

**Sports Feature, Weekly B continued**

3 **Rochester Eccentric**  
Life is Good . . . Jim Toth  
Very good perseverance story. Every kid says they're going to be a big player someday, and here's a story of someone who is living that dream.  
HM **Mason, Ingham County News**  
Perseverance Will Kangas  
I liked the way Will handled a story that is very humiliating in the sports world getting shut out. Even though they scored 0 points the positive article still came through from the team.

**Sports Coverage 13 entries**

1 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
Layout excellent, nice mixture of stories (variety) over entire sports sections. Good action collected photos add to the editorials. Quality of writing is well above average. The Head of the Class in Weekly B. The report card is a definite "A."  
2 **New Buffalo, Harbor Country News**  
Best with related photos to editorial. Photos are outstanding, editorial tells the story. Very descriptive, would have liked to see a little more with statistic information. Design of sports page is very friendly. David Johnson did an outstanding job with the three entries. Best at reporting high school in weekly B.  
3 **Farmington Observer**  
Good leads with headlines and openings of editorials (stories) nice diversity of coverage of different events related to sports. Nice mixture (gender equality of coverage).

**Lifestyle Pages 9 entries**

1 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
Interesting stories - subjects that should definitely be covered in lifestyle pages. Very nice community calendar, rail is being used effectively and nice layout.  
2 **Fenton, Tri-County Times**  
Great layout. Nice use of local/community people and events - that is what lifestyle pages are for. Nice variety of subjects covered by the articles.  
3 **Clarkston Eccentric**  
Very nice look, layout. Interesting subjects for articles and nice community calendar. Also, I enjoy the food/recipe coverage; I feel that is an area of interest and should be included in lifestyle pages.  
HM **Northern Express Weekly**  
Great subject matter and well written. I'm glad to see you devoted the space necessary to give the story the depth it needs.

**Special Section 20 entries**

1 **Portland Review & Observer**  
2004 Portland Kids Edition  
Awesome layout. I love the ads designed by kids and the mix of photos. Front page is striking.

2 **Lapeer, The County Press**  
Progress  
Great front page layout. I liked the separate sections.  
3 **Detroit Jewish News**  
Platinum  
Great use of photos. I love the name. Interesting wedding section.  
HM **Detroit Jewish News**  
Celebrate 2004  
I liked this one because it has great information. Needs more stories.

**Weekly Class C****General Excellence 24 entries**

1 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Clean design, good leads, solid editorial page.  
2 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Attractive paper with good writing and lots of reader participation on editorial page. Might consider simpler fonts. The serif one is a bit hard to read  
3 **Novi News**  
Strong, simple, clear design. The paper's coverage of the blackout makes this one stand out. Opinion page could be stronger and the photos on it seem a bit out of place.

**Spot News Story 44 entries**

1 **Hamtramck, The Citizen**  
Lights Out Charles Sercombe  
Many newspapers submitted stories about the August 2003 blackout, but this entry stood out because of its story telling. Clever touches included the paragraph about the "semi-cold beer in hand."  
2 **Wayne Eagle**  
Woman Charged in Killings Theresa Wherrett  
Chilling description of senseless crime that touched all the bases: names, ages, the sources you'd want to check in with. Vivid descriptions.  
3 **Milford Times**  
Police Fatally Shoot Teen David Aguilar  
This story answered the basic questions about what happened and what issues the incident posed. It would be stronger with names of officers involved. Tough story.  
HM **Standish, Arenac County Independent**  
Fire Destroys Building-Not Business  
Roberta House-Forshee  
This story has some glaring holes; dollar damage for example. But it's tough to write about your boss. This deserves honorable mention because they got the paper delivered.

## News Story Weekly B 50 entries

- 1 **Milan News-Leader**  
The Price of Darkness Kim Boelter-Muckler  
One of the few true news stories in this category.  
(most were features or enterprise) You covered the angles.
- 2 **Milford Times**  
Year-Round Plan Erin Johnson  
Journalism that matters to the community. Could have been first place, but it's more feature than news.
- 3 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Real Life Survivors Michael Jones  
Nice Job. No doubt well read by the community.  
HM **Cedar Springs Post**  
Ribbon Fiasco Judy Reed  
Seeing red after reading this. But really we all should avoid cliché's like the plague.

## Design 14 entries

- 1 **Tecumseh Herald**  
Clean, crisp pictures with bold headlines. Well balanced.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Big features on section fronts make it very appealing. "What's inside" just under masthead pulls reader into paper.
- 3 **Allegan County News**  
Good selection of stories on the front. Nice bold masthead. Sharp pictures.

## Feature Story 62 entries

- 1 **Milford Times**  
Facing Freedom David Aguilar  
Strong writing put this entry at the top. Story tells us why people want to be American and the there are ideas that are more important than things.
- 2 **Milford Times**  
Local Marine Returns Aileen Wingblad  
Strong writing throughout was the difference between 2nd and 3rd. Easily the best of many "home from the war" stories in this category.
- 3 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
A Family Tragedy Laurie Lounsbury  
Truly a tragedy. A generally well written piece. Some awkward phrasing hurts it. Information in chronology interesting, but long and doesn't always add to the story.  
HM **Allegan County News**  
Saving Christmas Ryan Lewis  
What could have been a pretty standard story is lifted above ordinary by good writing, multiple sources and directions for doing the Heimlich maneuver.

## Enterprise Reporting 32 entries

- 1 **Leelanau Enterprise**  
Lake Michigan Fishery E. Carlson, A. Campbell  
Tightly written, with absolute relevance to the fishing

community the paper writes for. Interesting read, but would have liked to hear more from local fisherman affected by the issue.

- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Growing Pains Laurie Lounsbury  
Well researched series and interesting issue to explain. What kept this from being overall winner was first, the writing style was dry and needed more visuals to keep the readers attention, and second, the series was too long and needed a better job of picking the most important information for print.

## Editorial Pages 14 entries

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Great mix of local viewpoints. Lead editorials are concise and to the point. This looks as if you have a different staff writer pen a column each week. That helps offer more viewpoints. Local columns and letters make these pages the best of class.
- 2 **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**  
Good job with consistency in editorials.
- 3 **South Lyon Herald**  
Nice mix of staff and individual editorials/essays. I like how you present the government listing as well.
- HM **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Good content, but need to strive for consistency in layout and content. Noting the letters posted on the website is an excellent idea and way to drive readers to the site.

## Editorial Writing 22 entries

- 1 **Milford Times** David Aguilar  
Well rounded. Very well written from top to bottom.
- 2 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Mary Sanford  
Very tough editorial talk in a small community shows ability to not be swayed by small town politics. Good job.
- 3 **Canton Eagle** Scott Spielman  
Great way to present opinion and solution to a very local issue...Christmas lights. Great job.

## Local Columnist 46 entries

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times** Jim Grisso  
Mr. Grisso explains the problems and uses common sense to make his point. I liked the editorial on Hesselink.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times** Mike Dunn  
This is total coincidence. I choose five columns from around 50 and came up with 3 from the same paper. It shows good writing. I liked the "under God" column. It was right on target.

**Local Columnist, Weekly Class C continued**

- 3 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Chris Grosser  
I liked how Chris put personal feelings and memories into the expose of the servicemen
- HM **Brooklyn, The Exponent**  
Matt Schepeler  
Matt has a very reader friendly style. He writes like your next door neighbor talks.
- HM **Tecumseh Herald**  
Deb Wuethrich  
Very brave and sincere in writing about "passion". "Kind Acts" made my day too! Thanks.

**News Picture 41 entries**

- 1 **Tecumseh Herald**  
A Thousand Words on Logan St.  
Mickey Alvarado  
I love the bus and children in the background. A picture can be worth a thousand words.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Wind Gust Michael Jones  
Awesome photo. Love the large size of the photo.
- 3 **Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser**  
A Caro Armed Robbery Amy Joles  
Right place, right time. I like the officers with guns drawn. Good action.
- HM **Brooklyn, The Exponent**  
National Day of Prayer Matt Schepler  
What an unlikely sight at an auto race. I would like to see who he's waving at.

**Feature Picture 55 entries**

- 1 **South Lyon Herald**  
Last Look Back Hal Gould  
This photo personifies what graduation is and what it means to the students. Photographer did a fantastic job of finding one good shot!
- 2 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
They Think I'm Mom Andrew Skinner  
Cute, cute shot. You can feel the emotion of both participants.
- 3 **Ortonville, County Line Reminder**  
A Pretty Little Lady Patrick McAbee  
Adorable shot. The puppy pops out at you among the pumpkins.
- HM **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**  
Seniors Say Goodbye Kevin Kissane  
Actions sometimes speak louder than words. Very true here, great photo.
- HM **South Lyon Herald**  
A Day of Remembering Hal Gould  
Emotional scene. Nicely done. Cropping a bit closer would even make it more effective.

**12 - Sports Picture 37 entries**

- 1 **Milford Times**  
Track Hal Gould  
I like the shot, but more so the impact it has being run in such a large size. It literally leaps off the page.
- 2 **South Lyon Herald**  
Family Tradition Hal Gould  
Actually, I like this shot better than the one I chose for first place, but would have preferred it to be cropped more on the hurdler and no hand. By having a wider shot, I think it loses some of it's impact.
- 3 **Milford Times**  
Boxing Hal Gould  
Again, tighten up the shot. Anything below the fold was unnecessary. All focus should have been on the glove hitting the face.
- HM **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
Consolation Brent Baker  
Nice photo, but didn't convey enough emotion.

**Picture Story 35 entries**

- 1 **Houghton Lake Resorter**  
A Fall Tradition Thomas Reznich  
Large, colorful photos combined with colorful layout makes a very effective presentation.
- 2 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Garden Club Michael Jones  
Beautification story well told through use of large photos and effective insets.
- 3 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
Paying Tribute Deanna Surbrook  
Nice layout with large photos, yet nicely balanced. Images do a nice job illustrating the tribute.
- HM **Northville Record**  
Swingers John Heider  
Effective layout, complemented nicely with font and graphics gave page a nice "aged" look.

**Sports Writing 41 entries**

- 1 **Milan News-Leader**  
Champion Nathan Bomey  
Draws you into the story with good crisp writing.
- 2 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**  
W-P Falls Brent Baker  
Good reflection and history from previous year.
- 3 **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**  
Pirates 42, Shelby 6 John Szegda  
Good job conveying importance of game from players' and coach's point of view. Headline needs work.

**Sports Columnist 18 entries**

- 1 **Gaylord Herald Times**  
Mike Dunn  
Good local topics written in conversational manner that is easy to read. Would like to have seen the writer stick to one topic.

**Sports Columnist, Weekly Class C continued**2 **Milford Times**

Stan Frank

Good variety of topics and local insight.

3 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**

Brent Baker

Good research and topic, I like the light-hearted approach. Writing does get too long needs to get to point.

HM **Hart, Oceana's Herald-Journal**

John Szegda

Easy to read with positive spin but a bit repetitive.

**Sports Feature 43 entries**1 **Caro, Tuscola County Advertiser**

Old School Taylor

Brandon Allensdorfer

Unique story, unusual topic, well researched, good quotes, good length to keep the reader interested.

2 **Milan News-Leader**

Milan High Summer Brian Cox

This feature brings honor to a modest young swimmer. Feature keeps the reader's interest. Headline excellent, makes the reader want to know the details. Good length. Well written.

3 **Saline Reporter**

Former Saline Star Nathan Bomey  
Success stories are always well received. Nancy keeps the readers interest with good quotes and lots of information.

HM **Gaylord Herald Times**

Marathon Man! Mike Dunn

Excellent feature. Written with the feeling of the runner's desire. Good focus on the marathon.

**Sports Coverage 18 entries**1 **Standish, Arenac County Independent**

Brent Baker is the complete sports editor. Great diversity of coverage, usage of statistics topped this class. Nice blend of photos to editorial. No overkill of photos compared to editorial.

2 **Gaylord Herald Times**

Articles informative, very reader-friendly and easy to follow. Robbie Heska, hockey wheelchair editorial was heartwarming. Photos crisp. Mike Dunn has his sports pages looking very professional.

3 **Brooklyn, The Exponent**

An underdog of sorts compared to the top two finishers. However, what captured my attention was their winter sports preview. It was excellent. The features on the teams were in-depth and well written.

**Lifestyle Pages 8 entries**1 **South Lyon Herald**

Nice layout, great photography, nice variety of subjects. Nice coverage of seniors in Seniors On the Move. Also cover children/students well in Class Notes.

2 **West Branch, Ogemaw County Herald**

This is what I think community and lifestyle pages are all about. You cover subjects of interest to people in your community. I also like the food/recipe coverage - I feel that is a good thing to add in lifestyle pages.

3 **Gaylord Herald Times**

Excellent covers but inside lacks the same punch. However, coverage of subjects of interest in your community is done well. Nice photography as well.

**Special Section 32 entries**1 **Novi News**

Very user friendly. If I moved to your community, this would be all I would need!

2 **Imlay City, The Tri-City Times**

Gave me what I needed to know about festival. Pictures helped tell about festival. Nice use of blue throughout.

3 **Milford Times**

Good balance in all aspects. Could use more photos.

HM **Gaylord Herald Times**

Good content. Could use more color.

**Weekly Class D****General Excellence 21 entries**1 **Chelsea Standard**

Excelled in all categories. Best I saw. Good job.

2 **Belleville, The View**

Front Page layout is pleasing to the eye. Lots of local content. Photos helped enhance score.

3 **Manchester Enterprise**

Good use of color and variety of photos. Local content is good, especially in holiday section.

HM **State Line Observer**

Nice photos and local content.

**Spot News Story 28 entries**1 **Chelsea Standard**

Couple Dies in Blaze Sheila Pursglove  
Under deadline pressure the reporter quickly gathered the facts about a deadly house fire. What sets this entry apart from the others is the in-depth quotes from friends and family of the victims. Great job under trying circumstances. Strong lead.

2 **Marshall Chronicle**

Missing Woman Shelly Sulser  
Excellent article with detailed information outlying the disappearance of this woman. Tracking down a large quantity of information is not an easy task, but the reporter presented it all in an easy to read format.

3 **Oxford Leader**

Tornado in Addison CJ Carnacchio, D. Rush  
News staffs can never be fully prepared to cover a devastating storm such as this. Well written articles tell readers what happened and the affect the tornado had on the community.