

2 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Strangers- Like Everybody Else Krista Husa
Photographer did a wonderful job of getting inside a community to tell a story. Easy to read. Very well done.

3 **Lapeer, The County Press**
Cause for Celebration Mark Haney
Photographer captured lots of emotion in the photo story of a play off football game. Great action shot in lower left! Would have scored higher, but text ran into one of the photos. Great sense of page design and balance.

HM **New Buffalo, Harbor Country News**
It's all About the Fair David Johnson
The top left photo of the kids on a tractor grabs the reader's attention and makes me want to look at each of the others. David captured the many aspects of a county fair. Each photo well composed. It looks like a good time!

14 - Sports Writing 17 entries

1 **Fenton, Tri-County Times**
Hartland Headed Back to State David Troppens
Tying in the coaches buzz cuts to the teams division wrestling title was clever and entertaining as a reader. The lead drew me in and had me wanting more.

2 **Farmington Observer**
Rice Halts Harrison Dan O'Meara
Concise yet colorful. This football game recap tells the full story of the game with quotes, stats and interesting sidenotes like denying a coach his 300th career win.

3 **Lapeer, The County Press**
Coach: Never had a Doubt Mike Kamyszek
Nice delayed lead. I could visualize the football teams resurgence without having watched the game. A well-written story.

15 - Sports Columnist 8 entries

1 **Portland Review & Observer**
Christie Bleck
Well-written, well-delivered columns. Crisp, clean - stays on topic. Clever, credible, and shows maturity as writer.

2 **Redford Observer**
Paul Beaudry
Well-crafted columns. Good balance of bold and fair. Confident read.

3 **Birmingham Eccentric**
Oakland Hills Marty Budner
Smart, concise writing.

16 - Sports Feature 27 entries

1 **Rochester Eccentric**
Baseball Jim Toth
Very good, well written, solid, interesting, in depth, great information.

2 **Lapeer, The County Press**
Senior Athlete Aims for More Eric DeMink

Made me want to keep reading. Good detail, nice use of quotes, very interesting.

3 **Farmington Observer**
Last Marathon Dan O'Meara
Unique topic, well written, interesting. Answers all my questions, good use of quotes. Nice organization.

HM **Redford Observer**
For the Thrill Paul Beaudry
Interesting, touching, neat coverage of good subject.

17 - Sports Coverage 15 entries

1 **Birmingham Eccentric**
The most creative front page in the category. Extensive stat packages on inside pages. More regular columns would help.

2 **Livonia Observer**
Balanced page, well-worded sports stories, close to Birmingham Eccentric in quality

3 **Lake Orion Eccentric**
Efficient use of space, could use more inside photos and outdoor stories and more columns.

18 - Lifestyle Pages 6 entries

1 **Fenton, Tri-County Times**
Great tabloid format, engaging design and interesting cover stories. Good format for "look who's talking"

2 **Lake Orion Eccentric**
Good use of photo as front page.

3 **The Detroit Jewish News**
Easy-to-read typography. Well-written stories and nice use of pull out quotes.

19 - Special Section 16 entries

1 **Lapeer, The County Press**
Progress
Outstanding job, great layout and design. You have a great team. Unbelievable sales effort.

2 **South Haven Tribune**
City Centennial
Wonderful job, very comprehensive, and a fun read.

3 **Portland Review & Observer**
2003 Kids Edition
No comments given.

HM **Voice Newspapers**
The Best, The Worst
No comments given.

Weekly Class C

01 - General Excellence 19 entries

1 **South Lyon Herald**
The overall appearance of this newspaper is excellent. The layouts are solid and Hal Gould's photography is excellent. The content is varied and very interesting to read.

2 **Gaylord Herald Times**
A strong overall newspaper that is not only informative, but very easy to read.

3 Milford Times

An excellent writing staff makes this paper interesting for a wide range of audiences. Excellent local coverage and solid typography.

02 - Spot News Story 42 entries**1 Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**

Rescuers Find Children Tom Wearing
Great writing! Good photo! This was extremely tough category with many potential winners. Too bad only one can win first place.

2 Imlay City, The Tri-City Times

First in World Procedure Catherine Minolli
Another great story. Also could have won for solid writing

3 Ogemaw County Herald

Killed, Wounded in Shooting Deanna Cahill
Compelling story handled well. Great read from start to finish.

HM Gaylord Herald Times

Zaremba's Up in Flames Mark Beardslee
Good writing and solid photography, especially on publication day.

03 - News Story 51 entries**1 Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser**

The wait is over Mary Drier
A well-written news series with lots of heart. Very nicely done! A great example of the role media can play in the world. Congratulations.

2 Ogemaw County Herald

RC Officials Contest Mayoral Race
Deanna Cahill

An outstanding series covering the soap opera-like controversy in this small town. Well written and easy to read, and what an unbelievable saga! Nice job.

3 Belleville-Area Independent

Hopalong Saga Rosemary K. Otzman
Great coverage of a story that begins with a dog that captures a community's heart and ends with the controversy over funds donated for the dog. A fascinating read.

HM Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser

Bomb Dog Smells Fishy Amy Joles
Great lead and a very interesting piece. You've done a nice job bringing the community's concerns to light, and I'd love to see the follow-up. Nice work.

04 - Design 16 entries**1 South Lyon Herald**

Staff

This paper is not only easy to read, it is fun to read. Typefaces blend well with layout, design is smooth and creative, use of color is excellent, and wonderful curb appeal.

2 Milford Times

Philip Allmen

Nice Job

3 Gaylord Herald Times

Staff

No comments given.

HM Hart, Oceana's Herald Journal

Mary Sanford

No comments given.

05 - Feature Story 61 entries**1 Milford Times**

A Real-Life Valentine Story David Aguilar
High-quality story telling. Valentine's wishes from husband to wife were beautifully woven into an already compelling and well-written story.

2 Hart, Oceana's Herald Journal

Travelin' Man Mary Sanford
Insightful observations by an interesting subject. Nice photos and presentation

3 Imlay City, The Tri-City Times

Taking The High Road Catherine Minolli
Nice total package, including photos. Helps readers understand where this unusual man is coming from. Interesting, enjoyable reading.

HM Hamtramck, The Citizen

The Final "So Long" Walter Wasacz
Reader really gets to know "woody" and comes away with a feel for his role in the history of the area business community. It is a fitting tribute.

06 - Enterprise Reporting 37 entries**1 The Leelanau Enterprise & Tribune**

The Changing Face of Leelanau Staff
Great job of sorting data, picking highlights and telling stories of trend and change with perspective of ordinary people. Clearly an effort that goes above and beyond.

2 Gaylord Herald Times

Frame of Mind Peter Comings
Comings tells the reality of mental illness through experiences of community residents and also offers readers some ideas on solutions. Good effort with a broad and difficult topic.

3 Milford Times

Former Landfill Aileen Wingblad
Clearly lays out the problem of contamination and impact on property owners. Good job of marshalling the facts from a wide range of sources.

HM Gaylord Herald Times

Meth Hazard Grows Michael Jones
Jones used the country's first meth bust as a hook for looking at broader problems to come. Good use of general information in the "meth primer."

07 - Editorial Pages 15 entries**1 Ogemaw County Herald**

A lot of good entries, but what separates this from most are the editorials. This paper had the "meatiest" best editorials of the lot. And Bruce Bishoff's columns were the icing on the cake.

- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Good editorials and columns with active letter writers. A close second in a tough category.
- 3 **Ortonville, County Line Reminder**
Nice looking layout. Nice mix, but I did not find many letter writers.

08 - Editorial Writing 19 entries

- 1 **Ortonville, County Line Reminder**
Staff
Good job of addressing local issues.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Editorials state issues, then lay out expectations.
Chris Jenkins
- 3 **Hamtramck, The Citizen**
Walter Wasacz
Editorials could be sharper with tighter editions.

09 - Local Columnist 47 entries

- 1 **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**
Tom Wearing
Writer is concise, has variety of columns - from local tragedy to office incident to prospect of a draft. He can quickly tell a story. Excellent!
- 2 **Ogemaw County Herald**
Deanna Cahill
Writer has put her opinion in print. Her columns deal with significant issues with facts to back up her stance.
- 3 **Monroe, The Guardian**
Mike Schaffer
Good job on columns on local people. Fire fighter column moved me to tears. "Remember Herb," is a good story.
- HM **Monroe, The Guardian**
Tom Treece
Good columnist. "Treece Unplugged" column kept reader in suspense. Combines personal life experience in commemorating sheriff deputy's death.

10 - News Picture 34 entries

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Zaremba's up in Flames Mark Beardslee
Great composition and lots of action in image.
- 2 **Mio, Oscoda County Herald**
End of an Era Starr Golembiewski
Lots of emotion in this image, good composition.
- 3 **Hart, Oceana's Herald Journal**
Fire Destroys Home Andrew Skinner
Good composition, and great silhouette lighting.
- HM **Houghton Lake Resorter**
Worker Electrocuted During Move
Thomas Reznich
Good composition, interesting movement of rescuers hand in air adds to image.

11 - Feature Picture 56 entries

- 1 **Allegan County News**
Diversity Daniel G. Kelsey
Really makes the reader think. Run on the 4th of July, this photo captures both the essence of diversity, but also give us a look into part of what America really stands for.
- 2 **Milford Times**
What Are They Doing To That Cow? Sam Black
What are they doing with that cow?
- 3 **South Lyon Herald**
Oh My .. Hal Loud
No comments given.
- HM **South Lyon Herald**
From City To County Sam Black
No comments given.

12 - Sports Picture 39 entries

- 1 **Novi News**
Novi's Dan Thelen Hal Gould
This photo, without question, stood out from the rest. The greens, the bend of the pole and the athletes eyes on the bar.
- 2 **Mio, Oscoda County Herald**
Looming Presence Brent Baker
The appeal to this photo is the angle. The quarterback is arched back and the lineman just towers above. The result of this pass would have been nice, in the caption of course.
- 3 **South Lyon Herald**
Milestone, Lions Win First .. Hal Gould
It's the timing of this photo. The ball resting on the arm, eyes closed (both athletes) and the umpires position in the background.
- HM **Northville Record**
The Knights Rugby Club John Heider
Could easily have been 3rd place.

13 - Picture Story 48 entries

- 1 **South Lyon Herald**
Step Inside Hal Gould
The photographer drew the river to each photo with great impact. A strong sensory feeling is evoked by each. Collectively they tell the story well. As I view them I can almost feel and hear the scene.
- 2 **South Lyon Herald**
Mud Bowl Eric Chernenkoff
Great front page photo that makes reader want to look inside for more. All photos are well composed.
- 3 **Hart, Oceana's Herald Journal**
Little Point Lighthouse Andrew Skinner
The tall lighthouse shot lends a great background for the photo story. Great composition and color balance.
- HM **Hart, Oceana's Herald Journal**
Dance Fever Andrew Skinner
Well done photography in difficult lighting situation. Dancer inset gives monument to the page. Well used white space for overall composition.

14 - Sports Writing 31 entries

1 **Ogemaw County Herald**
Negaunee Comeback Shocks Brent Baker
Well-told tale of team which squandered a large lead in a playoff game. Quotes spoke of both emotion and analysis of how game turned. Great final scene in last two paragraphs. You could feel the pain.

2 **Novi News**
Dragon Slayers Sam Eggleston
Excellent opening (St. George allusion), good grasp of action on the field. Nice mix of quotes with game analysis. Well structured and good wrap-up set story apart.

3 **South Lyon Herald**
Senior Wrestles With Loss Stan Frank
Excellent focus on a weekend's worth of wrestling by one standout grappler. Interesting following of quotes after each round was completed. I like the one kid squawking about stalling. Good insight into wrestling.

HM **Milford Times**
Eagles, Soar Past Novi Stan Frank
Good tale of one game, with focus on a particular player's contributions to victory. Good grasp of ebb and flow of basketball. Good coach's and player's quotes and wrap-up statement.

15 - Sports Columnist 17 entries

1 **Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser**
David Bussick
David has a strong attention to detail which allowed him to write two neat columns on what he observed at H.S. games. His "Top Hams Confidence" columns had a very unique format with quotes followed by description. David offered three rich columns for this category.

2 **Houghton Lake Resorter**
James Briggs
James takes a refreshing approach to column writing, offering a light hearted view of things like slow pitch softball and relations with readers. His ode to Al Nollet was perfect, dealing with death in a matter of fact matter without overplaying emotion.

3 **Tecumseh Herald**
Mickey Alvarado
Mickey's point of view is his strength, whether debating how to approach Little League politics to fingering Dale Earnhardt Jr. as a 'tattle-tale'. Good, crisp writing. Too bad he's not a deer hunter ...

HM **Milford Times**
David Aguilar
David is a gifted writer who can approach a story from different directions. His tale of a simple college signing was made strong by finding more about the athlete as a kid. I'm sure the Milford girl's bowling team enjoyed their exposure.

16 - Sports Feature 33 entries

1 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Gaylord Native Receives Nascar Dream
Mike Dunn
Well-written, interesting story - excellent lead that draws you into the story, and gets you excited that dreams really come true!

2 **Novi News**
Doing it the Hard Way Sam Eggleston
Well-written, researched story - very interesting story, nice variety of sources.

3 **Milford Times**
Love is Stronger than Disability Erin Johnson
Nice, sports story, unique.

HM **Northville Record**
Building a Legace Sam Eggleston
No comments given.

17 - Sports Coverage 16 entries

1 **Novi News**
Tough category to judge, but this entry's design elements, effective use of photos and vast coverage earned the top nod. Readers have plenty to read each week.

2 **Milford Times**
Clean lines, sharp photos make this paper standout. An easy to read section.

3 **Ogemaw County Herald**
A fine all-around section. Having two well-written opinion pieces added fresh elements to the section. Nice job with photos and design as well.

18 - Lifestyle Pages 5 entries

1 **Gaylord Herald Times**
Love the use of pictures and full color process to create and start off your lifestyle pages. Also the information in this area covers education, religion, and seniors. Congratulation on a job well done.

2 **Monroe, The Guardian**
Nice full process color pictures and stories to start the introduction of the living pages. Nicely covered anniversaries, engagements, community calendar, schooling events, arts and great advertising support. Good job!

3 **Hart, Oceana's Herald Journal**
I like the over all format of your lifestyles pages. Use of color is wonderful. School, religion, and senior coverage is all well done.

HM **Brooklyn, The Exponent**
Good coverage for your community and nice information and recipes. You cover well the areas of community, education, religion, and seniors.