

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

General Excellence

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

The quality of the newspaper is evident in every section, every page. It fills an enormous news hole with quality local stories and photos, as well as giving readers an ample supply of national/world news and commentary. This paper gives appropriate coverage to what it covers; brief when it should be brief, swarming on the big stories. The writing is clear, the editing solid. Photos, graphics, presentation - all came together splendidly.

Second Place

The (Youngstown) Vindicator

This paper knows how to cover the big story and how to cover the community. Impressive work throughout, from a newsy A-1 through sports, life and business.

Third Place

Springfield News-Sun

This is probably the best third-place entry I've ever encountered in a generally excellent division. The local coverage herein on a daily basis is mighty impressive. A reader gets a real sense that he or she knows what's going on through the News-Sun's thorough coverage. A fine newspaper.

Honorable Mention

The Lima News

This newspaper is full of good work. I especially compliment the paper on imaginative use of graphics to explain the news.

Best Blogger

First Place

Mansfield News Journal

Jason Molyet

Far and away the most interesting to me. Nice job overall.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository

Steve Doershuk

I found this blog engaging and witty, even though football in general, and The Browns in particular, is a subject I avoid.

Third Place

Mansfield News Journal

Terry Mapes

I enjoyed this blog and intend to read it.

Honorable Mention

The (Canton) Repository

Melissa Griffy Seeton

Enjoyable, engaging.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Online Photojournalist

First Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Michael Blair

"Burning Man" was well done and compellingly told. "Art Can" was fun and I thought the Walker story was strong. Good use of B-roll throughout. Best in show!

Second Place

The Lima News

Kelli A. Cardinal

The story on the injured Marine was quite good. The mother's narrative is excellent, and the footage of her son was skillfully edited in.

Third Place

The (Youngstown)

Vindicator

William D. Lewis

The weather story was nicely executed. Good narration and a variety of footage.

Best Headline Writer

First Place

The Lima News

Kiarash Zarezadeh

Clever and a bit edgy, without being cliché. These headlines reflect a lot of thought by the writer. They're also easy to understand and draw the reader in with compelling wording. Short and punchy, with a sense of urgency.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository

Al Szabo

Excellent, lighthearted treatment used appropriately. Informative yet engaging with a hint of humor and irony. Nice play on words without being just clichés. These headlines have polish.

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

Jeff Verbus

"You mow, or you owe" and "Reliever Perez rocky in horror show" are inspired headline writing.

Honorable Mention

The (Youngstown)

Vindicator

Cristina Cala

This headline writer is clearly a creative thinker. "Economy on lockdown" is instantly understandable, yet not run-of-the-hill.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Business Writer

First Place

The Lima News
Bart Mills

Good storytelling. Excellent use of personal stories of former plant workers to tell larger story.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository
Robert Wang

Thorough, clearly written and good use of personal stories to illustrate larger trends.

Third Place

The (Youngstown) Vindicator
Don Shilling

Did a good job of writing clearly, explaining how incubator works. Multiple sources.

Best Columnist

First Place

The (Canton) Repository
Charita Goshay

Very powerful in her voice as a columnist. Charita Goshay offers clear and intelligent points while opining on topics that should be important to any reader anywhere.

Second Place

The Lima News
Bart Mills

Lima's columns are controversial, witty and relevant. He is able to criticize through self-depreciating humor, and it works.

Third Place

The (Lorain) Morning Journal
Tom Skoch

Skoch does an outstanding job of keeping the role of journalism in perspective. Like any good column, he writes in a direct conversational style that gets his points across effectively.

Honorable Mention

The (Youngstown) Vindicator
Bertram de Souza

Bertram de Souza clearly does his homework, which makes his columns a pleasure to read. And he effectively takes the reader behind the scenes when it isn't the safest approach.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Editorial Cartoonist

First Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle
Rick Muccio

Well-drawn, amusing, could expect to see these syndicated. Very impressive all around.

Second Place

Springfield News-Sun
David Catrow

Good execution.

Third Place

The Lima News
Nate Warnecke

I enjoyed the subjects, the message was always clear.

Best Editorial Writer

First Place

The (Youngstown) Vindicator
Dennis B. Mangan

In these four editorials, the writer demonstrates strong reporting skills and versatility in writing. The Canfield piece resulted in change; the softball editorial was just fun. The use of 'we' is both conversational and shows the paper's role as part of the community.

Second Place

The Lima News
Jim Krumel

These editorials cover a variety of topics but share several strengths: conversational style, clarity of thought and a sense of community. They contain enough details to be persuasive but they don't get bogged down with numbers.

Third Place

Mansfield News Journal
Holly Fackler

This entry demonstrates that editorials do not have to be long to be persuasive and to cover key points. The writing is clear and concise. The labeling and school board editorials were especially strong.

Honorable Mention

The (Lorain) Morning Journal
Tom Skoch

These editorials show the paper as a community supporter that wants and expects to best from public servants.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Feature Writer

First Place

The (Canton) Repository
Shane Hoover

Excellent detail. Engages reader immediately and keeps the reader hooked. True example of excellent feature writing.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository
Tim Botos

Variety of topics all told well. Resourceful reporting. The editor who nominated Botos mentioned his knack for finding unusual stories in the mundane stuff of daily life. I agree. Story on mother's death and effects on family very well told.

Third Place

Mansfield News Journal
Larry Phillips

Good description. Easy writing style.

Best Graphics Artist

First Place

The (Canton) Repository
Michael Weiss

Michael's work displays a wide variety, strong graphic design and illustration skills - exemplified in the centerpiece on the Silver-Star veteran. Photos, typography, illustrative map and overall design helped tell a compelling story.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository
Eri Hashimoto

Nice variety of illustrative styles and characterization.

Third Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle
Joe Landsberger

"Battleground: Ohio" - great concept and presentation!

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Sports Columnist

First Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Bill Tilton

Tilton did a very good job on all three of his entries. You read about who colleges have recruited all the time - it's not often pointed out that the college can turn around and break an athlete's heart. The other two stories, on athlete's parent dying and a coach bouncing back from cancer, are done again and again. But they're almost always affecting when done well. From the story on the baseball coach, Aaron Brandt, a comment by his 2-year-old son: "Daddy needs to go to sleep." Wonderful.

Second Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Jim Ingraham

The visit to Babe Ruth's grave was a great idea, and the story was creative and very well executed.

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

Todd Porter

I especially liked the column about a school winning its first championship in 30 years. Terrific quote from coach: "I don't remember anything as exciting and uniting as this. This moment? Yes, it's pretty good."

Honorable Mention

The (Youngstown)

Vindicator

Joe Scalzo

"Joe" column was a fun read. Boxing stories were excellent.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Sports Feature Writer

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Josh Weir

This writer grabs you with punchy leads and pulls you in with compelling narrative and skillful story structure. Crisp phrasing, deft use of detail and quotation -- it's all here. The writing never fails to be interesting. It is smooth and a pleasure to read. Very well done.

Second Place

The (Youngstown) Vindicator

Joe Scalzo

Over a wide range of topics, this writer shows the right stuff. After reading one of his profiles, the reader feels he knows the subject.

Third Place

Springfield News-Sun

Brian Plasters

A fine body of work, capped by the extra-special "After the cheers" package.

Honorable Mention

Mansfield News Journal

Curt Conrad

Tales told clearly and entertainingly. This writer has one gift that few others in this category have: brevity.

Best Sports Writer

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Josh Weir

Context, creativity, both in abundance in this writer's entries. His BCS story was excellent, putting not just the game but the season and all OSU's bowl years in context. Clear writing throughout.

Second Place

Springfield News-Sun

Brian Plasters

"After the cheers" was the best single entry I saw, an outstanding retrospective and excellent reporting and writing. Good range in assignment feature and spot. A talented writer, for sure.

Third Place

The Lima News

Jim Naveau

BCS Championship coverage was excellent deadline work. This is a versatile writer/columnist with a clear style of writing.

Honorable Mention

The (Lorain) Morning Journal

Jason Lloyd

Good, clear writing. Writer weaves context skillfully into his reporting. Nice work.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Photographer

First Place

**The (Youngstown)
Vindicator**

William D. Lewis

All-around most versatile portfolio, with some outstanding individual shots. Photographer has an excellent eye for composition.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository

Bob Rossiter

Emotion and peak action make for an unbeatable combination. This shooter gets in close, to the center of the action.

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

Scott Heckel

A fine portfolio. Loved the baseball shot from the high angle.

Honorable Mention

**The (Lorain)
Morning Journal**

Anna Norris

Excellent range of news, sports, features. Good emotion captured in most of these images.

Best News Writer

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Kelli Young

Outstanding work, demonstrating a command of the language and exceptional storytelling. The breadth of assignment, coupled with the strength of the writing is an unbeatable combination.

Second Place

**The (Youngstown)
Vindicator**

Denise Dick

The writer harnesses facts and emotions into compelling narratives. The series of stories on the wrongly imprisoned man is outstanding.

Third Place

The Lima News

Greg Sowinski

The best deadline writing in the category, and some of the most versatile. This reporter is adept digging for features and analysis and covering the top story of the day. Well done.

Honorable Mention

Springfield News-Sun

Emanuel Cavallaro

A writer of exceptional clarity. Stories are well-organized.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Sports Event Coverage

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

"HOF Enshrinement"

A tour-de-force. The Repository staff pulled it all together in a terrific package. Everything is well-executed. The stories are clear and lively. The photos are full of joy and other emotions. The design is first-rate. Splendid job by all.

Second Place

The (Youngstown) Vindicator

Joe Scalzo and John Bassetti
"Pavlik-Taylor II"

The lead story is a terrific piece of deadline writing, full of color and detail. Excellent integration of blog elements. Photos are excellent. A remarkable package on a major event. Kudos to all.

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

Steve Doershuk and Todd Porter
"False Start, Again"

The Rep staff puts on a full blitz in covering the game. Yes, the story coverage is thorough. But what sets this work apart is the packaging and elegant use of graphic aids. Terrific photos, too.

Honorable Mention

The Lima News

Jim Naveau
"BCS National Championship"

Outstanding deadline reporting, writing and editing. Outstanding execution by all involved.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Sports Enterprise

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

"Your Hall"

So thorough and wide-ranging in scope is this eye-catching entry. "Your Hall" combines visually attractive elements with strong reporting and writing. The personality profiles, breakdown of business and future of Pro Football Hall of Fame pieces were well-researched and presented.

Second Place

Springfield News-Sun

David Jablonski

"North Basketball: The Final Season"

David Jablonski did a fantastic job weaving in details of a high school baseball team's final season. From the emotions to every day conversations, Jablonski did skilled work picking out the best items from what had to be an overwhelming amount of information and presenting them in an entertaining way that makes readers want to spend time with his pieces and care about the people involved. Fine photos, too.

Third Place

Mansfield News Journal

"3 for All"

The News-Journal staff took years of stats and stories and organized them in an attractive manner. It's hard work - both in reporting and writing - to make something like this an easy and entertaining read. The series was historical, informative and exceptional in the voices gathered to explore the topic of 3-point shooting in high school basketball. Clever title and fine work all around.

Honorable Mention

The (Lorain) Morning Journal

Jason Lloyd

"Four Decades Down"

Jason Lloyd is clearly a fine reporter and talented writer. Lloyd was able to put fresh spins and new perspectives together to allow readers to revisit four Ohio State coaching eras and people at the center of them. These pieces, as well as Lloyd's Kelly Pavlick series, stood out in a loaded division. Entertaining and informative, attractive design elements and overall well-done presentation.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Special Sports Section

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

"Your Heroes"

This section stands out as an achievement to be very proud of. The Repository is to be commended for devoting this amount of space and staff time to the project. The cover graphics are stunning. All the copy is locally written. There's liberal use of color, excellent reproduction, and a clean, consistent design. It takes first place in this division by a wide margin.

Second Place

The Lima News

"2008 High School Football Preview"

This high school football preview is well-organized and user friendly. Cover illustration is outstanding. Individual schedules are printed with the profile of each school, and a composite schedule is confined to a single page. The design avoids monotony with effective use of photos and graphics. A large number of schools covered without looking cramped.

Third Place

Springfield News-Sun

"Meet the Wildcats"

Great cover photo. Kudos for including an index. "Hello, my name is" graphics are fun. Layout clean and consistent. Good use of color throughout.

Honorable Mention

The (Willoughby) News-Herald

"Battleground State: High School Football Preview"

Cover illustration and section title great - inspired, different and fun.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Daily Sports Section

First Place

**The (Willoughby)
News-Herald**

Of all the entries in this category - and there's some outstanding work throughout - this paper achieves the best mix of local, college and pro coverage. The sections are meaty with stories, columns and stats. Bold design and use of photos. Well done.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository

The resources devoted to sports here are impressive. Excellent coverage of all levels of sports. Great use of photos. Excellent color reproduction. A very close second to the winner.

Third Place

The Lima News

Excellent coverage of high school sports in stories and photos. Well-dressed section, and the Sunday section really shines.

Honorable Mention

Mansfield News Journal

A fine sports section with strength in coverage of local high school teams.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Informational Graphic

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Bob Kast

"Rocket Fan"

Rocket Fan does an outstanding job of drawing the reader into the page. You can't help but read every detail of the rocket illustration to learn many interesting nuggets of information.

Second Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle

Joe Landsberger

"Auto Thefts"

Without having to spend more than a passing glance, the reader can see right away how the cities rank in auto thefts. The use of radiating circles around the ranking theft cities is a clever way to communicate the basic facts of the story.

Third Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle

Joe Landsberger

"GM Through the Years"

Often times when there is an complicated, ongoing story, readers are interested in every bit of information and context to get the story. "GM through the years" does a good job of providing the reader just that. Short nuggets of history that tell the story of a giant in the industry.

Honorable Mention

The Lima News

Nate Warnecke

"Do-It-Yourself Backyard Project"

A wonderful example of using an informational graphic as an alternative story form giving the reader some news they can use through short paragraphs and illustrations.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Illustration

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Eri Hashimoto

"Today is Christmas!"

Beautiful painting on A-1 for the Christmas Day paper. Very "old school," but this style done well. Will always be timely and appropriate. A true professional painter at heart who happens to work for a newspaper. Aren't they lucky!

Second Place

The (Youngstown)

Vindicator

Robert McFerren

"1958 vs. 2008"

Clever use of photos and color to depict Norman Rockwell's iconic "Freedom from want" painting. I love the bright red plastic cups, the cell phone, iPod and extreme orange hair-do. Robert even has two of the subjects looking at us as does the true Rockwell. Bravo!

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

Eri Hashimoto

"Darrell Green"

At first glance I thought this was a photo illustration until I saw the artist name attached. Incredible painting coupled perfectly with a mug shot to give power, depth and whimsy to the page.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Spot News Photo

First Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Duncan Scott

"South High Gunman"

The tension in this news photo and the access of the photographer lifts it above all the others in this category. The moment, composition and crop of the image results in its success. The hesitation of the two men between the subject and law enforcement with shield and guns drawn heighten the seriousness of the situation.

Second Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Jeff Forman

"A Mother's Anguish"

The raw emotion of this distraught mother is so powerful. The body language of the subject on the right of the frame and the cop's comforting hand add to the flow of the image. The viewer can't look at this image without feeling affected.

Third Place

The Lima News

Kelli A. Cardinal

"Tanker Explodes"

The danger of this image is captivating. The close proximity of the fire to the firefighters and even photographer is startling. The outline of the left fireman's face against the background of flame and the position of the leaning telephone pole adds to the tension of the situation.

Honorable Mention

The (Canton) Repository

Scott Heckel

"Firefighter"

Love the beautiful framing in this photo and the mood of it. The smoldering roof line and the smoke visible near the top of the window where the fireman stands add to the image. The body language of the firemen, the outline of his hose and the tank are just right.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best General News Photo

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Bob Rossiter

"Vigil"

A hard photo to get in low light. Good exposure, good composition and a great moment. Very good work.

Second Place

Springfield News-Sun

Bill Lackey

"Homecoming"

A very powerful moment, the photographer's attention and timing is perfect. Good composition and crop and technically good as well. Good work.

Third Place

The (Youngstown)

Vindicator

Robert K. Yosay

"Winners"

A nice moment that could have been missed if the photographer hadn't been paying attention. Good timing and composition. Nice photo.

Honorable Mention

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Michael Blair

"Owens"

Just a very touching moment that could have been lost had the photographer not been paying attention. Composition is wonderful and timing is perfect. Great expression on child's face. Good job.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Feature Photo

First Place

Springfield News-Sun

Marshall Gorby

"Dog Walk"

A man and his dog, easy subject, but this composition is extremely compelling. The dog is in charge and happy. The man leans against a cold wind. The overall image is cold and dreary yet it warms your heart the more you view it.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository

Scott Heckel

"Gothalicious"

There is goth and goth-creepy, but here I see for the first time goth-angelic. Two kids enjoying a carnival ride in black attire in a black car with a vivid orange color in the back. Simple, yet captured at just the right moment in time. Everyone who came across this photo in the paper acknowledged it. I am sure of that.

Third Place

Springfield News-Sun

Barbara Perenic

"Cow Wash"

The moment is the pure enjoyment of life these girls are experiencing as they get more water on themselves than the cows. Makes me want to be young again.

Honorable Mention

**The (Willoughby)
News-Herald**

Duncan Scott

"Final Work Day"

I know I will be this happy on my retirement day. I only hope a photographer will capture me in such a vibrant way. With 44 years at the paper coming to an end, she looks like she is ready for that much retirement.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Sports Photo

First Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Duncan Scott

"Powerful Play"

Ah, baseball! A potentially boring sport with little action can be difficult to catch the great shot. It takes concentration, perseverance and good knowledge of the game to get a shot like this. Photographer was spot-on for double play and had to suspect it was coming. Excellent timing, a great photo. Very good work.

Second Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Maribeth Joeright

"Socc-ed"

Soccer can be more difficult to shoot because of the large playing area and fast action. This is not a typical soccer photo, that's why it's good. The photographer caught the critical moment. The tight crop helps keep attention on the action.

Third Place

The Lima News

Don E. Speck

"Head to Head"

Not your standard football picture, and that's what's good about it. Shows the photographer is thinking outside the box.

Best Photo Essay

First Place

Springfield News-Sun

Barbara Perenic

"Comets"

The photographer gives a thorough and honest look at a women's football team. Photographer shows the highest level of creativity above the other entries in this category. Understands the elements of a strong picture story. Uses wide, medium and tight shots to give versatility to the essay. This piece portrays camaraderie, humor and pain to the reader.

Second Place

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

Maribeth Joeright

"Teeba's Road to a New Face"

Definitely the most interesting and poignant subject matter of all the entries. Good portrayal of a girl's struggle to grasp at normalcy in the midst of so much pain.

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

Ray Stewart

"Casey Funeral"

Different from most soldiers' funerals by the photographer emphasizing the loss through the one left behind. Anchored by two powerful images - the salute and presentation of the flag. The others are good support to the whole.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Community Service

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Kelli Young

"The Color of Stark County"

The newspaper seized on a national moment - Barack Obama's speech about Jeremiah Wright - to undertake a local conversation on race. The effort included interesting stories that were well-presented in the paper. The paper made good use of on-line components to enhance its coverage of this important issue. It no doubt had the community talking about how race is lived in America.

Second Place

The (Lorain) Morning Journal

"Bridge Nightmare"

In classic watchdog mode, the Morning Journal chronicled the effects of a tardy and mismanaged bridge repair project. Stories helped readers understand how the bridge closure affected nearby businesses. Coverage exposed the apparent ineptitude of the state's transportation agency.

Third Place

The (Youngstown) Vindicator

Denise Dick

"Chip Gilea Freed"

The paper stuck with the story of one immigrant from arrest through freedom. In the process, the coverage educated readers about the red tape, inadequacies and frustrations in America's flawed immigration system. Stories put a local face on a topic that's been a part of the national conversation recently.

Honorable Mention

Springfield News-Sun

Bridgette Outten and Lucas Sullivan

"Clark County 2007 Revaluation"

The paper tackled a topic near and dear to property owner's hearts - property taxes - and exposed serious flaws to the county's assessment system. Showed that public money was apparently wasted on a contractor that failed to perform.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Special Section

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

"Your Festival"

Everything about this section on the Football Hall of Fame sparkled! From the amazing front cover to the effective info graphics to the organization and design to the stories themselves, to the profiles of the dedicated volunteers in this section, this section made me want to get in my car and drive to Canton for the party.

Second Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle

"Summer Fun"

A great guide to summer in Ohio. The cover caught my attention - and what was inside kept me going. It was well organized by times of activities - parks, festivals, sports and wineries - and each section was characterized by bright, concise writing, effective images, good info/tips boxes and more - all nicely packaged in a crisp, clean design.

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

"20 Under 40"

The idea of spotlighting up and comers in a community isn't new, but this inaugural section was really done well. With a top-to-bottom portrait, a short copy block and a "vital-stats" box on each honoree. Without a doubt this drew high readership, and probably a few hurt feelings and some high hopes to make the cut next year.

Honorable Mention

Springfield News-Sun

"Last Day of School"

At a time when many communities are adding schools, here's a city that is combining two aging high schools into one new one. With it comes the end of a 40-year North-South rivalry. This was a fun, nostalgic look - in words and photos- at the end of an era and the beginning of another.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Breaking News

First Place

**The (Willoughby)
News-Herald**

Jason Lea and Tracey Read
"Tragedy Averted"

Great scrambling on a story that obviously couldn't be anticipated. Good, dramatic narrative elements and sourcing. Detail you often see on a day-two story, such as the My Space info. Good hustle.

Second Place

**The (Youngstown)
Vindicator**

David Skolnick
"A Dann Shame"

Lots of good things here. Detailed and well-researched. I liked it as a setup, rather than waiting until the hammer fell. Also nice use of other paper's opinions, the ongoing investigation box, and quote rail. Made for an effective package.

Third Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle

Stephen Oravec and
Ron Selak Jr.
"Forced Out: Marc Dann Out"

Good variety of elements, from the quotes to box of possible replacements. Also, it was a good call to break the story into several pieces so readers could go immediately to what interested them.

Honorable Mention

The Lima News

Greg Sowinski and
Kate Lohnes
"Third Street Shooting"

No comments.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Explanatory Reporting

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

Kelli Young
"911"

Took two issues - taxes and public safety - that people care about tremendously, and created a straightforward, thorough, easy-to-read package. The Dec. 14 package was especially well-reported and presented. The response to reader questions is terrific.

Second Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle

Christopher Kromer
"Tax Season"

Good reporting. Interesting writing, helpful breakout boxes and a nice presentation create an informative, helpful guide for readers.

Third Place

The Lima News

"How Much is a Trillion Dollars?"

Great presentation of information that really helps us wrap our heads around a huge number.

Honorable Mention

The (Youngstown)

Vindicator

Ashley Luthern
"It's Cheap, It's Local..."

Terrific topic. I'm sure it was an eye-opener for many. Good variety of sources.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Enterprise Reporting

First Place

The (Canton) Repository

"1968 A Year That Everything Changed"

Creative idea, superior organization, layout and design, storytelling. This package has it all - great ideas and great execution. Wonderful, clear and powerful writing. I could imagine this as a book. The clear winner!

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository

Tim Botos

"EMS When Seconds Count"

Creative idea and a great service to the community. Thorough, well-organized and great writing. An engaged look at the system most people don't know about. Impressive research. Fantastic design and layout.

Third Place

Warren Tribune Chronicle

"What Works"

Engaging, thorough and well-organized. This series addresses a major social economic problem and offers concrete suggestions for Lenoir to move forward. Great idea and execution, nice graphics, pertinent and relevant.

Honorable Mention

The (Willoughby)

News-Herald

David S. Glasier

"PTSD"

An important, pervasive issue that your paper covers with detail. Great reporting and engaging storytelling. Clear and well-organized.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

Springfield News-Sun

Tom Stafford and Gail Cetnar
"Turner Foundation"

A very well-reported and well-written series. Organized and presented via photos, graphics, lists and breakouts to maximize reader understanding. Important work, done very well, about an influential institution within this community. Congratulations.

Second Place

The Lima News

Greg Sowinski
"SWAT Raid Fallout"

Sorting through the emotion in such a tragic case never is easy. These stories accomplished that thanks to a thorough review of police policies, complaints, discipline and recent history. Strong work, from the original incident and continuing throughout the year.

Third Place

The (Willoughby) News-Herald

David S. Glasier
"Greyson's Legacy"

A strong package of stories not only in re-creating the tragedy of a boy's death but in explaining the statewide changes that were enacted as a result. Exceptional reporting. Shows how a chain of human error led to a devastating outcome.

Honorable Mention

The (Canton) Repository

Shane Hoover
"What Happened to Hope Steffey?"

Impressive reporting in the use of public records requests and then wading through piles of information. Despite an unsympathetic main character, it takes a balanced stance in presenting the details.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Full Page Layout

First Place

**The (Youngstown)
Vindicator**

Richard P. Logan and John
Cruz

Lots a good things about this page. Creative treatment to centerpiece with magnifying glass and links to Youngtown stories on nine different news sites. Package at bottom of page on road work incorporated easy-to-understand map and real people quotes. Campaign story had solid info box. Rail had numerous entry points to paper.

Second Place

**The (Willoughby)
News-Herald**

Mark Meszoros
"A City and Her People"

Eye-catching! Page devoted three-quarters to Cirque de Soleil show. Good use of colorful art. Two elements in left column added variety to page.

Third Place

The Lima News

"Bluffton Bus Crash: NTSB"

An effective treatment of a major local story. Lots of faces - of victims and their families - humanized the tragedy, and solid at-a-glance and inside info added to the reader's understanding. Solid design.

Best Page One Layout

First Place

**The (Youngstown)
Vindicator**

Dynamic, engaging design. Excellent use of graphic elements, headline sizes, etc. A paper readers should look forward to reading.

Second Place

The (Canton) Repository

Very attractive design. Good use of graphic elements. Not afraid to try different approaches.

Third Place

The Lima News

Attractive design. Good use of graphic elements - especially with the "deadly design" package.

2008 JUDGES' COMMENTS – Division IV

Best Web Site

First Place

**The (Lorain) Morning
Journal**

Clean, clear, modern design. Easy to navigate. Good flow of local news, and breaking news sets added emphasis. Ample selection of staff blogs, well-displayed. A fine site.

Second Place

Springfield News-Sun

The design is unusual, but after spending some time, I got to know how it works. High marks for trying to engage readers and think more like a standalone site than a newspaper site. "Useful stuff" lives up to its name.

Third Place

The (Canton) Repository

Excellent show of breaking news. Good design.