



## 2016 Judges' Comments – Division I

### General Excellence

*First Place*

**The (Massillon) Independent**

*Second Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**

*Third Place*

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**

### Best Headline Writer

*First Place*

**The (Massillon) Independent**

There's humor here, but with a good measure of information that relates to the story. Nicely executed.

Marty Greenstein

*Second Place*

**Wilmington News Journal**

These made our judges chuckle.

Tom Barr

*Third Place*

**The (Bowling Green)  
Sentinel-Tribune**

No comments.

Victoria Dugger

<b>Best Business Writer</b>
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*First Place*

**The (London) Madison Press**

Andrea Chaffin

Very well done. The lead took you back in time to see a visual of how the store once thrived. The story was a nice timeline, starting with how the store once was, and brought you into the struggles it faces today. The details of the hardships that these workers have to face to keep this once-thriving store alive was terrific. Overall, the story did a nice job of "painting a picture with words." Thorough research on the entire history of this beloved store.

*Second Place*

**The (Bowling Green)  
Sentinel-Tribune**

Debbie Rogers

Did a nice job of taking a subject such as the "Walbridge town hall goes on the market" that can dull the reader and engaged them. Interesting lead with some humor thrown in helped with this as well.

*Third Place*

**Urbana Daily Citizen**

Joshua Keeran

Taking a story about a hotdog stand and turning into something more than just that really stood out. The story became very interesting upon hearing about how this hotdog stand was relevant to a violent event that took place and almost took one of the brother's lives.



**Best Columnist**

*First Place*

**Piqua Daily Call**

Very humorous and also entertaining.

Belinda Paschal

*Second Place*

**Hillsboro Times-Gazette**

Unique and well written.

Gary Abernathy

*Third Place*

**Gallipolis Daily Tribune**

A great voice and entertaining to read.

Beth Sargent

**Best Editorial Writer**

*First Place*

**The Marietta Times**

The writer and newspaper have a clear connection to the community, weighing in on important topics with sound reason. This entry is a fine how-to for local government. Here's hoping those leaders listen.

Kate York

*Second Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**

Important topic. Interesting facts. Written simply for ease of understanding. Great job.

David Yonke

*Third Place*

**The (Tiffin) Advertiser-Tribune**

No comments.

Rob Weaver



**Best Feature Writer**

*First Place*

**Troy Daily News**

Cecilia Fox

There were many excellent submissions for this category, but the writer's narratives, refreshing leads and great pacing stood out. The writing flows well and draws the reader in.

*Second Place*

**Chillicothe Gazette**

Chris Balusik

Well-constructed, concise and very well-paced. The writer has a clear connection to his subjects, which is apparent in his work.

*Third Place*

**The (London) Madison Press**

Audrey Ingram

No comments.

**Best Graphics Artist**

*First Place*

**The Marietta Times**

Erin O'Neill

Excellent font selection and placement in the "behind the door" section. Overall it was a good design.

*Second Place*

**The Ironton Tribune**

Kandi Thompson

Use of the teams' individual colors is very creative.



**Best Sports Columnist**

*First Place*

**The Marietta Times**

Good pace. Repetition works well here, especially your piece on Colin Kaepernick.

Ron Johnston

*Second Place*

**Fairborn Daily Herald**

Stories transition well. A refreshing voice and pace make reading your work enjoyable.

John Bombatch

*Third Place*

**The Marion Star**

No comments.

Robert McCurdy

**Best Sports Feature Writer**

*First Place*

**The (Massillon) Independent**

A lot of information and well written.

Joe Mitchin

*Second Place*

**The (Massillon) Independent**

No comments.

Chris Easterling

*Third Place*

**The Marion Star**

No comments.

Robert McCurdy

**Best Sports Writer***First Place***Troy Daily News**

David Fong

David Fong brought a writing style that was not only strong and compelling, it was one where you felt the importance of the game and the subjects involved to those around them and the community covered at-large.

*Second Place***Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**

Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson brought a great writing style no matter what form: a game story, a column or a feature. Wilson captures the reader's attention and holds it throughout.

*Third Place***Circleville Herald**

Brad Morris

Brad Morris showed that well-written drama, no matter what sport, can be a compelling and fun read. Morris did that with wrestling, volleyball and softball.

**Best Photographer***First Place***The (Fremont) News-Messenger**

Molly Corfman

Many powerful images, great work.

*Second Place***Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**

Matthew Berry

Great work shown. Photographer understands the moment.

*Third Place***The (Fostoria) Review Times**

Morgan Manns

Photographer took many ordinary assignments and made great images.





**Best News Writer**

*First Place*

**The (Bowling Green)  
Sentinel-Tribune**

Alex Aspacher

Excellent coverage on how environmental, political and social issues impact local life. There's a strong understanding and appreciation for science in this entry. That the author can jump from complex environmental issues to politics with the same level of quality is truly impressive.

*Second Place*

**Circleville Herald**

Jennifer Bahney

Strong, well-balanced coverage of a pre-election political event.

*Third Place*

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**

Spencer Remoquillo

No comments.

**Best Sports Enterprise**

*First Place*

**Xenia Daily Gazette**

"Following Grace Norman Through  
the Olympics"

John Bombatch

No comments.

*Second Place*

**Urbana Daily Citizen**

"#johnstrong: The Road to Recovery"

Justin Miller

No comments.

*Third Place*

**The Marion Star**

"Remembering the Irish"

Robert McCurdy

No comments.

**Best Special Sports Section***First Place***The (Massillon) Independent**  
"The Rivalry"

At first, I thought: "An entire section for one game?" Well, obviously it's deserved with these schools that have a long history. It's clear a tremendous amount of research and effort went into this well-designed section. Great effort.

*Second Place***The (Massillon) Independent**  
"High School Football Preview"

Well-conceptualized with a strong layout. Impressive.

*Third Place***The (Fremont) News-Messenger**  
"Fall Football Preview 2016"  
Matthew Horn and Molly Corfman

Well-designed with strong art. Very good example of a high school football preview section.

**Best Daily Sports Section***First Place***The (Massillon) Independent**

Really well-designed paper, particularly on the fronts. If a small paper is going to make a big package out of a national story, it should look like that Cavs package. Also, great local content and photos.

*Second Place***Troy Daily News**

Josh Brown and David Fong

Strong design and plenty of good local art paired with a great mix of local sports makes this entry a real standout.

*Third Place***The Marion Star**

Rob McCurdy

Solid design and good local content. Love the local basketball stats inside.



<b>Best Illustration or Informational Graphic</b>
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*First Place*

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**  
"Sheridan Sidewalks Sparse"  
Matthew Berry

Very helpful graphic. It's easy to understand and an important topic.

*Second Place*

**Chillicothe Gazette**  
"Ross County's Aces"  
Jess Grimm

Great idea! Nice set-up that is well-executed.

*Third Place*

**The Ironton Tribune**  
"Property Values"  
Kandi Thompson

No comments.

<b>Best News Photo</b>
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*First Place*

**The (Bowling Green) Sentinel-Tribune**  
"Woman's Body Exhumed"  
JD Pooley

Great moment caught. Applaud photographer for being in the right spot at the right time.

*Second Place*


**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**  
"Fire Destroys Hideaway Hills Home"  
Matthew Berry

Liked that the photographer looked deeper into the subject matter and waited for the right moment to make the image.

*Third Place*

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**  
"Hundreds of Pigs Rescued from Crash"  
Matthew Berry

Photographer captured a great and unusual moment at this particular scene.

A thick red horizontal bar is located at the bottom of the page.

**Best Feature Photo***First Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**  
"Tae's Story: 4-Year-Old Fights Brain Cancer"  
Molly Corfman

This picture speaks volumes. It tells a story with no need for words. The photographer captured the innocence of childhood, the focused determination of the medical professional and a father's love.

*Second Place*

**The Ironton Tribune**  
"Last Goodbye for Aaron Christian"  
Jessica St. James

A very powerful picture that shows the skill of the photographer. It captures the emotion of a funeral from a unique perspective.

*Third Place*

**Fairborn Daily Herald**  
"Air Show Takes Flight"  
Don Tate

Beautiful! The color contrast is amazing, and what great timing!

**Best Sports Photo***First Place*

**Circleville Herald**  
"Outright Champs"  
Brad Morris

Shows great emotion, powerful image, great moment.

*Second Place*

**The (Bowling Green) Sentinel-Tribune**  
"Safe at Home"  
JD Pooley

Very nice action shot, photographer caught a great moment in the game.

*Third Place*

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**  
"Falcons Clinch First League Title Since 1988"  
Matthew Berry

Great moment. Nice composition. The person leaning against fence helps tell the whole story. Nicely done.





**Best Photo Story**

*First Place*

**Port Clinton News-Herald**

"Tae's Story: Four-Year-Old Fights  
Brain Cancer"

Molly Corfman

Photos do a great job telling an emotional story. See both the sorrow, but also get a sense of the child's good nature.

*Second Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**

"Heroin: Face of Addiction"

Molly Corfman

Excellent work delving into a story and showcasing the raw side of this world and these people's stories.

*Third Place*

**Port Clinton News-Herald**

"A Difficult Journey: Tae, 5, Fights  
Brain Cancer"

Molly Corfman

Captures the tragedy and heartbreak of the family losing their child.





**Best Video**

*First Place*

**Port Clinton News-Herald**

"A Difficult Journey: Tae, 5, Fights  
Brain Cancer"  
Molly Corfman

Gritty, raw representation of death in its most tragic form.  
Moving and emotional beyond words.

*Second Place*

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**

"Horse Paints Way into Woman's  
Heart"  
Matthew Berry

A great story about a girl and her horse and the bond that forms  
between human and animal.

*Third Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**

"Richie's Story: From Heroin to Hope"  
Molly Corfman

Terrific story about addiction, how it takes hold and the road to  
recovery. Having a willing subject who is also eloquent certainly  
helps.

**Best Public Service**

*First Place*

**Wilmington News Journal**

"Honor Flight Section"  
Tom Barr and Jayla Wallingford

An amazing job to do something so memorable for these  
veterans, who are most deserving. Tremendous work.

*Second Place*

**Chillicothe Gazette**

"A Community Intervention"  
Michael Throne

Rather than just doing a story on a topic ravaging communities  
everywhere, this newspaper actually did something about it.  
Great work organizing this community event to try and shed  
light on this epidemic.

*Third Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**

"Homelessness in Sandusky County"  
Daniel Carson

Wonderful work on a sensitive topic. Thorough, well-reported,  
informative and interesting.



**Best Spot News Coverage***First Place***The (Massillon) Independent**

"Wendy's Fire"

Amy Knapp and Christina McCune

Dramatic art of the fire guides the choice here. Terrific pics.

*Second Place***The (Fremont) News-Messenger**

"Brother Stabs Brother in Argument"

Daniel Carson

The reporter and photographer being Johnny-on-the-spot led to a great photo for a story that typically would have no photo or a boring one.

*Third Place***The Marietta Times**

"Downtown OD"

Janelle Patterson

Another example of an opportunistic photographer capturing a dramatic image, turning a mundane story into a moving one.

**Best Explanatory Reporting***First Place***Port Clinton News-Herald**

"Tae: The Little Soldier"

Daniel Carson

A clear stand-out in this category. This series on a young boy's battle against cancer is both compelling and comprehensive.

*Second Place***The (Tiffin) Advertiser-Tribune**

"Harm and Hope"

A well-written series that offers extensive coverage of a county's heroin epidemic.

*Third Place***The (Massillon) Independent**

"Massillon City Schools Bond Issue"

Amy Knapp

The story helps educate readers by breaking down how a school system's taxes are spent.





**Best Enterprise Reporting**

*First Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**  
"Heroin in Sandusky County"  
Daniel Carson

This stand-out series on heroin shows how addiction impacts lives in a community.

*Second Place*

**The Marietta Times**  
"Hooked: Heroin in the Valley"

A well written, organized and comprehensive series.

*Third Place*

**Port Clinton News-Herald**  
"World War II: In Their Own Words"  
Daniel Carson

This nicely written series gives readers a window into the lives of those who experienced World War II.

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**Hillsboro Times-Gazette**  
"The Mayor Drew Hastings Case"  
Gary Abernathy

Wow. Great in-depth reporting. It details an impressive amount of facts and paints a vivid picture of what appears to be either mayoral corruption or police revenge.

*Second Place*

**Lancaster Eagle-Gazette**  
"Former Firefighter Speaks out on Firing"  
Spencer Remoquillo

Thought-provoking article. It doubles as both a feature and a great investigative piece.

*Third Place*

**The (Fremont) News-Messenger**  
"Police Chiefs Angry at Overmyer"  
Daniel Carson

Fascinating story about the corruption of a sheriff and how he got caught.



**Best Full Page Design***First Place***The (Massillon) Independent**

Marty Greenstein

Great use of art and color in the headline to make a smart reference to Cleveland. This is the way to play a big story: big. The scores across the top of the package provide the only other information the reader needs. Well done.

*Second Place***Port Clinton News-Herald**

"Godspeed, John Glenn"

Clearly this is the lead story for this newspaper, and this design reflects that priority. The design is simple and elegant. Great job.

*Third Place***Chillicothe Gazette**

"39 Dead"

Use of the silhouettes to portray individuals is an effective way to drive home a point and make an impact with display photos of some of the victims left on the inside page. Good play for a compelling story.

**Best Digital Presence***First Place***Chillicothe Gazette**

Easy to use, clean website. Large social media following with various offerings for people to follow along.

*Second Place***The (Massillon) Independent**

Website design which stands out from rest by having unique layout and look.

*Third Place***The (Fostoria) Review Times**

Diverse social media presence by using several different platforms.

