

2017 Hoosier State Press Association Better Newspaper Contest Award Winners

Division 1

**Category: 01 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE UNDER DEADLINE
PRESSURE**

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Justin Kiel
The Regional News (LaCrosse)
A Burning Need for Change

Enterprising coverage. The paper took a breaking news story and quickly turned it into a critical investigation of emergency services.

Second Linda Lipp & Lucretia Cardenas
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
Team effort

Wonderful package of coverage of news that's important to the community.

Third Kelly Lynch
Advance-Leader (Ligonier)
Saved on second base

Compelling coverage of a local story with good quote from those on the scene

Category: 02 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE WITH NO DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Doug LeDuc
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
It's about supply and demand

A thorough set of stories that give readers more than one angle of the Opioid crisis. Well done, well researched and hard-hitting even off deadline.

Second Debbie Blank
The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)
Sting operation nets heroin dealer

Third Joe Awad, Denise Freitag Burdette
& Chris McHenry
The Journal-Press (Aurora)
Cities, county scramble to address cell legislation

Category: 03 - BEST ONGOING NEWS COVERAGE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Debbie Blank and Diane Raver
The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)
Schooler murder trial and sentencing

Very good coverage of a difficult trial. This series was difficult to read, not because it wasn't written well- because it was. It was difficult to read because of the nature of the crime committed. Very well written and readers were given the details they needed. Also liked the coverage of the press conference.

Second Kelly Lynch & Barry Rochford
Advance-Leader (Ligonier)
West Noble busts weed ring

Good job reporting on a serious issue. Good use of related story in December 15 issue.

Third Bridgett Hernandez
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
Lutheran Health Network saga

Good job! The articles shows community support, also does a good job explaining how changes effect the community. Straightforward facts, no bias. Good use of timelines.

Category: 04 - BEST GENERAL COMMENTARY

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Eric Deckers
The Times-Post (Pendleton)

It's hard to write thoughtful humor, but this writer pulls it off with a breezy yet substantive style and wit. Nicely done.

Second Kristy Deer
The Times-Post (Pendleton)

Third Chandra L. Mattingly
The Rising Sun Recorder & The Ohio County
News

Category: 05 - BEST EDITORIAL WRITER

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Lucretia Cardenas
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly

The winner in this category because these editorials showed deep and original thinking.

Second Don Steen
The Spencer County Journal-Democrat

Third Staff
The Times-Post (Pendleton)

**Category: 06 - BEST BUSINESS/ECONOMIC NEWS
COVERAGE**

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Chandra L. Mattingly
The Rising Sun Recorder & The Ohio County

News

Haro Company Known Internationally

An unusual, well-reported story that gave readers insight into the instrument and its craftspeople.

Second Ashton Brellenthin
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)
Hatching a plan

Category: 07 - HEADLINE WRITING

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Staff
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)
Freezin' for a reason
Duck, duck, goose!
Organ donation

Very creative headlines, succinct, and attention-grabbing; the creativity with the font and coloring on the "goose" headline is what made this entry stand above the others.

Second Lucretia Cardenas, Linda Lipp & Bridgett
Hernandez
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
RV supplier is on a roll
Keeping the region running around the clock
Red, white and feeling blue

The "RV" and "Red, white..." headlines were outstanding, very creative, and attention-grabbing; the length of the "keeping the region..." headline was the only thing that kept this entry from first place.

Third Nicole Minier
Churubusco News
Eagles are thick as blood
Tree-mendous time working together
Say what? Radio upgrades ll be costly

The "Say what?..." headline was probably the best headline received, but others edged the entry out with fullness. Very creative and attention-grabbing.

Category: 08 - BEST SHORT FEATURE STORY

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Kelly Lynch
Advance-Leader (Ligonier)
Up on the rooftop

Strong lead, well-written "behind the scenes" approach.

Second Nicole Minier
Churubusco News
Jones earns directing role at the Travel Channel

Third Denise Freitag Burdette
The Journal-Press (Aurora)
Power to Persevere

BEST PROFILE FEATURE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Debbie Blank
The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)
Wu's will to live

Very compelling piece, well-told.

Second Tilly Marlatt
Zionsville Times Sentinel
Defying the odds: Heigl goes to college

Nice profile of a very deserving young lady.

Third Linda Lipp
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
A sense of vision

Interesting profile that could've been ho-hum,
but wasn't.

Category: 10 - BEST IN-DEPTH FEATURE OR FEATURE PACKAGE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Lori Wood
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Dream team

Awesome story. Better presentation and art!
Really liked this one a lot! Glad to see this out front.

Second Debbie Blank
The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)
Prayers answered

Really enjoyed the story, art and writing!
Great job. A top contender

Third Linda Lipp
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
This fight is personal

Loved the graphics...presentation good!
Stories nice, too. Could be a contender.

Category: 11 - BEST SPORTS EVENT COVERAGE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Rob Hunt
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Arabian softball team grabs Madison County title

The writer's solid lead and ability to concentrate a lot of statistical information early on in a readable manner made this piece stand out above the rest.

Second Rob Hunt
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Gymnast wins on beam at sectional

Third Rob Hunt
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Lapel falls to Monroe Central in sectional final

**Category: 12 - BEST SPORTS NEWS OR FEATURE
COVERAGE**

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Staff
 Churubusco News
 Jones remembers winning her Olympic gold medal

 Letting the athlete tell her own story is sometimes
the best way to cover it. Very interesting story.

Second Nicole Minier
 Churubusco News
 Fester turns her back to adversity

 Solid story about a young athlete who faced a
huge surgery and fought her way back.

Third Will Fehlinger
 The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)
 Man on the mountain

 This story focuses on the athlete and not so much
the "special" part, as it should be. Had me rooting for him.

Category: 13 - BEST SPORTS COMMENTARY

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Brent T. Wheat
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)

Second Dylan Trimpe
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)

Third Rob Hunt
The Times-Post (Pendleton)

Category: 14 - BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Joe Awad
The Journal-Press (Aurora)
Heroin Must Go

Good capture of emotion. You can really sense the pain she's feeling for her brother.

Second Tom Russo
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Cat capture

Good photo of a situation probably everyone in town was talking about.

Third Justin Kiel
The Regional News (LaCrosse)
Into the Second Floor
Good job of photographer capturing firefighters in action.

Category: 15 - BEST GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Kelly Lynch
Advance-Leader (Ligonier)
Santa Claus stops for breakfast

The row of firefighters' uniforms sets the stage for this personal, holiday moment, a beautifully defined sense of place. This photograph exhibits strong composition with a wise use of negative space.

Second Tom Russo
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Body found

This striking photo tells a story on its own from the somber expression on Eicher's face to the black and white photo held in front of a brightly colored, though dimly lit room. Light and shadows were used excellently in this shot.

Third Maria Leichty
Zionsville Times Sentinel
Service Medal

This photo shows both the magnitude of the event and the warmth of this personal moment. It showcases Spees holds a place of honor in this well-framed photograph.

Category: 16 - BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Tom Russo
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Ump call

Beautifully captures the fleeting moment just before the decision. All the components line up to tell the story before the story. Well composed, strong technique and perfect timing on the shutter.

Second Dorian McDaniel
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)
Disbelief

Great juxtaposition of agony and defeat. Good timing on snapping the shutter captures the end of the story in one frame.

Third Clayton Doty
The Benton Review (Fowler)
Hugs

Great capture of parallel images in this original photo. We don't know the whole story from this one photo, but this one photo lays out an emotional welcome mat and invites us into the package to learn what's going on.

Category: 17 - BEST SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Jeff Brown
 Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)
 Diving catch

Faces make the difference in every picture we take. That can be difficult to do in most sports, but the photographer managed to get a great facial expression at the perfect moment.

Second Tom Russo
 The Times-Post (Pendleton)
 Miss

No one wants to be immortalized in a photo for a muffed play, but the photographer captured an unusual moment. Crisp imagery in this pic too.

Third Lynn O'Hara
 The Regional News (LaCrosse)
 Brandon Watkins Goes in for the Dunk

The most exciting play in basketball is the dunk and the player in this picture looks ready to make his signature play. As important to this picture as the player dunking, is the defender who looks helpless to stop it.

Category: 18 - BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Clayton Doty
The Benton Review (Fowler) (Fowler)(Fowler)
New Summer Hat

Fantastic moment caught of a precious little girl.

Second Tom Russo
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Fair flirt

Love the story this tells, of any given fair, of teenagers stealing away from the crowds to spend time together. A timeless photo.

Third Joe Awad
The Journal-Press (Aurora)
Get Off My Back

Love the motion in this shot, along with the sense of movement of the horizontal fencing. The four people in the background looking toward the focal point really frames it nicely.

Category: 19 - BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Karen Branham
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Homecoming

Although there were fewer pictures in this grouping, each one had plenty of emotion or interest for the viewer.

Second Tom Russo
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
June Jamboree

Third Sara Nahrwold
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)
Program highlights consequences of distracted
driving

These are all really nice pictures. The only thing I would have liked seeing is a closer image of the reaction of the students to events as they were unfolding. Good pictures of an important topic.

Category: 20 - BEST VIDEO STORY OR PHOTO STORY WITH AUDIO

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Noelle Steele, Scott Slade & Kyle Lewis
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Honoring history

The combination of photos/videos and information displayed here was better than the other entries. The video provided good information to accompany photos.

Second Ray Steup
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
Legend of Leadership

The quality of the video was good. With a bit of extra information to break up his responses, this would have easily been first place.

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

Third Kelly Lynch
Advance-Leader (Ligonier)
Neighbors: Clark Reed

This video provided interesting information to accompany video footage.

Category: 21 - BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Debbie Blank & Diane Raver
 The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)

Great selection of local and regional voices, including Staff-written editorials. A somewhat traditional look, but executed cleanly.

Second Staff
 The Times-Post (Pendleton)

Page has an unusual and aesthetically pleasing look. Also excellent selection of local voices. Unclear who some of them were, though. Is this a Staff member? A politician? Suzy Citizen? Tag lines with commentary are important to help readers (and contest judges) understand the position from which the opinion is being articulated.

Third Joe Awad
 The Journal-Press (Aurora)

Content is OK, with some local voices. Need to work on a cleaner look. Some copy wraps too close to mugs. Some headers run too close to text. Gray scale all-caps headers send a passive aggressive message to readers. Mug shots, such as the editor eating his glasses are too active for this page, to the point of being distracting.

Category: 22 - BEST USE OF GRAPHICS

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Kyle Lewis
 The Times-Post (Pendleton)

I liked the use of color throughout the entry. The Spirit to Survive graphic was straightforward but visually provides insightful information to go with the text of the story. The Carrying the Torch graphic is another great use of color to help make the page pop and pull a reader in.

Second Beth Welty
 The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly

The Where Should I Eat pages were a lot of fun to look at and did a great job of getting me to think about my next meal. There were lots of information on local places and the pages were very engaging and would certainly get a reader to stop and look.

Third Denise Freitag Burdette
 The Journal-Press (Aurora)

The license plates graphic was a fun way to get a reader to think about what the story was telling them and to imagine what it could mean for them. The use of the colors for the County Parks graphic helped create an inviting look to the page.

Category: 23 - BEST WEBSITE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Debbie Blank, Diane Raver & Will Fehlinger
The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)

This is a comprehensive local news site that includes national news. We like that the top stories are featured when the cursor hovers over the category and that there's a "next up" feature that slides in. We like the local connection story to Hurricane Irma and the "most popular" feature and the calendar of events on P1.

Second Staff
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)
<http://www.flyergroup.com/>

This site has the same web design as Batesville paper, yet Batesville has more content. Some of the same features, such as "Don't miss this" at bottom of P1). We don't know how close these papers are geographically. So, maybe this doesn't matter. As with the Batesville website, one can get national news and opinions on this site. Flyer Group a nice mix of news, arts, sports, activities on P1. Like the reporter's Twitter feed with real-time actions.

Third Staff
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Pendleton Times-Post

Pendleton Times-Post. Presentation of the front page is easy to view with easily seen categories of stories. We like the news drop-down menu for viewers to easily go to features, sports, news, or other categories. We like the large candid photos vs. posed photos.

Category: 24 - BEST SPORTS SECTION

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Staff
 The Times-Post (Pendleton)

 Outstanding writing with a variety of storytelling techniques, with fresh, creative designs.
Very well done!

Second Will Willems
 Zionsville Times Sentinel

 Very solid job. There's a large variety of sports covered, which is something I'm sure the community appreciates. It's obvious the sports editor/Staff have a tremendous work ethic.

Third Staff
 Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)

 Very solid job. Creative idea with the top athletes in a specific sport in the area. Solid writing.

Category: 25 - BEST FEATURE SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Staff
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Schools

Clean design, topical stories, excellent photography. Based on the content submitted for judging, it was the clear winner.

Second Clayton Doty
The Benton Review (Fowler)
Turn Back Time

Third Staff
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
In Focus

Category: 26 - BEST BUSINESS SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Debbie Blank, Diane Raver & Will Fehlinger
The Herald-Tribune (Batesville)

Informative, no-frills business pages that give the reader what they are looking for in an efficient manner.

Second Ashton Brellenthin
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)

Category: 27 - BEST SPECIAL SECTION

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Staff
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Pigskin preview

Local high school football is one of my soft spots
and this publication was well done.

Second Staff
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
Summit City Eats

Third Lacey Nichols & Justin Kiel
The Regional News (LaCrosse)
Father's Day

Category: 28 - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Staff
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Times Post Spirit to Survive

Well done. Well designed and excellent for readers! Top quality in every way.

Second Staff
The Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly
Funding our future

Tough subject, but done well. Excellent work.

Third Scott Slade & Kristy Deer
The Times-Post (Pendleton)
Passing the Torch

Category: 29 - BEST NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

First Kyle Lewis
The Times-Post (Pendleton)

Airy. Love this! Lots of news. Solid photography

Second Nicole Minier
Churubusco News

Lots of faces, so that's good. Airy, not blocky.
Loved the Championship edition

Third Staff
Hendricks County Flyer (Avon)

10/22 like the front, guitar guy. Different, eye catching; rest of the paper solid Editorial page looks good.

Division 2

Category: 01 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE UNDER DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Justice Claims Victory'

Wonderful quotes from the family while also giving the accused his fair comment.

Second Andy Heuring
The Press-Dispatch (Petersburg)
Twelve year-olds fall through ice, drown

Thoughtful, sensitive coverage of a tricky news story that does a good job of setting the scene and providing details.

Third Suzannah Couch & Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Church defaced with hate message

Fair and comprehensive coverage of a controversial topic.

Category: 02 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE WITH NO DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Good Kids Bad Choices

Not only was this article well written, it touched on a unique subject that the community might not know of otherwise and touches on Taboo subjects that would be passed by if not attacked head-on.

Second Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Help wanted: Mental health care lacking in county jail

Third Kate Wehlann
The Salem Leader
No Bail for Risinger

Category: 03 - BEST ONGOING NEWS COVERAGE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch & Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Seeking justice for Hannah Wilson

Well written-easy to follow the case. Detailed.

Second Suzannah Couch & Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
School funding challenges

Lots of data included. Very detailed. The writers provided very useful information for the readers.

Third Suzannah Couch & Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Early learning for all?

Good information. Great use of a guest editorial.

Category: 04 - BEST GENERAL COMMENTARY

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Denise Freitag Burdette
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)

Thoughtful commentary, and the global warming column was a delightful surprise. A strong entry.

Second Joe Awad
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)

Third Bryce Mayer
The North Vernon Sun

Category: 05 - BEST EDITORIAL WRITER

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Bryce Mayer
North Vernon Plain Dealer

This was a close call between first and second. The Plain Dealer's editorials were strong takes on national issues, while The Salem Leader wrote thoughtful pieces on important local issues. The Plain Dealer's research provided the slim edge.

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

Second Stephanie Taylor-Ferriell
The Salem Leader

Third Stuart Cassidy
Perry County News (Tell City)

**Category: 06 - BEST BUSINESS/ECONOMIC NEWS
COVERAGE**

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch & Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Building a destination: New music venues in the
works for Little Nashville

Deeply reported story about a vital industry in
Brown County. The reporter clearly understood what was at
stake. I'm sure the community appreciated the coverage.

Second Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
High spirits? Brewery/distillery working through
growing pains

Third Sara Clifford & Ben Kibbey
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Charting the future of Helmsburg

Category: 07 - HEADLINE WRITING

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Jo Ann Spieth-Saylor & Ross Schulz
The Corydon Democrat
Eckart to withdraw from bank into retirement //
RSD fumes over audit bill // 'Bee'inspired by honey's versatility

The "RSD fumes.." headline was probably the best headline entered. The other two were strong as well, creative, and succinct, standing out especially for saying so much with so few words

Second Sara Clifford & Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Play for pay // Passing the torch // Home or roam

Third Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
High spirits // Forces of nature // Mixed signals

Category: 08 - BEST SHORT FEATURE STORY

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Students gain greater awareness during Ability
Week

Clearly the strongest work in this group.
Compelling lead, followed by vivid writing on disability simulations.
Captures the voices of students, teacher and others with
empathy. Very informative without being dry.

Second Jo Ann Spieth-Saylor
The Corydon Democrat
Georgetown man's new heart came in a box

Third Ben Kibbey
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Restoring history: Cemetery preservation projects

Category: 09 - BEST PROFILE FEATURE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
'I'm proud of my life': County's oldest veteran
celebrates 100th birthday

Really enjoyed this profile — well-written,
informative and colorful. I feel as if I know this man, which is the
mark of a good profile piece.

Second Kate Wehlann
The Salem Democrat
'It's Been Good'

Well-written piece about a man who has
influenced countless lives in his career.

Third Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
'Department of imagination'

Well-researched, well-written profile.

Category: 10 - BEST IN-DEPTH FEATURE OR FEATURE PACKAGE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch & Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Citizens Law Enforcement Academy

What a terrific idea...and an even better feature.
Good story, terrific art. Really liked this entry.

Second Stephanie Taylor-Ferriell
The Salem Leader
A taste of what the rest of the world eats

many communities have these "Taste of ..." things,
but I enjoyed the story and presentation here. A good job.

Third Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Yesteryear

Good series of stories. Especially enjoyed the
Little Nashville story, having gone there several times years ago.
Nice job.

Category: 11 - BEST SPORTS EVENT COVERAGE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Brian Smith
 The Corydon Democrat
 Cats scratch to the finish

 This all-encompassing review of North Harrison's heartbreaking state title game defeat was very well done from start to finish, with all the angles covered.

Second Brian Smith
 The Corydon Democrat
 Finished!

 Lanesville's run to a state baseball championship was very well documented. Outstanding work.

Third Ben Kibbey
 Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
 County's first state girls golfer hopes to inspire

**Category: 12 - BEST SPORTS NEWS OR FEATURE
COVERAGE**

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Brian Smith
 The Corydon Democrat
 Miniard brings beat to Eagles

 Good story about a determined young man who is
super supportive of his team.

Second Ben Kibbey
 Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
 Eagle tough: Girls soccer player makes history on
football team

 This girl has guts and determination and the story
reflects her drive to succeed.

Third Brian Smith
 The Corydon Democrat
 Pease, driven by team, faith in act of kindness

 Just a well-written, straightforward game story that
mde me feel like I'd been there.

Category: 14 - BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Ross Schulz
 The Corydon Democrat
 Retirement surprise

 Just a real fun shot. You can see emotion in his
face and his now former co-workers.

Second Josh Lewis
 The Salem Democrat
 Road Closed

 Nice shot showing damage and cleanup
 after storm.

Third Kate Wehlann
 The Salem Democrat
 Back to the Truck

 The lighting makes this photo, but also shows
emergency workers responding at all different times.

Category: 15 - BEST GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Surprise donation

This photo beautifully captures a genuine moment of surprise and joy and significant moment for an important local organization. Stanley stands out as the clear focal point of the photo with her supporters surrounding her in a visual representation of that support.

Second Ben Kibbey
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Restoring history

This photo is intimate, detailed and unique. The particular angle chosen by this photographer captures the fixed attention of Rohas-Martinez and the fine details of the grave marker.

Third Suzannah Couch
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Operation Prom

The photographer captured meaningful expressions on each face in the photo and framed the photo in a way that brings the viewer directly into the action.

Category: 16 - BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Ben Kibbey
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Loss

Wonderful storytelling in this one photo. You don't know if he won or lost. But you know he gave it all — and, like winning and losing, that's something everyone can identify with. Nice uncluttered composition captured at a perfect moment.

Second Josh Lewis
The Salem Leader
Tears

Something just ended in this photo. You don't know exactly what, but the pure emotion captured here makes you want to know. The story that goes with this photo is going to be a heartbreaker. Nice timing, technique and composition

Third Josh Lewis
The Salem Democrat
Hallelujah

The pure joy of a young winner brings us all back to our little league games. Solid technique on capturing the kneeling girl in crisp focus while the other elements in the photo play a true supporting role.

Category: 17 - BEST SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Josh Lewis
 The Salem Leader
 Rumblin, Bumblin, Stumblin

This is a well-composed shot with the action coming straight at the viewer. The looks of anguish on the faces of the defenders (not to mention the defenders who faces are buried in the grass) and the high-stepping action by the runner tells the story of who won this play.

Second Scott Roberson
 Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
 Bar raised

This picture has it all. A clear focus on the main action, good color and wonderful lines.

Third Ed Cahill
 The Press-Dispatch (Petersburg)
 4-12-2017 Braxton Rice

The photographer managed to capture the timely effort of a player who is willing to leave it all out on the field to make the out. Technically, this is a strong photo.

Category: 18 - BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Bryce Mayer
North Vernon Plain Dealer
Fine feathered friends

Adorable. Looking at this photo from a distance is captivating... and looking at it up close is darling. Love the expressions captured by these little girls, and the dark background that really makes them pop.

Second Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Garden walk

Not only are the flowers beautiful and frame the couple nicely, it makes me want to look closer and read what they're doing. Great hook.

Third Briana Barger
North Vernon Plain Dealer
Greased pig contest reaction

Thank you for the giggle. What a sweet moment captured. With their boots on and trampled ground, I just had to know what everyone in the background was watching.

Category: 19 - BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch & Ben Kibbey
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Brown County Fair

Great faces and moments are what make this set of pictures stand out for me.

Second Brian Smith
The Corydon Democrat
Lanesville Baseball State Championship

The variety of these shots is really what makes it stand out. Great job!

Third Denise Freitag Burdette
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)
Pole Raising

This is a nice grouping of pictures showing the whole process. It would have been nice to see some emotion in a couple of shots to improve the spread. Still, the photographer covered the event well.

Category: 20 - BEST VIDEO STORY OR PHOTO STORY WITH AUDIO

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Ben Kibbey
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Hi, tech: Voting goes electronic

This video provided useful information for potential voters and visual examples of what they might see when casting a ballot. Good video.

Second Brian Smith
The Corydon Democrat
Indiana bicentennial torch relay kick-off

Good video. Identified speakers who were talking and provided scenes that would compliment a story well.

Third Brian Smith
The Corydon Democrat
North Harrison Girls Basketball
Regional atmosphere

Category: 21 - BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)

Local voices. Relevant local topics. Attractive pages. You may not have Staff-written editorials, but the commentary you do have is substantive, engaging and well-packaged.

Second Joe Awad
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)

Third Staff
The Corydon Democrat

Category: 22 - BEST USE OF GRAPHICS

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Taylor Ferguson
The Corydon Democrat

A had a flashback or watching School House Rock Saturday mornings as a kid with the, How a bill becomes a law graphic, loved it. It did a good job of pulling you in and breaking down the process to make it understandable. The same is accomplished with the heroin epidemic graphic, engaging visually and plenty of story to tell.

Second Lydia Morath, Kyle Joyce
& Denise Freitag Burdette
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)

The Torchbearer map was really well done with this whole page telling a great story between the visuals and the text. I liked the use of the photos of the great granddaughter and her great grandmother.

Third Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)

Nice use of graphics which provide plenty of information in addition to the text. They could be larger on the page to draw a reader in to the package. The map for the paving projects story did a good job of explaining what drivers needed to know in a visual format

Category: 23 - BEST WEBSITE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Staff
 The Indianapolis Recorder

Impressive looking site. Color scheme is pleasing and stands out from the others. Home page promises a wealth of information and lives up to expectations. We like the "most popular" item on the right and the upcoming events. Photos throughout are sharp and nicely sized. Interesting topics covering the black experience in Indiana, something needed in the other papers. We like the variety of commentary from different community voices. Good mobile application. Well done!

Second Staff
 Brown County Democrat (Nashville)

A comprehensive news site. Front page very readable with all the sections easily viewed in a horizontal format. It shows all of the news: police, arts, local sports that identify the individual sports. Photos - Local people accessing this site could get all local and international news if they wanted. Nicely done.

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

Third Staff
 The Corydon Democrat

This looks like a newspaper. Front page is nicely laid out. We like that the headlines change color when you read them. We're impressed with the overall web design, but it could use more content.

Category: 24 - BEST SPORTS SECTION

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Brian Smith
 The Corydon Democrat

Very strong product. The variety of stories to honor the championship-level teams was terrific!

Second Staff
 Brown County Democrat (Nashville)

Nice feature packages. Creative look, nice use of fonts and photos. Well done.

Third Josh Lewis & Chad Fleetwood
 The Salem Leader

Solid job. Nice tribute to a state championship team.

Category: 25 - BEST FEATURE SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Arts & Entertainment

There is no provision for awarding a tie, but if ever there should be one, this is it. Two entries from the Brown County Democrat (Nashville) — Arts & Entertainment and Out There — are equally well designed and address their subject matter thoroughly. We give the edge to A&E solely because there is a greater variety of activities about which readers can be informed. Otherwise, a total toss-up.

Second Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Out There

Third Staff
The Corydon Democrat
Spotlight

Category: 26 - BEST BUSINESS SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Staff
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)

Diverse business section with plenty of noteworthy local and national content to offer. Well-organized and easy to read.

Second Denise Freitag Burdette & Joe Awad
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)

Third Staff
The Corydon Democrat

Category: 27 - BEST SPECIAL SECTION

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Staff
The Corydon Democrat
This is Harrison County

Nice layout and content about Harrison County made me want to visit.

Second Denise Freitag Burdette
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)
Salute to Veterans

Third Staff
The Corydon Democrat
Celebrating Local Businesses

Very good I would only say that the advertising being stacked takes away from the layout.

Category: 28 - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Suzannah Couch & Sara Clifford
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Kids on Wheels

Not a story newspapers typically follow, but one we all should. Great job in reporting the story, as well as how it was done.

Second Denise Freitag Burdette & Joe Awad
Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)
County Sirens

Excellent work to inform the community.
Job well done.

Third Sara Clifford & Ben Kibbey
Brown County Democrat (Nashville)
Bean Blossom sewer project

Category: 29 - BEST NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

First Staff
 The Corydon Democrat

 "One and Done" is "Simply Stellar!"
Loved the "Finders Keepers" photo, etc.

Second Staff
 Brown County Democrat (Nashville)

 Very good.

Third Denise Freitag Burdette, Jim Buchburger
 & Lydia Morath
 Dearborn County Register (Lawrenceburg)

 Reader friendly.

Division 3

Category: 01 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE UNDER DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
The Tribune (Seymour)
Overdoses

It's almost hard to believe this package was done on deadline. It would have been an admirable collection of information for a Sunday centerpiece that took a week to do, let alone 24 hours.

Second Brett Eppley & Phyllis McLaughlin
The Madison Courier
'God was watching over us'

Good, thorough coverage of a natural disaster.

Third Staff
The Tribune (Seymour)
Fire Destroys 2 Buildings

There were a lot of fire stories among the entries, but this one stood out because of the depth of the package.

Category: 02 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE WITH NO DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Phyllis McLaughlin
 The Madison Courier
 KKK plans Chautauqua weekend rally
 The dedication the reporter put into these three articles to show every point of view about the KKK rally is what being a journalist, especially a community newspaper journalist, is all about. The writing was strong, unbiased and the story overall compelling.

Second Staff
 Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
 Laid to Rest
 The imagery made this article stand out among the rest. I think the writer did a fantastic job of crafting a news story that also felt like an obituary for these unidentified remains. It was obvious the story of these bones needed to be covered all the way through to the end and it was done beautifully.

Third Alexandra Pollock
 The Times (Noblesville)
 Hamilton addicted
 This series stood out to me because the ledes for each article were strong and I genuinely wanted to keep reading all the way through. After reading so many heroin related stories in the last few years as well in this category, this was by far the strongest, most in depth. The personal stories from members of the community also made this series really powerful.

Category: 03 - BEST ONGOING NEWS COVERAGE

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Katherine Merrill & Daniel Thompson
Herald Journal (Monticello)
Delphi Murder Case

Thorough piece that gives proper context, pulls in the reader and presents multiple elements to support the story.

Second Staff
The Tribune (Seymour)
Caught after 18 years on the run

Third Phyllis McLaughlin, Brett Eppley & Renee Bruck
The Madison Courier
Madison Consolidated Schools principal
controversy

Category: 04 - BEST GENERAL COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Donna Steele
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

The strongest columns in this category. Engaging writing and a clear point of view - agree or disagree. Nicely done.

Second Dave Schultz
The News-Banner (Bluffton)

Third Jessica Williams Bricker
The News-Banner (Bluffton)

Category: 05 - BEST EDITORIAL WRITER

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Rod Rose
The Lebanon Reporter

It was tough to pick the top three among the entrants, but Rod Rose's columns were persuasive, direct and hard-nosed. A guy you'd like to have in your corner.

Second Mark Miller
The News-Banner (Bluffton)

Third Todd Lancaster
Washington Times-Herald

**Category: 06 - BEST BUSINESS/ECONOMIC NEWS
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Christina M. Seiler
 The Rochester Sentinel
 After 2 ransoms, Woodlawn beefs up

 A fascinating story that shows the real-world
implications of cybersecurity shortcomings.

Second Samm Quinn & Caitlin VanOverberghe
 Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
 Big boost

Third Ray Cooney
 The Commercial Review (Portland)
 Getting to the point

Category: 07 - HEADLINE WRITING

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
All hands-on tech
Back in the games
Draft picks

Succinct headlines, and all three were very creative plays on words; "Back in the game" and "draft picks", especially, caught me by surprise and left me smiling

Second Val Tsoutsouris
The Rochester Sentinel
Volley of the sun
Hall-most Fame-ous
Soph far, Soph good

Third Staff
The Tribune (Seymour)
Top of her field
Book, line & sinker
Local fixture

Category: 08 - BEST SHORT FEATURE STORY

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Andrew Crowley
The Reporter Times
Mother meets daughter given up for adoption

Easy read, great graphics, wonderful story, love the second page and the entire package was awesome. Winner all the way around.

Second Elizabeth Wyman
The Rochester Sentinel
Suttons hit the open road: Couple to race for 9 days

Writer did an amazing job keeping the story on local people and not the event. I wonder if they made it and all the fun along the way. Great story.

Third Brett Eppley
The Madison Courier
She said 'Yes'

loved the happy ending. Great story and love that a reporter jumped on this subject prior to them leaving town.

Category: 09 - BEST PROFILE FEATURE

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Caitlin VanOverberghe
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
She loved, and she loved big

The lead of the story was very strong, firstly, and the reporter got quotes from three sources, weaving them into a portrait that gave an excellent feel for the personality of the high school car crash victim. The story was expertly written, flowed well and had all the elements of first-rate writing.

Second Jess Cohen
Vincennes Sun-Commercial
First-grdner gets 'honorary' job to buy presents for other kids

This was just a delightful story, with a good hook at the beginning, great use of descriptions of the boy's work ethic, and quotes that gave a fine portrait of the boy. Just a great, well written portrait.

Third Caitlin VanOverberghe
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Raising her voice

A very strong personality feature that hooked me from the beginning and kept my interest throughout. Written with a natural skill and ease that revealed the talent of the reporter.

Category: 10 - BEST IN-DEPTH FEATURE OR FEATURE PACKAGE

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Spirit to survive

An incredible package of stories of survival! Any one of these stories could finish in the top three of this competition -- the package takes the cake!

Second Patrick Calvert
The Courier-Times (New Castle)
Overcoming homelessness; A little small land
of opportunity

Real nice job. Terrific individual stories take entry to new level.

Third Ray Cooney
The Commercial Review (Portland)
National stage

Very cool story, terrific sidebar and awesome photos! A serious contender.

Category: 11 - BEST SPORTS EVENT COVERAGE

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First David Campbell
The Madison Courier
Keselowski finishes on fumes for third Kentucky
Cup win

This was a very well-done piece on what was clearly a nail-biting finish. Good use of quotes by the drivers & crew chiefs involved in how the race played out.

Second Val Tsoutsouris
The Rochester Sentinel
'I thought about her the whole time'

This story had all the info you'd expect of a well-written entry on a sensitive topic.

Third Grady Tate
Connersville News-Examiner
Thriller in Fortville

Game stories can be a tedious read. This one was any but that, with a good use of quotes throughout.

**Category: 12 - BEST SPORTS NEWS OR FEATURE
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Richard Torres
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Sticking to Her Routine

The writer's excellent storytelling skills are on full display in this story about a former Olympian. Although the story is long, it held my interest as I remembered back to the Atlanta Olympics 20 years before. Kudos for a well-written "where they are now" story.

Second Richard Torres
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Still Talking About It

It's not always easy to get an interesting story from a talk at the library! But the writer did a great job sharing the memories of this former athlete.

Third Val Tsoutsouris
The Rochester Sentinel
Roth's final season has ring to it

I loved reading this story and told my family about it. It's the kind of story that we as journalists sometimes miss. Glad this writer could share the significance of this bell.

Category: 13 - BEST SPORTS COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Chris Schanz
 The Commercial Review (Portland)

Second Richard Torres
 Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

Third Val Tsoutsouris
 The Rochester Sentinel

Category: 14 - BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Jake Thompson
 The Lebanon Reporter
 Headed Home

Really nice photo. Officers doing their job, and mom just wants to know about her daughter. Good frame of the importance of the situation.

Second Jake Thompson
 The Lebanon Reporter
 House Fire

So close you can almost feel the heat from the flames. Good action.

Third Zach Spicer
 The Tribune (Seymour)
 Soldier Returns

Nice emotional shot. The smile from the Guardsman speaks volumes.

Category: 15 - BEST GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Tom Russo
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Firefighter's daughter

This is a visually stunning and emotional photo. It is clear that this was a meaningful moment in this community and this photo depicts with technical excellence.

Second Caleb Bauer
The Commercial Review (Portland)
Flag disposal

The shutter beautifully caught the flame at just the right moment to make this frame dramatic and powerful. Carder's face creates a strong focal point through the out-of-focus fire.

Third Renee Bruck
The Madison Courier
Waterball firefighters

This photographed positioned themselves perfectly to capture this natural phenomenon along with the expressions of joy on the firefighters' faces, a beautiful still of a joyous moment.

Category: 16 - BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Tom Russo
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Safe

A slide into base always makes for a dramatic photo, but capturing the pure emotion of an "after slide" in a perfectly timed, composed and technically perfect photo is something else. This photo is that something else.

Second Aaron Piper
The Tribune (Seymour)
First Sectional

Many photographers are able to capture the singular emotion of a win or a loss, but this photo goes a step further in its excellent composition, bringing the viewer into the personal space of an athlete who clearly just gave it all she had — and won.

Third Jeff Stanton
Connersville News-Examiner
On The Edge

Capturing the swish is one thing, but capturing the seconds before a shot is converted — or not — on a game-altering play is something else. This photographer clearly knows when to click the shutter.

Category: 17 - BEST SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Chris Schanz
The Commercial Review (Portland)
Rodeo reach

If a picture is worth a thousand words, this picture is a novel. Great composition tells the story of the intensity of the moment. Good lighting and a fast shutter stops the action on a dime.

Second Tom Russo
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Tip-off

Good photography is often a matter of finding good angles with good lines. This photo is full of that and the simple background of the flag makes this a very clean picture.

Third David Campbell
The Madison Courier
Leap of Faith

Timing is everything in good sports photography. The photographer caught this play – and the player – at its absolute height.

Category: 18 - BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Jake Thompson
 The Lebanon Reporter
 Homewood Veteran

 This photo brought tears to my eyes, before I even read the caption. The emotions captured are incredible, and the red, white and blue quilt speaks to what's happening. Fantastic photo.

Second Ray Cooney
 The Commercial Review (Portland)
 Super Oliver

 Great motion captured here, especially with the water droplets. A photo of pure joy for both the child and mother. The shape of the pool in the background also lends itself to motion, sort of taking the viewer into a circle throughout the photo. Great job.

Third Renee Bruck
 The Madison Courier
 A Country Christmas

 Nice artistry and lighting in this photo. It's so timeless, it's hard to imagine that it's a current photo. Love it.

Category: 19 - BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Tom Russo
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
State champs

This group of pictures had everything including great action photos and unexpected moments off the field. Fantastic entry! This photographer worked hard for the money!

Second Tom Russo
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Daddy-daughter dance

I enjoyed all of the moments this photographer captured including some scene-setting shots that filled out the package.

Third Jake Thompson
The Lebanon Reporter
Hostage Situation

It is rare to get this many quality images from a police action these days. This photographer really turned in a great batch.

Category: 20 - BEST VIDEO STORY OR PHOTO STORY WITH AUDIO

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Noelle Steele, Tom Russo & Kyle Lewis
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
To honor the fallen

Compelling story and some good photos make this the best in the category.

Second Ray Cooney
The Commercial Review (Portland)
Jay County Marching Patriots band day

A good mix of audio from band performance, interviews and photos.

Third Ray Cooney
The Commercial Review (Portland)
Jay County 4-H shows

Good video. I enjoyed the interviews that were included with video from the show.

Category: 22 - BEST USE OF GRAPHICS

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

Great use of colors to represent the story and the information graphs provide a fun entry to the page while providing interesting history and details a shopper would appreciate.

Second Staff
The Tribune (Seymour)

The Overdose entry was a great example of utilizing graphics to complement the text and tell the story in an engaging way. Your eyes are certainly pulled through the graphic to learn more.

Third Jeff Stanton
Connersville News-Examiner

This was a fun way of integrating font to help share the emotion of the photo and the subject of the story - Cheerio. This idea is carried through with the other entries as well.

Category: 24 - BEST SPORTS SECTION

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

Very impressive entry. Visually appealing, good art, very well written stories. Well done.

Second Staff
Washington Times-Herald

Strong sports section all the way around. Solid writing, good enough photography, but the strength is the depth of local coverage.

Third Staff
The Tribune (Seymour)

Creative look..nice visuals. Would have liked a little more local content, but still an impressive product.

Category: 26 - BEST BUSINESS SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

Clever use of graphics and images make for bright, interesting pages that captivate the attention of the reader. The contest is also stellar, delving into relevant business topics.

Second Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)

Third Staff
The Commercial Review (Portland)

Category: 27 - BEST SPECIAL SECTION

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Daily Reporter -- Best special section

Excellent design and superb photography set this section apart. Loved the cover, and the photos throughout were artistic and great storytellers. The writing and story selection was solid.

Second Staff
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Hancock Hoops Preview

Very sharp looking, from the cover to the back page. ... Content was interesting and easy to digest, made even easier by the clean layout. Excellent centerspread.

Third Staff
The News-Banner (Bluffton)
Who We Are 2017

Excellent content -- I felt like I met most of the county in reading through the section. The stories were well-written.

Category: 28 - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Caitlin VanOverberghe & Kyle Lewis
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Still waiting

Quality work! An incredibly well-done look at an important issue.

Second Staff
The Commercial Review (Portland)
Child poverty

Thorough... Well Done...Staff should be incredibly proud of this work.

Third Samm Quinn
Daily Reporter (Greenfield)
Here to help

Well-written...excellent work...

Category: 29 - BEST NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

First Staff
 The Tribune (Seymour)

Loved the large headline about the fire, but then was wowed by the "All in the Family" design. Very nice

Second Doug Smith
 The Sullivan Daily Times

Cucumbers, green drop caps. Nice
"War buddies" front is excellent. Compelling

Third Staff
 Washington Times-Herald

"British are coming" yep. that's gold.
Memorial Day edition is top notch

Division 4

Category: 01 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE UNDER DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Mitchell Kirk
Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)
Lumberyard Leveled
An artful and skilled use of storytelling and hard news reporting not only draws readers into the article but has them standing right next to the reporter as they are told what they are looking at and the impact of the blaze. The editors get a kudo for adding so many elements to the piece. But all the accolades go to Mitchell Kirk for this superior piece.

Second Allen Laman
The Herald (Jasper)
Straight Pride' fliers posted at school
It would have been so easy for the reporter to take a subjective tangent from the focus of the report. But Allen Laman did not. He remained balanced throughout, citing live and published sources to ensure the readers could make up their own minds. Great work.

Third Mickey Shuey
Palladium-Item (Richmond)
Breaking news night
Solid reporting with a 10 for difficulty. This is how breaking news is done: get in and get out with the facts from live sources. The separation between these pieces and first and second place was the citing of a news release in the first story and the unclear introduction of alcohol not being a cause of the troopers' wreck. Some good observations, and a big night for the reporter.

Category: 02 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE WITH NO DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Mike Emery
Palladium-Item (Richmond)
The idea of volunteerism is dying'

This is an excellent series that took some research and work on the part of the writers. I think it examines a national trend as we are seeing less people sacrificing for the common good. Fire services around our state are also dealing with issue, and I think this story explores that dilemma well.

Second Staff
The News Sun (Kendallville)
Funding Our Future?

This series really examines the funding issues public school districts are facing. I like the way the package explores where the funds come from, looks at how a decrease in enrollment affects those funds, and talks about attracting good teachers and retaining them.

Third Elizabeth DePompei
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
Justice Delayed

I like the way this explores the issue of long waits for justice through one family's unique experience. This is well done.

Category: 03 - BEST ONGOING NEWS COVERAGE

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Steve Garbacz & Barry Rochford
The News Sun (Kendallville)
West Lakes flooding

Well written and covered

Second Kevin Kilbane
Fort Wayne News-Sentinel
Memorial Park

Third Julie McClure
The Republic (Columbus)
Fatal motorcycle crash

Category: 04 - BEST GENERAL COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Harry McCawley
The Republic (Columbus)

This writer makes me feel his love for the community and its people. Gives great insight into the interesting, hometown topics covered. Bet readers enjoy this commentary. Nice job!

Second Grace Housholder
The News Sun (Kendallville)

Writer explores an interesting range of topics that matter to this community. These columns provide a sense of what it's like to live there. Well done!

Third Chris Morris
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)

Writer tackles some emotional issues with a beautiful style. Not always easy to do, but this writer does it well.

Category: 05 - BEST EDITORIAL WRITER

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Leo Morris
Fort Wayne News-Sentinel

There were many good entries in this category. The News-Sentinel led the pack with a package that spoke to transparency and fairness, and closed with a fun piece about that inexplicable desire to be called a Hoosier. Well done.

Second David Penticuff
Chronicle-Tribune (Marion)

Third Julie Crothers Beer
The Goshen News

**Category: 06 - BEST BUSINESS/ECONOMIC NEWS
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Michele Holtkamp, Annie Goeller & Ryan Trares
Daily Journal (Franklin)
Small Size, Big Care//Project brings investment of
\$100 million//Health providers think small

Love the whole package in this series - stellar
writing with design that makes it easy to comprehend.

Second Danielle Grady
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
Shuttering of stores signals new retail era

Fantastic in-depth coverage of a local issue. A lot
of time, research and effort undoubtedly went into this story. Nice
variety of people included.

Third Sarah Einselen
Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)
On notice; From night classes to the chairman's
seat; Turning a hobby into an art

Fantastic stories with a variety of subjects. Love
the woman's perspective on the banker piece - that takes it a step
further than a general announcement of her new post.

Category: 07 - HEADLINE WRITING

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First

Staff

The Republic (Columbus)

Will KC bring sunshine?

Pocket protectors

Feeling bugged? Gnat a problem

I love the word play in "Gnat a problem."

Second

Staff

The News Sun (Kendallville)

Lollipopped

Expenses hacked

End of the road for 111-year-old county bridge

Third

Staff

The Republic (Columbus)

The Republic (Columbus)

It's a plaid, plaid, plaid, plaid world

Exploring the solar system

In a pickle

Category: 08 - BEST SHORT FEATURE STORY

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Mitchell Kirk
Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)
Bout with the Brady Gang

Nice read, great graphics to come back over and over again, the photos were a great touch and the Fast Fact pull out box was an added benefit. I am sure local people had conversation about this article over dinner.

Second Mark Webber
The Republic (Columbus)
A hidden treasure

I enjoyed this short feature. The graphics and photos told their own story - nice package. I would love to see the follow up featuring the new log home.

Third Steve Garbacz
The News Sun (Kendallville)
Growing good deeds

Good positive feature on people giving back and making a difference. All the elements were there.

Category: 09 - BEST PROFILE FEATURE

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Michele Holtkamp
Daily Journal (Franklin)
Hope and Forgiveness

This story hooked me from the beginning, and became even more interesting as more details were revealed. It was very well written, and describes well how the subject has come to terms with her injuries and adopted a philosophy of forgiveness.

Second Ryan Trares
Daily Journal (Franklin)
A Lifetime of Fandom

The story starts with an excellent description of the subject stepping onto Wrigley Field when the Cubs won the World Series, and follows with great writing on how he managed to become one of the ring bearers. In short, the writing is exceptionally skillful and top notch.

Third Brian Blair
The Republic (Columbus)
Spirit of giving

This could have been a run-of-the-mill Christmas bell ringing story, but the writer has managed to make it surprisingly great, with a good, strong lead, and details, and quotes throughout that make it stand out as an example of turning a routine assignment into something that really shines.

Category: 10 - BEST IN-DEPTH FEATURE OR FEATURE PACKAGE

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Ben Middelkamp & Kevin Burkett
 Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)
 Breaking the Barrier

This was a difficult category, because there was a wide range in how the entries presented. This package on school diversity wins because it is truly a deep look into a single topic -- diversity and trends in multicultural changes in public schools (and the community at large). There is a lot of information in a variety of forms. This could have been written in much richer detail. Overall a terrific effort on an important issue.

Second Kirk Johannesen
 The Republic (Columbus)
 Abused children

A good idea and some hard data to support the reporting. I would like to have seen more inside the relationship between the CASA volunteer and his or her ward, to see how it works and what they do. Get the real person into the piece.

Third Staff
 The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
 9/11 Anniversary

There were a lot of commemorative pieces among these entries. This is by far the best one because it had the greatest scope and variety. It was a nice idea for a package of perspectives on a key anniversary of 9/11. The stories are thorough and well-told.

**Category: 12 - BEST SPORTS NEWS OR FEATURE
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Joseph Fanelli
The Herald (Jasper)
Goals: Southridge High School Soccer

So many communities in this country, including mine, have a similar story to tell, but how many of them actually tell it? Excellent writing with vibrant descriptions makes this story a standout. It's obvious a lot of hard work went into this story. Kudos!

Second Ryan O'Leary
Daily Journal (Franklin)
Home Again

Excellent story of a young swimmer's courage and determination. The writer does a great job telling this young man's story with attention to detail.

Third Jesus Jimenez
Palladium-Item (Richmond)
#McNewStrong

This writer has excellent storytelling skills. I enjoyed the story. I'm sure I'm not the only one who read it and now wants a followup on this young man's progress!

Category: 13 - BEST SPORTS COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Ryan O'Leary
Daily Journal (Franklin)

Great writing, and good, incisive, insightful commentary. Good originality with some of the phrasing, I especially liked "dumpster broth" instead of "dumpster fire."

Second Justin Kenny
Fort Wayne News-Sentinel

Great opinion writing. Strong arguments and impactful subjects.

Third Stephen Brooks
The Goshen News

Does a good job of analysis and providing greater detail, though it borders on repeating the obvious at times. Good voice and rhythm, it was an easy and enjoyable read.

Category: 14 - BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Mike Wolanin
The Republic (Columbus)
SWAT officer

Great action shot of a crime scene. Officer being caught in the air made this shot.

Second Rich Janzaruk II
Times-Mail (Bedford)
Husband consoles

Good job of catching the drama off the situation.

Third Jeff Morehead
Chronicle-Tribune (Marion)
Arrest stop

Photographer was on the spot to get this dramatic photo.

Category: 15 - BEST GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Josh Hicks
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
The Immigrant's Daughter

photo captures incredible joy

Second J. Kyle Keener
Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)
Graf funeral procession

Third Jay Young
The Goshen News
General News Photo

Category: 16 - BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Jeff Morehead
 Chronicle-Tribune (Marion)
 Jump

 Excellent composition. Great moment as the boy launches, looking as though he is flying.

Second Jay Young
 The Goshen News
 Best Sports Feature

 Vote is for Fairfield sectional photo. One of several good celebratory moment shots in this contest. This stands out, in part because it's fans and players, so some details jump out, such as the phone in the one guy's hand where he Instagrammed the moment.

Third Sarah Ann Jump
 The Herald (Jasper)
 Pile On

 Good celebratory pile-up, especially with the one player in mid-air. Good, tight framing.

Category: 17 - BEST SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Tyler Stewart
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
Floyd tops Providence

The framing is excellent, and not just the top-of-the-helmet tag — which is perfect. To crop to just the base runner and the second baseman would have been unfortunate; we found ourselves interested in — but not distracted by — the shortstop, and were even glad to learn that the game was played at Providence. Good play, great shot.

Second Scott Roberson
Daily Journal (Franklin)
Fumble

Third Tyler Stewart
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
Floyd Dominates Jeff

Category: 18 - BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Tyler Stewart
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
Infamy Remembered

This picture makes you feel like you know the veteran. Nice work getting him in his environment, and tying his tie.

Second Tyler Stewart
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
River Run Waterpark

Nice moment in time. Good composition and color.

Third Jeff Morehead
Chronicle-Tribune (Marion)
Bounce

Nice framing, background composition.

Category: 19 - BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Sarah Ann Jump
The Herald (Jasper)
Guardian Angel

This package is filled from start to finish with great storytelling images. The images make me really grasp who the subject and what he is all about.

Second Kevin Burkett
Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)
First Harvest

This package was really well put together. The images that were used were strong and well composed. One of the greatest aspects of this piece is that it was a very tight edit.

Third Sarah Ann Jump
The Herald (Jasper)
Squad Goals

This was a great photo story with some really great moments captured. I wish there was a touch more of soccer being played to help round out the overall package.

Category: 20 - BEST VIDEO STORY OR PHOTO STORY WITH AUDIO

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Kevin Burkett
Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)
Pearl Harbor: 75th anniversary

Nice typography. A welcomed change to see a graphics-heavy video and one that used graphics very well.

Second Mike Wolanin & Shelby Mullis
The Republic (Columbus)
Cummins Recycling Day

This video made you feel like you were on location, from the sounds of the backing up trucks to the hand-held cameras. It was a very engaging interview.

Third Steve Garbacz
The News Sun (Kendallville)
West Lakes flooding

It was very smart to add the mood music, it elevated the tour of the flooded area.

Category: 22 - BEST USE OF GRAPHICS

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Staff
Daily Journal (Franklin)

The graphics on these front pages are remarkable, trendy yet still fresh and clean. The graphics appear to be a hallmark of this publication and rightfully so. Nice job on the part of the graphics department/artists.

Second Staff
The Republic (Columbus)

I had to go back and compare this to the first place winner several times. I particularly loved "Rolling Around the Bend." This was very close. Great looking pages.

Third Erin Doucette
The News Sun (Kendallville)

Category: 23 - BEST WEBSITE

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Tina McGrady & Rick Holtz
Journal Review (Crawfordsville)

Use of different media to tell the story is excellent. Website is easy to navigate and user friendly.

Second Staff
The News Sun (Kendallville)

Third Staff
Daily Journal (Franklin)

Category: 25 - BEST FEATURE SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Staff
The Republic (Columbus)
Go!

Great cover, eye popping and catchy photography. Feature stories with leads that make the reader want to find out more and yet feel like that they're apart of the story as well. Love the play on words in the headlines as well as the stories. Not afraid to communicate humor with the reader, rarely seen in community journalism these days. Well organized and informative for the reader also. Great job overall!

Second Staff
The Republic (Columbus)
The Rundown

Third Staff
Daily Journal (Franklin)
Accent

Category: 26 - BEST BUSINESS SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Staff
The Republic (Columbus)

Great use of graphics and photos complement a story that delves into an interesting topic.

Category: 27 - BEST SPECIAL SECTION

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Staff
The Republic (Columbus)
Mike Pence: A Political Journey

Great section. Strong content, presented in traditional and non-traditional manners. Excellent use of typography, strong writing, good graphics, clean but lively design. Excellent timeline, pullouts and historical photos.

Second Staff
Daily Journal (Franklin)
Quest for a Title: 2016 Football State Finals

Very impressive section and overall package, especially when you consider this was done on deadline. Section looks great, especially the cover and page 2. Great coverage of an important community event.

Third Staff
The Republic (Columbus)
Tony Stewart: Ride of a Lifetime

Very thorough report. Very good design, but the cover was a little flat. Section got better as it went -- I really liked the numbers package on pages 12-13. Complete reporting -- glad that you didn't skip the bad things that happened in his career.

Category: 28 - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Staff
The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville)
Crossroads of Crisis: Heroin Epidemic Demands
Solutions

In an extremely competitive division of this category, The News and Tribune (Jeffersonville) presents a five-part print edition series that explains the crisis, then delivers the impacts on health, the criminal justice system and businesses, finishing with solutions and success stories. The newspaper uses its voice in the Opinion page. This is an excellent presentation; the package was well-thought out. There is also a digital enhancement to the package. The work is terrific; the readers are the real winners.

Second Staff
The News Sun (Kendallville)
Promen-Aid

Impressive accomplishment by a reporter with an idea, and a community that responded. This could happen in every community with a food pantry and a high school holding a prom - imagine the results! Excellent work at The News Sun (Kendallville).

Third David Penticuff, Tyler Juranovich & Navar Watson
Chronicle-Tribune (Marion)
Sunshine on Growth Council
Transparency never gets old, even if it takes four-plus years to achieve. Fantastic effort!

Category: 29 - BEST NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

First Staff
 The Republic (Columbus)

Great use and mixture of photos and graphics. Layout is clean, and nice color throughout. Great use of white space on feature packages, which all looked fantastic. Aug. 25 sports front and A1 story on overdoses in particular stood out. Nice work.

Second Staff
 Daily Journal (Franklin)

Great section fronts that really allow stories and photos to stand out. Attractive, easy to read layout with great use of photos, graphics and color. Loved the treatment of the football state finals defeat. The Accent fronts are impressive as well.

Third Staff
 Pharos-Tribune (Logansport)

Strong photos, graphics and color throughout. Good use of secondary art as well.

Division 5

Category: 01 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE UNDER DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Staff
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
The Inauguration of Donald Trump

Great coverage of many different aspects of the news of the day.

Second Staff
Kokomo Tribune
Tornadoes Tear Through Area

It's evident that the news team fanned out in order to get on-the-ground reports to humanize this huge story.

Third Staff
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
'Like a bomb going off'

Wonderful, comprehensive news reporting.

Category: 02 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE WITH NO DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Carson Gerber
 Kokomo Tribune
 Warrants in the dark

 This is a great look at the dangers officers face on the job. Serving a warrant might not sound like a dangerous act, but this shows how treacherous it can be—especially at night. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this because of the writing and the angle of the story.

Second Seth Slabaugh
 The Star Press (Muncie)
 Why did BSU president leave?

 This is a great investigative piece looking into the departure of Ball State University president and contentions with the university's board of trustees. It really took some digging and some work on the writer's part.

Third Javonte Anderson
 Post Tribune (Merrillville)
 Region airport used for deportation

 In recent months, we've heard a lot of immigration and deportation. But this story brings these issues to life. Hearing about Jauregui and how her husband is being deported is heart-breaking. But it's heart-warming to hear about the dedication of those advocates who meet to pray for the deported and those they leave behind. Beautiful job!

Category: 03 - BEST ONGOING NEWS COVERAGE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Keith Roysdon
 The Star Press (Muncie)
 FBI probe in Muncie

Covering a story that spanned two years with multiple angles, this package is thorough and places the reader in the situation with information from top to bottom about each organization involved with the case.

Second Joseph Paul
 Journal & Courier (Lafayette)
 Cops Behaving Badly

Third Staff
 The Elkhart Truth
 Norman Gary shooting

Category: 04 - BEST GENERAL COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Dave Bangert
Journal & Courier (Lafayette)

Writer explores some touchy topics but gives his subjects a voice, in their own words. His commentary doesn't preach; he simply tells a story with a message. Really nice job. The clear winner.

Second Mark Bennett
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

These entries tell us so much about the community, how it's hurting from an epidemic and lost loved ones. Some serious topics, but his writing style make it an easy read. Good work.

Third Jeff Ward
The Star Press (Muncie)

A range of topics are handled very well by this writer. You can feel his passion for the community and its residents through his commentary. Nice job.

**Category: 06 - BEST BUSINESS/ECONOMIC NEWS
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Kurt Christian
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Malpractice at the Shoe Doctor

Fantastic story. Very engaging read - I couldn't look away! Great investigative work, research, and lateral spread of contacts included.

Second Kurt Christian
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Short-changed: Investigation shows workers owed
thousands

Incredible work on this series. An extremely complete package covering all angles with multiple sources, background, and providing resources.

Third Domenica Bongiovanni
Journal & Courier (Lafayette)
Downtown Dining

Great job on a complex subject with so many parts. A really interesting read, as downtowns are struggling everywhere.

Category: 07 - HEADLINE WRITING

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Scott Underwood
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Play Pokemon GO, but watch out for that tree!
Prague toilet museum to have bowl movement
Man who bit girlfriend loses his appeal

These headlines are clever and a lot of fun.

Second Tom Swenson
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Chanel raises stink over train route
He had a career that wasn't shaken,
though it did stir
Penny Lane? More like Dollar Highway

Third Penny Reid
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Goodbye, Yellowwood Road
Citywide fiber deal with Axia unravels
Dying to be heard

Category: 08 - BEST SHORT FEATURE STORY

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Stu Hirsch
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Defying stereotypes

Well written, engaging and great way to localize a national story.

Second Becky Jacobs
Post Tribune (Merrillville)
Bills aim to protect referees

Third Emma Kate Fittes
The Star Press (Muncie)
The love story behind Muncie's castle

Category: 09 - BEST PROFILE FEATURE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Dave Bangert
Journal & Courier (Lafayette)
Holocaust survivor's empty seat at Mackey

This was a compelling story and well told. One of the things that stood out to me was that the story mentioned Kor's history (and wife), but it was not really about his past or his struggle. It was about his love of basketball and that's something everyone can relate to.

Second Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)
Sister Rose Marita won't be kept from the kitchen

Sister Rose is truly an inspiration and you captured her story and spirit nicely. The details were great and well-placed, especially how she took a break, but had to get back to baking. May we all have her energy in our old age.

Third Dakota Crawford
The Star Press (Muncie)
The Dark Side of a Player in the Spotlight

This story shows that depression and mental illness can impact anyone and is not always easily recognized. It did a nice job of telling the entire story and including the views of people who witnessed it. It also included a hotline number or a way to get help, which was nice to see.

Category: 10 - BEST IN-DEPTH FEATURE OR FEATURE PACKAGE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First

Dave Bangert

Journal & Courier (Lafayette)

Texting/driving widow: Just 'a traffic ticket?'

A solid dive into a troubling and perplexing topic: a man is killed while a drive apparently was texting. This piece has outrage, poignancy and the depth of investigating the law and how it is applied. Nice job.

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

Second

Mark Bennett

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

Vigo County: America's Bellwether

Really liked the idea, which was founded in people', numbers, history and trends. It had every element of basic reporting. The writing was solid, if sometimes situationally repetitive. I sort of wished there were more compression and fewer installments. But overall an excellent piece of in-depth storytelling.

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

Third

Sam King

Journal & Courier (Lafayette)

Targeting Trauma

Very important piece that is thoroughly developed a a great job of weaving together people and science to examine a problem made famous by men but brought with greater impact on boys. There's a lot of substance here. And a real commitment to developing the issue.

Category: 11 - BEST SPORTS EVENT COVERAGE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First George Bremer & Staff
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Frankton wins state basketball title

George Bremer's clear and detailed game coverage is descriptive without getting too flowery. He emphasizes the right plays, gets the right quotes and puts it all together in a concise yet gripping manner.

Second Jon Blau
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Linton runs out clock on Pioneer in 1A final, 34-20

Third Sam King
Journal & Courier (Lafayette)
Late CC rally stuns West Lafayette

**Category: 12 - BEST SPORTS NEWS OR FEATURE
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Hayes the Brave

First place — Not your usual sports feature.
Strong story about a strong child, told without being maudlin.
Details are presented simply and reporter lets the subjects tell the
story.

Second Dakota Crawford
The Star Press (Muncie)
A sinking proposition: How Ball State swimmers
compete without scholarships

Second place — Good example of optimism and
not giving up to defeat. More about what the sport can teach
young people than winning.

Third Ryan O'Gara
The Star Press (Muncie)
Dream chaser: Hazelbaker's big breakthrough

Third place. Lots of heart. Engaging story about a
hopeful player.

Category: 13 - BEST SPORTS COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Jeff LaFave
 The Herald-Times (Bloomington)

Good writing, powerful message. Enjoyed the narrative and how it revealed the writer's message. It's not the sports that are important (his father's meager on-court accomplishments) but the people (what his father meant to him).

Second Todd Golden
 Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

Though one entry (McNichols) was only partial, saw more than enough good writing in the others.

Category: 14 - BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Jim Avelis
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)
Small plane crashes into home

Just wow. Wild event and great photo.

Second John P. Cleary
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Shooting Death

Good photo with great emotion. Value of having
photographers on the scene.

Third Sam Householder
The Elkhart Truth
Main Street Fire

This photo just seems to capture a big even taking
place in town.

Category: 15 - BEST GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Happy tears

great timing to get this

Second Jordan Kartholl
The Star Press (Muncie)
Justice for Joseph

Third Sam Householder
The Elkhart Truth
No Charges

Category: 16 - BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Game face

Good game action. The face, the body angle and the movement all came together in an unusual combination.

Second Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Regional loss

A powerful moment. Well framed. The emptiness around the figure accentuates the feeling on his face.

Third Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Pumped

Eye-catching. There was no other photo like this in the batch.

Category: 17 - BEST SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Jeremy Hogan
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Wreck

The suddenness with which hopes can be dashed in sports competition is evidenced in this entry, as race leaders are oblivious to what's happening just behind them. Some photographers might be tempted to crop to the tumbling cyclists, but it is the thrill/agonny contrast that makes this the winner.

Second Chris Howell
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Rebound

Third Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Moving Ahead

Category: 18 - BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Kiddie clowns

Fun picture with great use of color
and nice composition.

Second Joseph C. Garza
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)
Alpaca Pals

Never can go wrong with alpacas and kids.
Nicely done.

Third Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Maze toss

Nice framing on a cool moment.

Category: 19 - BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Costumes of Confidence

Great package that has a lot of heart and a lot of great storytelling images. What makes it even better is how unique it is. Great job!

Second Kelly Lafferty Gerber
Kokomo Tribune
Hayes the Brave

Great package that has a lot of heart. The photographer obviously put a lot of time into this piece.

Third Jeremy Hogan
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Racing

Well done package. It interesting, engaging and something you don't see every day.

Category: 20 - BEST VIDEO STORY OR PHOTO STORY WITH AUDIO

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Jordan Kartholl
 The Star Press (Muncie)
 A True Love Story

 Just beautiful! Great mix of photos, text and music. The direction is seamless, you can't tell that if the subject was being prompted for questions. I wanted to share it right away.

Second Kelly Lafferty Gerber
 Kokomo Tribune
 Costumes of Confidence

 Good cinematography. Really liked it's control of sound. Very legible text. Seemed like they spent a great deal of time with the subject.

Third Corey Ohlenkamp
 The Star Press (Muncie)
 Nitro Dan

 Awesome production! Great depth-of-field. Good variety of footage.

Category: 21 - BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Staff
 The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

Traditional looking, but effective, with subtle use of smaller art elements so that images don't drown out the considerable substance of the page. Articulate commentary from multiple voices.

Second Staff
 The Herald-Times (Bloomington)

Third Max Jones
 Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

Category: 22 - BEST USE OF GRAPHICS

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Heather Bremer
 The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

Loved these pages. Graphics were as informative as they were eye-catching. Clean, easy to read. Pages were unique and appealing to the eye.

Second Bill Thornbro
 The Herald-Times (Bloomington)

Nice job on graphics. Layout is clean and enhances stories. I would have liked to have seen more sharp colorful photos used in graphics (such as 'When to Fold 'em').

Category: 23 - BEST WEBSITE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Staff
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

Good mix of national state and local news.
Breaking stories are easy to find and navigate.

Second Staff
Journal & Courier (Lafayette)

Third Staff
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)

Category: 25 - BEST FEATURE SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Carol Kugler & Jennifer Porter Tilley
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Sip and Savor

Organized, catchy, great use of color. I loved the Q&A with the chefs and the Staff photography put this section over the top!

Second Staff
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Homes & Gardens

Third Marci Creps & Jennifer Porter-Tilley
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Attractions

Category: 26 - BEST BUSINESS SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Staff
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

These business pages pop and stand out among others that were submitted. Syndicated content meshes well with interesting local stories.

Second Bill Thornbro
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)

Category: 27 - BEST SPECIAL SECTION

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Staff
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)
Veterans Day 2016

Pictures nicely done and interesting articles on reflections on both sides of the Vietnam war

Second Staff
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)
Indiana University basketball preview section

Third Staff
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Annual Report

Category: 28 - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Devan Filchak & Staff
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Picture of Health

The team at The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) delivers thorough reporting on page after page in this series; and yet, it's an easy read with accompanying graphics that are easy to read, understand and move through without laboring. This series has faces from the community, their stories and context for what it means beyond this community. Planning and presentation are fantastic. The TBH's readers are big winners.

Second Seth Slabaugh
The Star Press (Muncie)
Who attacked local manager?

Third Craig Lyons & Angela Caputo
Post Tribune (Merrillville)
Superfund site plague East Chicago residents

Category: 29 - BEST NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

First Staff
The Herald-Times (Bloomington)

Great section fronts, sharp photography and strong graphics. Very clean layout and nice use of white space. Loved the Aug. 19 front and the April 9 in stride front and gardening graphic. You can tell the Staff puts a lot of time and effort into their pages.

Second Staff
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

Nice section front packages and mixture of photos and graphics. Plenty of color and photos throughout. The Sept. 25 front was especially impressive.

Third Staff
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

Nice centerpieces on section fronts. Strong photography, especially the lead sports front photo on April 25. Great use of color.

Division 6

Category: 01 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE UNDER DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Indianapolis Star Staff
The Indianapolis Star
Trump picks Pence

A marvelous example of how regional newspapers can get a jump on the national media, maximizing local sources and perspectives to present fascinating, timely analysis and information.

Second Staff
South Bend Tribune
Record rainfall, massive mess

An absolutely wonderful package of stories ranging from intimate to informative, along with fantastic photos. Great job doing comprehensive coverage under difficult conditions.

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

Third Bill Dolan & Joyce Russell
The Times (Munster)
Corruption inquiry nets Buncich, Portage major

A great example of breaking news coverage that doesn't skimp on details and thrives on accuracy.

Category: 02 - BEST NEWS COVERAGE WITH NO DEADLINE PRESSURE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Giles Bruce
The Times (Munster)
What's killing Indiana's infants
This series required an extensive amount of work on Bruce's part, and the video clips, photos and graphics really broke up the copy well. The story of Ms. Castaneda really tugged on my heartstrings. While I'm just judging the press association contest, this seems like a contender for a Pulitzer.

Second Tony Cook & John Tuohy
The Indianapolis Star
Left in the dark
This story was amazing. It highlighted an issue that at first seems minor—a lack of streetlights—but connects the dots for the readers and the public about the ramifications of that decisions. It tells the stories of the victims, whose deaths would like have been prevented if the city had streetlights and/or sidewalks.

Third Chris Sikich
The Indianapolis Star
Eternal Unrest: The desecration of a native American burial site in Hamilton County
This is an excellent investigative piece highlighting the issues related to Tribal laws. It is amazing that human remains were stored like artifacts for 20 years without the proper notification. The writer did an excellent job here. Well done.

Category: 03 - BEST ONGOING NEWS COVERAGE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Staff
The Journal Gazette (Fort Wayne)
Amber Pasztor

Interesting, well followed.

Second Bill Dolan & Joyce Russell
The Times (Munster)
Lake County sheriff, Portage mayor indicted for
bribery, fight on declaring innocence

Third Jamie Duffy
The Journal Gazette (Fort Wayne)
Homicides' toll on families

Category: 04 - BEST GENERAL COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Suzette Hackney
 The Indianapolis Star

Writer tackles some rather serious topics and investigates how they affect people. Allows the subjects to tell their stories, at times raw and emotional. Very, very effective writing. Terrific work.

Second Virginia Black
 South Bend Tribune

Writer has courage to dig deep into topics that some may let pass. Exposes underlying problems that a community should face by sharing the sad, real stories of others. Really nice work.

Third Tim Ethridge
 Evansville Courier & Press

Gives readers some interesting insight into the newspaper's role in the community and how it decides to cover some touchy issues. Nice work.

**Category: 06 - BEST BUSINESS/ECONOMIC NEWS
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Joseph S. Pete
 The Times (Munster)
 Retailpocalypse

 Good job on tackling such a large story, and going beyond just reporting on what's closing, but also on what's working.

Second Erin Blasko
 South Bend Tribune
 "Tax breaks mostly on city's edges"

 Great investigative work and background research all the back into the 90s. The stories shed light on a big problem the extent of which many readers probably didn't know. Awesome how the story makes the issue so understandable.

Third Fatima Hussein
 The Indianapolis Star
 Give ex-cons a chance

 Putting Brooke's face on this issue really works because she's not what most people would picture as an ex-con. Great job paring down a big issue into understandable bites.

Category: 07 - HEADLINE WRITING

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Daniel Riordan
The Times (Munster)
Road projects will have NWI drivers seeing orange
Smoke shops worry tax may be a drag on profits
Closure a sour note for orchestra

These headlines are clever without being forced.
The reader can still tell what the story will be about.

Second Jeanette Lach
The Times (Munster)
Snow joke, no winter?
No place like dome to attract sports tourism
School no virtual difference

Third Dave Benson
The Journal Gazette (Fort Wayne)
Goodbye to hue
Good times roll
To crafters

Category: 09 - BEST PROFILE FEATURE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Robert King
 The Indianapolis Star
 Kor's candles still glowing

Eva Mozes Kor has an incredible story and the reporter told it well. Her story of forgiveness is powerful and her insight on Congress was interesting. I enjoyed the line about Nazi doctor thank you notes.

Second Mike Vorel
 South Bend Tribune
 Chris Zorich finds a new calling

This was a beautiful and touching story. I loved the use of lines from "The Giving Tree" throughout. It is an emotional piece and you conveyed it beautifully.

Third Shari Rudavsky
 The Indianapolis Star
 Riley doctor shines light on suicide

This is an important story and very well told. I would have liked to see you include a suicide hotline number or a resource for anyone struggling with depression or suicide.

Category: 10 - BEST IN-DEPTH FEATURE OR FEATURE PACKAGE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Robert King
 The Indianapolis Star
 Paula Cooper: The executioner within

There aren't enough words to describe this wonderful piece of work. The tone, the depth, the insight, the gripping narrative, this was a perfect piece. I trust the editors entered it in even bigger contests, because this is worthy of many prizes -- and worth of being stitched with a spine and sandwiched between hard covers. Congratulations.,

Second Jeff Parrott
 South Bend Tribune
 Addiction's Grip: 2 Lives, Same End

Now this is true depth. The idea and concept of the dual but intertwined story lines was excellent. You felt the two lives and understand the two very sad but similar paths. Great stuff.

Third Madeline Buckley
 The Indianapolis Star
 Man seeks to have murder conviction overturned

Very nicely told yarn, rich with details and perspective. Sensational reporting carries this piece. Writing is solid, better in the beginning than the end. But this grabs and sustains.

Category: 11 - BEST SPORTS EVENT COVERAGE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Eric Hansen
South Bend Tribune
"Searching for some fire"

Eric Hansen does a masterful job of using analysis, opinion and detail in an economical and well-written article that goes deeper than game action.

Second Stephen Holder
The Indianapolis Star
As Stephen Holder sees it

Third Mike Vorel
South Bend Tribune
Water logged

**Category: 12 - BEST SPORTS NEWS OR FEATURE
COVERAGE**

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Clifton Brown
 The Indianapolis Star
 James Hardy's mysterious death leaves his
mother grieving.

 First place — Reporter beautifully captures the
humanity of this athlete's unexplained death. Shows compassion
and an eye for detail.

Second Zak Keefer
 The Indianapolis Star
 A day in the life of Doug Boles: 18 hours, from a
prayer to a lap dance.

 Second place — A bright, compelling story of a
man doing an almost impossible job. Makes the reader care about
Boles.

Third Kyle Neddenriep
 The Indianapolis Star
 Memory of her mom – murdered by her dad –
fuels Ajanae' Thomas.

 Third place — Great storytelling, though the story
is more about Ajanae's grandmother.

Category: 13 - BEST SPORTS COMMENTARY

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Gregg Doyel
 The Indianapolis Star

Great voice and pace, along with noticing details and tying them into the fabric of the story without seeming forced. First and third entries pull off the slow reveal well.

Second Mike Vorel
 South Bend Tribune

Love how detail is worked through his stories. Generally does a good job of taking a stance, though his recruiting article feels like it straddles the fence.

Third Steve Hanlon
 The Times (Munster)

Passionate commentary. Best entry so far on stirring up emotion.

Category: 14 - BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Robert Franklin
 South Bend Tribune
 Church fire

Photo show tremendous emotion and really gives a sense of a firefighter almost to the point of being overwhelmed with exhaustion.

Second Samuel Hoffman
 The Journal Gazette (Fort Wayne)
 2 bodies found in house by family member

Great emotional photo of woman and man, both dealing with tragedy. Photographer was not intrusive, but truly captured the scene.

Third Jenna Watson
 The Indianapolis Star
 A lost loved one

This woman seems alone in her grief. The officer is attempting to comfort her, but he does not have a relationship and can only do so much. Just a tremendous shot.

Category: 15 - BEST GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Samuel Hoffman
The Journal Gazette (Fort Wayne)
After delay, pilots put on a show

The action in the back makes this photo, two things going on.

Second Mike Lawrence
Evansville Courier & Press
Comforting hand

Third Jenna Watson
The Indianapolis Star
Dying bride dances with father

Category: 16 - BEST SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Sam Owens
 Evansville Courier & Press
 Comforting hug

 The faces all around help say what the hug is about, and the benedicting hand on the head closes the sale. Good, tight frame.

Second Jenna Watson
 The Indianapolis Star
 Volleyball victory

 High angle and tight frame make this an eye-catcher, and the flying hair on the left doesn't hurt. Good facial expressions.

Third Mykal McEldowney
 The Indianapolis Star
 Tindley Tigers' triumph

 Good moment, good to see almost all the faces.

Category: 17 - BEST SPORTS ACTION PHOTO

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Robert Franklin
 South Bend Tribune
 Handstand touchdown

Sports action photography is all about being in the right place at the right time ... with the proper exposure, shutter speed, lighting, framing and other variables. And of course it does not hurt when the subject is top-tier, Division 1 football. The top three photographs and several others were exceptional, but our first-place choice was the most dramatic.

Second Matt Kryger
 The Indianapolis Star
 Subtle swimming emergence

Third Robert Franklin
 South Bend Tribune
 Fumble in the rain

Category: 18 - BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Denny Simmons
Evansville Courier & Press
Sweety bird

A well composed picture that captured a nice moment. Love the expression of the kid at the bottom.

Second Mykal McEldowney
The Indianapolis Star
Two girls, two Chihuahuas

nice composition, use of color

Third Becky Malewitz
South Bend Tribune
Shopping trip

Wish there was dog trailing the kid or something else going on, but it's still an interesting shot.

Category: 19 - BEST MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Mykal McEldowney
 The Indianapolis Star
 Horses and inmates

This entry was expertly crafted. There was a great diversity of storytelling images used. Black and white was perfect for the package.

Second Mykal McEldowney
 The Indianapolis Star
 Crispus Attucks football is back after 31-years

Great photo story that was well executed from start to finish. The detail brought to the package was great such as the shirt with the "coming fall 2016" on the back.

Third Denny Simmons
 Evansville Courier & Press
 Deadly tornado crosses state lines

This package has a lot of well executed spot news images that come together to tell the story of what the tornado did to the community.

Category: 20 - BEST VIDEO STORY OR PHOTO STORY WITH AUDIO

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Kelly Wilkinson
The Indianapolis Star
A mother's grief: Hanna Wilson

Heartbreaking interview helped by good use of b-roll and choice of music. It feels like a complete story, with beginning and end without the reported getting in the way. Wanted to share it immediately.

Second Alex Slitz
Evansville Courier & Press
Shaking Things up

Great footage. Really liked the compositions and use of natural sounds. Perfect concise short story.

Third Mykal McEldowney
The Indianapolis Star
Crispus Attucks football is back after 31-years

Very cinematic. Perfect use of music. Beautifully captured light source. Voice overs come in and out naturally. Felt like a trailer for a movie, wanted to share it.

Category: 21 - BEST EDITORIAL PAGE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Alesia Redding & Terry Bland
 South Bend Tribune

Original and effective layouts and organization. Sharply written commentary with urgency and clarity. Presentation and page title show respect for community voices outside the news room. A good editorial page should be a destination for readers, whether they agree or disagree with the editorial voice. This one demonstrates that type of engagement.

Second Marc Chase
 The Times (Munster)

Traditional looking design, but not bad. Not quite sure that backing a symbolic (i.e. hollow) resolution opposing domestic violence was "subtle" or deserved much applause, but you argued it well. Other editorials were quite solid.

Third Staff
 Evansville Courier & Press

Your editorials were very good. The page itself could be a bit more visually compelling.

Category: 24 - BEST SPORTS SECTION

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Staff
 The Indianapolis Star

The balance of breaking news (Paul George) with strong features and columns on the sports front shows a well-planned and organized section. The inclusion of mugs for each author makes the audience more familiar with the writers. Excellent photos were given proper play. Well-balanced Olympic coverage.

Second Staff
 The Times (Munster)

Third Bill Bilinski
 South Bend Tribune

Category: 26 - BEST BUSINESS SECTION OR PAGE(S)

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Ed Semmler & Joni Gibley
South Bend Tribune

A deep and rich section that explores pertinent information, supplemented by stellar photos and graphics, that business readers care about.

Second Staff
The Times (Munster)

Third Staff
Evansville Courier & Press

Category: 27 - BEST SPECIAL SECTION

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Doug Ross
The Times (Munster)
How much do you know about Indiana?

Yet another interesting publication that made me want to visit

Second Margaret Fosmoe & Beatrice Chan
South Bend Tribune
Studebaker Comes Home

Third Staff
Evansville Courier & Press
Courier & Press Travel Section

Category: 28 - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Tim Evans
 The Indianapolis Star
 Call for Action

An idea that starts for the community, then evolves with volunteers coming alongside their newspaper, engagement with those in need, and then results. Some results are even worth a front-page story, a story not there without that first idea for the community. Newspapers care about their communities as much as any other entity, this entry proving one more shining example. Congratulations, IndyStar.

Second Staff
 The Journal Gazette (Fort Wayne)
 Opioid Epidemic/8 stories

Third Ted Booker
 South Bend Tribune
 Lead in South Bend

Category: 29 - BEST NEWSPAPER DESIGN

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

First Staff
 Evansville Courier & Press

Great use of photos and color, and nice use of photos throughout. Front pages and football section were impressive. This Staff is not afraid to try something different on A1. Nice, clean layout.

Second Staff
 The Journal Gazette (Fort Wayne)

A very clean, organized layout with great use of photos, color and white space. The Nov. 3 sports front was especially impressive.

Third Allison Dale & John Stump
 South Bend Tribune

Lots of strong photos and color throughout. The Aug. 21 front is beautifully done.

General Excellence

Division: Nondailies less than 3,001

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| First | The Times-Post (Pendleton) |
| Second | The Herald-Tribune (Batesville) |
| Third | Hendricks County Flyer (Avon) |

Division: Nondailies more than 3,000

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| First | Brown County Democrat (Nashville) |
| Second | Corydon Democrat |
| Third | Dearborn County Register Lawrenceburg) |

Division: Dailies less than 6,000

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| First | Daily Reporter (Greenfield)) |
| Second | The Commercial Review (Portland) |
| Third | Lebanon Reporter |

Division: Dailies 6,000 - 13,999

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| First | The Republic (Columbus) |
| Second | Daily Journal (Franklin) |
| Third | News and Tribune (Jeffersonville) |

Division: Dailies 14,000 - 34,999

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| First | The Herald-Times (Bloomington) |
| Second | The Herald-Bulletin (Anderson) |
| Third | Tribune Star (Terre Haute) |

Division: Dailies 35,000 and more

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|---------------|------------------------|
| First | The Indianapolis Star |
| Second | The South Bend Tribune |
| Third | The Times (Munster) |

Photo of the Year

Robert Franklin, South Bend Tribune, Church fire

Story of the Year

Giles Bruce, The Times (Munster), What's killing Indiana's infants?

Blue Ribbon Newspaper — Nondaily

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|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| First | Times-Post (Pendleton) |
| Second | Brown County Democrat (Nashville) |
| Third | Corydon Democrat |

Blue Ribbon Newspapers — Daily

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| First | Evansville Courier & Press |
| Second | The Herald-Times (Bloomington) |
| Third | South Bend Tribune |