

2016 MPA Better Newspaper Contest



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Bigger Contest Spotlights Better Journalism

Members of Hoosier Press Association reviewed 3,384 entries submitted by 107 Michigan newspapers/individual members this year. The increased competition inspires all journalists to produce better work, which in turn, nurtures stronger communities.

"The Michigan Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest allows member journalists, photojournalists, columnists, designers—all of us—to show off our best work. This year was no exception with nearly 3,400 entries submitted. That's a lot of excellent work. As chair of the contest committee, I've watched the competition change considerably over recent years in an effort to keep up with the changes in our industry. More changes are ahead as we try to bring all of our members into the contest. So celebrate your victories, mourn your losses, and please come back later this year to show off your best work once again." Better Newspaper Contest Chairman David Green

The 2016 "Newspaper of the Year" award is presented to the top newspaper in eight circulation classes based on points accumulated (100 for first, 70 for second and 40 for third) in all Editorial contest categories. Winners of those awards are listed below.

Daily Newspapers of the Year			Weekly/News Media Publication Newspapers of the Year		
Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper	Circulation Class	Total Points	Newspaper
Class A	1,440	Flint Journal	Class A	930	Bridge Magazine
Class B	680	The Ann Arbor News	Class B	950	Tri-County Times
Class C	680	Midland Daily News	Class C	650	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	1,290	Greenville Daily News	Class D	1,120	State Line Observer

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

The 2016 Advertising Contest this year awarded the Excellence in Advertising Award to the overall winner in all the advertising categories. We based on points accumulated (100 for first, 70 for second and 40 for third) in all nine advertising categories. The three finalists are: Greenville Daily News, Tri-County Times and Tecumseh Herald, with the winner going to **Greenville Daily News**.

The MPA Public Service Award recognizes a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper or newspaper individual that has made a significant contribution to the betterment of their community. The three finalists are: Bridge Magazine for "Flint", Grand Rapids Press for "The Mistakes Made. The Lives Affected", and The Ann Arbor News for "Dioxane Plume under Ann Arbor", with the award going to **Grand Rapids Press**.

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The three finalists are: Dillon Davis of the Battle Creek Enquirer, Matt Sheehan of the Times Herald and Michael MacDonald of the Gratiot County Herald, with the award going to **Matt Sheehan**.

The MPA Public Notice Journalism Award recognizes stories that exemplify the importance of public notice in newspapers. The two finalists are Lansing City Pulse for "School for the Blind Error" and Bridge Magazine for "Disaster Day by Day: A Flint Timeline" with the award going to **Lansing City Pulse**.

The 2017 MPA Better Newspaper Contest opens August 1, 2017

Best Column

Daily A - Best Column

21 Entries

Great variety of entries, showing that every community should have its own voice. The strengths were in the story telling. Any shortcomings were in not having enough voices.

First Place

Grand Rapids Press

Michigan ghost town is cautionary tale of unchecked capitalism and environmental pillage

John Counts

John Counts obviously knows Michigan, and he shares stories that no doubt resonate with native readers (and offsite judges). His storytelling skills stand out.

Second Place

Saginaw News

Donald Trump's response to a tough-talking woman shows he's no leader of men

Jodi McFarland

Straight-forward voice that sets the stage and, with no need for heavy hammering, shows the reader exactly where she stands.

Third Place

Lansing State Journal

'Being Strong is my only choice'

Judy Putnam

Some special stories were shared here,, especially the mother of the late firefighter. Wish we had more perspective from others (firefighters, family) on how she was standing up.

Honorable Mention

Kalamazoo Gazette

A Muslim American speaks out: I'm not an outsider

Julie Mack

Nice tone and tenor. Wish we had added some voices, especially to the story on a local Muslim (husband, colleagues, etc.?).

Daily B - Best Column

14 Entries

Our winner stood out with her ability to connect with the reader and to reflect the community. A very varied set of work.

First Place

Battle Creek Enquirer

'Unique' best describes Doris Klaussen graduates

Annie Kelley

Whether it's family, school or a simple speech, the writer connects with her community and her readers ... exactly what you crave in a local columnist.

Second Place

Battle Creek Enquirer

Learning to live with the loss of a parent

Dillon Davis

Perhaps the most difficult job of a writer is to share a personal story. It was done well and with heart in this column.

Third Place

Monroe Evening News

Wait a minute, this all sounds a bit familiar

Ray Kisonas

Humor is, of course, in the laughter of the audience, but this writer does a nice job with a couple of examples of bringing home the bacon.

Honorable Mention

Monroe Evening News

Snake venom, rooster combs, lizard spit- no, this isn't witch's brew

Charles Slat

A lesson and a laugh. That is a good column.

Daily C - Best Column

29 Entries

First Place

Ludington Daily News

Pitch in for cleaner beaches and politics

Steve Begnoche

I like the parallel the writer drew between litter and politics. It's a column that built on the metaphor to relay an important message to readers. Kudos.

Second Place

Petoskey News-Review

Renee Tanner column

Suicide and mental illness are not easy topics to write about. It's even tougher when they're drawn from close, personal experience. The writer is to be commended for her willingness to speak up on those topics and her lost loved one.

Third Place

Alpena News

No ifs, ands or butts about it ... its littering

Steve Murch

The writer chose a topic that will grab the attention of the reader, and used the hook to get into a local issue. It works.

Honorable Mention

Petoskey News-Review

It feels like only yesterday

Renee Tanner

Daily D - Best Column

18 Entries

First Place

Greenville Daily News

Mothers Day is a bit different for me

Emilee Nielsen

Second Place

Manistee News-Advocate

A time and a place for a cold one

Michelle Graves

Third Place

Greenville Daily News

In memory of Mitchell

Ryan Schlehuber

Honorable Mention

The Pioneer

How about a cup of water?

Jim Crees

Weekly/News Media A - Best Column

9 Entries

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Phil Power

Phil Power's columns feel like must-read, common-sense material about issues that directly impact lives in Michigan. They are well-thought, well-reasoned and engaging.

Second Place

Huron County View

Member of minority group right about community's prejudice

Kelly Krager

This is an important column -- putting yourself into a situation that forces you to see things from a completely different perspective. The writer tells her readers about an experience outside the comfort zone for most, and it works.

Third Place

Huron County View

Running against the wind

Dave Rothe

Honorable Mention

Huron County View

Fight school violence at home

Kelly Krager

Weekly/News Media B - Best Column

17 Entries

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

On bathrooms, use the one you're dressed for

Patti Brandt

Second Place

Detroit Jewish News

So You Want To Help Flint

Ben Falik

Third Place

Detroit Jewish News

Hitler Abettors Must Feel Justice

Robert Sklar

Honorable Mention *Detroit Jewish News*
Targeted French Theater Long On Jewish Ties
 Robert Sklar

Weekly/News Media C - Best Column

23 Entries

First Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

Time to let G-P go

Chris Engle

Second Place *The Commercial Record*

Blue Star: Todd and Cindy

Scott Sullivan

Third Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

They call me Lees boy

Brandon Folsom

Weekly/News Media D - Best Column

23 Entries

First Place *Oxford Leader*

Public officials should pay their bills, not have conflicts

C.J. Carnacchio

Skillful blend of investigation into public records and spot-on commentary about important public proposals. This is work that makes a difference -- or should.

Second Place *Craig Farrand*

Where does this end? In a second American Revolution?

Craig Farrand

The message in this column is even more powerful now, as I read this just days after the election. How do we "figure it out" when few of us choose to engage with people very different than us? An excellent start to an important public discussion.

Third Place *Oxford Leader*

Locals should fight proposed RTA tax

C.J. Carnacchio

Kudos to you and your editor on the courage it took to publish what you really feel instead of getting it out of your system and then shelving it.

Honorable Mention *Craig Farrand*

Surprise: Lansing logic is no logic at all

Craig Farrand

Get 'em. Way to call out the decision-makers for total lack of logic. "Ask, examine, report, without fear or favor": That should be every journalist's motto.

Best Editorial

Daily A - Best Editorial

14 Entries

All of these entries were well-written. They were informative, included good background and represented editorial writers very well. Good job overall to all these contestants.

First Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Let feds take lead in Flint recovery

Mlive Media Group

Interesting historical detail about the governor's knowledge of the problem makes this stand out. Great ending. Well written.

Second Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Schuettes tainted probe

Kristin Longley

Timely, error free, written with confidence. Great piece.

Third Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

Fixing I-94 drivers obligation

Ed Finnerty

This is informative, concise and to the point.

Honorable Mention *Lansing State Journal*

Backdoor Deals Unacceptable

Stephanie Angel

Informs the citizens about the open door and records laws, calls for accountability and lays out a sticky problem for the citizens to better understand.

Daily B - Best Editorial

15 Entries

Overall, a solid set of entries with some strong writing skill and deep knowledge behind them.

First Place *Battle Creek Enquirer*

Be straight with voters

Michael McCullough

This writing is solid. This topic is important. This piece shines with its use of background. Great job.

Second Place *Herald-Palladium*

Serial Rapist

Dale Brewer

The media has such a tough task in dealing with police anymore. I appreciate the candor of this piece. It flows well and gets right to the point.

Third Place *Herald-Palladium*

The Uzelac Effect

Dale Brewer

Compelling topic. Deserves the attention of the readers. Very well written.

Honorable Mention *Bay City Times*

Public television auction decision deserves public input

Andrew Dodson

Clear and concise and tackles an issue not many are paying attention to until their TV channels change.

Daily C - Best Editorial

16 Entries

Good group of editorials covering a lot of important and varied topics.

First Place *The Daily News, Iron Mountain*

Despite progress, problems persist

Betsy Bloom

This struck a chord with me, as it likely did with many readers, and tackled a subject some still ignore. Clean copy. Well-written. Just the right length to draw the reader in and cause them to think without losing them.

Second Place *Petoskey News-Review*

County commission response

Staff

This made me laugh. Well done. Sometimes the less said the bigger the impact. The writing is good and the subject matter important.

Third Place *Grand Haven Tribune*

Lottery's not fun when you lose

Mark Brooky

Takes on a personal subject with a bit of humor and grace. Informative. Clean copy.

Honorable Mention *Ludington Daily News*

Heed advice openness in government

Patti Klevorn, Steve Begnoche

Important topic to cover, no doubt. And it never hurts to let our readers know it's our job to be their watchdog.

Daily D - Best Editorial

6 Entries

With clean copy and well-thought opinions, this was a good group of good editorials. Nice job.

First Place

Greenville Daily News

PA 269 leaves some officials gagging

Elisabeth Waldon

Clear and concise writing. Lays it out well for the reader which now has something to chew on. And this is exactly the type of issue a newspaper needs to take on.

Second Place

Greenville Daily News

Paying attention in Montcalm County

Elisabeth Waldon

This is well-written and informative without scolding the readers too harshly.

Third Place

Manistee News-Advocate

After months of turmoil, it's time for village to move forward

Michelle Graves

It's refreshing to see a newspaper writer take on government every once in a while in such an open and straight-forward way.

Honorable Mention

Greenville Daily News

Confusing times for commissioners

Elisabeth Waldon

This county seems to have a heap 'o troubles. This newspaper isn't afraid to put them out there.

Weekly/News Media A - Best Editorial

6 Entries

Great work on a diverse range of topics.

First Place

Lansing City Pulse

Eyes wide shut

Mickey Hirten

Hard-hitting look at a story that has probably provided plenty watercooler talk. Raises serious, legitimate questions that point to accountability - or lack of, undoubtedly helping to steer the public conversation.

Second Place

Lansing City Pulse

Nature knows best

Mickey Hirten

Great writing on a public health, public nuisance issue. This combines solid reporting/research with a touch of personal experience.

Third Place

Lansing City Pulse

Ad Campaign Backfires

Mickey Hirten

Heavy handed, amateurish. Not normal words journalists are bold enough to use to describe business groups. Writer deserves applause for not shying away from sensitive issue.

Weekly/News Media B - Best Editorial

10 Entries

First Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

The loudest whisper in Caro

Andrew Dietderich

Wisely and effectively takes a local school board to task for making light of priorities with code references to a football game starting in just four minutes when significant discussion should have been dominating the minds of those elected to help ensure students are being educated and that test score results are viewed as a serious barometer of that education.

Second Place

Tri-County Times

Get off my TV

Vera Hogan

Column provides a chatty, but serious look at a prevalent consumer and health issue about the impact of direct advertising by the wealthy pharmaceutical ending. Nice kicker ending.

Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise

The State Open Meeting act and independent thought

Alan Campbell

Always love it when newspapers remind, particularly publicly, elected officials of the need to follow the Open Meetings Act and conduct all required business in public. This piece addresses the issue directly and effectively, while acknowledging the ongoing investigation.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Editorial

18 Entries

Great examples of how opinion writing can add to debate and discussion of tough issues and questions in any community.

First Place

The Tri-City Times

Courser's Price Tag

Catherine Minolli

Great editorial that takes to task a state representative caught in a sex scandal, despite his public professions of reputable character, who refuses to do the honorable thing and step aside. The editorial also hints at the responsibility and accountability his leadership peers could have, saving the county voters the expense of a potential recall election.

Second Place

Gratiot County Herald

Just My Thoughts

Tom MacDonald

Column raises legitimate questions about the wisdom of passing over an internal candidate for superintendent and selecting someone who appears to be a job hopper. But the writer doesn't stop there, instead issuing a challenge to those concerned about the process to consider running for a school board seat. Great call to action.

Third Place

Tecumseh Herald

Police

Kerry Hamilton Smith

Without wasting space, the writer quickly brings home with great examples and detail why everyone has a stake in the security police officers can bring to a community and how that is at risk if they are wrongly attacked due to a "cop-hating frenzy."

Honorable Mention

The Exponent

Hate hits home

Matt Schepeler

Unique approach to addressing what was billed as a hate crime by providing an essay on what love looks like. For those with a spiritual/faith background, it would especially hit home, but even without that belief system, the contrasts are easy to grasp, yet meaningful.

Weekly/News Media D - Best Editorial

10 Entries

Tough competition. Lots of good examples of editorial voice while there is still opportunity to influence outcomes.

First Place

The Advance

Free college for all? Not likely

Marcia Loader

Strong editorial that effectively points out the fallacy - based on solid referencing of economic realities - of the free college concept Bernie Sanders suggested.

Second Place

State Line Observer

Public funds

David Green

Nicely written challenge to the philosophy of using taxpayer money to fund schools that are private and selectively accept students.

Third Place

Hands off

David Green

Short and too the point, this editorial effectively appeals to state lawmakers who may not otherwise consider the big picture and overlook the impact on small school district when considering budget choices. The editorial provides some caution - with specific examples about budget and unfunded pensions - about making assumptions that may not hold true long-term.

Honorable Mention

Oxford Leader

Kudos to Dolan, Kennis and Bossardet for making the right call on dispatch

C.J. Carnacchio

Direct and to the point, the editorial comes down on the side of a significant annual savings, while acknowledging the potential, but likely temporary, job loss for fewer than a dozen people. The editorial gives a pat on the back for the public servants who made what may on surface be an unpopular decision.

Best Newspaper Design

Daily A - Best Newspaper Design

5 Entries

First Place

Flint Journal

December 13, 2015

Staff

There were some really nice entries in this category, and it was tough to pick a winner. In the end, the intricate gun cutout on page 1 made the difference. The overall design is clean and attractive.

Second Place

Saginaw News

Saginaw News July 24, 2016 Edition

Staff

This is a well designed newspaper with an accessible look and feel. Nice front page package.

Third Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

June 9, 2016

Staff

Overall, this was a strong entry. Nice design from front to back.

Daily B - Best Newspaper Design

6 Entries

First Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Endangered?

Staff

The front page design made the difference for this entry. I particularly like the centerpiece. Inside pages are also clean and attractive. Quick Hits are a nice touch, well assembled.

Second Place

Bay City Times

The Bay City Times

Staff

Attractive front page design. Clean and attractive pages throughout the newspaper. Quick Hits are a reader-friendly feature. Overall, a well designed newspaper.

Third Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Nov. 8, 2015

Record-Eagle staff

Nice, classic newspaper design. Nothing flashy, but the pages are nicely assembled. I like the graphic with the river package.

Honorable Mention

Monroe Evening News

Sunday News

Jessica Havens, Barbara Krolak, Harry Orscheln, Tyler Eagle, Niles Kruger, Ryan Loren

This one just missed the top three. I like the ice-skating package. Overall design falls just a little short of the top three.

State Line Observer

Best Newspaper Design

Daily C - Best Newspaper Design

4 Entries

First Place

Ludington Daily News

Ludington Daily News

Staff

This entry wins based on an overall attractive design. The Dallas package might have been better with a headline extending across the top of the entire package. All in all, though, this entry exhibits an attractive design.

Second Place

The Mining Journal

November 6, 2015

Staff

The "taxing situation" package is attractive. I might have suggested dropping the screen from behind the main headline. The screen behind the marketplace feature doesn't really work.

Third Place

Grand Haven Tribune

Grand Haven Tribune

Staff

I'd suggest sticking to one font in the fireworks headline. Use of color seems a bit haphazard. The page headers on the inside pages seem a bit large, and I'm not a fan of the screen behind the daily bulletin.

Daily D - Best Newspaper Design

2 Entries

First Place

Greenville Daily News

May 14, 2016 Daily News and Graduation Section

Darrin Clark, Ryan Schlehuber

This newspaper has a nice, clean design. Its look is inviting and accessible.

Second Place

Huron Daily Tribune

Aug. 6, 2015 Huron Daily Tribune issue

Kate Hessling, Dave Shane, Paul Adams, Cindy Pettinger, Karen Flynn

Nice design. Not quite as precise as the winning entry.

Weekly/News Media B - Best Newspaper Design

4 Entries

First Place

Detroit Jewish News

Detroit Jewish News, Nov. 26, 2015

Michelle Sheridan, Amy Pollard

Nice design and typography. Overall clean look makes this an inviting publication. The clear winner.

Second Place

Tri-County Times

Tri-County Times, November 15, 2015

Jennifer Ward

Overall clean design, but it does seem a bit jammed together in spots. With a little more room to breathe, the overall design would be more inviting.

Third Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

Tuscola County Advertiser - July 16, 2016

Staff

The front page seems a bit crowded, but the design of inside pages is clean and inviting. All in all, an attractive newspaper.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Newspaper Design

9 Entries

First Place

The Tri-City Times

05-25-16 & 12-23-15

Tri-City Times

This was the clear winner. No other entry came close. Nice, clean design. Reader-friendly presentation.

Second Place**Tecumseh Herald***Tecumseh Herald - 11_05_15*

Tecumseh Herald Staff

Your top story could use a bigger headline, and you might want to consider limiting use of the bold sans serif type. Your content is packed pretty tight. I'd consider expanding your gutters slightly and using a few more rules between elements on inside pages. Your use of boxed items seems a bit dated.

Third Place**Oceana's Herald-Journal***June 30, 2016*

Andrew Skinner, John Cavanagh, Andy Roberts

The newspaper's flag almost gets lost at the top of the page. You might consider making it bigger. I'd consider moving the "Electric Love" headline above the main photo on your front page package and using a smaller photo above the story. I would also eliminate the box and just use rules instead. The "Over and Out" hammer head doesn't work. It's too close in size to the secondary head, and it would work better above that headline, rather than next to it.

Honorable Mention**Gratiot County Herald***6-9-16*

Tom MacDonald

The screened story in the right rail should match up with the bottom of the state championship photo, and I'd consider using a rule above the chamber director story. I'd drop the boxes around stand-alone photos and around the photo package on page 3. I'd also drop the size of the type on the second front page label.

Weekly/News Media D - Best Newspaper Design**6 Entries****First Place****Michigan Lawyers Weekly***March 28, 2016 edition*

Jason West

This publication has an overall clean look, and the presentation is generally reader friendly. Overlaying the front page package on a classroom chalkboard is a nice way of dealing with a lack of art.

Second Place**Charlevoix Courier***Charlevoix Courier Friday, April 22, 2016 Issue*

Frank Michels

The inside pages have a nice, clean design, but the front is a bit tightly packed. Consider giving the same amount of space between elements as you do between columns within each element. And you should have the same amount of space between the rule and the type as you do between those columns of type. Nice treatment, though, on the election package.

Third Place**The Missaukee Sentinel***Sentinel Newspaper Design entry*

Julia Cavanagh, Mike Dunn

Use of a box around stand-alone photos seems a bit dated. You might consider the use of rules between unrelated elements. I would try to avoid jumping stories from one inside page to another.

Best Page or Pages Design**Daily A - Best Page or Pages Design****10 Entries****First Place****Flint Journal***December 27, 2015*

Staff

Second Place**Grand Rapids Press***Lions*

The Grand Rapids Press staff

Third Place**Grand Rapids Press***Marijuana reform laws loom*

The Grand Rapids Press staff

Honorable Mention**Kalamazoo Gazette***February 28, 2016*

Staff

Daily B - Best Page or Pages Design**15 Entries****First Place****Monroe Evening News***Thanksgiving Cheat Sheet*

Jessica Havens

Second Place**The Ann Arbor News***The Ann Arbor News*

Staff

Third Place**Monroe Evening News***A Huge Jolt*

Jessica Havens

Honorable Mention**Traverse City Record-Eagle***Nov. 8, 2015 pages*

Record-Eagle staff

Daily C - Best Page or Pages Design**31 Entries****First Place****Petoskey News-Review***Petoskey News-Review*

Renee Tanner

Second Place**Grand Haven Tribune***Grand Haven Tribune*

Staff

Third Place**Cadillac News***KISS changed my life*

Mark Birdsall

Honorable Mention**Midland Daily News***Grit of girl*

Nick King, Erin Kirkland, Brittney Lohmiller

Daily D - Best Page or Pages Design**16 Entries****First Place****Manistee News-Advocate***Front page*

Staff, Brandon Fountain

This page is the clear winner. Nice, clean design stands out from the crowd. The page would be even stronger if that "Good as New" headline were just a bit bigger.

Second Place**Niles Daily Star***Captain Explosion*

Scott Novak, Andrew Merica

Nice job with the cutout. That promo at the top of the page seems just a tad deep. The page would be cleaner if the promo lined up with the page header.

Third Place**Manistee News-Advocate***Front page*

Staff, Brandon Fountain

This is a nice page. I particularly like the centerpiece. You really should use a rule, though, to divide the animal cruelty photo from the library story.

Honorable Mention**Huron Daily Tribune***March 25, 2016*

Dave Shane

This is a nice, clean design. "Teachers and Healers" logo seems a bit busy.

Weekly/News Media A - Best Page or Pages Design

10 Entries

First Place

Grosse Pointe Times

Grosse Pointe Times

Jason Clancy

Designer crammed a lot into a small amount of space while maintaining a clean design. Nice use of art and skyboxes.

Second Place

Huron County View

All Thumb Volleyball

Robert Jones

The cutouts are nice, but you struggle a bit with your use of white space. Lots of unused space in the middle of the page.

Third Place

Huron County View

All Thumb Boys Basketball

Robert Jones

I like the second page of this entry better than the first. The cutouts are nice, but text elements could be used more effectively to cut down on the amount of trapped white space.

Honorable Mention

Spinal Column Newsweekly

Q&A with the candidates

Spinal Column Staff

Attractive election package. Nice, clean design.

Weekly/News Media B - Best Page or Pages Design

14 Entries

There is some good work by some very good designers here.

First Place

Detroit Jewish News

Hail To The Victors

Michelle Sheridan

The illustration draws the reader to the story. The headline also makes him or her hum the University of Michigan fight song.

Second Place

Tri-County Times

Hypnosis

Jennifer Ward

The illustration with the cigarettes is brilliant.

Third Place

Detroit Jewish News

Understanding The 1967 Riot

Michelle Sheridan

The gun sight in the "o" in "riot" gets to the point. Well done.

Honorable Mention

Tri-County Times

Wine Country

Jennifer Ward

Very good. A little more text on Page 1 would have been better, though.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Page or Pages Design

12 Entries

Nice work by the top four, for sure.

First Place

The Exponent

Siblings hike

Matt Schepeler

The photo layout helps tell the story.

Second Place

The Exponent

The amazing Nina Simone

Lauren Fergus

For a one-page layout, this is really well done.

Third Place

The Exponent

Spirit of Clark Lake

Lauren Fergus

This is a little confusing at first because of its "busyness."

Honorable Mention

The Exponent

Onsted is getting Artsy

Lauren Fergus

Nice use of the artistic elements.

Weekly/News Media D - Best Page or Pages Design

5 Entries

All in all, not bad given what the page designers had. One of the top three was too busy and the other two were too sparse.

First Place

Michigan Lawyers Weekly

Front page design, October 5, 2015

Jason West

Using the watch was a really nice design element for a layout that otherwise had nothing else to work with.

Second Place

The Boyne City Gazette

Front Page

Benjamin Gohs, Christopher Faulknor

Interesting use of the teaser, but a little bit too busy.

Third Place

State Line Observer

Cookies and coloring

Staff

The dark page for a story about color takes away from the impact.

Honorable Mention

The Advance

Destination Detroit

Marcia Loader

Thorough coverage, but the category was page design. This is certainly a functional design, but it could have been better.

Best Sports Column

Daily A - Best Sports Column

13 Entries

First Place

Flint Journal

Tri-Valley Conference misalignment makes little sense on any level

Hugh Bernreuter

Good job! Explains and explores all that's wrong with the new alignment.

Second Place

Flint Journal

Game of the Week column: Pinconning's Jon Hightower discovers it isn't a lost season after all

Lee Thompson

Good insight, good quotes.

Third Place

Flint Journal

Game of the Week column: In aftermath of tornado, OwenGage

football stands as symbol of community pride

Lee Thompson

Good look at 8-man team and the impact it has on the town and vice-versa.

Honorable Mention

Flint Journal

Weirdness defines Saginaw Nouvel football season

Hugh Bernreuter

Humorous, with good anecdotes.

Daily B - Best Sports Column

19 Entries

First Place

Battle Creek Enquirer

NO REGRETS

Nick Buckley

Nice look at a sentimental journey. Well done!

Second Place

Battle Creek Enquirer

One arm? No problem

Bill Broderick

Interesting aspect brought to life with a good choice of words and thoughts.

Third Place

Times Herald

Muskrat, it's what's for dinner - and it's healthy

Michael Eckert

I didn't know how good all that s'wild meat could be good for you author made it sound almost edible!

Honorable Mention

Ida shows class amid heartbreak
Niles Kruger
Nice in-depth, inside look at a classy team.

Monroe Evening News

Daily C - Best Sports Column

9 Entries

First Place

Stevens: It appears that athletes transferring is a new way of life
Chris Stevens

Midland Daily News

Good point on an unhappily growing trend. Good research as well.

Second Place

NFL not much fun to watch

The Mining Journal

Craig Remsburg

He says what we all are thinking. Good point!

Third Place

Griffey a kid at heart

The Mining Journal

Ryan Steig

Getting a fan's view of a favorite. Nice finish about the game-winning hit.

Honorable Mention

Stevens: The story isn't always about race

Midland Daily News

Chris Stevens

Interesting take on race. I liked his perspective.

Daily D - Best Sports Column

8 Entries

Winner had an interesting subject; good take. I learned something new today! Runner-up was sentimental; well versed.

First Place

Forced 'sportsmanship' does more harm than good to basketball fans

Manistee News-Advocate

Scott Yoshonis

Second Place

Making memories

The Pioneer

Ryan Zuke

Third Place

Sports teaches life lessons to our children

Dowagiac Daily News

Scott Novak

Honorable Mention

Remember parents, it's just a game

The Pioneer

Ryan Zuke

Weekly/News Media B - Best Sports Column

2 Entries

First Place

I am an extreme runner - okay, maybe I'm not

Tri-County Times

David Troppens

Somewhat humorous, but has some typos.

Second Place

Between Lions' Lambeau victories, I have changed

Tri-County Times

David Troppens

A random insight into a Lions' fan.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Sports Column

14 Entries

There was a wide variety of what constitutes a sports column in this category, and others may easily have reached different conclusions.

First Place

Jeff's Journeys This time it counted

The Exponent

Jeff Steers

Wrestling is an intimate sport, and it gets more intimate when you're opposite your brother in the postseason. A nice look at the issue from wrestlers, coach and parent angles.

Second Place

Tecumseh Herald Sports

Tecumseh Herald

Mickey Alvarado

I would have gone to the most newsworthy game. But who's to say this wasn't it? The study of the sideline at a 4-5 team's last game is really well done.

Third Place

Don't go chafing waterfalls

Gaylord Herald Times

Chris Engle

Using 21st century technology to mess up hundreds of years of natural beauty is a classy topic, thoroughly explained and commented upon.

Honorable Mention

Fulton boys have best path to quarterfinals

Gratiot County Herald

Dick Hoekstra

For people interested in this level of prognostication and detail, this is a well-executed look at what it would take for area teams to advance in postseason.

Weekly/News Media D - Best Sports Column

4 Entries

Column writing requires consideration of topic and voice, and needs enough reporting to make the voice authoritative rather than off-the-top-of-head. The higher-placed entries in this category did this best.

First Place

Beware Richard Petty...

State Line Observer

Rich Foley

This is an interesting and well-documented look at a Richard Petty-vs. Kyle Busch records dispute. It is clearly the best entry in this category.

Second Place

Winning attitudes, actions worthy of celebration, too

The Advance

Marcia Loader

It's almost as hard to watch a team go winless as it is for the team to do so.

Finding improvement and courage in all that is a worthy topic.

Third Place

Tony Steward leaving

State Line Observer

Rich Foley

The writer compares and contrasts some options about who's-next-after-Tony, but reaches no serious conclusion.

Honorable Mention

Truex showing his talent

State Line Observer

Rich Foley

A single-source column often needs more detail and reporting to make it sound like the columnist knows what he or she is talking about.

Business/Agriculture News

Daily A - Business/Agriculture News

20 Entries

First Place

Gold carp

Grand Rapids Press

Garret Ellison

Second Place

The Next Big Thing

Lansing State Journal

Alexander Alusheff

Third Place

'Most major malls are overbuilt - so Michigan's are changing

Grand Rapids Press

Paula Gardner

Daily B - Business/Agriculture News

26 Entries

This category was chock full of competitive articles, many very thoughtfully reported and written.

First Place

Times Herald

Thumb Dairy Farming

Nicole Hayden, Bob Gross, Jackie Smith, Beth LeBlanc

This series was a fascinating look at a local industry - dairy farming - and related topics that consumers don't like to think about but should. Nicely done.

Second Place

The Ann Arbor News

Campus Inn sold

Matt Durr

This feel-good story about a hotel owner who quietly shelled out thousands of dollars to loyal workers after selling his business was the result of a curious reporter doing what should be done: asking the right questions later about the little people. And it paid off.

Third Place

Herald-Palladium

The Revolution is Being Televised

Jeremy D. Bonfiglio

An informative and thorough piece about cord-cutting and options for readers looking for alternatives to big cable bills.

Honorable Mention

Herald-Palladium

The Franchise Formula

Tony Wittkowski

This was an interesting look at a topic many of us don't give much thought to: how local people come to run franchise operations.

Daily C - Business/Agriculture News

11 Entries

First Place

Grand Haven Tribune

End of an era

Marie Havenga

A touching look at a man who devoted his life to repairing televisions.

Second Place

Grand Haven Tribune

A tale of two road ends

Marie Havenga

This writer does readers a service by updating what happened after a major road change: Two restaurants were affected in opposite ways.

Third Place

Alpena News

FINDING PEACE

Paige Trisko

A nice look at how a woman has rebounded with her family's farm 10 years after the death of her son.

Daily D - Business/Agriculture News

10 Entries

First Place

Huron Daily Tribune

156,700 truckloads help farmers break sugar beet harvest records

Chris Aldridge

Interesting and pertinent story on the impact of local business and farming.

Second Place

Niles Daily Star

Gaining strength

Ambrosia Neldon

Well told story about how local business impacts the community.

Third Place

Greenville Daily News

MADE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD: Stahlin Non-Metallic Enclosures

Cory Smith

Entertaining spotlight on a local business.

Honorable Mention

Greenville Daily News

Maintaining Seeds of Success

Stacie Smith

Weekly/News Media A - Business/Agriculture News

12 Entries

Very tough competition in this category!

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Michigan's stumbling middle class

Ron French

If I could rate this entry a 20, I would. This is a writer who's not only done his homework; he should teach the class. This is hands-down the best-researched and best-written entry I've seen in a state contest.

Second Place

Bridge Magazine

People Need Jobs. Companies Need Workers. Busing, a Love Story

Chastity Pratt Dawsey

Skillfully written narrative packed with facts and illustrated with real people to drive them home. You made transportation infrastructure interesting.

Third Place

Bridge Magazine

When low-wage workers' problems become a company's problem

Lindsay VanHulle

Kudos for the incredible amount of research and interviewing that went into this series. Statistical support is excellent and so are the real-person narratives of people involved in this problem and process to rectify it.

Honorable Mention

Bridge Magazine

The grayings of Michigan's farmers, and what they'll leave behind

Ron French

Great example of an important story right under everyone's noses that needed to be told. Interactive map is a good touch.

Weekly/News Media B - Business/Agriculture News

11 Entries

First Place

Tri-County Times

Local businesses step up to help Flint

Sally Rummel

Storytelling was at a higher level than most entries in this category. Good glimpse of what a community is doing to show empathy and support for others.

Second Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

Garfield reawakens: Inn named for president reopens

Tom Gilchrist

This is a story with a personality. High-five to the writer for getting it the old-fashioned way, by sitting through a council meeting and gleaning a gem from the "stuff."

Third Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

Poet Biorefining plans \$15M expansion in Caro

Andrew Dietderich

A solid news story on an important local economic issue. The depth of sources and clarity of news reporting put this story in the top tier of entries. Subheads may have helped to draw readers further into the meaty bits toward the end.

Honorable Mention

Leelanau Enterprise

Cherry Traditions

Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt, Eric Carlson, Jason Bushen

Very industry-specific but likely a well-read piece for your audience. Writing and photography could use a little more polish but it's good and varied information.

Weekly/News Media C - Business/Agriculture News

14 Entries

Enjoyed a variety of stories all with unique subjects.

First Place

The Tri-City Times

Cuban Dreams, No Illusions

Tom Wearing

Timely subject, well written

Second Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

This spud's for you

Chris Engle

Good read — with a bit of humor

Third Place

The Tri-City Times

Cleaning Up in Linen Business

Tom Wearing

Good news on the business front, lots of good quotes

Honorable Mention

The Tri-City Times

Big Cat Seen

Catherine Minolli

Enjoyed reading this piece,

Weekly/News Media D - Business/Agriculture News

8 Entries

Entries were well-written and could have been a toss-up in deciding the winners!

First Place

State Line Observer

Better wheat

David Green

Well-written, interesting facts

Second Place

Charlevoix Courier

Generations come together; Charlevoix company finishes long-standing project

Nicole Seymour

Good local story, good read

Third Place

Michigan Lawyers Weekly

All hopped up

Douglas Levy

Writing was crisp, to the point

Honorable Mention

The Missaukee Sentinel

McBain native sells song

Mike Dunn

Unique subject, fun read

Feature Photo

Daily A - Feature Photo

21 Entries

First Place

Flint Journal

Just a kid from Flint

Jake May

Second Place

Flint Journal

Shop with a hero

Jake May

Third Place

Lansing State Journal

Archery Contest

Dave Wasinger

Honorable Mention

Saginaw News

Neon Lights in storm

Jeff Schrier

Daily B - Feature Photo

27 Entries

First Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Plunging

J. Scott Park

Second Place

Monroe Evening News

Slick Cool Off

Tom Hawley

Third Place

Herald-Palladium

Bugging St. Joseph

Don Campbell

Honorable Mention

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Winterfest

Tessa Lighty

Daily C - Feature Photo

28 Entries

First Place

Grand Haven Tribune

Winterfest Sled Race

Becky Vargo

Second Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Students show sheer generosity

Gillis Benedict

Third Place

Ludington Daily News

Fighting for a cure

Jeff Kiessel

Honorable Mention

Ludington Daily News

Way of the cross

Jeff Kiessel

Daily D - Feature Photo

19 Entries

First Place

Greenville Daily News

Crystal Lake festivalgoers embrace coldest weekend of year

Cory Smith

Second Place

Greenville Daily News

Montcalm County 4-H Fair wraps up today

Cory Smith

Third Place

The Daily Globe

Morning Milk

Richard Jenkins

Honorable Mention

Greenville Daily News

New disc golf course planned for Greenville's Tower Park

Cory Smith

Weekly/News Media A - Feature Photo

9 Entries

First Place

Royal Oak Review

Detroit Zoo opens penguin center

Deborah Boeger-Jacques

Great angle and color; a surprising perspective

Second Place

Northwest Advance

Precarious perch

Brian Forde

A standout moment from an event that usually results in a standard photos.

Third Place

Cadence Newspaper

Eye spy

Brian Forde

Weekly/News Media B - Feature Photo

19 Entries

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Manitou horizon

Jason Bushen

Best of all the sunset photos. Nice moment.

Second Place

Tri-County Times

Few Incidents during July 4th festivities

Tim Jagielo

The dog makes a tricky photo better.

Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Let's dance

Jason Bushen

Nice impromptu moment.

Weekly/News Media C - Feature Photo

27 Entries

First Place

High flying action

Andrew Skinner

Great timing here.

Second Place

So long (rainbow)

Lyndsey Counterman

Quick thinking with the phone.

Third Place *Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County*

Herald-News

A SMALL PRICE TO PAY

Krista Tacey-Cater

Oceana's Herald-Journal

Allegan County News

Weekly/News Media D - Feature Photo

14 Entries

First Place

Tough guys

David Green

Great faces here.

Second Place

Gimme that muffin!

C.J. Carnacchio

Cute impromptu moment.

Third Place

Snakes alive!

Brad Heineman

State Line Observer

Oxford Leader

The Advance

Feature Story

Daily A - Feature Story

20 Entries

First Place

Justice is Not Being Afraid

Matt Mencarini

Second Place

'An Unnecessary death'

Rachel Greco

Third Place

How a Ponzi scheme used Flint homes to fleece \$15M from really investors

Gary Ridley

Honorable Mention

Trump Country: Visit the Michigan town where the Republican

candidate is most beloved

John Counts

Lansing State Journal

Lansing State Journal

Flint Journal

Grand Rapids Press

Daily B - Feature Story

33 Entries

The level of reporting and writing in this category — in almost every story — is impressive. Usually, when you judge a contest, it's easy to find the weak links. This group had very few. Very little separated the first tier from the rest. Thank you.

First Place

We have to tell this story says father of transgender 7-year-old

Lauren Slagter

A story that DID need to be told. Excellent depth and sourcing. Story explores the personal side of the child as well as the topic as a whole. It's difficult to hold the reader's attention from start to finish. This story did it.

The Ann Arbor News

Second Place

Battle Creek Enquirer

Abbie's parents talk: 'She was not ready to go, yet'

Jennifer Bowman

Never hurts to be the first to get to a story. The recounting of the time in the hospital was gripping. Part with family background bogged down a little.

Otherwise, interesting story.

Third Place

Monroe Evening News

Dorchester survivor: Monroe man is only person remaining from

World War II transport ship

Ray Kisonas

The writer's ability to weave details of the veteran's life with quotes is to be applauded. The story is told without being overdone. Let war speak, let it breathe. It's powerful enough on its own. The writer knows it.

Honorable Mention

Battle Creek Enquirer

"I'm not ISIS. I'm suffering because of ISIS"

Jennifer Bowman

Story reflects what a challenging situation this family faces. Sections of the story get long — maybe too deep — but the overall quality and dive into the topic is good.

Daily C - Feature Story

40 Entries

The stories that did best in this contest combined compelling subjects, thorough reporting and you-are-there writing. Many of those entries not honored had one or more of these, but the combination of all three in the winning entries was a joy to read.

First Place

Midland Daily News

One year after same-sex marriage ruling, 'joy' for Midland couples, but still freedom to fight for

Chris Aldridge

This was the most sophisticated feature idea, best executed, in the contest. The writer talked with enough couples to tell a compelling story, and used facts to explain its importance.

Second Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Lifting voices

Abby Welsh Alusheff

Retired teachers' stories are routine, but this teacher and this story was not. Enabling alumni to explain how the teacher had affected their lives was brilliant.

Third Place

Grand Haven Tribune

An all-out war on cancer

Marie Havenga

This was the best of several entries in the contest on people diagnosed with, fighting or overcoming cancer. Good interplay among the family, the doctors and the facts readers needed to understand both.

Honorable Mention

Petoskey News-Review

Don Horn

Steve Zucker

The death of a beloved fire chief is a hard story to gather and write, whether the death was expected or not. This one doesn't read like it was planned, and the writer has a good ear for what the sources wanted and needed to say about the subject.

Daily D - Feature Story

41 Entries

There were a lot of good, well-written stories making it difficult to judge because many were outstanding.

First Place

The Pioneer

Sidelined by Alzheimer's

Candy Allan

Nice piece about a man's struggle with Alzheimer's and his efforts to help others.

Second Place

Greenville Daily News

Live to Dance

Ryan Schlehuber

Great story about a woman's passion for dance.

Third Place

Greenville Daily News

Central Montcalm grad deals with cystic fibrosis diagnosis by writing
Cory Smith

Another good story about a person overcoming obstacles.

Honorable Mention

Manistee News-Advocate

Bear Lakes legendary sturgeon found dead

Dylan Savelle

Good, well-researched and well written story on an interesting subject.

Weekly/News Media A - Feature Story

40 Entries

Found this pretty challenging. Getting the entries down to the top dozen or so wasn't so bad but deciding the finalists and then the exact order very tough.

It comes down to how good your subject is and then what you do with it.

First Place

Bridge Magazine

He's a college senior with a 3.4 GPA, and he's homeless

Ron French

The writer took a great opportunity with a compelling subject, added multiple references and research. The opening certainly draws you in. Plus, you can't argue with the results of the subject getting some help.

Second Place

Lansing City Pulse

'Labeled' but not licked

Lawrence Cosentino

Bold opening that comes across well. Combination of crisp writing and a great subject. Well done (except for that missed typo early on! oops.)

Third Place

Lansing City Pulse

Death steals everything but our stories

Bill Castanier

A superior profile and memoir on a unique person. Liked the close.

Honorable Mention

Lansing City Pulse

Zaha slept here

Lawrence Cosentino

Loved the closing imagery and writing style. This one got bogged down a bit in the middle; otherwise would have scored higher.

Weekly/News Media B - Feature Story

32 Entries

First Place

Farmington Observer

For the love of Kevin

Aileen Wingblad

Excellent description. Writer sets the scene for reader. Story pegged to one-year anniversary of Kevin Penny's death from a heroin overdose, but it's more than an anniversary story. Strong quotes from a very strong mom, who doesn't sugarcoat son's tragic death. Tragic tale, yet at the same time uplifting. Hard to pull off, but writer does.

Second Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

Caro's last standing barbershop marks 50 years

Andrew Dietderich

Excellent, colorful writing. Writer's keen eye puts the reader in that shop, just like it's been for the past 50 years. Nice mix of modern-day storytelling and history. A winning combination.

Third Place

Tri-County Times

Passion for yoga takes her to India

Sally Rummel

Clever writing in the first couple of graphs grabs the reader and keeps you going into the story. Layered approach with breakouts are a good reader aid. Nicely presented.

Honorable Mention

Tuscola County Advertiser

Fifty years later, Vassar's Mysterian savors '96 Tears,' big gigs, 1966
Tom Gilchrist

Good mix of then-and-now. Fun story of 50-year adventure of Grank Lugo from his brief stint with one-hit wonder Question Mark and the Mysterians. Nice job.

Weekly/News Media C - Feature Story

45 Entries

First please note, I believe excellent journalism is alive and well in Michigan. The depth and breadth of these feature stories was amazing. For me it was extremely difficult to finalize my choices and I could easily have picked four others as there was so much "red meat" to choose from. So in the end my selections were based on the words more than anything else. A good lead, excellent use of quotes, these were the factors given first consideration.

First Place

The Tri-City Times

Pickle Plant Pallets

Catherine Minolli

Okay, I love me some good alliteration — but this article was well crafted from the first sentence to the last and a timely piece. Loved it!

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

Turkey Detail

Krista Tacey-Cater

What a fun way to write a positive piece on the police in an age when that is so very necessary. But the writing is what sold it.

Third Place

Novi News

9-1-1 operator answers call to save despondent man's life

Susan Bromley

Beautifully written piece about a much deserving woman.

Honorable Mention

The Commercial Record

Funeral for a dog

Scott Sullivan

An emotional article to be sure, but very well written.

Weekly/News Media D - Feature Story

30 Entries

The Michigan writers in this competition have done an outstanding job of writing excellent pieces to show the importance of community support and patriotism, the struggles and triumphs of achieving the "American dream", and the impact of the state's residents on the lives of those around them.

First Place

The Advance

Refugee from World War II left to cope with lifetime of haunting questions

Melissa Burnor

This is truly a heartwarming, gut-wrenching story that perfectly illustrates the horrors of war, the heartbreak of a parentless child being left all alone in the world, and the fortitude one man had to overcome those obstacles to make a life for himself.

Second Place

Oxford Leader

Ex-congressman's records found in local basement

C.J. Carnacchio

An intriguing tale, with still some questions remaining that might not ever be answered, this story was an entertaining read.

Third Place

Oxford Leader

Sharing memories of Ground Zero

C.J. Carnacchio

In a time where the United States seems more divided than ever, this story is a stark reminder of how Americans came together that fateful day fifteen years ago -- and continue to do so when the chips are down and tragedies strike.

Honorable Mention

Outside The Grid

Lonnie Allen

Reading about a family (and community) living "outside the grid" in a world that depends and focuses so heavily on technology is fascinating.

Charlevoix Courier

Government/Education News

Daily A - Government/Education News

18 Entries

First Place

Flint Journal

Empty school buildings in Flint now magnets for crime and arson

Gary Ridley, Dominic Adams

Very well written and reported. Holds the readers attention all the way through while lending important insight on the ripple effect caused by one heartbreaking issue in the community. The database that accompanies this story is a real service to readers

Second Place

Grand Rapids Press

Time limits save tax money, but add to families strain

Emily Lawler

This clearly took a lot of time and effort. Well done.

Third Place

Lansing State Journal

Silicon Valley of Particle Acceleration

RJ Wolcott

I hope this got your readers excited about the community's future. A very interesting read.

Honorable Mention

Kalamazoo Gazette

Sidetracked promise

Julie Mack

Daily B - Government/Education News

25 Entries

First Place

The Ann Arbor News

Undocumented Ypsilanti valedictorian: I want a bright future

Lauren Slagter

Great storytelling. Gives a local face to an issue often generalized to the point of misunderstanding. And kudos to Diana for having the bravery to share her story.

Second Place

The Ann Arbor News

Ann Arbor teachers, administrators at odds over new evaluation system

Lindsay Knake

Good work localizing a statewide issue. Shows readers how a decision made at the statehouse is impacting their hometowns.

Third Place

Battle Creek Enquirer

A peck of trouble: Backyard chicken dispute in Bedford

Jennifer Bowman

Good coverage of an issue important to communities in Battle Creek and beyond. And good headline!

Honorable Mention

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Grand Traverse Academy/Steven Ingersoll

Matt Troutman, Michael Walton, Michelle Merlin

Daily C - Government/Education News

35 Entries

This was a tough category to judge as there were so many entries with great writing and reporting. I chose four that I feel best represent the concept of storytelling in a daily newspaper format, and connected with readers about important issues. Great work.

First Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Flooded or forced out of their homes?

Jennifer Eberbach

Interesting and well-written profile of a neighborhood at the mercy of government. Good commentary from residents, that is also well-balanced with viewpoints from government officials. Well done!

Second Place

The Mining Journal

Policy debate; Students sound off (2 part series)

Mary Wardell

Thought-provoking analysis of the repercussions of a university policy. Good reaction from students and staff with a way for readers to make their voice heard. Good reporting.

Third Place

Ludington Daily News

Managing that smell, city works on odor issue, residents upset

Kevin Braciszewski

Print must rely on words to describe obnoxious smells and this account of odors across a town does this very well. Good description throughout on how the odor is causing problems with everyday life and tourism. Nicely written.

Honorable Mention

Petoskey News-Review

Little known local laws

Steve Zucker

A fun look at the unintended consequences of little-known laws. Fun to read and I'm sure this story generated a lot of discussion among readers. Great idea!

Daily D - Government/Education News

21 Entries

First Place

Greenville Daily News

Greenville school staff and parents debate military cords at graduation

Cory Smith

Balanced coverage on the impact of a school's graduation policy. Interesting topic.

Second Place

Greenville Daily News

Outman, Emmons defend law restricting ballot communication

Cory Smith

Third Place

Huron Daily Tribune

Prosecutor: Take action against sheriff's 'cover-up'

Chris Aldridge

Honorable Mention

Greenville Daily News

Walnut Hills students immersed in Chinese Language program

Emilee Nielsen

Weekly/News Media A - Government/Education News

28 Entries

Lots of great stories, many are part of a series. Top two could have been a tie, hard to choose.

First Place

Bridge Magazine

The governor and the mayor

Ron French

Important issue, well researched

Second Place

Bridge Magazine

Asleep at the desk

Ted Roelofs

Interesting subject, great follow-up

Third Place

Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle

Legislators, advocates battle over new panhandling bills

Tiffany Esshaki

Panhandling is happening in many communities and offers insight into the problems.

Honorable Mention *Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle*
There's success for all abilities: Bloomfield Township librarian honored for work with kids who have special needs
 Tiffany Esshaki
Inspiring story, well presented

Weekly/News Media B - Government/Education News

14 Entries

First Place *The Citizen, Ortonville*
Alaska life better for Air Force base families thanks to BHS grad
 David Fleet

Second Place *The Citizen, Ortonville*
A family united by service, Purple Hearts
 Susan Bromley

Third Place *Farmington Observer*
Women behind bars
 Aileen Wingblad

Honorable Mention *Tuscola County Advertiser*
Fouled out: Reese parent banned from school grounds
 Andrew Dietderich

Weekly/News Media C - Government/Education News

27 Entries

First Place *Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-N*
Series on a proposed "road diet"
 Cheryl Holladay, Krista Tacey-Cater, Eric Hamp

Consistent coverage of a controversial issue.
Second Place
Papers detail principals resignations
 Steven Kovac

Good ongoing coverage.
Third Place *The Tri-City Times*
What Do You See for M-53
 Catherine Minolli

Nice writing on a topic of community interest.
Honorable Mention *Sanilac County News*
Citizens group may recall school board
 Steven Kovac

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 Steven Kovac

Nice writing on a topic of community interest.
Honorable Mention *Sanilac County News*
Citizens group may recall school board
 Steven Kovac

Honorable Mention *State Line Observer*
A death in the classroom
 David Green
Love the hook, this one was pure fun while making an important point on what a wonderful program has been added to the curriculum.

News Enterprise Reporting

Daily A - News Enterprise Reporting

21 Entries

Very good stories in this class. I didn't name an honorable mention only because about five other stories tied for the honor. I can say with all confidence that journalism in Michigan is doing important work. It was a pleasure to read the stories entered into this contest.

First Place *Grand Rapids Press*
All the Governors Men
 Ron Fonger, Julie Mack, John Counts

This entry was a clearly written, beautifully presented explanation of the problems and mistakes that led to the poisoning of the Flint water system. There was a lot of good Flint coverage in this competition, but this was the best.

Second Place *Flint Journal*
Flint Water Crisis
 Ron Fonger

The Flint Journal did a great job on this huge story in its community. There were a lot of entries from the Journal, all good, but this one was the most compelling to me.

Third Place *Saginaw News*
Feline declawing debate, cyberbullying derail America's Best Vet contest
 Brad Devereaux

This story rose above many other good stories on heavier topics because of how well it was written - and because of the interesting subject matter. Many publications may have felt like downplaying such news, but pet stories touch lives. This was a serious story in its own way, and not just to cats who lose their claws.

Daily B - News Enterprise Reporting

27 Entries

This was an extremely competitive category with about two dozen potential winners. It was one of the most difficult competitions I've ever judged.

First Place *The Ann Arbor News*
Dioxane plume under Ann Arbor
 Ryan Stanton

The winning story was extremely well written and very personal in approach, but it also was supported by a great deal of research involving scientific materials.

Second Place *Battle Creek Enquirer*
Heroin's path of pain and a road to redemption
 Andy Fitzpatrick

This story also was strong on the human angle while explaining a major community project. The display of the story online was exceptional.

Third Place *Holland Sentinel*
Room for Rent
 Amy Biolchini, Curtis Wildfong

This story captured the mission of this category - it was an in-depth look at an issue of importance to the community. It was well researched and presented.

Honorable Mention *The Ann Arbor News*
Prison employees suspended
 Darcie Moran

This was a strong news piece that carried out a public service, but it did not have the breadth of community appeals the other issues covered in places 1, 2 and 3.

Daily C - News Enterprise Reporting

43 Entries

A very competitive field.

First Place

The Mining Journal

Heartbreak and hope

Staff

Thorough look at the local drug problem and the complexity of trying to find solutions.

Second Place

Cadillac News

A view into Amish life

Gabrielle Martin

Insightful and compassionate first-person account of life in an Amish community.

Third Place

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Abduction in broad daylight

Lisa Roose-Church

Riveting retrospective with excellent writing.

Daily D - News Enterprise Reporting

28 Entries

Overall, I thought the entries were very strong and they tackled some important issues.

First Place

The Pioneer

Dark stores

Adam Gac

Adam did an excellent job of breaking down a complex subject and explaining its impact locally. The result is a very well thought out enterprise series.

Second Place

Sturgis Journal

Kathy Jessup News Enterprise Reporting

Kathy Jessup

Kathy did great work covering what obviously is an important story. Her reporting really advanced the story and did an excellent job connecting the dots.

Third Place

The Daily Globe

5-part series on heroin epidemic's impact on Northwood's

Richard Jenkins, Tom Stankard

This is a very good series about the rise in heroin use locally, attacking the issue from different angles. I do think it would have benefited from photos/visuals that might have allowed the series to be played up even more.

Honorable Mention

Huron Daily Tribune

Collapsing turbines

Chris Aldridge

Chris did a very good job covering this rather freak occurrence and its fallout (pun intended), and explaining why it happened.

Weekly/News Media A - News Enterprise Reporting

17 Entries

Excellent work at the top on a variety of issues that truly affect most readers, from the Flint crisis to alcohol abuse at ballgames to addictions that plague our communities to the growing scourge of concussions and concussion protocol. A lot of effort went into developing, researching and executing these stories, to the benefit of the readers.

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Game Day: The unsuccessful struggle to curb college binge drinking

Nancy Derringer, Mike Wilkinson, Ron French

Game-day Saturdays are a strange combination of wonderful and frightening, as you see young people, many under legal drinking age, making both those "rites of passage" and those far-reaching personal decisions. The teamwork and depth that went into this series was a winner; whether it can affect change in such a money-making situation remains to be seen.

Second Place

Spinal Column Newsweekly

Not my kid; Pain of lies, deceit and medical abuse; Incarceration vs. treatment; The road to recovery

Ali Armstrong

Drug addiction, particularly opioids, is plaguing communities throughout the nation (and particularly, it seems, the Midwest). To put not only statistics but faces to the problem, this series put it all out on display.

Third Place

Bridge Magazine

Disaster Day by Day: A Flint Timeline

Staff

It would have been nice to combine several of the entries on Flint for a complete look; all were compelling. Putting it starkly in calendar form is an easy way to show where it began to go wrong and how long it might take to make it right.

Honorable Mention

Bridge Magazine

concussions in high school sports

Ted Roelofs

Wide-ranging sources of information. Curious that there has been a call to action for the schools, but no hard policy set.

Weekly/News Media B - News Enterprise Reporting

22 Entries

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Leelanau Unplugged

Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt, Jason Bushen, Eric Carlson

This set of well-written articles did a nice job exploring the theme and holding the reader's interest. The presentation was great and stories well researched. Graphics, headlines and sub heads really helped engage the reader. Definitely a newsworthy look at a topic which everyone can relate to. Fine journalistic work.

Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise

The Art of Teaching

Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt, Jason Bushen

Education is always a newsworthy topic. The variety of articles made this submission stand out. Some nice writing on these stories as well.

Third Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

Heroin overdose death in Reese; Boyfriend faces life over death of Unionville woman

Andrew Dietderich

Excellent exploration of a tragic incident. Articles really humanized the drug problem people are enduring. Going a step farther and talking to those involved made this piece stand out.

Weekly/News Media C - News Enterprise Reporting

24 Entries

This was a really tough competition to judge. It is obvious that some important newspaper reporting is happening in Michigan. Congratulations to all who entered.

First Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Medical marijuana in Gaylord

Mark Johnson

This series by the Herald Times excelled at meeting all of the criteria in this contest category. The in-depth articles were presented well and definitely explored a newsworthy topic for this community. The writers represented all sides in a fair manner and readers learned something by viewing this work. This is newspaper reporting at its best.

Second Place

Gratiot County Herald

The Murder of Alonzo Hart Jr.

Michael MacDonald

The time and work put into this series definitely deserves respect. This was an interesting set of stories which was definitely well-researched. The only thing keeping it from receiving top marks was its length. It felt like this mountain of information needed to be trimmed to be a first place winner.

Third Place**Gaylord Herald Times**

Georgia-Pacific: A decade after the closure of a Gaylord cornerstone
Chris Engle, Ryan Bentley, Jeremy Speer, Cathy Landry
Really an interesting humanized look at what happens when a long time business is no longer around. Nice work conveying the human side and how the employees felt like family.

Weekly/News Media D - News Enterprise Reporting

13 Entries

First Place**Michigan Lawyers Weekly***The stress test*

Douglas Levy

Second Place**The Advance***Mother's Day hard for murdered teens' families*

Melissa Burnor

Third Place**The Missaukee Sentinel***Missaukee History Series*

Mike Dunn

Honorable Mention**Charlevoix Courier***Councilman offers to pay back \$200*

Lonnie Allen

News Photo**Daily A - News Photo**

30 Entries

This was an incredibly strong category to judge and many a fight was had coming up with our choices.

First Place**Flint Journal***This has to stop*

Jake May

This is a powerful image which has a direct impact on the viewer. Beautifully composed and nice use of available light. The highlighted tear is the cherry on top. And we also wanted to commend the photographer on the thorough captions. Quotes added context to the image. Well-written captions (which some entries didn't even supply) can sometimes be the deciding factor when two images are close in the judging.

Second Place**Flint Journal***Slain, but not forgotten*

Danny Miller

Beautiful image with many great qualities. Light, color, moment. The little boy's clip-on tie is the visual bonus element.

Third Place**Grand Rapids Press***Crockery drowning (1)*

Tom Brenner

The emotional impact of this image is what grabbed us. All of the faces in the images reacting to this tragic event couldn't be more powerful. The burning of the image was a little heavy-handed to the point of distraction which hurt the image, but the moment and composition was enough to earn an award.

Honorable Mention**Flint Journal***Devil's Night in Flint*

Danny Miller

Well-seen pictorial image of a vacant home set on fire. The warm and cold light playing off each other and the graphic elements pushed this into the winner's circle.

Daily B - News Photo

23 Entries

First Place**Jackson Citizen Patriot***Engulfed*

J. Scott Park

Now that's flamage! This image had a couple of nice surprises like the hose petering out and the flaming wicker chair. We like visual surprises.

Second Place**The Ann Arbor News***GOP debate in Detroit*

Melanie Maxwell

The color grabbed us first. Then the symmetry. Then the up-blowing flag. The image has an overall nice feel.

Third Place**Traverse City Record-Eagle***Crash*

Jan-Michael Stump

Composition and light and color all work here, but the subject just chilling in a chair makes the picture a little odd... in a good way.

Honorable Mention**Monroe Evening News***Pinwheel Tears*

Tom Hawley

Strong, raw emotion in this image. The tightness brings you directly into her face which works, but we felt like we needed to see either a little more (or less) of the hand on the right or the whole thing shot must a little looser to give the image some context.

Daily C - News Photo

13 Entries

First Place**Midland Daily News***Snear Motorcade*

Brittney Lohmiller

This image had a strong emotional impact. The closeness of the subjects really shows. One thing we would say is we thought the picture was over-toned. The burning around the subjects is distracting and very close to being so hard elements of the image are nearly removed. However, the moment was so strong, we decided to award it. Caution on the toning of images in the future.

Second Place**Midland Daily News***Flint Water Protest*

Brittney Lohmiller

Wonderfully composed, complex image. There was no caption with this image that we could find and we were forced to guess what was happening (never a good thing). However, the image is so intriguing that, caption or not, we had to award it.

Third Place**Grand Haven Tribune***Water rescue*

Becky Vargo

An image with many elements which come together to give the viewer an immediate understanding of the situation. The moment is perfect with all of the rescuers legs in-step. The bird calmly standing there adds an interesting juxtaposition.

Honorable Mention**Midland Daily News***Case Funeral*

Brittney Lohmiller

The tonality of this image is compelling. We felt the crop was a little loose making the background a little distracting. A shallower depth-of-field may have lessened this and added to the mood.

Daily D - News Photo

12 Entries

First Place**Sentinel-Standard***2 dogs die in Lake Odessa house fire*

Nick Grenke

A solid news picture which displays nice light, texture, mood. There is a feeling of lost hope in the firefighters' posture.

Second Place**Greenville Daily News***Rylie Whitten recovering at home after toxic shock syndrome*

Cory Smith

Solid emotional moment. Composition is pretty good, too. Lots of depth.

Third Place Greenville Daily News

Pierson Township home destroyed in fire, along with three dogs

Cory Smith

Nicely composed image where the caption helps a lot. Viewer gets a good feeling for the subject's loss.

Honorable Mention Greenville Daily News

Alan Morse sentenced up to 75 years for the murder of Dale Nelson

Cory Smith

Solid image of the convicted murderer showing emotion. Shooting in a courtroom is not easy to do with being confined to a small spot, but we thought it could have been shot a little better having leaned a bit to the left a few inches to clean up the background.

Weekly/News Media A - News Photo

4 Entries

First Place

Spinal Column Newsweekly

A star is born

Curtis Drogmiller

A fun photos cleanly created.

Second Place

Spinal Column Newsweekly

Riding the wave

Curtis Drogmiller

Good use of fill flash capturing the natural light.

Third Place

Spinal Column Newsweekly

Hometown salute

Curtis Drogmiller

Weekly/News Media B - News Photo

5 Entries

First Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

Blaze destroys building

John Cook

Nice use of tricky available light at the scene.

Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Too Late

Eric Carlson

Third Place

Tri-County Times

Thousands attend funeral for fallen trooper

Tim Jagielo

Good view of the size of the event.

Weekly/News Media C - News Photo

17 Entries

First Place

Tecumseh Herald

Plane Crash

Mickey Alvarado

Great composition in the photo, with a great moment between the two men.

Second Place

Oceana's Herald-Journal

Apple Harvester

Andrew Skinner

Nice composition with the focus still on the workers. Great color and story telling aspect to the photo.

Third Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

BLESSING THE PLAYGROUND

Thomas Reznich

Interesting angle to make for a better photo, framed nicely with the playground equipment and crowd of people.

Weekly/News Media D - News Photo

6 Entries

First Place

Charlevoix Courier

Icy Waves

Lonnie Allen

Great composition with the lighthouse off to the right, and wonderful movement within the photo from the crashing waves. The texture of the ice is nicely broken by the jutting structure below the lighthouse.

Second Place

State Line Observer

End of the dust

David Green

Great lines in the photo with the unfinished road. I like the divide in light and dark color, and the workers provides some nice perspective. The sides of the photo are a little cluttered with the roadside items, but the eye moves with the roadway.

Third Place

State Line Observer

Train hits manure hauler

David Green

Great photo and composition of the wreckage. The steam / smoke appeals to the senses of the viewer.

Honorable Mention

Charlevoix Courier

After the Blaze

Lonnie Allen

While the firefighter on the roof screams danger, the rest of the photo is in need of supporting action.

Photo Story

Daily A - Photo Story

14 Entries

Very strong content top to bottom in this category. Judges would have liked to award more honorable mentions. Even though Michigan newspaper photography staff have shrunk dramatically in recent years it is nice to see that the better papers are still giving the photographers the time necessary to tell important stories.

First Place

Flint Journal

Flint water crisis

Jake May

This outstanding hard news photo story covers every aspect of what was the biggest story of the year in Michigan.

Second Place

Grand Rapids Press

Who's your imam?

Cory Morse

Very complete look that reveals the daily life of an often misunderstood religious leader. Outstanding moments combined with a real time commitment to this story make it an award winner.

Third Place

Flint Journal

A good father

Jake May

The level of intimacy with the subject that the photographer was able to develop makes this a very well done story.

Honorable Mention

Flint Journal

Still standing: 100 Flint residents dealing with a poisoned water system

Jake May

As a portfolio of powerful portraits this major piece of work took a great commitment to the story by the photographer but was kept out of the top three places by strong documentary style stories.

Daily B - Photo Story

18 Entries

The top four winners easily rose to the top of this category that did not a lot of strong entries.

First Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Community, family support gives strength to woman fighting rare illnesses

J. Scott Park

Excellent access make this a set of intimate story telling photographs.

Second Place **Bay City Times**

Life of young Bay City woman revolves around caring for older sister with Down syndrome

Nicole Hester, Cole Waterman

Photos have a nice mood and a good intimate feel but could have been better with improved craftsmanship and toning.

Third Place **Monroe Evening News**

Indomitable Spirit

Tom Hawley

Strong moments and nice variety of lens choice make this an award winner.

Honorable Mention **The Ann Arbor News**

Annual Mud Bowl

Junfu Han

Lots of good action shots but really needed some use of a wide angle lens to give it some visual variety.

Daily C - Photo Story

19 Entries

The top two places where head and shoulders above the rest of the field.

First Place **Midland Daily News**

Grit of a Girl

Erin Kirkland

This photo story has both outstanding mood and moments in a unique visual style.

Second Place **Midland Daily News**

Alivia's First Show

Brittney Lohmiller

A well crafted story that is complete and full of strong moments.

Third Place **Petoskey News-Review**

Sheep shearing

G. Randall Goss

These sheep are very striking looking and where nicely photographed with good visual variety.

Honorable Mention **The Mining Journal**

Blaze razes residence

Kelsie Thompson

Lead photo has a good sense of urgency essential for covering spot news.

Daily D - Photo Story

12 Entries

The entries in this category in general lacked much depth. Judges would have likes to see more time put into the photography so that a complete story could be told that had a beginning, middle and end. Just because a newspaper published a lot of photos in the paper or online does not mean that a photo story has been done. Large numbers of photos do not necessary equate to quality unless each of those photos reveals a different unique aspect of the story.

First Place **Greenville Daily News**

Rylie Whitten recovering at home after toxic shock syndrome

Cory Smith

The photographer did a nice job of capturing the joyous moments as this young woman returned to school after a prolonged illness.

Second Place

Greenville Daily News

Alan Morse sentenced up to 75 years for the murder of Dale Nelson

Cory Smith

Strong emotional news photos from the courtroom raise this entry to a contest winner.

Third Place

Greenville Daily News

Oakfield Township fire total loss, 10 residents escape safely

Cory Smith

Nice variety of spot news photos from the fire scene, but would have liked to see more faces of the firefighters as well as reactions of the home owners if they where at the scene.

Weekly/News Media A - Photo Story

5 Entries

Great variation between entries, and some very nice frames. Although the wildlife photos were beautiful, the human interest of the college student pushing forward was more impactful.

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Homeless college student

Brian Widdis

Great story with some very nice frames.

Second Place

Bridge Magazine

How to take wildlife photos like a boss

Eric Sharp

Great crops on images and use of color and lighting.

Third Place

Bridge Magazine

Game Day

Staff

Great look into the college game day lifestyle, but with many similar images, they lost their impact. All photos felt like they were taken on the outside of the action, and needed some frames of close interaction with subjects.

Honorable Mention

Huron County View

A fabulous Fourth

Kelly Krager

A couple of great community centered photos, but needed a few better "moments" to help carry the package.

Weekly/News Media B - Photo Story

5 Entries

First Place

Grosse Pointe News

Village celebration

Renee Landuyt

Good variation between photos to keep package interesting. Nice detail photo with the mirror overall coverage of the event.

Second Place

Grosse Pointe News

Some dance to remember

Renee Landuyt

Nice differences in distance between subjects in frames, as well as moving to different positions for coverage of the event as a whole.

Third Place

Grosse Pointe News

After Six

Renee Landuyt

Fun community focused photos with some great moments.

Weekly/News Media C - Photo Story

18 Entries

First Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County

Herald-News

Now a deputy, always a wrestler

Krista Tacey-Cater

Great variety in the photos with action and perspective. Gives a nice look into both sides of the deputy's life.

Second Place *The Exponent*

A Detroit home

Heather Maloney

Really interesting story with nicely detailed photos. While the photos could have given some great color, the black and white works well with the mood of the story and flow of the package.

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

A summer of park visits

Krista Tacey-Cater

Nice variety in images with great color, action and moments. Good approach to covering the subjects, getting on their level and having fun with the shoot.

Honorable Mention *Gaylord Herald Times*

Wings Over Northern Michigan soars

Orrin Shawl

There was nice variety to the package and the photos had a lot of action.

Weekly/News Media D - Photo Story

13 Entries

Close positioning here for the finalists, lots of great use of color and community feel. Some things that separated the finalists from the other entries were the photographers approach to achieving variance in photos through changing the distance between the subject, angles and lighting.

First Place *Charlevoix Courier*

Frozen Formations

Lonnie Allen

Great use of color, images pop off page. Good variance in angles, breaking the typical viewpoint. Images got a little similar with composition in them middle of the page, and may have benefitted from removing a photo or two.

Second Place *Oxford Leader*

Busy Day at Clear Lake

C.J. Carnacchio

Nice dominant photos of the girls with the dog and the sack racing boys. Colorful photos are pleasing to the eye, but the page feels a little crowded. With that being said, I still feel the photos flow fairly well together and cover the event as a whole.

Third Place *State Line Observer*

Sculptamania

David Green

A library event is typically not the most exciting events, but the photog approached the assignment nicely with varying angles and distances between the subject. Close ups, over view, teamwork and facial expressions help carry this story.

Honorable Mention *The Advance*

Just ducky!

Melissa Burnor

While the quality of the photos may not be the best, the idea behind each shot was on point. The reflection of the line of ducks being dropped into the water, the ring of ducks in the water, and the composition of the last image where the ducks crowded for the finish line were nearly there! Just some small changes / adjustments could've really reached its potential. It was clear that there was thought going into each of the images.

Special Section

Daily A - Special Section

5 Entries

The Grand Rapids Press owned this competition. The newspaper did a yeoman's job at taking a hard look at what went wrong in Lansing, a tragedy we all continue to follow today. And the team at the Press showed us there is a desire to take something like the state football tournament and promote it well. The best of the best section was just done well. The other sections in this competition were good, but read more like chamber of commerce driven as opposed to the more enterprising work of the Press.

First Place *Grand Rapids Press*

The mistakes made. The lives affected

Mlive Media Group

Fantastic work on a difficult local subject that has garnered national attention. The section was well organized, contained just the right amount of graphics and photos and was compelling to read.

Second Place *Grand Rapids Press*

The Grand Rapids Press Dream Team

Staff

Sports sections don't often receive honors for "special sections," unless it is a Super Bowl special, but this was a great look at the upcoming state football championships. Definitely a keeper section.

Third Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Michigan's Best

The Grand Rapids Press staff

This might not have ground breaking journalism written all over it, but this was about serving readers ... and attractions. What really makes this section was the presentation. Well done.

Honorable Mention *Lansing State Journal*

Transforming Lansing

Alexander Alusheff

Daily B - Special Section

7 Entries

Once again, this special section category had some very good entries. The entries all were informative pieces the readers should have appreciated receiving and hopefully reading.

First Place *Herald-Palladium*

2016 Senior PGA Championship

Staff

Nice work on an event section. This entry covered all aspects of a Senior PGA event that the community has obviously turned into a big event. Great graphics on the golf course and golfers and sharp photography. Who would have known food celebrities would be part of a PGA event?

Second Place *Times Herald*

Not your everyday 9 to 5

Staff

A great look at "not your everyday" jobs in the community. I would like to think readers found this fun and informative.

Third Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Momentum 2016

Staff

Not a big fan of progress editions but this one was good. Lots of great photos and not overly self serving.

Honorable Mention *Daily Telegram*

Inside the Locker Room: 2015 Football Season Preview

Staff

Nice mix of text. photos and statistical breakouts.

Daily C - Special Section

11 Entries

The winners in this division were chosen because they were unique. No progress editions in the winner's circle. We had a great section on the history of the Coast Guard in the Marquette area, a nice remodeling section and a festival promo. And a retrospect on a KISS visit to Cadillac. This gets an honorable mention ... just because. People probably found it fun.

First Place *The Mining Journal*

Superiorland Magazine: U.S. Coast Guard

Selena Hautamaki

This was a fantastic section. The Journal staff who worked on this really dug in to this all important part of life on the Great Lakes, the Coast Guard. The historical perspective was well presented (though I wasn't a fan of rope typefaces, for example) and the photography was excellent.

Second Place *Ludington Daily News*

Room Redo, the big reveal

Patti Klevorn, Brooke Kansier, Jeff Kiessel

This section should have been popular with remodelers. Nice stories and many good photos.

Third Place *Grand Haven Tribune*

Discover Coast Guard

Staff

This was a nice event promotion section. Lots of good photos to go with information on a local event.

Honorable Mention *Cadillac News*

KISSHistorical

Mardi Suhs, Jody Graff, Matt Seward

Just because

Daily D - Special Section

16 Entries

There were many tried and true types of sections in the competition. I went with the ones that took the most legwork on behalf of the teams.

First Place *Niles Daily Star*

The Kickoff, Fall 2015

Scott Novak, Ambrosia Neldon

Very nicely done. Those sports season preview sections or pages can be a bore, with lots of gray and clichés from coaches. This section presented a preseason preview in a way that had lots of graphics and photos a little text.

Second Place *Huron Daily Tribune*

Graduation 2016

Kate Hessling

Great work. Lots of photos, unique approach to a graduation section. This was most likely very popular with readers (and parents and grandparents).

Third Place *Huron Daily Tribune*

Michigan's Thumb Traveler

Kate Hessling, Karen Flynn, Cindy Pettinger

Well organized tourism section. I want to come visit the thumb!

Weekly/News Media A - Special Section

4 Entries

Other than the sports section, this was not a very impressive group of entries.

First Place *Spinal Column Newsweekly*

2015 Kickoff

Chris Wall, Dave Walczyk, Jim Stevenson, Ali Armstrong

This was clearly the most informative section in the category.

Second Place *Spinal Column Newsweekly*

2016 Best of the West

Spinal Column Staff

Third Place *Lansing City Pulse*

Top of the Town

Ty Forquer, Jonathan Griffith, Allison Hammerly

Honorable Mention *Spinal Column Newsweekly*

Q&A with the candidates

Ali Armstrong

Weekly/News Media B - Special Section

22 Entries

Astonishingly good work in this category. There were four or five other entries that could have cracked the top four.

First Place *Detroit Jewish News*

Bridal Section

Lynne Konstantin, Michelle Sheridan

The people at Detroit Jewish News are excellent in this genre. They had three sections in the running for the top spot in this category. This was the best.

Second Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

Memorial Day 2016

Patti Brandt, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Jason Bushen

What's important to your readers? How can it best be presented? The staffers answered those questions with flying colors.

Third Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

Diversions - Leelanau People

Amy Hubbell, Patti Brandt, Eric Carlson, Jason Bushen

Very interesting and well-written.

Honorable Mention *Tri-County Times*

Community

Composition Staff, Advertising Staff, Editorial Staff

Very well done.

Weekly/News Media C - Special Section

19 Entries

Good work by many reporters and editors. This was a very difficult category to judge.

First Place *Tecumseh Herald*

Summer Homefront 2016

Homefront Staff

The proverbial "everything you ever wanted to know ..." The other seasonal ones are well done, too, but this was the best.

Second Place *The County Press, Lapeer*

Pix 75 years

Jeff Hogan, Joyce Bonesteel, Doris Burke, Alex Petrie, Liz LaFave, Robert Jones

We are brought in to the story about a venue and the area it serves. Nicely

Third Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

AlpenTimes

Jeremy Speer, Cathy Landry, Frank Michels

This is really well done. The profile of Rosie Warner was well-written and well-illustrated.

Honorable Mention *Oceana's Herald-Journal*

Election section

Andrew Skinner, John Cavanagh

A well-done guide.

Weekly/News Media D - Special Section

8 Entries

All of them are good, but with a few design elements added, they could have been better.

First Place *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*

2015 Million Dollar Verdicts & Settlements

Jason West

It's all here, and it does catch the eye.

Second Place *The Boyne City Gazette*

Food Section

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

Not a big fan of the horizontal up-and-down layout, but the information is well-presented.

Third Place *The Missaukee Sentinel*

Summer Section

Julia Cavanagh

The layout isn't too eye-catching, but the coverage is thorough.

Honorable Mention *The Advance*

Fall Sports 2015

Melissa Burnor, Brad Heineman, Marcia Loader

Thorough coverage.

Sports Feature

Daily A - Sports Feature

27 Entries

Some really good stories, writing in this batch. Enjoyed reading the stories.

First Place

Grand Rapids Press

Joique Bells Detroit

Kyle Meinke

Very compelling piece, simply told. Clear writing, no flowery language. Great details -- which make the story. This is true storytelling. Entries in this category were top notch but this stood out.

Second Place

Flint Journal

Single Flint dad raises cancer surviving son to be strong athlete

Eric Woodyard

So many tentacles to this story -- each obstacle could have been a story in itself. Easy writing, good storytelling. After reading this, I knew them.

Third Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

Trash can to end zone

David Drew

What a difficult circumstance for this young athlete. You didn't give everything away at the beginning. Made me want to keep reading.

Honorable Mention

Grand Rapids Press

Filmmakers address suicide of star QB, hope to spark talk on teen depression

Pete Wallner

Important topic, especially for teenagers. You drilled down and did more than 'they are making a film' story.

Daily B - Sports Feature

25 Entries

First Place

The Ann Arbor News

Harbaugh's Home: How the lure of Ann Arbor helped Michigan land its coach

Nick Baumgardner

Unique angle on a very public figure; very well researched and written.

Second Place

Holland Sentinel

Hugs, hoops and healing

Dan D'Addona

Third Place

Times Herald

Tiger at last

Matt Sheehan

Honorable Mention

The Ann Arbor News

For Michigan's Duncan Robinson, the long wait for a long-shot D-III to D-I story is almost over

Brendan F. Quinn

Daily C - Sports Feature

16 Entries

First Place

Petoskey News-Review

Petoskey sisters emerge as elite competitors

James Gensterblum

Good details about a sport that doesn't get much attention and a family's commitment to it.

Second Place

Petoskey News-Review

Sharpshooter

James Gensterblum

Very heartwarming story.

Third Place

Petoskey News-Review

End of an era

Ryan Bentley, Drew Kochanny

Good details. Photos and breakouts are a good addition to the piece.

Honorable Mention

Petoskey News-Review

Bob Doctor

Drew Kochanny

Multiple sources help tell this well-known man's story.

Daily D - Sports Feature

13 Entries

First Place

The Daily Globe

Ellenberger, 'Coach Norm' made a mark in Watersmeet

Jason Juno

Second Place

The Pioneer

Power of positivity

Ryan Zuke

Third Place

The Pioneer

Back in action

John Raffel

Honorable Mention

The Pioneer

The pulse of FSU hockey

Ryan Zuke

Weekly/News Media A - Sports Feature

9 Entries

First Place

Cadence Newspaper

Sportsmanship and academics shine through in baseball game

Greg Chrapek

Great story about sportsmanship, friendship and competition. Maybe it's just the sportsman in me, but I wish the story would have included the game outcome.

Second Place

Southwest Advance

Byron Centers Michael Palazzolo shines through during tough times

Greg Chrapek

Third Place

Northeast Advance

Rockford hockey team makes a mountain of out of a Matt Hill

Don VanderVeen

Honorable Mention

Spinal Column Newsweekly

'Rangers Mission 4:10': Mission accomplished for Leimbach and the Spartans

Dave Walczyk

Weekly/News Media B - Sports Feature

17 Entries

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Special hunt for a special man

Alan Campbell

Great story of perseverance. Hunting runs on the blood of so many across the country, the story relates. Powerful, yet lighthearted in a way.

Second Place

Canton Observer

Kick in the gut Veteran soccer refs blame social media

Tim Smith

Great look into a job we often don't see the inside story on. It is a needed call for parents to chill, and the wish that all could officiate one game is an excellent one.

Third Place

The Citizen, Ortonville

Mighty Mac Swim

David Fleet

Good look into a unique event.

Honorable Mention

Canton Observer

"You call that a strike?" Teen ump fed up

Tim Smith

Weekly/News Media C - Sports Feature

17 Entries

There were many great entries in this category. Reading the description for this category, we thought some might have done better in a different category.

First Place **Allegan County News**

DuBois calls it a career: Longtime Plainwell coach retires after 38 years at helm

Jason Wesseldyk

This entry stood out as a great tribute to a man who gave so much for so many for so many years.

Second Place **White Lake Beacon**

Bond of Brown, Britton cemented with stat titles

Andy Roberts

I felt like I was in the car, riding to state with these two and watching the event unfold.

Third Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

What kidney? Sherbonda runs for Cards despite health setback

Brandon Folsom

Writer does a nice job of telling why this athlete's accomplishments at this event were so incredible.

Weekly/News Media D - Sports Feature

5 Entries

First Place **State Line Observer**

Scott Creque living a life with NASCAR

David Green

Neat and unique story about the aspects of a job most people don't know about. Well-written.

Second Place **State Line Observer**

Skater

David Green

Another unique story with an interesting subject. Great read.

Third Place **The Missaukee Sentinel**

Minarik Starred for Spartans, Steelers

Mike Dunn

It's always interesting to read about generations past. Hopefully readers learned of athletic star they didn't know existed in their hometown.

Honorable Mention **The Missaukee Sentinel**

LC Wrestler gives 'Josh' special thrill

Mike Dunn

Sports Photo**Daily A - Sports Photo**

21 Entries

First Place **Flint Journal**

Make it rain

Jake May

Second Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Flying

Mike Mulholland

Third Place **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Front of goal

Bryan Bennett

Honorable Mention **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Tennis State Finals

Chelsea Purgahn

Daily B - Sports Photo

27 Entries

First Place **Bay City Times**

Second annual North-South All-Star Game at Dow Diamond

Gavin McIntyre

Second Place**Herald-Palladium**

Friday Night Sights

Don Campbell

Third Place**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

State championship point

J. Scott Park

Honorable Mention**The Ann Arbor News**

Friday Night Lights Sunset

Melanie Maxwell

Daily C - Sports Photo

19 Entries

First Place**Midland Daily News**

Northwood Basketball

Nick King

Second Place**Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**

Earned

Gillis Benedict

Third Place**Midland Daily News**

Midland Football

Brittney Lohmiller

Honorable Mention**Midland Daily News**

Meridian Basketball

Brittney Lohmiller

Daily D - Sports Photo

9 Entries

First Place**The Daily Globe**

300-meter hurdles at Welker Invitational track meet

Jason Juno

Second Place**Sturgis Journal**

Corky Emrick sports photo entry

Corky Emrick

Third Place**Huron Daily Tribune**

Harbor Beach helmet knocked off

Seth Stapleton

Weekly/News Media A - Sports Photo

12 Entries

First Place**Spinal Column Newsweekly**

Catholic Central wins soccer regional 2-0

Chris Wall

Nice mid-action capture, good composition and way to focus on the action without extraneous distractions.

Second Place**Spinal Column Newsweekly**

Catholic Central edges Vikings in 10 innings

Chris Wall

Great image. Nice action moment, perhaps needed a little tighter crop on the action without the extra player.

Third Place**Huron County View**

USA running back Koltyn Sebert gives Tommy Morneau a straight arm while being pushed out of bounds

Kelly Krager

Good image showing the action as it happened.

Honorable Mention**Spinal Column Newsweekly**

Michigan Outlaws win Ultimate Fastpitch Showcase

Chris Wall

Weekly/News Media B - Sports Photo

13 Entries

First Place**Tri-County Times**

Lake Fenton Sailing Club hosts Masters Championship

Tim Jagielo

Second Place *Tri-County Times*
Flying Star Rodeo
Hannah Ball
Third Place *Tri-County Times*
Linden's Ryan Young
Mark Bolen
Honorable Mention *Tri-County Times*
Fenton resident and Powers running back Reese Morgan
Mark Bolen

Weekly/News Media C - Sports Photo

27 Entries

Contestants need to review the definitions of the category and make sure they are submitting action photos, not sports feature photos. I believe that is a separate category.

First Place *The Exponent*
Play at the plate
Jeff Steers
Great look at the action with the emotions visible as well.

Second Place *Oceana's Herald-Journal*
stiff arm

Andrew Skinner
Nice tight capture of the action involved. The crop feels a bit awkward.

Third Place *The Tri-City Times*
Imlay City - Noah Scillian
Kevin Kissane
Nice shot showing the emotion and pain involved the sport.

Honorable Mention *Gratiot County Herald*
Gratiot County Herald 9-3-15 Sports Photo
Russ Pierce

Weekly/News Media D - Sports Photo

8 Entries

First Place *State Line Observer*
Run down
David Green
Nice moment with the expressions and emotions of both the runner and the chaser shown. Photo might have benefited from a tighter crop to remove the extra space at the top and left.

Second Place *State Line Observer*
Touchdown catch
David Green
Nice catch (both the photo and the participants). The crop feels a bit rough in places.

Third Place *State Line Observer*
Fight for ball
David Green

Honorable Mention *The Advance*
Whiteford's Baylee Baldwin, at right tags out a sliding Katelyn Engelhardt.....
Brad Heineman

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Third Place *State Line Observer*
Fight for ball
David Green

Second Place *Flint Journal*
Beecher gets first win at Atwood Stadium in honor of slain teammate Eric Woodyard

Third Place *Grand Rapids Press*
Ice golfers brave bitter wind during Croton Dam to Dam festival
Cory Olsen
Cool story about a cool event and cool people!

Honorable Mention *Flint Journal*
Freeland junior Eric Tyson provides hope on night that was bigger than football
Hugh Bernreuter

Second Place *Flint Journal*
Beecher gets first win at Atwood Stadium in honor of slain teammate Eric Woodyard

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Daily D - Sports Writing

8 Entries

First Place

Huron Daily Tribune

One more time

Paul Adams

I normally wouldn't expect a preview story to rise to the level of winner, but this one fits the bill. It's a solidly reported piece that includes all of the information a fan would want heading into a big game.

Second Place

The Daily Globe

No. 2 Forest Park survives W-M's upset attempt

Jason Juno

A close second in this category. A little more emotion up front and a little less chronology in the retelling of the game could have put it over the top.

Third Place

Sturgis Journal

Brandon Watson sports writing

Brandon Watson

A series of solid stories about the state finals events.

Weekly/News Media A - Sports Writing

3 Entries

First Place

Huron County View

Hatchets out, not down

Kelly Krager

The best of this bunch of entries. Writer took a difficult loss for the team and made a good story.

Second Place

Huron County View

USA defends state title

Kelly Krager

Solid piece about a softball championship. Could have used more indication of the emotion of the win.

Third Place

Huron County View

Patriots rapidly rise and fall

Kelly Krager

Good game story. Concise.

Weekly/News Media B - Sports Writing

14 Entries

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Mission accomplished

Jason Bushen

A lead that allowed the reader to see the final play combined with good use of compelling quotes lifted this entry to the top. It was a step above the rest in a tightly-bunched group of entries competing for a spot in the top three.

Second Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

No longer a 'Wannabe' Millington softball wins first district title in school history

John Schneider

Credit to the writer for recognizing the moment in the dugout before the game and making it part of the story. It's important for sports writers to pay attention not only to what happens on the field, but in the dugouts and elsewhere. Well done.

Third Place

Tri-County Times

Koan's hit, Marshall's pitching leads Eagles to state championship game

David Troppens

This story of a first-time varsity player coming through in a key spot drew the reader's interest.

Weekly/News Media C - Sports Writing

23 Entries

First Place

Novi News

From Novi to Boston ...

Susan Bromley

Excellent approach to the multiple runners in the marathon. You did lots of reporting before the event, and that made all the difference. This was true storytelling. Good and sparse use of quotes. You put the reader there. In fact, by hamstrings starting hurting just by reading this.

Second Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Masko outlifts competition to claim 123-pound title

Brandon Folsom

Good conversational writing. style. Even if you are not interested in this sport, you could relate to this story because of the feature approach.

Third Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Myler scores 1,000th career point as Snowbirds rout Warriors

Brandon Folsom

You had the dramatic moment but limited your use of play-by-play, which is the key to these stories. You took more of a profile approach. Good job.

Weekly/News Media D - Sports Writing

9 Entries

First Place

Charlevoix Courier

Rising up: Reloaded Charlevoix clinches repeat title, falls in tough match at regional

James Gensterblum, Drew Kochanny

Nice approach to story. You did not jump in with breathless play-by-play. Instead, you stepped back and told the story with perspective and context.

Second Place

The Advance

Tuttle: Inaugural state Baseball Hall-of-Famer

Brad Heineman

Good feature approach to an event. This ended up being more of a profile, which gives it a much broader appeal.

Third Place

Charlevoix Courier

"Redwood Original: Californian Cliff Martin repeats as Belvedere

Hickory Open Champion"

James Gensterblum

Instead of getting cliché quotes from the winner, the reporter asked questions that let the reader know what he was thinking and his strategy at key moments.

Spot News Story

Daily A - Spot News Story

24 Entries

Overall, every entry in this category was a contender. Strong, descriptive writing was evident throughout the entries. Impressive work!

First Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

Kalamazoo mass shooting

Staff

Incredible detail and descriptive writing in this coverage that is all the more impressive because the level of tragedy and the ground the staff had to cover. The "timeline" style of the reporting took readers to the scenes, moving them along the shooter's path and providing explanations where possible of what transpired. Simply great work!

Second Place

Kalamazoo Gazette

Five bicyclists killed in Kalamazoo

Staff

Strong storytelling narrative throughout this story with a recognition of the compounding of grief from two huge tragedies. All the angles are covered here and the story is told through the voices of family, friends and the cycling community. Again, simply great work!

Third Place *Lansing State Journal*
Betrayal of His Trust
 Staff

Thorough coverage on a shocking and tough story to do on deadline. Good idea to use quick-hit reaction and to include a what's next, not just for the case, but for those involved as well. Well done!

Honorable Mention *Saginaw News*

Mystery fisherman saves dog lost for 38 days on Tittabawassee River

Brad Devereaux

There's wonderful storytelling here, and descriptive writing that keeps the reader with the story until the end. Not every spot news story has to be a tragedy and this one proves some deadline news has a happy ending. Impressive writing!

Daily B - Spot News Story

22 Entries

First Place *Herald-Palladium*

Berrien County Courthouse Shooting

Julie Swidwa, Tony Wittkowski, Jim Dalglish, Louise Wrege

This is how you do spot news. You resisted dumping every fact and quote in just a few stories. Instead, each story had a focus and purpose. Moreover, you told the stories of how these resident who died lived their lives. Excellent job on a difficult and tragic story.

Second Place *Bay City Times*

Shots fired, Bay City police setup perimeter on East Side

Cole Waterman, Andrew Dodson

While you were giving readers an account of the incident, you searched court records, talked to neighbors and searched social media. All of this added texture to the story beyond the dramatic and unfolding drama with the suspect and police.

Third Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

Aug. 2 Storm

Record-Eagle staff

Your effort in showing the impact of the storm on real people made this a top entry. In incidents like this, it would have been easier to dump everything into one story. You took the time to analyze the impact of the storm and plot out a plan to tell the stories in meaningful ways.

Honorable Mention *The Ann Arbor News*

Child hospitalized after his pit bull attacks him

Darcie Hall

The account by the neighbor was riveting. Good effort to find her and get her to talk.

Daily C - Spot News Story

22 Entries

First Place *Ludington Daily News*

Kayaker rescued, revived

Patti Klevorn

In-depth reporting of a spot-news event from the scene. Filled with excellent description gained from multiple sources -- members of the kayak group, others who observed and provided assistance, and the rescued kayaker who survived the scare. Excellent description in the written, which has excellent pacing and is filled with effective transitions that keep the reader moving through the story. Solid reporting and writing, both top-level, make this the winner.

Second Place *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*

23 empty rail cars derail near Howell

Lisa Roose-Church

Excellent description of derailment from witnesses -- what it looked like, what it sounded like, with good pacing in the story. Urgency of the situation carries the reader from one graph to the next. Reporting "put you there." Excellent job.

Third Place *Cadillac News*

Trump visits Cadillac

Rick Charmoli, Gabrielle Martin, Chris Lamphere, Matt Seward, Andy Duffy

Good teamwork on a major event, covering every angle of Donald Trump visit with good balance and many local voices, and a good job explaining the impact on city. Well planned and executed.

Honorable Mention *Grand Haven Tribune*

Surfer Hero

Good description, color, detail. Rescue of young teen girls by surfers from powerful current written with urgency. Good job.

Daily D - Spot News Story

19 Entries

First Place *Niles Daily Star*

Honoring Heroes

Craig Hauptert

Well-written and in-depth piece that gave readers a look into the lives of two court bailiffs who were murdered while doing their jobs.

Second Place *Greenville Daily News*

Oakfield Township fire total loss, 10 residents escape safely

Cory Smith, Emilee Nielsen

Another well-written story that looked at an event that could have had a far different ending.

Third Place *Niles Daily Star*

A warm welcome

Craig Hauptert

Honorable Mention *The Daily Globe*

Saxon Harbor storm claims life, causes millions in damage

Ralph Ansami

Weekly/News Media A - Spot News Story

15 Entries

First Place *Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle*

HAVEN opens doors to new Pontiac home

Second Place *Grosse Pointe Times*

Motorist spots chimney fire, alerts residents

K. Michelle Moran

Third Place *Grosse Pointe Times*

"Reunion worth tweeting..."

K. Michelle Moran

Honorable Mention *Troy Times*

Somerset Park murder suspect bound over

Terry Oparka

Weekly/News Media B - Spot News Story

15 Entries

This category was full of great entries, making selections difficult.

First Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

Shear Devastation

Patti Brandt, Eric Carlson, Amy Hubbell, Al Willman, Jason Bushen, Alan Campbell

What a great team effort to tell a variety of stories about havoc caused by a severe storm AND while experiencing a power outage that could have prevented the newspaper from being printed.

Second Place *Tri-County Times*

FAMILY_DIES_More details emerge regarding deaths

Hannah Ball

This story stood out due to the tragic loss of a family with hopes of preventing a similar situation in the future.

Third Place

Back on all fours

Susan Bromley

The writer told this story in such a way that the reader could envision watching it play out from a nearby vantage point.

The Citizen, Ortonville

Weekly/News Media C - Spot News Story

19 Entries

A category full of great entries!

First Place

WLAA on life support

Greg Means

The possibility of losing a community's ambulance service is something residents should be concerned about. Writer explains in an easy-to-understand way what this could mean and the next steps involved.

White Lake Beacon

Second Place

'Secure mode' initiated after bomb threat

Arielle Breen

A nice job by the writer of detailing an event that could have had a much different outcome.

Gaylord Herald Times

Third Place

Plane Crash

Mary Kay McPartlin

Writer does a nice job of setting the scene, providing quotes from those involved and providing information about the pilot's past.

Tecumseh Herald

Honorable Mention

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Thousands without power after barrage of nasty storms

Cheryl Holladay, Krista Tacey-Cater, Thomas Reznich, Eric Hamp

This story deserves to be recognized for getting told under unusual

circumstances. Would have been stronger contender if had more quotes to tell the story but definitely informative.

Weekly/News Media D - Spot News Story

11 Entries

First Place

Family survives explosion

Mike Dunn

What a story to be able to get from two people who were so fortunate to survive an explosion. Their quotes definitely made the story.

The Missaukee Sentinel

Second Place

Lake City community mourns

Mike Dunn

Writer did a wonderful job reporting on two tragic deaths and how the community came together to grieve.

The Missaukee Sentinel

Third Place

Charlevoix Hospital to fully integrate with Munson Healthcare

Lonnie Allen

A lot of information was pulled together for this story in a very short amount of time.

Charlevoix Courier

Best Headline

Open Class - Best Headline

33 Entries

First Place

Down with Crosswords

Ann Arbor News Staff

We know newspaper readers love their crossword puzzles, and this headline isn't forced or gimmicky, but to the point and direct to the audience.

The Ann Arbor News

Second Place

Czech-mate

Brett A. Sommers

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Third Place

Mud, sweat--and beers

Staff

Flint Journal

Best Multimedia

Open Class - Best Multimedia

25 Entries

Weak category, and too many videos did not play (broken links). And, tweets and slide shows are not multimedia. Also, at least two pieces relied heavily on copyrighted music, and had no indication that rights were granted. Don't do that. The top three pieces were obvious to me, and well-produced.

First Place

Rare Detroit pictures seek names for long-lost faces

Emily Bingham

Excellent history, great idea and story arc, but could have used a slightly tighter edit. Losing 20-30 seconds would have tightened. Keep lower thirds up longer, and too much Ken Burns effect for my taste. Outstanding A roll interviews.

Grand Rapids Press

Second Place

Workers clean windows 23 stories up

Neil Blake

Nicely done overall. GoPros were made for this sort of thing. Good A Roll and B Roll. Audio would have been better with a natural sound bed under everything, would have allowed for gentle fade ins of narration. The hard audio ins distract. Not sure why there's an additional minute of nothing after the piece ends. Better audio would have put this piece into first place.

Grand Rapids Press

Third Place

Adopt-A-Pet Fenton An Adoption Story

Tim Jagielo

Nicely done. Good shots, nice use of A Roll and B Roll. This piece is too long though, and would have benefited from at least a full minute edited out. Less is more, don't overstay your welcome. Also, needed more natural sound throughout. Still, a clean, well done effort.

Tri-County Times

Honorable Mention

Downtown Icon: The Cornerstone Story

Tim Jagielo

Needed a MUCH tighter edit, the people all said essentially the same thing, and it comes across like a PR piece, but it's a really clever idea and a nice treatment of a pretty dull subject in many ways. The uniqueness of the idea put it above several other good pieces for an HM.

Tri-County Times

Best Photo

Open Class - Best Photo

27 Entries

The top images were fantastic. Other HMs could have been given easily.

Sure, there were some weak images, but overall, a very good category.

First Place

This has to stop

Jake May

Perfect light. Well composed, and amazing/horrible emotions here. Good caption. Well done!

Flint Journal

Second Place

Crockery drowning

Tom Brenner

Wow. Great access to a terrible situation by the photographer. Nice lens choice to keep things a bit looser than some might have.

Grand Rapids Press

Third Place

Flying

Mike Mulholland

Fantastic peak action. A really tough shot to make. I would have cropped in from the left a bit, but otherwise, a near perfect sports image.

Grand Rapids Press

Honorable Mention

Helping hand

Cory Morse

Nice found moment at an otherwise fairly routine gritty spot news situation.

Grand Rapids Press

Best Website

Open Class - Best Website

16 Entries

This category had two very decent sites in Bridge Magazine and Michigan Lawyers weekly. Bridge is a site to follow, even if you don't live in Michigan, just to see what they're doing with a news website. Michigan Lawyers is just done well.

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Bridge Magazine
Staff

If anyone was wondering what the future of journalism might look like, well, Bridge Magazine might just be a perfect example. This site contains excellent writing, it is well organized and informative. I thought perhaps this site had pulled together some decent freelancers (and maybe some are) but once I started recognizing bylines from Hoosier ex-pats from quality publications to the south, I knew this site was legit. To those of you reading this, if you haven't visited this site before, you should. And take some notes. These guys get it. We could all take some lessons from Bridge Magazine. This might be where we're headed.

Second Place

Michigan Lawyers Weekly

Best Website Award

Douglas Levy

Michigan Lawyers Weekly is not your typical news website, and because it is so specialized, it provides an example of how to organize your website, not just put stuff out in the vast internet wasteland. Very easy to navigate. Well done.

Third Place

Tri-County Times

tctimes.com

Times Online Staff

Nice, well-organized local content.

Honorable Mention

Greenville Daily News

thedailynews.cc

Staff

Nice looking site.

Best Writing

Open Class - Best Writing

29 Entries

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Game Day

Nancy Derringer, Mike Wilkinson, Ron French

What an investment by reporters, writers and editors to shed light on a problem and to true grassroots reporting. While the stories are told chronologically, the writers constantly step back to write with authority and weave in context that puts these game days into a larger context. The timeframe during which this package was completed and published also makes it impressive, and this work sets a standard that more journalists should aim for. Congratulations.

Second Place

Bridge Magazine

He's a college senior with a 3.4 GPA, and he's homeless

Ron French

We say there can be no great writing without great reporting. This package nails it. The writer takes us into his world, debunks stereotypes and uses vivid detail so that we understand exactly what his options were and how he made his choices. Excellent work.

Third Place

Grand Rapids Press

How government failed the people of Flint

John Counts

Most Innovative Story Telling

Open Class - Most Innovative Story Telling

25 Entries

First Place

The Ann Arbor News

Revisiting super drunk law

John Counts

Loved the database, the graphics, the stories and photos. This is a standout entry.

Second Place

Flint Journal

Still standing: 100 Flint residents dealing with a poisoned water system

Jake May

I loved this -- letting the people who are affected by this issue tell the story.

The photos are beautiful.

Third Place

Grand Rapids Press

Interactive maps of bicycle crashes in Michigan

Scott Levin

Honorable Mention

Muskegon Chronicle

Miss Michigan

Brandon Champion, Joel Bissell, Emily Brouwer

Public Notice Journalism Award

Open Class - Public Notice Journalism Award

3 Entries

First Place

Lansing City Pulse

School for the Blind error

Todd Heywood

Good demonstration of why public notice is important.

Second Place

Bridge Magazine

Disaster Day by Day: A Flint Timeline

Staff

Great journalism but not specifically public notice per the statutory requirements.

Public Service Award

Open Class - Public Service Award

11 Entries

First Place

Grand Rapids Press

The mistakes made. The lives affected

Mlive Media Group

This entry was BEAUTIFUL. By far the best in this category. I love seeing real people in stories, and these pages were filled with them while providing important information. Nicely done!

Second Place

The Ann Arbor News

Dioxane plume under Ann Arbor

Ryan Stanton

In a category filled with entries about the Flint water crisis, this team took a story they could have ignored and likely helped a family get answers and clean water. The writer balanced a complicated and technical issue well, while showing us why it couldn't be ignored. This is the type of journalism we need more of!

Third Place

Bridge Magazine

Flint

Chastity Pratt Dawsey, Ron French, Mike Wilkinson, Lindsay

VanHulle, John Bebow

This entry was massive, providing tons of information that many of the national news organizations didn't provide when they stormed Flint.

Honorable Mention

Food stamps

Michael Walton, Staff

In a category swamped with entries detailing the Flint water crisis, this was a unique entry. Nicely done. My only criticism is I wish the reporter had included more real people in the first few articles.

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Rookie Writer

Open Class - Rookie Writer

10 Entries

First Place

Matt Sheehan

Loved these stories! They were easy to read and kept me reading until the end. It was the clear choice. Bravo!

Times Herald

Second Place

Michael MacDonald

The story about the murder of Alonzo Hart Jr. was fascinating and well written -- it kept me interested until the end. This writer's ability to cover a multitude of beats will serve him well in his career. Bravo.

Gratiot County Herald

Third Place

Dillon Davis

The column about your mother was so personal and beautifully written. The other stories dove deep into issues in your community and didn't come just from meeting coverage as some of the other entries in this category did. Nicely done!

Battle Creek Enquirer

Honorable Mention

Lauren Gibbons

Grand Rapids Press

Community Business Promotions

Open Class - Community Business Promotions

49 Entries

First Place

National Beer Day

Dar Brinker, Dave Hayden, Sue Lincoln, Julie Stafford, Amber Rood

Greenville Daily News

Second Place

Restaurant Week

Gail Grove, Tom VanderMuelen

Tri-County Times

Third Place

ShopLinden

Mary Powell, Gail Grove

Tri-County Times

Honorable Mention

Parks and camping

Karen Flynn

Huron Daily Tribune

Entertaining Services

Open Class - Entertaining Services

23 Entries

First Place

Your Big Wedding Day Expo

Nanci Heiney

Tecumseh Herald

Second Place

Something Big

Judy Lytle

Ludington Daily News

Third Place

Soul'd Out Quartet

Design Team

Grand Haven Tribune

Honorable Mention

Gogebic County Fair

Daily Globe Advertising

The Daily Globe

General Retail

Open Class - General Retail

90 Entries

First Place

Enterprise Printing

Debra Campbell

Leelanau Enterprise

Second Place

Leppink's Pharmacy - Mom's don't get sick days

Dave Hayden, Amanda Calvo, Amber Rood, Julie Stafford

Greenville Daily News

Third Place

Seilers Water Systems

Nanci Heiney

Tecumseh Herald

Honorable Mention

Grocery Grab

Judy Lytle

Ludington Daily News

Home Furnishings

Open Class - Home Furnishings

20 Entries

First Place

Space Within

Patricia Hubinger

Midland Daily News

Second Place

Youngs

Alpena News

Alpena News

Third Place

Reid Furniture

Staff

Petoskey News-Review

Honorable Mention

Classic Cabinets

Nanci Heiney

Tecumseh Herald

Home Services

Open Class - Home Services

41 Entries

Solid group of ads to choose from, with these four ads leading the pack.

First Place

Dave Lamb - Bermuda High Coming To Michigan

Composition Department, Mindy Robertson

Great graphic that catches your attention. Well written copy that makes me want to learn more. And I love the logo too!

Tri-County Times

Second Place

Billy White Roofing

Cory Mathis

Great headline that gets your attention, which is what it is all about. This is an ad that any market can rework and give to an account with solid creative that will drive results.

Tecumseh Herald

Third Place

Dave Lamb - Don't Call A Salesman

Composition Department, Mindy Robertson

Excellent use of white space surrounding the copy. Well written copy that grabs your attention.

Tri-County Times

Honorable Mention

True Value Home Pro

Ryan Miller

Grand Haven Tribune

Strip ads are tough to design at times. This presents a lot of information well. The use of the color arching over the top of the ad attracts the eye and leads you into the content of the ad.

New and Used Vehicles

Open Class - New and Used Vehicles

33 Entries

First Place

Tecumseh Herald

O'Hara - New & Used Cars

Nanci Heiney

This is use one slick looking ad. The color scheme and images are so crisp. I just LOVE this ad.

Second Place

Ludington Daily News

Watson's CarToon

Judy Lytle

I LOVE that this ties into the comic section. Its great seeing a customer think outside of the box and the artwork for this is AMAZING. Hats off to the artwork department to make it look like an actual comic.

Third Place

Tecumseh Herald

O'Hara

Cory Mathis

I love the Star Wars theme. The artist matched the Star Wars colors and opening credits with the "Start your own Empire". Very thoughtful and well done.

Honorable Mention

Midland Daily News

Midland Ford

Derick Barkley

I love the vibrant blue and yellow on this ad. Its not over crowded and very eye appealing.

Real Estate

Open Class - Real Estate

29 Entries

First Place

Midland Daily News

Land & See

Patricia Hubinger

Efficient layout of the map and graphic of open house locations. Clean layout of open house properties. the ad draws you in.

Second Place

Tri-County Times

Dave Broadworth Real Estate

Lorie Gavulic, Terese Allen

This ads pulled me in. Strong message: "I can sell your property". Clean , open layout. Good branding message.

Third Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Berkshire Hathaway HomeService Michigan Real Estate

Staff

Good presentation of brokers. good layout to accommodate the number of properties.

Honorable Mention

Leelanau Enterprise

Century 21 Andrea Galloup

Phil Morman

Smaller space ad stands out. Photos sells the location and view. Conveys an exclusive and intimate location.

Restaurants

Open Class - Restaurants

44 Entries

Really terrific ads here to judge. I had a hard time but feel like those that won really stepped up and had great entries.

First Place

Warren Weekly

Blue Finn Bar & Grill

Anna Brylkowski

This ad has all of the components of a good ad: photo of the item for sale, clear text, call to action. Nice job!

Second Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Summit Grill

Staff

This is a beautiful ad. Really pretty to look at and would make me want to give a gift certificate or have a meal there.

Third Place

Grand Haven Tribune

Stans - Coldest Beer

Jordan Haenlein

I love the colors in this ad and that the most important thing is the cold beer. Gotta love it!

Honorable Mention

Tecumseh Herald

Tecumseh Brewery

Nanci Heiney

Really pretty ad. A little small on the text side, but it does stand out and catches attention.

Small Ads Work

Open Class - Small Ads Work

44 Entries

First Place

Swartz Creek View

Starline Kitchen & Bath Gallery Celebrating 50 years of style

Dawn Davis

Very good before and after impact. Creative text boxes well done

Second Place

Greenville Daily News

Red Pines Campground

Dar Brinker, Amber Rood, Julie Stafford

Love the cartoon creative. Really stands out. Text well placed in small space.

Third Place

Greenville Daily News

Sheridan Hospital Community Event

Amber Rood, Julie Stafford, Dar Brinker

Creative use of School house as background and text frames.

Honorable Mention

The Missaukee Sentinel

Ebels Hardware

Julia Cavanagh

Eye catching with the vertical and horizontal layout. Creative use of boxes as text frames.