

2004 *Better* RESULTS *Newspaper* *Contest*



Your future needs a strong Foundation

WEEKLIES

1. General Excellence

Class 1

1: Nixa News-Enterprise: Covers all aspects of the community. Attractive layout. Local editorials a plus. Strengthen leads on page 1.

2: Marthasville Record: Lots of different news. Like the 25, 50 years ago feature. Leads on page 1 make the reader want to read more. Make leads more relevant.

3: Louisiana Press-Journal: Make Page 1 stories more relevant. Good community coverage of all area. Love photo of Donna Pitzer. Need local editorials.

--HM: Southwest City Republic: Good variety of news. Like courthouse news sections. Easy to read. Need local editorials. Tell me in MADD lead about impact.

Class 2

1: Liberty Tribune: Superior layout and graphics. Consistent! Good leads in stories. Tops in headlines. Opinion page looks good but needs a locally written editorial. Ads clean, easy to read.

2: Springfield Business Journal: Clean, pleasing in appearance. Excellent use of graphics and art. Scope of coverage excellent as far as it goes.

3: Stockton Cedar County Republican: Chocked full of news coverage. Helped cover for some shortcomings in art and graphics. Good overall paper.

--HM: Mount Vernon Lawrence Co. Record: Strongest suit is art and photos. Pleasant presentation. Writing in third was slightly better.

--HM: Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican: Good newsy paper. Enjoyed the layout. Story count on front page could have been higher. Work needed on some leads.

Class 3

1: Bolivar Herald-Free Press: Excellent writing skills and general layout. Excellent composition of photos and sports coverage.

2: Christian County Headliner-News: Well-written articles, and nice ad design. Excellent sports pages and overall coverage.

3: Kearney Courier: Well-written stories, excellent layout and use of photos and artwork.

--HM: Cassville Democrat: Good writing but could use more creative wording. Work to improve headline wording.

--HM: Marshfield Mail: Excellent writing skills and good ad design. Average general layout.

Class 4

1: Troy Lincoln County Journal: The total package. Well designed, excellent op-ed and sports. The Journal knows what is going on in Lincoln County.

2: St. Louis American: American does a remarkable job of covering the African-American community. News reporting is excellent, super photography, strong business and sports. Very well done!

3: Kirkwood-Webster Journal: Newspaper grabs your attention.

Plenty of local news, strong on special sections and sports. Very good entry.

--HM: Washington Wednesday Missourian: News, business, sports, features - a complete package. Well done.

--HM: Liberty Sun-News: Well-written paper with good design, strong op-ed, special Xmas edition very good. Great photos.

2. Best Newspaper Design

Class 1

1: Nixa News-Enterprise: Great deal of information compartmentalized well. Readable, with consistent use of type hierarchy. Quotes are too heavy. Great reproduction, fit and finish.

2: Liberty Tribune: Fine clarity of head typeface by allowing white space to exist. Fine color with use of color tidbits, i.e. drop caps, color kickers, etc. Clean paper. Script kicker is a no-no.

3: St. Louis Green Park Call: If headlines had more size contrast and stories not so thin, would be 1st place. Good reproduction. Best attribute: tabloid format.

--HM: Centralia Fireside Guard: Very colorful. Good reproduction. Use of Bodoni typeface and Good Old Days are excellent additions to keep Americana and nostalgia alive. Very creative and unusual.

--HM: Louisiana Press-Journal: Excellent number of photos. Well-reproduced. Well divided stories, but far too many on front page. Mug shot chokes spaces. Fine, brilliant color.

Class 2

1: Washington Wednesday Missourian: Color is awesome. Flag looks great. Easy to follow.

2: West County Journal: Great flags and overall layout. Color could be a little crisper.

3: St. Louis Business Journal: Good overall look. Easy to follow. Color could have been crisper.

--HM: Washington Weekend Missourian

--HM: St. Louis American

3. Best Front Page

Class 1

1: Centralia Fireside Guard: Love the local coverage. Like to always get the opinion of other people on things happening in their community.

2: Louisiana Press Journal: Beautiful color. Nice makeup and design.

3: Liberty Tribune: This paper is an eye catcher.

--HM: Cedar County Republican: Great photos! Nice local coverage.

--HM: Concordia Concordian: I would subscribe if I were a local. Very newsy.

Class 2

1: St. Louis Press Journal: Eye catching, attractive. Front pages grab attention and hold it. Abortions photo should be an award winner. A job well done.

2: North County Journal: Super layout and design. Interesting stories pertinent to area and time. Great photos, teasers well displayed, solid writing. A very tough category.

3: Washington Wednesday Missourian: Well displayed, well written, well photographed. Missourian's page one gives the reader a lot of info in a pleasing-to-the-eye package. An excellent page one.

--HM: Lee's Summit Journal: Journal's page one is terrific. Index at top is useful and photos are superb.

--HM: Harrisonville Cass Co. Democrat-Missourian: The excitement of state championships almost jumps off page. Savor them, they don't come around often. Great Arch photo. Flag is especially attractive.

4. Best News Story

Class 1

1: Louisiana Press Journal, Kurt Jarvis, Tragedy: Jarvis and the newspaper's commitment to reporting and looking at all aspects of this tragedy are superior. There are many facets to coverage of this type of event, and you managed to address all sides.

2: Canton Press-News Journal, Dan Steinbeck, It's Over: Excellent! Variety of approaches on A1 and A2 give this final chapter the deserved space.

3: St. Louis Green Park Call, Mike Anthony, Crestwood Finances: Very detailed, yet readable. Liked the human impact juxtaposed with the brutal facts. Good work and brave reporter. Did paper cover story before audit too?

--HM: Liberty Tribune, Angie Borgedalen, 100 N. Main: Thank heaven for a paper and writer doing a story like this and dedicating front page to it. This is important to all smaller communities.

--HM: Nixa News-Enterprise, Joe Hadsall, Hope on the Hill: Great coverage, "Need to know" info presented in a readable manner. I'm sure readers appreciated it.

Class 2

1: Christian County Headliner, Donna Osborn, Medicare worries: Took a complex story and explained it in a way I could understand. Looked at it from multiple perspectives and stayed focused. Well written excellent story.

2: Kearney Courier, Janese Heavin, Porter Fires ruled arson: Excellent coverage of hard news story plus creative sidebars on how it affected the community.

3: Springfield Business Journal, Paul Schreiber, Reeds Spring begins bankruptcy: Great coverage of interesting story, left no question unanswered. It might have been a little too much as I was worn out by the end, but overall excellent.

--HM: Lawrence County Record, Tornado destroys: What separated this from other tornado coverage was the ease of reading. One story on damage, nice bullets on individuals and two strong stories on witnesses. A couple of typos and was also confused on which story was the jump on page 13.

--HM: Springfield Business Journal, Eric Olson, Hog Wild: Really well written story, but I was curious how the growth was impacting the local economy, a little more on that.

Class 3

1: Arnold-Imperial Leader, Kim Robertson, Liquid Assets: Strong headline and good use of art, interesting story for readers.

2: Liberty Sun News, Jack Ventimiglia, Tornadoes wreck havoc: Powerful art and good coverage of area affected. Strong leads.

3: Washington Weekend Missourian, Ed Pruneau, Man dies when trench collapses: Details, details. Strong quotes.

--HM: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Ed Pruneau, Nab bank robbery suspect: Good story! Sidebar interview of witness strengthens and completes story.

5. Best Feature Story

Class 1

1: Liberty Tribune, Kathleen Stander, Officer and gentleman: Article and photographs displayed well. Headline led well into the story. The article is well-written. Typography is neat and

pleasing.

2: Platte County Landmark, Bill Hankins, Speed Limit 70: Good display of art. This is a good section front. Typography excellent.

3: Anderson Graphic, Joyce Haynes, So what's all that digging about: Article is well researched and the art led into the story well. Display is excellent.

--HM: Pleasant Hill Times, Kerry Warman, Football series

--HM: The Vandalia Leader, Gary Sosniecki, Big daddy clear water

Class 2

1: Gasconade County Republican, Dave Marner, Making a choice: Lots of chokes were made throughout this riveting story. Thanks for highlighting this tragic story and the bureaucratic red tape surrounding it.

2: Cedar County Republican, Charlie Meeks, Love lived here: Once I started, I couldn't stop reading. Great work.

3: Cedar County Republican, Charlie Meeks, I wish old men fought wars.

--HM: Cass County Democrat-Missourian, Amelia Wigton, Old Hens: Good story, good photos, good layout, loved the last sentence – there's a lot of wisdom.

--HM: Marshfield Mail, Cindy Elli, Giants in Music

Class 3

1: Washington Weekend Missourian, Karen Cernich, Raped: The Smarty Jones of the class. By far the best. Only entry I read through on first reading. Takes a very tough but important social issue, brings it to life and rattles the conscious. Well researched and well written.

2: St. Louis American, Tavia Evans, Washington University's history of training black physicians: Took a tough topic and gave us a very interesting story to read. Had a sense of being in the room with a very good, descriptive lead. Good display as well.

3: St. Louis South County Journal, Amanda Tinnin, Lady and the Tramp: I loved it. A fun read with an important message reminding the community of the need to adopt pets. Writer gave the canine a personality. So often these stories don't get told and they need to be. Well done.

--HM: Festus Jefferson County Leader, Barb Stefano, Jeepers Creepers: Where did you find this guy? I laughed out loud. What a delightful story. Probably the most talked about among your readers. Well done, great lead.

--HM: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Karen Cernich, Painting his way across Missouri: You painted a picture with your words in this feature. Wonderful use of quotes to move the story. Researched your subject well! One of the best presentations.

6. Tilghman Cloud Memorial Editorial Award

Class 1

1: Lawrence County Record, Do as I do: Well said in exposing hypocrisy of city board. Good job!

2: Seymour Webster County Citizen, Patron's Concerns: Right on - hear the people!

3: Cedar County Republican, Vote yes: Good plea for need. Excellent display.

--HM: Aurora Advertiser, Paying tribute: Well said, very appropriate.

--HM: Concordia Concordian, Stealing Signs: Needed to be said. Good topic.

Class 2

1: North County Journal, Case Show: Well done, good display and graphics. Good work on an issue too often untold!

2: Washington Weekend Missourian, Meth Babies: Excellent

topic – well done!

3: St. Louis American, Schoemehl Resign: Courageous work – keep it up!

--HM: Washington Weekend Missourian, Duncan Ave. King: Very good, paid off to stand your ground!

--HM: Christian County Headliner-News, Body of Evidence: Well said and to the point!

7. Humorous - Best Columnist

1: Webster County Citizen, Fred Spriggs: Love the style, down to earth, written for the regular “Joe.”

2: Canton Press-News Journal, Dan Steinbeck: Loved the writing and style. I used to be for the “red” read too. Liked the viewpoint angle.

3: Perry County Republic-Monitor, Kate Martin: Easy, flowing style. Like listening to my neighbor.

--HM: Salem News, Donald Dodd

--HM: Gasconade County Republican, Bob McKee

7-S. Best Columnist - Serious

1: Jefferson County Leader, Patrick Martin: Clear, to the point writing. Clear stance on subjects and backs them up.

2: Belton Star-Herald, Jennifer Coombes: Insight and character come through her words. Has very easy writing style.

3: Cass County Democrat-Missourian, Jason Tarwater: A variety of topics all written in an easygoing way that reaches the reader.

--HM: St. Louis Green Park Call, Mike Anthony

--HM: St. Louis American, Cassandra Walker

8-N. Best News Photograph

Class 1

1: Platte County Citizen, Lee Stubbs, Crash Simulation Victim: Great angle and cropping/framing.

2: Gasconade County Republican, Dave Marner, Propane Training: The reflection really makes this photo.

3: St. Louis Green Park Call, Bill Milligan, Mud rules: What an angle! Great shot!

--HM: Gasconade County Republican, Dave Marner, Lotshaw’s Decision: Good angle. The man’s expression makes this photo.

--HM: Cedar County Republican, Justin Ballard, Destruction: What an angle. Great framing, too.

Class 2

1: Kearney Courier, Janese Heavin, Fire destroys: Outstanding photography, good lighting, tells the story.

2: St. Louis American, Wiley Price, Hot Flash: Captures expressive faces. Good lines.

3: Bolivar Herald-Free Press, Justin Ballard, Hugging: Good impact.

--HM: St. Louis American, Wiley Price, Child Care: Relates story well.

--HM: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Jeanne Miller Wood, Prepare to battle blaze: Good display of urgency.

8-F. Best Feature Photograph

Class 1

1: Platte County Landmark, Bill Hankins, Cemetery Care: Honorable to note black and white photograph with great formal structure outweighs cosmetic benefit of color. Long, linear composition, very tension filled, interesting. Outstanding overall quality.

2: St. Louis Green Park Call, Bill Milligan, Tank Tyke: Photogra-

pher catches mood without action. Integrity of personal connection with older male figure. Shows patriotism with no age gap.

3: Cedar County Republican, Aaron Sims, Sweet: Brilliant clarity of color and true, final formal elements. Pure Americana. Innocence, growth, life. The potato is as honest as they are.

--HM: Gasconade County Republican, Dave Marner, Hello Mongo: Brilliant color of tone. Fine use of secondary color scheme. Fine texture.

--HM: Belton Star-Herald, Jennifer Coombes, Elisha: Very interesting with closeup, showing spirit. Great illustration with narrative elements for feature story.

Class 2

1: Washington Weekend Missourian, Jeanne Miller Wood, Gameface: Good impact.

2: Liberty Sun News, Kellie Houx, Flammable: Good composition, captures excitement.

3: Bolivar Herald-Free Press, Justin Ballard, Underwater: Tells story in detail.

--HM: Kearney Courier, Dick Whipple, Speed racer: Good composition.

--HM: Lee’s Summit Journal, Jeff Kirchhoff, Ducks in a row: Good composition capturing usually uncooperative subject.

8-S. Best Sports Photograph

Class 1

1: Platte County Citizen, Lee Stubbs, Pole Vaulter: Photo has good composition and caught determination on face of athlete.

2: Cedar County Republican, Justin Ballard, Back Fall: Great angle and good composition.

3: Platte County Landmark, Bill Hankins, Butterfly: Sharp, good action. Cropped well.

--HM: Platte County Landmark, Bill Hankins, Finish Line: Facial Expressions tell story.

--HM: Belton Star-Herald, Scott Loesch, Medalists: Eye-catching pose.

Class 2

1: Kearney Courier, Dick Whipple, Alumni Camp: Excellent example of creativity with what would normally be a routine photo. Nice demonstration of expertise with a camera. Photos like this attract people to newspapers and keep them reading. More! More!

2: Kearney Courier, Dick Whipple, Home Stretch: And you give us more. This technique makes a routine track photo something special. We actually see and sense the speed of the runners. Great way to focus on the runner from your hometown.

3: Cass County Democrat-Missourian, Jason Tarwater, Hurdles: Nice photo in perfect focus and timing. Creative angle shows us the folks in the bleachers and gives a good perspective on the action.

--HM: Washington Weekend Missourian, Bill Battle, Giddy Off: Very good. Captures an interesting bit of action between athletes.

--HM: Kearney Courier, Dick Whipple, Heads Up: Perfect timing. You captured great expressions on the faces of both players. Nicely composed; technically excellent.

8-I. Best Photo Illustration

1: St. Louis Business Journal, Brian Cassidy, Fastforward: Great visual effect.

2: Cass County Democrat-Missourian, Jason Tarwater, Cats in St. Louis: Good manipulation of composition.

3: Lee’s Summit Journal, Jeff Kirchhoff, Tiger Defense: Nice creative touch.

--HM: Cedar County Republican, Justin Ballard, No. 1: Good display for collage.
--HM: Lee's Summit Journal, Jeff Kirchhoff, Fire Aftermath: Shows readers that family is intact after disaster. Tells story well.

9. Best Photo Package

Class 1

1: Platte County Landmark, Bill Hankins, Keeping the Faith: Fantastic coverage and photos of a unique subject! Great variation of angles and specific scenes.

2: Marthasville Record, Staff, Deutsch Country Days: Great, unique layout. Photos sharp, wonderful detail.

3: Canton Press-News Journal, David Steinbeck, Tornado: Amazing scope. Photos leave readers no doubt about destruction.

--HM: Gasconade County Republican, Dave Marnier, Russell Lotshaw's Journey: Pics tell story very well. Great photojournalism.

--HM: Liberty Tribune, Angie Borgedalen, Random Fury: Photos have terrific impact, tell the story very well.

Class 2

1: Lee's Summit Journal, Jeff Kirchhoff, Old Ball Game: Captures expressive faces and individuals' love of the sport. Informative and an attention getter.

2: St. Louis Business Journal, Brian Cassidy and James Manufo, Community Awards: Attractive layout displays photos to best advantage.

3: Kearney Courier, Janese Heavin and Kathy Whipple, Festive Weekend: Good action, captures readers' interest to read more.

--HM: Lee's Summit Journal, Jeff Kirchhoff, Striving to Excellence: Photos caught the joy, distress, action of the athletes.

--HM: Cass County Democrat Missouriian, Jason Tarwater, Linda Thompson and Jennifer Leeper, Living History: Good variety of photos, relates subject well.

10-A. Ad Idea or Promotion of an Advertiser

1: Lee's Summit Journal, Health Care Directory: One word — AWESOME!

2: South County Times, Randy Drilingas, Gold's Gym: Great job! It made me stop and think about working out for sure.

3: Buffalo Reflex, Staff, Service Guide: Great graphic at the top! The only thing I might consider changing is not using so much BOLD. After a while it gets hard to keep reading.

10-N. Best Promotion of the Newspaper

1: St. Louis American, Melvin Moore, Diversity Calendar: Awesome! I applaud your commitment to diversity. Excellent piece all the way around.

2: Lee's Summit, Subscription Promotion: Great kit! You covered all the bases. I loved the button.

3: Springfield Business Journal, Heather Cochran, Expanding Coverage: Good looking graphics and great job asking the reader to get directly involved and in news of interest.

--HM: Buffalo Reflex, Shannon Step and staff, The Only Thing Missing: Good ad but try to find a way to better blend your top graphic into your coupon. Great tagline.

11. Best News Content

Class 1

1: Gasconade County Republican: Plenty of local news variety as a body of work. The paper seems to keep a local feel that hometown papers need.

2: Canton Press-News Journal: Good variety of news. Informa-

tive. Good reporting.

3: Webster County Citizen: Good reporting and coverage.

--HM: Concordia Concordian: Very good overall news packages.

--HM: Springfield Business Journal: Good reporting, very informative.

Class 2

1: St. Louis American: Very informative. Covers issues people want to know about. Sharp writing. Need more comments from regular people.

2: Kearney Courier: Good mix of news that affects readers. Makes news relevant, like the concealed gun story. Stories would be improved with more quotes.

3: Liberty Sun News: Great coverage on the two Navy pilots. I want to read more stories. Get to the point faster in Sonny Wells story.

12. Community Service Award

1: Washington Wednesday Missouriian, Chris Stuckenschneider, Dawn Kitchell, Book Buzz Literary Program: Just what a newspaper ought to be doing — encouraging reading!

2: Houston Herald, Brad Gentry, Kathy Richardson, Downtown Revitalization: Downtown revitalization promotion and awareness is appropriate since it ties paper with the history of the town.

3: Nixa News-Enterprise, Bicycle Safety Fair: Project helped address one aspect of a large community problem without specifically trying to raise money.

--HM: Eldon Advertiser, Eldon Pool: Paper and story made enormous contribution of time, space, money and influence.

--HM: Tipton Times, Becky Holloway, Library Addition: Raised awareness in community for something that did not provide immediate gratification for paper.

13. Best Editorial Page

Class 1

1: Lawrence County Record: Design is solid and consistent, making it easy to follow. Stories are of local interest, cartoons as well. Good mix of editorial content, columns. That content was easy to read and informative, touching and/or humorous.

2: Houston Herald: Liked consistency of layout, local cartoons and especially column 6 with its interesting mix of snippets. The mix of editorial content was great, highly local and state issues plus very funny Martha Stewart piece.

3: Liberty Tribune: Good layout, good columns, good editorials, but the editorials dragged out a bit and, outside of one humorous telemarketing column, way too serious to hold my attention. Do like "the Tapes," short and interesting and creative way to do "letters to the editor."

--HM: Cedar County Republican: The layout is okay, but looks like four squares and not dynamic. The highlight is the editorials, they are excellent.

--HM: Concordia Concordian: I like the layout, the mug shots with columns and the headline type. I also like the broad spectrum of people used in columns. But some more in-house columns would be nice with fresh perspectives. Wondered why the "letters to the editor" was different.

Class 2

1: Washington Wednesday Missouriian: Strong content, letters, columnists, good packaging.

2: Liberty Sun News: Strong and to-the-point lead editorials. Good mix of columnists.

3: Kearney Courier: Concise editorials, crisp layout, diverse opinions and content.

14. Best Sports Page

Class 1

1: Cedar County Republican: Wow! Great presentation, excellent photography, solid writing. A total package pushed the Republican to the top in a very, very strong field. Nice Job. Great use of color.

2: Liberty Tribune: Kevin Goodwin is a superb writer and photographer. Excellent sports page. Column on parental behavior is especially pertinent. Ads distract somewhat, but no penalty. We weeklies do what we can to make ends meet. No 2nd here, just 1-A.

3: Platte County Citizen: Well written, well presented and well photographed. Category is extremely strong and Citizen was among the best. Nice blend of football, basketball, wrestling and volleyball.

--HM: Vandalia Leader: Great coverage of state championship.

--HM: Louisiana Press-Journal: Excellent sport pages. Photographer needs a by-line and a raise.

Class 2

1: Lee's Summit Journal: A sports page the way it is supposed to be done. Very well written, photos show unbridled emotion. Quite a package in a very tough competition. Well done, and great story on cheerleader debate.

2: Wentzville Journal: What great package, from the emotion of a state championship to a Mud Bowl to swimming. A great cross-section of sport well written and well presented.

3: West County Journal: Excellent and well-rounded sports coverage. David Kvidahl's tribute to Tim O'Toole is a keeper. I wish I had met him. Great wrestling shot!

--HM: Kearney Courier: Excellent job. Well written, well presented. One of the best.

--HM: Cass County Democrat-Missourian: Crisp writing, good local sports coverage. Jason Tarwater has his finger on sports pulse of Cass County. His column isn't "trash talk" but very savvy commentary.

15. Best Sports News Story

Class 1

1: Thayer South Missourian News, Terry Mullins, Bearkatz Outduel: Great lead gets reader into story. Storyline flows well, giving all the details of game.

2: St. James Leader-Journal, Jeremy Copeland, A Shining Moment: Good story and good quotes.

3: Tipton Times, Katy Clifford, Cardinals Lead: I like the final score in the opening paragraph. The stat layout is great. Lots of quotes put you in touch with individuals.

--HM: Webb City Sentinel, Rick Rogers, Reloaded

Class 2

1: Kearney Courier, Chris Geinosky, Then and now: Exciting reading. Well written. I felt like I was at the game. Good quotes. I liked the descriptive emotions leading into why we should be excited at Brian Smith's return.

2: News Democrat Journal, Dennis Barnidge, Saying Goodbye: One of the tough stories to cover. Done with respect to the family and team. A very good picture of the grief of this community. Good writing.

3: News Democrat Journal, Toby Carrig, Money makes the grid go round: Not an easy news topic to make palatable for the reader. Fact filled, easy to read. Information we need.

--HM: Lee's Summit Journal, Larry Graham, Extreme Heat: Timely and well written. Interesting read puts everyone on notice about the danger of extreme heat to athletes.

--HM: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Bill Battle, Traffic Jam: Good news coverage of a disappointing turn in a sporting

event. Good explanation of what happened and rules. Would have liked to have seen quote higher in the story.

16. Best Sports Feature Story

Class 1

1: Webb City Sentinel, Rick Rogers, All in the Family: Good story, display. And photo large enough to grab reader.

2: South Missourian News, Terry Mullins, Dog Days: True to life story of summer practice. Photo tells story.

3: Nixa News-Enterprise, Ron Schott, Spokane Track: Good story, very unique.

--HM: Liberty Tribune, Kathleen Stander, 2 Legs to stand on: Good story.

--HM: Cedar County Republican, Justin Ballard, First and ????

Class 2

1: Lee's Summit Journal, Larry Graham, 9-Year-Old Pitcher (Girl Power): Feel-good story. Wonderful quotes. Capture spirit of a 7-year-old. Helps us understand what this child goes through to play.

2: News Democrat Journal, Dennis Barnidge, An Inspiringly Regular Kid: Inspirational story of an inspirational kid. Flows well mixing what we need to know with what we want to know.

3: Lee's Summit Journal, Nick Parker, Play ball: A neat story well done. Feel-good piece. Layout compliments the writing. Enjoyable.

--HM: The Kearney Courier, Chris Geinosky, Once a Patriot: Timely. Interesting. Entertaining.

--HM: St. Louis North County Journal, Mike Elder, Phenomenal: Quotes help move this story. Well written. Up against some very good work.

17. Best Sports Column

1: Kearney Courier, Chris Geinosky: Easy read, consistent quality, good topics.

2: Lee's Summit Journal, Larry Graham: Entertaining. Informative. Like the closers.

3: St. Louis American, Alvin A. Reid: Not afraid to tackle controversial topics, tells it straight but not in your face.

18. Best Family Living Coverage

1: Lee's Summit Journal: Great family coverage throughout entire paper.

2: Houston Herald: Stories of fathers and daughters have always touched my heart. This was very well written.

3: Liberty Sun-News: Great family coverage. The 175 year life of a community was nice.

--HM: Liberty Tribune: Nice job.

19. Young People's Coverage

1: Kearney Courier: Very nice coverage and display. Lots of variety.

2: Washington Weekend Missourian: Loved the travel coverage stories. Very nice display.

3: Washington Wednesday Missourian: Good coverage.

--HM: Lee's Summit Journal: Great stories and pics.

--HM: Concordia Concordian: Lots of youth coverage. Good grad tab.

20. Best Special Section

Class 1

1: Louisiana Press Journal, Pike County Profile: Good information for visitors and newcomers.

2: Cedar County Republican, Progress: Great idea to document progress after devastating tornado. Something historians will find useful 100 years from now.

3: South Missourian News, Escape: Can't wait to visit So. Missouri!

--HM: Webster County Citizen, 2003 Apple Festival Preview: What a fun festival! Enjoyed all the photos and easy to read information.

--HM: Cedar County Republican, Summer on the lake: Easy to read. Inviting and loaded with useful information.

Class 2

1: Lee's Summit Journal, The Guide: Probably one of the best designed, quality community guides I've seen. Excellent cover – eye catching. Content wise, staffs are limited in creativity to some degree on these types of projects, because being thorough is more the key — and thorough it is.

2: Liberty Sun-News, Liberty's 175th: It is clear a lot of research went into this project to produce a historical resource unavailable to readers until its compilation and publication. What it lacks in accompanying content (more developed stories in addition to time line), it makes up for in creative design.

3: St. Louis Business Journal, Wealthiest St. Louisans: More could be done to spice up the design here, and it would have contended for higher placement. The content and obvious research behind it certainly were there. I am sure this issue was a valuable tool to readers in the St. Louis business community.

--HM: St. Louis American, 75th Anniversary: Design – excellent. Content – How could you go wrong presenting the history of a newspaper with such a compelling story? Nice job, certainly an educational read.

--HM: St. Charles Journal, Page Ave. Bridge: Excellent, eye catching, clean design on the cover and throughout. What also stood out about this entry was the unique nature of the content. It provided a thorough look at what was apparently the culmination of a project having monumental impact on the community.

21. Investigative Reporting

1: Christian County Headliner-News, Donna Osborn, Taser stories: I thought the body of work of on-going investigation by Donna and Matt was excellent. Difficult subjects.

2: Marshfield Mail, Cindi Elli, In Their Best Interest: Both Cindi Elli and Mike Culliman are first-class investigators and compelling writers. Their subject matter is timely and handled with skill.

3: Lee's Summit Journal, Ann Scheer and Matt Bird-Meyer, multiple entries: Ann Scheer and Matt Bird-Meyer are obviously hard-working reporters. Particularly liked Ann's R-7 Bond & Levy story and Matt's local foundation.

--HM: Cuba Free Press, Chris Case, Christy Hahn, Methamphetamine: Great work, well written and so important.

--HM: St. Louis Business Journal, Patrick Thimangu, National Benevolent: Patrick Thimangu did a wonderful job of tracking the goings-on at National Benevolent.

22. Local Business Coverage

1: Kearney Courier: Good interesting news. Good placement of stories. Good spread of subject matter.

2: St. Louis Business Journal: Good consistent coverage. It's all business. Stories are good.

3: Kansas City Northeast News, Tracy Abeln, Michael Bushnell: It's a relatively new concept, but covering business for your entire community is very noble. Spice up your leads.

--HM: Concordia Concordian, Gary Beissenherz: Good, concise writing. A touch dry. Look for odd angles.

--HM: Washington Missourian Weekend: Good factual stories. Good span of various coverage. Dry writing, however.

23. Best Business Story

Class 1

1: Webster County Citizen, Dan Wehmer, Habet is New Head: This could have been a routine promotion brief, but Wehmer adds details that elevate the story to a very interesting profile of a motivated young store manager who moves up the ranks much quicker than he expected.

2: Cedar County Republican, Charlie Meeks, Homeless, Jobless: "I was jobless and homeless in 60 seconds." Meeks then takes you through Lester Johnson's struggle to rebuild his tornado-ravaged body shop. This story is an inspirational one that any struggling small-business owner can take heart in.

3: Webster County Citizen, Dan Wehmer, Limo Plant to Leave: What makes this story interesting is the historical information. Wehmer not only tells the reader the company is leaving but he traces the whole line of businesses that have occupied the plant and the efforts that were put forth to attract them. He also mentions that one town's loss is another town's gain.

--HM: Belton Star-Herald, Jennifer Coombes, Liberated: Only marginally a business story, but nevertheless an interesting profile of two women who start an art studio late in life. Story focuses less on the business than on the creative side of the studio.

Class 2

1: Cass County Democrat-Missourian, Amelia Wigton, R&R Buttons: Nice to read about a small-town business succeed. Well written.

2: Kearney Courier, Janese Heavin, Top of his Game: Well done.

3: Marshfield Mail, Natasha Dunagan, Robinette Anniversary: Nice to read about older people who just keep going and refuse to quit.

24. Government Coverage

1: Christian County Headliner-News, Donna Osborn and Joe Hadsall, Highway 14: Good reporting from both sides of issue. Both sides seem to have legitimate reasons.

2: Kahoka The Media, Mike and Sue Scott, Delta Street: What a story - what a mess. Good coverage.

3: Eldon Advertiser, Tammy Witherspoon and Tim Flora, Lake Ozark Firings: Politics at its best.

--HM: Belton Star-Herald, Jennifer Coombes, Ann Graham

--HM: Cuba Free Press, Chris Case and Rob Viehman, Jail Costs

25. Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture

1: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Karen Cernich, Saving our soil: A compelling read on a very important topic in rural America. Great display. Full of facts and information we need to know.

2: Kearney Courier, Janese Heavin, How does your Orchard grow?: Great example of good old-fashioned story telling. Kept my interest. Second only to a very good first.

3: Washington Weekend Missourian, Joan Elliott, When it comes to logs: Could easily have placed higher. A very good job of research and presentation. Interesting, fun. Good work.

--HM: St. James Leader-Journal, Jo Beth Brady, Raccoons Beware: Loved the lead. Good piece of writing. Fun story. Truly a story on a slice of the rural route.

--HM: Marthasville Record, Cindy Gladden, Seeing life from the backside of a mule: Made me smile, perked my interest. Made me read a story about mules – enough said.

--HM: Washington Weekend Missourian, Karen Cernich, Ag-Ed Programs: Can't be left out.

26. Best Religion Story

1: Liberty Sun News, Jack Ventimiglia, Jewell Stays Independent: Descriptive lead and extremely well-written. Ventimiglia did an excellent job of focusing on the issues. Nice page 1, photo layout. Very good reporting.

2: South County Times, Don Corrigan, The Ministries of Joyce Meyer: Reporter shows strong investigative skills in his compelling feature about evangelist Joyce Meyer. The article flows well and makes for interesting reading.

3: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Karen Cernich, Little Country Church: A well-researched historical feature. Showed unusually high quality of fact gathering and a refreshing style. Article shows obvious mental elbow grease!

--HM: Cedar County Republican, Justin Ballard, A Wedding 150 Years in the Making: Fascinating and unusual. Excellent photography with the article. Well done and sensitive.

--HM: Liberty Sun News, Jack Ventimiglia, Intelligent Design Bill: Shows strong grasp of the subject. Writer has offered balanced look at a controversial issue.

27. Best Education Story

1: St. Louis American, Tavia Evans, Volunteers make a difference: Well developed. Good research. Great subject.

2: North County Journal, Joe Scott, Busting at the Seams: Well researched. Great job at putting facts and figures into layman's terms.

3: Kirkwood-Webster Journal, Robbi Courtaway, Goodbye Paper: Well developed, well researched, good depth.

--HM: Webster County Citizen, Dan Wehmer, R-II Soon to Build: Great job at putting facts and figures into layman's terms. Made a difficult subject easy to understand. Good research.

--HM: Liberty Tribune, Kathleen Stander, Are gay youth safe?: Great job of reporting a sensitive issue!

28. Best Outdoors Story

1: Bolivar Herald-Free Press, Justin Ballard, Killsons Ingite Passion: Good information, well written, fun to read.

2: Houston Herald, Kathy Richardson, Bats, the Truth: Well written, lots of good information.

3: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Karen Cernich, Natural World: What a nice experience for budding naturalists. Well written.

--HM: Concordia Concordian, Gary Beissenherz, A Hawk, A Snake: Unusual story. Caught the hawk with its feathers ruffled.

--HM: Washington Wednesday Missourian, Joan Elliott, Renewable resource: Very educational. Great information.

29. Best History Story

1: Liberty Sun News, Jack Ventimiglia, Historical families: This on-going project is a wonderful contribution to the county's future. Ventimiglia did this with passion, professionalism and craft. It deserves recognition. Four entries were equally good and all deserving.

2: Jefferson County Leader, Stephanie Gillespie, DeSoto Bicentennial: What a keepsake for future generations. This is a professional and interesting piece of work for which the entire Leader organization should be praised.

3: Cedar County Republican, Aaron Sims and Charlie Meeks, multiple entries: All four of the paper's entries in this category illustrate that the newspaper and its writers are worthy of the award. Writers should be proud of their work.

--HM: Houston Herald, Kathy Richardson and Marcella McKinney, Close Encounters: This is great how they used the old clippings with new material.

--HM: St. Louis American, Tavia Evans, Alvin Reid, Don Johnson, multiple entries: These entries are historically interesting and beautifully written pieces – keepsakes.

30. Best Page Design

1: Kearney Courier, Kathy Whipple, Greetings from Mo.: Great layout. Color from flag draws eye into page to similar colors – head and beginning of story.

2: Liberty Sun-News, Jack Ventimiglia, Tornadoes: News at a glance – good. Large photos and bold heads are great. Good detail in photos. Second outline a little jammed.

3: Vandalia Leader, Helen Sosniecki, State Champs: Great photos, should have start of story somewhere on page.

--HM: Cuba Free Press, Rob Viehman, Addicted to Meth: Bold type and large graphic pull the reader into story.

--HM: Bolivar Herald-Free Press, Sticker Shock: Good info for prom season.

31. Information Graphics

1: North County Journal, Kristi Lovelace, Don't be burned by winter: Beautiful graphic. The use of a light background aids the reader to the info. The little burning house works wonders. Really exquisite artwork.

2: Lee's Summit Journal, Nick Parker, Control the flow: Small graph, but the faucet draining money was an excellent idea, very smart!

3: Lawrence County Record, Kathy Fairchild, Gallons of Water: Nice size graph, cartoon water droplets draw reader straight to it. Great use of color and space.

32. & 66. Best Editorial Cartoon: Weeklies & Dailies

1: Houston Herald, Kathy Richardson, Education Funding: Strong statement as to bickering while students wait!

2: Columbia Tribune, John Darkow, American Idle: Captures a great sentiment in the perfect way.

3: Jefferson City Post-Tribune, Jim Dyke, Highway Spam: Amusing take on two issues that must nag many local readers.

--HM: Kansas City Star, Lee Judge, Missouri Toll Roads: Takes a clean editorial stand in an amusing way; the essence of editorial cartooning.

--HM: Arnold-Imperial Leader, Judy Dixon, Stocking up for 2004: She nailed it!

33. Best Newspaper In Education Program

1: Cuba Free Press: Tremendous scope. Reaches students at all grade levels. Great teacher resources. Excellent overall coverage.

2: Washington Weekend Missourian, Dawn Kitchell & Staff: Hats off to you on Family Reading Night and Book Buzz!

3: Bolivar Herald-Free Press: Harold the Newshound – great idea and attention-getter for young readers! Great Lewis and Clark series too.

--HM: The Odessan, Renee Spaar: Outstanding Young Patriots series.

--HM: Lee's Summit Journal, Nick Parker: Great idea for high schoolers! Could this also work at the middle school level?

DAILIES

34. General Excellence

Class 1

1. The Marshall Democrat-News: Your newspaper may not have the splash of color that other papers have, but you make up for it in superior photography — your strong point. Your writing is somewhat weaker, but overall you produce a good newspaper. (Hey, try a little color now and then. Your photos deserve it!)

2. The Fulton Sun: You produce a nice newspaper, but its impact is lessened by common layout and erratic use of type. Changing leading and squeezing lines to fit layout looks bad. I like “Take Two.” A change in design would do your paper good.

3. Neosho Daily News: Wide range of news and features — your strong point. Some glaring grammar errors. Why are the names of the McDonald County folks in the drug story in bold (Oct. 22, p. 1)? Seems a bit much. “Mission to Mars” is a nice localized story on a national event. I’m sure the 4-Hers were happy with your special section. Nice. I question your “Time Out” house ad. Is it a good idea to tell readers they can learn all they need to know from your newspaper in 70 seconds?

Class 2

1. Columbia Missourian: Excellent entry! Especially good writing — lively, interesting, local focus. Good photos. Very attractive page design and use of design “tools.” Much evidence of “extra effort.” Local editorials and more and better use of color would help. Might do a bit more to call attention to public notices if this is a priority.

2. Carthage Press: Very attractive and effective front page. Paper has strong local flavor. Feb. 23 front page a real blockbuster — writing, photos, color, page design. Oct. 23 front also excellent. Some good writing, good photos all through paper. Inside pages not equally effective. Might take a look at heads for more impact. Good editorial page, but why opposite comics?

3. Branson Daily News: Color quality very good in both editorial and advertising. Front page, main sports very lively and local. Need more local areas, features inside. Inside page design not up to front or sports standards. Edit page needs major changes. Front page teasers are creative and eye-catching.

Class 3

1. Joplin Globe: Strong emphasis on local news, prominently played. Excellent coverage of storms in special report. Clean layouts with clear headlines and strong impact art that focuses on human emotions. A-1 flag gets too busy.

2. St. Joseph News-Press: Lots of local news well illustrated with graphics and effective art. “Jump Start,” other elements appealing. Many inside pages are too gray and not well organized. Writing is clear. Dislike ads on tops of fronts.

3. The Sedalia Democrat: Good photography. Cutlines are too long. “Broken Trust” series showcases some good work. Sports fronts have well-written stories, but quirky design practices (including heads on briefs too close to stories) detract.

--HM. Independence Examiner: Good effort at locally written hard news. Too many bold heads. Color words on A1 contrived and distracting. Good balance and art elements on editorial pages.

--HM. Columbia Daily Tribune: Sunday inside fronts “Ovation” and “Perspectives” are nicely done, but most pages are far too gray. More art elements needed to break up lengthy stretches of copy. Generally good mix of wire and local copy. Color heads contrived and distracting.

Class 4

1. Springfield News-Leader: Excellent overall design and layout. Nice flag presentation. Goo local, area, world mix of news; good editing and writing. Inside pages interesting, well designed. Great newsy/featurey section fronts. Opinion material good but too much—limits design potential. Creative, clean display advertising; classified section full but heavy-looking. Great photos. Very nice press work.

2. St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Great writing! Very good sports page. Pleasant updated design, except for flag, which gets lost in clutter at times. Great photos. Good mix of news, features. Inside pages

OK, some long world stories would be edited. Good diversity of fine columnists. Press hurts production quality.

3. The Kansas City Star: Flag plain but teasers add interest. Design simple, modern but not especially creative. Inside pages well done. Excellent photography, writing. Good mix of news and features. Section fronts generally more graphically interesting than P. 1. Opinion page has great material, but discouraging appearance.

--HM. Riverfront Times Interesting, creative covers. Writing is good but cheeky. Wealth of news/features about entertainment. Excellent production, advertising.

35. Best Design

Class 1

1. Columbia Missourian: Good overall design from front to back. Good use of fonts, graphics, varying photo sizes, color. Very clean. Good use of rules and white space.

2. Branson Daily News: A little too busy graphically to be the best, but nearly so. Try using hairline rules instead of 1 pt. rules, with more “air” around the rules and elements. The front page carries a lot of information. The inside needs more attention, particularly the use of photos.

3. Dexter Daily Statesman: Good press reproduction. Design of cover is getting there. Good use of hairline rules, but try to allow more white space around them. Good variation of photo sizes and fonts. Inside photo use and layout good also.

--HM. Camdenton Lake Sun: Would have placed higher with better inside design. Getting there in terms of newer, modern design, but needs more work in terms of rules (make sure they line up logically and symmetrically). Also, de-bold impact font when used for headlines, it runs together and looks fine without being bolded. Color, photo use good. Very clean.

--HM. Kennett Daily Dunklin Democrat: Like the clean feel of this, and it shows promise. Try cleaning up the cottonball in the flag with Photoshop. You’re on the right track using rules between elements. Be sure to leave enough space around them so the copy and photo elements can breathe.

Class 2

1. Springfield News-Leader: Tremendous use of color and graphics packages. Use of subheads and white space makes for easy reading. Stories really jump off the page.

2. Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian: Nice use of packages on chronicling event of historic local importance. Great use of color throughout.

3. St. Joseph News-Press: Spectacular meshing of color and graphics. Nice use of varying headline weights; very eye-catching.

--HM. Riverfront Times: Terrific packaging of main stories. The tab format is well implemented.

--HM. Sedalia Democrat: Great use of graphics to illustrate main stories. The arrangement of main story is always strong.

36. Best Front Page

Class 1

1. Branson Daily News: Great layout! You do a good job of promoting and getting readers inside the newspaper.

2. Columbia Missourian: Great photo! Good headline.

3. The Lebanon Daily Record

4. The Marshall Democrat-News

Class 2

1. Springfield News-Leader: The front page sells the paper. No doubt this edition sold well. Great headline! Great photo! Good job of drawing the reader inside the paper.

2. Southeast Missourian: I really like the overall design of your

front page. Great job of promoting your online website.

3. St. Joseph News-Press: Very good design, headlines and photos.

4. Columbia Daily Tribune

5. St. Louis Riverfront Times

37. Best News Story

Class 1

1. Columbia Missourian, C. Stachura, Seductive: Give me more. I just want to keep reading because the writing and story are excellent. Stachura mixes facts in nicely. One of the best stories I have ever read.

2. Neosho Daily News, Michelle Pippin, Dump: Good enterprise effort to show several sides of a story. Reader knows problems remain. Would like more description about the impact during last decade.

3. Mexico Ledger, Elisabeth McMenemy, Employees Shut Doors: Excellent writing. McMenemy takes a routine story and makes it shine. Tell me in nut graph why National Refractories is closing.

4. Fulton Sun, Colin Suchland: Good description of "Man Kills 3." Full of details. Would like more about the victims first.

--HM: Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, Catherine Ripley, Troops Leave: Ripley takes a routine story and makes the reader feel he witnessed moment. Good job.

Class 2

1. Joplin Globe, Wally Kennedy, Legacy Looms: The writing allows the reader to be sympathetic to the Barr's dilemma. Strong subject. In-depth reporting.

2. St. Joseph News-Press, Danielle Zielinski and Marjie Kosman, Shop Around: Timely subject. Good consumer tips. Good service to readers. Writers did homework and presented story well.

3. St. Joseph News-Press, Kristi Bailey and Josh Brewster, Crimes Against Kids: Good, clear description of child. Sidebar outlines lack of evidence in child sex cases. Balanced reporting.

--HM: Independence Examiner, Dan Curry, Priest Accused: Story shows the impact on victim and life. Good research efforts.

--HM: Joplin Globe, Staff, 11 Dead: Strong writing. Give me quotes from witnesses for stronger presentation.

Class 3

1. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Phillip O'Connor, Two Men Fought Terror: O'Connor gives a comprehensive story about two special forces team members. He includes their doubts, and families. Must read.

2. Kansas City Star, Diane Carroll and Grace Hobson, Disaster and Heroes: Very compelling. The writers took time to humanize the story. You could feel the pain. Excellent detail and drama.

3. Kansas City Star, Russ Pulley, Kevin Hoffmann and James Hart, Fiery Shield: Massive details in short amount of time. The terror is present but unfortunately not emphasized on Page 1.

--HM: The Pitch, Allie Johnson, Deepest Cut: Informative. Good balance.

--HM: St. Louis Riverfront Times, Bruce Rushton, World of Hurt: Probably an issue that needs more coverage. Story shows the fear of wives who have no one. Good content.

38. Best Feature Story

Class 1

1. Columbia Missourian, Julia Scirrotto, One Town, One Lifetime: Impressively tells how one determined man made an impact. Found myself wishing for a big easy chair in front of a fire, for the enjoyment provided. Category winner – by a nose.

2. Neosho Daily News, Michelle Pippin, Box full of memories: That "box full of things" made it clear that John Barnes is one of

us – an important reminder in this time of war. Great reporting, strong writing.

3. Kirksville Daily Express, Derek Spellman, Son-Meth: I don't like stories in which names have been changed, but this one is the perfect example of why it sometimes must be done. Brings home what this scourge can – and does – do.

--HM: Hannibal Courier-Post, Don Krause, Artists find new home: Great to read a readable feature on community development.

--HM: Columbia Missourian, Barton Grover Howe, Lynching series: Exhaustive study of a dark day in Columbia's past.

Class 2

1: Southeast Missourian, Bob Miller, Rescue and Recovery: Very nice narrative! Details and quotes are outstanding.

2: Independence Examiner, Julie Scheidegger, One of the Wildcats: Great attention to details and strong storytelling style.

3: Southeast Missourian, Bob Miller, A boy and his dog: Nice blended storytelling with good parallels and flow throughout.

--HM: Independence Examiner, Cherryh Cluckey, CSI: Independence: Fun, timely piece that takes pop culture and brings it home.

--HM: Sedalia Democrat, Chuck Orman, Fruitful Imagination: Colorful writing style with very strong quotes and details.

Class 3

1: Kansas City Star, Malcolm Garcia, Living with little: Garcia reports on the struggles of working people who can't make ends meet. Very powerful. Fortunately, he tells the story without opinion. He shows their pride.

2: Kansas City Star, Lee Kavanaugh, A Father's Promise: Strong story. Strong writing. Includes community. Soldier who feels responsible is poignant part of story.

3. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Richard Weiss, Al Kerth: Tragic story told through friends. Can feel the loss. Wish there was more on suicide prevention, such as a sidebar.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Mary Leonard, Blind photographer: Amazing story. Good description of his work.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Cynthia Billhartz, Philosophically: This is what a feature is about – an indomitable spirit. Writer captures spirit.

39. Best Editorial

Class 1

1: Dexter Daily Statesman, Mothers with a mission: Great to hear the story of the public pushing through with needed improvement.

2: Columbia Missourian, Dying at our roots: Wonderful in-depth story. Like a good book – hard to put down.

3: Neosho Daily News, MoDOT priorities in the wrong place: It's sad that government has a one-track mind and can't see past the cracks in the road.

--HM: Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, Railroad Crossing

--HM: Kirksville Daily Express, MoDOT Accountability

Class 2

1: Sedalia Democrat, Dresden Taxpayers: The power of politics is stronger than the dollar sign. It's a lot easier to spend more when someone else is footing the bill.

2: Springfield News-Leader, For lack of \$2500: Money controls many things but it takes a death sometimes to get past it.

3: Jefferson City Post Tribune, Intelligence Deficit: Sexual preference is a private matter. Bias destroys – tell the people.

--HM: Joplin Globe, School Funding

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Clueless in St. Louis

40H. Best Columnist - Humorous

1: Independence Examiner, Jason Offutt: Hilarious! All three writing examples. Fresh and hip but insightfully so.

2: Kansas City Star, C.W. Gusewelle: Unique conversational style. It's clear who the writer is (in terms of where he's coming from) but it manages to be general enough in content to avoid alienating anyone while still maintaining humor.

3: Lebanon Daily Record, Edward Sisson: Most impressive about these examples was their quirkiness in content and humor embedded in such short lengths. Sometimes writers push too hard (and write too much) trying to be funny. This columnist accomplishes it in few words.

--HM: Columbia Daily Tribune, Tony Messenger: Definitely a contender to place in top three. Perhaps it was the length that edged these out, because there is no lack of humor and "laugh out loud" passages in all examples submitted by this writer. Good choice of quirky content, also.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Kevin Horrigan: Excellently crafted columns and choice of subject matter. The only thing keeping them from placing higher was that while they were humorous, they seemed to be more admirable as general interest columns than "humor" columns. Great writing, regardless.

40S. Best Columnist - Serious

1: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Betty Cuniberti: Whether it's Golfing with Dad, Living at Neverland or Dumb Things About Adoption, this columnist holds the reader's interest.

2: Sedalia Democrat, Ron Jennings: Strong leads and smoothly written while making his point.

3: Hannibal Courier-Post, Danny Henley: His column dealing with the death of a family pet and the questions of a 6-year old was eloquent.

--HM: Springfield News-Leader, Jonathan Groves: Excellent columns, we can all relate to "no hot water" or the "2-year-old" in the seat next to you on an airplane.

--HM: Kansas City Star, Mike Hendricks: Hard-hitting content. Well written.

41F. Best Feature Photo

Class 1

1: Hannibal Courier-Post, Dan Dalstra, Our house is burning: Excellent juxtaposition. Would have been better with a hose going, but it was best in class.

2: Lebanon Daily Record, Eric Adams, Youngsters get Safety Training: Good feature shot. Nice job taking lower angle than usual for a photo of this nature.

3: Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, Laura Schuler, Fire in the Sky: Great composition, especially time factor, shooting at night. Nice crop of image. Good use of black and white.

--HM: Lebanon Daily Record, Matt Decker, Never Too Young to Start Fishing: Cute photo, would definitely run in paper as feature. Cute babies always win. Next time, try a different angle to create something other than a snapshot.

Class 2

1: Kansas City Star, Chris Oberholtz, Rain Dancers: Absolutely beautiful shot! Great use of light thru the water. Silhouettes make the photo more mainstream and wonderful.

2: Joplin Globe, T. Rob Brown, Artful Dodge: Great moment! Great composition, lighting and point of focus.

3: Columbia Daily Tribune, Ed Pfueller, Polar Bear and Flamingos: Great action displayed down the line of photo. Hope the equipment didn't get too wet! Nice composition.

--HM: Kansas City Star, Dave Pulliam, Looking for Leakage: Any advertising firm would be interested! Nice moment, funny. Right place, right time.

--HM: Independence Examiner, Paul Beaver, Whirly Girl: Nice effects on ball and girl. Good feature photo.

41I. Best Photo Illustration

1: St. Louis Riverfront Times, Jennifer Silverberg and Tom Carlson, Knockin' Em Dead: This illustration caught my eye. It's brilliant, the composition and ideas work great. The finished result is amazing and a huge attention-grabber.

2: Springfield News-Leader, Bob Linder, Pieces of Pierce City: Beautifully done, it articulates the damage and the notion of building it up. Nice, clean work. Real artsy!

3: St. Louis Riverfront Times, Tom Carlson, Foul Ball: Awesome. What a great idea, the air plug is fantastic. This illustration alone has many possibilities.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, David Carson, Vietnam Soldiers: Very respectful. The cutouts turned out beautiful combined with the edges and blurred background. Very presentable.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Chris Lee, Building Blocks to Success: Very creative graphic; technically well done; dazzling mix of people in action and simple objects.

41N. Best News Photo

Class 1

1: Lebanon Daily Record, Eric Adams, Fire destroys home: Photographer captured the intensity of blaze. One can almost feel the heat.

2: Lebanon Daily Record, Eric Adams, Deadly day on I-44: Powerful photo that superbly tells the story of the spill.

3: Waynesville Daily Guide, Jodi Elder, Fire consumes: Well composed shot – the flames, the flag, the Christmas decorations and the fireman battling the blaze.

--HM: Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, Catherine Ripley, Daddy deployed: The security of Dad's shoulder.

--HM: Hannibal Courier-Post, Dan Dalstra, House fire: The intensity of the fireman's face with the approaching blaze tells the story well.

Class 2

1: Kansas City Star, Delores Johnson, Tearful goodbye: Sadness and tenderness jump at you!

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Andrew Cutraro, Marine rests near Baghdad: Well framed. Wounded marine sleeps, helicopter and tank is in background.

3: Independence Examiner, Julie Scheidegger, Rescue: Photo captures the struggle of the rescuer carrying victim to safety.

--HM: Sedalia Democrat, Joseph Beaver, Air Force reunion: Both the joy and solemnity of the reunion shines.

--HM: St. Joseph News Press, Eric Keith, Drought: Strongly communicates the drought itself and its effects.

41S. Best Sports Photo

Class 1

1: Hannibal Courier-Post, Dan Dalstra, We Won: Great intense moment. Love the tie! Best overall for this category.

2: Hannibal Courier-Post, Dan Dalstra, Goalie Catch: Good composition, would have cropped tighter, but the moment is there. Good intensity that describes soccer.

3: Hannibal Courier-Post, Dan Dalstra, Victory: Beautiful shot. You have captured all sides here, audience, defeat, victory and despair in one shot!

--HM: Lebanon Daily Record, Matthew J. Wilson, Jackets advance: Good shot, way to grab the moment and intensity of the

sport.

--HM: Boonville Daily News, Chris Bowie, Play at the Plate: Suspenseful moment; great expression. Too bad the ball isn't in the shot. Nice technical work and presentation.

Class 2

1: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Chris Lee, Rams clinch playoff: Captures a great moment at exactly the right instant.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Chris Lee, Rams-Falcons pass break-up: Very nice anticipation to catch this play. Strong composition.

3: Independence Examiner, Jeff Stead, Dusty slide: It's the play every photographer hopes for when shooting baseball, and this one is nicely composed.

--HM: Springfield News-Leader, EdmÈe Rodriguez, Topsy Turvy on Turf: Great timing and ability to follow the action, and the angles make the composition even nicer.

--HM: Independence Examiner, Jeff Stead, Surface tension: It's great when an action photographer keeps his artistic eye sharp too.

42. Best Photo Package

Class 1

1: Branson Daily News, Wiley Hendrix, Dog Days of Summer: Great story. Photo packaged puts event into readers' laps. Great coverage of all activities and animal acts.

2: Hannibal Courier-Post, Dan Dalstra and Shaun Parker, Champions: Excellent photos. Would've liked more defeat/victory shots.

3: Neosho Daily News, Buzz Ball, Seniors make mark: Nice idea to pop-in paint globs. Nice collection of activities and painted people. I really liked the scene-setter photo.

--HM: Branson Daily News, Wiley Hendrix, Making a run for state: Nice coverage of all that occurred at particular event. Package needs more clearly defined dominant photos, all the pics are relatively the same size.

Class 2

1: Springfield News-Leader, Twister: Complete destruction captured in multitude of photos. Told story well.

2: St. Joseph News-Press, Jessica A. Stewart, Hope springs eternal: Good coverage and presentation for emotional story. Photos say a lot!

3: Springfield News-Leader, Bob Linder, Secret sanctuary: Eye-catching. All good quality photos.

--HM: Kansas City Star, Rich Sugg, Drive-in theater: Good coverage along memory lane.

--HM: St. Joseph News-Press, Todd Weddle, Roadside stories: Interesting subjects.

43A. Best Ad Idea or Promotion of an Advertiser

1: Dexter Daily Statesman, Elaine Pursell, The Countdown with Bud Shell Ford: Rock on Elaine! Outstanding. Short, sweet and to the point. It works!

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Lisa Adams, Variety Club Telethon: You used the big names to draw attention but never lost sight of what the real purpose was for the section. Great job.

3: Kansas City Star, Robin Langdon and Jacquelin Lahetto, Northglen: Great spin on the "Coming Soon" tagline. Inside content and layout were great, but I would have lightened up my cover background a bit as to not lose the black text, or may have used another color besides black. The "Coming Soon" stood out fine though.

43N. Best Ad Idea or Promotion of the Newspaper

1: Columbia Missourian, Staff, New Sunday Missourian: Out-

standing! You not only asked for the readers' input and rewarded them for it, you helped to put faces to the names and gave your new section a personality. Great job.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tracy Rouch, Community Matters: Great job Tracy! You found a way to help everyone involved – your paper and your community. Your layout is awesome, but I would like to see some color photos to bring it more to life.

3: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Nancy Long, Health & Fitness launch: Good Job Nancy. Great info. I loved the 12 to 1 ad. The only thing I would suggest is keeping your Health & Fitness title line in the same spot each time over.

--HM: Columbia Daily Tribune, Marketing Department, Capturing Creative Spirit: Good layout and good info. There were some better but this deserves recognition too.

--HM: Springfield News-Leader, Staff, Super Bowl Contest: Awesome idea. It drew them to the print and online product. Loved the full-page ad, but the smaller one got lost on the page for me.

44. Best News Content

Class 1

1: Branson Daily News: Great local coverage. Large number of local news stories on Page 1 and throughout the paper. Crisp writing. Solid reporting. Excellent newspaper.

2: Carthage Press: Good coverage of local events. Well displayed and well written.

3: Lebanon Daily Record: In-depth coverage of local events makes it an interesting newspaper. Good makeup and design grab readers' attention.

--HM: Fulton Sun: Good coverage of local events.

--HM: Columbia Missourian: Good local coverage.

Class 2

1: Springfield News-Leader: Filled with local and national stories. Great pictures to illustrate excellent local writing. Full of information.

2: St. Joseph News-Press: Good mix of interesting coverage.

3: Joplin Globe: Nice concise coverage – lots of it.

--HM: Kansas City Star

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch

45. Community Service

1: Kansas City Star, Donna McGuire, Mark Morris and Grace Hobson; Protecting Our Children: What makes this series so exceptional are the follow-up stories after the original set of articles. The breadth of research and the scope of coverage of the child welfare system are outstanding.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Marcia Koenig, Missouri Public Schools Guide: This guide to schools is a parent's dream. What I especially like was the explanatory "How to Use this Guide" on page 2. The story on the push for accountability on page 3 provided context for the data that followed.

3: Springfield News-Leader, Staff, CASA Kids: Old-fashioned community initiative. The paper got behind a local businessman's dream to document children's impressions of life in the Ozarks and made it happen. What a boost for regional pride, and benefited a charity, too.

--HM: Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, Catherine Ripley, Sliced Bread: Not especially artful but doggedly effective. A little historical research and, lo and behold, a modern-day slogan is born. I suspect that Chillicothe residents have a whole new sense of civic identity as a result of this series of articles. I'll never use the "sliced bread" expression again without thinking of this town.

--HM: Kansas City Star, Karen Dillon and Mike McGraw, Hepatitis C – Silent Alarm: Perhaps the most Pulitzer-worthy of the submissions in this group, but the community impact didn't

hit home as strongly as the three winners. There's no denying the national implications though.

46. Best Editorial Page

1: Columbia Daily Tribune, Staff: What a concept: Editorials written with style, wit and grace – and on topics of local interest to boot. Even the contributors write well and entertainingly. Pages are easy to read, too.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Christy Bertelson: Pages look downright medieval, but there's no arguing with the content. Editorials are incisive, although a few run too long to be effective. Saturday look is neat, especially grouping of letters by topic.

3: Kansas City Star, Miriam Pepper: Good balance of voices on these pages. "As I see it" column gets amazingly articulate entries on a consistent basis. Stop leading editorials with ho-hum ones on foreign issues; the ones on domestic topics are much stronger.

--HM: Marshall Democrat-News, Mark Lile: Strong local editorials, with an occasional guest voice. Balance of viewpoints is good, and the levity of the "National Interests" column leavens the whole page with a good vibe.

47. Best Sports Page

Class 1

1: Columbia Missourian: Great makeup and design, superior photos, and crisp, clean writing – a good looking sports page strong on content.

2: Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune: Headlines are clever and grab reader's attention. Any sports editor quoting Herman's Hermits is doing a great job, even if none of the High School kids know who he is talking about. Great sports page.

3: Branson Daily News: Use of color really makes the sports pages sparkle. A lot going on and the Daily News covers it all.

--HM: Carthage Press: Nice job. Photos on dark side.

--HM: Boonville Daily News: Good sports pages.

Class 2

1: Kansas City Star: It's the columnists who set the Star on top of the field. Their storytelling is that "something extra." Chiefs and NASCAR sections are very strong.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch: This is so close to being a dead heat. The designs are great, the stories and organization are strong. It's a great section for a major sports town.

3: Springfield News-Leader: Nice design touches and strong attention to prep coverage lift this section above most of the field.

48. Best Sports News Story

Class 1

1: Carthage Press, Michael Sudhalter, Pin heard 'round Carthage: Nice, punchy lead followed by a clear, concise explanation. I would have cut Gran-tham's first quote and brought Brown's "He did a great job" quote higher.

2: Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, Dave Kopp, Waiting Game: Great storytelling on a great story. But it needed some reaction quotes from fans up high in the story.

3: Fulton Sun, Russell Cooper, Buzzer-beater: Nice use of history and perspective. This is how die-hard fans think about and remember games. Coach-speak clichés bog down quotes.

--HM: Fulton Sun, Ryan Boland, Majestic Oestreich: Nice setup and strong quotes. Play-by-play and longer quotes slow down the story's flow.

--HM: West Plains Daily Quill, Dennis Crider, No rainout: Fun story, but needed more quotes to help with color.

Class 2

1: Columbia Daily Tribune, Joe Walljasper, Tapes Portray: This

was the most thorough and well-written of the Rickey Clemons story, which was submitted by several papers. The insight into the possible corruption in college sports is astounding.

2: St. Joseph News-Press, Brent Wasko, Allegations: A really revealing story into a coach who has been fired and has no prospects of finding another job. The last few graphs are very revealing into the deposed coach's situation. Very thorough.

3: Kansas City Pitch, Allie Johnson, Hardball: Great story, well written, a terrific piece of investigative journalism about a coach who was railroaded by the system.

--HM: Joplin Globe, Craig Hull, Dailey captures: Nice story, very telling of the subject personality, very focused and humble and also a perfectionist.

--HM: Independence Examiner, Bill Althaus, Chaos: Nice use of quotes and a great description of a calm and cool quarterback.

49. Best Sports Feature Story

Class 1

1: Branson Daily News, Wiley Hendrix, Still rolling: Well written story with some great quotes. What a feisty gentleman. Feature well displayed.

2: Hannibal Courier-Post, Shaun Parker, Still got it: Strong story about a strong man who has done a lot for his community. Great idea on photo.

3: Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, Paul Sturm, The Shyning: Well-written story. Great play on words in title. What a remarkable, modest man!

--HM: West Plains Daily Quill, Dennis Crider, Record Falls by Gum: Excellent feature about a legendary baseball player. A feature about a player of his stature might have been more prominently displayed.

--HM: Moberly Monitor-Index, J.D. Defreitas, O'Neil Delights Students: Great photos and design compliment this well-written feature.

Class 2

1: Kansas City Star, Joe Posnanski, Larry's Legend: Beautiful writing gives smooth flow. Narrative is as conversational as the quotes.

2: Kansas City Star, Wright Thompson, Man hid in plain sight: Great story to tell, and it was extremely well-told.

3: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tom Timmerman, Cory's Destiny: Compassionate writing connects readers to Cory immediately.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Derrick Goold, Right guy for Port Hood: Nice perspective many fans don't get of big-time athletes.

--HM: Kansas City Pitch, Andrew Miller, The Numbers Game: Great story about a fan's fan, sets mood well.

50. Best Sports Column

1: Kansas City Star, Joe Posnanski: Great variety and a well-balanced blend of opinion, humor and emotion. His style engages the reader and executes the basic missions of columnists by being informative and thought provoking.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Bryan Burwell: Showed good range with his entries. Mascot column was funny and the other two were strong opinion pieces.

3: Kansas City Star, Jason Whitlock: Clemons column was well written. Whitlock's direct approach serves him and the reader.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Bernie Miklasz: Good style offers a pleasant read. A little more variety would have helped to make this a top 3 entry.

--HM: Columbia Daily Tribune, Joe Walljasper: Wonderful angle on Eustachy and strong commentary with each entry.

51. Best Family Living Coverage

1: St. Louis Post-Dispatch: The judges were deeply impressed with the excellent quality of the writing and photography, and the extremely attractive and effective layout/design. Significance of the subject matter also a factor. Very strong entry.

2: Kansas City Star: The entry was noted for its breadth of subject matter and the sheer quantity of effort/space devoted to subject. Very good entry. Might put a bit more thought into design.

3 (tie): Columbia Missourian and St. Joseph News-Press: A tie. Both of the entries were very outstanding. The writing quality was particularly impressive for the Missourian. Writing quality also very good in the News-Press, and strong family centered subjects were impressive. Both had good page design although very different from each other. We thought they both deserved third place.

52. Best Young People's Coverage

1: Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian, Class of 2morrow: These pages, for and by young people, addressed activities, trends, programs and issues relevant to their audience. Good writing, good design and good choice of topics.

2: Sedalia Democrat, Scary Stories/Jammin'/Skateboarding: These pages look fabulous! The topics – music (local bands), skateboarding and a writing contest for kids – span a wide range of young people. The writing is clear and approachable.

3: Springfield News-Leader: Though there was no special section of page dedicated to youth coverage, the News-Leader shows commitment to spreading it through all sections, even business! Coverage addressed many aspects of young life – sports, the Ozarks feature, education, and trends.

--HM: Carthage Press: Michael Sudhalter's series of stories about teens and the consequences of their law breaking covers the issue from all angles – giving kids, and their parents, a clear picture of what faces young law-breakers.

--HM: Kansas City Star: Nice enterprise off the "Mean Girls" movie, focus on education, and the Monica's weight feature will reach right into many teens' lives. (I hope the rest of it is online someplace.)

53. Best Rural Life / Agriculture Story

1: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Lorraine Kee, Tiny school, big results: A charming story, beautifully told, about the smallest school district in the state. I felt as though I went to school with these kids.

2: St. Joseph News-Press, Susan Mires, Country roads: An insightful look at rural roads and the effect they have on the people who depend on them.

3: Sedalia Democrat, Chuck Orman, Corn huskers: An artfully constructed lead drew me into the story. I now have a feel for the rhythm and skills of those who husk corn for a living and competitively.

--HM: West Plains Daily Quill, Marideth Sisco, Reviving a tradition: The folksy approach to this story was most appropriate. The writer mixed in anecdotes and historical details artfully.

--HM: Neosho Daily News, Kay Hively, Yes, it's a dirty job: A short, sweet look at those who harvest walnuts with some nice touches.

54. Best Special Section

Class 1

1: Columbia Missourian, Vision: This paper has an excellent design staff, plain and simple! Creative cover, clean but interesting design throughout – presents content-rich section without losing reader for a minute. The content is appealing to anyone who has interests in the community and its future. Thoughtful, well researched and not "canned" as we see too much with special sections today.

2: Columbia Missourian, Outdoors – Fall Recreation Guide:

Diverse offering of seasonal activities, cleverly and creatively presented. Very attractive packaging of equally creative content. Missourian's entries were truly impressive in this category.

3: Lebanon Daily Record, Everyday Leaders: Impressive compilation of information throughout community. Very thorough and attractive in presentation. The same amount of information might be as easily packaged into a smaller format however, making it more digestible.

--HM: Columbia Missourian, Imagine: Creative idea (content concept) and not surprisingly, fantastic design.

--HM: Neosho Daily News, Defend, protect and serve: Nice, organized. Most of all, gives community a way to identify with neighbors leaving community in time of war. Nice way of "putting faces" on these people all in one section. Good concept.

Class 2

1: Sedalia Democrat, Staying Power: No doubt. Your pullouts, quotes, photos, and overall content were just great. You made me want to come and visit!

2: Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian, Football '03: You have me from the cover in. Your graphics on the high school photos really drew me in. Your "what to expect" breakouts were great. The college part wasn't as aesthetically pleasing, but still good content.

3: Columbia Daily Tribune, Our Town: Consistent look and content throughout. May want to look at the order of your sections. Looking at it as a reader and not a judge, I would have rather seen schools and higher education flipped with government and economy.

--HM: St. Joseph News-Press, Hope Springs Eternal: Very moving content. Many awesome sections to choose from but definitely wanted to include this one for some recognition.

Class 3

1: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 125th Anniversary: Great look, great content! I'm sure it was a great stroll down memory lane for all your readers.

2: Kansas City Star, Masterpiece Football: Each and every cover made me want to look further inside. Good content and great graphics. The only thing I would suggest is not to use the header so much. Use of it on the cover and maybe color pages would have been enough.

3: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Regional 2004: Awesome cover idea. The only thing I would suggest is to take off the frames on the inside page.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Guide to Public Schools: Good content and organization of it. The cover just didn't make me want to open it that much.

55. Best Investigative Reporting

Class 1

1: Kirksville Daily Express, Derek Spellman and Jennfier Altis, Meth – Cold Medicine: While there were several other substance abuse stories in this category, this story and investigation stood out and above the others. This was a true investigative story, not just further comment on a local "crime" story. You told why you went undercover and did the story.

2: Camdenton Lake Sun, Marsha Paxson, A Soldier's Story: Local story of soldier dieing turned into a series of national interest. Paxson stayed on top of the story and kept digging for more and connecting with other soldier illnesses.

3: Marshall Democrat-News, Chris Post, Malpractice Series: Good investigation and writing on a subject that is affecting everyone.

--HM: Carthage Press, Michael Sudhalter, Underage: Story and writing that would attract and educate other young people. Well done series.

Class 2

1: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Trisha Howard and Heather Ratcliffe, The Law and Disorder: This must have been an overwhelming task to complete. It's first-rate reporting. My best kudos to Heather Ratcliffe and Trisha Howard.

2: Kansas City Star, Michael Mansur, Lynn Horsley and Gregory Reeves, Judges get good gig: Excellent work. Very meticulous. Thank you for all the effort about a different, important issue.

3: Sedalia Democrat, Bill Medley, Broken Trust: One of those stories in which every word was important and I could not wait for the next issue. Excellent.

--HM: St. Joseph News-Press, Kristi Bailey and Scott Lauck, Keeping Justice Blind: This is an important issue that needed exposure. Thank goodness reporters took on this issue as an investigation.

--HM: Columbia Tribune, Didi Tang, John Sullivan, Missing Presumed: Fascinating.

56. Best Local Business Coverage

1: St. Louis Post-Dispatch: The P-D looks to have a lock on business news in a complex town. The breadth of coverage by the P-D merits its first-place honors. From analysis of local happenings to local takes on national issues, briefs about local businesses and interviews with local leaders and everyday workers.

2: Kansas City Star: The Star spreads business coverage through the paper, giving an impression of being on top of all aspects of business coverage.

3: Springfield News-Leader: The Path of Growth project showed in-depth knowledge of the business community and plans for the future, while acknowledging and exploring the changes that growth will bring to the area.

--HM: St. Joseph News-Press: The News-Press business staff took national issues and brought them to St. Joseph – the impact of NAFTA, worker's comp legislation, manufacturing/processing job challenges.

--HM: The Mexico Ledger: Ryan Smith's stories about a new manufacturer arriving in Mexico and its impact on the economy and work force showed knowledge of the process and the community.

57. Best Business Story

Class 1

1: Kirksville Daily Express, Derek Spellman, Development Incentives: It was a hard decision, but part 3 of this series just sticks out. It's a good business story with community-wide interest, whether they like it or not.

2: Camdenton Lake Sun, Staff, Jobs Cut: Another hard decision – it was a good angle to start the story. Writing needed to be tighter once you got further in the story.

3: Lebanon Daily Record, Matt Decker, Booming Business: Well written, but too many linking verbs – action verbs are better.

--HM: West Plains Daily Quill, Marideth Sisco, Expanding Office: I like the broken up subject matter. Reads well. Be cautious with long sentences.

--HM: Hannibal Courier-Post, Don Krause, Artists Find New Home: It was a good story. Could have been a little more "flowery," for lack of a better word.

Class 2

1: Springfield News-Leader, Karen Culp, War Museum: An important local attraction with big money problems. The article cited all the major points and informed the reader.

2: St. Louis Riverfront Times, Shelley Smithson, King of Kingshighway: Great story on capitalism and helping to positively influence a community.

3: Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic, Teresa Johnson, P.B. Airport Improvement

--HM: Kansas City Pitch, Ben Paynter, Burn and Crash: Interesting story of business people you would never have known of.

58. Best Coverage of Government

1: Sedalia Democrat, Broken Trust: The six-part series "Broken Trust" is a well-executed story that exposed flaws in a system to protect Missouri's elderly. Good writing, good use of photos, graphics and other storytelling devices.

2: Joplin Globe, Sheriff Mum: Watchdog journalism at its best. Susan Redder exposed a corrupt sheriff who wasted tax dollars and had to resign after being found out. Good documentation.

3: Independence Examiner, Open Meetings Debate: Good running series of stories on city council violating Missouri's open meeting law. David Tanner and Jeff Fox educated readers on the law and got action.

--HM: Joplin Globe, Child Hurt or Helped: Good job of explaining problems in Missouri's child welfare system.

--HM: West Plains Daily Quill, Civil Liberties: An unusual use of fiction and fact to look underneath the state's "juvenile justice" system, particularly in abuse and neglect cases.

59. Best Religion Story

1: Columbia Missourian, Ross Todd, Soul Searching: A fascinating look at the Latin immigrants' religious experience in America, and the frequent conversions from Catholicism to other faiths.

2: Columbia Daily Tribune, Jenna Isaacson, Go Ye Into the World: Two young Mormon missionaries share their hard times and good times in this account, which manages to show their everyday aspirations (to be ski instructor, play guitar) along with their spiritual dedication.

3: Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian, Laura Johnston, Turning One Church into Two: A difficult assignment to write a story about a schism in a Baptist church without seeming to side with either faction. Johnston accomplishes this with an even-handed approach that gets at the painful feelings of separation that each experienced.

--HM: Kansas City Star, Grace Hobson, Financial Scandals Test Trust: Story nicely tied together a number of cases of alleged financial impropriety at churches and gave helpful pointers as to what parishioners should be able to expect in the way of disclosure and accountability.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Patricia Rice, Hard-working Wisconsin Bishop: Rice provides a well-researched and insightful look at what Missourians can expect from their new archbishop based on interviews with those who know him and the man himself.

60. Best Education Story

1: Lebanon Daily Record, Matt Decker, A Thousand Words: Best writing/reporting in a very competitive category. Story is clear how this program aids students.

2: Springfield News-Leader, Steve Koehler, Paying for College: Hands-on approach to a complex issue. Parents and students get exactly the information they need.

3: Kansas City Pitch, Joe Miller, War of Words: Great read about a kid whose skill was found and honed, and perfected, despite some short-sighted adults.

--HM: Joplin Globe, Andy Ostmeier, Harder to Pay: Revealing reporting, not only about MSSU and Missouri higher education, but the cost of college all over. Wal-Mart piece is icing! Best of very strong Joplin Globe work.

--HM: Jefferson City News Tribune, Jackie Stewart, Support Our Schools: It does take a community, as this easily readable and

detailed report shows.

61. Best Outdoors Story

1: Kansas City Star, Brent Frazee, Life on the Run: Incredible writing that snagged me with the introduction. If all outdoor stories painted pictures in the reader's mind as this did, all outdoor stories would improve. The writer captures a buck's experiences extremely well!

2: Columbia Missourian, Holly Yan, The Morel the Merrier: What can I say, this story brought a smile to my face, and I hate mushrooms! Excellent delivery and composition. Wonderful example.

3: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Ron Cobb, Sunrise, Sunset: The art helps readers see the picture, but it was the writing and use of colorful imagery in words that drew my attention. Great work.

--HM: Springfield News-Leader, Mike Penprase, Poachers: Wonderfully written, not choppy or hard to follow. Writer used great combinations of hard facts of story with prose-like openers. Great detail throughout the story.

--HM: Camdenton Lake Sun, Joyce Miller, Bear in Custody: This story, although short compared to other entries, was well written and to the point. The break-up of copy and quotes was perfect.

62. Best History Story

1: Columbia Missourian, Barton Grover Howe, Lynching series: This fine series was a historic event in itself. This should be a screenplay. Great work!

2: St. Joseph News-Press, Ken Newton, Kristi Bailey, Ray Scherer and Scott Lauck, GOP Scarce: I like the way the reporters use history and news together for ultimate impact.

3: Kansas City Star, Steve Paul and Rich Montgomery, Chasing Lewis & Clark: Entertaining, informative, and touching.

--HM: Independence Examiner, David Tanner, Saving the Past: All four of Tanner's submissions illustrate his commitment to history reporting of all types.

--HM: St. Louis Riverfront Times, Ben Westhoff, Mike Seely and Dennis Brown, Lost It at the Movies: All of these writers do recent history proud and capture pop culture reporting artfully.

63. Best Page Design

1: St. Louis Post Dispatch, Wade Wilson, Pretty in Pink: Great use of white space on Drumline. Designer did a good job balancing hard news and features, and keeps his creativity.

2: St. Joseph News-Press, George Stanton, Rocky Mountain High: Designer-created illustrations add punch to War Path packages. Clear and well-defined centers work well.

3: Kansas City Star, Neil Nakahodo, Preview: Well-executed, well-planned ideas with a clear intent on capturing the reader. Designs go a long way to success of these sections.

--HM: Columbia Missourian, Carolyn Szczepanski, Future River: Great design. Use of art and space was flawless.

64. Best Information Graphic

1: Springfield News-Leader, Brian McGill, Hammons Field: Awesome use of space to give readers the info they want in ways that mean something. The graphic puts them in the seats.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jacob Piercy, Centennial of the Airplane: Strong depth to research and great organization.

3: Kansas City Star, Noah Musser, Rick Montgomery and Steve Paul, Sea to Sea: Very impressive organization and presentation of lots of information.

--HM: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Wade Wilson, Opening the Gate-

way

--HM: Kansas City Star, Dave Eames and Noah Musser, Central Library: Only drawback is that the black and white make it look like, well, a library.

65. Best Online Newspaper

1: Springfield News-Leader, www .news-leader.com: Local news right up front. Nice balance of content vs. navigation. Not too much on one page. Nice color use. Too many flashing ads!

2: St. Louis Riverfront Times, www .riverfronttimes.com: Very nice design and typography, but no real focal point. Maybe too much on the index page. Where is the news of the day?

3: Marshall Democrat-News, www .marshallnews.com: Nice focal image, good colors. Design a bit jumbled.

--HM: Rolla Daily News, www .therolladailynews.com: Nice big images.

--HM: Independence Examiner, www .examiner.net: Good local news up front. Color scheme is distracting.

66. & 32. Best Editorial Cartoon: Weeklies & Dailies

1: Houston Herald, Kathy Richardson, Education Funding: Strong statement as to bickering while students wait!

2: Columbia Tribune, John Darkow, American Idle: Captures a great sentiment in the perfect way.

3: Jefferson City Post-Tribune, Jim Dyke, Highway Spam: Amusing take on two issues that must nag many local readers.

--HM: Kansas City Star, Lee Judge, Missouri Toll Roads: Takes a clean editorial stand in an amusing way; the essence of editorial cartooning.

--HM: Arnold-Imperial Leader, Judy Dixon, Stocking up for 2004: She nailed it!

67. Best Newspaper In Education Program

1: Kansas City Star: Great overall program. You give educators the means to help make learning (using the newspaper) fun and exciting. Keep up the good work.

2: St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Great partnership developed with the Blues NHL team. That's what NIE is all about, getting students excited about using/reading the newspaper.

3: Hannibal Courier-Post: You do a great job promoting NIE in the newspaper.