

2010 Results
& Comments

MISSOURI PRESS
FOUNDATION

**Better Newspaper
Contest**

The Kansas City Star and *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* were awarded this year's Gold Cups by the Missouri Press Foundation. Both of the newspapers repeated their Gold Cup wins from 2009.

Award winners in the Foundation's annual Better Newspaper Contest were announced Saturday (Oct. 16) during the 144th annual Missouri Press Association Convention. The meeting was held at The Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark.

The contest recognizes excellence in news, feature and column writing, editorials, design, advertising, photography and other newspaper skills. Members of the Iowa Newspaper Association judged this year's contest.

Missouri Press Foundation is the educational and philanthropic affiliate of the Missouri Press Association, the newspaper organization based in Columbia.

A point system for the annual contest emphasizes general excellence, community service and investigative reporting. Each award won by a newspaper has point value. Gold Cups are awarded to the daily and weekly newspapers that accumulate the most points in the contest.

Below, are all of the winners in this year's contest, along with comments from the judges.

BNC RESULTS AND COMMENTS

Category 1-1 General Excellence Weekly

1st Place Kearney Courier

A solid newspaper serving the local news needs of its community. Let the sports layout person do Page 1.

2nd Place Smithville Herald

Close competition with its sister publication in Kearney. Nice Job!

3rd Place MO Lawyers Weekly

An outstanding newspaper in service to its clearly defined audience.

Category 1-2 General Excellence Weekly

1st Place Nixa Xpress

A lively local paper. Congratulations!

2nd Place Houston Herald

The Herald demonstrates that color is not required to produce a quality local paper. Crisp, clean and loaded with local content - even in editorial cartoons!

3rd Place Marshfield Mail

Lots of local news. Design could benefit from better coordination of colors.

Category 1 - 3 General Excellence Weekly

1st Place Springfield Business Journal

What points this specialty newspaper forfeited in sports and opinion it made up in solid writing, insightful reporting, clean organization and compelling ad design.

2nd Place Ft Leonard Wood Guidon

Though a special newspaper for specifically defined audience, the Guidon serves that audience well.

3rd Place Liberty Tribune

Good volume of staff-generated local content.

Category 1 - 4 General Excellence Weekly

1st Place Webster-Kirkwood Times

A solid community voice, reporting the triumphs and tragedies and everything in between.

2nd Place St. Louis American

The American maintains a clear focus on its audience and community, to their benefit.

3rd Place St. Louis Business Journal

A must-read for the business community in the St. Louis market.

Category 2-1 Best Front-to-Back Design

1st Place MO Lawyers Weekly

Clean, organized design that is functional - helps the reader along - and sets a tone befitting its audience.

2nd Place Kearney Courier

Second, despite the rather unattractive display of story teases cornering the flag. Otherwise, a nice job!

3rd Place Houston Herald

Solidly done, even without color.

Category 2-2 Best Front-to-Back Design

1st Place Ft Leonard Wood Guidon

Good balance between text, photos and white space. Clean, well-organized, consistent. Good use of color.

2nd Place St. Louis Business Journal

Good use of photos and graphics. Consistent from issue-to-issue. Front could use more dominant art.

3rd Place St. Louis American

Nice variation in use of typography. Section fronts don't flow as well as the inside, but overall well organized.

Category 3-1 Best Front Page - Class 1

1st Place Smithville Herald

White space gave it a relaxed look. Story variety & writing well done.

2nd Place Christian County Headliner News

3rd Place Kearney Courier

HM Jackson County Advocate

Category 3-2 Best Front Page - Class 2

1st Place St. Louis Business Journal
 Inviting, interesting cut & good stories
 2nd Place St. Louis Suburban Journal
 Just missed first.
 3rd Place St. Louis American
 HM Jefferson County Leader

Category 4 Breaking News Story

1st Place Gasconade County Republican - Dave Marner
 Reads great - immediately pulled in and has that 'breaking news' beat.
 2nd Place Bolivar Herald-Free Press - Sarah West
 Great lead-in and sequence of events in story form. I wanted to read it from beginning to end.
 3rd Place Lee's Summit Journal - Miranda Wycoff
 Great coverage of hot local topic. Side bar set it apart from the rest.

Category 5-1 Best News Story

1st Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Scott Lauck "Condemning"
 May not have been the most important topic, but definitely revealed some of the best writing in this category. Your lead got me.
 2nd Place Ashland Boone County Journal - Bruce Wallace "Charged"
 Great topic, excellent lead. Kudos getting this guy to talk about a touchy subject.
 3rd Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Heather Cole "Death"
 - Again, just great writing.
 HM North Stoddard Countian - Corey Noles "Brothers"
 Good topic, writing could have been stronger, as could have been the lead.

Category 5-2 Best News Story

1st Place Houston Herald - Jeff McNiell
 What a tremendous amount of investigation for this story. Solid writing & hard work pushed this to the top of large well-rounded class.
 2nd Place Gasconade County Republican - Linda Trest
 Interesting lead & weightiness of topic pushed it above third-place entry.
 3rd Place Ste. Genevieve Herald - Jean Feld Rissover
 Top 3 all neck & neck in terms of topic & writing. This is an incredible story and you tell it well.

Category 5-3 Best News Story

1st Place Liberty Tribune - Angie Borgedalen "Murder"
 Your reporting for a topic some might have shrugged off as insignificant made this a winner. Excellent lead.
 2nd Place Christian County Headliner News - Amelia Wigton "Digital Dirt"
 Loved the topic. Would guess you reached a lot of young adults with this.
 3rd Place Christian County Headliner News - Amelia Wigton "Drunk Driving"
 Lead drew me in; could have used tighter editing in narrative.
 HM Branson Daily News - Mindy Honey
 Great writing.

Category 5-4 Best News Story

1st Place St. Louis Suburban Journal - Shawn Clubb "Riders"
 Covered issue well. Liked writer got different reasons why people used the service.
 2nd Place St. Louis Suburban Journal - Kevin Carbery "Dilemma"
 3rd Place St. Louis Suburban Journal - Raymond Castile "Abuse"
 HM Webster-Kirkwood Times - Don Corrigan "Helmets"

Category 6-1 Best Feature Story

1st Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Kelly Wiese "Judge"
 Drew me in and kept me involved. Liked the "pace" of the writing.
 2nd Place Kearney Courier - Kevin M. Smith "ghost"
 Fun story - the Ghost Hunting tips was a great reader-friendly idea.
 3rd Place Smithville Herald - Nancy Hull Rigdon "neighbor"
 Liked the lead & progression through the article.
 HM Bloomfield North Stoddard Countian - Corey Noles

Category 6-2 Best Feature Story

1st Place	Lee's Summit Journal	- Emily Jarrett	"Fetch"
Lead drew me in.			
2nd Place	Warren County Record	- Tim Schmidt	"unemployed"
Importance of topic made this 2nd.			
3rd Place	Lawrence County Record	- Charlie Meeks	"dogs"
Light-hearted topic but you did a great job with it!			

Category 6-3 Best Feature Story

1st Place	Christian County Headliner News	- Emily Hoffman	"tooth"
A unique subject combined with a well-written story and great quotes.			
2nd Place	Jackson County Advocate	- Seann McAnally	"officer"
Great subject. The way the story was written, readers are pulled in from the beginning.			
3rd Place	Christian County Headliner News	- Emily Hoffman	"Dr. K"
Good story - puts a face on Parkinson's Disease.			
HM	Branson Tri-Lake News	- Mindy Honey	

Category 6-4 Best Feature Story

1st Place	St. Charles Suburban Journal	- Steve Pokin	"Body"
Great subject for a story. Can tell extensive research and interviews conducted for story. I like that you put life into this body, showed Missourians who he was and how he got to the creek. Transitions could have been much better. Should have put "water and laughter" after "you could read the name: Richard Wakefield" then at end of "W and L" go back to body details, etc. Great detail!			
2nd Place	St. Louis Green Park Call	- Evan Young	"iconic"
Very well-written. I like how you dug into this man's history and showed how it related to his car salesman job. Good summary of his career.			
3rd Place	St. Louis Business Journal	- Lisa R. Brown	"Game On"
Great lede! Well-written. Good visual description of the club. Wish you would have interviewed people outside of the owner and written more on why/how this club is the place to be for chess players.			
HM	Gladstone/Sun Tribune	- Ray Weikal	

Category 7-1 Best News or Feature Series

1st Place	Missouri Lawyers Weekly		
"Science or Fiction" series was a clear winner in this category. Stories about the reliability of forensic evidence were well-researched and well-presented.			
2nd Place	Jackson County Advocate	- Andrea Wood, Seann McAnally, Arthur McGregor	
"Valor" series included well-written stories about local heroes.			
3rd Place	Grain Valley - The Point,	- Christopher Fischer	
"Freedom Center Group Home" series featured detailed reporting on a controversial local issue.			
HM	Belton Star Herald	- Allen Edmonds	"Closing"

Category 7-2 Best News or Feature Series

1st Place	St. Louis Suburban Journal	- Raymond Castile	"home"
The reporter put real faces on the issues of homelessness and examined how people are getting help and how agencies are tackling this growing problem. Compelling read.			
2nd Place	Kansas City Sun Tribune	- Ray Weikal	"Mark"
Reporter took the mystery out of educational testing and how schools try to improve scores. Well-planned and presented.			
3rd Place	St. Louis American		"Jails"
In story after story, staff examined numerous aspects of documented problems at the city's jails. Continuing stories tied everything into perspective for readers.			
HM	Eldon Advertiser	- Tammy Witherspoon	"Fasco"

Category 8-1 Tilghman Cloud Memorial Editorial

1st Place	Belton Star Herald		
Editorial gets to the point quickly and decisively. Well-developed and sufficiently back-grounded. Good exposition of ideas.			
2nd Place	Cass Co. Democrat Missourian		
Clearly developed editorial points. Brightly written and colorful use of words.			
3rd Place	Bolivar Herald-Free Press		
Good use of background in developing the editorial stand. An economy of words does the trick. Good, punchy ending.			
HM	Cass Co. Democrat Missourian		

Category 8-2 Tilghman Cloud Memorial Editorial

1st Place Liberty Tribune
Good awareness of Freedom of Speech Week. Topic presented well and clearly with a definite view. Well done.
2nd Place Arnold-Imperial Leader
Great style for a complicated topic.
3rd Place Jefferson County Leader
I found it an entertaining way to write the opinion piece.
HM St. Charles Suburban Journals

Category 9-H Best Humorous Column

1st Place Centralia Fireside Guard - Lorry Myers
Myers does good job of telling humorous life stories readers can relate to.
2nd Place Jefferson County Leader - Patrick Martin
Martin shares humorous looks at life from his perspective.
3rd Place Boone County Journal - Bruce Wallace
Humorous takes on life experiences and stories of others make interesting reading.

Category 9-S Best Columnist - Serious

1st Place St. Charles Suburban Journal - Steve Pokin
The first entry I read in this class and the one I judged everyone else against. Great Work!
2nd Place Jefferson County Leader - Patrick Martin
Great writing and great flow. Topics were very pertinent.
3rd Place Green Park Call - Mike Anthony
Gutsy!
HM Cass Co. Democrat Missourian - Dennis Minich

Category 10F-1 Best Feature Photo

1st Place Gasconade County Republican - Dave Marner
Great moment. Nice story. I liked the package of photos, good angle and great light.
2nd Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly -Karen Elshout
Very dramatic lighting adds a mood to the photo. Not something you see often. Glad you shot this rather than the press conference.
3rd Place Platte County Landmark - Bill Hankins
Very nicely composed and cropped. The light looks great and the body language is wonderful.

Category 10F-2 Best Feature Photo

1st Place Gladstone Sun Tribune - Anna Faltermeier
Sweet promise ring kiss picture.
2nd Place Washington Missourian, Weekend - Jeanne Miller Wood
Great action shot of sledding grabs attention.
3rd Place St. Louis Suburban Journal - Andrew Jansen
Well thought out and executed photo.
HM Gladstone Sun Gazette - Matt Frye

Category 10I-1 Best Photo Illustration

1st Place Jackson County Advocate - Andrea Wood, Arthur McGregor
Nice job on the feature and integrity. It was nicely illustrated. Also, nice use of space.
2nd Place Jackson County Advocate - Andrea Wood, Mary Kay Morrow
Good job on matching typography & color with your dominant image. Wish you had used a different idea for the word "missing" on the bottom.
3rd Place Houston Herald - Jeff McNiell "Puzzle"
Good job on overlaying images in the cube & typography, as well.
HM Houston Herald - Jeff McNiell "Hit"
Clean & Cute. Nice display of headline and cutline. Good use of space.

Category 10I-2 Best Photo Illustration

1st Place St. Louis Business Journal - Michael Behrens
Effective display of image and info and simplifying information.
2nd Place Fort Leonard Wood Guidon - Matt Decker "Heritage"
A tasteful job of showcasing African-American leaders.
3rd Place St. Louis Business Journal - Michael Behrens "Payoff"

Great idea to fill the ball with money. It's effective. I like that it is simple.

HM Kansas City Northeast News - Erica Van Dee & Emily Randall "Art"
Creative drawing. Wish you had displayed it larger.

Category 10N-1 Best News Photo

1st Place Clinton County Leader - Brett Adkison
The photographer perfectly captures the emotion of the situation and frames the lone fireman to add impact. Very well done.
2nd Place Warren County Record - Bill Barrett
Nice job with capturing the subjects reflection. Good way of telling the 'visual story.'
3rd Place Warren County Record - Bill Barrett
Lots of emotion shown. Captured at the right time to draw reader's attention.
HM Gasconade County Republican - Will Johnson

Category 10N-2 Best News Photo

1st Place Washington Missourian, Wed - Jeanne Miller Wood
I love the photo, great moment. I would have cropped tighter off the top and bottom of the photo to be less space.
2nd Place St. Louis American - Wiley Price
Great photo from the shooting. I would have liked to see this on AI. You were there at the right time.
3rd Place St. Charles Suburban Journal - Ryan Prewitt
Better than your average silhouette. The hand and the sunset work well together.

Category 10S-1 Best Sports Photo

1st Place Lee's Summit Journal - Julie Scheidegger
Her eyes tell it all, the determination and concentration. Very well done!! Composition, cropping excellent. The photo really jumped out at me.
2nd Place Platte County Landmark - Bill Hankins
Like the story this tells and everything is there, action, the ball. Great photo!
3rd Place Mound City News - Adam Johnson
HM Lee's Summit Journal - Julie Scheidegger

Category 10S-2 Best Sports Photo

1st Place Washington Missourian, Weekend - Craig Vonder Haar
2nd Place Washington Missourian, Weekend - Bill Battle
3rd Place Arnold Imperial-Leader - Matt O'Harver

Category 11-1 Best Photo Packages

1st Place Gasconade County Republican - Dave Marner
Very nicely done!! You've got the whole package.
2nd Place Warren County Record - Tim Schmidt
Nice grouping of snapshots from cute to painful!
3rd Place Platte County Landmark - Bill Hankins

Category 11-2 Best Photo Package

1st Place St. Louis Suburban Journal - Chris Oth "Revised"
2nd Place Christian Co. Headliner News - Brady Brite "Railroad"
3rd Place Cass Co. Democrat Missourian - Mark Webber "Fourth"

Category 12-A Best Ad Idea/Promotion of an Advertiser

1st Place Christian County Headliner News - Adam Letterman "Fremont"
Simple - but eye-catching and to the point. Great idea.
2nd Place Odessa Odessan - Linda Gillis "Freedom"
Very nice salute. Credit to the author's research and to sponsoring bank.
3rd Place Odessa Odessan - Pam Schuchner "Puddle"
Nice blend of celebration, information, photos, and bank advertisement into a very attractive page. Great idea.
HM Washington Missourian Wed. - Ron Emig

Category 12-N Best Ad Idea/Promotion of Newspaper

1st Place Washington Missourian Wed - Doug Warden & Ethan Busse
"News" - Sure grabbed my attention! Very well thought out and layout held the reader's eye. Timely topic - overall a cut above.
2nd Place Christian Co. Headliner News - Adam Letterman

“Game” Colorful, eye-catching way of promoting the newspaper’s sports cover age. Great idea. Nice job.

3rd Place Republic Monitor - Amy Brant

“Toy” - A lot of work must have went into this tremendous ad campaign - it shows. Especially drawn to the ad with “Santa”.

HM Bolivar Herald Free Press - Billie Marsh “National Newspaper Week”

Category 13-1 Best News Content

1st Place Warren County Record

Well written stories and coverage make this the top finisher in this category.

2nd Place Smithville Herald

A well thought out paper in terms of coverage of the news in its community.

3rd Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly

The quality of writing and reporting make this paper a placer in this category, despite its focused coverage.

Category 13-2 Best News Content

1st Place Washington Missourian Weekend

The Weekend edition tends to lead with the best hard news of the week - well-written and balanced - and follows that with a nice variety of civic news, business and feature stories.

2nd Place St. Louis Business Journal

Very well-reported stories that not a lot of other newspapers would or could tackle. Weekly ‘Character’ piece and ‘The List’ liven up the section with information that all your readers can easily digest.

3rd Place Jefferson County Leader

Good mix of news and feature stories that keep your readers informed and entertained.

Category 14 Community Service

1st Place St. Louis American

This program is so impressive by the number of people honored and inspired by its purpose. The three elements - education, health & business - blanket the community with tangible results.

2nd Place Washington Missourian Weekend

This program exudes enthusiasm, fun and results for this community. This newspaper has shown tremendous leadership on a very important concern - literacy.

3rd Place St. Louis Business Journals

This well-done and innovative approach undoubtedly helped raise a tremendous amount of money for these non-profits in trying times.

Category 15-1 Best Editorial Page

1st Place Kearney Courier

Nice mix of hard opinions and commentary about life. I like the inclusion of young voices.

2nd Place Smithville Herald

Locally focused. Again, I like the use of high school students.

3rd Place Christian Co. Headliner News

I enjoy local columns - especially Donna Osborn’s. Odd design of pages.

Category 15-2 Best Editorial Page

1st Place Washington Missourian

Very informational. I enjoyed the easy to read layout, the use of drop caps. Overall, a step above the others that were submitted. Great job.

2nd Place St. Charles Suburban Journal

Like the way the Letters to the Editor, Sound Off and Voice Online complement the Columnists. Easy-to-read layout.

3rd Place Arnold-Imperial Leader

Like the cartoon which accompanies the main editorial. Layout good and easy to read.

HM Liberty Tribune

Category 16-1 Best Sports Pages

1st Place Kearney Courier

Outstanding in every way. Great photos, writing, layout and appeal to your readers. Well done.

2nd Place Warren County Record

These papers had great appeal to your readers, as well as strong writing and layout.

3rd Place Platte County Citizen

Outstanding photos and good writing make this a winner. A column or feature might have boosted this a spot.

Category 16-2 Best Sports Pages

1st Place Liberty Tribune
Well packaged, good stories that hit you and the material. Loved the Fall Sports preview idea.
2nd Place St. Louis American
Good stories and columns. Wonder why no color on cover?
3rd Place Branson Tri-Lake News
Good ideas on layout. Need to avoid narrow widths on some cut-ins.

Category 17-1 Best Sports News Story or Package

1st Place Houston Herald - Jeff McNiell "Note"
Colorful lead paints a picture. Not a typical "gamer."
2nd Place Christian County Headliner News - Jeff Kessinger "brawl"
Package brings the rivalry to life. I liked going back to the opener.
3rd Place Lee's Summit Journal - Stephen Bubalo "Flying"
Good buildup in the lead and good game flow after that.

Category 17-2 Best Sports News Story or Package

1st Place St. Louis Business Journal - Christopher Tritto
"Not Playing on the Same Team" offered an insightful look at the relationship between the CVC and the St. Louis Sports Commission.
2nd Place Webster-Kirkwood Times "First"
Well-written stories, especially the father-son piece in the "First In State" package.
3rd Place St. Louis Business Journal - Christopher Tritto
"Kroenke's Empire" was an interesting report on an elusive character, who is piling up assets.
HM Washington Missourian, Wed. "Knights"

Category 18-1 Best Sports Feature Story

1st Place Houston Herald - Jeff McNiell
"Srsly: Txt is Way 2 Talk 2 Players" provided an entertaining look at ways coaches communicate with teens these days. Great job!
2nd Place Christian Co. Headliner News - Jeff Kessinger
"A Bird without a Flock" clearly showed the challenges that a 1-person cross country team faces.
3rd Place Lee's Summit Journal - Stephen Bubalo
"Feats of Strength" was a well-written piece and it illustrated how hard top power lifters train.
HM Christian Co. Headliner News - Brady Brite

Category 18-2 Best Sports Feature story

1st Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Richard Jackoway/David Baugher "Scott"
Great story. I love the complexity of the subject matter and the depth. Writing is top notch for the story.
2nd Place Warren County Record - Derrick Forsythe "Elevate"
Great subject and excellent treatment.
3rd Place Arnold Imperial Leader - Kevin Kraus "Jaguars"
Great job. Love the conversational style.
HM Jefferson County Leader - Phil Gaitens "Smash"
Atmosphere & detail are excellent. Good job on a slice of daily life.

Category 19 Best Sports Columnist

1st Place Christian Co. Headliner News - Jeff Kessinger
Each submitted column was very good, with vivid detail and informative, entertaining writing. Great job!!
2nd Place Liberty Tribune - Kevin Goodwin
Solid columns on the local sports scene. Good writing and good subject matter.
3rd Place Kearney Courier - Chris Geinosky
I thought two of the submitted columns were very good, but I didn't feel "The Bigger They Are" column was as strong.
HM Jefferson County Leader - Warren Hayes

Category 20-1 Best Special Section

1st Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly "WJA"
"Money" - Outstanding in every way. Strong cover, interesting writing. Well designed.
2nd Place Cassville Democrat "Progress"
"Trout" - Immense coverage, writing is solid. Well organized for such a large section.
3rd Place Lawrence County Record "Child View"

“Cookbook” - Interesting take with local kids providing much of the content.

Category 20-2 Best Special Section

1st Place Springfield Business Journal - Maria Hoover “Economic”
Well-written stories packaged in an interesting, easy-to-read layout.
2nd Place Christian Co. Headliner News “Sesquicentennial”
Section was very informative and a wonderful history lesson.
3rd Place Christian Co. Headliner News “Business Digest”
Section offered crisp layout and good stories.
HM Christian Co. Headliner News “Graduation 2009”

Category 21 Best Investigative Reporting

1st Place St. Louis American
This is what investigative reporting should be. Exhaustive, balanced and complete.
2nd Place Washington Missourian - Ed Pruneau, Gregg Jones “Patrol”
Well-done, persistence proves this one.
3rd Place St. Louis American “Tillis”
Makes a great companion piece to the jails one. Great follow-through and you really show us how strong Tillis was.
HM Ashland Boone County Journal - Bruce Wallace “Cost”

Category 22 Best Local Business Coverage

1st Place St. Louis Business Journal
Well rounded - hits on many issues thoroughly.
2nd Place Liberty Tribune
Got a feel for what goes on in the town’s business arena.
3rd Place St. Louis American
Well presented, lots of interesting articles.
HM Jackson County Advocate

Category 23-1 Best Business Story

1st Place Smithville Herald - Nancy Hull Rigdon “Clydes”
Interesting way to introduce a new business owner - through the old face of the store. Excellent story.
2nd Place Christian County Headliner News - Amelia Wigton “Winery”
Nice buildup to the winery draws in the reader. Nice way to let subjects tell the story.
3rd Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Anna Vitale “Trademark”
Deep analysis of the story that had plenty of national play.
HM Jackson County Advocate - Seann McAnally “Pump”

Category 23-2 Best Business Story

1st Place St. Louis Business Journal - Lisa R. Brown “Downtown: Making the Grade?”
Was an excellent package with interesting sidebars on whether a \$4.3 billion investment has paid off.
2nd Place St. Louis Business Journal - Greg Edwards “Midwestern Value(s)”
Offers an insightful look at how St. Louis is home to four major brokerages.
3rd Place Washington Missourian, Wed. - Karen Cernich “We’re Problem Solvers”
Was a great read on a business that dates back to the 1800s.
HM St. Louis American - Alvin A. Reid “Casino Diversity”

Category 24 Best Coverage of Local Government

1st Place St. Louis American “Mayoral”
There seems nothing simple here; you had to dig and did it well for a story that evolved as you covered it.
2nd Place Nixa Xpress “Scandal”
More than sample meetings here; the commentary added greatly to the coverage.
3rd Place Kearney Courier “Zone”
Very in-depth coverage. Stories were easy to follow.

Category 25-1 Best Story about Rural Life or Agriculture

1st Place Houston Herald - Kathy Richardson “Koch family”
Well-written story about logger and horses’ houses.
2nd Place Lawrence County Record - Charlie Meeks “Heritage”
Farming family transplanted from Arizona provides story with interesting contrasts.

3rd Place Cedar County Republican - Becky Groff "Orchard"
Battle to keep peach crop is well told.

Category 25-2 Best Story about Rural Life or Agriculture

1st Place St. Louis Business Journal - Lisa R. Brown "Algae"
Well reported story on a non-traditional crop. Packed with information.
2nd Place Washington Missourian Wed - Karen Cernich "Fox"
Offers perspective on what rural living is all about - putting humans and nature together.
3rd Place Ft. Leonard Wood Guidon - Carolyn Erickson "Garden"
Basic story, but gives me what I need to know in easy-to-read fashion.

Category 26 Best Story about Religion

1st Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Allison Retka "God"
What a wonder examination of issues of faith, ethics and hard choices. Brilliantly written, exclusive and educational.
2nd Place Washington Missourian - Karen Cernich "Bloom"
A captivating look at the history of an African-American church and its resilience. Good job!
3rd Place Kansas City Northeast News - Emily Randall "Revival"
The subject matter is attention grabbing. I'm glad the writer looked beyond the obvious and had access to a complicated story.
HM Houston Herald - Kathy Richardson "Church"
I loved the first-person narrative and descriptive detail.

Category 27-1 Best Story about Education

1st Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Kelly Wiese "Braggin"
This was the top story in a very strong class. I was hooked from the start.
2nd Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Kelly Wiese "Judge"
You can tell a lot of work went into this story. Information was presented nicely.
3rd Place Christian County Headliner News - Emily Hoffman "Policies"
Nice piece on important issue. Good job of getting perspectives on both sides of the issue.
HM Christian County Headliner News - Emily Hoffman "Ivy"

Category 27-2 Best Story about Education

1st Place St. Charles Suburban Journal - Kalen Ponche "Math"
An important issue that needed to be related. Grabs reader's attention right away.
2nd Place Washington Missourian - Karen Cernich "Girls"
A great story, well-told, made me want to start such a group in Iowa.
3rd Place Webster-Kirkwood Times - Fran Mannino "Epworth"

Category 28 Best Story about Outdoors

1st Place St. Charles Suburban Journals - Kalen Ponche "Fanatics"
Well-written story. Provided nice narrative with information about group. Nice sidebar.
2nd Place Washington Missourian Wed - Karen Cernich "Fox"
Interesting topic. Good story-telling.
3rd Place Lee's Summit Journal - Stephen Bubalo "Lake"
Good read. Solid job of using multiple sources.

Category 29-1 Best Story about History

1st Place Lee's Summit Journal - Miranda Wycoff "Honored"
Nice blend of past and present - all told in the lead.
2nd Place Gasconade County Republican - Linda Trest "Soldier"
A very nice variant on Flanders Fields - and where "history" is today.
3rd Place Clinton County Leader - Becky Black "Mecca"
Nicely done.

Category 29-2 Best Story about History

1st Place St. Louis American - Sandra Johnson "Riots"
Not just a recounting but a sensitive interpretive.
2nd Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly - Richard Jackoway & David Baugher "Flood"
Complete story made very readable. History as human.
3rd Place Cass Co. Democrat Missourian - Mark Webber "Veteran"
A delight to read.

Category 30 Family and Living

1st Place Eldon Advertiser
Great human interest stories. I couldn't put down without reading all of it. Love the "Mr. Eugene" contest!

2nd Place Lee's Summit Journal
Many great family stories especially the "If the Shoe Fits," the "Bachelor" story and your feature on "How to Cook a Turkey."

3rd Place Jackson County Advocate
The article on "Homelessness" was well done and really makes one think.

Category 31 Best Page Design

1st Place St. Louis Suburban Journal - Chris Oth "Football"
Great idea, excellent display, eye-catching cover.

2nd Place St. Charles Journal - Chris Oth "Body"
Love how you display the images and your use of white space.

3rd Place Bolivar Herald-Free Press - Jessica Oliver "Veterans"
Like how you cued the machines and displayed them. It is a big challenge for the designer to display annual events.

HM St. Charles County - Chris Oth "Body"
Nice job! My problem with the page is that all players are sized the same. There is no impact image.

Category 32 Best Information Graphic

1st Place St. Louis Business Journal - Michael Behrens "Kroenke"
- Strong visual depiction of properties owned by the story's subject.

2nd Place Springfield Business Journal - Aaron J. Scott "Housing"
- Colorful graphic that allows quick reference to various local districts.

3rd Place St. Charles Journal - Chris Oth "Touchdown"
- Nicely balanced sports graphic. I like the variance of the lines to the length of runs.

Category 33 Best Editorial Cartoon

1st Place Lee's Summit Journal - Mike Gempeler
- Messerli, Messerli, Messerli cuts to the heart of the issue without needing further explanation.

2nd Place Jefferson County Leader - Judy Dixon "Mayoral"
Excellent cartoon spells out the issue and ties nicely with the nearby editorial.

3rd Place Houston Herald - R. T. Smith "Costumes"
Clear, concise and to the point.

Category 34 Newspapers in Education

1st Place Washington Missourian
Multi-faceted program promotes reading in a number of ways along with reading newspapers.

2nd Place Odessa Odessan
Program does a good job of sharing importance of reading newspapers with students.

3rd Place Bolivar Herald-Free Press
Students are encouraged to read and write for newspaper very well.

Category 35 Best On-Line Newspaper/Website

1st Place Houston Herald
Winner by a hair. This category could have went to any of the nine entries. Winner gets it strictly on functionality.

2nd Place Smithville Herald
Great website. Falls behind winner strictly due to lack of video. Otherwise it has a well-balanced feel.

3rd Place Call Newspaper - Jason Lasher, Evan Young
Great job! A great example for other weeklies on how to provide a quality, informative website.

HM Springfield Business Journal - Jeremy Elwood

Category 36 Best Video

1st Place St. Louis American - Rebecca S. Rivas
The city debate goes to the foundation of how decisions are made. Great job.

2nd Place St. Louis American - Rebecca S. Rivas
Excellent example of in-depth journalism using video. Maybe a bit too long, but it keeps your attention.

3rd Place Ft. Leonard Wood Guidon -Matt Decker
Great way to honor our military men and women. Nice work.

Category 37 Best Headline Writing

1st Place St. Charles Suburban Journal - Russell Korando
Great play on words. All are highly effective. Very deep class as five entries could have placed.
2nd Place Liberty Tribune
Excellent job!
3rd Place Missouri Lawyers Weekly
A great variety of headlines. Excellent job!
HM Lee's Summit Journal

Category 38-1 General Excellence

1st Place Richmond Daily News
Close decision among the top three in this category. Quality community paper.
2nd Place Neosho Daily News
Sports layout a bit inconsistent but good display of football playoff game.
3rd Place Carthage Press
Lots of local. Singular/plural error in Page 1 headline hurts (11/6/09) but "5 things to know" good alt. story forum.

Category 38-2 General Excellence

1st Place Camdenton Lake Sun Leader
Excellent packaging and planning as seen in lists, summaries and "quick hits". Local editorials. Clean, contemporary design.
2nd Place Columbia Missourian
Lots of local content. A bit "gray" on inside pages.
3rd Place Fulton Sun
A paper in touch with its community.

Category 38-3 General Excellence

1st Place Columbia Tribune
In a close call between the top two, the strong photo presentation of the traffic fire (4/17/09 edition) set the tone.
2nd Place Jefferson City News Tribune
Close decision between first and second places. Solid local newspaper.
3rd Place Independence Examiner
Nice newspaper.

Category 38-4 General Excellence

1st Place Kansas City Star
Quality and quantity of news, art and information presented in an efficient and compelling manner. Clear No. 1.
2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
The Post-Dispatch casts a wide coverage net, making it a regional paper more than "just" a metro.
3rd Place Joplin Globe
The Globe does a fine job for its marketplace.

Category 39-1 Best Front-to-Back Design

1st Place Carthage Press
The top of the class in terms of spacing, photo usage and type font.
2nd Place Neosho Daily News
Nice headline fonts and spacing on Page 1. However, photos are dark.
3rd Place Columbia Missourian
Great use of photos and graphics. They draw a reader in. Typeface is hard to read with somewhat odd layout choices on inside pages.

Category 39-2 Best Front-to-Back Design

1st Place Kansas City Star
Color usage throughout the paper is strong. Good combination of elements.
2nd Place Independence Examiner
Very strong use of graphic elements, fonts and typography are also strengths.
3rd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Appropriate color usage makes this a strong entry as do local photos and graphics.

Category 40-1 Best Front Page

1st Place Carthage Press

9-14-09 excellent color reproduction top in class! Dominant photo great on 5-26 - additional picture takes it too far. Text would have been better.

2nd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal
I'd nix the antiquated font on your flag - loved the 9-15-09 front.
3rd Place Neosho Daily News

Category 40-2 Best Front Page

1st Place Independence Examiner
All your examples are winners.
2nd Place Sedalia Democrat
Clean, crisp & lively.
3rd Place Kansas City Star

Category 41-1 Breaking News Story

1st Place Fulton Sun - Don Norfleet
Nice job setting the scene and bringing in the senses (fuel smell, sand, etc.) to the story.
2nd Place Richmond Daily News
Brought many aspects into the story.
3rd Place Dexter Daily Statesman - Noreen Hyslop
Just missed - needed comments from regular citizens.

Category 41-2 Best Breaking News Story

1st Place Kirksville Daily Express - Greg O'Rear, Vincent Brennan & Josh Hunsicker
First on a number of levels, complete & interesting.
2nd Place Lebanon Daily Record - Ken York & Julie Turner-Crawford
Close to top, nicely written & brought you into the situation.
3rd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal
Did well to set the scene.
HM Park Hills Daily Journal - Chris Cline

Category 41-3 Best Breaking News Story

1st Place Jefferson City News Tribune - Jeff Haldiman
I felt like I was there, kudos for a gripping story.
2nd Place Columbia Daily Tribune - Brennan David
Appreciated the detail.
3rd Place Jefferson City News Tribune - Jeff Haldiman

Category 41-4 Best Breaking News Story

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Kim Bell, Denise Hollinshed, Jeremy Kohler & Patrick O'Connell
Couldn't stop, well-written & grabbed your emotions.
2nd Place Kansas City Star - Donald Bradley
Tough story to write about - presented well w/o sensationalizing.
3rd Place Joplin Globe
Covered the weather event thoroughly.
HM Kansas City Star - Judy Thomas

Category 42-1 Best News Story

1st Place Kirksville Daily Express - Greg O'Rear, Vincent Brennan & Josh Hunsicker
Strong reporting in the wake of disaster. A lot of info compiled in short time.
2nd Place Neosho Daily News - Amye Buckley
I enjoy the format used. Explained how national issue would impact community.
3rd Place Neosho Daily News - John Ford, Rick Rogers & Todd G. Higdon
Again, strong disaster reporting done in quick fashion. I like the safety tips.

Category 42-2 Best News Story

1st Place Sedalia Democrat - Sarah Nail
Thorough. Presented a lot of fronts clearly.
2nd Place Independence Examiner - Michael Glover
Interesting story on the gang problem.
3rd Place Columbia Missourian - Andrew Denney, Matt Pearce & Tram Whitehurst

Well done.

HM Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal - Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Category 42-3 Best News Story

1st Place Kansas City Star - Karen Dillon

While much of the writing in this category brings emotion to the surface, this was a story that informs of an otherwise trusting public.

2nd Place Kansas City Star - Judy Thomas, David Bradley & Brian Burnes

Writers knew how to tell this story without offending the faint of heart: "his hands ended up in the wrong places."

3rd Place Kansas City Star - Donald Bradley

Immediately had me feeling empathy.

HM St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Stephen Deere, Elizabeth Holland & Doug Moore

This category was overflowing with excellent storytelling.

Category 43-1 Best Feature Story

1st Place Neosho Daily News - John Ford

Great lede, good writing throughout the story. It's hard to write a personality feature on a deceased person and you really captured Coach Crowder, choosing great illustrative quotes from friends, students, etc. Felt it went a little long in the end, though, just by a few paragraphs. Easy pick for first place.

2nd Place Neosho Daily News - John Ford

These two stories (Coach Crowder & Woodstock) stuck out easily as the best of a category of many talented writers. Clearly, feature is YOUR department, you excel at it. Great retelling of Woodstock. That was before my time but as someone familiar w/this age of music and Arlo's song, I was glad to learn new things about the music of that era. New spin, new details on an old story.

3rd Place Marshall Democrat - Kathy Fairchild

You really make the reader realize how small Ava was with the comparisons to shoe size, etc. I also like how you made me think about all the small details you wouldn't realize unless you were Ava's mother - the size of diapers, pacifier, etc. Good use of statistics. Felt you really lost pace after about 20th paragraph, though. You're a good writer. Write your best throughout the story. Good details later in story but not as great quality as first 20 paragraphs or at page 25.

HM Dexter Daily Statesman - Noreen Hyslop

Category 43-2 Best Feature Story

1st Place Columbia Missourian - Jordan Hickey

Couldn't stop reading.

2nd Place Lebanon Daily Record - Delevan Ogle

Nice storytelling. Enjoyed it.

3rd Place Columbia Missourian - Kelsey Allen

Put a face to those in the roller derby.

HM Camdenton Lake Sun - Joyce Miller

Category 43-3 Best Feature Story

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Todd Frankel

"Million Dollar Bill" is a riveting account of a man who wondered if he had struck it rich.

2nd Place Kansas City Star - Donald Bradley

"A country drive into bullet's path" is a well-written piece on being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

3rd Place St. Joseph News-Press - Erin Widsom

"A small, strong survivor" artfully describes a young boy's recovery from an accident.

HM Jefferson City News Tribune - Michelle Brooks

"No bars to learning" story

Category 44-1 Best News or Feature Series

1st Place Boonville Daily News - Nate Birt

Reporter went to great lengths to examine all sides of this issue. When doors were closed, he continued to make calls.

2nd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal - Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

This is a difficult subject to tackle, especially in a small community. Compelling writing, useful breakouts.

3rd Place Richmond Daily News - Sean Comer, Jo Ellen Black

Reporters worked all sides of this issue and notably worked to keep the issue in perspective by examining city laws, etc. Also kept the public in the reporting.

HM Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal - Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia

Category 44-2 Best News or Feature Series

1st Place Kansas City Star - Tony Rizzo "Murder Faactory"
Thorough, well-researched, well-written, well-presented compelling topic. This series has it all!

2nd Place Jefferson City News Tribune - Kris Hilgedick, Rosa Ruiz, Richard McGonegal &
Thorough coverage of a local issue readers were passionate about. Gerry Tritz "Recycling"

3rd Place Park Hills Daily Journal - Paula Barr "Back Yard"
Well-written tale of a local activist tackling an important issue.

HM St. Joseph News-Press - Alonzo Weston & Ken Newton "Home"
Moving localization of a national story, really does bring the war home. Very effective presentation.

Category 45-1 Best Editorial

1st Place Boonville Daily News
Editorial shows a lot of thought and research. Well written and easy to understand.

2nd Place Neosho Daily News
Well-written viewpoint. I like the flashback quotes.

3rd Place Fulton Sun
Writer catches readers' attention with lead. Makes them want more with the impact made in the closing paragraph. Good Work!

HM Mexico Ledger

Category 45-2 Best Editorial

1st Place Kansas City Star
Many, many hours and a lot of sweat and tears clearly went into this editorial. It was amazing! Way to keep the war at the forefront when many have already seemed to have forgotten.

2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Great coverage of state, national and international issues in an editorial way.

3rd Place Columbia Daily Tribune
Good writing and span of topics put this editorial entry to the top of the heap.

Category 46-S Best Column - Serious

1st Place Kansas City Star - Matt Schofield
Well-written pieces from Baghdad stood out - I felt like I was there.

2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Kevin Horrigan
Column on football concussions was very thought-provoking and makes you wonder what we're watching on Sundays.

3rd Place Kansas City Star - Barbara Shelly
Good columns on those left behind in the healthcare battle.

HM Columbia Missourian - Erin O'Neill

Category 46-H Best Columnist - Humorous

1st Place St. Joseph News-Press - Alonzo Weston
Author draws on his own experiences and doesn't force the humor. Easy conversational style is a pleasure to read.

2nd Place Kansas City Star - Matt Schofield
Subtle touches of humor pepper these columns about the writer's trip to Baghdad. Great flow to the words.

3rd Place St. Joseph News-Press - Steve Booher
I laughed! These columns are about everyday things that we all can relate to.

HM Columbia Daily Tribune - Irene Haskins

Category 47F-1 Best Feature Photo

1st Place Nevada Daily Mail - Ralph Pokorny
Just a striking photograph. The b/w does not diminish from its effectiveness.

2nd Place Fulton Sun - Joshua Vince
Amazing photo. The style in which it was taken adds depth.

3rd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal - Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
Too funny to leave out of the top three. What a great photo opp!

HM Richmond Daily News - Jo Ellen Black

Category 47F-2 Best Feature Photo

1st Place Kansas City Star - Keith Myers "Bird Lady"
What a money image. It's worth more than 1,000 words.

2nd Place Independence Examiner - Adam Vogler "First"
Good candid.

3rd Place	Sedalia Democrat	- Sydney Brink	“Lake Center”
Community needed focus.			
HM	Sedalia Democrat	- Sydney Brink	“Day at the Market”

Category 47-I-1 Best Photo Illustration

1st Place	Independence Examiner	- Adam Vogler
One of the more effective photo illustrations I’ve seen on this topic. Reflection in the sunglasses is perfect!		
2nd Place	Independence Examiner	- Adam Vogler
Nice execution of a very popular topic, like the motion.		
3rd Place	Carthage Press	- Cody Dyer
Clever juxtaposition of images.		
HM	Independence Examiner	- Adam Vogler
Clean & Cute. Nice display of headline and cutline. Good use of space.		

Category 47-I-2 Best Photo Illustration

1st Place	St. Joseph News-Press	- Eric Keith
Very creative. Just like I envisioned “tooth fairies.”		
2nd Place	St. Joseph News-Press	- Eric Keith
Great imagination on latest age to become pregnant!		
3rd Place	Columbia Daily Tribune	- Parker Eshelman
Immediate sadness & loneliness portrayed.		

Category 47N-1 Best News Photo

1st Place	Columbia Missourian	- Laura Herring
Photo captures the emotions in all the faces at a courtroom verdict.		
2nd Place	Neosho Daily News	- Amye Buckley
Father’s goodbye kiss tells story in well-composed shot.		
3rd Place	Columbia Missourian	- Zach Seibert
Not a face is shown but the emotion is evident in this shot of pallbearers.		

Category 47N-2 Best News Photo

1st Place	Columbia Daily Tribune	- Parker Eshelman
Great photo showing devastation and consolation.		
2nd Place	Kansas City Star	- Todd Feedback
A vacuum is left unharmed, but to no avail - it can’t begin the clean up! Photo tells it all!		
3rd Place	St. Joseph News-Press	- Eric Keith
The pain in his face with the flag in the foreground tells it all.		
HM	Joplin Globe	- T. Rob Brown

Category 47S-1 Best Sports Photo

1st Place	Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal	- Corey Edwards
How did you get a picture that says jubilation any better than this pyramid of joy?		
2nd Place	Columbia Missourian	- Joshua A. Bickel
A classic coaching locker room shot if there ever was one.		
3rd Place	Nevada Daily Mail	- Ralph Pokorny
Catching the break of a bat is no easy task.		

Category 47S-2 Best Sports Photo

1st Place	Kansas City Star	- John Sleezer
Great moment. I also love Jose’s reaction to the ball. Nice job.		
2nd Place	Columbia Daily Tribune	- Don Shrubshell
Nice moment. Legs, ball, hat all in mid-air. Very clear background		
3rd Place	Kansas City Star	- Mike Ransdell
Very nice. Positive and great reaction. Everything I love in a sports photo. Great job.		

Category 48-1 Best Photo Package

1st Place	Columbia Missourian	- Kyle Spradley & Sam O’Keefe
Nice variety of photos. Like the interesting angles and composition that the photographers used. A well done spread. Really stands out from the others in competition.		
2nd Place	Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal	- Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia

Great color, action and composition. Great job of capturing differing emotions to tell the story. Nice work.

3rd Place Fulton Sun - Justin Kelley

Good variety of photos used to put reader into the action. Nice Job.

HM Richmond Daily News - Brenda Jensen

Category 48-2 Best Photo Package

1st Place Kansas City Star - Keith Myers

This is a great example of wonderful in-depth, investigative photography. It appears you worked very long and hard on this project. The quality and stories told with your photos are wonderful.

2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Very interesting story and project. The people who tracked all those stories down did a great job. One of the most original ideas I have seen. Great photography all around.

3rd Place Kansas City Star - Keith Myers

Very strong photography, nice to see paper devote room for good stories and photos.

HM St. Louis Post-Dispatch - JB Forbes

Category 49A Best Ad Idea/Promotion of an Advertiser

1st Place Columbia Missourian

Can't imagine who doesn't get a warm feeling looking at this ad.

2nd Place Kansas City Star - Tod Machin, Jacquie Lehatto & Judy Revenaugh

This pkg. thoroughly promotes the event.

3rd Place Columbia Daily Tribune - Jennifer Vanderpool

Not a new idea, but a beautiful piece for the shopper to use.

Category 49N Best Ad Idea/Promotion of Newspaper

1st Place Columbia Daily Tribune - Jill Rugen

Don't know why anyone would want to argue with this guy.

2nd Place Kansas City Star - Mike Nickells

Always same, great use of color - graphics & theme.

3rd Place Carthage Press

Awesome idea to keep kids safe and have great readership follow up with the photos.

Category 50-1 Best News Content

1st Place Columbia Missourian

Solid mix of breaking news, enterprise, features. Though a strong emphasis on local, the wire selection was appropriate. Reader "share" feature is interesting.

2nd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal

This paper offers a balanced combination of news and features. Lots of local content to sink your teeth into.

3rd Place Neosho Daily News

Lots of news of local interest. Appears this staff works hard to get all the bases covered to present a thorough community profile.

Category 50-2 Best News Content

1st Place Kansas City Star

Bright writing and a strong mix of local, world and national news. Wide content variety has something for everybody.

2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch

This newspaper does a great job of putting news in perspective for readers in all sections from news to sports to business.

3rd Place Joplin Globe

Impressive local report augmented by good mix of state, nation and world news.

Category 51 Community Service

1st Place Kansas City Star

Excellent report, centered in KC Star's service area but with national and international impact.

2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch

A comprehensive report that documents extensively an outrageous situation.

3rd Place Columbia Missourian

Taxes and bureaucracy and ineptitude make a "can't-miss" series. The Missourian team did a solid job.

Category 52-1 Best Editorial Page

1st Place Neosho Daily News

Great balance with very strong copy.

2nd Place Independence Examiner
Great job with lots of content. Well written.
3rd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal
Great job with lots of content. Well written.
HM Sedalia Democrat

Category 52-2 Best Editorial Page

1st Place Kansas City Star
Most well-rounded with tons of local content.
2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Great depth to the editorial page. Well Done.
3rd Place Columbia Daily Tribune
Like the cartoon which accompanies the main editorial. Layout good and easy to read.

Category 53-1 Best Sports Pages

1st Place Columbia Missourian
Whoa! You do it all very well! Keep up the great work!
2nd Place Fulton Sun
You bring big-time professionalism to hometown sports. Great! Great! Great Job!
3rd Place Kennett Daily Dunklin Democrat
Excellent writing moved your paper to the top of the pile. Nice, big, pictures.

Category 53-2 Best Sports Pages

1st Place Kansas City Star
Star wins on style points. Great sections with top-notch writing.
2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Fall a hair shy on design only. Quality of work rivals top spot.
3rd Place St. Joseph News-Press
Paper finds unique local stories with a great, clean look.
HM Columbia Daily Tribune

Category 54-1 Best Sports News Story or Package

1st Place Independence Examiner - Bill Althaus
Great job telling the story, digging deeper and finding the other angle.
2nd Place Columbia Missourian - Robert Mays III
Great job of showing the trials and tribulations of writing to be picked.
3rd Place Lebanon Daily Record - Israel Potoczny and Julie Crawford-Turner

Category 54-2 Best Sports News Story or Package

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Fantastic work. Covered all angles.
2nd Place Kansas City Star - J Brady McCollough
Well covered. Looked for every angle with regards to an embattled coach.
3rd Place Kansas City Star - Kent Babb
Great job laying out history and looking at future.

Category 55-1 Best Sports Feature Story

1st Place Columbia Missourian - Andrew Astleford
Nice job showing how much football means to the subjects.
2nd Place Fulton Sun - Chris Waller
Got an up-close look at racing.
3rd Place Neosho Daily News - Cody Thorn
Handled the topic with care and brought the subject to us - not just reported on the subject.
HM Park Hills Daily Journal - Paula Barr

Category 55-2 Best Sports Feature Story

1st Place Columbia Daily Tribune - Rus Baer
Very interesting feature. Tells the story well from different angles.
2nd Place Independence Examiner - Bill Althaus
Very well written. Good use of quotes to make story flow. Interesting feature.

3rd Place St. Joseph News-Press - Ross Martin
Writer catches readers with lead. Kept interest throughout. Good story
HM St. Joseph News-Press - Ross Martin

Category 56 Best Sports Columnist

1st Place Kansas City Star - Jason Whitlock
Weighs in with incisive commentary on sensitive topics (racial gap in grad rates, Mangino's weight and Vick's situation). Obviously he is not afraid to tackle any issue.
2nd Place Kansas City Star - Joe Posnanski
A very, very close second. Column on Derrick Thomas was a work of art, with good and bad traits of the late football great skillfully portrayed. Watson and Greinke columns were good too.
3rd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Bernie Miklasz
Could have easily been first or second. Interesting pieces on Warner and Musial; they were very well done. Perhaps a stronger stance could have been taken in the McGwire column.
HM St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Bryan Burwell
Column on Curt Flood was well-written.

Category 57-1 Best Special Section

1st Place Neosho Daily News
Excellent idea – great question. I like the way you spread the age range of who the writers featured to ask the question to. Nice layout – interesting reading. Very well done. Great magazine.
2nd Place Neosho Daily News
I love this idea. Good stories, photos, and layout. Great job overall.
3rd Place Marshall Democrat-News
Interesting magazine for women. Nice format.
HM Carthage Press

Category 57-2 Best Special Section

1st Place West Plains Daily Quill
Very interesting way of highlighting the winners from your fair. Like the photos, layout and overall appearance of the special section. Very well done.
2nd Place Columbia Missourian
Very well done section previewing college life and the University of Missouri. Good photos, maps and graphics. Easy to follow layout. Very informative. Good job.
3rd Place Kirksville Daily Express - Jason Hunsicker and Vincent Brennan
A lot of hard work was put into this progress section. Good front page sets the tone for the section. Nice work.
HM West Plains Daily Quill - Allison Wilson

Category 57-3 Best Special Section

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
"All-Star Preview" - Great look at All Star Games past and present. Excellent graphics. I loved "A Baseball Heritage."
2nd Place Columbia Daily Tribune
What else could I want to know about Columbia that isn't included here?
3rd Place The Kansas City Star
Great Cover. I really enjoyed Q&A format.

Category 58-1 Best Investigative Reporting

1st Place Columbia Missourian - Chad Day and Jacob Barker
"Transportation Districts" - Well-researched, deep look into an issue that falls under most taxpayers' radar. Solid use of public records and documents to bolster the reporting.
2nd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal -Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
"Freshman Freebies" - Smart, quick hit to give readers insight into what their legislators are doing. These records are just out there for the asking, and the newspaper did just that.
3rd Place Columbia Missourian - Rebecca Berg & Max Reiss
"Pollution at Lake of the Ozarks" - Solid explanatory piece that uncovered a mass of confusion among government agencies on dealing with waste material getting into Lake of the Ozarks.
HM Boonville Daily News - Nate Birt
"Pirate Press"

Category 58 - 2 Investigative Reporting

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Joe Mahr & Jeremy Kohler
 The impact of this story on the driving public which may become a victim makes this first.
 2nd Place Joplin Globe - Greg Grisolano & Derrek Spellman
 Congrats for going the distance to acquire records you never should have been denied.
 3rd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Todd Frankel & Steve Crowe
 I am appalled! Good investigative work!
 HM KC Star - Jason Noble & Steve Kraske

Category 59 Best Local Business Coverage

1st Place Kansas City Star
 Got the edge barely. Pulled things into perspective with solid and clear writing and presentation.
 2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
 Good stuff – very readable, just missed first.
 3rd Place Independence Examiner
 Multiple. Nice variety and well-written pieces.

Category 60-1 Best Business Story

1st Place Columbia Missourian - Chad Day & Jacob Barker
 The leader in an excellent field of entries. Well planned, researched and written. Good use of graphics and sidebar.
 2nd Place Columbia Missourian - Joel Walsh
 Good business story using personality profile approach. Way to lay out the arguments for both sides.
 3rd Place Columbia Missourian - Greg Mitchell
 Well-written piece analyzing a competitive industry. Way to tell the story of “The Little Guy.”
 HM St. Louis Daily Record - Donna Walter

Category 60-2 Best Business Story

1st Place The Kansas City Star - Mark Davis
 Does an in-depth job at looking at economy’s revival. Good use of graphics.
 2nd Place St. Louis Post Dispatch - Phillip O’Connor
 Great job of detailing a local scheme, which could pit neighbors against each other.
 3rd Place The Joplin Globe - Wally Kennedy
 Writer deserves credit for an easy-to-read piece about why Joplin is bouncing back.

Category 61 Best Coverage of Government

1st Place Kansas City Star
 True investigative journalism at its best. Thoroughly covered, well written. Given good play and followed through to conclusion.
 2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
 Excellent presentation and extras (editorial, editorial cartoon). Solid writing and thorough coverage.
 3rd Place Columbia Missourian
 Nice job digging out a story that impacts so many. Well-written and excellent center spread presentation.
 HM The Joplin Globe

Category 62-1 Best Rural Life/Agriculture Story

1st Place Columbia Missourian - Furqaan Sadiq
 “Falling prices still milking dairies’ profits” provided excellent reporting on an issue that affects farmers and consumers.
 2nd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal - Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia
 “Pellet Power” offered an interesting, in-depth look at how alternative fuels could reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
 3rd Place Columbia Missourian - Seth Putnam
 “Battling to save the bees” gives readers plenty of information about a colony collapse disorder that is affecting pollinators.
 HM The Fulton Sun - Roger Meissen
 For “Cheap Milk puts squeeze on dairy industry.”

Category 62-2 Best Rural Life/Agriculture

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Phillip O’Connor
 Great coverage of timely ag issues. Writing is strong and draws the reader in.
 2nd Place The Kansas City Star - Lee Hill Kavanaugh
 A close, close second. Great variety of coverage with strong writing by all writers.
 3rd Place The Joplin Globe - Wally Kennedy
 Great blend of ag story ideas.

Category 63 Best Story About Religion

- 1st Place Kansas City Star -Eric Adler
Interesting story weaves athlete's injury and recovery with Vatican's investigation of miracle and sainthood for martyred priest.
- 2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Tim Townsend
Well-written story shares denomination's struggle with speaking in tongues.
- 3rd Place St. Joseph News-Press - Erin Wisdom
Well-told story of St. Joseph Church's effort to help small church in Appalachia.

Category 64 Best story about education

- 1st Place Columbia Daily Tribune - Jonathan Braden
"Schools face learning curve on discipline" was an eye-opening piece on whether student suspensions really work.
- 2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Kavita Kumar
"Parents need not apply" offered an interesting look at the college application process.
- 3rd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal - Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
"No child left behind" was a detailed, yet interesting, report on a controversial law's effects.
- HM Columbia Missourian - Eva Dou
"Endowed chairs that no one can afford."

Category 65 Best Story about the Outdoors

- 1st Place Joplin Globe - Wally Kennedy
Great job at turning a couple's issue into a compelling read.
- 2nd Place Kansas City Star - Brent Frazee
Nice work. Great access to the family. Successful piece.
- 3rd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Cynthia Gregorian
HM Columbia Missourian - Heather Peters & Mike Menderski

Category 66-1 Best Story About History

- 1st Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal - Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia
Story of first black school board president weaves story of black education in community through the years.
- 2nd Place Columbia Missourian - Andrea Van Dam
Interesting use of illustrative cases makes story of rediscovery of 100-year-old documents an interesting read.
- 3rd Place Park Hills Daily Journal - Paula Barr
Interesting history of movie theaters in community shared from residents' collection of memorabilia.

Category 66 - 2 Best Story of History

- 1st Place KC Star Magazine - Brian Burnes
Excellent story. Love the dialogue. What a precious piece.
- 2nd Place Kansas City Star - Brian Burnes
Great idea to lecture this subject.
- 3rd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Phillip O'Connor
Great story. Valuable oral history and detail.
- HM The Joplin Globe - Scott Meeker

Category 67 Best Coverage of Family Living – Young People

- 1st Place The Kansas City Star
Excellent stories, photos and layouts on issues facing families and young people.
- 2nd Place Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal
Obviously, this is a family newspaper; every page seems to have a cute photo of a child. There are well-written stories on teens and families, too.
- 3rd Place Jefferson City News Tribune
A distant third, but still worthy of an award in this category.

Category 69 Best Page Design

- 1st Place Kansas City Star - Hector Casanova and Neil Nakahodo
Elegant use of space. Nice balance and focus. Informative.
- 2nd Place Lebanon Daily Record - Ken York
Great job on display. I love that it is not overdone.
- 3rd Place Independence Examiner - Stephanie Boothe
Nice effort to reflect the article's idea into the visual design.
- HM Kansas City Star - Gentry Mullen

Great use of the whole space.

Category 70 Best Information Graphic

1st Place Kansas City Star - Dave Eames, Matt Campbell & John Sleezer
"Room with a view" is well laid out, easy to understand, and highlights the information of new features.
2nd Place Kansas City Star - Dave Eames and Mark Morris
Easy to understand. Provides a lot of information.
3rd Place Columbia Missourian - Linda Waterburg and Andrew Van Dam
Great job. Lots of time and energy went into researching the details and working it into a very informative format.
HM St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Rich Rokicki
"New Highway 40"

Category 71 Best Editorial Cartoon

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - RJ Matson
Not a word is needed for the Chrysler star burning out over the Fenton plant to make the point.
2nd Place Columbia Daily Tribune - John Darkow
Early warning system invoking cough drop commercial adds humor to the point of the cartoon.
3rd Place Jefferson City News Tribune - Jim Dyke
Well-presented question on country's debt crisis.

Category 72 Best NIE Program

1st Place Kansas City Star
Very impressive!
2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
A solid NIE program!
3rd Place Hannibal Courier-Post
Untiring efforts for students in your community!
HM Columbia Daily Tribune

Category 73 Best Video

1st Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch
"Cardinal Culture" - Outstanding! Great example of teamwork. Loved the idea and the execution.
2nd Place St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Robert Cohen
"Medal of Honor" - Compelling visual. Got great access to family and hence great video.
3rd Place Sedalia Democrat - John Hansen
"Sedalia Symphony Orchestra" - Loved the low-key portrayal. Took tape from various local news and added to story.
HM St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Robert Cohen
Great photos!

Category 74 Best Headline Writing

1st Place Kansas City Star
Great job in writing them. Staff has creative mind with unique headlines.
2nd Place Sedalia Democrat
Very unique. Very creative. Very telling.
3rd Place St. Louis Daily Record