

2018 MPA Better Newspaper Contest



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Statewide Contest Spotlights Better Journalism

Members of New York Press Association reviewed 3,065 entries submitted by 99 Michigan newspapers/Individual members this year. The competition inspires all journalists to produce better work, which in turn, nurtures stronger communities.

“Interest in the Michigan Press Association’s annual Better Newspaper Contest is certainly not waning. In fact, the 2018 contest resulted in nearly a hundred more entries than the previous year. Participation in the college division was strong with 765 entries. Two individual members sent entries and 66 arrived from News-Media Members. The remainder came from those of us in traditional print who have participated for years—decades from some of us geezers. Receiving this sheet of contest results is always an exciting moment for those who participate. Of course, you thought it was worthy of a prize now you can see if someone in New York agrees. Congratulations to the winners and don’t stop creating exemplary work.” – David Green, Better Newspaper Contest Chair

The 2018 “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	1,180	Detroit Free Press	Class A	1,580	Bridge Magazine
Class B	800	The Ann Arbor News	Class B	2,020	Leelanau Enterprise
Class C	850	Herald-Palladium	Class C	740	Gaylord Herald Times
Class D	830	Greenville Daily News	Class D	980	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 2018 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, Ludington Daily News and Tecumseh Herald, with the winner going to **Tecumseh Herald**.

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: The Ann Arbor News for “Speedy Trial? Not If You’re Mentally Ill in Michigan, Bridge Magazine for “The Battle for Fact-Driven Politics”, and Grand Rapids Press for “PFAS Contamination in Michigan”, with the award going to **Bridge Magazine**.

The MPA Rookie Writer Award recognizes exemplary efforts of new writers just breaking into journalism. The three finalists are: RJ Wolcott of The Lansing State Journal, Brooke Kansier of Traverse City Record-Eagle and Allie Gross of the Detroit Free Press, with the award going to **Brooke Kansier**.

The MPA Public Notice Journalism Award recognizes stories that exemplify the importance of public notice in newspapers. The three finalists are Holland Sentinel for “Holland Committee meeting cut short for improper public notice”, The Record for “Nobody Reads the Romeo Record” and Greenville Daily News for “Daily News Proactive about Public Notice” with the award going to **The Record**.

Best Coverage of the Opiate Epidemic in MI will honor the best journalism covering the opioid epidemic in Michigan communities. This award will go to the best story that shines a spotlight on the problem of opiate abuse in the state. The three finalists are Oceana’s Herald Journal for “Oceana, we have a problem”, Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle for “Addiction: A Stranglehold on American Life” and Bridge Magazine for “Michigan Falls Short in Frontline Treatment of Opioid Crisis” with the award going to **Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle**

The 2019 MPA Better Newspaper Contest opens August 1, 2019

Best Columnist

Daily A - Best Columnist

7 Entries

Some of the submissions that did not place read more like news stories with an occasional opinion included. The ones that stood out for placing included the columnist in the tale, which marks one of the differences between a column and a feature or news story.

First Place **Lansing State Journal**

'No foreigners' sign in Mason home sale violates fair housing laws, state says

Judy Putnam

Second Place **Detroit Free Press**

Rochelle Riley

Third Place **Lansing State Journal**

Karen Hartigan fights loneliness one step at a time.

Judy Putnam

Daily B - Best Columnist

8 Entries

Very tough to choose among the top 3. All step out of their comfort zone to share personal experiences and viewpoints. What tipped it for the first place award was going beyond the opinion and adding in facts.

First Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Dan Nielsen

Offers his opinion with backup facts and links in two different topics with humor and honesty. Would appeal to romance and Christmas lovers and haters alike.

Second Place **Battle Creek Enquirer**

Sadly, American parents know what to do when the lockdown is real

Nicole Mullis
Wonderful capturing of actions and emotions during a difficult time. Details made this hit home, such as not calling her daughter to avoid having her phone make noise.

Third Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Patti Brandt Burgess

Her honesty on the topic is both educational and realistic, especially her doubts as she heads to work for the first time with her new short hair.

Honorable Mention **Battle Creek Enquirer**

Bowman: Lakeview's dress code sweep didn't teach girls the right lessons

Jennifer Bowman

Very tough to choose among the top 3. All step out of their comfort zone to share personal experiences and viewpoints. What tipped it for the first place award was going beyond the opinion and adding in facts.

Daily C - Best Columnist

13 Entries

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

Northwoods Notebook Betsy Bloom

Betsy Bloom

Betsy Bloom submitted the most columns of any applicant in this category, but she could have won it with any two of them. This is thorough, observant journalism of her local animal community, for the human community that shares space with it. She writes clearly with a great combination of anecdotal and academic knowledge. Iron Mountain readers are lucky to have a neighbor like her.

Second Place **Petoskey News-Review**

Matter of life and death

Renee Tanner

Renee Tanner's writing grips the reader - especially when she writes frankly about the loss of her husband to suicide. As she says in one of her columns, she puts her emotions to work, including anger. As a result, her reading

public better understands what is known about depression - and what is still mysterious.

Third Place **Ludington Daily News**

David Bossick

David Bossick is easy to like. He's a keen observer and lively writer, and he tells you things you don't already know.

Honorable Mention **Midland Daily News**

Dave Shane columns

Dave Shane offers clear, valuable communication from the editor to the community.

Daily D - Best Columnist

15 Entries

Very difficult category to judge thanks to the diverse topics and a variety of different but effective writing styles. Some very strong entries didn't make the award levels, so kudos to those who did.

First Place **Greenville Daily News**

Maybe someday I'll be able to say goodbye, but not today

Mike Taylor

Obviously this is a deeply personal topic that is going to move the reader (and judges), but there was an additional, very well done layer to this. Well-crafted, deeply moving. Something that will be helpful to readers who have been touched by similar loss.

Second Place **Sturgis Journal**

Laura Kurella "Best Columnist"

Really quick read but leaves a reader well-informed. Style almost as if narrating from the kitchen. Very professionally produced.

Third Place **Sturgis Journal**

Dick Magee "Best Columnist"

Judges appreciated the variety of topics this columnist covered, and how quickly we recognized a personal style/voice throughout each. Checks off a lot of boxes for strong use of a column's space.

Honorable Mention **Huron Daily Tribune**

A pilgrimage to The King

Seth Stapleton

Very nice piece of writing, put the reader on the trip with them. Left us feeling good for spending our time with this space.

Weekly/News Media A - Best Columnist

8 Entries

No Honorable Mention was named in this field because all the other entries were single guest columns, therefore ineligible for the category description: "a local writer whose column is published on an ongoing basis."

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

Phil Power

Phil Power is a clear, strong voice for bipartisan reform in Michigan state government.

Second Place **Grand Valley Advance**

Experts agree cooking is good for you, but can you say why?

Cathy Runyon

Cathy Runyon is a sarcastic but sincere grandma who punctures quaint notions about motherhood and marriage to get at the reality most families live, which may not be cute but is full of love and good humor.

Third Place **Grand Blanc View**

A new lease on life

Gary Gould

It's sometimes hard to read Gary Gould describe his denial leading up to his liver transplant, but this series serves as a cautionary tale, a feel-good success story and a call to donate organs.

Weekly/News Media B - Best Columnist

23 Entries

First Place **Detroit Jewish News**

Be Bold

Robert Sklar

Robert Sklar offers readers a clear, strong, well-informed perspective, plus plenty of information and a sense of hope for future Israel-Palestinian relations.

Second Place **Leelanau Enterprise**
Nassar fallout extends to coaches, alumni
Alan Campbell

Alan Campbell does a nice job unraveling mixed feelings about the Larry Nassar fallout at Michigan State University - a perspective many readers probably share but might find hard to articulate. He also makes readers smile as he describes his wife's ultra-clean house and celebrates low-paid nursing home workers.

Third Place **Leelanau Enterprise**
Best Columnist Eric Carlson
Eric Carlson

Eric Carlson brings the perspective of a smart and relatable outsider, a keen observer who gets readers thinking.

Honorable Mention **Detroit Jewish News**
Don't Cheer For Me
Ben Falik
Ben Falik is kind of exhausting to read, but he also speaks of the internal mania that many suburban dads keep buried inside.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Columnist
19 Entries

Engaging writing, interesting topics

First Place **The Tri-City Times**
Not just a walk in the park - part 1 and 2
Paula Parisot

Second Place **Gaylord Herald Times**
Word Sandwich
Chris Engle

Third Place **Gaylord Herald Times**
Final Word
Jeremy Speer

Honorable Mention **Oceana's Herald-Journal**
The poor farm
Mary Beth Crain

Weekly/News Media D - Best Columnist
16 Entries

First Place **State Line Observer**
Swim with pigs?
Rich Foley

Second Place **State Line Observer**
The childcare challenge
David Green

Third Place **Cass City Chronicle**
Tom Montgomery
Tom Montgomery

Honorable Mention **Charlevoix Courier**
Taking a Sunday drive
Lonnie Allen

Best Editorial

Daily A - Best Editorial

8 Entries

First Place **Detroit Free Press**
With DACA ending, it's up to Congress to rescue dreamers
Detroit Free Press

This newspaper provided several strong editorials. This one is simply the best-written, starting immediately with the image of the president acting "as if he hopes to unravel the American tapestry one strand at a time," which is wordsmithing of the highest degree. It sets the tone for an editorial that

otherwise makes the case regarding DACA clearly and with passion, without ever losing balance.

Second Place **Detroit Free Press**
U.S Rep. John Conyers must resign
Detroit Free Press

It's a difficult thing to write an editorial calling for the resignation of a man you respect. This editorial accomplishes it. It doesn't pull punches and makes the case both for and against this man's position in history.

Third Place **Detroit Free Press**
Michigan's phony democracy: How low turnout begets minority rule in Michigan
Detroit Free Press

Great exploration of a phenomenon that exists in a lot of communities, but is particularly impactful here. Extra credit for the 10-5-1 campaign to actually address the matter in a nonpartisan way.

Honorable Mention **Grand Rapids Press**
Wolverine should pay to extend safe drinking water to families
Monica Scott
Bonus points for the video--it will get more eyes on the editorial in a different format.

Daily B - Best Editorial

11 Entries

Very strong local voices across the board.

First Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**
Snyder, Schuette need to remove Sheriff Rand. Now.
Sara Scott

There were several editorials of the type, from this and another incident of malfeasance. This editorial was better than the rest because it walked the fine line with tone: stern and outraged without being shrill. It also laid out the case--using the paper's own reporting. At a time of crisis like that, it's crucial for the newspaper to have a strong, clear voice. It did here. Well done. Very strong local voices across the board.

Second Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Editorial: Village shouldn't have anything to hide
Nathan Payne

There is no more important role for a local newspaper to play than to be the watchdog for government, especially when it comes to public access. We do help provide scrutiny, but it's the public that is being robbed of info it has a right to have. It's a point well made in this editorial.

Third Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Editorial: Plastic seems to have all the time in the world
Allison Batdorff

This was, in my mind, the best-written editorial of the group. It's on a slightly less urgent subject (arguably)--but it explores the local impact and provides a great deal of information to consumers in a tone that's not hectoring, simply stating facts. It's very well done.

Honorable Mention **Jackson Citizen Patriot**
City Council should impeach Frounfelker if he won't resign
Sara Scott

Rarely do you get to write one of these in a year, let alone TWO. This was very good, included just enough detail without getting unnecessarily graphic. The tone reveals the rising frustration of the newspaper on what is very clearly not an isolated incident of poor government.

Daily C - Best Editorial

17 Entries

Very difficult category to judge. Four clearly stood above the rest, but the distance between 1 and 4 was very narrow. There are some communities being well-served by their editorial boards.

First Place **Grand Haven Tribune**
Terrell's message received despite pushback
Matt DeYoung

Should shock us that the attitudes from some in this community still exist, but a very nice job by the editorial board to address, give it perspective, and

shine a light on the ignorance. Could have easily gone a more disparaging way, but kept the focus on educating the readers.

Second Place **The Mining Journal**

Utility companies should pay fair share of proposed tax

Ryan Jarvi

Even for judges with no vested interest in this topic, it walked us through it quite well. Showed supporting information, discussed consequences, offered sound opinion. Well done piece.

Third Place **Herald-Palladium**

Auto insurance reform proposal

Dale Brewer

Well researched, well argued, well presented. Lots of data, but it never overwhelms. The point is made throughout in a nicely done editorial.

Honorable Mention **Grand Haven Tribune**

Time to review the state's relaxed helmet law

Mark Brooky

Well written, well defended position. What could have been a dry topic to judges far away from this issue was made engaging and interesting. The local readership with a stake in this topic were well-served by this editorial space.

Daily D - Best Editorial

6 Entries

Some of the entries here were more features or columns than true editorials. A newspaper has to have a very strong editorial voice, particularly on local issues.

First Place **Greenville Daily News**

Best Editorial

Elisabeth Waldon

Sunshine Law battles are a big part of what community newspapers must do as a watchdog. This series of editorials takes the notion of "transparency" all the way--laying out exactly how the battle with a local "public academy"/charter school went down, when it came to seeking information that certainly should be public. It was unusual to devote three editorials to the fight, but it did paint the entire picture and give readers a glimpse at how hard these battles can be--and, just as importantly, why they matter.

Second Place **Huron Daily Tribune**

A disturbing trend

Kate Hessling

There's an irony to talking about uninformed community members in an editorial most of them likely won't read--which is the problem. But the points are all valid, and the observation is an important one: The uninformed school votes are a "canary in a coalmine" for a community that clearly is not engaged nearly enough. Hoping this newspaper is up to the challenge of fixing that if it can by showing people why they should care.

Third Place **Huron Daily Tribune**

Infrastructure plan deserves consideration

Kate Hessling

A fair and reasoned argument for more infrastructure spending at the national level.

Weekly/News Media B - Best Editorial

3 Entries

First Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Mistakes Happen

Alan Campbell

This editorial shed light on a serious flaw in the way the village is governed and pointed to a specific issue to bring that point home.

Second Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Sunshine missing on week for openness

Alan Campbell

Kudos to this newspaper for having the courage to call out a board for its lack of transparency. By giving its readers a behind-the-scenes look at what transpired, this newspaper succeeded where the board failed.

Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise

No place for war cries in Leelanau

Alan Campbell

This is a well-written and level-headed editorial on a potentially explosive topic. This newspaper impressively highlights the severity of the incident without calling for heads.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Editorial

11 Entries

First Place

The Tri-City Times

Almont council sets example of gov at its best

Catherine Minolli

Well-crafted, well-reasoned, and stocked with information and history to walk the reader through the process that one town went through, and how that process was a welcome change in other governmental procedures (local and national). Solid use of the editorial space.

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

Addressing a crisis

Eric Hamp

So much information, but presented in a way that walks the reader through it so it's not overwhelming. We wish there was more of a specific call to action but that's the nature of this problem. Very good example of an community editorial.

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

Parking issue must be addressed

Eric Hamp

Apparently a subject that has been long overdue for some action has gotten some with a well-written, no-frills editorial. Good example of keeping it simple and concise, and stimulating action.

Honorable Mention

The Tri-City Times

Big shout out to small town firefighters

Catherine Minolli

We really liked the sentiments here, and it's presented well. We are often reminded of institutions/people we take for granted until an example reminds us, and this is done in a way that would be meaningful to the readership.

Weekly/News Media D - Best Editorial

15 Entries

First Place

Cass City Chronicle

Districts support of walkout right move

Tom Montgomery

Very good example of the newspaper validating something good in the community. Telling readers why they feel the principal's stand was correct, and showing what good could come from it. This feels like an editorial in all the right ways.

Second Place

State Line Observer

Legal cannabis

David Green

On a topic we've seen done many times, this is a great example of a good editorial. Makes the point, talks about local impact and interest, shows why we should care. Very nicely done on a topic readers may have seen over and over.

Third Place

The Advance

Our thoughts on the pool

Marcia Loader

Walked us through an issue we had no knowledge of, but by the end, we were invested and agreed. Very nice journey through the column for the reader. For readers who are affected by this, we can imagine this sparking much thought.

Best Newspaper Design

Daily A - Best Newspaper Design

1 Entries

First Place **Grand Rapids Press**
The Grand Rapids Press for Sunday, July 22, 2018
 Grand Rapids Press staff

Daily B - Best Newspaper Design

2 Entries
First Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Traverse City Record-Eagle
 Record-Eagle staff
Engaging articles and beautiful layout, easy to read.

Second Place **The Ann Arbor News**
Ann Arbor News for best newspaper design category
 Ann Arbor News staff

Daily C - Best Newspaper Design

4 Entries
First Place **Cadillac News**
July 11, 2018
 Staff
Outstanding front page really draws you in!

Second Place **Herald-Palladium**
The Herald-Palladium
 Staff

Third Place **Petoskey News-Review**
Petoskey News-Review
 Renee Tanner, Wendy Wolfson

Honorable Mention **Grand Haven Tribune**
Grand Haven Tribune
 Staff

Daily D - Best Newspaper Design

7 Entries
Ice rescue training pictures and article are terrific. Beautiful photography throughout, ads to interest for reader. Sports section is excellent, includes national and international competitions.

First Place **Manistee News-Advocate**
Feb. 12, 2018 edition
 Julie Cavanaugh, Scott Yoshonis, Brian Fogg

Second Place **Huron Daily Tribune**
Jan. 6, 2018 edition
 Bradley Massman, Kate Hessling, Brenda Battel, Seth Stapleton, Paul P. Adams

Third Place **The Pioneer**
Working in the garden
 Hannah Dowell

Honorable Mention **Sturgis Journal**
Sturgis Journal "Newspaper Design"
 Journal Staff

Weekly/News Media B - Best Newspaper Design

2 Entries
Leelanau 3 sections is hard to compete with. Obits were easy to read, nice sports section. section 2 beautiful and informative section 3 amazing really special way to honor those who have served.

First Place **Leelanau Enterprise**
Memorial Day is upon us
 Enterprise Staff

Second Place **Tuscola County Advertiser**
Tuscola County Advertiser 11-8-17
 Jessica Zieroff, Lindsay DuRussel, Shannon Dipzinski

Weekly/News Media C - Best Newspaper Design

6 Entries

First Place **Tecumseh Herald**

The Tecumseh Herald - Design
 Herald staff
Nice use of color graphic, bag on front page with article wrapped around it made the page! Clean easy to read layout, color blocks behind stories help to make them stand out.

Second Place **The Tri-City Times**
August 23, 2017

Randy Jorgensen, and Production Staff
Really nice use of photos and color ads to make the pages pop.

Third Place **The Record**
May 2, 2018

Lyn Baxter, Larry Sobczak, Jan Wyllie
Nice layout, easy to read, good use of color.

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

Wendy Wolfson, Renee Tanner, Shellie Kasuba

Weekly/News Media D - Best Newspaper Design

7 Entries

First Place **Edwardsburg Argus**
In a pickle
 Ambrosia Neldon

Second Place **Charlevoix Courier**
July 20 the issue of Charlevoix Courier
 Renee Tanner, Wendy Wolfson

Third Place **Michigan Lawyers Weekly**
Michigan Lawyers Weekly 04/23/18
 Greg Wiegand

Best Page or Pages Design

Daily A - Best Page or Pages Design

4 Entries

First Place **Grand Rapids Press**
"Holes in the Mitten" for best page design for The Grand Rapids Press
 Milt Klingensmith

The simplicity of the text being wrapped around the creases in the image with the corresponding title and infographics makes for a cohesive page design that goes with the content exceptionally well. The page's overall clean design also makes it very pleasant to read through and makes it engaging for the reader.

Second Place **Grand Rapids Press**
Dr. Larry Nassar for best pages design from The Grand Rapids Press

Kate Howland
What stands out for this design is the use of the survivors images and their quotes on the corresponding pages and the article as a whole feeling cohesive and interesting to look at while reading.

Third Place **Flint Journal**
Flint Memorial Day

Flint Journal staff
Overall, simple and clean layout. Nice use of scaling the photos and making for a very straightforward design and easy to read.

Honorable Mention **Grand Rapids Press**
'Bats: Don't be afraid' for best pages design category

Steph Giluk, Rebecca Daniels, Milt Klingensmith
Great images but the overall design is very simple and ordinary. Very text heavy and could do with some more elements to help bump up the overall design so it does not appear to have so much text.

Daily B - Best Page or Pages Design

24 Entries

First Place

Top 10 boys stories of 2017-18

Scott McNeish

For its use of color and asymmetrical design makes for a compelling overall page design. Goes beyond the standard grid system and its risky take on its horizontal orientation makes it stand out.

Daily Telegram

Second Place

Nate Morrison - Best Pages

Nate Morrison

Compelling use of typographical forms of the IX to be the focal point and encompassing all elements of the article and the photos make it unique. Also applaud its use of color and the subtle touches like the highlight of "Title".

Holland Sentinel

Third Place

All-County softball awards

Scott McNeish

The breaking of standard columns with the photo cut outs, with their own unique style, make the page flow and carries your eye down the page. The blown out stats on the side of the players also allows for the design to break beyond a paper's tendency to be boxy allowing for it to flow together nicely.

Daily Telegram

Honorable Mention

Who's Next?

Scott McNeish

The silhouettes of the players is very nice in the background and the blue and green colors work together very nicely and the addition of the other player cutouts underneath shows where the silhouettes come from. It is only honorable mentioned because I have seen the design before from my research. It is overall a lovely design.

Daily Telegram

Daily C - Best Page or Pages Design

23 Entries

First Place

Making Wine

Renee Tanner

Photo packages aren't easy — but this presentation of how to make wine would make anyone who believes a solid presentation like this isn't possible to think again. The photo fades were not overwhelming — instead, it provided a warm backdrop to what is otherwise a colorful craft. Even if a reader didn't take the time to read the words, the photos tell it all, giving a visual aspect that not only is appealing to the eyes, but also seems to promote a process that's also pleasing to the palate. Breaking open that bottle of wine — it's a winner.

Petoskey News-Review

Second Place

History

Sarah Adams

Cutouts have become a bit overused in newspaper design, but there are times when it's effective, and this was absolutely one of those times. What should have been a dull enviro of a rather plain building actually pops in this design, and accentuates the headline (and ultimately the story). The secondary story took a great approach with the slides — but the obsession to remaining in a six-column format (when the second story might have worked far better as a five-on-six) could have really added some energy to this page.

Cadillac News

Third Place

Sept. 11, 2017

Renee Tanner

It's hard for a picture of firefighters — fully in gear — to not get a reader's attention, and it certainly got this judge's. Localizing 9/11 is not easy, but this photo provides that local angle, while still making it clear what information is being conveyed. It's a strong photo and deserves its treatment here. What detracts from the page, however, is this need to then jam four more stories underneath it. Why? Even three more seems a bit crowded. Instead of having some great visuals complementing the amazing firefighter photo, instead everything else is reduced to thumbnails, which is sad, because this was a strong page otherwise.

Petoskey News-Review

Honorable Mention

Heart pounding

Petoskey News-Review

Renee Tanner

It's so much fun to see how something is made — and not just any old thing, but metal hearts — from start to finish in a print publication. That's not easy to do, but it works here. And fantastically. This judge really hearts this page..

Daily D - Best Page or Pages Design

13 Entries

First Place

War stories

Ambrosia Neldon

Niles Daily Star

Second Place

45th Annual Four Flags Area Apple Festival

Ambrosia Neldon, Kelsey Hammon

Niles Daily Star

Third Place

The right to choose

Emily Sobeki, Ambrosia Neldon

Niles Daily Star

Honorable Mention

"Journal Page Design"

Candice Phelps, Journal Staff

Sturgis Journal

Weekly/News Media A - Best Page or Pages Design

1 Entries

First Place

LifeStyle - The Sweetest Day of the Year

Carol Correa

Lapeer Area View

Love the use of overlapping fonts in the header. I feel the overall page design as a whole feels a little clunky, but love the elements (the cutouts of the people and the honey, and the overlapping title of the photo at the bottom) being played with here.

Weekly/News Media B - Best Page or Pages Design

5 Entries

First Place

Chili Time

Mike Anderson, Jen Murphy, Don Miller, Alan Campbell

Leelanau Enterprise

The use of the background image as a divider between the two articles and the tilted photographs allows for a compelling layout. I also applaud the font choice for the title. The red and green colors really stand out and truly makes it a focal point.

Second Place

Page Design

Alan Campbell, Mike Anderson

Leelanau Enterprise

The colors of the license plates makes for such a compelling collage of sorts. I applaud the use of the license plates to make the typography of the title fit with the overall theme.

Third Place

Spring Delicacies

Mike Anderson, Kelsey Pease, Jen Murphy

Leelanau Enterprise

The use of color is very nice and the photographs makes for an interesting page design.

Honorable Mention

5 Places

Alan Campbell, Mike Anderson

Leelanau Enterprise

I love the idea going on in this design, however I feel the lack of proper usage of the surrounding white space makes it my honorable mention.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Page or Pages Design

14 Entries

First Place

Valentine's Day Rituals

Ruby Stark

The County Press, Lapeer

This is a layout that really makes you feel the love. Too early for a pun? Sorry ... while the graphics are a bit heavy on the top (almost allowing it to be mistaken for an ad), it still captures the Valentine's Day theme, which carries all the way through the MOS and even to the film review at the bottom, which

is likely a more disparate element typically. It would be nice to have more of a story here instead of just a few brief sentences, but it's still exactly what a reader might want to find on a very lovely day.

Second Place **The County Press, Lapeer**
Ice Cream Sunday Day
Marina Leonard

Although the color choice might be slightly predictable — still, it's absolutely perfect. Talking about sundaes, and then actually providing some great sundae recipes above the fold, turns what could've been a bit of fluff in the living section to a must-read. It's great to find ways to make the film review part of the page, yet still keep it separate at the same time, and it works here. Although I would've given the Equalizer 2 just three stars.

Third Place **Oceana's Herald-Journal**
Entry day at the fair
Oceana's Herald-Journal Staff

The Oceana County Fair layout is absolutely spectacular. The bale of hay is a perfect backdrop for this package, with some fantastic art, smiling kids and happy animals. In fact, this could've finished higher if it weren't for the rest of the page, which I just can't figure out. Where does the flag begin and end? How is placing an entire page at a fraction of its size a good tease about what's inside? The column width on the U.S. Senator outline photo is a bit too narrow, and maybe could've served better as a ragged-right element.

Honorable Mention **Gaylord Herald Times**
Herald Times entry
Wendy Wolfsen, Renee Tanner

This is the kind of page that you might find in a larger newspaper — well organized, appropriate separation of stories, good use of color. But by larger newspaper, I don't mean the market, I mean the web. This is a great design for a wider-web newspaper, but squeezed into something this narrow, it seems a more hybrid approach would've worked, keeping these elements, without feeling like it was just squeezed into the spot. The font choices are also a bit of a head-scratcher, although it does appear to give this paper its own unique character.

Weekly/News Media D - Best Page or Pages Design
8 Entries

First Place **Michigan Lawyers Weekly**
Michigan Lawyers Weekly 11/06/17
Greg Wiegand

This is a crisp, clean layout, that allows for easy navigation, and properly highlights the path the reader should take through the stories. The illustration might be a little too on-point with the headline, but it certainly catches the eye, and there should be no question about the story they will find underneath. The mix of serif and sans serif headlines is slightly jarring, but doesn't detract from the overall solid quality of this page.

Second Place **Charlevoix Courier**
A1 design
Renee Tanner

The juggler is a lot of fun, and the "on-the-nose" head was, well, on the nose. This is a colorful and fun publication, at least what can be determined by this front page, and makes it welcoming to pick up from a newsstand. While working with this narrow of a web can be difficult, readability could be improved by maybe expanding the column widths (like, where two column stories have been placed, maybe expand it to just a single column; where the three-column stories are, maybe go with a two-on-three take).

Third Place **The Boyne City Gazette**
Winter Sports
Benjamin Gohs

Clean layout with great use of color — but mixing in more than just team photos might have made a difference here. While of course, getting names and faces in are great, there's always that concern of not turning a special section into a yearbook. Also what was missing were previews — something suggested in the banners. There were one or two previews, but it seemed there was more importance in putting in large posed shots than maybe mixing in some previous year action shots (showcasing some of the returning

players), and talking about what those teams can expect. Also, another thing that could make a difference (and help move a piece like this higher) would be deciding whether to add indents to beginning of paragraphs, or adding some leading between the graphs so that the end of one paragraph and the beginning of the next is more evident.

Honorable Mention **State Line Observer**
Having a ball
David Green

This was a fun page, and some of the pictures are cute, but this would've placed better simply by taking the less-is-more approach. While there are different people in the photos, which is great, the photos themselves seem very similar to each other — creating a monotony that might prompt a reader to turn away instead of looking. At the same time, the colors are vibrant, and it certainly pops.

Best Sports Column

Daily A - Best Sports Column
6 Entries

First Place **Lansing State Journal**
Spartan Stadium, Section 5, Row 43, Seats 28 and 29 an ode to my father

Graham Couch
Frankly, this column brought me to tears. In this business, we spend our time writing about superior athletes -- something many of us never were. For many of us who had dads who were huge sports fans, failing to be an athlete meant a lot of time growing up hoping to find something for dad to be proud of. Graham Couch writes of a longtime friendship with his dad, and that sets up the moment when his dad comes to games with binoculars -- to watch his son in the press box. I lost it right there. Couch provides layers of insight and pushes a lot of dad/son buttons for all of his readers. Nicely done.

Second Place **Grand Rapids Press**
With his career at stake, Chris Bosio sticking with story not everyone believes

Evan Woodbery
Evan Woodbery provides an analysis and posits some reasons for Tigers coach Chris Bosio's firing. He asks the reader to think about what might have happened differently, and who might have some away from an ugly situation with a better outcome or a more significant coachable moment. It's a column to be noodled during a hot stove discussion this winter, where Woodbery leaves it for his readers.

Third Place **Lansing State Journal**
MSU's latest win over Michigan sets the record straight about Dantonio, Harbaugh
Graham Couch

If Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh is larger than life and Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio keeps beating him, what does that make Dantonio? That's the question Graham Couch answers in interesting fashion, with highlights and statistics, making a case for slow and steady versus flash and awe, long-term growth versus short-term results.

Honorable Mention **Grand Rapids Press**
What the Lions have here is failure to communicate
Nate Atkins

Nate Atkins starts with a coach who believes he is the grand communicator, then points out some on-field issues that might offer contrary opinion, then reexamines how the Lions' organization communicates, or fails to. He takes something that should be a given for a quality enterprise, then asks what's really going on with this team. Atkins' insight make the reader want to look more closely at the wider field for the next game.

Daily B - Best Sports Column
15 Entries

First Place **Battle Creek Enquirer**
Blakely: In my first cage fight, somehow the most terrifying part wasn't the actual fight

Natasha Blakely

Sports journalism contests are generally loaded with lots of participatory pieces and this division of this contest is no exception. This piece rose above all the others because it was particularly well-written by a young writer fighting her way through sports both inside the newsroom and out of it.

Second Place **Saginaw News**

Derrick Nash's birthday and NFL Draft don't follow fairy-tale plot
Hugh Bernreuter

A touching tribute to an athlete who lost his life far too soon. I'm sure it was nice for many to see he'll never be forgotten.

Third Place **Bay City Times**

Morley Fraser walks in Elmer Engel's shoes a step beyond
Lee Thompson

In sports we often celebrate the best and scorn those whose accomplishments were achieved through longevity. It's nice to see that scenario flipped in a well-written sports column.

Daily C - Best Sports Column

17 Entries

First Place **Midland Daily News**

BCW's Mann displays refreshing honesty in heat of competition
Fred Kelly

This entry stood out mainly in how the writer found a unique moment in a game, a show of sportsmanship that others might have overlooked, and turned it into an important column that might serve as a lesson to others.

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

Khan: From all-state to bench, Hartland goalie was model teammate
Bill Khan

You've heard the old cliché that sports are about more than wins and losses. It exists because it's true and some of the best sports writing, like this particular column, is about the lessons learned in sports. The writer knows firsthand and therefore recognized the sacrifice made by this athlete for the benefit of his team.

Third Place **Cadillac News**

The Final Chapter
Marc Vieau

Covering sports, you can't help but feel a fondness for certain teams and athletes. The columnist turned his appreciation of this particular group of teens into a worthy tribute.

Daily D - Best Sports Column

11 Entries

First Place **Huron Daily Tribune**

Staple on the slopes
Seth Stapleton

The top two columns in this category were both about semi out-of-shape sportswriters taking on an athletic challenge. This one stood out through its self-deprecation.

Second Place **The Daily Globe**

One-of-a-kind race at one-of-a-kind place
Jason Juno

Media heats in races are clever ways to get sports writers to bring attention to the event. Rarely is it done in as interesting a way as this.

Third Place **The Pioneer**

The greatest sports moment ever in local history
John Raffel

You made a compelling case for the 1968 team as the best local football squad. After 50 years, there's no doubt readers enjoyed this slice of local history.

Weekly/News Media B - Best Sports Column

1 Entries

First Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Madness may soon turn to magic
Jay Bushen

Put a ribbon around a pack of toothpicks for Jay Bushen and buy him some floss. Every sports writer wonders how to adequately convey the excitement and drama of playoffs and special events, especially when you spend a weekend sitting through a lot of high-level games. Bushen's excitement and noteworthy observations come through clearly, as if you were sitting next to him on the bleachers and he was leaning over and making sure you saw what he saw. He even puts a gentle nudge in for team followers who didn't have enough faith to make the big game against a better opponent. Hope lives.

Weekly/News Media C - Best Sports Column

6 Entries

First Place **Allegan County News**

Press Box Perspective: Thanks for everything, Coach Mac
Jason Wesseldyk

Some of the best community journalism tells extraordinary tales of ordinary folks. This is a fine example of that. Bravo!

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

MLB would lose a lot be enacting extra inning rule at big league level
Andy Roberts

Thanks for the humorous take all of us 'old men' can relate to.

Third Place **White Lake Beacon**

UCF's season unique to college football
Andy Roberts

Honorable Mention **The County Press, Lapeer**

New norm raises my hackles
Lisa Paine

Weekly/News Media D - Best Sports Column

5 Entries

First Place **The Advance**

New invitational honors Beckey
Melissa Burnor

Nice tribute to an obviously well-loved sports figure.

Second Place **State Line Observer**

Youth or experience?
Rich Foley

Nice to see some critical reporting in a sports column.

Business/Agriculture News

Daily A - Business/Agriculture News

13 Entries

First Place **Detroit Free Press**

Centria Healthcare accused of fraud, targeting poor in metro Detroit
Mark Rochester, John Wisely, Elisha Anderson
Robust, incisive reporting . The hard work pays off for the community and the victims. A case study in how to cover stories like this, not to mention the actions media must take in doing the due diligence.

Second Place **Flint Journal**

City council sends \$125K to undisclosed north Flint building project
Oona Goodin-Smith
There's covering the story, and going after a story. Applause to Flint Journal for going the distance.

Third Place **Detroit Free Press**

Ford faces halt to F-150 production after supplier fire
Phoebe Wall Howard
Strong, balanced piece.

Honorable Mention **Flint Journal**

Man trying to raise millions in Flint is wanted on felony charges
Zahra Ahmad
Congratulations to the writer for staying the course and going the distance.

Daily B - Business/Agriculture News

17 Entries

First Place **The Ann Arbor News**
40M-plus spent, 5,200 acres protected under Ann Arbor greenbelt
 Ryan Stanton
Deserved the win!

Second Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**
Changing farming
 Sheri McWhirter
Inspired writing!

Third Place **The Ann Arbor News**
Help wanted: Restaurant industry's labor shortage hits downtown
 Ann Arbor
 Lauren Slagter
Good, strong piece

Honorable Mention **Battle Creek Enquirer**
Hardware stores, for your small-town music needs
 Natasha Blakely
Foresees a trend in how struggling businesses may survive in the future.

Daily C - Business/Agriculture News

16 Entries
First Place **Cadillac News**
I support what he's doing ...

Chris Lamphere
Moving, this piece about families and individuals caught in the middle of politics and hoping trust does not fail them. Excellent writing.

Second Place **Cadillac News**
Armyworms
 Karen Hopper Usher
Good reporting about a little-known pest that can cause havoc .

Third Place **Herald-Palladium**
Chain reactions
 Tony Wittkowski
Interesting phenomenon that can only be told by a small town newspaper. Great take, good study.

Honorable Mention **Petoskey News-Review**
From inmates to entrepreneurs
 Ryan Bentley
Good work covering a local story that may have national impact.

Daily D - Business/Agriculture News

16 Entries
First Place **Sturgis Journal**
Homegrown

Candice Phelps, Julia Baratta, Jamie Barrand, Rosalie Currier,
 Christy Harris, Nancy Hastings, Andrew King, Jef Rietsma
Excellent work! Thorough! Great reportage!

Second Place **The Pioneer**
Local dairy farmers facing uncertain market
 Brandon Fountain
The writer holds the reader's attention with this story of dairy farms in these embattled times. When we "happen" upon the dumping of milk, we being to understand its story about paradoxes of these times. Well done

Third Place **Greenville Daily News**
Father-son team expand on successful equine farm
 Stacie Smith
Nicely written piece about a father, son, the land and their horses.

Honorable Mention **Greenville Daily News**
Taxidermist, sports shops dealing with fallout from chronic wasting disease
 Meghan Nelson
Informative and necessary piece, where "wasting away" takes on so much more meaning and poignancy.

Weekly/News Media A - Business/Agriculture News

6 Entries
First Place **Bridge Magazine**
Rural Michigan helped elect Trump. Now, Farmers are sweating tariffs

Jim Malewitz, Ted Roelofs
A balanced story that takes the time to offer the big picture of the impact of Washington on average Americans, and the quest that there will be a safety at the end of the tunnel.

Second Place **Bridge Magazine**
Coal is dead. A Michigan town is at the center of what comes next
 Jim Malewitz
Excellent writing! Informative! Great research.

Third Place **Bridge Magazine**
The disappearing cashier, and why it matters
 Nancy Derringer, Alexandria Schmidt
Fine writing!

Honorable Mention **Bridge Magazine**
Is Michigan ready for the next recession?
 Lindsay Van Hulle
Bridge asks the questions, and always delivers the answers. Good job.

Weekly/News Media B - Business/Agriculture News

6 Entries
First Place **Leelanau Enterprise**
Dairy families can't cope with prices
 Amy Hubbell
Well-deserved win.

Second Place **Leelanau Enterprise**
Cherry farming hits crossroad; help is needed
 Alan Campbell
An exceptional story about Americans holding it together.

Third Place **Leelanau Enterprise**
Reps stress fair trade for cherries
 Jay Bushen
This story is not only about the cherry industry, it is about perseverance, and it is told well. Good job

Honorable Mention **Leelanau Enterprise**
GTB enters cable TV business
 Eric Carlson
There are so many stories about slowdowns and loss in the business word; this one is about achievement, progress and more.

Weekly/News Media C - Business/Agriculture News

7 Entries
First Place **Gaylord Herald Times**
Public lands and timber

Arielle Breen
Second Place **The Tri-City Times**
Almont Bans Coal Tar Sealant

Tom Wearing
Third Place **Gaylord Herald Times**
Downtown: 1 restaurant closes, 1 moves in

William T. Perkins
Honorable Mention **Gaylord Herald Times**
Up-tick
 Arielle Breen

Weekly/News Media D - Business/Agriculture News

9 Entries
First Place **The Boyne City Gazette**
Planning Boyne's Future
 Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

That greatness in America prevails is evidenced in stories like this one which captures the voices and the heart of people in small places that make a case for it.

Second Place

The Advance

Biosolids

Melissa Burnor

The report brings the reader into a pressing issue that easily could have been presented in pedantic fashion. Not here. Every base is covered concerning this pressing issue -- with facts, figures, follow-up -- as the reason Biosolids matter unfolds. Good job.

Third Place

The Advance

Era Ends as Gilson's Hardware is Sold

Melissa Burnor

The Gilson store and its proprietors, current and ancestral, take center stage in this feature. In this report on the final days in the life of a family-run century old establishment the reader is given a sense of what American Triumph is all about.

Honorable Mention

State Line Observer

Job interviews

David Green

The author's one line at the end of the piece summed up the point of the article. Not easy to do, but it was done well, here.

Feature Photo

Daily A - Feature Photo

21 Entries

Competition is just that... a competition. In this case, it was very hard to make only a few top decisions. There were so many that were deserving in many ways. All the entries played to their strengths and all the photos made me study deeper. Shout out to all the photographers.

First Place

Flint Journal

'I love being black'

Jake May

Rihonna certainly knows who she is and she looks fantastic showing it. About the photo... vibrant colors (WOW); amazing clarity and details (TOP NOTCH). And kudos to Jake May for having the eye to place your subject slightly off-center. Placement and cropping are two treatments often overlooked, yet are so incredibly important and powerful. All efforts have made this photo a masterpiece. Outstanding work.

Second Place

Grand Rapids Press

Whitecaps get a little bit of everything in chilly season opener

Neil Blake

OK... OK... now THIS is how you take the concept of reflection to an entirely different level. The play of the glass reflections makes this appear as superimposed photographs. The keys on the organ, the ball field, the bleachers, etc. WOW!!!

Third Place

Flint Journal

Live before you die

Jake May

OUTSTANDING!! Nearly looks impossible, then to have it caught on camera? Seriously?! Even down to his shadow and the reflection of the clouds and sky in the window... it ALMOST feels like really clean graffiti. Well done!!!

Honorable Mention

Detroit Free Press

Colorful celebration

Cameron Pollack

Smokey celebration. Looks like it was intense and from the faces in the stands, it appears many folks were in agreement of the celebrating.

Daily B - Feature Photo

31 Entries

This category was extremely competitive and the majority of the entries were quite incredible. All these photographers should be very proud of what they submitted. Great job from all.

First Place

Saginaw News

Firefighters rappel over Dow Event Center ice during technical rescue training

Jacob Hamilton

This photo takes top place due to the viewpoint from which it is taken. It really plays to the fact that rescue professionals constantly train and practice to be prepared for anything. This photo makes me weak in the knees to see the height and knowing that the ice rink is directly below. Outstanding photograph.

Second Place

Muskegon Chronicle

Sunset waves

Joel Bissell

This photo captures nature in its rarest form. Never may be underestimate the power that surrounds us. Simply breathtaking shoe. I also am drawn to that sort of sepia tone feeling that is created.

Third Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Splash down

J. Scott Park

This photo is amazing. It makes me smile each time I see it during this judging process. The facial expression of this child, paired with the insane detail of the muddy water droplets is incredible.

Honorable Mention

Muskegon Chronicle

Touch of Electric Forest

Joel Bissell

One very special moment caught between Mykail and his son. The silhouette created from the sun rays in the background just make this evoke emotion.

Daily C - Feature Photo

17 Entries

First Place

Ludington Daily News

Spring has arrived

Jeff Kiessel

My first reaction upon seeing this images was, "What the - ???" But that's what makes it so successful: it's not every day that you see a kid flying through the air, and the triangular composition - happy accident or not - brings it all together. Well done!

Second Place

Petoskey News-Review

Science alive

Jillian Fellows

This is a great moment, captured well: not only is his expression perfect, but the fact that the other child's expression in the background is framed almost perfectly by the snake makes it all that much better.

Third Place

Midland Daily News

Santa Parade

Katy Kildee

A warm, intimate family moment, captured perfectly in its innocence. These kinds of shots are hard to get, so kudos where credit is due!

Honorable Mention

Midland Daily News

River Catch

Katy Kildee

Simple, clean, and well-lit: all of the elements that make up a great photograph!

Daily D - Feature Photo

19 Entries

First Place

Greenville Daily News

Perfect Storm

Cory Smith

Second Place

The Pioneer

Ferris alum, students, fans celebrate national championship

Brandon Fountain

Third Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Helping one of their own

Michelle Graves

Weekly/News Media A - Feature Photo

1 Entries

Why aren't there more entries in this category of photos that are in every newspaper? Maybe this circulation category should be eliminated or merged in the future.

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Flint recovery program begins with a carrot

Jim Malewitz

Although this was the only entry in the category, it was a well done photo that captures joy and adds to the them of the story. It could have been better if the photographer shot at a different angle to incorporate more food and faces.

Weekly/News Media B - Feature Photo

17 Entries

I thank all of the photographers that have contributed to this category. There were several really outstanding shots in this collection. Be proud.

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Double Focus

Ken Scott

Words don't begin to express how this photo stood out. The composition and attention to detail... and what irony that the image on the rock mimics that of the butterfly wings. Simply perfect.

Second Place

Grosse Pointe News

Ice castles

Renee Landuyt

Ice Castles: Nature playing the "ruler" once again. The magical natural creations, no matter how temporary, still amaze us. Outstanding photo.

Third Place

The Citizen, Ortonville

Looking good

Patrick McAbee

Look'n good is exactly what Anna is doing while she checks out her newly painted face. Love the angle and the perspective of the photographer. It most certainly capture the mood. Now, if only we knew what Anna was thinking at that moment... hmmm.

Honorable Mention

Tuscola County Advertiser

House on wheels

John Cook

Farmhouse on highway: Absolutely mind blowing, right? I know it happens, but to actually watch it happen and take photos of it is an entirely different thing. Incredible.

Weekly/News Media C - Feature Photo

12 Entries

First Place

Oceana's Herald-Journal

Hart Sparks pack 'em in

John Cavanagh

Photographing fireworks is difficult to begin with; incorporating them into a good photograph is that much more challenging. Well done!

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

STANDIN TALL MEGA TRUCK

Krista Tacey-Cater

The photographer's use of the low angle to emphasize the height of the truck, as well as the child to emphasize its scale, is particularly well-executed. A great example of taking a mundane subject one step farther to make it interesting!

Third Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Red, white and blue

Judy Wagley

Upon first look, this is simply a posed photo of four men. However, the slightly-lower camera angle, along with their relaxed poses, makes this a better-than-average portrait.

Honorable Mention

Oceana's Herald-Journal

Up the right tree

Jim Johnson

Oh, how I wish this would have been cropped tighter! To my eye, cropping from the bottom to include only the flowers and her face would have made this shot a sure-fire winner. A great entry nonetheless!

Weekly/News Media D - Feature Photo

12 Entries

First Place

Oxford Leader

Need a mint?

C.J. Carnacchio

Having photographed the same kind of thing myself, I know that this is not an easy thing to do - your timing must be perfect. A very well-executed example of a difficult photo to get!

Second Place

Oxford Leader

Woo-hoo, no more school!

C.J. Carnacchio

The goal of a successful photo is to tell the entire story as quickly as possible, and in a way that entertains as well, and this is a great example - the exuberance on the child's face says it all!

Third Place

Charlevoix Courier

Winter racing regatta

G. Randall Goss

A simple, colorful graphic design, pleasing to the eye. My only wish is it hadn't been cropped as tightly in the layout. Aside from that - well done!

Honorable Mention

The Boyne City Gazette

Pumpkin Guts

Christopher Faulknor

This photo almost made the top three - the look on the kid's face is priceless. Cropping-in would have helped significantly here, as the child at left looking at the camera pulls the viewer's eye from the main subject of the photo. Otherwise, a funny moment well-captured!

Feature Story

Daily A - Feature Story

19 Entries

First Place

Detroit Free Press

Is this the end of Delray?

John Carlisle

Amazing stories, quotes, and details - I felt as if I were there, in Delray, in the "familiar, comforting, neighborly, stinky home" that the city of Detroit has sentenced to die. Great transitions between one person's story and another. I can't imagine a better story on this subject.

Second Place

Detroit Free Press

In Detroit's poorest neighborhoods, a food truck serves the forgotten

John Carlisle

Gives stories and names to the invisible poor who must rely for sustenance on the Salvation Army's mobile food-pantry truck. Includes the unforgettable story of two brothers whose fortunes reversed dramatically, one of them rising from addiction and homelessness to drive the truck, and the other falling into homelessness and the shadows.

Third Place

Detroit Free Press

The tiniest addicts: How U.P. babies became part of opioid epidemic

Georga Kovanis

A close look at the lives of babies born addicted to opioids and the nurses who care for them. The story is well told, and the writer clearly was able to earn subjects' trust in order to gain remarkable access.

Honorable Mention

Flint Journal

Family left homeless after crime and waste overrun mismanaged apartment complex

Zahra Ahmad

This in-depth look at a family that must stay in a condemned apartment building despite crime and squalor highlights the vulnerability of those living on the financial margins. The author has a good eye for the details that make clear the family's desperate situation.

Daily B - Feature Story

29 Entries

First Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

'We just do things in twos:' Identical twins prepare to marry identical twins

Taylor DesOrmeau

This story of how two identical twin sisters came to meet, start dating, and eventually become engaged to a pair of identical twin brothers is intriguing.

Second Place **The Ann Arbor News**

Mother's deportation means emotional goodbye for Ann Arbor family

Ryan Stanton

This article explores the impossible situation of a woman who overstayed her visa many years ago and her three teenage children -- two of them born in the United States, and all three raised there - who are going with her to Mexico, at least while they sort out what to do.

Third Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

'Chaos and Horror': Vietnam vets remember Tet Offensive 50 years later

Jordan Travis

In a measured tone, the author brings together the stories of several American soldiers who remember the Tet Offensive, with each adding vivid details about what it was like for American soldiers to be there.

Honorable Mention **Holland Sentinel**

Holland police surprise special needs student

Audra Gamble

Great story about the love that one young Holland man with Down syndrome has for police work, and the respect that local police reciprocated with a special event to honor him after he graduated from Junior Police Academy. Great quotes throughout, such as, "This dude right here brings happiness to everybody's life."

Daily C - Feature Story

46 Entries

This was a very hard category to judge. Not only due the volume of entries, but the quality of the submissions. They were all very interesting and unique.

First Place **Grand Haven Tribune**

Courage on display

Becky Vargo

I loved the article! I thought it really stood out because the focus was on the beauty of what these artists are doing and the impact they are having on these women's lives. I loved the personalized touches of the cancer stories, as well and the information about the artists who are contributing their time to this cause. The only thing I was left wondering was what exactly ArtPrize was and why voting was going. Then again, I'm glad the emphasis was placed on the art, beauty and impact it was having.

Second Place **Herald-Palladium**

A Healthy Dose Of Harmony

Jeremy Bonfiglio

I loved the story-telling in this article. Great use of quotes. I love that you used research to back the claims of the organization. It really brought credibility to the cause and promotes a call to action - volunteering! The article stood out because of that.

Third Place **Cadillac News**

'My punishment will never end'

Chris Lamphere

I really liked the way this article was presented and the story was told. All the facts were laid out for the reader to decide whether this man should be paroled. I'm sure it brought about debate and controversy. From the quotes, I could tell this was supported by well executed interviews. The case itself was interesting and I think you did a well job of representing it.

Honorable Mention

Cadillac News

You've got mail

Rick Charmoli

I thought this was a very well written and sweet story about an special kind of kindness that doesn't occur everyday. What stood out what the extra effort taken to look into the gentleman, by way of "The Google". Ha! He deserves the recognition you so kindly gave him. Great story telling.

Daily D - Feature Story

40 Entries

First Place

Greenville Daily News

Good Boy

Elisabeth Waldon

Wonderful lede and great use of short sentences as transitions to keep up the quick pace of this story about an upbeat and brave police K-9.

Second Place

Manistee News-Advocate

Love on the gridiron

Michelle Graves

Excellent lede in: "The only thing Sonja Stoykovich and Logan Pachesy might love more than each other is football." The author does a good job of letting the humor of the events unfold naturally, without commentary.

Third Place

Niles Daily Star

A good listener

Sarah Culton

The opening story of the moment Wendy Kast realized she couldn't hear at all was well-told. Appreciated the attention to detail with which the author describes what it was like for Kast to lose, and then regain, her hearing, as well as what makes her want to keep a blog to help others with hearing loss.

Honorable Mention

The Pioneer

Big Rapids family adjusts to their new normal caring for sons medical needs

Emily Grove

The author avoids any sentimentality in her telling of the story of a mother whose 2-year-old son has had a heart transplant but continues to face significant medical challenges.

Weekly/News Media A - Feature Story

21 Entries

First Place

Bridge Magazine

American dream and a Mexican nightmare: Maria's story

Chastity Pratt Dawsey

This deep dive into issues surrounding immigration is wonderfully well written and restrained as it traces the sometimes nearly unbearable effects of immigration polices on the lives of several young people. Thoughtful and humane.

Second Place

Bridge Magazine

Lawsuits, dirty tricks and an angry ex-wife: is this Detroit's ugliest election ever?

Joel Kurth

I loved this well-told story about the dirty tricks that characterize campaigns for the Wayne County Commission, and about the tireless African-American woman who has run five times unsuccessfully and is now running again and who, in her sixth run, is being criticized for employing some of the dirty tricks that have always defeated her.

Third Place

Bridge Magazine

Driveway by driveway, these volunteers aim to end gerrymandering

Riley Beggan

This story finds an interesting angle into the topic of a proposal for redistricting reform, by looking what it's like for one volunteer who goes door-to-door to try to convince people to vote for it. Well written and engaging.

Honorable Mention

Bridge Magazine

Goodbye to Delray

Chastity Pratt Dawsey

Great writing in this balanced piece on the history of the slow death of the Delray area, and on what makes some long-time residents want to move out or stay.

Weekly/News Media B - Feature Story

33 Entries

First Place

Detroit Jewish News

The Unkindest Cut

Ronelle Grier

Solid reporting, well-packaged and presented. A critical issue that is approached with a great deal of empathy.

Second Place

Grosse Pointe News

Grosse Pointe Equestrian: Less club, more community

Melissa Walsh

A solid lead that draws the reader in. Well-reported and packaged.

Third Place

Detroit Jewish News

Saving Alfie

Robin Schwartz

A well-packaged piece that treats the subject with dignity.

Honorable Mention

Detroit Jewish News

College Blues

Ronelle Grier

Nicely packaged piece on an important topic.

Weekly/News Media C - Feature Story

24 Entries

First Place

The Tri-City Times

Thunder in heaven

Catherine Minolli

Second Place

Gladwin County Record & Beaverton Clarion

Cremation beads carry on the love after loss

Kaitlin Thorne

Third Place

Belleville-Area Independent

Retired Chief Gene Taylor saves teen from getting hit by train

Rosemary Otzman

Honorable Mention

Allegan County News

DNA search leads to new family branches

Virginia Ransbottom

Weekly/News Media D - Feature Story

16 Entries

First Place

Cass City Chronicle

Choose Kindness

Tom Montgomery

This article really stood out because you really told the story. The topic is one of great value, and it really touched me. You did an excellent job of making it about these children and the remarkable things they are doing. You gave them a platform to inspire all ages. You let the story tell itself.

Second Place

State Line Observer

They're made in Morenci

David Green

This article stood out because of the subject matter. The business was very unique. The processes were interesting and their business practices are admirable. I have no interest in anything like this, but you had me fully engaged from start to end.

Third Place

The Clinton Local, LLC.

They Told Me I was a Ticking Timebomb

Joyce Lancaster

I really liked that you kept a sense of urgency throughout the entire article.

The facts and quotes were supportive and informative.

Honorable Mention

Oxford Leader

WWII vet shares A-bomb experiences

C.J. Carnacchio

These are the kinds of stories that need to be shared. I wanted to recognize this article because it was not only well written, but included quotes and perspectives that would otherwise never be heard.

Government/Education News

Daily A - Government/Education News

22 Entries

Truly strong category--there were at least three or four other stories that could easily have been honored. The investigative journalism is strong--keep up the good work!

First Place

Detroit Free Press

In donors we trust: University of Michigan pours billions into funds run by contributors firms

Matthew Dolan, David Jesse

Incredibly in-depth, solid reporting across the board, and a dedication to telling the kind of story about money in education--and the potential conflicts that come with it--that is so difficult, which makes it all the more important.

Second Place

Grand Rapids Press

Secret telephone line reveals conduct of Grand Rapids police

Amy Biolchini, Justin Hicks, John Agar, John Tunison, Mark Tower

A terrific victory for the press, and the public. Good for the Grand Rapids Press for going to court over a Freedom of Information request--and the win uncovers one of those all-too-common moments of corruption that are probably caught on tape more often than we think. But it takes a good journalist to know where to look, and to fight to get there. Kudos.

Third Place

Detroit Free Press

Dead bodies, wild dogs, squatters in government-owned Detroit houses

Jennifer Dixon

"Shoe leather journalism" at its finest. A deep dive into the issue, but it never ignores the humanity of the people affected. Great stuff.

Honorable Mention

Flint Journal

Flint police officer buys recall petition copies with check from mayor's campaign

Oona Goodin-Smith

Once again, an incident of corruption that would be easy to ignore. Instead, the Journal dug in deeper and deeper. Such a terrific story, and well-reported and -written all the way through.

Daily B - Government/Education News

19 Entries

The winners in this category were all by reporters who took what could have been an everyday meeting story and brought it outside into the world where people actually live.

First Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Medical marijuana embroils Leoni Township, leads to recalls

Taylor DesOrmeau, Danielle Salisbury

This story was hard to believe, and that's apparently the same reaction readers had about local officials pocketing fees. What were these officials thinking the reaction would be? The reporter was smart to dig further and calculate how much of a raise the fees provided for relatively little work.

Second Place

The Ann Arbor News

Trash in downtown Ann Arbor alleys Overflowing dumpsters in downtown alleys have Ann Arbor talking trash

Ryan Stanton

A nicely done enterprise story, where a reporter followed his nose -- literally -- and tracked down why there was so much garbage in city's alleys. An example of getting outside the meetings. The reader benefited here from the explanations of the work that goes on behind the scenes to get rid of our garbage.

Third Place

Jackson Citizen Patriot

City councilman charged with domestic violence, resigns

Taylor DesOrmeau, Danielle Salisbury

Nice job here going beyond the courtroom to put the charges into a wider context and also then explaining workings of council that seemingly bypassed the public, although those type of mid-term appointments aren't that uncommon.

Honorable Mention **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Jackson County buys \$5 million in equipment as solution to deteriorating roads
Taylor DesOrmeau

This story served readers well by explaining not only how the machine worked but the understandable fear it struck into the people who it would replace. The paper also did well by readers showing exactly how the thing worked in print and video.

Daily C - Government/Education News

31 Entries

Meeting stories, or stories that arise out of officials taking actions or reports being issued, are sometimes well done but usually not enough to win against stronger enterprise reporting.

First Place **Herald-Palladium**

Help Wanted

Julie Swidwa

Well done. Covers all the bases, well organized and explained with concrete examples of the issues and what various departments are doing about it. I liked hearing from many people.

Second Place **Petoskey News-Review**

Safeguarding schools

Jillian Fellows

A fascinating story, especially when people who think about school security starting talking about what goes through their heads. I thought the best material here was buried after the jump, had to wade through a generic overview of national situation on Page 1 that might have lost people but those who stuck around were treated to a well-written piece. Reporter did a nice job getting people to talk.

Third Place **Herald-Palladium**

Chartering troubled waters

Louise Wrege

A nicely done package with a solid example in Mildred C Wells School. It left me with the question, can anyone in Michigan just start a private school? Any requirements?

Honorable Mention **Herald-Palladium**

A dreamer's nightmare

Tony Wittkowski

I am sure it was a challenge to find an undocumented immigrant who would talk about his or her experience but a benefit to readers to hear this perspective.

Daily D - Government/Education News

30 Entries

Good art support for many entries. Some needed more ground-level sourcing -- firefighters, in talking about the fire contracts; college students, on some of the big building expansions. But overall, these papers are clearly serving their communities.

First Place **Greenville Daily News**

Ionia Furniture Fiasco

Elisabeth Waldon

LOVED this series, which basically came out of routine meeting coverage. Could have used more background on the 'business' aspects of furniture, especially for governments, and how profitable it is. Made in China photo was a good sourcing catch. Might have been appropriate to bring in the national political dynamic, which seems to have been a backdrop.

Second Place **Sturgis Journal**

School outsourcing

Michelle Patrick

Good, thorough review of this topic in multiple districts. I wanted a story that began or involved the writer eating at the cafeteria, one of those Chartwell

cafeterias. NOTE: I think the story needed a public policy or labor expert commenting on this. Pensions have importance particularly for lower and middle income employees. The teachers have pensions. The administrators do. The cleaners, not so much. And the people who have pensions aren't terribly worried about that.

Third Place

On the job training

P.J. Glisson

I liked this. Thorough review of motivations at work. Needed some board comment on how they came to this.

Honorable Mention **The Pioneer**

Big Rapids High School students walk out to honor shooting victims, advocate school safety

Meghan Gunther-Haas

Good roundup, thorough student comment. Not maudlin.

Weekly/News Media A - Government/Education News

16 Entries

Very difficult to judge, the winners were all great. You can't expect to place in this category with meeting stories, or a series of meeting stories, as well as they may be written.

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

social studies standards

Ron French, Lindsay Van Hulle

An impressive and interesting examination of the fine print. I thought the stories did well not to focus exclusively on the proposed changes by the lawmaker but on the fact that he was invited and served on the committee to begin with. (To his credit, he spoke to the reporters to defend himself, and hearing his side certainly added to the story, which should be a lesson for sources.) Some of the language seemed too strident, such as "packed with conservatives," which could be read to mean it was stacked with progressives before, which nobody thought was so bad. Seems like "packed with politicians" was more to the point.

Second Place **Bridge Magazine**

Why are Michigan schools performing so poorly?

Ron French, Mike Wilkinson

Strong stories such as addressing myth that poor kids can't do as well and I'm going to steal the idea of reading a bunch of reports and sharing the reporters' takeaway.

Third Place **Chalkbeat**

The Detroit school district has been using a curriculum that's an injustice to the children of Detroit but its not alone.

Erin Einhorn

A nice job here taking the audit and explaining what it meant both locally and nationally, and providing context such as why early math skills are so vital.

Honorable Mention **Bridge Magazine**

Michigan spent \$80 million to improve reading. Scores went down

Ron French, Mike Wilkinson

Great find with the former legislator now working in schools, she had a unique perspective. Also liked focus on what one school has done to turn things around.

Weekly/News Media B - Government/Education News

12 Entries

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Once-sleepy Empire looks at sewer question

Alan Campbell

A nice job by reporter explaining the history and importance behind a vital piece of infrastructure. Got outside the meeting room.

Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Welcome back to school

Amy Hubbell, Eric Carlson, Alan Campbell, Jason Bushen

I am going to steal this idea! Well executed. I'm sure it was a big hit among parents to see what's new at schools, including improvements and new staff.

Great photos and I liked the graphics that gave you a rundown of each school.

Third Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Opinions vary widely on cannabis; some say legalize it

Eric Carlson

Balanced reporting and well organized. I liked how reporter got personal and professional opinions from each source.

Weekly/News Media C - Government/Education News

18 Entries

First Place **Allegan County News**

Supreme Court sides with Tribe

Ryan Lewis

A fine story on a complex, long-running legal case, this one stands out above other entries in the category. The writer made excellent use of Supreme Court documents, got reaction from multiple sources, and provided critical background on a complicated issue. It clearly demonstrates what a local newspaper can do. The only thing missing in it was reaction from the losing litigant, or his attorney, or a statement that they declined to comment or could not be reached. Overall, though, this is terrific article.

Second Place **The Tri-City Times**

Storm to be reckoned with

Catherine Minolli

A local paper might be tempted to shy away from extensive coverage of a local controversy involving school safety, gun-control/gun-rights, the police, and a social-media firestorm, but that didn't happen in this case. The resulting article dealt with the various aspects of the incident (and the related sidebar giving the text of the police chief's statement rounded out the coverage nicely). The only possible addition would have been inclusion of quotations from some of the actual Facebook-social media postings by local parents and residents (without necessarily identifying them by name) to show the tenor of the online discussion. By contrast, the material from the school official on the nature of the event and processes could have been edited down.

Third Place **The Tri-City Times**

Colorado of St Clair County

Maria Brown

Essentially coverage of a couple of meetings, this story went beyond the routine by adding helpful details of a related recent village council action, plus state law and state developments. All in all, it's a fine job of ongoing coverage of a local issue.

Honorable Mention **Belleville-Area Independent**

Van Buren Township Trustee arraigned for shoplifting

Rosemary Otzman

What might have been a mere local-court proceeding story became much more with the revelation that the person being arraigned was a local government official – apparently one with a history of prior allegations against her. Although the story is relatively short, it reflects diligent digging through use of FOI requests, mentions details from state law, and includes comments from the township supervisor, in addition to the court developments. But it lacks some key details of the past allegations. The story states that “this is the third time” the individual “has been detained for shoplifting,” according to police reports. However, it only goes on to relate a May 25, 2009, incident, apparently during which a store manager told the woman that she had attempted to steal on another, earlier occasion as well. A little more clarity on the chronology and exactly what happened in these one or two previous incidents would have been helpful.

Weekly/News Media D - Government/Education News

14 Entries

First Place **Edwardsburg Argus**

New EPS superintendent announced

Andrew Mentock

A nice lead and description put me in the room and gave me a sense of the nervous job applicant and happy ending. A little flair on what would usually be a typical meeting story.

Second Place **Charlevoix Courier**

A lot of pot: Sheriff needs more room for marijuana

Lonnie Allen

Reporter used an arresting fact – the police don't know what to do with all the weed they seize to transition to a broader context, i.e., how marijuana today isn't the same as what grandpa smoked

Third Place **State Line Observer**

Taking the Water Walk

David Green

Nice job here keeping the reader moving through the story, although the teachers lapsed in to edu-speak at the end and also would have liked to hear more about why they were reserving judgment on the curriculum.

News Enterprise Reporting

Daily A - News Enterprise Reporting

13 Entries

First Place **Detroit Free Press**

Trooper tases teen on ATV. Police video reveals what happens next.

Elisha Anderson, John Wisely, Ann Zaniewski

Through freedom of information laws and dogged reporting, the Detroit Free Press took an ugly incident involving police and revealed the event was an even uglier incident than what appeared on the surface. Releasing portions of the video to the public took this work to the next level and undoubtedly reshaped some people's opinions on this tragedy.

Second Place **Detroit Free Press**

Juvenile justice war wages on in Michigan

Allie Gross

This fascinating, underreported criminal justice subject came to life because this story was largely told through several people directly impacted by it. It's the best written piece in the category.

Third Place **Grand Rapids Press**

PFAS contamination in Michigan

Garret Ellison, Paula Gardner

This story grips you from the beginning by quickly telling you real people's stories. This is not just a numbers dump, though it does contain many important figures, this is human reporting done exceptionally well. This was a challenging category to judge and this third place award might have been a first in any other state or division.

Daily B - News Enterprise Reporting

22 Entries

First Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Former TC doctor criticized for prescriptions, deaths

Matt Troutman

Outstanding source work. In fact, I was blown away by how many sources you worked into this story. Thorough reporting and the definition of enterprise.

Second Place **The Ann Arbor News**

Deportations, despair and big court backups amid Michigan

immigration crackdown

Ryan Stanton, Dana Afana

This is the kind of story we often hear about but without names and faces attached to it. This is the human side of the immigration story.

Third Place **The Ann Arbor News**

Speedy trial? Not if you're mentally ill in Michigan

John Counts

This was a very worthy entry in an incredibly competitive category. It's a fascinating subject matter and an often unexplored topic.

Honorable Mention **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

Lawyer releases obscene audio he claims proves Jackson sheriff is bigot

Danielle Salisbury

Bravo for publishing these rather horrific recordings.

Daily C - News Enterprise Reporting

29 Entries

First Place

Petoskey News-Review

Local organization labeled hate group

Arielle Hines

An unflinching, yet balanced exploration of the thin line between hate and hate groups. Well done.

Second Place

Grand Haven Tribune

Opioid series

Matt DeYoung, Alex Doty, Becky Vargo, Krystle Wagner, Mark Brooky, Josh VanDyke, Marie Haviga, Duncan MacLean, Emma Dale

A thorough look into the issue of our time: opioids. Much of the information shared will serve as a resource guide for families battling addiction.

Third Place

Cadillac News

What happened to the Kysor plane?

Mardi Suhs

Way to dig deep into the archives and the buried emotions of a family affected by a plane crash. Better packaging and the elimination of redundancies in the sprawling series would have served this story well.

Daily D - News Enterprise Reporting

30 Entries

First Place

Sturgis Journal

Homeless students

Elena Meadows, Rosalie Currier, Michelle Patrick

Wow!! All I can say is wow. Incredible storytelling. The artwork took my breath away. If I could make one suggestion: In the second story, I would have omitted the first graph. Starting with Victor's story from the get-go would have been best. But otherwise, this has to be one of the best examples of enterprise reporting I've seen in a long time. Excellent job. You should be proud!

Second Place

The Pioneer

Let's Make a Deal

Emily Grove

Excellent writing, fabulous research. I knew this was an award-winner when I read the first lede. This is a textbook example of great reporting, presentation. I wish I could rate this series higher than 10!

Third Place

Niles Daily Star

Preparing for the worst (two stories packaged)

Sarah Culton, Kelsey Hammon

Excellent all around - from the writing, compelling package, side bars, graphics, headline, interviews... I won't forget this story for a long, long time.

Honorable Mention

Sturgis Journal

Church attendance news focus

Rosalie Currier, Elena Meadows, Michelle Patrick

Fascinating. Great art and presentation. Thoroughly enjoyed this series about a topic many people or their families can relate to. It really shows thinking outside the box. Nice job.

Weekly/News Media A - News Enterprise Reporting

11 Entries

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Detroit neighborhoods

Joel Kurth, Nancy Derringer, Mike Wilkinson

Excellent writing and great art that accompanies it. What a tremendous series for the people of Detroit, and the state of Michigan, to learn from. Fascinating, important work. Excellent job.

Second Place

Bridge Magazine

Medicaid work rules

Lindsay Van Hulle, Mike Wilkinson

Nothing to say except excellent job. You've made a cumbersome topic to write about interesting and relatable - a difficult task.

Third Place

Bridge Magazine

Poor in Michigan with no ID

Joel Kurth, Ted Roelofs

Couldn't stop reading this story - great photos, quotes, sidebar... I can't say enough about this enterprise piece. Well done.

Honorable Mention

Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle

Untouchable Reynolds guilty of 14 bribery, conspiracy charges

Nick Mordowanec

Fascinating story - great interviews, well-written. Good job!

Weekly/News Media B - News Enterprise Reporting

10 Entries

First Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Newbie cherry farmers readying for trees to awaken from winter

Jen Murphy

Nice ledes, headlines, beautiful art... Love how you follow this couple through the harvest season. Nice job!

Second Place

Detroit Jewish News

Politically Active

Bobbie Lewis

Nice story package - great writing and story flow. I would have liked to have seen a graphic, but there were a lot of sources and moving parts in this story that were a pleasure to read. Nice job.

Third Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

State news? Medical-marijuana store opens Friday in Vassar

Tom Gilchrist

Incredibly thorough stories, in my opinion, to the point where it's too much. As a reader, I didn't have interest in a 30-inch meeting story. Some of these are good, show good reporting and information, but the stories could have been written in a more emotional and compelling way. Still, strong overall. Nice work - I'm sure it took a lot of it.

Weekly/News Media C - News Enterprise Reporting

9 Entries

First Place

Gaylord Herald Times

After the boom

Arielle Breen

This was an incredibly in-depth and well presented series. To take readers from the very first roughnecks to where they are now, all the while explaining the ins and outs of drilling was amazing. This was enterprise reporting at its finest.

Second Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Methadone in Gaylord

William T. Perkins

I appreciated the reporter presenting both sides of issue, and giving readers enough information to decide for themselves what's right and what's wrong.

Third Place

Belleville-Area Independent

VB School Board settles lawsuits with 4 Savage teachers

Rosemary Otzman

What is happening in our schools is such an important story, and listening to residents when they don't feel something is right is where some of the best reporting comes from. This was a great story about a superintendent who wasn't being fair, and the reporter really got to the bottom of that.

Honorable Mention

Sanilac County News

Series of balanced, in-depth articles on Sanilac County's child custody-rape case that grabbed national headlines

Steven Kovac

A really good look into a national story. I only wish there was a little more look into normal procedures.

Weekly/News Media D - News Enterprise Reporting

10 Entries

First Place *The Boyne City Gazette*

Village of Boyne Falls Coverage

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

Wow! This was an excellent series, and a wild ride. From a seemingly innocuous gravel fill to OML violations, great job by Christopher Faulknor and Benjamin Gohs.

Second Place *Cass City Chronicle*

Police, prosecutor: drugs, including pot, behind crime surge

Tom Montgomery

I thoroughly enjoyed the amount of information given. My only wish is there was some more information or quotes from supporters of marijuana legalization.

Third Place *Charlevoix Courier*

Officials: Pier jumping illegal, dangerous activity

Lonnie Allen

Jam-packed with great information on the dangers of pier jumping. The statistical information on drownings and background on the legalities of pier-jumping gave an excellent source for readers to make their own decisions.

Honorable Mention *The Clinton Local, LLC.*

What is Patriotism?

Michael Walters, George Service

Not many controversies get wrapped up in a neat little bow. Great job capturing the essence of small-town issues and the importance of respect.

News Photo

Daily A - News Photo

30 Entries

First Place *Grand Rapids Press*

Distraught father attempts to attack Larry Nassar

Cory Morse

Second Place *Kalamazoo Gazette*

RIP Mujey

Rebekah Welch

Third Place *Lansing State Journal*

Protest at Richard Spencer speech

Nick King

Honorable Mention *Flint Journal*

Violent clashes erupt

Jake May

Daily B - News Photo

22 Entries

First Place *The Ann Arbor News*

UMich protest over racist incidents ends with fight near Michigan Union

Matt Weigand

Second Place *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Tabled

J. Scott Park

Third Place *The Monroe News*

Tearful fire

Tom Hawley

Honorable Mention *Jackson Citizen Patriot*

Nassar apology

J. Scott Park

Daily C - News Photo

15 Entries

First Place *Midland Daily News*

Vigil for Vegas

Katy Kildee

Second Place

Barn fire

Steve Zucker

Third Place

Pete's Return

Katy Kildee

Daily D - News Photo

9 Entries

First Place

Aurora Street Ablaze

Jason Juno

Second Place

You are the brave heroes

Cory Smith

Third Place

Vacant Structure Destroyed

Cory Smith

Honorable Mention

A quick response

Richard Jenkins

Weekly/News Media A - News Photo

1 Entries

First Place

PFAS

Jim Malewitz

While the photo is appropriate for the story, it shows little initiative..

Weekly/News Media B - News Photo

1 Entries

First Place

Triple Threat

Eric Carlson

Although this is the only entry in the category, it captures a busy winter day on Suttons Bay which is clearly what the photographer was after. On a side note, we're not sure what the "threat" implied in the "Triple Threat" headline is.

Weekly/News Media C - News Photo

6 Entries

First Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County Herald-News

Recording the fire

Thomas Reznich

Photography of fire scenes is a real challenge, especially in the early moments of a fire. Kudos to the photographer for getting to the scene early, and then still maintaining the poise to concentrate on making a good composition. Nice job!

Second Place

Family escapes Monterey blaze

Virginia Ransbottom

An intense, dramatic image that illustrates the story well. Nice use of the firefighters near the building to show scale.

Third Place

Condo building fire

Brian Bliss

Nicely composed! My only wish was that the photographer had included more firefighters in the foreground, but aside from that it's a clean, efficient image worthy of note!

Weekly/News Media D - News Photo

9 Entries

Petoskey News-Review

Midland Daily News

The Daily Globe

Greenville Daily News

Greenville Daily News

The Daily Globe

Bridge Magazine

Leelanau Enterprise

Allegan County News

Gaylord Herald Times

First Place

Eclipsed
David Green

A great capture. A slightly tighter crop would have made this photo all the much better, but a fine job nonetheless!

State Line Observer

Second Place

Home In Time For Mother's Day

Christopher Faulknor

Well-conceived, well-composed, and a great capture of just the right moment!

The Boyne City Gazette

Third Place

The Good Word?

Christopher Faulknor

These kind of shots are tricky to capture when it comes to including both opposing subject elements in the frame, but the photographer has done a great job of that here.

The Boyne City Gazette

Photo Story

Daily A - Photo Story

13 Entries

First Place

Autumn and Rachael

Nick King

Second Place

Redefining home

Brontë Wittpenn

Third Place

Kalamazoo's refugees adjust to their new lives after resettlement

Rebekah Welch

Honorable Mention

PFAS: Michigan's next water crisis

Jake May

Lansing State Journal

Flint Journal

Kalamazoo Gazette

Grand Rapids Press

Daily B - Photo Story

20 Entries

This was a very competitive category. A lot of great photos and stories. Very difficult to choose.

First Place

Kids tackle mud piles, swim in murky pools at annual Childrenz Challenge

J. Scott Park

Great pictures although not sure why this is such a popular event? Especially love the individual shots.

Second Place

Meeting a bluebird family

Mike Dickie

Beautiful! great idea and must have taken a lot of patience to capture these terrific shots.

Third Place

Michigan father and son's weekly swim strengthens their bond of love

Jack Zellweger

Very touching...special photos capture a special relationship

Ghanaian immigrant finds home in Muskegon by sharing his culture

Mike Krebs

Nice to see this photo story. Well done

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Daily Telegram

The Ann Arbor News

Muskegon Chronicle

Daily C - Photo Story

10 Entries

First Place

Summer: A Second Look

Don Campbell

Awesome photos...tells the story of a fun summer.

Herald-Palladium

Second Place

Back on track

Jeff Kiessel

Great photos...captures the hard work that went into this restoration.

Third Place

The colors of summer on the Fumee Lake trails

Theresa Proudfit

These photos are art...beautiful

Honorable Mention

Hero laid to rest

Jeff Kiessel

Photographer really captures the sorrow

Ludington Daily News

The Daily News, Iron Mountain

Ludington Daily News

Daily D - Photo Story

10 Entries

First Place

Aurora Street Ablaze

Jason Juno, Richard Jenkins

These photos of the fire on Aurora street in the snow are dramatic, well composed and breath-taking. The first and last photos especially amazingly capture the action. Great job.

Second Place

Full STEAM ahead

Paul P. Adams

We loved how the photographer captured so many joyous faces during the STEAM Showcase. The photos represent a variety of activities which really tell the story and large photos of cute kids are always a winning combination.

Third Place

Grease fire suspected as cause of Golden Dragon blaze

Richard Jenkins, Larry Holcombe

These photos vividly show the smoke, flames and action at the scene of a grease fire. The photographers did an excellent job getting close shots of the roof, and we were particularly impressed the photograph of firefighter's shadows on the side of the building. The advertisement in the page distracted from the layout.

Huron Daily Tribune

The Daily Globe

Weekly/News Media A - Photo Story

4 Entries

First Place

Preschool works wonders for Flint kids. But money is running out

Anthony Lanzilote

This picture story stood out, head and shoulders, above the other entries.

Most of the photos were very well done, with artistic lighting and composition. Fantastic Job capturing a preschool scene.

Second Place

A dog fight at the Democratic convention

Lindsay Van Hulle, Riley Beggin

The photo story does a good job showing a variety of difference scenes during the Michigan Attorney General Primary. Some photos are more interesting than others, but it clearly captures the whole night.

Third Place

Goodbye to Delray

Anthony Lanzilote, Lester Graham

These photos tell a good story about the current state of Delray. Most of the pictures were very well done, especially the portraits of residents. However, we were disappointed that so many photos came from other sources than staff photographer Anthony Lanzilote.

Bridge Magazine

Bridge Magazine

Bridge Magazine

Weekly/News Media B - Photo Story

3 Entries

First Place

Learning the traditions

Brian Forde

Penasee Globe

Love the vibrant colors and artistic quality. These photos make the energy of a Pow Wow come to life. We loved the facial expression capture, though it would have been nice to have one general image to set the scene.

Second Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Snow Smile

Eric Carlson

The front page photo of a boy in a cardboard sled is great. The photographer captured his enthusiasm. The others help create the scene of an unusual event, however we disagree with the photo that was enlarged on page 12.

We would have highlighted the picture of Cayden Jelinek instead.

Third Place **Grosse Pointe News**

Dedicated

Renee Landuyt

The photos clearly tell a story of a 9/11 memorial dedication, but they could have been more creatively shot.

Weekly/News Media C - Photo Story

12 Entries

First Place **Allegan County News**

165th fair memories

Virginia Ransbottom

Love the pig and the horse shot.

Second Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Memorial Day in Otsego County

Judy Wagley

These photos really captured what looks like was a really popular community event.

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

Music

Krista Tacey-Cater

Nice pictures that gave me an overall feel for the music program.

Honorable Mention **The County Press, Lapeer**

Sports VIEW - Learn to play hockey

Lisa Paine

These kids look adorable...somewhat enthusiastic, somewhat tentative...very cute.

Weekly/News Media D - Photo Story

13 Entries

First Place **State Line Observer**

Gray & brown world

David Green

While I usually opt for people in photos the graphic nature of these pix were beautiful...Each of these could be a piece of art.

Second Place **State Line Observer**

Winter Olympics

David Green

Photographer captured the fun and spontaneity of the Olympics.

Third Place **State Line Observer**

Young carpenters

David Green

Adorable kids engaged always a win.

Honorable Mention **Cass City Chronicle**

Collage of veterans

Tom Montgomery

Can't go wrong with capturing our Veterans' place in this country.

Special Section

Daily A - Special Section

5 Entries

First Place **Grand Rapids Press**

PFAS contamination in Michigan

Sean McKeown-Young

A serious story that tells how the people have been effected. The visual of how expansive the problem is should motivate officials to take action to solve.

Second Place **Detroit Free Press**

HALL TOGETHER ... Trammell, Morris inducted to Baseball Hall of Fame

Free Press Staff

Great informative sports features that reflect the players and their personalities. From game performance to personal info that makes it a great historic record.

Third Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Immigration special section

Kate Howland

Immigration is a complex story and they did a thorough job on every part of the issue.

Honorable Mention **Detroit Free Press**

Home is where their hearts are

Free Press Staff

Personal stories told from the outside looking in at the bleak lives, but they see it as good lives in a community where they want to stay,

Daily B - Special Section

10 Entries

First Place **The Monroe News**

Spring 2018 Monroe Magazine

The Monroe News Staff

Great photography, unique interesting articles and excellent design

Second Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Grand Traverse Business - Spring 2018

Record-Eagle staff

This had everything. Very creative layout and photography. Interesting well researched stories.

Third Place **The Monroe News**

Fall 2017 Monroe Magazine

The Monroe News Staff

Nice heartwarming stories and photos that capture the essences of living in Monroe.

Honorable Mention **Holland Sentinel**

Muscle Memory - Special Section

Rich Lakeberg, Nate Morrison

Unique topic that takes initiative to interview each person of their sport and workout.

Daily C - Special Section

15 Entries

First Place **Ludington Daily News**

LDN's 150th Anniversary

LDN Editorial Staff, LDN Graphics Staff

The scope of this project, chronicling the first 150 years of the life of the Ludington Daily News, could have been daunting for any news staff. For this group, it appeared to be effortless and a labor of love. What a great design they used to format volumes of information. It is both historical and modern, really communicating the life of this newspaper and its communities beautifully. This series is a tribute to the talent and skill of all who worked on it. It is a service to the entire region as well, gathering its history that could otherwise have been lost: the very definition of any newspaper's mission. Could not imagine any way to improve this anniversary series; excellent, excellent work.

Daily C - Special Section

Entries

Second Place **Cadillac News**

Our Community

Staff

The original and very local content in this publication brings it to a higher level than many community roundup pieces. Great focus on the individual towns, both in the writing and the advertising. Good photography adds to the draw of this very well done piece.

Third Place **Herald-Palladium**

Senior PGA Championship
Herald-Palladium Staff

This is the kind of piece that can be too formulaic to be very interesting, but this group overcame that challenge completely. Very good profiles, and lots of useful information for the day of the event. Well organized and designed. A keeper for anyone who is involved with this championship, surely, with all the reference material, yet still has much of general interest.

Honorable Mention **Herald-Palladium**

Happily Ever After
Herald-Palladium Staff

This group succeeded in long-term planning and organizing to have a very good local wedding section. They had to maintain real connection over time to tap into the stories of all the couples they profiled. Great original photography. This piece is honest and fun, a good standard for all such publications.

Daily D - Special Section

13 Entries

First Place **The Daily Globe**

Honoring our veterans
All Staff

A great historic record of local heroes and amazing stories.

Second Place **Sturgis Journal**

Shoreline
Journal Staff

Beautiful photography and design. Articles to appeal to many.

Third Place **Niles Daily Star**

Horizons 2018

Niles Daily Star Staff

Nice layout and photography.

Great profiles and informative articles.

Honorable Mention **Huron Daily Tribune**

Meet Your Merchants
Staff

Not just a vanity piece on local businesses, but interesting profiles on what sets each of them apart from the rest.

Weekly/News Media A - Special Section

3 Entries

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

Michigan Facts Guide

Bridge Staff

Excellent! The most comprehensive and informative piece that educates everyone who is interested in changing things for the better. Well worth donating to this service of the distributing the facts. Great job!

Second Place **Bridge Magazine**

How to spot fake news

Alexandra Schmidt

An easy guide to read and learn how to spot fake news. This is an educational piece that can be used by anyone, from NIE programs in school to elderly.

Third Place **Huron County View**

19th Annual Cheeseburger in Caseville

Jen Johnson

Nice to have a fun supplement that guides readers to all the events.

Weekly/News Media B - Special Section

8 Entries

First Place **Detroit Jewish News**

Bridal

Lynn Konstantin

Magazine quality. Fine photography, and great articles for planning a wedding

Second Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Leelanau Color Tour 2017

Enterprise Staff

Reflects a great lifestyle magazine Informative and nice design.

Third Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Looking Back, 2018

Enterprise Staff

Colorful look back into history with amusing and unique stories of the community.

Honorable Mention **Detroit Jewish News**

Celebrate

Jackie Headapohl, Keri Cohen, Lynn Konstantin

Very comprehensive special section of celebrating everything in this Jewish community.

Weekly/News Media C - Special Section

19 Entries

First Place **The County Press, Lapeer**

Remembering Vietnam

Liz LaFave, Jeff Hogan, Joyce Bonesteel, Adam Fitzgerald

This is just the kind of work newspapers should be doing. A very well-done piece on a tough topic. Pulls no punches, yet also paints a picture of the veterans as full and well-rounded individuals. Excellent work.

Second Place **Tecumseh Herald**

Homefront Magazine

Nanci Heiney

This guide is beautifully designed, and the writers focus on a wide range of interesting and unusual topics. Well written and just the kind of piece a newcomer would want to pick up to know what the community is all about. Well done.

Third Place **Iron County Reporter**

Winter Fun Guide

Staff

Both the winter and summer guides published by this group were of high quality, but let's face it, it's just a little harder to convince the reader of the draw of the colder months. This piece does it admirably. A wide range of activities for every age group, from all the outdoor sports to the hygge of interior comfort. Well written and the ads are well designed, too. Makes the case for everyone to love winter.

Honorable Mention **The Tri-City Times**

Busker Tab

Tri-City Times Staff

It takes some guts to produce a piece for any first annual event, but this group did an admirable job of making the Busker Fest look like the most fun of the year. Here's hoping there is a second iteration of the event. Good work, presented well.

Weekly/News Media D - Special Section

9 Entries

First Place **Cass City Chronicle**

Hometown Heroes

Krysta Boyce

This is a great tribute to local veterans. The combination of historic and current photos make for a full understanding of what each veteran went through, and how the transition from the military affected each of them. Well written, very well done. Excellent work.

Second Place **Michigan Lawyers Weekly**

2017 Million Dollar Verdicts and Settlements

Heather Heater

Very well designed presentation, with interesting content. All this publication's readers surely found the cases in this piece of great interest, and they have an excellent reference piece where they can compare them and understand each case fully.

Third Place **The Advance**

Destination Detroit 2017

Brad Heineman, Melissa Burnor, Marcia Loader

This piece is very timely, with the results of tournaments all gathered for it readers, recognizing the athletes with good photos and writing. This is a keeper for any of the athletes and their families.

Honorable Mention **The Boyne City Gazette**

Winter Sports

Christopher Faulknor, Benjamin Gohs

This sports roundup is a good formula, well executed, with great photos and write-ups on each of the teams, as well as the individual athletes. It's a lot of work, well worth it for what it must mean to the athletes and the school programs. Good advertising support, which means it is valued, as it should be.

Sports Feature

Daily A - Sports Feature

16 Entries

First Place **Kalamazoo Gazette**

Teen with genetic disease proves inspiration to football team

Patrick Nothaft

most interesting and well written piece

Second Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Death. Taxes. Don Freaking Muhlbach.

Kyle Meinke

unique piece that kept my interest

Third Place **Flint Journal**

Rebuilding Reilly: Goodrich teen back on track after horrific accident

Brendan Savage

Like very much, could have been more poignant

Honorable Mention **Detroit Free Press**

Larry Nassar tragedy is worse than Penn State and we were complicit

Shawn Windsor

Brings home a very good point

Daily B - Sports Feature

32 Entries

First Place **Battle Creek Enquirer**

There's more to Western Michigan's Donnie Ernsberger than a viral moment

Nick Buckley

This writer's stories were the first two I read out of dozens and I remember thinking it would be hard to choose between the two of them. As it turned out, this very gifted profile writer claimed both first and second place in the division. This story had a gripping lede and a few turns I didn't expect it to take. Nick Buckley is a talent.

Second Place **Battle Creek Enquirer**

A dream realized: Mafiaion Joyner overcomes personal struggles to shine on college hardwood

Nick Buckley

A well-written feature on overcoming adversity to reach sport's highest levels.

Third Place **Bay City Times**

25 years later, missed tackle is still fresh wound for All Saints football alumni.

Lee Thompson

This was a very interesting take on an anniversary story, showing how a mistake on the football field has motivated and propelled one athlete to success in adulthood. An inspiring read.

Daily C - Sports Feature

39 Entries

First Place **Petoskey News-Review**

The Swenor family

Drew Kochanny

Second Place **The Mining Journal**

Feeling the Flo-rek

Ryan Stieg

Third Place **Herald-Palladium**

Still the best ever

Ben Sanders

Honorable Mention **Herald-Palladium**

The hole story

Tony Wittkowski

Daily D - Sports Feature

14 Entries

First Place **Greenville Daily News**

Behind the scoreboard

Alex Freeman

Nice piece on a pair of unsung heroes who make high school sporting events function in the town where they live. Every town has men and women like this, but they don't always get proper recognition.

Second Place **Huron Daily Tribune**

Unique routine carries on for Ugly cross country team

Paul P. Adams

Yes! I loved this. Great job finding a quirky, unique angle for a feature. And also reaching back more than a decade to find an origin story. Do the banana dance to celebrate this award!

Third Place **The Daily Globe**

Wardynski set to make GCC history today

Jason Juno

Good straightforward piece on a dedicated student athlete.

Weekly/News Media A - Sports Feature

2 Entries

First Place **Grand Valley Advance**

Hudsonville point guard eclipses 1,000 career points

Don VanderVeen

Don VanderVeen's story on Kasey DeSmit had two special elements -- an endearing image of how hard she works on her skills (the iPad in the driveway), and some thoughtful quotes that provide insight into what she thinks about herself, her future, basketball and her team. A nice story that leaves an impression of careful crafting.

Second Place **Cadence Newspaper**

Nolan Fugate, Chase Brown etching their names into MHSAA record book

Don VanderVeen

Don Vanderveen's story on running back Nolan Fugate and quarterback Case Brown were chock full of statistics and quotes from coaches...but didn't tell the reader anything about what kinds of kids they are. No quotes from the boys. The subject of the story was statistics and that's what the reader got. A two-dimension piece involving three-dimensional athletes.

Weekly/News Media B - Sports Feature

5 Entries

First Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Northport's storied hoops tradition ends

Grant McPherson

The reporter took this story to the next level by tracking down former players from a now-defunct basketball program to depict what it was like to play for the team.

Second Place **Leelanau Enterprise**

Hunters break 50-year void with bears

Alan Campbell

It's not every day you get to read a report on bear hunting. In this instance, a good amount of data made for an informative read.

Third Place **Tuscola County Advertiser**

Bears' settles college plans that were years in the making with Army acceptance

Adam Smith

This profile gets beyond the basics by detailing just how this young athlete is pursuing his dream.

Weekly/News Media C - Sports Feature

13 Entries

First Place **Gaylord Herald Times**

Kole walks his final conference round like a champion

Brandon Folsom

Second Place **Crawford County Avalanche**

Wrestler shatters school pin record

Caleb Casey

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

Rose Bowl connection spans 40 years for Press

Eric Hamp

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

Olympic short track speedskater

Cheryl Holladay

Weekly/News Media D - Sports Feature

6 Entries

First Place **The Advance**

Congressional Baseball Shooting Victim at WHS

Brad Heineman

Second Place **The Advance**

Soccer Player Cox Gets Kick out of Football

Brad Heineman

Third Place **State Line Observer**

There are girls on the run

David Green

Honorable Mention **Charlevoix Courier**

Running to Remember: Charlevoix Man to run in charity stair race in honor of Vegas shooting victims

Greg Wickliffe

Daily A - Sports Photo

18 Entries

First Place **Detroit Free Press**

Darren Helm upended

Junfu Han

You caught the most intense element of the sport, plus some fan reaction as well.

Second Place **Lansing State Journal**

MSU v. Bucknell

Nick King

You captured not just a player at the height of his leap, but a moment at its height of intensity.

Third Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Sean English returns to racing after amputation

Mike Mulholland

You've photographed a poignant moment that goes beyond sports.

Honorable Mention **Grand Rapids Press**

Canada goose flies into video board during Tigers game

Mike Mulholland

Birds in flight photos are hard enough, but even harder at a baseball game.

Daily B - Sports Photo

29 Entries

First Place **Muskegon Chronicle**

Just out of reach

Joel Bissell

Well timed photo capturing expression and intensity of fans and players alike.

Second Place **Muskegon Chronicle**

Surfing Lake Michigan

Joel Bissell

This photo really illustrates Mother Nature's intensity.

Third Place **Jackson Citizen Patriot**

One handed catch

J. Scott Park

Great capture with the defender's eyes on the ball.

Honorable Mention **Bay City Times**

Bay County Track and Field Championship 2018

Jacob Hamilton

Unique and interesting perspective.

Daily C - Sports Photo

34 Entries

This was a deep category with many deserving entries.

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

Brighton's Kellie House is 2017 Swimmer of the Year

Gillis Benedict

Great composition with the reflection, and great patience in getting a "still" image in water.

Second Place **Herald-Palladium**

Uplifting play

Don Campbell

You captured the play at its peak of impact.

Third Place **Midland Daily News**

Football Tumblr

Katy Kildee

Catching in the photo the rubber pellets from the turf elevate this play to more than just a standard tackle.

Honorable Mention **Grand Haven Tribune**

Coast Guard Run

Duncan MacLean

Props for sticking around to photograph not just first place finishers, but the other winners.

Daily D - Sports Photo

21 Entries

First Place **The Daily Globe**

Red Bull 400 climb

Jason Juno

Great wide angle sports photo from an awe-inspiring vantage point.

Second Place **The Daily Globe**

Gogebic Community College volleyball

Jason Juno

Not an easy sport to photograph, but it's captured well here.

Third Place **Greenville Daily News**

'Mack'tion in the 'Ville

Alex Freeman

I love the colors and the background elements with a moment of action at the core. This photo really illustrates small town hoops.

Honorable Mention

Miners seek third straight victory

Jason Juno

Excellent photo in black and white, like old time football.

The Daily Globe

Weekly/News Media A - Sports Photo

4 Entries

First Place

Ubly coach

Ben Muir

Great capture. The reader can almost feel the water down the back.

Huron County View

Second Place

North Huron Emily Maurer

Mike Wilson

Great timing.

Huron County View

Third Place

Laker 2nd baseman Brennan Wissner

Mike Wilson

Nice timing. I would like it better if it were level.

Huron County View

Weekly/News Media B - Sports Photo

7 Entries

First Place

Frankenmuth basketball

John Cook

This is a great capture of a contested moment at its peak.

Tuscola County Advertiser

Second Place

Hard to the Hoop

Jay Bushen

This photo shows real intensity.

Leelanau Enterprise

Third Place

Kaitlin Schaub

Jay Bushen

Nicely timed action photo.

Leelanau Enterprise

Weekly/News Media C - Sports Photo

19 Entries

Lots of great photos in a variety of sports.

First Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County

Herald-News

HANGING ON

Erick Simons

This photo freezes an epic moment with suspense.

Second Place

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon County

Herald-News

Reaching Out

Thomas Reznich

This photo captures action in a difficult sport to do so.

Third Place

Almont quarterback Clay Schapman

Kevin Kissane

This photo with its Dutch tilt illustrates the intensity and drive that goes with action at the goal line.

The Tri-City Times

Honorable Mention

Houghton Lake Resorter & Roscommon

County Herald-News

GOING OVER

Erick Simons

Good angle on a big moment in the game.

Weekly/News Media D - Sports Photo

14 Entries

This event had a good variety of sports.

First Place

Caught

State Line Observer

David Green

This is a great angle capturing the expression on the play.

Second Place

Park run

David Green

The point of view and composition put the reader in the race with the leaders. Nice depth of field as well.

State Line Observer

Third Place

Pure muscle!

C.J. Carnacchio

This photo captures the intensity of the event perfectly.

Oxford Leader

Honorable Mention

Safe

David Green

Well-timed photo.

State Line Observer

Sports Writing

Daily A - Sports Writing

5 Entries

First Place

John Beilein, Michigan, and the daunting task of calming a national championship loser

Andrew Kahn

Beautifully-told story that focuses on the runners up when the entire sports world was looking at the winners.

Grand Rapids Press

Second Place

Sports writing: Mitch Albom: Philadelphia Eagles Super Bowl miracle started with guts

Mitch Albom

A long story that never feels like it's dragging on. Perfectly encapsulates the game he's covering. Gives a unique take on a game 1,000's were opining on.

Detroit Free Press

Third Place

11-year old wins women's 5K at River Bank Run

Steve Kaminski

A very interesting story and one I would wager not many outlets covered.

Grand Rapids Press

Honorable Mention

Brad Ausmus fumes at 'petty' umpire protest; Ian Kinsler refuses to back down

Evan Woodbery

Gave solid background on the issue at hand and had the right about of detail.

Grand Rapids Press

Daily B - Sports Writing

20 Entries

First Place

Domestic violence victim shares story ahead of big game

Ryan Zuke

Extremely well-told story that provides detail and background on an incredibly-sensitive subject while tying it back to the current day in the local community. The reporter took a subject that doesn't often come up in coverage of local prep sports and wrote a near-perfect story.

The Ann Arbor News

Second Place

Eric, Jack Schugars share sideline together for 1st time

Brett Sommers

An interesting and heartening story that featured plenty of background info to properly contextualize the pertinence of the moment.

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Third Place

West Ottawa mourns the loss of 2017 graduate Bryce Thomas

Chris Zadorozny

A touching story on an incredibly-difficult subject to write about. A very sensitive subject is handled with the right amount of delicacy.

Holland Sentinel

Honorable Mention

Bay City Times

Pressure-pack grand slam moment in waiting for Unionville-Sebewaing

Lee Thompson

An ideal game story for what seemed to be a dramatic and important contest. The author showed off a deep knowledge of the subject he was covering, including info you might not normally expect to get out of this type of story.

Daily C - Sports Writing

21 Entries

First Place

Herald-Palladium

A shot at history

Ben Sanders

Story perfectly captured the gravity of the moment and succinctly tells the story of the game in an attention-grabbing manner.

Second Place

The Mining Journal

Firing reconsidered

Ryan Stieg

Lays out the situation well. A unique story for a sports reporter to have to cover but it was handled well.

Third Place

Alpena News

McCoy stands alone

Jonny Zawacki

Solid detail on a story that might not have been covered in person in every market.

Honorable Mention

Grand Haven Tribune

Heartbreak at Hope

Josh VanDyke

Great lead, great detail. A very well-written game story that gives the reader a feel for how crestfallen the team was.

Daily D - Sports Writing

36 Entries

First Place

Huron Daily Tribune

East vs. West

Mike Gallagher

Gave a thorough and detailed account of the rivalry and the stakes of the coming game.

Second Place

Huron Daily Tribune

Patriot Party

Mike Gallagher

A good and detailed breakdown of two teams that seem important to the local community.

Third Place

The Pioneer

Chronic wasting disease identified in a Mecosta County farmed deer

John Raffel

Gave an interesting background on an issue many would not often think about in relation to sports. Reader can enter with little understanding and grasp the issue fully.

Honorable Mention

The Daily Globe

GREAT 'ETC' APE

Jason Juno

The stories does a good job of capturing a very interesting game with plenty of coach and player reactions.

Weekly/News Media B - Sports Writing

10 Entries

First Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

From Vassar High to Vienna, Austria, football fuels former exchange student

Adam Smith

A very interesting story that followed someone long after what would have been expected out of a local paper.

Second Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Mikesell, Norsemen rumble into regional final

Jay Bushen

Fantastic detail that created a realistic visual in the reader's mind.

Third Place

Leelanau Enterprise

Breslin Bound

Jay Bushen

A thorough yet concise story that hit all the right notes.

Honorable Mention

Leelanau Enterprise

Peterson, Lakers power past Stags

Jay Bushen

Strong story with great detail.

Weekly/News Media C - Sports Writing

16 Entries

First Place

Crawford County Avalanche

AuSable River Canoe Marathon preview

Caleb Casey

A very detailed story that lays out everything a layman would want to know about the event, but does so in a way that keeps the reader's attention.

Second Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Cardinals going to D4 state final

Brandon Folsom

A charming story that added an interesting twist to what might have been your standard championship race.

Third Place

Gaylord Herald Times

Rock stars! Snowbirds' O-line drums up running lanes for Gilling in opener

Brandon Folsom

A creatively-written game story that captures the readers attention and tells them everything they would want to know.

Honorable Mention

The County Press, Lapeer

NRC shoots down hunter pink as second safety color

Lisa Paine

An informative story that easily educates anyone who knows nothing about hunting on the ruling and does so quickly and efficiently.

Weekly/News Media D - Sports Writing

7 Entries

First Place

The Advance

State Champs: Bobcats Roar to First State Football Title

Brad Heineman

An incredibly detailed story that tells you pretty much anything you would want to know about this team and its run. Does a good job setting the stakes and showing what this means to the community.

Second Place

The Advance

Whiteford Returns to Ford Field

Brad Heineman

Similar to state championship story in its thoroughness and its insight into the team.

Third Place

State Line Observer

Bulldogs power into playoffs

David Green

An ideal game story that tells you everything you need to know with excellent detail.

Honorable Mention

State Line Observer

Pittsford comes back for a win

David Green

Paints a good picture of the game in a concise manner.

Spot News Story

Daily A - Spot News Story

12 Entries

Every writer should be proud of the work submitted. Amazing job.

First Place

Grand Rapids Press

What Larry Nassar's victims said when they confronted him in court
 Lauren Gibbons, Julie Mack
This was the clear winner from the start. Absolutely perfect from beginning to end.

Second Place **Kalamazoo Gazette**

PFAS contamination in Parchment
 Malachi Barrett

Fantastic work by a writer who clearly has a strong grasp on the issue at hand. I hope they continue to push on this story.

Third Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Corner Bar fire in Rockford
 Grand Rapids Press staff

The writers were able to convey the importance of this place and illustrate the emotions people felt in the aftermath of the fire. Bravo.

Honorable Mention **Flint Journal**

Mt. Morris man dies after large rock thrown from I-75 overpass
 Dominic Adams, Roberto Acosta
Great job finding multiple angles.

Daily B - Spot News Story

22 Entries

Amazing work by all.

First Place **The Ann Arbor News**

Northfield police lieutenant under investigation by township
 John Counts

Bravo to the reporter for doing everything necessary to get this story.

Second Place **Saginaw News**

Priest charged with sex crimes
 Saginaw News staff

Thorough reporting and great writing. Fantastic work.

Third Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Missing kayaker
 Record-Eagle staff

A job well done.

Honorable Mention **Daily Telegram**

Missing teen
 Dan Cherry

Daily C - Spot News Story

27 Entries

Reading through these entries was exhausting in the best possible way. Excellent work.

First Place **Herald-Palladium**

Cosmo Hotel fire and its aftermath
 Louise Wrege, Jim Dalglish, Tony Wittkowski
Wow. What a fantastic job by everyone involved.

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

Hamburg Township spent more than \$137,000 over five years to fight one couple in court

Kayla Daugherty
Great, great job presenting all the facts in an easy to read format. I applaud all the research that went into this story.

Third Place **Herald-Palladium**

Flooded in Berrien / At the mercy of nature
 Tony Wittkowski

Great work.

Honorable Mention **Livingston County Daily Press & Argus**

Judge Theresa Brennan faces formal complaint for misconduct in office

Kayla Daugherty

Daily D - Spot News Story

32 Entries

Some great articles in this category!

First Place **Niles Daily Star**

Water levels rise (both stories packaged together)
 Staff

Amazing job explaining the issues at hand. It's clear a lot of work went into getting all the information.

Second Place **The Pioneer**

Students talk sleep loss, scheduling
 Meghan Gunther-Haas

Loved this story. Great job.

Third Place **Greenville Daily News**

PFAS: 'A Statewide issue'
 Brandon Schruer

A well organized story with some great reporting.

Honorable Mention **Greenville Daily News**

You are the brave heroes
 Cory Smith

Weekly/News Media A - Spot News Story

11 Entries

Fantastic job by all the writers.

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

Engler was dismissive of sexual assault claims as governor
 Ted Roelofs

Excellent job - journalists need to be doing more stories like this.

Second Place **Grosse Pointe Times**

Beloved late St. Philomena pastor remembered as "a man for others"
 K. Michelle Moran

Great writing and reporting.

Third Place **Grosse Pointe Times**

Duck rescue tale has a storybook ending
 K. Michelle Moran

Great job getting this story on such a tight deadline.

Honorable Mention **Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle**

Fraser mayor, acting mayor removed from office
 Nick Mordowanec

Weekly/News Media B - Spot News Story

13 Entries

This was a tough category to judge. Great entries all around.

First Place **Tuscola County Advertiser**

Horse euthanized after Facebook pics spark probe
 Tom Gilchrist

It's clear a lot of effort went into obtaining the information for this story. The writer has an engaging and straightforward style of writing, which allows the reader to comprehend the issues at hand.

Second Place **Tuscola County Advertiser**

Ax-attacker guilty of all counts
 John Schneider

Good writing and use of quotes.

Third Place **Tuscola County Advertiser**

Marine veteran and his mother face possible eviction from local mobile home park

Alex Szwarc

This is why we do this. Great job.

Honorable Mention **Leelanau Enterprise**

School drop-off followed by arrest

Amy Hubbell

Good job.

Weekly/News Media C - Spot News Story

12 Entries

There were some great entries in here and every writer should be proud of their work.

First Place **Iron County Reporter**

Saario Murder Trial

Jerry DeRoche

What I liked about this story is that I never got tired of reading it, despite how long it was. The writer really brought the story to life with great writing and excellent use of quotes. Loved the lede.

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

Right place at the right time

Krista Tacey-Cater

The headline says it all "Right place at the right time." The writer gets extra points for turning it around so quickly, and writing an interesting story on a tight deadline.

Third Place **Belleville-Area Independent**

Belleville Fire Fighters sue city, mayor, clerk

Rosemary Otzman

Great job by the writer to keep everything well organized and easy to read. There is a lot going on in this story and sometimes it's easy to get lost in all the back and forth. This writer didn't.

Honorable Mention **Allegan County News**

Plainwell bank robbed with bomb threat

Virginia Ransbottom

Good job.

Weekly/News Media D - Spot News Story

11 Entries

Great entries overall.

First Place **Oxford Leader**

Student's death sparks outpouring of support

C.J. Carnacchio

What separated this story from the other entries was the writing. The writer does an excellent job describing the emotional fallout of a tragic event. It's very clear to see why this person was so loved. Additionally, the writer was thorough in their reporting. Bravo.

Second Place **The Advance**

"It happened so fast"

Melissa Burnor

The writer does a great job describing the challenges faced by the firefighters. What could have been a boring story was turned into a very good one by great reporting. Great job.

Third Place **The Advance**

Alleged illegals turned over to ICE

Melissa Burnor

A great story with plenty of details, though I would have liked to see more done to connect this incident to the national issue.

Honorable Mention **State Line Observer**

Proposed city budget presented

David Green

A great example of showing and not telling. The challenges faced by the city are clearly laid out in this story.

Best Coverage of the Opiate Epidemic in MI

Open Class - Best Coverage of the Opiate Epidemic in MI

16 Entries

First Place **Fraser-Clinton Twp. Chronicle**

Addiction: A stranglehold on American life

Nick Mordowanec

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

Oceana, we have a problem

Mary Beth Crain

Third Place **Bridge Magazine**

Michigan falls short in frontline treatment of opioid crisis

Ted Roelofs

Best FOIA Story

Open Class - Best FOIA Story

27 Entries

What great examples of the wide range of information that can be obtained through FOIA. and also the struggles placed before the news media by various levels of government when trying to obtain information that already belongs to the people. If not for the efforts of these news gatherers, these stories would not be told.

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

Emails cast doubt on Michigan's ties to Enbridge Line 5 Controversy

Jim Malewitz, Craig Mauger

Great work done by the Bridge team on an issue that is still ongoing and affects all Michigan residents.

Second Place **Detroit Free Press**

Trooper tases teen on ATV. Police video reveals what happens next.

Elisha Anderson, John Wisely, Ann Zaniewski

A tragic incident that may never have been fully revealed without the work of the reporters and their use of FOIA.

Third Place **Grand Rapids Press**

'Corrupted' dashcam file muddles investigation of police-involved shooting

Gus Burns

Just one example of the danger that a lack of transparency brings on a community.

Honorable Mention **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Report reveals jail failures

Kyle Kaminski

A horrible incident that was just the tip of the iceberg. Good digging.

Best Headline

Open Class - Best Headline

23 Entries

A tough category. The best ones seemed to be a mix of clever and compelling -- does it make you want to read the story?

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

Foreclosed for the cost of an iPhone. That's life in Wayne County

Joel Kurth

Loved the juxtaposition here, a commentary on what we value.

Second Place **The Clinton Local, LLC.**

Tanks, but No Tanks?

Mike Walters

Perfect for the story, about whether to add a tank to memorial park.

Third Place **The Record**

Gerrymandering draws a crowd

Larry Sobczak

Did writer realize how good this was only after the fact? Still good.

Honorable Mention **Detroit Free Press**

The tiniest addicts

Janet Graham

Sometimes a simple headline does the trick. This one works well in combination with photo.

Best Photo

Open Class - Best Photo

17 Entries

First Place **Northwest Advance**

Fair weather friends

Brian Forde

Gotta go with the pig shot! Love both of their expressions. I'm sure the photographer had less than a split second to capture this shot. I love it...awesome!

Second Place

Grand Rapids Press

Distraught father attempts to attack Larry Nassar

Cory Morse

This photo tells the whole story. I especially like how the photographer captured Nassar cowering through the legs of the guard...great job.

Third Place

Flint Journal

'This water is bad'

Brontë Wittpenn

The photographer really capture this woman's dire situation. Her body language, along with her physical condition, tells the whole story.

Honorable Mention

Traverse City Record-Eagle

Air Show

Jan-Michael Stump

Perfect shot...looks like the planes are nose to nose...quite majestic.

Best Podcast

Open Class - Best Podcast

6 Entries

This was an interesting look into the various methods of bringing a podcast to light. The first place contestant ranked far above the others for a variety of reasons. I appreciated the clarity of the investigative study in "The Killer Who Slipped..." The interviews with family members provided an alternate and contemporary narrative and their surprise at learning the history of their uncle was riveting. The production was clean, the sound levels were consistent and the occasional background music was appropriately chosen. The use of silence as space within the narrative was really well done. The recap with the narrator at the end was a nice way to tie the story together and to hear that there is more to learn about this mystery.

First Place

The Ann Arbor News

Killer who slipped through the cracks

Darcie Moran, John Counts

Second Place

Holland Sentinel

From the Press Box

Dan D'Addona, Chris Zadorozny, Brian Vernellis

Third Place

Traverse City Record-Eagle

On the Record: The Accidentals

Sean Miller

Honorable Mention

Holland Sentinel

Did Holland police use excessive force?

Audra Gamble, Sarah Leach, Brian Vernellis

Best Video Presentation

Open Class - Best Video Presentation

23 Entries

First Place

Detroit Free Press

Trooper tases teen on ATV. Police video reveals what happens next.

Brian Kaufman, John Wisely, Ann Zaniewski

This piece show enterprise beyond the rest on an issue of major significance.

Solid reporting, good use of police videos, great step into the community.

This is a job well done.

Second Place

Detroit Free Press

"Hunger, Hope & Hot Chocolate: Life on Detroit's East Side"

Mark Kurlyandchik, John Carlisle, Salwan Georges, Nicole Avery Nichols

This is a great bit of journalism. After watching this piece I wish I could volunteer on the food truck. I loved the flip-flop from the inside of the truck to the streets and into the homes of the people who rely upon it. Very well done.

Third Place

Bridge Magazine

Michigan Divided

Al Lilly

This piece is in a class of its own—literally, a documentary among news reports. It tackles a subject that is playing out across the land and this was a good close up view of the political discord we face in America. I enjoyed watching it.

Honorable Mention

Muskegon Chronicle

2,000 Miles, 2 Oars, 1 Dream

Joel Bissell

There were many videos in this category that could have fallen into this honorable mention position but there was something very serene and enjoyable about this one.

Best Website

Open Class - Best Website

15 Entries

First Place

Bridge Magazine

Bridge Magazine

AJ Jones

This website stands out for its great content coupled with an attractive appearance. It contains terrific, consistently well-written, well-reported articles – including those written on tight deadlines – on complicated government-public affairs issues, plus other coverage on various topics of interest and concern statewide. Its quality and range of material demonstrates a commitment to public/community service. Overall assessment: Impressive!

Second Place

Grand Rapids Press

The Grand Rapids Press entry for best website category

Grand Rapids Press staff

The Press' website provides a fine mix of articles with generally strong reporting on topics of concern to the community. (One writing and copy-editing lapse: Misuse of "whose" instead of "who's" in a recent headline and opening of story.) Use of photos and images was excellent, the website is inviting, and it's ads were not intrusive. It's encouraging to see a local paper's website look so good.

Third Place

Michigan Lawyers Weekly

Michigan Lawyers Weekly website

Thomas Franz

As a niche news publication, this website provides a wide range of news and content, including reader resources, that demonstrate a commitment to serving its legal-profession readers. The newswriting is informative and interesting – a blend not always easily achieved in coverage of legal matters – and its ability to make even perhaps arcane legal subjects clear to non-lawyers is commendable. The website is appealing and easily navigated, but marred in places by too much white space between content.

Honorable Mention

Chalkbeat

Chalkbeat Detroit

Staff

Chalkbeat offers some fine reporting and good use of graphics and images, but large chunks of white space separating content are rather a turn-off, aesthetically. Its focus on Detroit public education indicates its obvious belief in meeting the needs of its community. However, it seems exclusively devoted to public education, rather than looking at private and parochial schools as well. That's OK, but a reference on the homepage (e.g.: "covering public education in Detroit") or explanation in the "About Us" section of the website, or another suitable location, would be helpful.

Best Writing

Open Class - Best Writing

24 Entries

First Place

Lansing State Journal

Inside the investigation and prosecution of Larry Nassar

Matthew Mencarini

To win this division is saying something because there are many strong entries. This entry rises above the rest in enterprise and subject matter. It is

well written, an easy read, thorough and compelling. It is also disconcerting that it took so long to bring Nassar to justice.

Second Place **Bridge Magazine**

Crusading attorney helped free a man wrongly convicted of murder.

They both ended up dead

Ron French

This is a wonderful look back and update of a triumph to tragedy story and French did a terrific job of telling the story. The introduction terrific and French's style of writing is the best in show.

Third Place **Tuscola County Advertiser**

In game of life, Marlette's 'Bub' bucks the odds

Tom Gilchrist

BBub is my hero. This is an example of community journalism at its best.

Honorable Mention **Niles Daily Star**

One step at a time

Ambrosia Neldon

There are a lot of entries in this category that could have been selected for awards but I picked this one because of the subject matter and the solid writing.

Most Innovative Story Telling

Open Class - Most Innovative Story Telling

23 Entries

The enterprise stories stood out for their indepth reporting and information to readers. Some truly good entries that are not recognized due to the quality of this category.

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

American dream and a Mexican nightmare: Maria's story

Chastity Pratt Dawsey, Bill Kubota

Using news events and their own creative enterprise reporting, this package from the Bridge drilled down to details while looping back to the big picture. Story method used a variety of ways including social media for reader participation.

Second Place **The Pioneer**

Bringing pictures to life

Meghan Gunther-Haas

This innovation reminded me of the newspaper at Hogwart's with its photos coming to life! Great idea to liven up print.

Third Place **Grand Rapids Press**

Mapping Michigan's Infrastructure

Scott Levin

Amount of research to pull this together and be accurate is admirable. The overall map shows the problems and readers could look for details in any area.

Honorable Mention **The Ann Arbor News**

LGBTQ students at Christian colleges refuse to choose between sexuality, faith

Lauren Slagter

Staff took a news event, asked themselves questions and then reported in great detail to find those answers. Great traditional reporting with modern use of technology.

Public Notice Journalism Award

Open Class - Public Notice Journalism Award

3 Entries

First Place **The Record**

"Nobody reads The Romeo Record"

Larry Sobczak

Second Place **Holland Sentinel**

Holland committee meeting cut short after improper public noticing

Sydney Smith

Third Place **Greenville Daily News**

Daily News Proactive about Public Notices

Elisabeth Waldon

Public Service Award

Open Class - Public Service Award

11 Entries

First Place **Bridge Magazine**

The battle for fact-driven politics

Bridge Staff

This informative, interactive, engaging and easy-to-use guide empowers readers to spot fake news, be skeptical of dubious claims and make well-informed decisions. It does a spectacular job of remaining non-partisan and sticking to the facts.

Second Place **Grand Rapids Press**

PFAS contamination in Michigan

Staff

This report did a wonderful job of showing how widespread this problem is while giving us a closer look at the people affected by it.

Third Place **The Ann Arbor News**

Speedy trial? Not if you're mentally ill in Michigan

John Counts

This report shed light on a disturbing problem by sharing powerful statistics, providing easy-to-follow graphics, and telling stories of the individuals affected by it.

Honorable Mention **Detroit Free Press**

Free Press investigation: In donors we trust

Staff

An exhaustive investigation that resulted in substantive change.

Rookie Writer

Open Class - Rookie Writer

15 Entries

Several good writers with lots of potential here!

First Place **Traverse City Record-Eagle**

Brooke Kansier

Second Place **Detroit Free Press**

Allie Gross

Third Place **Lansing State Journal**

RJ Wolcott collection of work

Honorable Mention **Southwest Advance**

Logan Hansen

Best Digital Ad

Open Class - Best Digital Ad

5 Entries

First Place **Greenville Daily News**

Golf Card

Dave Hayden

Great Ad! Very eye-catching and makes the viewer want to click on that ad for more information right off the bat. Very well done!

Second Place **Lapeer Area View**

Lapeer Days

Ruby Stark

Very good use of digital space. I like the rotation within the ad. It was done fast enough that the viewer was able to see everything. Attention grabbing and very well designed.

Third Place **Greenville Daily News**

Ed Koehn Header

Dave Hayden

Good Ad but would have liked to have seen more of a call to action to really make the viewer want to click on the ad.

Honorable Mention

Parker Arntz

Dave Hayden

Nice ad but very busy for such a small space.

Greenville Daily News

Free Fish Wrap

Judy Lytle

Simple, Clean, Clever. Loved this ad!

Second Place

La Fiesta

Julie Eilers

Colorful Branding Ad. Loved the food images. Made me crave Mexican Food.

Ludington Daily News

Third Place

American Classic Fire

Sheena Hawn

Fantastic tribute to our first res-ponders. Very powerful images. Loved that it was all about Community and not a typical Roofing ad.

Greenville Daily News

Honorable Mention

Print and Promo

Dave Hayden

Unique approach. Less is more. Great ad!

Greenville Daily News

Community Business Promotions

Open Class - Community Business Promotions

24 Entries

This was a tough category to judge. There were so many great promotions, done so well graphically. However, we opted for the promotions that combined advertising with some sort of community service or sense of community. Great job by everyone all around. You may see some of these ideas popping up in New York State!!

First Place

Prom - Seatbelt Safety

Sheena Hawn

Great multi-business promotion for a worthy cause. Not only does it send an important message but it involves local businesses in reading the message...a win-win

Greenville Daily News

Second Place

Police Officer Month

Judy Lytle

What a great idea! What business could say no to this promotion. Nice way to salute local officers.

Promotes a strong sense of community.

Ludington Daily News

Third Place

Outstanding business member of the year

Debra Campbell

Nice to see local businesses supporting one another. Like the editorial feature as well.

Leelanau Enterprise

Honorable Mention

Leelanau's Star Businesses

Debra Campbell

Nice overview of the community's businesses. Assuming the businesses had to pay to be listed...nice to see so many local businesses invested in the community.

Leelanau Enterprise

Entertaining Services

Open Class - Entertaining Services

25 Entries

First Place

Tecumseh Center for the Arts

Nanci Heiney

Simple and clean. A great ad

Tecumseh Herald

Second Place

Hantz Golf Course

Cory Mathis

Unique, great placement of photos especially the hole in one at the bottom

Tecumseh Herald

Third Place

Boat Show - Thank You

Judy Lytle

The photos made it personal. Felt like I was there. Good job!

Ludington Daily News

Honorable Mention

Boat Show - Connecting With Community

Judy Lytle

Nice signature page

Ludington Daily News

General Retail

Open Class - General Retail

46 Entries

Very hard to decide. So many nice ads!

First Place

Ludington Daily News

Home Furnishings

Open Class - Home Furnishings

14 Entries

First Place

Classic Cabinets

Nanci Heiney

Perfect, perfect, perfect. A tremendous use of color to accentuate the company name and logo. Skillfully designed with elements that are clean and effective. Great recognition of the importance of white space to separate components.

Tecumseh Herald

Second Place

Martin's Home Center

Cory Mathis

So simply stated, the reader immediately feels the relaxation which exudes from this ad. The use of the ideal piece of art and so few words effectively sells. Great utilization of white space to surround the important elements.

Tecumseh Herald

Third Place

Art Van - Your Home Ad

Sales Team Graphics Team

A wonderfully fresh and crisp ad. Simple lines and very clean. Especially liked the simply stated observance of the 10th anniversary. Great spacing of elements.

Cadillac News

Honorable Mention

Brads Carpets

Dave Hayden

Colorful elements separate many components and effectively creates an ad which draws the eye to it.

Greenville Daily News

Home Services

Open Class - Home Services

19 Entries

First Place

Rothbury Hardware Pet Adoption Day

Julie Eilers

White Lake Beacon

Second Place

Citizens Gas

Nanci Heiney

Tecumseh Herald

Third Place

Abstract Builders

Nanci Heiney

Tecumseh Herald

Honorable Mention

Lenawee Fuels

Cory Mathis

Tecumseh Herald

New and Used Vehicles

Open Class - New and Used Vehicles

19 Entries

First Place

Tecumseh Herald

Suburban Chevrolet

Cory Mathis

Very creative, very different

Second Place

Tecumseh Herald

Suburban Chevrolet

Nanci Heiney

Clever, not your typical auto ad

Third Place

Lapeer Area View

Friendly's Pot of Gold

Nancy Mitchell

Excellent Holiday auto ad. Not cluttered with too much art and copy

Honorable Mention

Ludington Daily News

Watson's - Scary Good Deals

Robin Moline

tough choice between 3rd place and honorable mention. Nice ad. Clean and to the point.

Real Estate

Open Class - Real Estate

11 Entries

First Place

Ludington Daily News

Greenridge Realty

Julie Eilers

Nice Clean Ad. Easy to read

Second Place

Spinal Column Newsweekly

Kendra Hurd - RE ad, Experience Matters

Different, Impressive stats laid out nicely.

Third Place

Tecumseh Herald

Jan Hammond

Cory Mathis

Creative, Unique

Honorable Mention

Cadillac News

Cadillac Realty - Real Estate Guide Ad

Katheryn Kidder Kathy Walker

Simple, easy to read.

Restaurants

Open Class - Restaurants

23 Entries

First Place

Ludington Daily News

Sportsman's - Celebrate St. Patrick's

Judy Lytle

Everyone loves to have fun and this ad definitely exudes F-U-N! With so much information in the ad, the design element is clean enough to draw in the reader. I certainly read it all! Sign me up!

Second Place

Tuscola County Advertiser

Arrowhead Golf & Grill

Lindsay DuRussel

If a picture paints a thousand words then this ad is worth two thousand! Wonderful use of two strong photos to get the meaning of the ad across before even reading a word.

Third Place

Tecumseh Herald

Tecumseh Brewing Company

Nanci Heiney

Spectacular creativity. Kudos to the mind behind this ad. Once again, a single photo makes the reader want to know more.

Honorable Mention

Ludington Daily News

Britters Twisted Whisk

Julie Eilers

Simple and delicious. Sometimes simplicity is strong. One suggestion would be to replace the orange with the teal of the whisk to tie the logo in better.

Small Ads Work

Open Class - Small Ads Work

17 Entries

First Place

Cadillac News

Stock Auto Parts - Tires Ad

Sales Team Graphics Team

No one ever said an ad has to have four equal sides to it. Great use of the unconventional. The reader knows at a glance that the ad is for tires. Perfect draw for the eye. Great unconventional design in a small ad.

Second Place

The Daily Globe

Contrast Coffee Co.

Daily Globe Advertising

I can almost enjoy the coffee by proxy through the individual in the ad enjoying hers. Makes me want to be on the bench next to her. Great concept to put the individual in the company tshirt as well. Double logo exposure. Good thinking on the creator's part on that one.

Third Place

White Lake Beacon

Johnson's Great Outdoors

Julie Eilers, Monica Evans

Fun use of the proper artwork - Santa fishing for the free community fish fry.

The art draws you in to want to find out more. Small space, big message.