

# 2017 MPA Better Newspaper Contest



**Embargo: Do not release before 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 10, 2018**

## Statewide Contest Spotlights Better Journalism

Members of Missouri Press Association reviewed 2,967 entries submitted by 100 Michigan newspapers/individual members this year. The 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 3,000 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 2017 "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	1,340	Grand Rapids Press	Class A	1,460	Bridge Magazine
Class B	940	Traverse City Record-Eagle	Class B	1,640	Leelanau Enterprise
Class C	690	Petoskey News-Review	Class C	730	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	1,030	Greenville Daily News	Class D	950	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 2017 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 **Tri-County Times**.

**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 "Michigan School Segregation Investigation", Jackson Citizen Patriot for Heroin, horse tranquilizers and heartbreak: How addiction killed 51 in Jackson County last year "", and Traverse City Record-Eagle for "High Crimes", with the award going to **Jackson Citizen Patriot**.

**The MPA Rookie Writer Award** recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The three finalists are: Madison Bennett of Cadence Newspaper, Taylor DesOrmeau of Jackson Citizen Patriot and Oona Goodin-Smith of Flint Journal, with the award going to **Oona Goodin-Smith**.

**The MPA Public Notice Journalism Award** recognizes stories that exemplify the importance of public notice in newspapers. The finalist Grand Rapids Press for "Nestle bottled water plant upgrade driving more groundwater extraction" with the award going to **Grand Rapids Press**.

**The 2018 MPA Better Newspaper Contest opens August 1, 2018**

## **Best Column**

### **Daily A - Best Column**

**9 Entries**

*Great entries all around.*

#### **First Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Reclaiming Home*

Stephen Henderson

*Stephen puts it all out there in an emotional and powerful story about a son coming to terms with his relationship with his father, and the struggle of healing after his father's death. This is more than a column. It's a story of self-exploration, hope and much, much more.*

#### **Second Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*What a family's fight against racism can teach new Detroiters*

Nancy Kaffer

*I found myself rooting for Rosa Malone immediately. Malone's story is one that needed to be told, and Nancy Kaffer did so fabulously. Using old documents to help tell the tale was a nice addition.*

#### **Third Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Learn from people of different faiths*

David Krishef

*I enjoyed how this column encourages reader participation around a singular question. Interesting blend of voices and philosophies that hopefully leads to more compassion and understanding in the world. Great entries all around. There was no question that Stephen Henderson's was the best of a strong group.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Lansing State Journal**

*Say what? 9-year-old muzzled at Lansing council meeting*

Judy Putnam

*Charli Collison's voice was silenced. Kudos to Judy Putnam for letting it be heard.*

### **Daily B - Best Column**

**12 Entries**

*The top columnists were strong. Clear writing, good examples and local emphasis did it for me in this contest.*

#### **First Place**

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*The sweet emotion of small business*

Dan Nielsen

*This column captured small business so well. I loved the comparison to those who hug first, then try to build a relationship. Good local example. Clear writing. Nicely done.*

#### **Second Place**

**Bay City Times**

*What fueled Bay City's renaissance in in 2016?*

Andrew Dodson

*A terrific idea for a year-end piece and well executed. I was engaged from start to finish with what was happening in your city. A strong local piece.*

#### **Third Place**

**Daily Telegram**

*Straight-ticket option lazy, harmful*

Mark Lenz

*The lede on this was super. From that point, everything flowed. Well made arguments. A state issue brought home to the local level.*

### **Daily C - Best Column**

**20 Entries**

*Lots of strong columns in this category. The Northwoods Notebook and Lane duck clerk were right on the heels of the winners. Good work.*

#### **First Place**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Long way to go*

Renee Tanner

*This is an important topic. Your writing was clear. The comparison made in the quote was a good one. And using your personal experience packed a punch.*

### **Second Place**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Online reviews*

Jeremy McBain

*Loved this strong reminder of free speech protections. The ending was the best.*

#### **Third Place**

**Midland Daily News**

*Cell phones a distraction in the classroom*

Jack Telfer

*You made strong points. I would have liked to have a more local flavor in this column, but the opinion side of it was well done.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*She's got this*

Renee Tanner

*Just loved this story of a mother's realization that her child is an adult. You used details and action to show me what was going on. Super nice.*

### **Daily D - Best Column**

**18 Entries**

#### **First Place**

**Manistee News-Advocate**

*A letter to my son: The rest belongs to you*

Dylan Savela

#### **Second Place**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Needing more than a few good men*

Kate Hessling

#### **Third Place**

**Manistee News-Advocate**

*Young minds are a terrible thing to waste*

Ken Grabowski

#### **Honorable Mention**

**The Pioneer**

*Everybody needed a skinny kid*

Jim Crees

### **Weekly/News Media A - Best Column**

**8 Entries**

#### **First Place**

**Bridge Magazine**

*Detroit Police killed their sons at the Algiers Hotel. No one ever said sorry*

Danielle McGuire

*Danielle is more storyteller than columnist, which makes her a great columnist. The imagery she uses draws the reader into the world she paints with words.*

#### **Second Place**

**Bridge Magazine**

Phil Power

*Interesting analysis of presidents and how they used media. His common-sense approach to politics, paired with history, is insightful and thought provoking.*

#### **Third Place**

**Grand Valley Advance**

*Pet checklist may help you avoid bad choices in human companionship*

Cathy Runyon

*Clever comparison between shopping for dogs and humans. Very enjoyable read that makes more sense than it probably should.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Grand Valley Advance**

*In the school of life, the test sometimes comes before the teacher arrives*

Cathy Runyon

*Homey, enjoyable and clever. I find myself wanting to put an egg in the microwave just to see what happens, even though Cathy has already told me.*

## Weekly/News Media B - Best Column

29 Entries

*Lots of important subjects in these columns. I'd encourage the writers to tell stories that matter.*

### First Place

**Tri-County Times**

*There is always hope*

Vera Hogan

*It takes courage to share a story like this. It's an important message to get out, though. Good for you.*

### Second Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*The thing no one wants to talk about*

Amy Hubbell

*Another uncomfortable topic that needs to be discussed. It always helps get a point across when you share a personal story.*

### Third Place

**Grosse Pointe News**

*These women don't represent me*

Mary Anne Brush

*Loved the writing on this, particularly the ending.*

### Honorable Mention

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*On reporting amidst 'trickle down distrust'*

Eric Carlson

*Good local examples on a national issue.*

## Weekly/News Media C - Best Column

28 Entries

*Very good entries overall. Columns that illustrate some degree of actual reporting, and/or particular attention to writing and voice, tend to do best in this category. Relying on Google searches for information isn't a good strategy.*

### First Place

**The Tri-City Times**

*A walk in the Fog*

Iris Lee Underwood

*This column is poetry that speaks to everyone. Ms. Underwood displays a talent for painting pictures with words and for writing with the conversational style that makes you feel you already know her. Wonderful voice.*

### Second Place

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

*7.mbc.column.2*

Mary Beth Crain

*Here's an enjoyable critique of the first 2016 presidential debate that went beyond complaining to offer a constructive comparison to the Kennedy-Nixon debate of 1960. A great idea well executed.*

### Third Place

**Tecumseh Herald**

*Inner Space - Addiction*

Jackie Koch

*It takes courage and skill to reflect on one's personal suffering to illustrate the impact of a national epidemic. This is an important and compelling essay.*

### Honorable Mention

**Gaylord Herald Times**

*A simple matter of surrender*

Michael Jones

*Mr. Jones tackles a topic common to fast-growing cities. You gotta like a folksy column that yearns for the old days but acknowledges that, in healthy towns, the strains and the benefits of development are intertwined.*

## Weekly/News Media D - Best Column

30 Entries

*Nearly all the writing in this category was excellent - concise, most always accompanied by examples that supported the writers' opinions. I thought I chose an easy category to judge, but was wrong!*

## First Place

**Oxford Leader**

*Booting OCTV out of meeting doesn't look very good*

C.J. Carnacchio

*Issues that journalists need to confront too often. You did a great job of describing what happened at this meeting and why it shouldn't. My absolute favorite line from all 30 entries in this category, "Meetings should be messy at times because life is messy and only robots and idiots agree on everything." Good job!*

## Second Place

**The Boyne City Gazette**

*Genuine Imitation Poverty*

Benjamin Gohs

*Wow! Reading this I was trying to imagine a poverty simulation that really gets to the heart of many, many impoverished lives. You did a fantastic job of describing it for your readers.*

## Third Place

**The Advance**

*Anonymous sources overused in Washington beltway stories*

Marcia Loader

*All journalists should be so lucky to have you as their mentor! Great job of explaining our job and why we have to have credible sources who will be named. Thank you!*

## Honorable Mention

**The Advance**

*Media disappoints when slanting news*

Marcia Loader

## Best Editorial

### Daily A - Best Editorial

6 Entries

*Michigan has much to editorialize on. A strong set of editorials.*

### First Place

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Take MSU police off Nassar investigation*

Shannon Murphy

*I suppose this resonated because what is happening in the news today. This editorial certainly sounded the alarms that the school had no business being involved in the investigation.*

### Second Place

**Detroit Free Press**

*State's cowardly act: Changing the rules for Flint*

Nancy Kaffer

*Strong language makes this editorial a must read on a situation where officials just keep doing the wrong thing.*

### Third Place

**Lansing State Journal**

*MSU must work harder to change culture*

Elaine Kulhanek

*MSU has lots of problems that seem symptomatic of a bad administration. Hopefully that's going to improve. But we need newspapers to remind readers.*

### Daily B - Best Editorial

10 Entries

### First Place

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*City Council should say no to bigotry, intolerance and vote yes on LGBT rights*

Staff

*Bold and brave editorial leaving no wiggle room for any doubts where the paper stands. Bravo.*

### Second Place

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Editorial: State payments important step in healing damage to poor*

Nathan Payne

*Strong editorial voice*

### Third Place

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Editorial: Statistics indicate systemic problem beyond GT region*

Nathan Payne

*Good local subject matter*

### Daily C - Best Editorial

13 Entries

The top three editorials were very strong in this category. Readers from the publications were well served with how the writers attacked these issues.

**First Place** *The Mining Journal*

*Journal retire-rehire series underscores transparency need*

Bud Sargent

Great editorial noting the importance of the Sunshine Law. There were calls to action and this newspaper should be proud of how they informed their readers about this issue. Great Job!

**Second Place** *Grand Haven Tribune*

*What Joyce Hatton said was wrong*

Matt DeYoung

This is a fantastic editorial. The newspaper did an outstanding job crafting their viewpoint, backed it up and challenged the person in question to take action in the end.

**Third Place** *Herald-Palladium*

*Conflict of interest*

Dale Brewer

Newspaper did a great job of pointing out an issue that needed to be publicly addressed. Editorial was crafted well and the readers were informed of an issue they might not be aware of.

**Honorable Mention** *Alpena News*

*Time to return to respect, civility*

Bill Speer

Solid editorial. Not as strong as the top three, but was the best of the rest.

### Daily D - Best Editorial

10 Entries

**First Place** *Huron Daily Tribune*

*Free speech in danger on campus*

Kate Hessling

**Second Place** *Greenville Daily News*

*The \$9 Million Question*

Elisabeth Waldon

**Third Place** *Huron Daily Tribune*

*Let the townships decide on turbines*

Dave Shane

**Honorable Mention** *Huron Daily Tribune*

*Throwing policy out the window*

Kate Hessling

### Weekly/News Media B - Best Editorial

5 Entries

How lucky are the readers of the Leelanau Enterprise. These were strong editorials on local issues. All were well reasoned. Strong support for the Open Meetings Act. The winning editorial edged the rest because it did something that not enough papers do -- it provided readers with the why behind a decision made not to cover a story. A strong showing.

**First Place** *Leelanau Enterprise*

*How we decide what needs to be covered*

Alan Campbell

**Second Place** *Leelanau Enterprise*

*Third party equals third choice*

Jay Bushen

**Third Place** *Leelanau Enterprise*

*Northport should hire outside of one family*

Alan Campbell

**Honorable Mention** *Leelanau Enterprise*

*On open meetings, road commissioners*

Alan Campbell

### Weekly/News Media C - Best Editorial

8 Entries

**First Place** *The Record*

*A message from the publisher on the banning of this newspaper*

Lawrence Sobczak

A well-worded account of local officials trying to discredit "the media" and a strong reaffirmation of the newspaper's role in the community. This isn't a new issue for newspapers but seems particularly timely given the national attention news media were receiving, and continue to receive, from critics decrying their centuries-old role.

**Second Place** *The Tri-City Times*

*Textbook definition of red tape*

Catherine Minolli

Good breakdown of how federal government involvement can slow things down, baffling many individuals. Local people are usually the best to solve local problems, but the government hardly ever makes things so simple.

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

*Forward focus*

Eric Hamp

Strong look at how a school district's actions affect the entire community.

**Honorable Mention** *The Tri-City Times*

*It's time for no reason absentee*

Catherine Minolli

Solid writing, good argument, clear direction.

### Weekly/News Media D - Best Editorial

14 Entries

**First Place** *Oxford Leader*

*Hate the tax, but support our schools*

C.J. Carnacchio

A well-written and interesting take on what it means to support a tax increase. This editorial does a good job of reminding readers that the kids who stand to lose if a school district is not funded appropriately and encouraging those readers to take a stand for what's right, even if it hurts the pocketbook.

**Second Place** *The Boyne City Gazette*

*Online Anonymity Unleashes Disdain*

Benjamin Gohs

Good points being made here. This issue is one that many newspapers struggle with. Additionally, the emotional reaction from members of the community, readers and non-readers alike can generate frustration.

**Third Place** *Cass City Chronicle*

*Let's talk about suicide together*

Tom Montgomery

An important issue that isn't discussed openly because, as the editorial says, it makes people uncomfortable. This reminds us that sometimes the most important change comes when we're the least comfortable.

**Honorable Mention** *The Advance*

*Lessons about the real world can be found, learned right here*

Marcia Loader

A timeless argument that becomes increasingly important as more community newspapers close their doors.

### Best Newspaper Design

#### Daily A - Best Newspaper Design

3 Entries

Three strong entries. Even though these papers obviously use the same template, the higher number of graphics, illustrations and photos in The Grand Rapids Press sets it apart from the other two.

**First Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*The Grand Rapids Press, Feb. 12, 2017*

Staff

*The use of graphics, illustrations and photos on every section front sets the Press apart. Nearly every story, including stories on inside pages, has an entry point for readers — from drop caps, pull quotes, graphics, photos, etc. Well done. The Larry Nassar investigation, featured on A1 and continued in the D section, is top notch. Overall, the Press exceeds the criteria in this category and deserves the top award.*

**Second Place**

**Kalamazoo Gazette**

*Kalamazoo Gazette (Feb. 19, 2017)*

Staff

*This is a very strong entry. Like its sister paper in Grand Rapids, the Gazette serves its readers well with its use of graphics, illustrations and photos on its section fronts as well as many inside pages. Some inside stories are copy heavy (thus a bit gray), but the use of subheads and pull quotes help. The centerpiece on the shooting anniversary is very attractive and in depth. Overall, the design of the Gazette is very clean. Well done.*

**Third Place**

**Flint Journal**

*June 11, 2017*

Staff

*The Journal does a nice job in photo usage on its section fronts. Some of the inside pages, however, are a little gray. Entry points (pull quotes, photos or graphics) would help. Well done on the profiles of the young athletes. This makes a great package. The layout of the business page makes the centerpiece pop. Great use of the illustration and white space. Overall, this is a very nice paper.*

**Daily B - Best Newspaper Design**

**7 Entries**

*There were several very strong entries in this division. The top picks prevailed because they best fit the criteria of overall graphic design, typography and use of photos.*

**First Place**

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Staff

*Great paper. The Jackson Citizen Patriot does an outstanding job in its usage of photos, graphics and illustrations. The A1 heroin epidemic centerpiece is top notch. The corresponding pages provide an in depth look at the issue and how it touches readers' lives. Some of the inside pages were a little gray, but other sections of this edition helped overcome that. Great job on the Father's Day page (graphically providing information in an easy to read format). The business, homes and health pages also are very strong with the use of illustrations and white space. Overall, this is a very strong effort. Well done.*

**Second Place**

**Muskegon Chronicle**

*Muskegon Chronicle (April 23, 2017)*

Staff

*This is also a very strong entry. The Chronicle does a great job of utilizing photos, illustrations and white space. The A1 centerpiece takes an otherwise bland photo and turns it into a masterpiece. The wildlife photo page is not only attractive, but the concept gets readers involved and showcases their work. The business page is very clean with the use of white space and the illustration. Well done.*

**Third Place**

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Ann Arbor News July 2, 2017*

Staff

*The News does an outstanding job of using photos (even on inside pages). The July 4 illustration page is awesome. Great use of white space and illustrations on the business and homes pages. Great looking newspaper.*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Monroe News**

*Trump wins*

Staff

*Very nice front page. The centerpiece on the presidential election is a unique way to present an event that everyone else had. Great job. Overall, the News does a great job of using photos throughout the paper.*

**Daily C - Best Newspaper Design**

**4 Entries**

**First Place**

**Grand Haven Tribune**

*Grand Haven Tribune December 24*

Staff

*Overall design is excellent. I would suggest keeping articles alignment consistent throughout.*

**Second Place**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Petoskey News-Review*

Staff

*Good use of fitting a lot of information on each page. Page 4 heading is too big, but nice byline headings*

**Third Place**

**Ludington Daily News**

*Sand Angel success, community breaks another world record*

*Mitch Galloway*

*Interesting design/layout. Would like to have seen the entire paper.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Cadillac News**

*June 3, 2017*

Staff

*Do you have margins and they just did not show up on the pdf? Lack of margins threw off my judging. Page 1B is great! More pages need to look like this!*

**Daily D - Best Newspaper Design**

**4 Entries**

**First Place**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Aug. 9, 2016 edition of the Huron Daily Tribune*

*Dave Shane, Kate Hessling*

*Great clean and contemporary design! Good job!*

**Second Place**

**Sturgis Journal**

*Newspaper Design entry*

*Journal Staff*

*I like the overall layout, especially page 8. The front page seems a little bit too busy.*

**Third Place**

**The Pioneer**

*August 26, 2016 Pioneer*

*Justin McKee*

*Would like to see consistent use of page headings. The masthead and logo are very nice.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Greenville Daily News**

*Daily News*

Staff

*Avoid use of ads above the fold on the front page. I love the page headings but be consistent with them.*

**Weekly/News Media B - Best Newspaper Design**

**2 Entries**

**First Place**

**Tri-County Times**

*October 16, 2016 Tri-County Times*

*Jennifer Ward*

*More newspapers need to use pull quotes to break up copy like you do. Nice use of color. Feature pages are awesome. White space helps tremendously.*

**Second Place**

**Leelanau Enterprise**

**Best Newspaper Design**

Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Patti Brandt Burgess, Jay Bushen

*From the front page on, well done. Great use of color on those color pages. Some of the "grayer" pages need to be broken up a little with pull quotes, etc.*

**Weekly/News Media C - Best Newspaper Design**

**6 Entries**

*Tips were given to each of the four winners to make their presentations even better. This shouldn't take away from what was presented. All four papers were not that far from each other when it comes to design. Each paper offers a clear presentation to its readers. Great use of photographs throughout.*

**First Place**

**The Tri-City Times**

03-01-17

Staff

*Solid page design on front. Nice use of headlines and decks throughout. Great layout overall. Solid dominant image on sports page. Staff does a nice job of keeping the layout tight and making it easy to follow for its readers. Font package is solid.*

**Second Place**

**Tecumseh Herald**

December 15, 2016 The Tecumseh Herald

The Tecumseh Herald Staff

*Nice use of dominant images. Photos were solid on sports pages and the layout was presented well. Overall, this is a quality design.*

**Third Place**

**Gaylord Herald Times**

Herald Times entry

Frank Michels, Renee Tanner, Wendy Wolfson

*The Turkey page had a solid use of artwork. Sports pages have a nice, clean layout w/ solid dominant images. Enjoyed the look of the classifieds and ghost-inspired piece. Overall, this staff does a good job in presentation of material to its readers.*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Record**

Volume #1, Issue #31

Staff

*Nice use of dominant image on the front page, one that has a very clean presentation.*

**Weekly/News Media D - Best Newspaper Design**

**5 Entries**

**First Place**

**The Boyne City Gazette**

March 08, 2017

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

**Second Place**

**Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

Michigan Lawyers Weekly 4/24/17

Christie Sielfleisch

**Third Place**

**State Line Observer**

State Line Observer

David Green

**Honorable Mention**

**Edwardsburg Argus**

#haleystrong

Ambrosia Neldon, Sarah Culton

**Best Page or Pages Design**

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

**7 Entries**

**First Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Our children: Searching for solutions*

Brian McNamara

*Extremely well-done layout makes the readers key in on each individual quote. Text is broken up nicely so it's not too gray. Great for the reader!*

**Second Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*So long, Joe*

Ryan Ford

*Simply yet extremely effective. Limited wording makes the reader look at each little piece. Well done.*

**Third Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Grand Rapids 1967 Race Riot*

Staff

*Very well played about an important historical happening. Photos are played excellently throughout.*

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

**14 Entries**

**First Place**

**Saginaw News**

*Between the notes*

Staff

*The winner by far...Absolutely excellent use of photos, headlines, great use of copy. This could go up against any newspaper in the country.*

**Second Place**

**Daily Telegram**

*Top 10 boys stories sports front*

Scott McNeish

*Great idea, and very well done. Forces the reader to look at all 10 items.*

*Very nice*

**Third Place**

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Skin Deep*

Ann Arbor News

*Simply yet extremely effective. Great use of photo and headlines and copy.*

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

**15 Entries**

**First Place**

**Alpena News**

*Alpena Ynglings*

Pam Brunn

*This entry is what this category is all about. BEST PAGE, and it definitely is. The colors and tones and the use of the photos makes the reader feel they are a part of it.*

**Second Place**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Walk on the wildflower side*

Renee Tanner

*Extremely well done. Vivid, colorful, impactful. Absolutely beautiful page, photos and layout.*

**Third Place**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Oh fudge*

Renee Tanner

*From the headline to the way the photos are played. Very different and eye catching.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Ludington Daily News**

*A sand angel start to summer*

Judy Lytle, Patti Klevorn

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

**12 Entries**

**First Place**

**Manistee News-Advocate**

*Front page*

Julia Cavanaugh, Michelle Graves

*Very colorful, excellent use of photos and varied headlines. Certainly a standout!*

**Second Place**

**Niles Daily Star**

*Horizons 2017*

Ambrosia Neldon

*Very well done, eye-catching, like the slanted concept.*

### Third Place

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Huron Community Fair Cover*

Alissa Klee

*This is so well done because I'm sure in that community that every reader is literally looking at every photo because of the layout.*

### Weekly/News Media A - Best Page or Pages Design

3 Entries

*Private notes were provided to each of the entries. The first place winner stood out as tops in the category.*

**First Place**

**Farmington Press**

*When the lights go down, the show begins*

Jason Clancy

*Solid image. Nice touch of white text in the dark area. Great way to display what could be boring photos of light posts and putting on this background that helps tell the story. Solid font choice for the headline.*

**Second Place**

**Troy Times**

*Dust mites: how to reduce a common allergen*

Jason Clancy

*Great image of the dust mites really helps this layout. Nice use of the font design as well.*

**Third Place**

**West Bloomfield Beacon**

*Pantones Greenery to refresh, revitalize in 2017*

Jason Clancy

*Nice touch of "panatone" in the headline. Layout is unique.*

### Weekly/News Media B - Best Page or Pages Design

8 Entries

*A lot of strong designs here made this difficult on the judge. The wow factor of the winner made their design stand out. So much creativity shown by the second place design made this a difficult decision. Overall, great presentations.*

**First Place**

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*HAIL MARY: Queen of the Cooks*

Amy Hubbell, Mike Anderson, Jay Bushen

*This is a fun presentation. Using the recipe cards for facts about the subject offered a great touch. This was just fantastic. Great dominant image. Nice touch of starting article on the apron. Outstanding!*

**Second Place**

**Tri-County Times**

*Halloween*

Jennifer Ward, Sally Rummel

*A fantastic layout. Great font usage and display of photos with colorful background on page 1. The creativity is top notch on page with top scary movies to watch. The blood "burst" is a great touch. Splattering blood on other spots is a nice touch. Great job!!!! This could easily be a first place winner. Was very close...*

**Third Place**

**Tri-County Times**

*Lord of the Gourds*

Jennifer Ward, Sally Rummel

*Fantastic layout and design. Nice design on helpful tips throughout this piece. Font creativity very strong with headline on 3B. Just a strong layout and nice consistency.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Spinal Column Newsweekly**

*Beer here: Rustic Leaf Brewing Co. to open in Waterford late spring*

Libby Phillips-Pinner

*I would consider using justified the last line to the left for column alignments. Beer layout is fantastic. Love the beer image splashing even up into the flag. Overall, a solid layout.*

### Weekly/News Media C - Best Page or Pages Design

5 Entries

**First Place**

**Gaylord Herald Times**

*Changing justice*

Frank Michels

*Interesting yet very effective way to handle the 2 judges. Works for the reader. "Changing Justice" image works well.*

**Second Place**

**Gaylord Herald Times**

*Skin deep*

Arielle Breen

*Great use of main photo. Layout really draws in the reader*

**Third Place**

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

*9 3-9-17 OHJ*

Andrew Skinner

*Colorful, effective use of photos and design.*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Tri-City Times**

*03-22-17*

Staff

### Weekly/News Media D - Best Page or Pages Design

5 Entries

**First Place**

**State Line Observer**

*Cruisin' to Hal's Garage*

David Green

*Absolutely great photo page. Reader gets the full gist of the piece immediately. Excellent use of playing photos at different sizes.*

**Second Place**

**Charlevoix Courier**

*A1 of Charlevoix Courier*

Frank Michels

*Playing this photo large works well, as does the copy on top of the actual photo. Very vivid and clean layout.*

**Third Place**

**Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

*Michigan Lawyers Weekly 4/10/17 cover*

Christie Sielfleisch

*Sharp design. Attention getting photo/graphic.*

### Best Sports Columnist

#### Daily A - Best Sports Columnist

9 Entries

**First Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Mark Dantonio lumps MSU investigation targets with innocent parties*

David Mayo

*Writer deftly points out the failure of coach's strategy of protecting the identity of certain players to the detriment of others. An argument for more, not less, information.*

**Second Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*After another meltdown, time has come for Tigers, K-Rod to part ways*

Evan Woodbery

*Strong argument that offers supporting data and alternatives.*

**Third Place**

**Lansing State Journal**

*What Miles Bridges can learn from Gary Harris*

Graham Couch

*Good column that relays the advice of someone's who's been there. Nice touch.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Dear Commissioner Manfred: Justin Verlander has some ideas worth listening to*

Evan Woodbery

*Well crafted column on a mildly quirky subject. Writer did a nice job of not only highlighting Verlander's theory but his teammate's verbal eye-roll.*

### Daily B - Best Sports Columnist

10 Entries

#### First Place

**Bay City Times**

*Fuel the bus, John Glenn passes on local competition of Saginaw Valley League*

Lee Thompson

*Strong criticism of a board decision. Walked readers through pros and cons and delivered insight.*

#### Second Place

**Holland Sentinel**

*We need to come together*

Dan D'Addona

*The writer walks a tightrope between opposing political camps, as he acknowledges, and takes the only side that is certain: the right to express grievances speech protected by the First Amendment.*

#### Third Place

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Beeman a beast on defense*

Brendan Quealy

*Good insight beyond the game stats to focus on an unsung hero.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Holland Sentinel**

*Lasting legacy*

Dan D'Addona

*Well written. Writer delivered a story about a sports hero that included less-known info and a new perspective.*

### Daily C - Best Sports Columnist

15 Entries

*Tough competition to judge with so many well-composed columns. Keep up the good work.*

#### First Place

**The Mining Journal**

*Time to end the stigma*

Ryan Stieg

*Great column about a topic that needs to be addressed even if it is not a very popular one.*

#### Second Place

**Alpena News**

*Nugent perseveres through cancer diagnosis*

James Andersen

*Nice column about a student-athlete juggling athletic commitments, academic obligations and beating cancer.*

#### Third Place

**Ludington Daily News**

*Ghosts of LHS-River Rouge past awaken*

Lloyd Wallace

*Good column about the historical side of a rivalry dating all the way back to when most of us were not even alive.*

### Daily D - Best Sports Columnist

4 Entries

#### First Place

**Manistee News-Advocate**

*A decade later, gender equity ruling just isn't a big deal*

Scott Yoshonis

*This is a complete column, giving the full story of a decade old court decision and rolling in analysis and opinion on the effects (or lack thereof) of what was seen at the time as a momentous occurrence.*

#### Second Place

**Greenville Daily News**

*What's wrong with second favorites?*

Ryan Schlehuber

*This column connects with the 12-year-old in many readers, with humor and breezy writing.*

#### Third Place

**Greenville Daily News**

*Greenville, Belding's historic football rivalry goes back 108 years*

April 10

Ryan Schlehuber

*History and rivalries and a light touch with the pen. Well done.*

### Weekly/News Media B - Best Sports Columnist

4 Entries

#### First Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*Lady Lakers shine bright without a star*

Jay Bushen

*Good pacing throughout the piece, with lots of detail and exuberance.*

#### Second Place

**Tri-County Times**

*Some of my favorite athletes I've watched the last 15 years*

David Troppens

*This column has a high NPI: names per inch. Lots of scrappy athletes over 15 years.*

#### Third Place

**Leelanau Enterprise**

*Positive athletes are reflections of peninsula*

Jay Bushen

*A rose to prep sports. I like the part about peninsula GPAs. "How cool is that?"*

### Weekly/News Media C - Best Sports Columnist

6 Entries

#### First Place

**Gaylord Herald Times**

*Ice season's tragic start*

Chris Engle

*This entry ties news events with personal experience, opinion and a dash of service journalism.*

#### Second Place

**The County Press, Lapeer**

*NFL Cheerleaders*

Lisa Paine

*You go! The outrage oozes throughout, fulfilling one of the important roles of a columnist in sparking conversation.*

#### Third Place

**The County Press, Lapeer**

*Being a good person*

Lisa Paine

*The column starts slow but picks up with examples and attitude.*

### Weekly/News Media D - Best Sports Columnist

6 Entries

#### First Place

**State Line Observer**

*Wiffleball is one nutty sport*

David Green

*The definition of a good column is when you can make me read about a subject I care nothing about. Enter wiffleball. Entertaining and informative.*

#### Second Place

**State Line Observer**

*NASCAR Notes: When will Junior return?*

Rich Foley

*There's lots of news in this column, which is written in an easily accessible manner.*

#### Third Place

**State Line Observer**

*NASCAR Notes: Senator Carl Edwards?*

Rich Foley

*I suppose if you're going to give in to wild speculation, a column is the place to do it.*

### Business/Agriculture News

### Daily A - Business/Agriculture News

11 Entries

*This was an incredibly strong category top to bottom, and while no entry had major issues or problems, the three winners were good enough to rise to the top, going above and beyond simply solid, error-free work.*



**First Place***The Faults in No-Fault*

JC Reindl

A tremendous series of stories. Each was well-reported, deeply sourced and expertly demonstrated a serious issue facing nearly all your readers. Further, it took the time to explore not just the problem, but its causes and potential solutions. Terrific, terrific stuff. Quite easily the strongest submission, even in a very strong category.

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

Is prominent landlord using foreclosure loophole to ditch low-income residents

Jim Harger

Very nicely done; one of a few stories that stood out above the rest in a category that was very strong top to bottom. The story has impact, not only on disadvantaged people in your community, but also demonstrates some degree of abuse by those in positions of power.

**Third Place****Grand Rapids Press***Dangerous Work*

Shandra Martinez

Though it feels like more personal details from families to have lost loved ones would've taken this from very good to excellent, it was thorough and well-reported.

**Daily B - Business/Agriculture News**

24 Entries

**First Place****Battle Creek Enquirer***A failed solution?*

Dillon Davis, Jennifer Bowman

**Second Place****The Ann Arbor News***Recycling plant problems*

Ryan Stanton

**Third Place****Holland Sentinel***The long and winding road to Zeeland*

Austin Metz

**Daily C - Business/Agriculture News**

19 Entries

The best of the entries told stories that simplified and explained potentially confusing areas for readers.

**First Place****Cadillac News***GMO concerns prompt farmers to switch to grass-fed beef*

Chris Lamphere

A simple, straightforward story explaining the difference of grass-fed and corn-fed beef and what the benefits are for farmers, including things people might not think of.

**Second Place****Herald-Palladium***Keeping them on the farm*

Tony Wittkowski

The statistics on changing demographics improve this story, which also explains various reasons why farming is not an option for young people these days.

**Third Place****Herald-Palladium***Wherever, whenever*

Tony Wittkowski

Some interesting aspects to this story, although I also think the business owners got away with a free advertising for his business without being really interviewed/grilled. I would like to see more information about how big this company is in terms of dollars, especially since the number of "employees" is so small, and what kind of business drones are in terms of expenses vs. revenue streams.

**Honorable Mention****The Argus-Press***Wind turbines in county*

Sally York, Tim Rath

**Daily D - Business/Agriculture News**

13 Entries

**First Place****The Pioneer***Natalie Pennington wins young farmer award*

Meghan Haas

*Great subject, good writing and layout***Second Place****Manistee News-Advocate***A local leader in agriculture*

Dylan Savelle

*Unique layout, good writing, overall good piece.***Third Place****Greenville Daily News***Freezing temperatures and wet weather affect local crops*

Stacie Smith

*Good story.***Honorable Mention****Huron Daily Tribune***Farmers scrambling to return rotting beets to fields*

Brenda Battel

**Weekly/News Media A - Business/Agriculture News**

6 Entries

**First Place****Bridge Magazine***Michigan and the death of entrepreneurship*

Mike Wilkinson

Interviews with those starting their own businesses, as well as why some fail, adds depth to what easily could have been an analysis piece relying more on data than people. The companion piece about startups was a nice addition to provide readers keys to success.

**Second Place****Bridge Magazine***Can a Chilean forestry company revive Grayling?*

Lindsay VanHulle

Thorough look at how a struggling town tries to reinvent itself through a single company, and the growth that came along with it. The author got to the root of this story.

**Third Place****Bridge Magazine***Is business losing clout in Lansing?*

Lindsay VanHulle, Ted Roelofs

Strong prose describing the business climate in Michigan, and how early traction when Gov. Snyder took office slowed down when infighting began. The first two pieces of the five were the strongest. Though business was a common theme among the five entries, they felt forced together and not part of a singular package, which held back this entry from ranking higher.

**Honorable Mention****Bridge Magazine***100 workers recalled. Then they all flunked a drug test*

Chad Selwski

An engaging look at an increasing workplace problem, especially as more states are legalizing either recreational or medicinal marijuana. This articles captures the frustrations of employees and employers alike. Well done.

**Weekly/News Media B - Business/Agriculture News**

7 Entries

**First Place****Leelanau Enterprise***Imports Flood Fruit Market*

Alan Campbell

*Great localization of a national issue and its impact.***Second Place****Tri-County Times***Revealing the mysteries of dry cleaning*

Sally Rummel

*I had never really thought about dry cleaners. Creative and informative piece.***Third Place****Tri-County Times***Your grocery store of the future*

Sally Rummel

*Neat report on the future trends in grocery shopping on a local level.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Tri-County Times**

*Today's used car salesmen no longer fit the stereotype*  
Sally Rummel  
*Loved the lead. Interesting story on changing times.*

**Weekly/News Media C - Business/Agriculture News**

**13 Entries**

**First Place**

**The Record**

*Strawberry crop survives harsh weather*  
Lawrence Sobczak  
*This was a very well written news story. Compared to other news stories in this category, the writer of this article showed the impact of the late frost and its impact on the growing season and the local economy. Job well done!*

**Second Place**

**The Tri-City Times**

*Making hay*  
Maria Brown  
*Well written story that highlights the unsung heroes of rural America — our farmers. Applaud their spirit and their willingness to help one another. I also applaud you, Tri-City Times, for publishing this story which I am sure warmed the hearts of your readers.*

**Third Place**

**Gaylord Herald Times**

*Residents unhappy with clear-cut forest*  
Arielle Breen  
*This was an engaging piece to read from the beginning to end. Arielle did an excellent job of conveying the emotions felt by the local residents and the thought processes of the DNR employees.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Allegan County News**

*Farmers hope flock holds treatment for Huntington's*  
Ryan Lewis  
*Wow, what a fascinating story. It was clear and concise and didn't get too caught up in the technical side of the medical research.*

**Weekly/News Media D - Business/Agriculture News**

**5 Entries**

**First Place**

**Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

*Rock band wins in Supreme Court trademark case*  
Thomas Franz  
*To be completely honest, this story took me by surprise. The narrative of the story was clear and concise. Excellent job of showing how one case likely impacts another pending case. I also enjoyed how you looked at the implications of the ruling for businesses filing trademark applications.*

**Second Place**

**Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

*'What's hiding in the deep?'*  
Agenique Smiley  
*We've all been there. We go to the store and buy a product hoping that it lives up to its warranty. Nice job of covering this story from all of the different angles — the customer, the store representative, and experts in the field.*

**Third Place**

**Charlevoix Courier**

*Solar good for local business*  
Lonnie Allen  
*This story was well written and probably would have been ranked as the top story, if this category was strictly focused on agriculture. Solar energy can be complex and sometimes readers can get lost in the weeds when the writer gets too technical. Not so with this story. This story explains very plainly how the solar panels are making a real difference for a local business. Excellent work!*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Boyne City Gazette**

*Area Businesses Help Form New Group to Stop Enbridge Line 5*  
Benjamin Gohs  
*As the editor of a hyper-local publication myself, I understand why someone might be hesitant to include more of a national perspective. However, a national perspective is exactly what this story needed. A story regarding the integrity of America's oil and gas pipelines couldn't be more relevant. This story tells the feelings of the local community extremely well, but would have benefited from including more context as to why the local business community was so opposed to the continued use of the pipelines.*

**Feature Photo**

**Daily A - Feature Photo**

**10 Entries**

**First Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Victory in Hope College annual 'Pull' goes to sophomore class*  
Allison Farrand  
*Photographer got into great position to capture the faces of those competing and those cheering them on. A lot to look at in the photo.*

**Second Place**

**Kalamazoo Gazette**

*National Blueberry Festival well underway despite rainfall, high temperatures*  
Chelsea Purgahn  
*With crumbs and blueberries, photographer has captured a striking image.*

**Third Place**

**Flint Journal**

*Last shift, last cup of joe*  
Jake May  
*Picture captures the exhaustion noted in the story.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Flint Journal**

*Honor for those fallen*  
Jake May  
*Photographer did well capturing the faces, whereas I suspect many photographers may have pointed toward the other direction if there was a speaker or ceremony taking place.*

**Daily B - Feature Photo**

**32 Entries**

*A lot of really good entries out of 30-plus, so the ones I had in my top 15 all were worthy of consideration for first place. The ones that separated themselves were unique moments and interesting stories that were both told with the photo and made you want to read the story. But I could easily put another 10 in honorable mention.*

**First Place**

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Pizza Break*  
Hunter Dyke  
*A mix of spot news photography but showing the human side of a firefighters' workday. Photographer did well to get in the right spot for great composition.*

**Second Place**

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*Adoption Day*  
Emily Mesner  
*Reactions of the court officials adds to the photo.*

**Third Place**

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*Never Too Old*  
Samantha Madar  
*Shows the personality of the gentleman about to take his sky-diving adventure.*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Sensitive Tattoos*  
Melanie Maxwell  
*The photo draws your attention to the story's breast cancer aspects.*

### Daily C - Feature Photo

22 Entries

#### First Place

**Midland Daily News**

Anniversary

Erin Kirkland

*Fabulous moment captured so well. Nicely done. Such rich texture in their faces. And their positioning is wonderful. What body language. Well made image.*

#### Second Place

**Herald-Palladium**

In The Open

Don Campbell

*Several strong scenic in this division and this one just jumped out. The isolation makes this a strong contender in a strong division.*

#### Third Place

**Petoskey News-Review**

Wonderful Wings

Randy Goss

*What a great capture of body language and full extension of the bird. Great job freezing the motion and making this such a graphic image.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Herald-Palladium**

Heading For Cover

Don Campbell

*Another strong scenic in an overall strong field. Well done and great sense of graphics.*

### Daily D - Feature Photo

12 Entries

#### First Place

**The Pioneer**

Ag Olympics rounds out busy week for 4-Hers

Brandon Fountain

*Simply a fun moment with great expressions and interaction among the subjects. Well composed. A nice moment.*

#### Second Place

**Huron Daily Tribune**

A December sunset

Bill Diller

*Several good scenic in this division and this was the best. You found the good light.*

#### Third Place

**Greenville Daily News**

Canine Heroes in Training

Emilee Nielsen

*Really liked this image. Wish it would have been cropped much tighter by photographer or an editor. Force your reader into the interaction between dog and handler to improve this image's standing.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Manistee News-Advocate**

Ducks and dredging

Dylan Savelle

*Well composed. Makes me want to see what images you could make out on that dredge. What's hanging out on the rig?*

### Weekly/News Media A - Feature Photo

10 Entries

#### First Place

**Grosse Pointe Times**

hope

Deborah Boeger-Jacques

*Very nice image with a strong graphic touch. This is such a good view to highlight the group's message. Well done.*

#### Second Place

**Bridge Magazine**

Amid strikes and spares, Muslim worries that the game has changed

Brian Widdis

*Lots to view in this frame. Enjoyed looking around in the background at the different levels of participation. Fun image.*

### Third Place

**Grand Valley Advance**

All part of the show

Brian Forde

*Nothing to see here folks just a man walking around on fire. Catchy image. Jumps off the page at you. An attention grabber for sure. Nicely made.*

### Weekly/News Media B - Feature Photo

13 Entries

#### First Place

**Grosse Pointe News**

Pure Grosse Pointe

Renee Landuyt

*Good graphics with the lines of the hammock framing the boy. Great body language of crossed legs and book open over his midsection. Screams summer in Michigan and takes me back to several scenes of my youth. Congratulations and great image. Top images were a toss up. Loved them both.*

#### Second Place

**Tri-County Times**

Holy Thursday brings parishioners together at St. John the

Evangelist

Tim Jagielo

*What caught my attention was the depth of this image. So many layers of church folks waiting, praying, taking communion. There's something going on in every inch of this image. Top images were a toss up. Loved them both.*

#### Third Place

**The Citizen, Ortonville**

Here's the scoop

Patrick McAbee

*Back to the best "kid holiday" of the year with this image. Really nice clean background makes this image even stronger.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Leelanau Enterprise**

Buck Pole

Ken Scott

*There were several nice scenic. This one caught my attention and took me back to a Michigan beach of my youth. Nature can be both beautiful and cruel, eh? Nice image.*

### Weekly/News Media C - Feature Photo

14 Entries

#### First Place

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

12 Love on the water

Andrew Skinner

*Beautiful photo and very inviting article for the front page.*

#### Second Place

**Oceana's Herald-Journal**

12 up stream battler

Andrew Skinner

*Amazing action photo!*

#### Third Place

**Gaylord Herald Times**

Homecoming coronation

Brandon Folsom

*Heartwarming photo and article. Captures the emotion of pure joy.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon**

**County Herald-News**

FISH TAILS AND FISH TALES

Thomas Reznich

*Loved the title and great photo!*

### Weekly/News Media D - Feature Photo

11 Entries

#### First Place

**The Boyne City Gazette**

Boyne Meets Broadway

Christopher Faulknor

*Beautiful photo! Always a nice surprise when going through the picture someone took from an event and find a gem like this in there.*

**Second Place**

*Light show*  
David Green  
*Perfect timing!*

**State Line Observer**

**Third Place**

*Generations of respect*  
C.J. Carnacchio

**Oxford Leader**

*Heartfelt photo. Captured the emotion perfectly.*

**Honorable Mention**

*Honoring Fallen Soldiers*  
Christopher Faulknor

**The Boyne City Gazette**

*Heartwarming photo. Nice front page article also.*

**Daily A - Feature Story**

**21 Entries**

**First Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Nowhere to run: Survivor of brutal abuse faces death threats, ex's parole*

Kristen Jordan Shamus

*Multiple times the system failed Nicole Beverly, and this article reveals them all. This is the kind of reporting that makes an impact on both the subject and the reader, and may have even saved a lives.*

**Second Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Small-town history museum in Michigan was born from revenge*

John Carlisle

*This story is quirky, mysterious, tragic, but ultimately compelling. Carm is an enigmatic character, at first, and the author does a fine job taking the reader on a journey of discovery, of both Charm and his museum.*

**Third Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Forgotten mass grave in the U.P. finally gets recognition*

John Carlisle

*Powerful writing, and in some places almost poetic. Morbid and macabre reporting done right.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Lansing State Journal**

*Ecoterrorist admits firebombing MSU 25 years ago*

RJ Wolcott

*Impressive reporting decades after an event that finished what was previously an incomplete story. The interactive map was a great addition.*

**Daily B - Feature Story**

**36 Entries**

*The first-place winner was far and away the best entry, Notice how the writer shows the connection of the lunch lady, through describing the senior photos on her cash register to describing her social media presence. Show readers, don't just tell them. The use of quotes was effective, with lots of voices. Lots of good topics in this category.*

**First Place**

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Lunch lady loves large*

Allison Batdorff

*Loved this story. You did a great job of showing the lunch lady's impact instead of just saying she had impact. Loved the diverse voices in the story. Strong story from start to finish.*

**Second Place**

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Many hands raise up Rapid City girl*

Allison Batdorff

*Touching story about a little girl whose life has been changed because she now has a doll that looks like her.*

**Third Place**

**Battle Creek Enquirer**

*Old debate has new face*

Jennifer Bowman

*This story made the medical marijuana debate really hit home. Powerful ending quote from Mom.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Saginaw News**

*Mighty Marchin' Trojans keep their music alive with passion, pride*

Jose Norris

*A good story on the effect a teacher can have on students.*

**Daily C - Feature Story**

**50 Entries**

**First Place**

**The Daily News, Iron Mountain**

*We have lost a great man*

Theresa Proudfit

*Power lead-off to a well-written memorial.*

**Second Place**

**Cadillac News**

*'Always dreaming, always planning'*

Karen Hopper Usher

*Wonderfully descriptive language!*

**Third Place**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Brad the brewer*

Lindsay Gingrich

*Very interesting story.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Grand Haven Tribune**

*Hip to be square*

Matt DeYoung

**Daily D - Feature Story**

**29 Entries**

*With 29 entries, I found this hard to narrow them down. I was able to get to 6, and really wish I could have added two more honorable mentions. Wonderful stories, about some amazing people. Great job Michigan Press Association members.*

**First Place**

**Greenville Daily News**

*'Kissing Everything Goodbye'*

Elisabeth Waldon

*This is a topic that resonates nationally and locally. You made this hyper-local. The journal entries were placed perfectly. You captured the emotion of the family. I hope you follow up with the family as the heroin epidemic continues to get news space in your paper. Great job on a tough subject.*

**Second Place**

**The Pioneer**

*Joshua Clark was in action at Iwo Jima*

Shanna Avery

*Wonderful job of leading us through this mans life and experience. You not only told a story but also documented history. Great job.*

**Third Place**

**The Pioneer**

*Adventures, history fill the shelves at Raus Mecosta Book Gallery*

Brandon Fountain

*Great story for your readers. It made me want to go to the book store. You also captured the character of the owner, an added benefit to the facts of the story. Nice job.*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Pioneer**

*Mecosta County attorney reflects on overcoming past, hurdles*

Emily Grove

*A great story to tell. I would suggest you send this to all your alternative school teachers and counselors. Keep finding stories like this one. Nice job.*

**Weekly/News Media A - Feature Story**

**12 Entries**

**First Place**

**Bridge Magazine**

*A conservative and two liberals swapped news feeds. It didn't end well*

Ron French

**Second Place**

**Bridge Magazine**

*He became famous defending "Algiers Motel" cops. Deal with it.*

Joel Kurth

### Third Place *Bridge Magazine*

*He started the Detroit riot. His son wrestles with the carnage*

Bill McGraw

### Honorable Mention *Bridge Magazine*

*An unwanted touch, two lives in freefall*

Laura Berman

### Weekly/News Media B - Feature Story

33 Entries

#### First Place *Leelanau Enterprise*

*They never found his helmet*

Eric Carlson

#### Second Place *The Citizen, Ortonville*

*Murder on the mind: The hunt for Ally Bruger's killer*

Susan Bromley

#### Third Place *Tri-County Times*

*I made it I can't believe it*

Sally Rummel

#### Honorable Mention *Leelanau Enterprise*

*Class presidents murder revived by parole hearing*

Patti Brandt Burgess

### Weekly/News Media C - Feature Story

36 Entries

#### First Place *Gaylord Herald Times*

*A redistribution of happiness*

Judy Wagley

*Consider me the latest victim of this story's "re-distribution of happiness." This story has all of the makings of an award-winning feature story because of its interesting narrative, which includes a combination of local history and present-day sources. You should know that this was an extremely crowded field with more than 36 entries, but yours stood out because of your ability to make the thrill of this postcards journey come alive. Excellent writing!*

#### Second Place *White Lake Beacon*

*Reunion is a gift*

Greg Means

*What a heartwarming story! This was a well-written feature story that reminds us all journalists that everyone has a story, including the man with a University of Michigan sticker on his walker!*

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

*Second grade mock election comes down to single vote*

Krista Tacey-Cater

*At first, this story made me want to roll my eyes. However, it grew on me and by the end of the story, I realized how strong of a feature story this was.*

*This entry does an excellent job of showing how young people, especially children, internalized the political rhetoric of the most recent presidential election. This feature should remind us sometimes the best election stories come from a child's mouth.*

#### Honorable Mention *The Tri-City Times*

*Prescribed Horror*

Randy Jorgensen

*Prescribed Horror should come with a warning label, because it is a beautifully written piece and puts a face to America's drug addiction. The face and the story of John Topie is a haunting reminder of how drug abuse can impact even the strongest pillars of our community. This story would be first-place, but at times this story felt more like a column and less of a feature story. My training and my education believes that stories require quotations to be noted by "source said" rather than the format in this entry. Also, I would have preferred to see the story end another way. The final paragraph read as too strongly of an editorial tone rather than an objective tone. However, despite the changes that I would make, I can not in good conscience let this story and the work of your staff go unrecognized. When other newspapers might shy away from reporting on a disgraced hall of fame and beloved*

*coach, your publication went there. You covered it, fearlessly and accurately. You brought relevant information regarding our country's opioid addiction to the mailboxes and dining room tables of your readers.*

### Weekly/News Media D - Feature Story

16 Entries

#### First Place *Oxford Leader*

*Supervisor celebrates 70 with 14,000-foot plunge*

C.J. Carnacchio

#### Second Place *State Line Observer*

*Author talks about his \$500 Detroit home*

David Green

#### Third Place *Charlevoix Courier*

*From Homeless to hopeful*

Julie Collard

#### Honorable Mention *Oxford Leader*

*Budding soap mogul doesn't let anything stop him -- not even*

*Asperger's*

C.J. Carnacchio

### Government/Education News

#### Daily A - Government/Education News

13 Entries

*Great, meaty stories in this category. A job well done for all entries.*

#### First Place *Detroit Free Press*

*Disorderly Conduct: How the system protects problem cops*

Jim Schaefer, Gina Kaufman

*Thoroughly researched and well-written series of pieces on a timely subject.*

#### Second Place *Grand Rapids Press*

*Hush Funds*

Emily Lawler, Craig Mauger

*Well-written, well-researched. Lengthy, but provides valuable information for readers to hold elected officials accountable.*

#### Third Place *Grand Rapids Press*

*These Michigan schools could face consequences if student performance doesn't improve*

Brian McVicar

*A good series of stories on an issue that affects nearly everyone (school performance) and includes the voices of key stakeholders often ignored in these conversations (parents).*

#### Honorable Mention *Lansing State Journal*

*After escaping war and persecution: high school*

RJ Wolcott

*A good example of a story that gives voice to a segment of society that is otherwise ignored. Loved the opening paragraphs.*

#### Daily B - Government/Education News

41 Entries

#### First Place *Traverse City Record-Eagle*

*Officials question \$4.1 million deficit projection*

Matt Troutman

#### Second Place *Saginaw News*

*Former students rally behind imperiled school with*

*#IAmSaginawHigh*

Bob Johnson

#### Third Place *Daily Telegram*

*Local communities struggle to recruit enough firefighters*

Dmitriy Shapiro

#### Honorable Mention *Bay City Times*

*A contentious election for Bay County executive*

Andrew Dodson

**Daily C - Government/Education News**

25 Entries

**First Place**

*The Argus-Press*

*Baker College president seeks to block woman who stalked WWE stars*

Joey Oliver

*I bet this story played well on the Internet and social media. The reporter does a good job getting all the information into an interesting read.*

**Second Place**

*Herald-Palladium*

*Gordon called 'safety risk' in May*

Julie Swidwa, John Matuszak

*Both of the stories entered on this topic were good and worthy of consideration as the best story in the category. This one, I think, was more relative to the category of government coverage, showing a breakdown in communication between the judge and the law enforcement that led to a tragic situation.*

**Third Place**

*Herald-Palladium*

*Blues and the blues*

Julie Swidwa

*Good story angle executed well.*

**Honorable Mention**

*Herald-Palladium*

*Berrien County's culvert crisis*

John Matuszak

*This story uses statistics well to show the crisis that should make drivers a little nervous.*

**Daily D - Government/Education News**

24 Entries

**First Place**

*The Pioneer*

*Ice Mountain expansion to add more jobs to the community*

Meghan Haas

**Second Place**

*Sturgis Journal*

*New Teacher Series*

Jef Rietsma

**Third Place**

*Manistee News-Advocate*

*Setting an example*

Dylan Savelle

**Honorable Mention**

*Greenville Daily News*

*Community Center renters voice frustration with Crystal board after receiving eviction notices*

Cory Smith

**Weekly/News Media A - Government/Education News**

20 Entries

**First Place**

*Bridge Magazine*

*Michigan's College dropout dilemma*

Ron French

**Second Place**

*Bridge Magazine*

*Detroit water shutoffs*

Joel Kurth, Mike Wilkinson

**Third Place**

*Bridge Magazine*

*Gerrymandering in Michigan*

Ted Roelofs

**Honorable Mention**

*Bridge Magazine*

*Two years later, Detroit storm victims still waiting for help*

Kurt Kuban

**Weekly/News Media B - Government/Education News**

12 Entries

*Great entries. Was tough to decide 3rd and HM*

**First Place**

*Leelanau Enterprise*

*Security tight for recount*

Eric Carlson

*Awesome story going behind the scenes in recounts. Really enjoyed it!*

**Second Place**

*The Citizen, Ortonville*

*Parents battle sick mental health system to save son*

Susan Bromley

*Heartbreaking story. Good in-depth reporting.*

**Third Place**

*Leelanau Enterprise*

*Election Coverage 2016*

Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Patti Brandt Burgess

*Dedicated coverage on all levels.*

**Honorable Mention**

*Tri-County Times*

*Chickens must go enforcement explained*

Hannah Ball

*I can relate to this issue in my area. Good report and great response to reader questions online.*

**Weekly/News Media C - Government/Education News**

18 Entries

**First Place**

*The Record*

*Bruce Township Clerk Susan Brockmann facing drunken driving charges*

Lawrence Sobczak, Stacy Sobotka

*Journalism's first obligation is to the truth. It's first loyalty is to its citizens.*

*Journalism must serve as an independent monitor of power. These are three of the 10 principles of journalism that are published in Bill Kovach's and Tom Rosenstiel's Elements of Journalism text. If they were ever to do a reprint of that text, I would encourage both gentlemen to include your work. Excellent job of seeking the truth, of being loyal to your citizens, and for serving as an independent monitor of power. You did not cower in fear, you stood your ground, and I salute you for it!*

**Second Place**

*Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County*

*Herald-News*

*Preparing for a real emergency*

Krista Tacey-Cater

*I got goosebumps reading this story's lede. Excellent reporting. Excellent photos. Excellent work. Excellent, excellent, excellent. This would have been a first-place story, if this category was a standalone category for best education story.*

**Third Place**

*The Tri-City Times*

*Fake News fight*

Catherine Minolli

*Regardless of the Fake News subject matter, this story does a nice job of showing how a student at a Vocational/Technical School is able to use the skills they have learned there. On a personal note, I applaud this young man's efforts to improve his community's ability to discern what is real news and what is fake news.*

**Honorable Mention**

*The Tri-City Times*

*Book commercials a hit in Capac*

Maria Brown

*As the child of a librarian, I absolutely love this idea! I love the story even more! By far, one of the most comprehensive education stories in this category due to its involvement of young people.*

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

9 Entries

**First Place**

*State Line Observer*

*Taking steps to save lives*

David Green

*By far the best entry in this category. I can only how imagine how proud your community must be of these young people, who are striving to make such a difference in communities around the world. Kudos to them and to you for a well written story. This is a story to be proud of!*

**Second Place**

*The air is clear*

Agenique Smiley

*If this category was strictly a category for best coverage of government, then this story would have been my pick for first-place. This story was thorough but also not overwhelming in terms of the details of the case and of state law regarding marijuana. Nicely done!*

**Third Place**

**State Line Observer**

*Change: Morenci may teach a STEM approach*

David Green

*This story does a nice job of being more than just a meeting summary. This story actually expands on the discussion at a school board meeting and localizes a national issue, STEM Education.*

**Honorable Mention**

**State Line Observer**

*Backwards: Students often lose ground in summer slide*

David Green

*What I liked most about this story is how open and honest the faculty were in their interviews. That frankness is a credit to your ability to interview and ask tough, but fair questions. This story would have benefitted from the inclusion of a parent's or a student's voice. You talk about the impact of the summer time slide, but struggle to show it as those voices were not included in the article.*

**News Enterprise Reporting**

**Daily A - News Enterprise Reporting**

11 Entries

**First Place**

**Lansing State Journal**

*At MSU: Assault, harassment and secrecy*

Matt Mencarini

*This entry walked me through what amounts to a terrible, terrible coverup and a tragedy for these young women. Great writing.*

**Second Place**

**Detroit Free Press**

*Genital mutilation victims break their silence: 'This is demonic'*

Tresa Baldas

*This easily could have been the first-place winner. I went back and forth. Strongest storytelling of all the entries.*

**Third Place**

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Was anyone listening?*

Julie Mack, Emily Lawler

*Even though I gave Lansing first, I believe this issue is such an example of the importance of newspaper, I also wanted to recognize Grand Rapids for its fine work.*

**Daily B - News Enterprise Reporting**

23 Entries

**First Place**

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*Heroin, horse tranquilizers and heartbreak: How addiction killed 51 in Jackson County last year*

Danielle Salisbury, Nathan Clark, Emily Mesner

*By far, one of the most comprehensive reports on drug use and overdoses I have seen. Amazing work*

**Second Place**

**Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*High Crimes*

Matt Troutman, Erin Sloan, Staff

*Impressed by the amount of work and data collected in this eye-opening story on how race colors the justice system.*

**Third Place**

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Police investigation of Ann Arbor judge centered on pain pills*

John Counts

*A difficult story to tackle for sure, but one that needed to be told. Kudos to the reporter and the newspaper for recognizing their role.*

**Daily C - News Enterprise Reporting**

37 Entries

*Overall excellent submissions. This judge enjoyed reviewing each one. The variety of topics no doubt hit home in the individual communities. Thank goodness for in-depth reporting on important issues by newspapers.*

**First Place**

**Cadillac News**

*The drug epidemic*

Chris Lamphere

*Well-written, well-edited, excellent layouts for this series. Reporter's writing style is impressive. Good use of quotes, excellent research conducted. An important topic for all America.*

**Second Place**

**The Mining Journal**

*Retire- rehire Former Marquette County commissioners discuss concerns*

Kelsie Thompson

*I bet this reporting got the attention of taxpayers! No doubt a tough road filled with governmental roadblocks to write/uncover the facts surrounding this investigation.*

**Third Place**

**Petoskey News-Review**

*Tricky gap to fill*

Ryan Bentley

*Excellent roundup of the issue. Packaged well for the reader. Top notch reality reporting.*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Argus-Press**

*Man convicted of 1976 murder could get parole*

Joey Oliver

*Exceptional article on the topic of murderer convicted as a youth. Both sides of the story offer point/counter-point views to consider.*

**Daily D - News Enterprise Reporting**

16 Entries

*This category featured some strong entries and some good watchdog reporting.*

**First Place**

**Greenville Daily News**

*Stanton city manager search*

Meghan Nelson

*Strong watchdog work, particularly coming back after the hiring to check out the claims made about city management experience.*

**Second Place**

**Greenville Daily News**

*Heroin Hits Home*

Elisabeth Waldon, Cory Smith, Meghan Nelson, Darrin Clark, Emilee Nielsen

*Telling the story of heroin through real people's experiences made your series pop. Both the story about the overdoes victim and the man who shared his story of becoming addicted were strong.*

**Third Place**

**Huron Daily Tribune**

*Caseville's costly flirt with Hollywood*

Dave Shane, Bradley Massman

*This was an excellent story of a city being taken in by a film-flam man. My biggest question was why it was being reported now, five years after many of the events.*

**Weekly/News Media A - News Enterprise Reporting**

17 Entries

*Several of the entrants confused continued coverage with enterprise. What I looked for here was the ability to tell a story no one else would/could, and to dissect the issue completely. The top three finishers did just that.*

**First Place**

**Bridge Magazine**

*Welfare misspending investigation*

Mike Wilkinson

*Strong series showing how some take advantage of a systems intended to help the most in need. Lots of data showing the trail of money and who's benefitting from it. I'm reminded of the old saying about the purpose of journalism: "Comfort the afflicted, afflict the comforted." This series does that.*

*One item missing, however, is the voice of the poor – those impacted and the reason for this series.*

**Second Place****Bridge Magazine**

*School segregation investigation*

Mike Wilkinson, Chastity Pratt-Dawsey

*Great use of data and maps to show the difference in demographics, and historical context to show why things are the way they are today. "School choice" database was a creative addition to the series. This is a fantastic series and does an amazing job of laying out all the details and providing context. Ironically, it's missing the voice of the black community throughout much of the series.*

**Third Place****Bridge Magazine**

*Flint Legionnaires investigation*

Chastity Pratt-Dawsey

*Good watchdogging and bringing a public health crisis to light, and identifying what more could be done by those in power. Personally, I'd have moved the segment about Bertie Marble higher up in the first article. The second segment was a well-told tale of sadness that drives home the heartbreak suffered by many families who had a loved one die from Legionnaires.*

**Honorable Mention****Bridge Magazine**

*Broken: The human toll of Michigan's unemployment fraud saga*

Ted Roelofs

*Kudos to the reporter for tracking down those impacted and sharing their stories.*

**Weekly/News Media B - News Enterprise Reporting**

18 Entries

**First Place****Spinal Column Newsweekly**

*The demise of the Walled Lake Community Education Center*

Anne Seebaldt, Ali Armstrong

*In-depth and newsy, this story follows the fate of a building important to the community closely. Would have liked to see more "outside" coverage — beyond meetings and events.*

**Second Place****Spinal Column Newsweekly**

*White Lake Library reconstruction*

Ali Armstrong, Diane Gale-Andreassi, April Galici-Pochmara, Jim Stevenson

*Another well-written look at an important local issue. I could tell this story was just coming together as the deadline approached. Like first place, would like more outside coverage.*

**Third Place****Penasee Globe**

*Local museum acquires 72-year-old Japanese Fu-Go balloon that dropped on community during World War II*

Sheila McGrath

*What an interesting, unusual subject! This story really taught me something in a well-written way. Would have appreciated more feature-style depth.*

**Honorable Mention****Leelanau Enterprise**

*Leelanau County: How Green, Clean and Safe?*

Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Patti Brandt Burgess

*Conceptually, the best example of "enterprise reporting:" outside of standard news coverage, entry educates residents on issues impacting daily lives. Writing could be strengthened to really make this entry pop.*

**Weekly/News Media C - News Enterprise Reporting**

19 Entries

**First Place****Iron County Reporter**

*Cochran murder trial*

Jerry DeRoche

**Second Place****Tecumseh Herald**

*Michigan Native American Heritage Fund to address mascots, culture in schools*

Jackie Koch

**Third Place****The Tri-City Times**

*18 year old girl alerts family of fire*

Tom Wearing

**Honorable Mention****Gaylord Herald Times**

*A Growing Gaylord*

Jeremy Speer, Cathy Landry, Arielle Breen, Orrin Shawl

**Weekly/News Media D - News Enterprise Reporting**

11 Entries

*All entries were well written.*

**First Place****Cass City Chronicle**

*Cleaning up the Cass*

Tom Montgomery

*Good story with great photos which was sure a local hit.*

**Second Place****The Advance**

*Weird odor has residents asking "what smells?" Series on biosolids (human waste) fertilizer*

Melissa Burnor

*Interest series and very informative, locals would love to follow this story I'm sure.*

**Third Place****The Boyne City Gazette**

*5-3 PC vote moves Macksey rezone request to next stage*

Benjamin Gohs

*Good story, great layout, interesting to the reader.*

**Honorable Mention****Charlevoix Courier**

*Tie Breaker and Recount over*

Lonnie Allen

*Nice photos, good article*

**News Photo****Daily A - News Photo**

12 Entries

**First Place****Flint Journal**

*Six arrested at Flint water town hall meeting*

Jake May

*A couple of the entries captured an impactful moment; this was the best in composition with faces of those involved in the action.*

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

*18-year-old shot by Grand Rapids police during 'firefight'*

Cory Morse

*Photographer captured an emotional moment.*

**Third Place****Kalamazoo Gazette**

*Courtroom erupts as family member of slain teen lunges at killer*

Bryan Bennett

*I like this photo and what it captures; it also makes me want to see more of what was going on in the courtroom.*

**Honorable Mention****Grand Rapids Press**

*Our top moments from Donald Trump's Halloween rally*

Neil Blake

*A number of the entries, I thought, were borderline feature vs. news and this was one of them, but it tells interesting stories about the people attending the rally.*

**Daily B - News Photo**

35 Entries

*Just as the sports contest had many celebration shots, the news entries included a lot of sad people at funerals or outside of fire-burned buildings. I understand the need for these photos to reflect the news of the community and convey the emotion, but many times they do not separate themselves from a field of similar photographs in a contest. The top three photos on my list stood above in a field of 35.*



**First Place** *The Ann Arbor News*

*Face to Face*

Hunter Dyke

*The emotions of the split in the country are reflected clearly in this photo.*

**Second Place** *Muskegon Chronicle*

*Fatal Crash*

Joel Bissell

*I am not certain of the woman's role in the incident but the photographer has a well-composed shot showing accident, emotion and the work of first-responders.*

**Third Place** *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

*Town Hall protest*

J. Scott Park

*Great meeting shot. Photographer gets into a great location and summarizes the night's news.*

**Honorable Mention** *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

*Fire rescue*

J. Scott Park

*Of the many entries that had to do with fires, with more the one clearly at a time when snow was on the ground, this one stands out as different with its content.*

**Daily C - News Photo**

**18 Entries**

*I'd give an honorable mention to Livingston County Daily Press & Argus (Gillis Benedict) for the Lagoon Drive fire image. There was a good diversity of news images in this division. One of the earlier categories I judged. Came back a month later and the top picks still stood out.*

**First Place** *Midland Daily News*

*Rose Sentencing*

Brittney Lohmiller

*Nice job getting yourself into position among family members in what looks like a crowded space. Well framed and captures the emotion well.*

**Second Place** *Midland Daily News*

*Last Friday paper*

Brittney Lohmiller

*Really enjoyed viewing this image of the retired pressman watching the web fly one last time. Can almost smell the paper stock and ink. Well done with the framing. Makes a well composed news image.*

**Third Place** *Petoskey News-Review*

*Home fire in Bay Harbor*

Steve Zucker

*Good vantage point getting the high angle view. Good perspective of a dramatic news scene.*

**Honorable Mention** *Petoskey News-Review*

*Hydra-Egg hunt*

Randy Goss

*Different type of news image but it caught my attention because it was different. Well composed. Nicely done.*

**Daily D - News Photo**

**12 Entries**

*Top images all strong with great news moments. The court scene won out since it's not a setting you see every day. Well done getting the access. Good planning.*

**First Place** *Dowagiac Daily News*

*Adoption day*

Ted Yoakum

*What a fun and special moment. Great job getting the access to the family court setting and being in a great place for that "moment" of the announcement. Well done.*

**Second Place** *Greenville Daily News*

*Get Out There's Flames*

Cory Smith

*Nice overall with a moment. Good job setting the scene and getting that news moment.*

**Third Place** *The Pioneer*

*Mecosta County children buy presents for families during Shop with a Cop*

Emily Grove

*Fun image from a great event. Great interaction between the big kid (cop) and little kid. Image could be improved with a tighter crop from the right side to eliminate the \$18.86 sign and clutter. It draws you into the child's face more. Still, a really nice frame.*

**Honorable Mention** *Sturgis Journal*

*Corky news photo entry*

Corky Emrick

*Entrant needs to designate which entry is which. All three were together in same file. Should have been three separately, I'm guessing. Selected main fire photo from June 27 one to consider.*

**Weekly/News Media A - News Photo**

**5 Entries**

**First Place** *Shelby Utica News*

*inconceivable crimes on children*

Deborah Boeger-Jacques

**Second Place** *Sterling Heights Sentry*

*progress?*

Deborah Boeger-Jacques

**Third Place** *Sterling Heights Sentry*

*deceived*

Deborah Boeger-Jacques

**Honorable Mention** *Tri-County Citizen*

*Team of contractors photo*

Jeanne Marcello

**Weekly/News Media B - News Photo**

**6 Entries**

**First Place** *Tri-County Times*

*Fiery finish to family vacation*

Tim Jagielo

**Second Place** *Leelanau Enterprise*

*Centennial barns burn*

Alan Campbell

**Third Place** *Tri-County Times*

*Fenton man struck by train*

Tim Jagielo

**Honorable Mention** *Spinal Column Newsweekly*

*Milford High School Leadership Program stages mock car crash*

Chris Wall

**Weekly/News Media C - News Photo**

**9 Entries**

**First Place** *Oceana's Herald-Journal*

*11 ice rescue*

Andrew Skinner

*Amazing action shot!*

**Second Place** *White Lake Beacon*

*Flipping over the 4th*

Greg Means

*Incredible action shot! Could have been first place picture, only thing that made me choose the other was the story that followed along with the picture.*

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

*A CHANGE IN PLANS*

Erick Simons

*Interesting story, intriguing photo with the sign on the dock.*

## Honorable Mention

11 road work

Andrew Skinner

Excellent angle and photo has demention, drawing you to it. Not as interesting story, to an outsider, however, if living in the area it would be useful to know.

*Oceana's Herald-Journal*

## Weekly/News Media D - News Photo

8 Entries

First Place

*The Advance*

Lawrence Ras Ible Scible walked through Blissfield Sept. 20.

Brad Heineman

I love this photo, love the article. Shows the man's dedication and the topic is nation wide, not just interesting to local civilians, but to all of America.

Second Place

*The Boyne City Gazette*

Last of the Demolition

Christopher Faulknor

Amazing photo, and nice article. A little heartbreaking to see such a beautiful mural getting demolished, but the photo captures it in a bittersweet way.

Third Place

*The Advance*

Controlled Blaze

Melissa Burnor

Great photos, and interesting topic for the community.

Honorable Mention

*The Advance*

Cloud of biosolids

Melissa Burnor

Photo captures the situation well. Very good to inform the community about what's happening.

## Photo Story

### Daily A - Photo Story

5 Entries

Overall, this is a strong category with a nice variety of stories. One of the strengths is its wealth of localized story telling, and the passion that the photographers put into the work.

First Place

*Detroit Free Press*

Flint water crisis: A visual essay

Ryan Garza

This entry stood out because of its vision, heart and impact on telling the story of the Flint water crisis. It took a national story that we all hear about and gave it a local, human focus. The best photo stories give us that context with a mix of heart, and this is exceptional work.

Second Place

*Flint Journal*

Flintstones: The Next Generation

Jake May

The story on basketball hopefuls in Flint is a terrific, creative idea backed by striking photos. I appreciated the visual diversity of the photos along the thought and work that went into making them.

Third Place

*Grand Rapids Press*

West Michigan: Emotional election battleground

Cory Morse

This photo story offers another good example of localizing reaction to a national issue. It does a nice job of capturing the emotional response on both sides to the election.

Honorable Mention

*Grand Rapids Press*

Michigan's 'Incredible Dr. Pol' reveals insights into life on the farm

Neil Blake

This is a nice profile photo story that was well edited in a narrative. Solid photos helped the story as well.

## Daily B - Photo Story

10 Entries

Overall, I admired the wide variety of stories in the category. With a range from smaller stories to national events, this was a good mix to choose among. The most successful stories here had a strong focus and were backed by smart editing. Since all the entries had good technical skills and creative visions, the editing made the difference in the category. Stronger entries here displayed shard editing, focusing on their central theme for their story.

First Place

*Bay City Times*

Single mom works to escape poverty, give her kids a better life

Tori Schneider

Intimate access to the subjects made this story stand out in the category. Each photo added to the story in a strong way, giving information and emotion to subject.

Second Place

*The Monroe News*

Courage with a Smile

Tom Hawley

Photos here did a nice job of telling an overall story, and it was strongly edited to clearly focus on the subject. Each photo had a good emotional pull. Again here, access to subject paid off well.

Third Place

*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Champions under construction: Grass Lake football players enter playoffs as brothers

Samantha Madar

Strong composition and creative photos elevated this story on a subject of a football team that I've seen many times before. I also appreciated the editing here. It was apparent the photographer had a lot of photos to choose from, and they did a good job editing those down.

Honorable Mention

*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Middle Eastern man immigrates to USA after marrying online girlfriend

Emily Mesner

I liked the idea of the story, and several of the photos were strong, emotional moments. In a competitive category, the editing was a little looser here and some technical details hurt it a bit. But the idea was interesting and deserved to be awarded.

## Photo Story

### Daily C - Photo Story

14 Entries

I would have liked to see how the Midland paper utilized their photos in print to see how many they used, how they played them for impact. They had great access in all three of their photo stories, showing the commitment to spend time with their subjects to get the shots they needed to convey the stories. Whereas as some other entries simply captured some pictures of a story and may have played them too small or too jumbled for impact, Midland's photographers told the story. I can't be certain what was staged in some of it, which made me a little uncomfortable in terms of relying on candid, organic photography to tell the story, but I trust that their access and the amount of time spent allowed them to get some photos that look so good they could have been staged. I generally give an advantage to print displays because the quality of the layout is a challenge that must be met compared to slideshows, but not enough of the print entries had the impact of unique subject matter, strong photos and strong layout.

First Place

*Midland Daily News*

Jarmon Family

Erin Kirkland

This photographer did good work in both entries, showing the ability to gain access and take advantage of the opportunities. Some great composition, including the photo of the swings that takes advantage of the natural light.

**Second Place** **Midland Daily News**

*Midland High marching band*

Brittney Lohmiller

*Again, photographer uses the access and captures high quality photos. A few in here I thought were composed too well and not candid enough for my taste, but the local high school band is a subject many community newspapers will encounter for potential photo packages and they won't achieve the quality of photos in this package.*

**Third Place** **Midland Daily News**

Lou E. Loon

Erin Kirkland

*Great access and some great photos — particularly those showing the view the mascot would see in the smiling faces of children at school and the cheering crowd at the ballpark.*

**Honorable Mention** **Petoskey News-Review**

Bees

Randy Goss

*The photographer captured some fine photos of a subject matter that can't be asked to pose. Nice close-up shots of a bee's life.*

**Daily D - Photo Story**

**6 Entries**

*Hate to say I'm not impressed with this category but maybe it needs better rules definitions. Either that, or I'm surprised more papers aren't doing photo packages.*

**First Place** **The Daily Globe**

*Scenes from Upper Peninsula track-and-field finals*

Pat Krause

*Far away the best of the entries due to showing emotions (of competition) and capturing images that aren't staged.*

**Second Place** **Greenville Daily News**

*Greenville officers participate in 'use of force' training to sharpen decision-making*

Cory Smith

**Third Place** **Greenville Daily News**

*Belding marching band places 5th at state finals and Tri County*

*Marching Band competes at Finals for 1st time*

Cory Smith

**Weekly/News Media A - Photo Story**

**2 Entries**

**First Place** **Bridge Magazine**

*Fireworks, parades, and a partisan divide that won't go away*

Brian Widdis, John Russell

*Strongest of two entries. Like the mix of event images with portraiture. Really enjoyed the barn setting of lower and upper levels. Did you follow these people around beyond when the portraits were made. That would be extra enjoyable to view.*

**Second Place** **Bridge Magazine**

*Trump inauguration in a divided Michigan*

Brian Widdis, John Russell, Pat Shellenbarger

*Edit was heavy on people watching TV election results/inauguration. I like what you guys are thinking. The Bridge's other entry was just stronger, IMO.*

**Weekly/News Media B - Photo Story**

**8 Entries**

**First Place** **Livonia Observer**

*Americans in our community*

Bill Bresler

**Second Place** **Grosse Pointe News**

*Walking with pride*

Renee Landuyt

**Third Place** **Leelanau Enterprise**

*Tart ride ends in, of course, pie*

Eric Carlson

**Honorable Mention** **Grosse Pointe News**

*Polar express*

Renee Landuyt

**Weekly/News Media C - Photo Story**

**7 Entries**

**First Place** **Tecumseh Herald**

*Pure Michigan 400*

Mickey Alvarado

*Great Photos Captured. Touches on the event very well.*

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

*Hitching Up*

Thomas Reznich

*Very good photos, great angles, displays the event well.*

**Third Place** **Tecumseh Herald**

*Pet Parade and Dog Daze fun fur all*

Mickey Alvarado

*Awesome actions shots!*

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

*Harry Potter Series*

Krista Tacey-Cater

*Love the top photo and hat photo. I wasn't sure if they went together though.*

**Weekly/News Media D - Photo Story**

**13 Entries**

**First Place** **The Boyne City Gazette**

*The Last River Draw*

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

*Love everything about this entry. The photos really say it all!*

**Second Place** **Charlevoix Courier**

*A walk in Stonehedge Gardens*

Lonnie Allen

*The composition and the photos really spoke to me on this one!*

**Third Place** **Oxford Leader**

*Spring was in the fair!*

C.J. Carnacchio

*Love the composition on how the photos are laid out, it really takes your eyes from photo to photo. Very clever headline, too!*

**Honorable Mention** **Charlevoix Courier**

*Honor and Remembrance*

Lonnie Allen

*Great photos and commemorative effort by the town!*

**Special Section**

**Daily A - Special Section**

**6 Entries**

**First Place** **Kalamazoo Gazette**

*The Kalamazoo Shooting*

Staff

*FABULOUS special section. Each and every photo is played very well. The designer(s) did an absolutely perfect job of layout, with color, white space, headlines, etc.*

**Second Place** **Kalamazoo Gazette**

*Kalamazoo bike crash: One year later*

Staff

*Fantastic section, very close to first place. Very well done, capturing a lot of different emotions. Layout is terrific.*

**Third Place** **Detroit Free Press**

*Our children: Searching for solutions*  
Staff

*From the front page on, a very solid special section. Obviously a lot of teamwork went into this one.*

**Honorable Mention** **Detroit Free Press**

*Detroit '67: 50 years*  
Staff

**Daily B - Special Section**

**5 Entries**

**First Place** **The Monroe News**

*Monroe Magazine Summer*  
Jill Nevels-Haun, Holly Laginess, Tom Hawley, Danielle Portteus, Pam Meade  
*Beautifully laid out magazine. Vibrant photos played particularly well. Absolutely loaded with info.*

**Second Place** **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Momentum*  
Record-Eagle staff  
*The kind of section you keep on a coffee table for an entire month. Good reading, good layout, well done.*

**Third Place** **Daily Telegram**

*2016 Inside the Locker Room High School Football Preview*  
Staff  
*As someone who has been in the industry more than 30 years, I think this is the best high school football section I have ever seen.*

**Honorable Mention** **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

*Grand Traverse Scene*  
Record-Eagle staff

**Daily C - Special Section**

**5 Entries**

**First Place** **The Daily News, Iron Mountain**

*Pine Mountain Ski Tournament*  
Staff  
*Keep up the excellent work*

**Second Place** **The Mining Journal**

*U.P. Brewmasters*  
Selena Hautamaki

**Third Place** **The Mining Journal**

*Superiorland Magazine*  
Selena Hautamaki

**Honorable Mention** **The Mining Journal**

*Christmas letters and Christmas Memories*  
Selena Hautamaki

**Daily D - Special Section**

**11 Entries**

**First Place** **Sturgis Journal**

*Neighbors Entry*  
Journal Staff  
*Great idea. Keep up the excellent work.*

**Second Place** **Niles Daily Star**

*Horizons 2017*  
Ambrosia Neldon, Scott Novak, Kelsey Hammon, Ted Yoakum, Joe Kuharic  
*Excellent idea, layout and content. Congrats and keep up the excellent work.*

**Third Place** **Huron Daily Tribune**

*Thumb Traveler*  
Kate Hessling, Cindy Pettinger, Karen Flynn, Alissa Klee  
*I'm ready to travel there and use this guide. Excellent work*

**Honorable Mention** **The Daily Globe**

*Honoring our veterans*  
Staff

*Wished you had reached out to find any Rosie the Riveter's. Nice layout to honor your veterans.*

**Weekly/News Media A - Special Section**

**2 Entries**

**First Place** **Tri-County Citizen**

*Saginaw County Fair section*  
Staff  
*This section is absolutely PACKED with photos, information, advertising, etc. Excellent use of full color throughout.*

**Second Place** **Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle**

*Loved ones explain the thin line between helping and hurting addicts*  
Tiffany Esshaki, Kayla Dimick  
*Nice idea and coverage of an important yet delicate topic. Well done.*

**Weekly/News Media B - Special Section**

**7 Entries**

**First Place** **Leelanau Enterprise**

*Memorial Day 2017 Issue*  
Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Patti Brandt Burgess, Jay Bushen  
*Good concept for a section that everyone can do, telling stories of local veterans.*

**Second Place** **Tri-County Times**

*Our Community*  
Editorial Staff, Sales Staff, Composition Staff  
*In some spots the writing isn't great, but the concept of looking back is very entertaining, even the run-down of what businesses used to be located in certain spots. I can see why the community and advertisers would have responded to it.*

**Third Place** **Leelanau Enterprise**

*Diversions, August 18 Edition*  
Alan Campbell, Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Patti Brandt Burgess  
*A nice, useful guide to things to do in Michigan.*

**Weekly/News Media C - Special Section**

**16 Entries**

*Lots of great special sections to choose from. All the entries from the Tecumseh Herald were just so well-done!*

**First Place** **Tecumseh Herald**

*2016 Fall Homefront*  
Homefront Staff  
*GREAT job on everything, from content to layout to photos! Nicely written articles, almost all the ad content seemed to be local. This one was above the rest in this category. Good job!*

**Second Place** **The County Press, Lapeer**

*Farm to Table Summer 2017*  
Staff  
*Really great special section! Great intro from the publisher! Love this!*

**Third Place** **Tecumseh Herald**

*2017 Beer & Wine Guide*  
Cory Mathis, Koda Woodward  
*I loved this one because it was visually appealing. The photos, the info graphics, the articles, everything really just drew me in!*

**Honorable Mention** **The Record**

*2017 Community Guide*  
Lyn Baxter, Christopher Rose, Lawrence Sobczak, Jan Wyllie  
*Very well organized. Liked the photos. This one would have done better, but there were just so many stand-out entries in this category!*

## Weekly/News Media D - Special Section

5 Entries

### First Place

*The Advance*

*The 6th Annual Blissfield Bluegrass on the River*

Marcia Loader, Melissa Burnor

*I placed this one first because of content and local ads.*

### Second Place

*Michigan Lawyers Weekly*

*2017 Michigan's Largest Law Firms*

Greg Wiegand

*This one was a very close 2nd. Visually very nice and I can see that it'd be extremely useful to those in the legal field.*

### Third Place

*The Boyne City Gazette*

*Fall Sports*

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

*Very good local fall sports preview.*

## Sports Feature

### Daily A - Sports Feature

14 Entries

#### First Place

*Lansing State Journal*

*Finding Charles Rogers*

Cody Tucker

*Great writing born of terrific reporting. This writer doesn't try to tie a pretty bow on the ribbon of this man's life. He asks us to take a journey through the bitter waste of greatness.*

#### Second Place

*Lansing State Journal*

*Boo Boo Thompson killed a man; now the former MSU lineman is looking for forgiveness*

Cody Tucker

*A terrific exploration into the mind of a man. The writer lets the story tell itself, resisting the urge to use inflated or judgmental language.*

#### Third Place

*Grand Rapids Press*

*Michigan players band together after plane accident left them with a choice*

Brendan Quinn

*This writer gave us a hint of the fear and worry a person — or, in this case, a team — goes through when facing that next flight after the one that went bad.*

#### Honorable Mention

*Grand Rapids Press*

*When Moe Wagner met Michigan: How chance, a film clip and an email changed everything*

Brendan Quinn

### Daily B - Sports Feature

26 Entries

#### First Place

*Traverse City Record-Eagle*

*Through the Shadow of Death: Bay Reps bond, battle through loss of mothers, fathers*

Brett Sommers

*It's an athletes overcome adversity story without the clichés. I love the restraint the writer shows in slowly unveiling more twists to the sorrow.*

#### Second Place

*Traverse City Record-Eagle*

*FEAR THE BEARD: Ball known for beard, but it masks an effective, versatile pitcher*

James Cook

*Over and over, this writer's command of the language makes me chuckle without being sappy. Wonderful way to take an obvious story and make it special.*

#### Third Place

*Traverse City Record-Eagle*

*Loud and proud: Sherwin family's 3 sons keep athletic legacy going*

Brett Sommers

*Here's what sports writing can do: take the everyday and make it alive and interesting. Three boys in the same household? No big deal. "The shrill cries*

*of three infants became the stampeding feet of young men rivaling the size of juvenile elephants." I want to read more.*

#### Honorable Mention

*The Monroe News*

*Living his dream*

Ryan Loren

### Daily C - Sports Feature

27 Entries

#### First Place

*Petoskey News-Review*

*Chasing miracles*

James Gensterblum

*I like the lead anecdote, which comes around again at the end, as it should. I like how sport weaves through all the other stuff going on in his life. I like a lot about this story.*

#### Second Place

*Midland Daily News*

*Moise Guerrier goes from Haitian orphan to Dow star running back*

Fred Kelly

*Like the best of sports stories, this one describes what happens beyond the sidelines with the long journey of a boy escaping a litany of woes.*

#### Third Place

*Petoskey News-Review*

*Manager Brody Belford*

James Gensterblum

*This story zigs. Rather than the classic story of overcoming obstacles, this is a celebration of a young man regardless of disabilities.*

### Daily D - Sports Feature

15 Entries

#### First Place

*The Pioneer*

*Called to officiate*

John Raffel

*Very good enterprise here. It's a story unlike any of the other entries. The lede pulls me in, and the writer captures the subject well.*

#### Second Place

*Huron Daily Tribune*

*Don't count me out*

Paul P. Adams

*Overcoming adversity is a central theme in athletics. This story takes me there for two men dealing with personal grief while leading a team.*

#### Third Place

*Huron Daily Tribune*

*Driven*

Paul P. Adams

*Historic is a term often misused, but this writer makes a good case for its use. The quotes take me to the record race, and the rest of the story fills out an outstanding resume.*

### Weekly/News Media A - Sports Feature

3 Entries

*All three entries were excellent. Very little separated the first two.*

#### First Place

*Grand Valley Advance*

*Unity Christian senior DJ Sayumwe has traveled a long road to soccer success*

Greg Chrapek

*Well-written, a very complete and interesting picture of his struggle for success.*

#### Second Place

*Grand Valley Advance*

*Two diligent rehab efforts takes Jenison senior from "Not again?" to "Nott again!"*

Don VanderVeen

*Writer obtained great quotes. The story had a nice flow.*

#### Third Place

*Northeast Advance*

*Opposing teams seeing double when going up against Rockford girls soccer team*

Greg Chrapek

*Good work. Headline excellent and story developed the twins angle well.*

**Weekly/News Media B - Sports Feature****9 Entries***Strong entries throughout***First Place****Livonia Observer***Toughest 6 minutes in sports*

Timothy Smith

*Well written; I found it very interesting and enlightening on the sport of wrestling, and what goes in to being a wrestler.***Second Place****Livonia Observer***No pain, no gain*

Timothy Smith

*Writer did a good job of telling what goes into being a topflight athlete.***Third Place****Leelanau Enterprise***Peterson puts stop to peninsula's dunk drought*

Jay Bushen

*Writer told the story in an interesting way.***Honorable Mention****Tri-County Times***Everyone learns a lesson when Johnny Irwin takes his shot*

David Troppens

**Weekly/News Media C - Sports Feature****19 Entries***Four great articles set themselves as the best of this class. The winner was solid but the other articles were not too far behind. Great features that caught the reader's attention from the start.***First Place****White Lake Beacon***Vikings' bond sparks Team to repeat regional*

Andy Roberts

*Reporter did a nice job of capturing the emotions and what a wild ride this group of girls had together. Great job of capturing what took place in the regional race. Just a well written story. Great job of capturing reader's attention from the lead, through the body of the story and right to the end.***Second Place****Iron County Reporter***Kinner feature*

Jerry DeRoche

*Solid lead for this story. Love how subject hated school and her escape route led to her overall change. Sometimes this type of story falls through the cracks and is never written. Glad this writer shared this with their readers. Good job!***Third Place****Allegan County News***Overcoming adversity: Allegans Smith wins state swim title day after brother is hit by car*

Jason Wesseldyk

*Very good story. Reporter does a nice job taking reader into the athlete's mind dealing with the balance of high-level sport and scary family incident. Overall a good story.***Honorable Mention****Gaylord Herald Times***Making dad proud*

Brandon Folsom

*Did a nice job weaving dad's situation into the article. Overall good job.***Weekly/News Media D - Sports Feature****7 Entries****First Place****State Line Observer***Greg Lamley: A life spent with athletics*

David Green

*A very complete profile of a man who dedicated his life to kids and athletics. Well done.***Second Place****State Line Observer***Josh Baumgartner completes first triathlon*

David Green

*Good job of telling what it takes to become a triathlete.***Third Place****Charlevoix Courier***Charlevoix grad makes the grade*

Evan Sasiela

*Story has a good flow. I found it an interesting read.***Honorable Mention****Cass City Chronicle***Markel among coaches hall of fame inductees*

Tom Montgomery

**Sports Photo****Daily A - Sports Photo****11 Entries***Great category with some exceptional photos.***First Place****Grand Rapids Press***Helms collision*

Mike Mulholland

**Second Place****Flint Journal***That's gotta hurt*

Jake May

**Third Place****Grand Rapids Press***Forest Hills Central beats Forest Hills Northern 25-0*

Neil Blake

**Honorable Mention****Kalamazoo Gazette***33 photos of 2016 from Kalamazoo Gazette photographers*

Bryan Bennett

**Daily B - Sports Photo****33 Entries****First Place****The Ann Arbor News***Rodeo Flight*

Hunter Dyke

*Tough category with great entries, but this moment was captured to perfection.***Second Place****Traverse City Record-Eagle***Fight for possession*

Tessa Lighty

*Great action.***Third Place****Daily Telegram***Hudson baseball downs Addison to win district title*

Mike Dickie

*Great still of a play at the plate.***Honorable Mention****Traverse City Record-Eagle***Unsuccessful stop*

Jan-Michael Stump

*Great expression.***Daily C - Sports Photo****22 Entries***Four or five other good photos that could have been honorable mention as well. While I know a newspaper reflects the joy of a community with celebration photos, they are rarely unique. Squeezing off 100 shots of players piling up in the infield or on the basketball court after a game does not demonstrate the same kind of skill and eye associated with capturing the top two photos on my list.***First Place****Herald-Palladium***Hard Hit*

Don Campbell

*In a category with too many cliché yet obligatory celebration shots, the best sports photography captures the split second of drama that is no longer present fractions of a second sooner or later. This photo tops the list in demonstrating the photographer's skill matched with the fortune of being in the right place at the right time. While the "all-important" ball is partially obscured, it is visible enough for readers to know the story about happened on this play.*

**Second Place** *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**Off to the wrong start*

Gillis Benedict

*The photographer did a great job seeing through the sea of runners to capture the desperation of this young athlete. It shows a great eye to see the detail and the better picture instead of the typical pack of runners at a starting line.***Third Place** *Midland Daily News**Baseball dive*

Brittney Lohmiller

*Along with Football Flip, two fine entries from this newspaper. I liked the crop giving some room to the photo.***Honorable Mention** *Grand Haven Tribune**MCC touchdown*

Duncan MacLean

*A fine photo capturing the moment when the running back breaks the plane of the goal line.***Daily D - Sports Photo**

14 Entries

**First Place** *Greenville Daily News**An honorable victory*

Cory Smith

**Second Place** *Huron Daily Tribune**Hurdlers*

Paul P. Adams

**Third Place** *Greenville Daily News**2 times a state champ*

Ryan Schlebuber

**Honorable Mention** *Huron Daily Tribune**Long Jumper*

Paul P. Adams

**Weekly/News Media A - Sports Photo**

2 Entries

**First Place** *Tri-County Citizen**Jason Dinninger photo*

Keith Salisbury

*There were only two entries in this category. The rainy-night image had more interest to me as a judge than the action photo. Left wondering where all the other sports images are from large weeklies in Michigan.***Second Place** *Tri-County Citizen**Johnny Wesolek photo*

Keith Salisbury

*Don't really have much to note on this. Again, was expecting more entries for large weeklies.***Weekly/News Media B - Sports Photo**

18 Entries

*This was an overall strong category with several top-ranked entries competing for placement. Always tough to decide between strong action images and equally stronger — or stronger — reaction images. Missouri made that a non-issue by adding a feature sports category a few years ago. Top finishers all to be congratulated.***First Place** *Leelanau Enterprise**Taking Charge*

Jay Bushen

*Image "jumped" out at me judging and, although there are numerous strong images in this category, this one stood out. Well framed and great job capturing such a celebratory moment. Congratulations.***Second Place***Leelanau Enterprise**Low Score, Low Five*

Jay Bushen

*This is well composed and really draws your readers into that hallway and captures the support she's receiving from these school kids. Really enjoyed viewing this image.***Third Place** *Leelanau Enterprise**Sweet Revenge*

Jay Bushen

*Another strong entry which could have been a winner. Top 3 entries all have that raw emotion we love to see in sports. Tough to finish 3rd but considering the top 2 entries — not a bad showing in this division.***Honorable Mention** *Spinal Column Newsweekly**Out of bounds touchdown*

Jerry Rea

*Great angle on the play (side judge's view basically). Shows he missed the call. Good job capturing the image which tells a story clearly.***Weekly/News Media C - Sports Photo**

19 Entries

**First Place** *Tecumseh Herald**Tyler Fugate on bars*

Mickey Alvarado

**Second Place** *The Tri-City Times**Raiders split doubleheader - Almont catcher Mitch Proper*

Kevin Kissane

**Third Place** *Oceana's Herald-Journal**14 midair kick*

Andy Roberts

**Honorable Mention** *Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News**CAPITALIZING ON A THROW-IN*

Thomas Reznich

**Weekly/News Media D - Sports Photo**

13 Entries

**First Place** *Edwardsburg Argus**Edwardsburg wins district crown*

Timothy Ritter, Scott Novak

**Second Place** *Oxford Leader**Sandblasted!*

C.J. Carnacchio

**Third Place** *State Line Observer**Rebound*

David Green

**Honorable Mention** *The Boyne City Gazette**Down for the Count*

Christopher Faulknor

**Daily A - Sports Writing**

4 Entries

**First Place** *Grand Rapids Press**Grand Rapids Catholic Central gets 10 sacks, one big play on offense to win Division 4 title*

Steve Kaminski

*Nice game story. Good use of narrative device: "Just one play."***Second Place** *Flint Journal**Claressa Shields delivers fourth-round TKO to win NABF title in Detroit*

Eric Woodyard

*Nicely captured the scene at a different kind of sporting event.*

**Third Place****Grand Rapids Press**

Hudsonville softball coach Tom Vrugink earns 1,000th career victory

Steve Kaminski

Sweet tribute to a longtime softball coach. Good use of quotes to show what he means to his players.

**Honorable Mention****Grand Rapids Press**

Grattan Raceway owner E.J. Faasen, founder of 'West Michigan's best kept secret,' dies at 89

Steve Kaminski

Interesting obit for an entrepreneur whose contribution is largely unrecognized.

**Daily B - Sports Writing****22 Entries**

Category was rich with sports features. Well-crafted deadline gamers rose to the top.

**First Place****The Monroe News**

Next Stop, Ford Field

Niles Kruger

Great game piece. Compelling story line, good use of quotes and well-edited.

**Second Place****The Monroe News**

Levicki carries load

Niles Kruger

This one was a very close second. Great game story! Goes beyond the play

**Third Place****Muskegon Chronicle**

Freshman pitcher helps Holton pull off stunner against top-ranked Coleman in softball quarterfinals

Mark Opfermann

This one rose to the top of a second tier of entries. Good deadline gamer.

Well sourced and interesting recounting of game strategy.

**Honorable Mention****Holland Sentinel**

Alone at the top

Dan D'Addona

This is a great read. Led the pack of a group of reports that offered the classic storyline of overcoming obstacles to reach heights of accomplishment. Probably would have better fit in the feature category, but was too good to leave out of the mentions.

**Daily C - Sports Writing****17 Entries****First Place****Ludington Daily News**

Laman lifts Ludington in OT

Dave Bossick

Unlikely hero in a big comeback win. The writer tells the story well.

**Second Place****Ludington Daily News**

mission accomplished

Dave Bossick

In track and field, it's much harder to exploit play action to tell a compelling story. The writer used the success of a single competitor to relate a nice account of the event.

**Third Place****Petoskey News-Review**

Hockey

Drew Kochanny

Sometimes the story behind the game is more important. This piece does a good job of blending game action with compelling background. Sports can pull communities together.

**Honorable Mention****Petoskey News-Review**

Rayders outlast Ramblers

James Gensterblum

Nice account of a rivalry game and a goal achieved.

**Daily D - Sports Writing****12 Entries**

The four winning entries were exceptional. Many of the entries overused long quotations when paraphrasing would have been clearer and helped the flow of the story. I read through one piece twice unsuccessfully looking for a final score. A few pieces suffered from poor editing, and others assumed the reader knew arcane (to me, at least) terms. The trick is to write so casual readers can understand while giving your serious readers enough to keep them interested.

**First Place****Sturgis Journal**

Brandon Sports Writing Entry

Brandon Watson

Packed with game action and background. Good sourcing. Good story-telling and well-edited.

**Second Place****Greenville Daily News**

Ugly tie advantage: Tri County avenges last years district loss

Ryan Schlehuber

Ugly tie was a nice device used to tell a compelling story. Background and game action provided drama. Skillfully told on deadline.

**Third Place****Huron Daily Tribune**

Eagles Rise

Seth Stapleton

Crisp writing. Good narrative. Good use of quotes.

**Honorable Mention****Greenville Daily News**

Counting on new pitching strategies: MHSAA's new pitch count rule has interesting affect on pitchers mindset on the mound

Ryan Schlehuber

This was a well done, comprehensive explanation of the new pitching rule.

The writer went the extra mile to avoid a boring recitation. The three winning entries, however, were deadline game stories, which I thought better fit the description of the category.

**Weekly/News Media B - Sports Writing****10 Entries**

Overall, these reports served readers well. The winners stand out because of bright writing, good narratives and judicious use of quotes.

**First Place****Leelanau Enterprise**

Lakers run past Pine River, head to Ford Field

Jay Bushen

Great lede and narrative. The writer nicely acknowledged the role of the weather in the game and the way the teams adjusted -- or didn't -- to that factor. Very nicely told game story. This one is definitely the best in class.

**Second Place****Leelanau Enterprise**

Hometown hero helps Team USA rally past Netherlands

Jay Bushen

Another well-crafted report, this one on a larger stage. Good game action, background and hometown relevance. Well edited and great presentation.

**Third Place****Tri-County Times**

LF senior dominates field en route to another state championship

David Troppens

This is the best effort by this reporter. There's a story-teller in there struggling to break out. Write tighter and choose the best narrative. In this piece, the writer scored. Good flow, good quotes and nice ending.

**Weekly/News Media C - Sports Writing****12 Entries****First Place****White Lake Beacon**

Rockets make history

Andy Roberts

Written with authority with great context and game action.

**Second Place****Gaylord Herald Times**

He's back

Brandon Folsom

Fun story about a surprisingly competitive community event. Rock on!



**Third Place** **Allegan County News**

*Making a name for herself: Plainwell grad Comerford beats defending Olympic champ*

Jason Wesseldyk

*Writer puts the race in context in the first two paragraphs. Well-crafted and sourced.*

**Honorable Mention** **Tecumseh Herald**

*Marten wins back-to-back state titles*

Mickey Alvarado

*Good report on hometown grappler's success.*

**Weekly/News Media D - Sports Writing**

5 Entries

**First Place** **Charlevoix Courier**

*Tough Enough: Rayders outlast Ramblers in rivalry thriller, 22-14*

James Gensterblum

*Big game with good coverage. The writer gave up on drama in the first paragraph, though. Let your reader hang for a couple of paragraphs while you set up the nut: a win! Overall, though, best of class.*

**Second Place** **State Line Observer**

*Bulldogs hang on for 28-24 TCC win*

David Green

*Nice set-up with the lede. Exhaustive game action sometimes gets in the way of the bigger story of the game.*

**Third Place** **State Line Observer**

*Bulldogs end Clinton grid winning streak*

David Green

*Good game action story. As with the second-place entry, I would like to see more of the story behind the game action. Who stepped up? What made the game special? Part of that is in this piece, but the writer doesn't capitalize on it.*

**Daily A - Spot News Story**

5 Entries

*Michigan readers clearly benefit from a media landscape that is capable of handling major breaking news stories. These entries show that local reporters excel at providing detailed, up-to-the-minute coverage of events that concern their communities.*

**First Place** **Grand Rapids Press**

*18-year-old shot by Grand Rapids police during 'firefight'*

Justin Hicks, Cory Morse

*Strong on-the-scene reporting provides a clear picture of the aftermath of a police "firefight." But the photos bring us there. Especially powerful is the photo of the mother of the deceased trying to cross the crime scene tape.*

**Second Place** **Flint Journal**

*Flint Bishop airport stabbing*

Dominic Adams, Ron Fonger, Oona Goodin-Smith

*It takes local reporters to dig into the lives of local people, even when the story is national. As news of the attack spread, Flint reporters had a hand up in telling the victim's story and the perpetrators. The Journal's reporting showed no bias for what was known at the time. The unknowns were also clearly presented.*

**Third Place** **Detroit Free Press**

*Death of Mike Ilitch*

Detroit Free Press Staff

*The Free Press drew on extensive background information and sourcing to efficiently provide a detailed portrait of a local celebrity. Rich in anecdote and insider perspective.*

**Honorable Mention** **Kalamazoo Gazette**

*Fatal fire at senior apartments*

Mark Bugnaski, John Tunison, Brad Devereaux

*A strong photo element is the backbone of this story. Reporters did their part to portray the disaster by allowing its victims to narrate at some length their experiences.*

**Daily B - Spot News Story**

24 Entries

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

*Police looking for missing 9-year-old boy from Hillsdale*

Matt Durr, Danielle Salisbury

*Excellent work. Good call to go find the house.*

**Second Place** **Saginaw News**

*Midland people cope with flooding as they watch possessions float away*

Michael Kransz

*Love the interviews. Nothing beats legwork.*

**Third Place** **The Monroe News**

*"God is bigger than a fire"*

Danielle Porteus

*Well done.*

**Honorable Mention** **Muskegon Chronicle**

*Police Officer Dies In Crash*

Staff

*Good job.*

**Daily C - Spot News Story**

25 Entries

**First Place** **Herald-Palladium**

*Palisades to close in 2018*

Andrew Lersten, Tony Wittkowski, Julie Swidwa, Jim Dalgleish

*I was very impressed with the amount of information presented in various formats and stories. This will clearly have a big impact on the community, whether citizens wanted it to close or remain open, and this package illustrates that impact from every angle. As someone outside Michigan, I was able to understand the importance of the situation, along with the history. Very interesting.*

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

*Storm Coverage*

Staff

*This was some great storm coverage, offering information from those affected along with information for those affected. Good commitment to continued coverage - I thought the article about chainsaw sales was a unique idea to add to aftermath coverage, and the siren article helped answer a question I'm sure many residents had.*

**Third Place** **Grand Haven Tribune**

*Duck poachers*

Becky Vargo

*Kudos for always being ready to stumble upon a news story at any time. Building trust with local sources is invaluable in situations like this.*

**Honorable Mention** **The Argus-Press**

*Lawson, attorney sent to jail in raucous scene*

Joey Oliver

*News staffs don't always make time for run of the mill court hearings, but this story is a great example of why it can be worthwhile to spend time sitting in court. This article has a good mix of background information for those unfamiliar with Lawson along with new information gained at the hearing. Great job.*

**Daily D - Spot News Story**

10 Entries

**First Place** **Niles Daily Star**

*"CO leak claims life of 13-year-old Niles boy," "Witnesses recount how tragedy unfolded"*

Kelsey Hammon, Ambrosia Neldon

*This showed great reporting from beginning to end. It starts with information from the scene and continues with multiple sources, including the school. This is a good example of thorough reporting with multiple sources plus research into safe CO levels. I also liked the witnesses sidebar - it gave even more detail that I'm sure the community wanted to know.*

**Second Place Greenville Daily News**

*6 fire departments called to extinguish Grattan Township house fire*  
Cory Smith

*I liked this entry because it went beyond "on the scene" fire reporting by including information about the family, the firefighters helping with the family's belongings, why the fire was difficult to handle, etc. I liked the lead, as it illustrates just how quickly a house fire can start sometimes. In addition to the article, this included great photos that show both the scene and the emotion.*

**Third Place Greenville Daily News**

*Tornado rips through Orleans Township/Tornado threat clears out festival*

Emilee Nielsen, Cory Smith

*I also liked this lead because it's more interesting than the norm: "A tornado struck a city Monday." It adds that human element to the story. The reporters did a good job of talking to multiple witnesses/victims to give a good picture of how the storm affected different areas of town. The event sidebar adds even another element about how the storm affected yet another area but in a different way.*

**Honorable Mention Niles Daily Star**

*March madness*

Kelsey Hammon

*I like the full coverage of this event with the main story and power outage sidebar, giving multiple angles to a storm event. The reporters included multiple important sources that community members need information from, along with witnesses/victims to give firsthand accounts of what the storm was like.*

**Weekly/News Media A - Spot News Story**

17 Entries

**First Place Bridge Magazine**

*One envelope holds her fate. Is she getting deported today?*

Chastity Pratt-Dawsey

*What a tragic real-life example of what can go wrong in the "blanket" deportation of people not born in this county. Yes, she committed a crime when she was young, but was this the fate she deserved? It is a well-written, informative and easy to follow story about a young lady with a husband and child being sent "back" to a country she has never called home to live with an uncle she's never met. The supporting video was truly heart-breaking! The writer did a great job telling the story.*

**Second Place Bridge Magazine**

*Kalkaska dueling protests*

Ron French

*Love the opening sentence! I feel that the town of Kalkaska is a fairly good representation of what is going on nationally at this point in time. Seems like lots of people "yell" across at each other, but a few take time to discuss things rationally. Very timely article and great job reporting on local politics!*

**Third Place Bridge Magazine**

*Legionnaire's outbreak leads to manslaughter charges*

Bridge Staff

*This story was brief, but explained the reasoning behind the manslaughter charges for the public health chief and 4 others in Flint Michigan for the water contamination. It was well written and easy to follow, everything a spot news story NEEDS to be.*

**Honorable Mention Bridge Magazine**

*Election coverage*

Mike Wilkinson, Nancy Derringer, Ron French

*Great job explaining why and how the election polling was so off in Michigan. Very well written.*

**Weekly/News Media B - Spot News Story**

17 Entries

**First Place Tri-County Times**

*The Skinner situation*

Hannah Ball

*Strong reporting of all the incidents Mr. Skinner was involved in. Well-rounded piece leaving me fully informed.*

**Second Place The Citizen, Ortonville**

*Women's march*

Susan Bromley

*Great job talking to so many different marchers. Gave a wide array of opinions and goals for participation.*

**Third Place Leelanau Enterprise**

*Doors locked in Empire*

Patti Brandt Burgess

*Great interview that captured the fear involved in the incident. well balanced with the crime reporting.*

**Honorable Mention Leelanau Enterprise**

*Centennial farm owners helpless while fire destroys two barns*

Alan Campbell

*Good on the reporter to follow instincts. Came out with a great piece.*

**Weekly/News Media C - Spot News Story**

14 Entries

**First Place Gaylord Herald Times**

*Sevenski trial*

William T. Perkins

**Second Place Gaylord Herald Times**

*Search continues for missing fisherman*

Arielle Breen

**Third Place The Tri-City Times**

*What happens in the Fire hall*

Tom Wearing

**Honorable Mention Belleville-Area Independent**

*Mark Germano arraigned for murder in Sunday shooting*

Rosemary Otzman

**Weekly/News Media D - Spot News Story**

7 Entries

**First Place The Boyne City Gazette**

*Paint Protest Lands Liquor Store Owner in County Jail*

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

**Second Place The Boyne City Gazette**

*Meeting of Concerned Citizens Turns Ugly When Reporter Refuses to Leave*

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

**Third Place Cass City Chronicle**

*Suspect in dog abuse case on parole for second degree murder*

Tom Montgomery

**Honorable Mention Cass City Chronicle**

*Deadly drug*

Tom Montgomery

**Best Headline**

**Open Class - Best Headline**

18 Entries

**First Place Bridge Magazine**

*We hope you enjoyed your stay at the county jail. Here's your bill*

David Zeman

**Second Place Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*Heroin, horse tranquilizers and heartbreak: How addiction killed 51 in Jackson County last year*

Danielle Salisbury

**Third Place Grand Rapids Press**

*Generating Controversy: Balancing the needs of a community Wind energy supporters, detractors hold strong opinions*

Katie Howland

## Honorable Mention

**Muskegon Chronicle**

*Day is done for Cena: Military veteran and one man's best friend*

Alison Morin

## Best Multimedia

### Open Class - Best Multimedia

28 Entries

#### First Place

**Grand Rapids Press**

*A Century of Arcade: Inside Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum Staff*

*Absolutely outstanding work. Really tells the story. No jumping from scene to scene. Very well done.*

#### Second Place

**Greenville Daily News**

*Belding percussionists ready for WGI World Championship in Ohio Cory Smith*

*Great work which obviously took a lot of time and dedication. Would have been easy to record 2 or 3 scenes, but you did a TON of them. Nice work*

#### Third Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*Message in a bottle: A Flint video story*

Al Lilly

*A little long, but still very well done. Nice steady camerawork.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Saginaw News**

*Historic pipe organ completes Cathedral's \$4.7 million makeover*

Jeff Schrier

## Best Photo

### Open Class - Best Photo

23 Entries

*Rodeo Flight by Ann Arbor News should also receive an HONORABLE MENTION if possible and allowed. This cowboy is in a world of hurt if he keeps getting his picture made in situations like this. Excellent image in a strong field of finalists and your pizza*

#### First Place

**Midland Daily News**

*Anniversary*

Erin Kirkland

*A very special moment. Loved this in the feature category and love it as the open image winner. What a treat to view this image.*

#### Second Place

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Pizza Break*

Hunter Dyke

*Noted while viewing that you know your firemen are having a long day when they're catching a snack while the big guns are still flowing water. Serve and protect captured nicely in this news setting with the human moment of needing a bite to sustain them. Nicely done.*

#### Third Place

**Midland Daily News**

*Swinging*

Erin Kirkland

*Noted on first viewing the dirty feet of summer. Great texture. Great light. Wonderful composition.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Jackson Citizen Patriot**

*The wait is a killer*

J. Scott Park

*The agony of young people at the most important moments of their young competitive lives. Wonderful image. Moments are our friends. Well done.*

## Best Website

### Open Class - Best Website

15 Entries

#### First Place

**Grand Rapids Press**

*Website for The Grand Rapids Press*

Staff

*Nice above-the-fold ad display, ability to highlight a few headlines before scroll. On stories, in Chrome, right rail overlapped some content, but problem disappeared in Explorer. I liked the photo gallery displays. Good display of related links and share buttons on stories. Highly commented stories nicely featured.*

#### Second Place

**Lansing State Journal**

*Lansing State Journal / lsj.com*

Staff

*The corporate layout works well to highlight a good mix of local/national news. I didn't like the blue/red combo.*

#### Third Place

**Holland Sentinel**

*Holland Sentinel*

Sarah Leach, Brian Vernellis, Jason Barczy

*Lots of headlines above the scroll, muted color story helped ads catch my eye. Nice hierarchy helped balance new stories and major stories.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

*Michigan Lawyers Weekly Website*

Thomas Franz

*Packed with headlines, nice links to special features, but overuse of stock images on photo-heavy design.*

## Best Writing

### Open Class - Best Writing

19 Entries

#### First Place

**Detroit Free Press**

*Mitch Albom Shares ... Chika's Story*

Mitch Albom

*I didn't want to finish this story. Mr. Albom's retelling had me wanting to believe that wherever the story ended, it included Chika living happy and healthy; that a media breakthrough allowed her cancer to be treated and she was able to live happily ever after. Even though I knew that wasn't the end result of Mr. Albom's narrative, I couldn't not finish learning Chika's story, as it's retelling is as beautiful and tragic as anything I've ever had the pleasure of reading.*

#### Second Place

**Bridge Magazine**

*He became famous defending "Algiers Motel" cops. Deal with it.*

Joel Kurth

*When I first began reading this story, I wanted to dislike Mr. Lippitt. The author's portrayal of this lawyer who has brought frustration to so many families through the years made his face very punchable. However, the tone, depth and quality of the interview helped me realize that Mr. Lippitt's story is worth hearing, even if it might leave you feeling frustrated at him and the outcome.*

#### Third Place

**The Ann Arbor News**

*Fatally shot 19-year-old remembered as 'amazing dad' stolen from daughter*

Darcie Moran

*No matter what society may say about the young man, Ms. Moran's tale of how his death affected the loved ones left behind perfectly illustrates that a story can be told about everyone. Ms. Moran does a fantastic job of capturing the love Brandon's family feels for him, despite the faults that led to tragedy.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Bridge Magazine**

*An unwanted touch, two lives in freefall*

Laura Berman

*An extremely engaging narrative with fleshed out characters. This piece wouldn't seem out of place as a script pitch for an episode of a television drama.*

## Most Innovative Story Telling

### Open Class - Most Innovative Story Telling

#### 12 Entries

*These entries included video, audio, a cooperating public radio station, lots of photos and graphics to tell their stories.*

#### First Place Grand Rapids Press

*Was anyone listening?: MSU doctors alleged sexual assault victims talked for 20 years*

Scott Levin

*Well-organized, well-written and well-researched report that became international news about the molestation of female athletes by a renowned Michigan physician. Good graphics helped, as did summary of complaints against him.*

#### Second Place The Ann Arbor News

*Ann Arbors tallest building*  
Staff

*A nostalgic review of the history of Ann Arbor's tallest building, using old news clippings and photos to trace the construction, various remodeling phases and its evolving from student housing to condos, all published in a vertical manner.*

#### Third Place The Ann Arbor News

*Hate Crimes*

John Counts

*John Counts did an exhaustive study of hate crimes in the Ann Arbor area, showing some don't get prosecuted, largely due to a vague state law. Good use of graphics.*

#### Honorable Mention Tri-County Times

*When Patriotism meets persistence*

Tim Jagielo

*An interesting feature about the determination of a woman to find relatives of a World War II POW who received a Purple Heart. She used numerous sources of public records to locate a lone relative in another state.*

## Public Notice Journalism Award

### Open Class - Public Notice Journalism Award

#### 1 Entries

*Excellent work in providing the public critical information that effects their water systems.*

#### First Place Grand Rapids Press

*Nestle bottled water plant upgrade driving more groundwater extraction*

Garret Ellison

## Public Service Award

### Open Class - Public Service Award

#### 8 Entries

#### First Place Jackson Citizen Patriot

*Heroin, horse tranquilizers and heartbreak: How addiction killed 51 in Jackson County last year*

Danielle Salisbury, Emily Mesner, Nathan Clark

*Well Done - very good coverage of a major problem everywhere - sad and really touches ones heart.*

#### Second Place Bridge Magazine

*Michigan school segregation investigation*

Mike Wilkinson, Chastity Pratt-Dawsey

*Very extensive - a lot of hard work and very detailed. good job*

#### Third Place Traverse City Record-Eagle

*High Crimes*

Matt Troutman, Erin Sloan, Staff

*A subject that seems to be a problem everywhere with little being done about it. nice job of bring it to the forefront*

### Honorable Mention

*The Ann Arbor News*

*Parking Structure Safety*

Lindsay Knake

*Good work and no doubt the coverage let to the solving of the problem.*

## Rookie Writer

### Open Class - Rookie Writer

#### 10 Entries

*The Rookie of the Year contest was particularly difficult to judge. Each of the young writers are ambitious, smart and cover a variety of issues ranging from news to features. Many articles were of difficult or sensitive nature. All of the articles were thorough and interesting. While media such as videos and images were not a heavy part of judging, they added value and interest in an increasingly visual world. All of the rookies should be proud of their contributions.*

#### First Place

*Flint Journal*

Oona Goodin-Smith

*Though judging of the Rookie of the Year contest was difficult, Oona's reporting stood out. She is an incredibly thorough reporter who clearly understands criminal proceedings. She quotes a number of sources on both sides of issues and makes good use of FOIA. She is a watchdog, questioning and insatiable in a clear desire to hold officials and others accountable. She's detailed and organized. I'd be remiss if I didn't commend Oona on her reporting in the Mateen Cleaves case. While it's not unusual for newer reporters to get the crime/court beats, it is unusual that they are covering something that is as high-profile, especially within their first few weeks. It's evident that she's a trusted part of the news team and for good reason. Congratulations, Ms. Goodin-Smith.*

#### Second Place

*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Taylor DesOrmeau

*It seems as though any gamble Ms. Scott took when she hired Taylor has been well worth it. Taylor is a thorough reporter who covers every side of the story. Almost as important, it's clear that he treats each story as though it's the most important he's writing that day. While multimedia like photos and videos did not weigh heavy on judging, photos and videos added value and interest to the story. Taylor has a bright future ahead of him.*

#### Third Place

*Cadence Newspaper*

Rookie Writer - Madison Bennett

*Madison displayed attention to detail in each story and had a variety of news and features to keep interest. I liked the balance of coverage, but would have liked to see some of the articles have an additional source. Though photos didn't impact overall judging, I liked the photos with the articles.*

#### Honorable Mention

*Cadillac News*

*Algae, Goats, Little trains and North Blvd..*

Karen Hopper Usher

*Karen's writing was detailed and multisided. She talked to several sources for each one and had a variety of topics to report. I would have liked to see more direct quotes if possible. I also think it might be nice to spice up the association words instead of just "said" with words like explained, noted, etc., if it's not a direct quote. I loved the lead in the goat cheese story and it had great execution, great photos and just an overall fun story.*

## Community Business Promotions

### Open Class - Community Business Promotions

#### 31 Entries

*This classification was open to all papers. It had 31 entries. It was a very daunting task, to say the least. Congratulations to the winners. To all the rest, keep up the good work and continue to sell those great group projects.*

#### First Place

*Ludington Daily News*

Brrrewfest

Judy Lytle

*Wonderful job! Well supported with advertising and blended advertising into the complete layout and design. Great graphics for content and for the advertisers.*

## Second Place

*Leelanau Enterprise*

*Outstanding Business Member of the Year*

Debra Campbell

*Good clean layout, advertisers messages are short and sweet, and readers will want to see who sent their well wishes. Great job for the winner and advertisers*

## Third Place

*Greenville Daily News*

*REDISCOVER DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE GROUPING*

STAFF

*Nice blend of local photos and content along with the ads. I'm sure your readers looked at the whole page, which benefits your advertisers.*

## Honorable Mention

*Huron Daily Tribune*

*Thumb Wi-Fi Hotspots*

Alissa Klee

*Great idea, a great marriage of advertisers and internet provider.*

## Entertaining Services

### Open Class - Entertaining Services

17 Entries

*Half a dozen or more really good ads in this category. Even the ads that did not place were all good ads and would seem to have served the purpose for the advertiser.*

### First Place

*Ludington Daily News*

*Be Someone's Angel*

Judy Lytle

*Well done. Nice to have this kind of space to work with. Good illustrations and overall art. Promotes a good time. Good job.*

### Second Place

*Cadillac News*

*Missaukee Humane Society - Spaghetti & no balls*

Shelly Mueller, Graphics Department

*Call me a sucker for a dog with a mouth full of spaghetti. Like the words in the headline, like the photo of the dog and really like the checkerboard table cloth. Tells the story in a small space.*

### Third Place

*Tri-County Times*

*Southern Lakes*

Jillian Banish, Lorie Gavulic

*An excellent presentation for an art event. Good logos, accented with muted colors. Overall strong layout*

### Honorable Mention

*Tecumseh Herald*

*Tecumseh Center for the Arts*

Nanci Heiney

*Cover a lot of events on this page with compelling illustrations, easy to read blue background color and simple, straight forward message.*

## General Retail

### Open Class - General Retail

44 Entries

### First Place

*Tri-County Times*

*Be True - Sawyers*

Jennifer Ward

*This ad stood out with color, headline and graphic. It made me feel happy the minute I read the ad.*

### Second Place

*Cadillac News*

*Your Sister's Closet - Bubble Girl*

Mark Featherson, Graphics Department

*Great headline and use of color.*

### Third Place

*Greenville Daily News*

*TOUCH OF CLASS*

SHEENA HAWN

*I like this ad because it is not super fancy, its "A touch of Class".*

## Honorable Mention

*Tri-County Times*

*Spring Home & Garden - Flagpoles*

Tiffany Marchand, Lorie Gavulic

*Great use of space with graphics. Color usage was grand.*

## Home Furnishings

### Open Class - Home Furnishings

15 Entries

### First Place

*Tecumseh Herald*

*Classic Cabinets*

Nanci Heiney

*Very good looking ad. Represents the client well showing class and quality.*

### Second Place

*Tri-County Times*

*Stain Shop*

Tiffany Marchand, Lorie Gavulic

*Clean ad, I like the use of angles. This ad stood out in the competition and would catch the readers attention on the printed page*

### Third Place

*Greenville Daily News*

*Millards Furniture*

Staff

*Good looking ad, clean, I would have changed the bursts on the lawn mowers and some of the type to orange to stay with the two major color of orange and green.*

### Honorable Mention

*Greenville Daily News*

*FURNITURE GALLERY*

STAFF

## Home Services

### Open Class - Home Services

26 Entries

*A lot of very good ads and it was a hard choice to make - however, balance, copy, artwork, and over all appear was the main factor in the winners - Nice job by all.*

### First Place

*Tri-County Times*

*Fall Home & Garden - Vinyl Sash*

Tiffany Marchand, Lorie Gavulic

*Bold, Hit you right between your eyes - good use of color, left no question as to what you were getting.*

### Second Place

*Leelanau Enterprise*

*Schaub Outdoor*

Debra Campbell

*Great presentation and with no color really reinforced the dark days of fall and winter and what a homeowner needed to get done.*

### Third Place

*Tri-County Times*

*Fall Home & Garden - R&R*

Tiffany Marchand, Lorie Gavulic

*Asphalt is black and no color is needed - good balance and presented all of the services offered - Over all just a real neat ad - good balance*

### Honorable Mention

*Tri-County Times*

*L Kanuft Construction*

Tiffany Marchand

*Simple, strong presentation, great art work and to the point*

## New and Used Vehicles

### Open Class - New and Used Vehicles

14 Entries

### First Place

*Tecumseh Herald*

*Let's Debate*

Nanci Heiney

*Great Ad - ties in with the 2016 election debates and connects with a winning idea from Miller - tastes great, less filling*

## Second Place

*The Ultimate Outdoor Playground*

Nanci Heiney

*I hope the graphic designer gets some of the credit for these ads. Beautiful professional work and a good selling point*

## Third Place

*O'Hara - A Field of Dreams*

Nanci Heiney

*If it wasn't for the other two ads from this dealer, this would have been the first place ad.*

## Honorable Mention

*Vic Canever*

Gail Grove, Ryann McKinney

## Real Estate

### Open Class - Real Estate

10 Entries

#### First Place

*Andy Alger*

*Terese Marchand, Lorie Gavulic*

*Very clean easy to read ad. I hope the agent lets you keep his ads like this, love the white space.*

#### Second Place

*Shane Adams*

*Tiffany Marchand, Lorie Gavulic*

*Excellent use of space on high end homes.*

#### Third Place

*Michelle Papatheadore*

*Jillian Banish, Lorie Gavulic*

*Clean easy to read.*

#### Honorable Mention

*Arbor Vitae Homes*

*The Daily Globe Advertising*

*Nice ad layout, since you had to put so many listings in the limited space.*

## Restaurants

### Open Class - Restaurants

19 Entries

*Interesting to judge. Size can be limiting, but some did a nice job using small budget.*

#### First Place

*Cottage Pie*

Nanci Heiney

*Simple way of stating what they are trying to sell. Clever art. A creative winner.*

#### Second Place

*Flos POP page 1x21.25" ad*

Dave Hayden

*Long, eye-catching ad. Good layout, art and color. Works well with other ad from same restaurant on the same page. If you like spaghetti, this ad will bring you in.*

#### Third Place

*Assumption Greek Church*

Terese Allen

*Simple use of color and headline to get the idea across. Fish swimming in a school. And they swim right into the headline. People will see it.*

#### Honorable Mention

*Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News*

*Northshore Lounge*

Patty Tribelhorn, Samantha Corson

*Carried theme throughout. Like the menu because people read it and are ready to come in and eat. Looks like a fun place to be.*

*Tecumseh Herald*

*Tecumseh Herald*

*Tri-County Times*

*Tri-County Times*

*Tri-County Times*

*Tri-County Times*

*The Daily Globe*

*Tecumseh Herald*

*Greenville Daily News*

*Tri-County Times*

## Small Ads Work

### Open Class - Small Ads Work

21 Entries

#### First Place

*Koehn Front Page*

Dave Hayden

*Best by far....some newspapers would say no on the placement, but it's great...not overbearing. . I like the no border, works well.*

#### Second Place

*B & J Auto Repair*

Sue Lincoln

*Nice job, works well*

#### Third Place

*Mini Market Front Page Strip 6 columns*

Staff

*Works extremely well, a lot of info in a small place, but it gets the job done.*

#### Honorable Mention

*Fighting Falcon*

Staff

*Greenville Daily News*

*Greenville Daily News*

*Greenville Daily News*

*Greenville Daily News*