

Osman C. Hooper Newspaper Show

A Competition for Weekly Newspapers presented by
The Ohio Newspaper Association, Weekly Newspaper Committee



Awards & Judges' Reports

2010

As presented at The Ohio Newspaper Association Annual Convention
February 11, 2010

Ohio Newspaper Association Weekly Newspaper Committee

Jeffery Donahue, ThisWeek Community Newspapers, Lewis Center, Chair

Diane Chiddester, Yellow Springs News

Mary Huber, Archbold Buckeye

David Keller, Morgan County Herald, McConnelsville

Jerry Mossbarger, The Telegram, Jackson

Doug Nutter, Paulding County Progress

Erica Peterson, Record Publishing Company, Stow

Foreward

Osman C. Hooper

When the Ohio Newspaper Association was established in 1933, Osman Hooper was already a significant contributor to the organization. For many years he conducted the annual “Ohio Newspaper Show” which was held as part of the Buckeye Press Association convention in Columbus. At the turn of the century, the Buckeye Press Association, which represented weekly newspaper publishers, and the Associated Ohio Dailies were conducting separate events. ONA’s founding was the result of their merger into a single state trade association.

It was also in 1933 that Hooper published one of several books, “The History of Ohio Journalism,” which traces the beginnings of Ohio newspapers. At the 1937 ONA Convention, Hooper was presented a resolution citing “his part in the development of increasingly high standards for Ohio community papers” and his name was added to the annual weekly newspaper contest.

Hooper spent 58 years at *The Columbus Dispatch*, beginning as a telegraph editor in 1880. He was an editorial writer for nearly 20 years and was made literary editor in 1917. Hooper became a journalism professor at Ohio State University in 1918 and was named professor emeritus in 1932. Throughout his teaching career he continued to edit *The Dispatch* book page.

In 1925, Hooper established the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame which is housed at Ohio State University and in 1939 he was inducted into the Journalism Hall of Fame. He died in 1941 at the age of 83.

Circulation Divisions 2010

Competing newspapers were divided evenly into five divisions according to total circulation as reported on the October 2008 U.S. Postal Service Statements of Ownership or audit documents accompanying the entries. With a total of 61 newspapers, the divisions are as follows:

Division A: Total circulation of 10,666 and over

Chagrin Valley Times	Stow Sentry	ThisWeek Hilliard
Cuyahoga Falls News-Press	The Suburbanite, Akron	ThisWeek Olentangy
News Leader (Northfield/Macedonia)	ThisWeek Delaware	ThisWeek Pickerington
The News Democrat Sunday	ThisWeek Dublin Villager	ThisWeek Upper Arlington
The Press Newspapers, Millbury	ThisWeek Grove City Record	ThisWeek Westerville

Division B: Total circulation from 6,722 to 10,271

The Barberton Herald	Kettering-Oakwood Times	ThisWeek Marysville
The Budget, Sugarcreek	The Press, Avon Lake	ThisWeek New Albany
Centerville - Washington Twp. Times	ThisWeek Bexley	Tallmadge Express
Huber Heights Courier	ThisWeek Canal Winchester	Twinsburg Bulletin
Hudson Hub-Times	ThisWeek Grandview	West Life, Westlake

Division C: Total circulation from 3,345 to 5,818

Englewood Independent	Jackson County Times-Journal	The Register-Herald, Eaton
Fulton County Expositor	Morgan County Herald	The Ripley Bee
Gateway News	Paulding County Progress	The Solon Times
The Gazette, Jefferson	Perrysburg Messenger Journal	The Telegram, Jackson
The Harrison Press	Putnam County Sentinel	Williard Times-Junction

Division D: Total circulation from 1,126 to 3,299

Archbold Buckeye	The Holmes County Journal	The Press-News, Waynesburg
Bluffton News	The News Democrat, Georgetown	Pymatuning Area News
The Courier, Conneaut	The News Leader, Minerva	Sunday Record Herald
The Clyde Enterprise	North Ridgeville Press	Vandalia Drummer News
Granville Sentinel	Pataskala Standard	Vermilion Photojournal
		Yellow Springs News

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Class 1: News Coverage

Judged by associate professors Dr. Jerry Kosicki, Dr. Felicia Ross, Dr. Tom Schwartz and Sharon West; Nicole Kraft, lecturer; John Milliken, *The Lantern*, General Manager
School of Communication
The Ohio State University

Division A

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times
Second Place: Cuyahoga Falls News-Press
Third Place: The Press Newspapers, Millbury

Division B

First Place: The Press, Avon Lake
Second Place: West Life, Westlake
Third Place: The Budget, Sugarcreek

Division C

First Place: The Solon Times
Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson
Third Place: The Gazette, Jefferson

Division D

First Place: Granville Sentinel
Second Place: North Ridgeville Press
Third Place: The Courier, Conneaut

Judge's Comments

Class 1: News Coverage

Division A

First Place: Chagrin Valley News - This paper put all the pieces together that every other entrant tried to do. Municipalities and zoning, schools and libraries, sports and arts, civic and business, commentary and letters, religion and community calendar - all local - all presented conveniently and in-depth when needed. I wanted to read this paper.

Second Place: Cuyahoga Falls News-Press - A great mix of quality (in-depth coverage of wind storm photos and stories) and quantity with the standards of politics, religion, sports and schools plus birthdays, bridge, clubs, community bands and youth ballets. A great local paper.

Third Place: The Press Newspapers, Millbury - If I wanted to know what was going on in the Eastern Maumee Bay area I would have to read *The Press*. Every story was local and the paper and community delivered wonderful thoughts of community living.

Division B

First Place: The Press, Avon Lake - Excellent use of local coverage to serve entire community. Terrific mix of news, features, necessary information - all with the local slant that personalizes it for readers. Dateline kickers get readers focused on their areas of interest. Good use of local columns mixed in. Virtually no apparent reliance on press releases. A standout.

Second Place: West Life, Westlake - A close second in this category, many of the elements that worked for the winner work here - top-notch local coverage to serve community, mix of news and features, etc., necessary information - all with the local slant that personalizes it for the readers. Winner simply had more of a good thing.

Third Place: The Budget, Sugarcreek - Chock-full broadsheet that seems to cater to a diverse population - and does it well. Loved the "To Remind You" section and letters from Amish and Mennonite communities. Some press-release areas not capitalized on for localization, but this is great local coverage!

Judge's Comments

Class 1: News Coverage (continued)

Division C

First Place: The Solon Times - Here is an outstanding newspaper, covering a wide range of public affairs and feature subjects, in both timely and enterprise stories, in great quantity and quality. Every front page has in-depth reporting of important political, government and "hot" news, as well as wonderful features, all of which call for outstanding editors and reporters. Accurate and thorough journalism continues throughout each issue. It's hard not to also compliment the paper's designers, artists and photographers who contribute mightily to present aggressive, fair and significant coverage to the *Times'* readers. A first-rate newspaper.

Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson - *The Telegram* goes far out of its way to be sure to deliver thorough coverage of serious news to its circulation area. The paper regularly publishes helpful stories on business, politics, crime, schools, and county and municipal issues. There also is a generous diet of feature stories, on both "hard" and "soft" subjects. This is a hefty newspaper, loaded with all kinds of news of interest to the community.

Third Place: The Gazette, Jefferson - This paper gives its readers ample feature coverage, but it is unafraid also to offer a healthy dose of critical coverage of matters of importance and interest to citizens in the Jefferson County area. Little news seems to escape the notice of the hard-working and ambitious journalists at *The Gazette*.

Division D

First Place: Granville Sentinel - The three issues that were submitted showed coverage of a variety of events including government and education-related decisions, as well as stories of community events such as Fourth of July and Halloween celebrations. Furthermore, most of the stories were written by the newspaper's staff writers. Overall, *The Sentinel* kept its readers adequately informed.

Second Place: North Ridgeville Press - Its major strength is its mix of local and state decisions with the activities of community organizations such as the Rotary and garden clubs. The stories provided interesting, creative leads that enticed the reader into completing the stories.

Third Place: The Courier, Conneaut - The coverage did a good job in keeping readers informed of the activities and issues important to the community. Notable is the paper's prominent coverage of local businesses.

Class 2: In-Depth Reporting

Judged by associate professors Dr. Jerry Kosicki, Dr. Felicia Ross, Dr. Tom Schwartz and Sharon West; Nicole Kraft, lecturer; John Milliken, *The Lantern* General Manager
School of Communication
The Ohio State University

Division A

First Place:	ThisWeek Delaware
Second Place:	The Press Newspapers, Millbury
Third Place:	ThisWeek Dublin Villager

Division B

First Place:	The Press, Avon Lake
Second Place:	West Life, Westlake
Third Place:	ThisWeek New Albany

Division C

First Place:	The Telegram, Jackson
Second Place:	The Register-Herald, Eaton
Third Place:	The Harrison Press

Division D

First Place:	Pataskala Standard
Second Place:	Yellow Springs News
Third Place:	Archbold Buckeye

Judges' Comments

Class 2: In-Depth Reporting

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Delaware - Candace Preston-Coy's 6 pieces focused on the multiple referendums/petition circulating on the sale and consumption of alcohol at "Jeff's Jam," an annual blues festival. Her reporting was even-handed and very readable. Every article contained just enough recap to bridge into the next series of events. Preston-Coy's articles moved to my top choice in Division A by her ability to enhance and balance the story with public reaction. She successfully captured the energy in many contentious council meetings with such clarity that I eagerly reached for the next installment.

Second Place: The Press Newspapers, Millbury - Larry Limpf's pieces regarding alleged misconduct of elected and appointed officials (including the former village solicitor and city administrator) was extraordinarily well-written and an excellent example of local news at its finest. Although the purported ethics violations were initially chronicled in a lengthy police investigation, it is apparent that exhaustive research and interviews were also done by the reporter; the story was truly enhanced by his efforts. This piece placed a close second.

Third Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager - With complimentary photographs capturing each story, the 8-part series showcased public art in Dublin, Ohio. Reporter Jennifer Noblit did a very nice job combining project and location descriptors, the artists' background, and general historic information. Her interviews with various Dublin Arts Council members added insight and supported the significance of the funded pieces.

Division B

First Place: The Press, Avon Lake - Given the financial crisis that hit public and private sectors in 2009, it is not surprising that the top entry in this category was for coverage of contract negotiations between public employee unions and a municipality. Reporting on the details of the contracts was even-handed. Coverage of the consideration of the contracts by City Council was very readable; the story could have deteriorated into contract minutiae or squabbling among council members. Some public reaction, perhaps from the council meetings, would have enhanced the story.

Second Place: West Life, Westlake - The rancor of the staffing levels for ambulance runs, and the conflict between firefighters and their chief, gave the reporter good material. The writing in the stories was clear and concise. What was missing was whether the reduction had slowed treatment or created any danger for patients. Just reciting the numbers and explaining the policy details isn't sufficient.

Third Place: ThisWeek New Albany - When a school levy is on the line, campaign plans and organization charts can go out the window and that's what happened here. Although the question of who was authorized to order last-minute "get out the vote" phone calls isn't earthshaking, the story offers an interesting look at the tensions in any campaign as it comes down to the wire.

Judges' Comments

Class 2: In-Depth Reporting (continued)

Division C

First Place: The Telegram, Jackson - The economic crisis set off by the Wall Street meltdown of 2008 has affected the lives of every American and many people throughout the world. The staff of *The Telegram* decided to try to document the impact of this crisis on their local community through a 16-part series called "Recession at Home" that ran throughout the month of July 2009. The series is solidly reported and powerfully written. It demonstrates the power of examples to make abstract topics come alive with human impact and feeling. The series explores in a comprehensive and intelligent way the impact on the economic downturn on many aspects of life in and around Jackson and Vinton County. The series is particularly well-planned and executed. This is local news at its finest and a shining example of why democracy depends on strong and independent journalism.

Second Place: The Register-Herald, Eaton - Eddie Mowen's continuing and extensively detailed coverage of the Preble County commissioners ongoing struggles to deal with uncertain and declining revenues is thorough and well-written. The impact of declining revenues affects many areas of governmental services. The most direct impact of local government budget cuts is to the families of the people who have lost their jobs directly. But as this reporting makes clear, such cuts negatively affect a variety of human services. A key focus of the reporting was the county sheriff who faced a series of difficult decisions about reducing security at the county courthouse and the reversal of this decision by the local judges. The very real politics of such local budget wars also become clear as commissioners refused to allow the sheriff to even apply for funding from federal stimulus dollars in a program called COPS Hiring Recovery Program. This money could have restored the jobs of three much-needed deputies.

Third Place: The Harrison Press - Tina Emmick's series of stories about the burgeoning bald eagle population in Harrison Township provided much-needed balance between protecting the wildlife involved and yet telling the exciting news that celebrates the clean environment of that area. The reporting draws on a number of state-level experts at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to provide substantial public education about the nesting and reproductive habits of bald eagles and the extremely fragile nature of this process.

Division D

First Place: Pataskala Standard - What began as an arson in downtown Pataskala became an examination of the impact of the loss. These stories provided the historical prospective, as well as the commercial and personal loss. But the stories also struck a note of hope, as the community support poured in.

Second Place: Yellow Springs News - "Recession in the Village" was a systematic consideration of the effects of the recession on a small community still reeling from the loss of Antioch College. The thoughtful series gathered data and did the analysis, but also offered the personal stories of the impact of the recession. A sobering project, well done.

Third Place: Archbold Buckeye - The unexpected firing of the girls' basketball coach is a big deal in a small community, especially when it is sudden and unexplained. The paper made heroic, but unfortunately unsuccessful, efforts to learn the "why" of the story. A significant flaw was the absence of the girls on the team. Surely they had opinions and reactions.

Class 3: Local Features

Judged by professors Ann Schierhorn and Mark Goodman; Barbara Hipsman, associate professor; and Jacquie Marino, assistant professor
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Kent State University

Division A

First Place:	ThisWeek Hilliard
Second Place:	This Week Westerville
Third Place:	ThisWeek Dublin Villager

Division B

First Place:	The Press, Avon Lake
Second Place:	The Budget, Sugarcreek
Third Place:	West Life, Westlake

Division C

First Place:	The Harrison Press
Second Place:	The Solon Times
Third Place:	The Telegram, Jackson

Division D

First Place:	Granville Sentinel
Second Place:	Yellow Springs News
Third Place:	The Clyde Enterprise

Judges' Comments

Class 3: Local Features

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Hilliard - The writers use precise language and vivid details to make their subjects unforgettable. I now feel as if I know the 37-pound dancer with cystic fibrosis, the quiet yet beloved retiring police chief and the veteran transplant recipient. Sources' quotes provide an emotional depth you don't always see in small-town newspaper features.

Second Place: ThisWeek Westerville - These articles are quintessential local features. They spotlight ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The articles begin with engaging introductions, quote generously and leave the reader with great insight and few unanswered questions.

Third Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager - I applaud the writer's light, engaging style and quirky story choices. The pieces in this collection are concise and informative.

Division B

First Place: The Press, Avon Lake - Good description is a hallmark of features in this paper. Good depth of sources with interesting quotes sprinkled throughout.

Second Place: The Budget, Sugarcreek - "It's not with a cake, no not at all" - Feature on Dr. Seuss was clever for a short piece. The cellphone and Alzheimer stories showed citizens that this paper cares about giving them information that explains but also offers helpful tips on the topic with local connections.

Third Place: West Life, Westlake - Narrative style in these stories makes them stand out along with good sourcing and description.

Judges' Comments

Class 3: Local Features (continued)

Division C

First Place: The Harrison Press - These three stories provide a slice of life in Harrison, Ohio. Particularly poignant is "Mrs. Schweinfest's Opus," which tells how alumni arranged a surprise reunion and performance for a retiring high school music teacher. Staff writer Tina Emmick also shot photos, capturing the teacher's surprise.

Second Place: The Solon Times - Three strong stories profile young people in Solon. Most intriguing is the story on the water boys for the high school football team. One of the teens has Down Syndrome and one has autism.

Third Place: The Telegram, Jackson - The story on the brick swap was fascinating, but the layout on the jump was confusing. Another intriguing topic was the story on converting the footage of the courthouse fire to DVD format.

Division D

First Place: Granville Sentinel - "Local Artist Paints New Direction" - From the photo that accompanied the story to the words it contained, the imagery of this entry was more vivid than any other. Nothing could be more appropriate for a story about a striving artist. But the story was far more than an expected "feel good" piece about someone turning a hobby into a career. Like the mystery and uncertainty of the art he produces, this story about a small businessman and painter explores the challenges of distinguishing between illustration and fine art, between commercial success and visionary talent. The newspaper did an impressive job of touching on such weighty issues by simply telling a compelling story of one man's life and work.

Second Place: Yellow Springs News - "Tidings of Joy, Babe Born in a Stable Van" - Both funny and suspenseful. This story of a baby born in the back of a minivan parked in the driveway of her parents' friends is a delight. Colorful details about the circumstances and scene (soon after the baby was born, tea was served!) make the reader feel like he was there. Ultimately this was a story about the bonds of friendship, entertainingly told through the unexpected events of one December night.

Third Place: The Clyde Enterprise - "Victim's Daughter Says a 'Monster' is Out There" - This entry was an unexpected story about a woman's anger in the face of the violent and unsolved murder of her father in his own home. Stories of loss frequently focus exclusively on celebrating the lives of those who are gone. In this case, the story described a woman who was frustrated, scared, and most of all, angry about the tragedy her family had experienced and who took action in response: she enrolled in a firearms training course and got a gun permit and urged others to do the same.

Class 4: Original Columns

Judged by Drs. Oliver Boyd-Barrett, Catherine Cassara-Jemai, Victoria Smith Ekstand and Nancy Brendlinger; Kelly Taylor, Dave Sennerud, Jessica Dennis, Alaina Buzas and Christina McGinnis
Department of Journalism and Public Relations
Bowling Green State University

Division A

First Place: John Szozda, The Press Newspapers, Millbury
Second Place: Dave Lange, Chagrin Valley Times
Third Place: Mike Lesco, Stow Sentry

Division B

First Place: Jessica Hartzler Stock, The Budget, Sugarcreek
Second Place: Bill Hammerstrom, Hudson Hub Times
Third Place: Bryan Wroten, The Press, Avon Lake

Division C

First Place: Pete Wilson, The Telegram, Jackson
Second Place: Red Thompson, Jr., The Telegram, Jackson

Division D

First Place: Sean Ratican, Pymatuning Area News
Second Place: Bill Nichols, Granville Sentinel

Judges' Comments

Class 4: Original Columns

Division A

First Place: John Szozda, The Press Newspapers, Millbury - These columns represent the best in the category. From first sentence to last, the writer's stories are well-written, and well-reported. They provide compelling narratives about local individuals facing life's challenges and hardships. In a day and age of tweets and status updates - and pundits on every corner with an opinion - it is the rare columnist who offers his insight with real reporting on subjects of local importance by showing how local residents are affected. These columns nicely reflect the old journalism edict: Show me, don't tell me. Heart-warming, inspiring and informational all at the same time.

Second Place: Dave Lange, Chagrin Valley Times - This set of columns reflects great diversity in subject matter, succinct writing and excellent reporting. The writer exposes contradictions and inconsistencies in public matters, and makes relevant historical connections in these columns and others. The columns are persuasive and thoughtful.

Third Place: Mike Lesco, Stow Sentry - These columns paint a lovely picture of times past but connect those memories to life as it exists in the community today. The writing is very good, both wistful and reflective. Readers are left with an appreciation for how the past affects the lives of community residents today.

Division B

First Place: Jessica Hartzler Stock, The Budget, Sugarcreek - Stock kept this non-mom judge interested and wanting to read more. She writes in an intimate style about her own life, but the style indicates more about "us" (women and men raising small children) than "me." This is a difficult skill for columnists who write in the first person about their own lives, and she manages it consistently in the three columns sent in. Plus, even if we are not parents, we all know people who are, and this gives us insight into what they judge in their lives as well. Equally important, while the topics are particular to child-raising, the points made can be transferred easily into other situations and hold valuable insights for everyone. Her writing has an easy flow, and closer reading shows there are few excess words. All three columns were equally strong and if Stock's column was published in my local newspaper, I would read it.

Second Place: Bill Hammerstrom, Hudson Hub-Times - Hammerstrom looks outside of himself for stories worth being told to the community. The strongest of his entries, the column about the Special Olympics and Obama's gaffe showed how he could take a national story and localize it, educating readers about the skills of the special Olympians. Through all three submissions, the writing skills are strong. He has a straight forward way of telling the story with no excessive verbage, allowing the nouns and verbs to tell most of the story. He also uses quotes well.

Third Place: Bryan Wroten, The Press, Avon Lake - Wroten has a visual writing style; the reader can easily see what he is describing. He chooses important national topics with local or personal interests. Along with his enthusiasm and the passion of youth, he has a breezy style with slang references to pop culture (who is this Jon and Kate?), which doesn't get in the way of the reader understanding what he is writing about. His style is likely to attract a younger audience, while not alienating long-time readers. Whether I agree or not, his logic was clear and expressed well, and after reading his columns, I feel like I have been listening to him in person rather than reading the writings of a stranger.

Judges' Comments

Class 4: Original Columns (continued)

Division C

First Place: Pete Wilson, The Telegram, Jackson - From the story of coping with his first Mother's Day since his mother's passing to observations from Christmas shopping in the mall, this columnist tells slice-of-life stories with which many readers can identify. His tribute to his former journalistic mentor showed his commitment to the craft and to the community newspaper.

Second Place: Red Thompson, Jr., The Telegram, Jackson - The strength of these columns rests in their topics. While most writers in this category concentrated on personal experience, this columnist looked beyond and delved into items of community interest. He not only makes note of some of the good things going on in the community but also suggests how it can move forward.

Division D

First Place: Sean Ratican, Pymatuning Area News - The epitome of the "city mouse comes to the country" - only funnier. Mr. Ratican's "The Cows are Invading," might not be funny to every local, but for those of us who have made the move from the big city life to smaller country living, it gives us a chance to reflect (and quite often, laugh), about our adventures with cows - and other wildlife. (For me, it was squirrels). It entertains young and the young at heart.

Second Place: Bill Nichols, Granville Sentinel - Bill Nichols' columns, while always entertaining, continue to "teach" the old dog new tricks - considerably so in "Teaching is Still a Two-Way Street." Nichols waxes poetic on learning more often than not from his students each year, some even becoming life-long friends. What the audience can take from his columns - even if they aren't teachers - is no matter what profession, we all can take away a friend or two along the way - and no one is so rich as to give away a friend.

Class 5: Editorial Writing

Judged by Drs. Oliver Boyd-Barrett, Catherine Cassara-Jemai, Victoria Smith Ekstand and Nancy Brendlinger; Kelly Taylor, Dave Sennerud, Jessica Dennis, Alaina Buzas and Christina McGinnis
Department of Journalism and Public Relations
Bowling Green State University

In this class there are no divisions by circulation

First Place:	The Solon Times
Second Place:	Chagrin Valley Times
Third Place:	Granville Sentinel
Fourth Place:	Yellow Springs News
Fifth Place:	West Life, Westlake

Judge's Comments

Class 5: Editorial Writing

First Place: The Solon Times - Each of the three samples dealt with a significant issue of public concern. Each was sufficient unto itself in terms of context and evidence. Each demonstrated a subtlety of logic in its marshalling of relevant and sometimes complex arguments, acknowledging opposing positions yet moving with conviction towards a robust conclusion, informed by a clear and principled appreciation of what is in the general public interest.

Second Place: Chagrin Valley Times - These three samples demonstrated a “bite” that is perhaps relatively uncommon in local journalism. Each of them dealt with situations of significant conflict or wrongdoing. They each took a clear position in their interpretation of the evidence available to them, a position that might be construed as warranted, provocative or courageous or any mixture of these, but with the common result of a lively, robust engagement with issues of general public interest.

Third Place: Granville Sentinel - These three samples dealt sympathetically with those responsible for deciding significant issues of local politics and administration, yet also identified significant possibilities for greater transparency of deliberation and consultation in the general public interest.

Fourth Place: Yellow Springs News - These three samples showed the unique spirit of Yellow Springs, a mixture of the good, the possible and the inspiration. The lively prose made them easy to read and the content made them worth reading.

Fifth Place: West Life, Westlake - These three samples all dealt with local issues. One commented on the travel activities of the mayor, another on misleading campaign literature and the third on the dangers that law officers face every day. They expressed an opinion, pointed out problems, and reminded us to remember our civil servants.

Class 6: Sports Coverage

Judged by professors Tim Smith and Fred Endres; Carl Schierhorn, associate professor and Jan Leach, assistant professor

School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Kent State University

Division A

First Place:	ThisWeek Hilliard
Second Place:	ThisWeek Dublin Villager
Third Place:	ThisWeek Grove City Record

Division B

First Place:	ThisWeek New Albany
Second Place:	Tallmadge Express
Third Place:	West Life, Westlake

Division C

First Place:	The Register-Herald, Eaton
Second Place:	Jackson County Times-Journal
Third Place: (tie)	Englewood Independent The Telegram, Jackson

Division D

First Place:	Granville Sentinel
Second Place:	The Press-News, Minerva
Third Place:	The News Democrat, Georgetown

Judge's Comments

Class 6: Sports Coverage

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Hilliard - Two examples of excellent individualized leads from Aaron Blakenship on state champion track athletes made the difference. Also of note was a state semifinal softball preview by Brad Emerine and region title game story by Scott Hennen.

Second Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager - Writing and leads were a little less sharp with references to the past and future instead of strong explanation of events. Of note was Anders Larson's analysis of a team's switch from a spread offense to a run-oriented team.

Third Place: ThisWeek Grove City Record - Another quarter-step back in writing. Nicely done was the report of a state final softball game by Jarrod Ulrey.

Division B

First Place: ThisWeek New Albany - Excellent use of photos. Large pictures and lots of them. Diverse coverage, with balanced treatment for boys' and girls' sports. Well-written stories, especially by Anders Larson. The coverage shows a concern for offering a smorgasbord of seasonal sports. First rate.

Second Place: Tallmadge Express - Frank Aceto is largely responsible for his paper's top finish in this year's competition. He is a fine writer and produces some very readable copy. The only thing standing between the Express and first place is a focus on just one sport. If there had been more variety, the outcome might have been different. The coverage was outstanding, but limited in scope.

Third Place: West Life, Westlake - Some excellent photos highlight the coverage coupled with thorough coverage by Jim Horvath. Story selection is varied. Punchy headlines.

Judge's Comments

Class 6: Sports Coverage (continued)

Division C

First Place: The Register-Herald, Eaton - This is a well-written, nicely designed sports section. It has coverage of a number of sports and uses soft news leads to explain how games were won/lost, without the computerized "John Jones scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead XYZ High to a 65-58 win over ABC." There are interesting profiles of local athletes. Overall, it's the best-written, most complete section in this year's competition.

Second Place: Jackson County Times-Journal - The writing is above average, and the layout, while a bit heavy and chunky, is easy to follow and navigate. Some subheads would be welcome to break up long paragraphs of gray text. Photos are quite good, and coverage is thorough and takes in a variety of sports.

Third Place: (Tie) Englewood Independent and The Telegram, Jackson - These two papers have attractive page design and decent coverage of their circulation area. The writing in both, however, needs to avoid long, wordy sentences and too many cliches.

Division D

First Place: Granville Sentinel - High school sports coverage in this weekly blankets the basics in a compelling and readable fashion. Instead of summarizing scores from days-old contests, the sports writers offer interesting round-ups of team goals, game stories that preview what's to come and convincing expertise of games, players and coaches. Particularly noteworthy are the club hockey title preview, the football reviews and the announcement of the football coach's retirement.

Second Place: The Press-News, Minerva - It's clear that high schools dominate sports coverage in this weekly and that's how it should be if reading these entries is an indicator. Sportswriter Kevin J. Keller covers an amazing array of high school sports, apparently with equal enthusiasm for each one. His coverage of the Sandy Valley's girls' softball tournament run is focused and forward-looking. He deftly describes the team's strengths while highlighting individual achievements, and all with "boosterism." His description of game action is clear without being trite.

Third Place: The News Democrat, Georgetown - Sports coverage in this paper is not relegated to a few pages in the back of the weekly. Depending on the subject, sports stories often run on the front page, which indicates the publishers know their audience and community. These stories offer a mix of game coverage, which, even after the fact is brimming with detail and quotes; season previews that tally the talent objectively; and other staples such as tournament bids, player profiles and more. One nice feature reported the Parkinson's disease diagnosis of the former Georgetown and NBA star Brian Grant. The Grant story illustrates commitment to area athletes and sports coverage beyond the here-and-now high school games.

Class 7: Design

Judged by Kathy Nesterov, Art Director and Kelly Chamberlain, Sr. Graphic Designer
MurphyEpson, Inc., Columbus, Ohio

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Westerville
Second Place: The News Democrat Sunday, Georgetown
Third Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Division B

First Place: The Press, Avon Lake
Second Place: West Life, Westlake
Third Place: ThisWeek Grandview

Division C

First Place: Jackson County Times Journal
Second Place: The Ripley Bee
Third Place: Fulton County Expositor

Division D

First Place: Yellow Springs News
Second Place: Pataskala Standard
Third Place: The News Democrat, Georgetown

Judges' Comments

Class 7: Design

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Westerville - Designers follow the obvious design guidelines with the best layout and effective design.

Second Place: The News Democrat Sunday - The masthead, use of type and layout are clean and effective.

Third Place: Chagrin Valley Times - Nice masthead, use of typography and clean layout.

Division B

First Place: The Press, Avon Lake - Strong in their use of color, font consistency, masthead appeal, column width and gutter - nice openness.

Second Place: West Life, Westlake - Nice use of typography, clean lines, not too crowded. Enjoyed the use of color and size of their paper.

Third Place: ThisWeek Grandview - Creative use of photos and the photos themselves were more expressive and "in the moment" shots.

Division C

First Place: Jackson County Times-Journal - Best use of color, nice index on the front page, unique story layouts and section headers. It is obvious that the writers work with the designers to make the headlines fit the space.

Second Place: The Ripley Bee - Strong typography, nice font consistency and clean layout.

Third Place: Fulton County Expositor - New layout has much nicer masthead, column width is more generous with breathing room in the gutters. Much cleaner layout.

Division D

First Place: Yellow Springs News - Perfect example that color does not make good design. This paper has very nice column widths, nice gutter space. Very clean and simple design and creative and nice use of photos. Very organized and clear hierarchy on each page.

Second Place: Pataskala Standard - Nice masthead, use of limited number of fonts.

Third Place: The News Democrat, Georgetown - Decent use of fonts and layout.

Class 8: Advertising

Judged by Kathy Nesterov, Art Director and Kelly Chamberlain, Sr. Graphic Designer
MurphyEpson, Inc., Columbus, Ohio

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Hilliard
Second Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Division B

First Place: West Life, Westlake
Second Place: The Barberton Herald
Third Place: ThisWeek New Albany

Division C

First Place: Jackson County Times-Journal
Second Place: The Register-Herald, Eaton
Third Place: Morgan County Herald

Division D

First Place: Yellow Springs News
Second Place: Granville Sentinel
Third Place: The Holmes County Journal

Judges' Comments

Class 8: Advertising

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Hilliard - Clearer hierarchy and simpler layouts.

Second Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Division B

First Place: West Life, Westlake - Simple, nice, clear hierarchy.

Second Place: The Barberton Herald - Creative.

Third Place: ThisWeek New Albany - Nice typography.

Division C

First Place: Jackson County TimesJournal - Nice hierarchy in ads. Nice use of color and simple layouts. Good understanding of what works best in newsprint.

Second Place: The Register-Herald, Eaton - Creative and clear hierarchy.

Third Place: Morgan County Herald - Nice use of color and illustration in ads.

Division D

First Place: Yellow Springs News - Nice layout, obvious hierarchy, clean and simple.

Second Place: Granville Sentinel - Creative, simple layouts and clean typography.

Third Place: The Holmes County Journal - Some clear hierarchy and nice use of color.

Class 9: Photojournalism

Judged by Drs. Oliver Boyd-Barrett, Catherine Cassara-Jemai, Victoria Smith Ekstand and Nancy Brendlinger; Kelly Taylor, Dave Sennerud, Jessica Dennis, Alaina Buzas and Christina McGinnis
Department of Journalism and Public Relations
Bowling Green State University

Division A

First Place:	ThisWeek Pickerington
Second Place:	ThisWeek Westerville
Third Place:	ThisWeek Hilliard

Division B

First Place:	West Life, Westlake
Second Place:	ThisWeek Canal Winchester
Third Place:	ThisWeek New Albany

Division C

First Place:	The Harrison Press
Second Place:	The Telegram, Jackson
Third Place:	The Solon Times

Division D

First Place:	The Holmes County Journal
Second Place:	Pataskala Standard
Third Place:	Granville Sentinel

Judges' Comments

Class 9: Photojournalism

Division A

First Place: ThisWeek Pickerington - The story-telling photographs from this entrant capture emotion and action, freezing the moment for all to see. Photographer Ann Tormet, for example, made what could have been a boring shot of a bridal show into an interesting shot with repetition and texture. Photos have strong community appeal and a solid technical foundation.

Second Place: ThisWeek Westerville - The strong photos in this newspaper capture emotion, like excitement and disappointment, in telling the story. Readers are drawn to react. Photographers utilize composition techniques like framing and depth of field to add interest and bring the reader to the subject.

Third Place: ThisWeek Hilliard - The thrill of the moment and the sadness of the loss are told in the photographs from this entrant. Additionally, photographers took the time to look at their feature subjects creating interest through composition and simplicity.

Division B

First Place: West Life, Westlake - Consistently all the photos in this entry told the story. Photos drew the reader in with strong emotional appeal. Photographers got in close for a strong emphasis on a center of interest.

Second Place: ThisWeek Canal Winchester - Photographers for this entrant captured the action. The stories told in these pictures were interesting and gave a more genuine feel to the news. The overall issue also contained many good pictures.

Third Place: ThisWeek New Albany - Photographers at this newspaper have a good feel for the audience. Good story telling was complemented by composition techniques like framing and silhouettes.

Judges' Comments

Class 9: Photojournalism (continued)

Division C

First Place: The Harrison Press - Action was the dominant element in these photographs. Photographers moved in closer to capture photos with excitement and strong community appeal.

Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson - Photos from this entrant capture what's going on in the community with a strong emphasis on "breaking news," like a river rescue and house fire.

Third Place: The Solon Times - Colorful pictures with good composition allowed the story to be told.

Division D

First Place: The Holmes County Journal - The strong photos in this entry told the whole story without words. Several photos caught peak of the action and most moved in close on the subject for a more intimate look at what was happening.

Second Place: Pataskala Standard - Photos in this paper captured emotion and set the tone of the event. The photographers composed photos from the optimal vantage point to include simple backgrounds that did not compete with the subject.

Third Place: Granville Sentinel - The subjects are obvious and have impact in these close up shots of events. The photographers captured the expression of the subjects, a key to good people shots.

Class 10: Headline Writing

Judged by Jan Leach, assistant professor
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Kent State University

In this class there are no divisions by circulation

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Second Place: Hudson Hub-Times

Third Place: Fulton County Expositor

Fourth Place: Willard Times-Junction

Fifth Place: Yellow Springs News

Judge's Comments

Class 10: Headline Writing

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times - Goes beyond the clever pun and turn of the phrase. They add content and provoke thought. These headlines are the work of a literate and literary professional. The judge liked "Jewish golfer's dilemma - pray or play;" summed up the story nicely with a clever twist. "Canine greet-ers offer paws for reflection" works on two levels. It incorporates a pun, but it also accurately sums up the gist of the story.

Second Place: Hudson Hub-Times - "Recess game turns into double-header," next to a picture of a live, two-headed turtle, worked perfectly, with each complementing the other. It was a smart headline that undoubtedly made readers smile. "City golf course not making par" also works on two levels. These headlines not only served to attract attention and invite readership, but also had to fit tight two-column counts.

Third Place: Fulton County Expositor - Two great headlines caught the judge's eye. "PD on your PC" has to be one of the most amazing headlines for its extremely tight count.

Fourth Place: Williard Times-Junction - "Ready to Rumble" is a terrific attention-grabber because it appears outside the usual context of wrestling, but is absolutely appropriate for the story.

Fifth Place: Yellow Springs News - Excellent feature headlines - engaging, clever and appropriate.

Class 11: Special Edition or Section

Judged by Barb Hipsman, associate professor
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Kent State University

Division A

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times
Second Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager
Third Place: ThisWeek Hilliard

Division B

First Place: West Life, Westlake
Second Place: The Budget, Sugarcreek
Third Place: The Press, Avon Lake

Division C

First Place: Jackson County Times-Journal
Second Place: Paulding County Progress
Third Place: The Register-Herald, Eaton

Division D

First Place: The Clyde Enterprise
Second Place: Pymatuning Area News
Third Place: Pataskala Standard

Judges' Comments

Class 11: Special Edition or Section

Division A

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times - "Currents" is a unique idea for a special section. The content is broad-based yet targeted at a specific upscale audience. The coverage is thorough and wide-ranging. It is full of pictures and the copy is of interest to anybody participating in charitable events.

Second Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager - This section had interesting stories about the Memorial Golf Tournament at Muirfield. They were well-written and wide-ranging. The idea of having high school students describe each hour was well-executed.

Third Place: ThisWeek Hilliard - For a typical football tab, this one was complete and interesting to read. The copy was well-written and tightly edited. The photos were really good action shots. This evidenced tremendous amount of work.

Division B

First Place: West Life, Westlake - This retrospective of 50 years of publishing was extremely interesting and targeted to people who are interested in the history of the Westlake area. The stories were wisely chosen and displayed varied perspectives.

Second Place: The Budget, Sugarcreek - The visitor's guide was extremely complete. The stories and the information were wide-ranging. The pictures sprinkled throughout broke up what could have been a gray edition.

Third Place: The Press, Avon Lake - This special section on a new baseball team was graphically pleasing and engaging. The stories were well-written and were not totally routine. It was certainly a cut-above the routine sports tab.

Division C

First Place: Jackson County Times-Journal - Highlighted a typical day-in-the-life of several businesses within Jackson County. The copy was interesting and the businesses selected were varied. The idea was creative and took an incredible amount of work to accomplish.

Second Place: Paulding County Progress - "Visions" - this is the 10th year for this impressive special section. The historical perspective provides a living history of Paulding County. Not only was the copy interesting but the photos were fascinating.

Third Place: The Register-Herald, Eaton - This special section was creative in its approach to honorary veterans and Memorial Day. It documented the trip of 27 local veterans to a special tribute weekend in Washington, DC. Good art and good copy joining with a tremendous idea.

Judges' Comments

Class 11: Special Edition or Section (continued)

Division D

First Place: The Clyde Enterprise - This "Progress Edition" was expansive, well-written and well-planned. It was graphically enjoying and varied in content. Good job.

Second Place: Pymatuning Area News - This special "Health" section contained numerous locally produced stories and a variety of topics. This was well-conceived and well-executed.

Third Place: Pataskala Standard - For a predictable "football tab" this was extremely well done. It was graphically strong and the copy was lively. The tab was brimming over with solid information.

Class 12: Community Service

Judged by Sandy Clary, ARR; Founder and Partner, Clary Communications, Columbus; Fellow, Public Relations Society of America

In this class there are no divisions by circulation

First Place: Pataskala Standard

Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson

Judge's Comments

Class 12: Community Service

General Comments: It was a pleasure to read about the good community service efforts of Ohio's newspapers. Entries in this category clearly demonstrated that newspapers in Ohio are leaders in reaching out into their communities and working to make a difference. Projects were diverse and thoughtful, ranging from community research to issues pertaining to health and safety.

First Place: Pataskala Standard - *The Pataskala Standard* appears to be a newspaper that has a solid understanding of the community it serves. Newspaper leaders clearly recognized that issues were dividing the community. So, they executed a community survey to try to bring clarity to what was important to the citizens of Pataskala. The results were, of course, reported in *The Standard*. Additionally, the newspaper conducted an on-line Town Hall to invite further citizen feedback. While this effort didn't resolve the issues that divide the community, it did create opportunity for citizens to express themselves and discuss their vision for the future.

Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson - *The Telegram* did its homework in the community. Staff knew the alarming statistics about homeless and unwanted dogs and decided to do something about it. Using an aggressive mix of editorial and house advertising, they drew attention to homeless dogs at local shelters. Every issue of *The Telegram* featured photos and descriptions of adoptable dogs. That's an impressive commitment of precious column inches. News stories supported the issue as well. And, the campaign worked. They reported that half of all featured dogs found homes.

Best Web Site

Judged by Peter Zollman, Founding Principal, Advanced Interactive Media Group, Altamonte Springs, Florida

Independent Newspaper Web Sites

First Place: The Telegram, Jackson
www.thetelegramnews.com

Second Place: West Life, Westlake
www.westlifeneeds.com

Group Newspaper Web Sites

_____ **First Place:** Cox Media Group/Fairfield Echo/www.fairfeldecho.com
The Oxford Press/www.oxfordpress.com
The Western Star/www.westernstar.com
The Pulse Journal/www.pulsejournal.com

Second Place: ThisWeek Community Newspapers
www.thisweeknews.com

Third Place: The News Leader, Minerva/www.tnl-news.com

Judge's Comments

Best Web Site

Independent Newspaper Web Sites

First Place: The Telegram, Jackson/www.thetelegramnews.com - This Web site does it right! It uses pictures effectively; updates regularly; offers RSS feeds of obituaries; sells local advertising; generates local comments; and presents a great visual package. It also offers free online classifieds, and sells prints of photos that were taken for the newspapers. The “cyber poll” is local, rather than a canned national poll, and there is a search box and a links directory for local resources. Very impressive; very deserving of this award.

Second Place: West Life, Westlake/www.westlifeneeds.com - Good use of photos; a broad but extremely limited selection of content from this newspaper.

Group Newspaper Web Sites

First Place: Cox Media Group: Fairfield Echo/www.fairfeldecho.com; Oxford Press/www.oxfordpress.com; Western Star/www.western-star.com; The Pulse Journal/www.pulsejournal.com - These sites, which are really shared sites with separate “skins” for each community, are extraordinarily impressive. They are current, with updates even on Sunday nights, and loaded with great content. They are also extraordinarily engaging; some articles drew dozens of comments, and there are lots of photos and galleries. The site includes “lowest area gas prices,” a local directory, and strong tools with half-price local-merchant gift cards and the all-important “Local employees now hiring.”

Second Place - ThisWeek Community Newspapers/www.thisweeknews.com - This Web site highlights lots of local content with a rotation of photos and headlines on the homepage, along with excellent navigation and a “more news” section above the fold. It also offers video on the home page. It provides both mobile alerts of local news and weather, and access to ThisWeek headlines from mobile phones. Each community is included in the navbar at the top of every page, making it easy to find local content. Strong all around.

Third Place: The News-Leader, Minerva/www.tnl-news.com - Very broad content, including some breaking news when events were cancelled due to weather. The site includes photos with many of its news articles.

General Excellence Awards

Division A

Chagrin Valley Times

Division B

West Life
Westlake

Division C

The Telegram
Jackson

Division D

Granville Sentinel