many take for granted.

3rd Place
Jeff Theisen
I really came away with a better understanding of leadership on the field.

HM
Patrick Pinter
No Comment Given

Weekly Class D

1st Place
Terry Jacoby
This is what feature writing is all about. A wonderful subject, great story telling style. A real winner!

2nd Place
Terry Jacoby
A very nice way to tell the story of a perfect game. Tight writing, held my interest. Nice style.

3rd Place
Terry Jacoby
A good choice of subject. Nice storytelling. I think, however, the extensive use of quotes detracted from telling the story.

Detroit, Metro Times
Long Shots

Livingston Community News
Moms Have A Ball

Livingston Community News
Same Swim Team, Many Styles

Livingston Community News
Making The Right Call

Southfield Eccentric
Kaiser Gains Overdue Respect

Rochester Eccentric
Goal Is Fun For Senior

Flushing Observer
Friendly Game New A Tradition

Fenton, Tri-County Times
Back From Staph

Milford Times
Recruiting Can Be Hard

Imlay City, The Tri-City Times
Homeschoolers

Northville Record
Kicking Up The Charts

Milford Times
Building School Pride

Sports Feature, continued

HM
Don Richter
Good approach, nice writing style.

Chelsea Standard
Boston Bound

Sports Coverage

Daily Class A

1st Place
The design, photo choices and headlines on the front pages all work together to pull a reader in, and the writing is the finishing touch. Paper is strong from front to back. Good range of coverage but lacking in diversity.

2nd Place
Writing is a definite plus but overall section lacks some pizzazz design-wise.

3rd Place
The diversity was good, but the design and creativity was lacking.

Daily Class B

1st Place
Love the look and feel of this section. It's bold and confident. Great use of photos and design. Solid writing and a nice mix of coverage. I'd look forward to sitting down with this each day.

2nd Place
Very good sports. I like most of the things about the design. Nice use of art. There's a lot of good, interactive stuff going on in this section.

3rd Place
Nice, clean sports section. It knows what it wants to hang its hat on the presents that very well. Enjoyed the overall preps coverage.

Daily Class C

1st Place
Nice diversity throughout the section. Paper presents a wide range of sports. "Football Friday" special front is well done. I like how it encompasses all levels of football. Good use of breakouts and creativity with design.

2nd Place
Paper blends good writing with eye-catching designs. Front pages after a range of sports, but it lacks in diversity.

3rd Place
Solid coverage that has a nice local flavor.

Daily Class D

1st Place
Terrific layout with dominant art and good action photos. Commitment to local impressive. Liked the column presence. Shines for the big event. Good number of local stories. Clearly the class of the division.

2nd Place
Good CMU wraparound and strong section. Mix of local and national. Inside pages broken up well. East to read. Caputo column a nice touch. Would consider seven-column scoreboard.

Sports Coverage, continued

3rd Place **Bad Axe, Huron Daily Tribune**

Sections full of information, and planning is excellent. Great commitment to annual supplements. Bogan and Adams are all over it. Photos played a bit too big. Very well organized.

HM **Owosso -The Argus-Press**

Nice section fronts with dominant art. Inside pages nicely broken up. Good commitment to local. Nice touch on golf page. Would rethink mug shot size on athlete of week. Impressed with Echert's versatility writing column and shooting a fire.

Weekly Class A

1st Place **Livingston Community News**

How does a 2-page feature section beat an 8-page traditional sports section? The Livingston Community News outscored the second place entry in diversity of coverage, quality of writing, design and overall creativity.

2nd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Make no mistake, this is a top-notch community sports section and a darned close second. The breadth of coverage, use of photos, use of stats and writing quality all scores above average to excellent.

3rd Place **LA View**

To place higher the Area View papers much overcome design challenges, focus on writing more conversely and attempt some enterprise stories with substance to them.

Weekly Class B

1st Place **Plymouth Observer**

Ed Wright

In a field of highly competitive sports sections, Ed Wright's writing skill wins the day. His consistently engaging style, depth and creativity are matched by solid reporting. Other papers may have slightly better design or more diversity, but if our judges could have only one of the sports sections in this division, the Plymouth Observer is the sports section we'd want every week.

2nd Place **Farmington Observer**

Dan O'Meara

A very close second. Professional reporting from Dan O'Meara, diversity and breadth of coverage make the Farmington sports section a great read.

3rd Place **Davison Flagstaff**

Scott Keyes

The most well designed sports section in the division. Clean, professional layout with great photographs. Scott Keyes' reporting is thorough, diverse and a pleasure to read. If these elements could be expanded beyond the one page format, the Davison Flags

HM **Fenton, Tri-County Times**

Staff

Creative layout both on section front and inside as well as solid reporting from the Alexander/Troppens team earn the Tri-County Times the Honorable Mention.

Sports Coverage, continued

Weekly Class C

1st Place **Gladwin Co Record & Beaverton Clarion**

Staff

From preps to rec leagues, I found good local content. I liked the use of schedules to look ahead. Very clean. Layouts sometimes overreached quality of art. Overall, I know about the local sports scene in each issue.

2nd Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Staff

Mediocre photos were overcome by layer after layer of local sports news. If it happened -- or will happen -- it was noted in the sports pages. This is not a small feat for a community papers. Nice effort.

3rd Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Staff

Strong front pages were flashy, but sometimes lacked content or looked bigger than what was actually inside. Nonetheless, lots of good local sports news and information.

Weekly Class D

1st Place **Saline Reporter**

Staff

I suspect Jerry Hinnen was a clone. This guy must work 24/7. Only gave it to Saline instead of Milan because Terry had more stories. Great coverage.

2nd Place **Homer Index**

Staff

Good game coverage and columns. Cunningham's is very good -- especially on "J.C." Basic meat and potatoes coverage.

3rd Place **Lake Orion Review**

Staff

Solid coverage (a bit too long), good mix of briefs and great Baumgartner column. You know your town.

HM **State Line Observer**

Staff

Awarded on the strength of the charming feature about "Replay" game.

Lifestyle Pages

Daily Class A

1st Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Great looking section full of interesting local content. Sunday profiles are especially impressive. Great writing, art and layout. The bio boxes are particularly readable.

2nd Place **Detroit News**

Excellent local content and front page designs. Back to school edition looks great.

3rd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Front page features are excellently written and accompanied by wonderful art.

Lifestyle Pages, continued

Daily Class B**1st Place** **Ann Arbor News**

Particularly liked the "As Michigan Heats Up" package, including content, buyout, impact and usefulness. "Dance" package connected with pop culture and employed engaging layout. "Inner Strength" dealt with issue most everyone could relate to.

2nd Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Enjoyed localized "5th grader" package, fun to read. "Family Matters" looked into a challenging issue through the eyes of those affected. Heartwarming story in "the boy is back."

3rd Place **Lansing State Journal**

Engaging layout, enjoyed "mom says" alternate story form. Could have connected with more social significant issues.

Daily Class C**1st Place** **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Great-looking layout. Local columnists, including a "people/society" column. Lead stories are local, and on surprising topics.

2nd Place **Midland, Daily News**

Accent section is striking and well-written.

3rd Place **Adrian, Daily Telegram**

Bold cover designs and interesting local stories.

Daily Class D**1st Place** **Alpena News**

Wonder "slice of life", super use of photos
No comment given.

2nd Place **Mt. Pleasant, Morning Sun**

No comment given.

3rd Place **Ludington, Daily News**

No comment given.

Weekly Class A**1st Place** **Livingston Community News**

Lively, engaging, head and shoulders above other entries.

2nd Place **Southgate News-Herald**

Good localizations.

3rd Place **Grand Blanc View**

Clean, good variety.

Weekly Class B**1st Place** **Detroit Jewish News**

Colorful layouts chock full of creativity. Stories are about very relevant, serious issues. Use of teenage writers a great way to reach youth audience.

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

Creative layouts with nice use of graphics and plenty of photos. Story on little people very tastefully written.

3rd Place **Livonia Observer**

Eye-catching layouts. Story on deaf dog a treat to read.

Weekly Class C**1st Place** **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**

Very colorful and creative. Well done.

Lifestyle Pages, continued

2nd Place **Gladwin Co Record & Beaverton Clarion**

Very nice. Love the local interviews. This section offers something for everyone.

3rd Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Creative - nice way to keep the summer exciting and offer your readers great information.

Weekly Class D**1st Place** **State Line Observer**

This entry is well-rounded, with strong writing and an easy-to-read format. Photos and stories feature a variety of people and activities from the community.

2nd Place **Milan News-Leader**

Very community oriented, with good photography and a nice use of color. The writing was done in an entertaining but informative style.

3rd Place **Chelsea Standard**

This entry covered a variety of subjects of interest to or affecting the community. Stories and pictures show people experiencing life in this region.

Special Section**Daily Class A****1st Place** **Detroit Free Press**

Charged

Fantastic looking section with in-depth coverage. The piece on bats was especially fascinating.

2nd Place **Detroit Free Press**

Celebrate Michigan!

The staff did a fine job in showing off the city. Wonderful use of graphics and photos.

3rd Place **Detroit News**

DIA: A Museum Reborn

Wonderful section. The artwork was reproduced in excellent quality.

HM **Grand Rapids Press**

DeLaHoya Mayweather

I've never seen coverage this extensive leading up to a boxing match. Wonderful design. Writer David Mayo knows his stuff. It's great to see the sweet science get so much print.

Daily Class B**1st Place** **Muskegon Chronicle**

150 Years the Chronicle

The depth of information, stories, photos, angles, etc. is impressive this is a treasure-chest of history that readers would find useful now and forever. It is well-designed throughout. The old-style quill pen subheads work well. Lists of significant busi

2nd Place **Ann Arbor News**

M Edition

This was a great concept for capturing the diversity of the faces, places and resources at U-M. You can get lost in the faces, but so much info is also tucked inside. It's obvious no corners were cut in compiling the subjects. At times, the "I love U-M" s

Special Section, continued**3rd Place Lansing State Journal***Prep Football Preview*

This section covered a lot of ground. The team entries found a way to quickly and easily tell me what I needed to understand about each team. The use of action photos throughout kept the energy level high throughout. I would have liked to have seen more f

HM Bay City Times*Learning To Fly*

A great story to tell and a great way to tell it. This design is simple, but well done.

Daily Class C**1st Place Port Huron Times Herald***Sesquicentennial*

Fascinating historical recount of Port Huron on its 150th Anniversary.

2nd Place Adrian, Daily Telegram*Young Voices*

A well-done and nicely conceived week-long look at a variety of art from school students.

3rd Place Midland, Daily News*Toast of the Town*

A comprehensive look at the first game of a new minor league baseball team and a community celebration over it.

Daily Class D**1st Place Big Rapids, Pioneer***E Company Comes Home*

A true cas of letting the pictures tell the story. I couldn't put this down and when I did, I had to dry my tears. Plus, wonderful local ad support.

2nd Place Owosso -The Argus-Press*Year End*

Very comprehensive. For anybody who gives a lick about anything in your hometown it's all in here.

3rd Place Grand Haven Tribune*Key To The Tri-Cities*

This would be "a keeper". Nice size, great reproduction.

HM Big Rapids, Pioneer*Dream Teams*

Fantastic design work and solid writing.

Weekly Class A**1st Place Southgate News-Herald***Moving Forward*

This comprehensive series gives readers a thorough understanding of the economy in the southeast Michigan area and the direction it is headed in. The four parts are well planned out and organized by themes. Excellent cover design.

2nd Place Michigan Business Review*Innovation*

A clean, contemporary design makes this publication an eye-catcher. But it's not only style that makes this guide work, it has plenty of substance, too. By focusing on innovation of industry, it explores a realm that is often overlooked by the media. The

Special Section, continued**3rd Place Detroit, Metro Times***Arts Issue*

Does a thorough job of covering the Detroit arts scene. Nice use of a theme on the cover that is continued inside. The publication certainly lives up to this claim. Uses a visually appealing, ontemporary design too.

HM Livingston Community News*Football 2007*

Nice example of a high school sports preview section that includes basic, useful information such as key players, schedules, etc., but alsoincludes a thorough analysis of the teams and the upcoming season.

Weekly Class B**1st Place Detroit Jewish News***Platinum*

Very professionally produced. Terrific stories and photos.

2nd Place Detroit Jewish News*Celebrate!*

Packed full of glossy photos of local people. Great stories as well.

3rd Place Fenton, Tri-County Times*Spring Home Improvement*

Terrific locally produced stories on unique and interesting topics. Very well-presented.

HM Fenton, Tri-County Times*The Good Life*

Nice presentation in an attractive overall layout.

Weekly Class C**1st Place Leelanau Enterprise***National Cherry Month*

Very nicely done. Great creativity. This gave me a great idea to do something like this for our local community who also has a cherry festival. Great job!

2nd Place Northville Record*The Makers of Music*

Lots of times at seems only the athletes get recognition. It's nice to see that you also recognize these students who also wark hand. Great job!

3rd Place Northville Record*Fall 2007 Sports Preview*

Great local sports content. Nicely done and great job.

HM Gladwin Co Record & Beaverton Clarion*Progress 2007*

Nice work. It looks a lot of hard work do complete a project like this.

Weekly Class D**1st Place Saline Reporter***Celtic Festival*

Section gives readers the flavor of the annual festival, in an easy-to-navigate format. A story mix of advertising and useful news content.

2nd Place Rogers City, Presque Isle Co Advance*Summer Fun In The Nautical City*

No comment given.

Special Section, continued

3rd Place **Blissfield Advance**

Fall Visitors Guide

No comment given.

HM **Saline Reporter**

Saline Area Directory

No comment given.

2008 Michigan Press Association Advertising Contest Winners



Best Ad Idea

Daily Class 1

- 1st Place** *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Hodgson's Spring Sale 3/27/2007
Great use of product placement and layout, also great use of color.
- 2nd Place** *Flint Journal*
Searching 8/21/2007
Neat concept, would have loved to have seen a kid with
- 3rd Place** *Flint Journal*
Frost Off Your Pumpkin 11/1/2007
Cute and appealing and great idea and use of emotion, pulling in readers/consumers on auto start product.

Daily Class 2

- 1st Place** *Iron Mountain, The Daily News*
Front Porch 5/24/2007
Great, non-traditional ad size idea. Jumps right off the page!
- 2nd Place** *Iron Mountain, The Daily News*
Bushel of Bargains 9/26/2007
Great, non-traditional use of size. Fruit art really stands out!
- 3rd Place** *Midland, Daily News*
Back To School Makeover 8/26/2007
Good idea to join advertisers with a contest. Nice Looking layout.

Daily Class 3

- 1st Place** *Cadillac News*
V May, 2007
Excellent use of photography, color and especially layout. This ad must have made the client happy.
- 2nd Place** *Cadillac News*
Prices Won't Drag 4/9/2007
Very nice use of space. I really like the across the gutter instead of trying to make it facing pages.
- 3rd Place** *Cadillac News*
Makin' Tracks 2/16-18/08
Nice use of photography and play on words.
- HM** *Cadillac News*
Extra, Extra 5/17/2007
I like the cartoon strip idea, it catches the eye.

Best Ad Idea, continued

Weekly Class 1

- 1st Place** *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Hometown Hardware 11/7/2007
A catchy headline and great artwork draws the reader into the ad. Good use of white space to keep the contact information at the bottom easy to read.
- 2nd Place** *LAView*
Michele & Company 12/6/2007
For a relatively small ad, the layout and color give it fantastic presence on the page. The copy is simple and to the point.
- 3rd Place** *Advance Newspapers/Jenison*
Airport Lanes 3/31/2008
When you look at the ad, you know it is about bowling. Good use of color and creative layout of copy.

Weekly Class 2

- 1st Place** *Tecumseh Herald*
Downtown Printing 12/20/2007
Very innovative layout and idea: The headline and fingerprint art... lead you right into the ad. A different approach, unique.
- 2nd Place** *Romeo Observer*
Hantz Financial 3/19/2008
Great photo integrated with a good header. Good approach for an advertiser to take. Who is going to miss a picture of a cute baby!

Weekly Class 3

- 1st Place** *Blissfield Advance*
Are You Game 9/5/2007
Interesting lead to a teeth whitening ad. Immediately got my attention. Very unique.
- 2nd Place** *Blissfield Advance*
Splish Splash with Jesus 8/8/2007
Nice use of white space, ad clearly jumps off of the page.
- 3rd Place** *Blissfield Advance*
Deb's Crystal Room 8/1/2007
Nice layout combining a good thank you message with nice organization of pictures.

Best Color Ad

Daily Class 1

- 1st Place** *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Country View-Love Mom 5/12/2007
 Very vibrant colors, some of the flowers looked 3 dimensional.
- 2nd Place** *Kalamazoo Gazette*
The Tot To Teen Village 4/21/2007
 Great use of color, registration very clean and detailed.
- 3rd Place** *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Country View-Grand Opening 4/29/2007
 I felt like I was looking at the same flowers over and over again, not enough variety with the color usage.

Daily Class 2

- 1st Place** *Alpena News*
Perch's 12/1/2007
 Outstanding use of "candy cane" color.
- 2nd Place** *Monroe Evening News*
Momentum Lincoln/Mercury 8/19/2007
 Very nice "soft" colors. Great choice and great presentation.
- 3rd Place** *Iron Mountain, The Daily News*
Buy One-Get One 5/3/2007
 Good choice of blue. All the colors seem to work well together.

Daily Class 3

- 1st Place** *Cadillac News*
Outdoor Dreams May, 2007
 The color in this ad really makes you feel like you are shopping for one of the great decks featured.
- 2nd Place** *Petoskey News-Review*
Scovies Easter Brunch 4/6/2007
 The pale yellow not only indicates Easter, but really makes the bold black lettering and the logo really stand out.
- 3rd Place** *Greenville, The Daily News*
Christmas Open House 11/24/2007
 Wonderful use of earth tones instead of traditional Christmas colors.
- HM** *Bad Axe, Huron Daily Tribune*
Courtney Manor 2/29/2008
 Nice layout and use of color. The color accentuates the property being advertised, making this elder care home more inviting.

Weekly Class 1

- 1st Place** *Northern Express Weekly*
Fill Your Closet 4/19/2007
 Good layout, great color! This idea could be used by many other markets.

Best Color Ad, continued

- 2nd Place** *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Taylor Hardware 3/16/2008
 I love the creativity with black and white with just a splash of color. Nice layout and illustrations rock!
- 3rd Place** *Livingston Community News*
Green Oak Village Place 7/13/2007
 Nice layout and design. Really like the illustrations and good information.
- HM** *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Kan Rock Tires 12/23/2007
 Nice message, good layout and illustration.

Weekly Class 2

- 1st Place** *Leelanau Enterprise*
Tamarack 7/19/2007
 Great use of color without overdoing. Unique artwork stands out against black background. Good use of yellow and red text on black.
- 2nd Place** *Leelanau Enterprise*
Northern Lumber 10/18/2007
 Pink against black and white really pops. Clearly identifies product with known character symbol.
- 3rd Place** *Romeo Observer*
Historic Romeo 3/26/2008
 Yellow and black combination is always eye-catching and this ad mixes the use of the colors well.

Weekly Class 3

- 1st Place** *Blissfield Advance*
Hope It's Merry 12/19/2007
 Great holiday ad with a good use of red and green.
- 2nd Place** *Blissfield Advance*
Shop Blissfield 11/7/2007
 Good use of color to accent ad, not overpower it.

Best Special Section

Daily Class 1

- 1st Place** *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Family Owned Businesses 6/24/2007
 What a great way to recognize and generate revenue from the local advertisers! This is a great looking section and very creative layout.
- 2nd Place** *Flint Journal*
Attorney Guide 2007 4/29/2007
 This is a very informative special section and a great way to partner with their local bar association. Very impressive!

Best Special Section, continued

3rd Place *Flint Journal*
Wedding Planner 2008 1/5/2008
 Every bride would love this section and it is the most user friendly piece I have ever encountered in a wedding planner published by a newspaper.

HM *Flint Journal*
Fall Park Guide 9/18/2007
 No comment given.

Daily Class 2

1st Place *Port Huron Times Herald*
Sesquicentennial 2/4/07, 4/22/07, 7/29/07, 10/7/07
 Well done section special keepsake editions.

2nd Place *Midland, Daily News*
At Your Fingertips Winter 08
 Well laid out. Very useful and solid advertising content.

3rd Place *Iron Mountain, The Daily News*
Treasure Hunt June 07
 Good product. I would have liked to see the stickers also.

Daily Class 3

1st Place *Petoskey News-Review*
Home Life Nov/Dec, 2007
 Wow! What a great section! Wonderful layout and dynamite photos. Well done indeed!

2nd Place *Sturgis Journal*
Shoreline
 Great sections! Attractive, nice stories, full of color and useful information. Wonderful!

3rd Place *Grand Haven Tribune*
Key Tri-Cities 10/27/2007
 Wonderful job, colorful, clean and very readable. This supplement is a hit!

HM *Grand Haven Tribune*
Discover 5/23/2007
 Very nice, well laid out. I like the maps to the tri-cities. Well done!

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *LAView*
Parade of Homes 5/12/2007
 The section has a focused theme to direct traffic to the home builders. It has a very "reader friendly" layout and offers advertisers a vehicle to specifically target those who own or are looking to buy a home.

Best special section, continued

2nd Place *Grand Blanc View*
Buick Open 6/21/2007
 This special section offers advertisers a unique way to target local and non-local golf enthusiasts who will be attending the Buick Open or watching on T.V. The "hole sponsor" ads on pages 10-15 are great placements.

3rd Place *LAView*
Lapeer Co. Convention Bureau 9/19/2007
 The size and quality of the piece work to increase readership. The piece allows advertisers to target visitors and locals looking for something new or different.

HM *LAView*
Silver Threads 1/31/2008
 Very focused piece on the senior citizens in the area.

Weekly Class 2

1st Place *Leelanau Enterprise*
Leelanau Visitor Guide 5/27/2007
 As visitor guides go, this is very well organized. Information is easy to find, good mix of glossy/newsprint and love the map in the center.

2nd Place *Tecumseh Herald*
Holiday Happenings 11/8/2007
 Strong cover. Design and layout are well done. Nice mix of newsprint stock. Needs more local content which would have put it in the running for **1st Place**.

Weekly Class 3

1st Place *Clare Sentinel*
Business & Industry Yearbook 10/23/2007
 Nice cover, great local content.

2nd Place *Blissfield Advance*
Purple Reign 11/21/2007
 Great local high school section. Good mix of stories, ads and photos.

3rd Place *Clare Sentinel*
St. Patrick's Day 3/11/2008
 Nice use of spot green in a very timely, and advertising rich section.

HM *Imlay City, The Tri-City Times*
Blueberry Fest July 2007
 Robust section full of ads, design could be more modern.

Best Promotion Ad

Daily Class 1

1st Place *Flint Journal*
Rolls-In 11/16/2007
 Great testimonial/promotional ad!

Best Promotion Ad, continued

2nd Place *Flint Journal*
A Leg Up 4/30/2007
 Very creative, visual of shapes may have been helpful.

3rd Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*
The Ultimate Text Message 10/15/2007
 Good, but the message needed to appeal more to the text messages (younger, hip tech savvy teens, sports/shop local to under 30 clubs, weekend events crowd)

HM *Flint Journal*
Be Unique 4/25/2007
 Clever message, but poor use of color.

Daily Class 2

1st Place *Marquette, The Mining Journal*
History 11/11/2007
 Well done!

2nd Place *Iron Mountain, The Daily News*
Award Winning 11/10/2007
 Good layout of information.

3rd Place *Alpena News*
Hometown News 3/29/2008
 Great use of color and community involvement.

Daily Class 3

1st Place *Petoskey News-Review*
\$20 Off Gas
 Wonderful promo. Colorful, great layout and effective! Kudos to you folks in Petoskey.

2nd Place *Grand Haven Tribune*
You Know You're From the Tri-Cities 6/2/2007
 Well done! Great layout, nice use of the "10 Best" theme.

3rd Place *Greenville, The Daily News*
How To Start Your Subscription 8/1/2007
 Nice, clean informative and especially the right size to catch the reader's eye.

HM *Cadillac News*
Spooky Spurts 10/2/2007
 Nice promotion, interesting contest.

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *LAView*
Thank You Readers 11/8/2007
 I like the idea of thanking the readers. Without them we have no paper. Good PR and customer service.

Best Promotion Ad, continued

2nd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Classified Ads Weekly 8/26/2007
 Very nice. We all love human interest and most people think of their pets as part of the family. The ad rep shows great customer service. Makes and puts a face (human) on the newspaper. Color would be nice.

3rd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Business Unlocked 9/16/2017
 Very good ad. Maybe a little long.

Weekly Class 2

1st Place *Gaylord Herald Times*
Save! Save! Save! 11/3/2007
 Nice stair step design with a header that leads you into the ad.

2nd Place *Leelanau Enterprise*
Home & Garden Ad 4/12/2007
 Colorful page which catches the eye.

3rd Place *Gaylord Herald Times*
HT 2007 Awards 12/1/2007
 Nice art and great organization of awards. I like the self promotion.

Weekly Class 3

1st Place *Brooklyn, The Exponent*
Time To Order 2007 April
 Clean design, great use of white space.

2nd Place *Brooklyn, The Exponent*
Exponent Attic 2007 December
 Good Design.

Best Ad Series

Daily Class 1

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Urban Modern Hair 7/2/07, 7/8/07, 7/16/07
 A series makes me want more, and this did a little of that, the what else factor.

Daily Class 2

1st Place *Port Huron Times Herald*
Nobles Grand Opening 5/19,24,25,26/07
 Great use of white space. Nice use of daily suspense. Well done!

2nd Place *Iron Mountain, The Daily News*
TDS/Front Porch May-Sept 2007
 Nice non-traditional sizing. Good series of similar ads.

3rd Place *Alpena News*
What Is An Acceptable Number? 8/16/07,9/19/07,9/24/07
 Nice layout.

Best Classified Ad Section

Best Ad Series, continued

Daily Class 3

1st Place *Petoskey News-Review*
Martinson & Driscoll 6/18-22/07
 Nicely done! Very attractive, colorful ads anchored on the front page. I like this one a lot!

2nd Place *Petoskey News-Review*
Sounds of the Season 12/7/2007
 Very nice promo series. Clean colorful and nicely laid out.

3rd Place *Cadillac News*
Find Your Next Vehicle Sept., 2007 - March, 2008
 Nice color and an excellent way to keep auto dealers in print while driving eyeballs to their website. A win-win.

HM *Bad Axe, Huron Daily Tribune*
Bayport State Bank 7/24/07-8/3/07-8/4/07
 Nice tie in with the "kick up" lines. Varied themes keeps them interesting.

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *LAView*
Culligan 12/13/07, 12/20/07, 12/27/07
 Very clever idea, great color, pictures and good use of playing on holiday stress! To the point and not wordy!

2nd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Tri-Pointe Credit Union 1/6/08, 1/20/08, 2/3/08, 3/2/08
 Nice use of full page, not wordy. Good use of color on headlines (slogans).

3rd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Vic Canever Service 9/23/07, 10/4/07, 10/21/07
 Nice use of color on page, love coupons! Maybe, I feel the car ad next to service ad is too much. I think it should be 1 ad, not separate!

HM *Livingston Community News*
Krug Ford Athlete of the Week 2/8/08, 2/15/08, 2/22/08
 Really love the personal touch of putting athletes in paper (future readers). Krug name bigger!

Weekly Class 2

1st Place *Ithaca, Gratiot County Herald*
12 Weeks of Christmas 10/4/2007
 Love this idea. Especially garnering holiday revenue starting in October. Well done!

Weekly Class 3

1st Place *Brooklyn, The Exponent*
Brooklyn Tire 2007 April - 2008 March
 No comment given.

2nd Place *Blissfield Advance*
J & B Greenhouse 2007 Sept.-Oct.
 No comment given.

Daily Class 1

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*
 3/9/2008

No comment given.

2nd Place *Flint Journal*
 8/16/2007

No comment given.

3rd Place *Flint Journal*
 1/27/2008

No comment given.

Daily Class 2

1st Place *Port Huron Times Herald*
 3/9/2008, 3/16/2008, 3/30/2008

No comment given.

2nd Place *Alpena*
 5/26/07, 7/5/07, 9/28/07

No comment given.

3rd Place *Midland, Daily News*
 3/21-23/08

No comment given.

Daily Class 3 CORRECTION

1st Place *Cadillac News*
 8/11-12/07, 2/16-17/08, 5/19-20/08

Great color and I really like the use of a colorful photo in the header. Nice layout and very readable. Makes the reader look at this section. Clients must be pleased with results from ads placed here. Nice large print. Very user friendly.

2nd Place *Greenville, The Daily News*
 I really like the "sell it 4 me" idea. Nice way to marry e-bay to the classified section.

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *LAView*
 2/14/08, 9/27/07, 10/11/07
 Clear category headings and a lot of color makes these sections easy to navigate for the reader.

Best Classified Ad Section, continued

2nd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
7/1/07, 3/9/08, 3/10/08

Nice mix of display and line ads. Nice service directory in terms of layout and ad design.

3rd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
1/6/08, 1/27/08, 2/3/08

The sections have a clean layout with a good mix of display and line ads.

Weekly Class 2

1st Place *Belleville-Area Independent*
6/28/07, 11/8/07, 3/27/08

No comment given.

Weekly Class 3

1st Place *Brooklyn, The Exponent*
5/1/2007

Nice, clean layout with clear headers. Easy to read. Good mix of in column and display ads.

Best Classified Ad Promotion

Daily Class 1

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Valentines Day 2/14/2008
Great color.

Daily Class 3

1st Place *Cadillac News*
Market Place That Works June, 2007
Straight forward, easy to understand and fun page!
Great.

2nd Place *Grand Haven Tribune*
Clean Out Your Garage 6/30/2007
Great use of space, and a nice use of humor to promote classifieds.

3rd Place *Petoskey News-Review*
Those Blooming Plants 5/8/2007
Nice tie in with nurseries for a spring promo.

HM *Petoskey News-Review*
Easter Scramble 3/17/2008
Good reader promo. Brings attention to the classifieds.

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Announcing Something Special 1/13/2008
Nice use of color. Good way to get them to call (maybe sell more)

Best Classified or ROP Automobile Ad

Daily Class 1

1st Place *Flint Journal*
Transform Your Ride 7/8/2007
Excellent graphic at top.

2nd Place *Flint Journal*
Savings Explosion 7/1/2007
No comment given.

Daily Class 2

1st Place *Alpena News*
Cliff Anschuetz 3/8/2008
Very creative with nice use of color.

2nd Place *Monroe Evening News*
Monroe Dodge Superstore 3/16/2008
No comment given.

3rd Place *Port Huron Times Herald*
Northgate Ford Stimulus 3/23/2008
No comment given.

Daily Class 3

1st Place *Greenville, The Daily News*
Ed Koehn Does It 10/20/2007
Wonderful use of space. Unique approach, much more appealing than usual auto ad. Really pops.

2nd Place *Cadillac News*
Cupids Choice 2/11/2007
Nice orientation. Vertical instead of a box. Art work is appropriate.

3rd Place *Greenville, The Daily News*
Sizzling Stanton Summer Sale 6/16/2007
Nice use of space, the flame art is nice.

HM *Cadillac News*
Gear Up 4/30/2007
Good call to action, fairly clean layout.

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *Livingston Community News*
Krug Ford 3/14/2008
Great use of color to capitalize on the St. Patrick's Day theme. The information is well organized.

2nd Place *LAView*
Merollis Cadillac 1/31/2008
Simple layout and reversed font makes the ad stand out on the page.

3rd Place *Advance Newspapers/Jenison*
Fox Pontiac Buick 2/12/2008
Good use of color and holiday art. Vehicles and info are neatly arranged. The ad is clear and easy to understand.

Best Classified or ROP Automobile Ad, continued

Weekly Class 2

1st Place *Carson City Gazette*
Knight Auto 11/12/2007
 No comment given.

Weekly Class 3

1st Place *Clare Sentinel*
Fladeboe Ford 1/1/2008
 I like the approach, sell yourself not selling cars.

Best Classified or ROP Real Estate Ad

Daily Class 1

1st Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*
Builders 2/3/2008
 Excellent use of co-op

2nd Place *Flint Journal*
Kick Back and Relax 8/19/2007
 No comment given.

Daily Class 2

1st Place *Midland, Daily News*
For Rent Fall 07
 Well done! Great color and variety of ads.

2nd Place *Alpena News*
Banner Realty 7/12/2007
 Nice layout and use of color.

3rd Place *Midland, Daily News*
Condo Living Fall 07
 Nice "niche" advertising.

Daily Class 3

1st Place *Petoskey News-Review*
Open Houses - Pat O'Brien 8/31/2007
 Nicely laid out. I like the font used in the headline and the absence of black lines in the ad.

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*
Kristi Cantelberry Team 2/10/2008
 Great putting faces to team members. Also like the key words like results, service, etc. Use lighter backgrounds on pictures.

2nd Place *Northern Express Weekly*
Arbors of Traverse City 10/4/2007
 Good color pictures, good information and map.

Weekly Class 3

1st Place *Clare Sentinel*
 No comment given.

Best Online Promotion

Daily Class 1

1st Place *Flint Journal*
Playland 10/3/2007
 No comment given.

2nd Place *Flint Journal*
H & R Block 8/14/2007
 No comment given.

3rd Place *Flint Journal*
Grand Blanc Funfest 8/30/2007
 No comment given.

Daily Class 2

1st Place *Monroe Evening News*
www.monroetalks.com 7/29/07-8/4/07
 Very nice package. Well done!

2nd Place *Midland, Daily News*
Verge Online 24/7 6/28/2007
 Very reader friendly. Nice layout and size.

3rd Place *Midland, Daily News*
Online Buck Contest 10/13/2007
 Good ad for reader/user involvement. Great idea!

Daily Class 3

1st Place *Petoskey News-Review*
Sign Up For the E-Edition 10/4/2007
 Excellent call to action! Nice color and a great way to introduce the e-edition.

2nd Place *Cadillac News*
Photo Contest Aug - Sept 2007
 Nicely done! One of the better online photo contests I have seen.

3rd Place *Cadillac News*
Football Ticket Contest 9/20/2007
 I like the idea of submitting a joke in order to win.

Best Online Promotion, continued

Weekly Class 1

1st Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*

Tony Soprano 6/17/2007

The ad has a very eye-catching headline which directs the reader to the features at the website. The use of the black background makes the ad stand out on the page.

2nd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*

Your Memories 10/21/2007

The headline and the artwork work together to create excitement for the reader. The copy is straight-forward in its message directing readers to the web.

3rd Place *Fenton, Tri-County Times*

Muhammad Ali 6/24/2007

Strong headline and artwork. The copy explains the features of the website.

HM *Fenton, Tri-County Times*

Online Ads 8/26/2007

Gives print readers an example of what ads to find online. Good benefit to advertisers and readers.

Weekly Class 2

1st Place *Tecumseh Herald*

Coming February 21, 2008 1/24/2008

Very innovative, nice use of colors and ad design is spot on with concept and message.

2nd Place *Tecumseh Herald*

Love At First Sight 2/14/2008

Nice timely message for promotion around Valentine's Day