

Winner	Writer or Photographer	Judge Notes	Newspaper	Name of Entry	Class
1st Place	Staff	Strong photography, played well, captures the sense of community. That stands out most. Clean, balanced, modular design is easy to follow. Good use of left-hand vertical column and sky on A1 to get attractive multiple entry points on a page that you always want to pack more onto. Paper is well-organized.	Galena Gazette	Galena Gazette	Best Design
2nd Place	Nina D'Agostino		Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Evanston RoundTable issue 5-23-13	Best Design
2nd Place	Nina D'Agostino		Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Evanston RoundTable issue 12-19-13	Best Design
2nd Place	Nina D'Agostino	Clean, attractive format, almost magazine-like. Good use of left rail on A1 to promote inside content. Easy read.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Evanston RoundTable issue 3-13-14	Best Design
3rd Place	Staff	Good photos are run big when they can be.	Ledger-Sentinel	Ledger-Sentinel 3-20-14 issue, 9-12-13 issue, 10-10-13 issue	Best Design
1st Place	Candy Johnson	Corresponds well with the story to show readers the	Ledger-Sentinel	Emergency warning siren graphic	Best Informational Graphic

		affected areas. Simple but illustrates the issue clearly.			
2nd Place	Jay Dickerson	Informative; lots of numbers here. The Monopoly theme made it visually appealing.	Galena Gazette	Hotel/Motel Tax	Best Informational Graphic
3rd Place	Jay Dickerson		Galena Gazette	Galena Deer Graphic	Best Informational Graphic
1st Place	Ken Karrson	Clever and fun: just right for sports.	Regional Publishing Corp.	Kan Karrson Sports Headlines	Best Headline Writing
2nd Place	Jeff Vorva	Nice ways to call attention to stories with strong emotions/conflicts, especially "Disorder on the courts."	Regional Publishing Corp.	Vorva Headlines	Best Headline Writing
3rd Place	John Etheredge	Good key words, make you want to read the story.	Ledger-Sentinel	Headlines: guns, pottle, criminal	Best Headline Writing
1st Place	Hillary Dickerson, Paul Gothard	This second section of this newspaper's regular edition was truly special - providing a colorful account of local veterans on their Honor Flight to the Nation's Capitol. Excellent presentation!	Galena Gazette	Honor Flight	Best Special Section
2nd Place	Staff	An exhaustive preview of a local primary election, displaying considerable candidate research. Good pictures and layout made this a	Ledger-Sentinel	3-6-14 Primary Election Guide	Best Special Section

		top-notch special section.			
3rd Place	Staff	This was not a special section in the strictest sense, since it featured the majority of content for a regular edition, but this focus on the death of a Catholic Bishop made this presentation top-drawer!	Observer	Rest in Peace Bishop Emeritus Arthur J. O'Neill	Best Special Section
1st Place	Amanda Hudson	This was a very difficult category. I went back and forth between the first- and second-place winners a few times, but what pushed "From Loss to Hope" over the edge was its ability to stir the emotions of the reader. Amanda Hudson no doubt is a wonderful interviewer to be able to get the depth and nuance out of her source. This one stuck with me.	Observer	From Loss to Hope	Best General Feature
2nd Place	Hillary Dickerson, Paul Gothard	Thank you for the public service of documenting Honor Flights. At this point in time, I don't think we can do too much to record the experience of WW	Galena Gazette	Honor Flight	Best General Feature

		II veterans. The care and time put into this report is impressive.			
3rd Place	Matt Schury	Much like the baby featured in this piece, the story kept giving with surprises along the way. I like the choice of not revealing the father's entrance into this world in the lede. Saving a surprise to keep the reader interested in the middle of the story was very effective.	Ledger-Sentinel	This baby wouldn't wait	Best General Feature
1st Place	Pat Szpekowski	This colorfully-presented profile of a Nazi Camp survivor captivates a reader's interest, for sure. As part of a graphic double truck spread, it shouts out for attention.	Observer	Quietly Faithful Nazi Camp Survivor Remembers	Best Personality Profile
2nd Place	Matt Schury	The wealth of secondary quotes from co-workers and village officials makes this profile of a plumbing inspector come to life. Very interesting feature.	Ledger-Sentinel	Plumbing inspector, 93, to hang up clipboard	Best Personality Profile
3rd Place	Paul Gothard	If it were just for the writing ability set forth the author of this profile, that would score well. But two pictures	Galena Gazette	King of the Ring	Best Personality Profile

		attract the reader immediately about this local wrestler whose hopes for the "big time" are tempered in reality.			
1st Place	Matt Schury	Well-reported story with interviews from the county board chaplain, the local state's attorney, a previous board member and chaplain, and a member of the civil liberties union. The reporting clearly outlines the debate over prayer before meeting of public bodies. The writing flows well from lede to the last quote that puts it all in perspective.	Ledger-Sentinel	Are days numbered for county board prayer?	BEST RELIGION STORY / OWEN PHELPS AWARD
2nd Place	Lisa Welz	A powerful story of transformation is embedded in this feature about Christian bikers. Readers not only learn about this Christian motorcycle group that has members worldwide, but have the opportunity to delve deeper into the soul of the group with the story of "Frogster," who left the life of	Ledger-Sentinel	"Riding for the Son"	BEST RELIGION STORY / OWEN PHELPS AWARD

		a traditional biker for a redemptive alternative.			
3rd Place	staff	A substantive guide to Lent that is an indispensable keeper for households who observe this Christian season. The package contains schedules, spiritual guidance, even meatless Friday recipes. A good example of giving readers a reason to pick up a print publication.	Observer	Ashes to Ashes Catholic guide to Lent	BEST RELIGION STORY / OWEN PHELPS AWARD
1st Place	Matt Schury	Outstanding sourcing. It is obvious the reporter spent a good deal of time there and spoke to a terrific variety of people.	Ledger-Sentinel	Plenty of job seekers, stories at job fair	BEST BUSINESS/FINANCIAL/CONSUMER STORY
2nd Place	Victoria Scott	Really nice business feature, with great details stemming from the interview and good information that potential customers would want to know. Would have been nice to add in comments from a client.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Smith & Joan's	BEST BUSINESS/FINANCIAL/CONSUMER STORY
3rd Place	Hillary Dickerson	Very nice sourcing and good details of the issue. Aim for tight writing as much as possible. Given how much	Galena Gazette	Galena Trolley Wars	BEST BUSINESS/FINANCIAL/CONSUMER STORY

		of the story came from Brill, it would have been nice to have a summary sentence high up, eluding to the idea that the owner was unhappy with the investigation. Also, statistics would have been nice, along with some information about how this could affect the tourism season.			
1st Place	Victoria Scott	Really great story. Well-told, easy to read and understand, with numbers backing up anecdotes.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Bottoms Up!	BEST TECHNOLOGY/MEDICAL STORY
2nd Place	Mary Helt Gavin	Good analysis from a council meeting. The back-to-back meeting quotes brought the reader to the discussion.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Polar Vortex	BEST TECHNOLOGY/MEDICAL STORY
3rd Place	Mary Helt Gavin	Good discussion of a difficult topic. Would have loved more details about the dogs who had been slated to be euthanized but were adopted instead.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Kill Rate	BEST TECHNOLOGY/MEDICAL STORY
1st Place	Kristin Sharp	Excellent read with historical notes, multiple quotes from many individuals all fulfilling the	Kendall County Record	Four decades of devotion	BEST SPORTS STORY

		headline.			
2nd Place	Christine Bolin Dascher	Essentially two good stories rolled into one. Solid job of inter-weaving impact on student and host parents.	Sandwich Record	Redefining a family	BEST SPORTS STORY
3rd Place	Kristin Sharp	Identified difference in the contest and providing supporting stats and comments. Good account of game as well to complete the story.	Ledger-Sentinel	Championship strikeout	BEST SPORTS STORY
1st Place	Dick Peach	Informative pieces even for non-fishermen. Asian carp article was interesting read.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Asian Carp	BEST SPORTS COLUMNIST
1st Place	Roger Matile	What a treat for readers to have a columnist who focuses on local historical events. Great storytelling in these three columns.	Ledger-Sentinel	Columnist: Walking to school, vacuum, train crash	BEST COLUMNIST
2nd Place	Penny Wiegert	Excellent trio of columns--well-written with something fresh to say in each one.	Observer	From the Editor	BEST COLUMNIST
3rd Place	Jeff Vorva	An entertaining editor's weekly roundup that gives the reader the kind of information that can't be found in the straight news columns.	Regional Publishing Corp.	Vorva Columns	BEST COLUMNIST
1st Place	Kathy Farren	Thanks for shining light on a seldom-	Kendall County	Make charter schools more	BEST EDITORIAL

		discussed, yet important, topic.	Record	accountable	
2nd Place	John Etheredge	Nice watchdog work.	Ledger-Sentinel	Per diem editorial	BEST EDITORIAL
3rd Place	Mary Helt Gavin	Well-researched and organized argument.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Leggings & Legs	BEST EDITORIAL
1st Place	Eric Miller	The arrival of spring-like weather portrayed in this action shot is a good attention grabber. The subject is caught at the right distance, fills the frame, and the high shutter speed used freezes the rapids and water nicely. Very informative outline.	Kendall County Record	Kayak photo	BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO
2nd Place	Nina D'Agostino	Sad commentary on today's economy. The photographers use of the empty cart with the shelves make it more of an impact and the photo can stand alone.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Empty Shelves	BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO
3rd Place	Larry Gavin	Good coverage of this local volunteer event without distracting the participants from the task.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Wheelchair Wash	BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO
1st Place	Jay Dickerson	Good expression captured showing the angst of war. The photographer caught the subject	Galena Gazette	Reenacting the war	BEST FEATURE PHOTO

		mid-couch that has made time slow down and adding a mood to the reenactors situation. Good composition, timing, and shooting from a lower level draws you into the scene. Well researched outline.			
2nd Place	Steven Buyansky	Humor and fun shine through with this image. Use of wide angle lens and proximity to main subject makes it a winner.	Ledger-Sentinel	Chukkers for Charity photo	BEST FEATURE PHOTO
3rd Place	Mary Mumbrue	Nice clean photograph allows for concentration on the tree problem. Side view of the subject trimming and inclusion of the yellow curb underlines the peril of the 'blue' trees.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	Blue Ash Trees	BEST FEATURE PHOTO
1st Place	David Toney	Use of wide angle lens and shooting from a low angle enhances the strength of the subject. The limited depth of field in the background keeps the viewer focused on the tire and athlete. Great exposure quality and the image is	Ledger-Sentinel	Football player lifts tire	BEST SPORTS PHOTO

		self-explanatory. Composition is perfectly balanced and keeps your eyes on the subject.			
2nd Place	Eric Miller	All action captured and frozen at the perfect moment from the sideline. Cutline is most informative.	Kendall County Record	Yorkville football player leaps	BEST SPORTS PHOTO
3rd Place	Linda Trautmann	Good crop used to zone in on the hands. and the players determination to get the ball. Color and exposure are perfect.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	ETHS Boys Basketball	BEST SPORTS PHOTO
1st Place	Larry Gavin, Mary Helt Gavin, Nina D'Agostino	Website is inviting. The high number of headlines "above the fold" -- or at least that fit in my screen before I had to scroll down -- made me want to read and interact with the site before even explore the rest of the site.	Evanston Round Table, L.L.C.	The Evanston RoundTable	BEST WEBSITE
2nd Place	Staff	There's a lot of good content on your home page. I can tell you make an effort to post a photo with every item in the News & Features section. The photos are small enough that the busier ones I found hard to "read."	Galena Gazette	GalenaGazette.com	BEST WEBSITE

