

**Traveling Trophies**

2023 Sam Zito Award of Excellence (weekly paper) - Cass County Star -Gazette, Beardstown

2023 James S. Copley Memorial Trophy (daily paper) - The News-Gazette, Champaign

**Sweepstakes Winners**

Division G - Cass County Star -Gazette, Champaign

Division H - The Hinsdalean, Hinsdale

Division I - The News-Gazette, Champaign

Class	Division	Winner	Newspaper	Writer or Photographer	Name of Entry	Judge Notes
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	G	1st Place	Forest Park Review	Staff	Forest Park Review - July 5 & 19th 2023 Issues	Picking two editions from July is tough as it is usually a slower month for advertising. The Forest Park Review had a nice variety of local advertising, well placed and designed. The advertising benefited the paper instead of distracting from it.
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	G	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Staff	July Editions	Good variety of advertising.
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	G	3rd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Rinda Maddox	Sidell Reporter July 13 and Sidell Reporter July 20	Good local advertising. I'd like to see this paper in a busier month, it looks like they have a hard working staff. Nice layout.
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	H	1st Place	Mason County Democrat, Havana	Staff	General Excellence	I like the energy and vibe of this paper. It's fun to look at. The ads are great and have exciting elements, nice headliner font variety. Great use of color and photos.
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	H	2nd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Staff	General Advertising Excellence	
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	H	3rd Place	The Hinsdalean	staff	The Hinsdalean July 6 & July 20	
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	H	4th Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	July 5 and July 26 editions of Effingham Daily News	
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	I	1st Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Advertisements stood out from editorial. Layout was easy to follow. Great use of color. Effective use of typeface style in ads to lend to the overall cohesiveness of the page. Great reader experience.
GENERAL ADVERTISING EXCELLENCE	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Advertising Excellence Sunday July 30 and Wednesday July 5	
REAL ESTATE AD	H	1st Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Beth Burt	The center information popped right out. Like the soft background of properties. The ad is fresh and clean and a bit different with simplicity.
REAL ESTATE AD	H	2nd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	For sale by owner	
REAL ESTATE AD	H	3rd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Crawford Group	
REAL ESTATE AD	H	4th Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Legacy Builders	
REAL ESTATE AD	I	1st Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Lauren Powell, Matt Ressler	Berkshire Hathaway Speckman Realty - Fall In Love	

AUTOMOTIVE AD	G	1st Place	The Mendota Reporter	Jamie Stanford	Heartland Autobody	Great graphic, well placed copy. Eye catching ad. Good job.
AUTOMOTIVE AD	G	2nd Place	The Mendota Reporter	Jamie Stanford	Furar's Body Shop	Great ad. We need more humor!
AUTOMOTIVE AD	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Jim Heather Auto Shop ad	
AUTOMOTIVE AD	H	1st Place	The Telegraph, Alton	Kristine Ressler & Michelle Bain	Jerry's Tire Sales	The ad had a ton of information, but organized it nicely. The eye was drawn to the top and guided down the page. Each coupon was well separated and the information was easy to read. Especially loved the "Black Friday" tape at the top and bottom.
AUTOMOTIVE AD	H	2nd Place	Mason County Democrat, Havana	Staff	Armitage Collision & Repair	
AUTOMOTIVE AD	H	3rd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mike Plunkett	Roger Jennings	
AUTOMOTIVE AD	H	4th Place	The Woodstock Independent	Sandy Kucharski	Woodstock Chevrolet	
AUTOMOTIVE AD	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Jackie Martin	Rick Ridings Ford	Nice use of the March tournament theme. The ad isn't too cluttered with cars or content. The whole thing is laid out well for a car ad. Nicely done.
AUTOMOTIVE AD	I	2nd Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Melissa Underwood, Matt Ressler	Dralle Readers' Choice Awards winner	Good readers choice ad, done well.
AUTOMOTIVE AD	I	3rd Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Melissa Underwood, Matt Ressler	The Fun Never Ends - All Automotive	
AUTOMOTIVE AD	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Jackie Martin	Rick Ridings Ford	
HEALTH CARE AD	H	1st Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	Brookstone Estates Sweetheart Deal Ad	Great photo for this ad. Provokes emotions and encourages you to read the ad.
HEALTH CARE AD	H	2nd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mary (Galer) Herschelmann	Losin' It With Sonya Jones	Testimonials always work. Nice ad.
HEALTH CARE AD	H	3rd Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	Siteman Cancer Center ad	Thought provoking ad... very good.
HEALTH CARE AD	H	4th Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mike Plunkett	Montgomery County Health Department Suicide Awareness	
HEALTH CARE AD	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Belton Hearing Aid Service	Great use of graphics from the photo of lady with hand up to her ear and calendar with date and day of week. Easy to follow copy points down left rail of ad. Classic loco placement with address and phone. Overall, easy to read and very informative.
HEALTH CARE AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Michael Heldebrandt	George Bell/Massage Therapist	Classic layout with informative information. Including photo or George Bell introduced him to the reader and lends credibility.
HEALTH CARE AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	MedServ Equipment Corp	
HEALTH CARE AD	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	MedServ Equipment Corp	
FOOD AD	G	1st Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Little Mexico x La Catrina Full page ad	I loved the use of color. The placement and balance of photos and text groups was easy to read and organized.
FOOD AD	G	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	West of Wise Winery eighth page ad	
FOOD AD	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Local Brew sixteenth page ad	

FOOD AD	H	1st Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	The Krusteaz Company Breast Cancer Awareness ad	A simple clean and concise message with a compelling attention getting image.
FOOD AD	H	2nd Place	The Ogle County Life	Michelle Garrelts	Dog Hub Best Of	This ad makes me salivate! Nice use of images to summarize the Dog Hub's offerings. Clear and concise information tells me everything I need to know.
FOOD AD	H	3rd Place	Breeze Courier, Taylorville	Laurie Sparling	New City Berry	A nice short sweet and berry puny message. Good use of the text an images to grab attention and communicate a clear and succinct message.
FOOD AD	H	4th Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Kramer Foods	A TISKET, A TASKET caught my attention and drew me in to learn more.
FOOD AD	I	1st Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, Matt Ressler	Beef O Brady's Voting Categories Pizza and Coupon	Great use of color and graphics. Photo of pizza pulls the reader in right away. The allocation of space in the ad is done well where photo is front and center with a closeup of the pizza toppings and what the restaurant is known for/offers to the left and on the right, our eyes finish seeing the ad with a call to action / coupon.
FOOD AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	Kofusion	Nice touch with the photos in circle shape. Coordinates well with the restaurant logo font style. Beautiful color photos of food. Appetizing.
FOOD AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Michael's Catering	
FOOD AD	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	Piato Food Nanny	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	G	1st Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	Rural Route Retrievers	Very clever idea, emotion drawing ad, clean organization of information, green band at bottom anchors the light border.
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	G	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Cass Comm Internet Service ad	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	West Central Bank Grad ad	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	G	4th Place	Beecher City Journal	PJ Ryan	Pop On In	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	H	1st Place	The Fulton Democrat, Lewistown	Staff	Just Teaz'n Salon	Very clever ads. Fun elements and catchy slogans.
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	H	2nd Place	The Ogle County Life	Michelle Garrelts	Storybook Gardens Best Of	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	H	3rd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Heat Engineering	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	H	4th Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Lane Vets	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	I	1st Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Lauren Powell, John Fetterer	Belson Steel	This is a good ad. Clear benefits. "Recycle and get paid." Nice theme. It stands out.
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	CU Schools Foundation	The design of this ad makes it stand out on the page.
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	I	3rd Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa	Salvi Law	
SERVICE/INSTITUTIONAL AD	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Renner Wikoff	
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	G	1st Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	Tarquini's	Really good use of color and the placement of the pieces really draw the eye to the relevant information.
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	G	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	JS Lawn Service	
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Bethel Community ad	
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	H	1st Place	The Ogle County Life	Michelle Garrelts	Farm Way Fencing	Very organized and visually appealing way to fit in a lot of information and pictures.
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	H	2nd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Greenwise	
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	H	3rd Place	Breeze Courier, Taylorville	Kim Paisley-Jones	Sloan Implement Ag Week	

GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	H	4th Place	Rochelle News-Leader	Michelle Garrelts	Steve's Landscaping Best Of	
						Great logo placement at the top brings the reader right into the ad with who the advertiser is and what they do. Balance in the layout with "thank you" to the left and large photos of completed projects to the right. Visually tells a story.
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	Brown Woods & Associates, Inc.	
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Jackie Martin	JT's Tree & Crane	
GARDEN, YARD & AGRICULTURE AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	Brown Woods & Associates, Inc.	
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	Daily	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Champaign Urbana Kiwanas	A great ad with a clear message. No unnecessary extra added just the important parts and well organized.
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	Daily	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Bible Baptist Church	
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	Daily	3rd Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	Effingham Farmers Market	
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	Daily	4th Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa	Catholic Lawyer Guild	
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	NonDaily	1st Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Fenwick High School	Great use of photo with students in uniform, tagline and branding text. Logo is reinforced with building included in background photo. Nice transition on the photo fading out at the top so logo is visible. Classy looking ad!
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	NonDaily	2nd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Grace Church	
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	NonDaily	3rd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Faith Fellowship	
RELIGIOUS / NONPROFIT AD	NonDaily	4th Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Lutheran Church Ad	
MISCELLANEOUS AD	G	1st Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	B&S Bait Shop ad	This is a nice simple, clean, clear and concise ad.
MISCELLANEOUS AD	G	2nd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	The 4-Way	
MISCELLANEOUS AD	G	3rd Place	The Mendota Reporter	Jamie Stanford	Meyers Furniture sale	
MISCELLANEOUS AD	H	1st Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	Wabash Communications We Beat Pants Off Competition Ad	This ad really caught my eye. Clean, not too much copy and makes a an impact with the great design. Good job!
MISCELLANEOUS AD	H	2nd Place	Rochelle News-Leader	Michelle Garrelts	Whiskey Acres	Classy ad. Great design.
MISCELLANEOUS AD	H	3rd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Kelsey Resale	Nice, clean ad. Great choice of color.
MISCELLANEOUS AD	H	4th Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	OMG Dance	Great ad. Love the photo used.
MISCELLANEOUS AD	I	1st Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, Matt Ressler	Build the Gotion EV Manufacturing Plant	Love the creativity and double exposure!
MISCELLANEOUS AD	I	2nd Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, John Fetterer	Apple Teacher Awards	
MISCELLANEOUS AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Jackie Martin	Good Vibes	
MISCELLANEOUS AD	I	4th Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Lauren Powell, Matt Ressler	John Paul's Paint and Decor	
POLITICAL AD	H	1st Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mike Plunkett	Elect Brian Patton	A very straightforward ad with its mission and information impossible to miss.
POLITICAL AD	H	2nd Place	Rochelle News-Leader	Michelle Garrelts	Horner for Coroner	
POLITICAL AD	H	3rd Place	The Woodstock Independent	Sandy Kucharski	Vote Mark Indyke for City Council	
POLITICAL AD	H	4th Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mary (Galer) Herschelman	Elect Dylan Goldsmith	
POLITICAL AD	I	1st Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa	Mikva Reelection	

BEST SMALL AD	G	1st Place	The Amboy News	Tonja Greenfield	Amboy Fire Clippers Win State	Loved this one! Great choice of font, fun play on words. Just overall an outstanding ad. Great Job!
BEST SMALL AD	G	2nd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Rinda Maddox	Laundry Service	Small ads are so hard because usually businesses was way too much in them. This is a great use of space, simple, easy to follow. For such a small ad, this was nicely done.
BEST SMALL AD	G	3rd Place	The Mendota Reporter	Jamie Stanford	Heartland Autobody	The artwork caught my attention right away. Great job on that. It is a little bottom heavy with a lot of information. Well laid out, just a little overwhelming on the bottom.
BEST SMALL AD	H	1st Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Lisa's Pet Service	Very nice ad. Great pict and use of graphics.
BEST SMALL AD	H	2nd Place	Mason County Democrat, Havana	Staff	Manhattan Fields	Fun ads. Looks like a fun place to shop. Great idea.
BEST SMALL AD	H	3rd Place	The Breese Journal	Jamie Weik	Rensing Ag. Solutions	Very nice ad.
BEST SMALL AD	H	4th Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	The Courtyard	
BEST SMALL AD	I	1st Place	Herald-Whig, Quincy	Jackie Trujillo	Four Paws	Love the campaign and makes me happy just looking at them and they are simple and you know who the ad is for.
BEST SMALL AD	I	2nd Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, Matt Ressler	Essential Smoothies Boba	Colorful but you never lose who the ad is for jumps out at you in just the right ways makes me want a Boba Smoothie.
BEST SMALL AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	Carpet Advantage	Get you in with the comedy and then makes you want to know what it is about good modern design.
BEST SMALL AD	I	4th Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Lyle Turro, Matt Ressler	Frank's Spooktacular Savings	Jumps out at you and gets your attention into the ad. My only concern would be that it may be a little to much stuff on the ad that you may forget who it is for at the end.
BEST COLOR AD	G	1st Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	Country Springtime Shop Hop	Great use of color. There is a lot of information in this ad, but the color usage really helps separate it. The ad pops.
BEST COLOR AD	G	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Little Mexico x La Catrina Full page color ad	What a fun and colorful ad. This ad just wouldn't have the same appeal in black and white. Great job.
BEST COLOR AD	G	3rd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	Tarquini's	Fun use of color to tie in the artwork.
BEST COLOR AD	G	4th Place	El Paso Journal	Jennie Kearney	Ringland-Johnson Recreation Facility	Great layout. Color photos make this ad very pleasing to the eye.
BEST COLOR AD	H	1st Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	King Keyser	Love the use of complementary color harmony here with the yellow on blue. It's very eye-catching! And the motion implied with the photo of the skier adds interest also.
BEST COLOR AD	H	2nd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Kramer Foods	The use of color with the photo of the food is well-done! Catches my eye and makes me hungry!
BEST COLOR AD	H	3rd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Staff	Montgomery County Fair	Colorful, fun ad! Catches my eye and draws my attention around the entire ad.
BEST COLOR AD	H	4th Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mike Plunkett	Autism Awareness Month	Good job using the Autism colors throughout the ad to create unity and interest.

BEST COLOR AD	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Natioankl Children's Dental Month	Just amazing use of color really keeps you focused on the page and I found myself getting lost in some of the details in a good way.
BEST COLOR AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Pridefest	Lots of color but it didn't feel over the top got you into the ad to see what was going on well put together.
BEST COLOR AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Michael Heldebrandt	Furniture Lounge	Good use of color not over the top gave me a real throwback vibe and made me feel cozy and that is how you would want to feel while shopping for furniture.
BEST COLOR AD	I	4th Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Lauren Powell, John Fetterer	Village of Bradley Movies & Parade	
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	G	1st Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Letters to Santa Promo ad	Great ad! I like everything about this ad- Choice of color, graphics, copy. Excellent ad!
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	G	2nd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	Tired of waiting for your Reporter	Nice promo for on-line subscriptions. Fun graphic.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	G	3rd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Rinda Maddox	New summer hours	Funny, eye-catching ad.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	G	4th Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Newspapers Bundle ad	
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	H	1st Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	The Hinsdalean	Very creative and fun! Caught my eye! Great example of not needing to necessarily use color to make a great ad.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	H	2nd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	The Hinsdalean	Nice ad. Great use of color. Fonts are easy to read and the information flows well.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	H	3rd Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	The Hinsdalean	Elegant and eye-catching. Nice ad.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	H	4th Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mike Plunkett	Journal-News Subscription Ad	Nice use of big, bold fonts to catch your eye. The image used is a nice addition as well to draw a viewers attention to the content.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	I	1st Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, John Fetterer	Thanksgiving Promotion	This is a nice looking ad and a good way to pre-sell the Thanksgiving section. Nicely done.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	I	2nd Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, Matt Ressler	Kankakee County's Top Dog	This is a fun ad and a good promotion.
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	CMG/News-Gazette Open House	
BEST NEWSPAPER PROMOTION	I	4th Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, Matt Ressler	Dear Santa, NIE	
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	G	1st Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Staff	Veterans Day Salute Section	Nicely laid out section. I like the Veterans on top of each page and the local stories below. Good variety of nicely done advertising that ads to the section.
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	G	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Staff	Holiday Greetings Section	The Christmas around Cass County photos were a nice touch to draw your eyes to the edition. I like the unique layout for the letters to Santa. Good variety of local advertisers. It was a very nicely done Holiday greetings section that doesn't look like all the others we see.
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Staff	Spring Planting Section	Great layout. Good variety of local advertisers. Each ad stood out in it's own way. Great use of artwork and attention to detail, even the date line color was changed to go with the planting theme.

BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	G	4th Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Staff	Fall Harvest Section	Good variety of local advertisers. I like the way you worked in the local FFA chapters.
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	H	1st Place	The Hinsdalean	Staff	Veterans Day	Such a wonderful idea, love that each has a photo, rank, family and awards.
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	H	2nd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Staff	2023 Gift Guide	
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	H	3rd Place	Kane County Chronicle, Geneva	Julie Barichello	Fox River Trail Guide	
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	H	4th Place	Wednesday Journal of Oak Park & River Forest	Staff	Oak Park and River Forest Answer Book - July 2023	
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Student Design an Ad	Loved the idea. It also doesn't take a ton of in house work when it comes to design since the kids have to do that. The concept is great and gets the community involved.
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	I	2nd Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, Matt Ressler	Puzzle Book	Love the idea and was executed well. Gets people really engaged with your paper and also from an ad standpoint they have to spend awhile on a page looking down at the ads on the bottom.
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	People's Choice	Very well put together lots of good graphics. Only fear in a smaller community would be risk of losing business and ad revenue from businesses who don't make list.
BEST ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION	I	4th Place	The Daily Journal, Kankakee	Daily Journal Staff, Matt Ressler	Basketball - High Schools Boys and Girls	This section looks very nice I really love the graphic on the front page. We do something very similar for state competitions for our local teams. However ours are more tab format this seems more like a Magazine style.
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	G	1st Place	The Amboy News	Staff	Clippers Win State	Very nice job recapping the Amboy Clippers' State Championship game and undefeated season. The recap of the Clippers undefeated 13-0 season was a very nice touch.
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	G	2nd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Suzanne Woodard, Amanda Rull, Rinda Maddox	Fine Arts	A nice salute to the too often overlooked fine arts students.
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Staff	Women Who Lead Special Feature	
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	G	4th Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Cutest Pet Contest page	
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	H	1st Place	Wednesday Journal of Oak Park & River Forest	Staff	OPRF 150 - Wednesday Journal	Great use of space and very well put together making it to 150 years is a remarkable event so being able to make such a great special section out of it is great.
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	H	2nd Place	The Hinsdalean	Staff	Hinsdale 150th	
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	H	3rd Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	Eat, Drink, Gather! Magazine	
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	H	4th Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Staff	Litchfield Elementary School	Great Concept to create a special section out of something that does not happen very often. it was done well.
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	I	1st Place	Herald-Whig, Quincy	Matt Hopf, Jessie Hamilton	2024 Answer Book	This is a really nice take on a community guide. It has a lot of good information, it is well laid out and it does a nice job mixing in advertising and content. A very nice looking special section. Well done.

BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Women's History Month	A lot of fun and interesting content. This was a well done section that gave people a lot of information in bite-sized chunks.
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Women Owned Businesses	A good combination of advertising and articles that fit the theme.
BEST ONE-TIME SPECIAL SECTION	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Michael Heldebrandt	Craft Beverage Guide	This is a nice-looking section. I was a little concerned that it looked like a pay-to-play section. It looks like stories were only done for advertisers, which is fine in an advertising section, but it isn't clear that this is an advertising section.
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	G	1st Place	Downers Grove Suburban Life	Julie Barichello	Lemont Homer Glen Community Guide	Great layout and good variety of information for the readers. Information was well organized and the advertising was very well done.
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	G	2nd Place	Morris Herald-News	Julie Barichello	Grundy County Community Guide	Good layout. I liked the breakdowns for each community and the history at the beginning. Easy for new people to the area to follow. Layout is very well done. Great variety of advertisers.
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Healthy You January	
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	G	4th Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Community Page - July 2023	
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	H	1st Place	The Telegraph, Alton	staff	Discover Edwardsville/Glen Carbon	Nice layout! I love the content and balance between text and photos. The sports layout was very cool as well.
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	H	2nd Place	Kane County Chronicle, Geneva	Julie Barichello	St. Charles Community Guide	
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	H	3rd Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	Effingham Magazine	I liked the layout of the winter edition. I thought the cover could have been better with a different solution to making the type legible, I am not a huge fan of the drop shadow/glow. I loved the Christmas pets!
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	H	4th Place	The Hinsdalean	Staff	Hinsdale 150th	
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Summer Fun Guide	Fun photos. Useful information. Good layout. Good community content. Overall a well done special summer section.
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	I	2nd Place	Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake	Julie Barichello	McHenry Community Guide	This is a great looking Chamber and community guide. I like the design, good use of photos, etc.
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	I	3rd Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa Julie Leuck	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin - Law Day Special Section	Interesting section. good theme.
BEST COMMUNITY FOCUS SPECIAL SECTION	I	4th Place	The Herald-News, Joliet	Julie Barichello	New Lenox Community Guide	
BEST CLASSIFIED AD	H	1st Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	The Krusteaz Company help wanted ad	Really nice ad! Love the layout and simpleness. Great job!
BEST CLASSIFIED AD	H	2nd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Staff	Montgomery County CEO	Great eye-catching ad! The use of large type matching the logo colors works well!
BEST CLASSIFIED AD	H	3rd Place	The Hinsdalean	Tina Wisniowicz	Buff & Coat	Nice design. Easy to read.
BEST CLASSIFIED AD	H	4th Place	The Ogle County Life	Michelle Garrelts	Coilcraft Job Fair	



BEST CLASSIFIED AD	I	1st Place	Herald-Whig, Quincy	Jackie Trujillo	Monster of a Garage Sale	Very good hyping up the date and getting people in. I found the ad to be a little loaded at points, making it a little hard to read, but the overall message and themes were very good.
BEST CLASSIFIED AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Karen Clayborn	PET SITTING	
BEST CLASSIFIED AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Karen Clayborn	Tom's Handyman Services	
BEST CLASSIFIED AD	I	4th Place	Herald-Whig, Quincy	Jackie Trujillo	Hiring Fair 2023	
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	G	1st Place	The Mendota Reporter	Michelle Garrelts, Jamie Stanford and Tonja Greenfield	Don't Drink and Drive This Holiday Season	Important public information put forth in a nice format. Great use of color. Like the grayscale signature ads below, not too busy to distract from the message.
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	G	2nd Place	El Paso Journal	Kim Kearney	Shop Local	
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	G	3rd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Fall Fun Festival ad page	
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	G	4th Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Chandlerville Burgoo Group page	
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	H	1st Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Staff	Litchfield Pickers Market	This ad grouping makes the Pickers Market look like the place to be! The photo featuring the street full of vendors intrigues me and the season schedule and music schedule are well organized and a handy reference.
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	H	2nd Place	Republic-Times, Waterloo	Staff	State Champs 2 times	Nice photo collages and grouping of congratulatory ads.
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	H	3rd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Staff	Happy Grandparents' Day	I love the comments written by fifth graders about their grandparents. The National Grandparents Day artwork is attention getting and the ad grouping is nicely done.
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	H	4th Place	Rochelle News-Leader	Michelle Garrelts	Halloween	Nice seasonal artwork and interesting Halloween trivia, jokes and safety tips. With color available on the page I'm a bit confused as to why all of the ads ran in black & white.
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Pride Fest	Really nice looking page. Great use of color. Everything fit the theme. Very well done.
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Shop Local	
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Congratulations Gina Miles	
BEST SHARED PAGE/SIGNATURE PAGE	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Michael Heldebrandt	Visit Arthur/Arcola	
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	G	1st Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Jim Edgar Panther Creek Guide	Great layout. A lot of good information but laid out in such a manner that it was easy to follow. Good use of advertising and of graphics. I'm sure this piece is picked up a lot.
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	G	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Cass County IL Directory	A lot of information laid out in a simple way that is easy to follow. Nice advertising.
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	H	1st Place	Kane County Chronicle, Geneva	Julie Barichello, Kelley White	KC Magazine	Very Modern and professional looking. From the outside looking in this made me feel like this would be a community I would want to be apart of.

						On Page 13 the word unforgettable is spelled without the e. I love the amount of pictures and graphics used it makes for a bright and colorful publication
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	H	2nd Place	The Times, Ottawa	Julie Barichello	Starved Rock Country Magazine	
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	H	3rd Place	Effingham Daily News	Staff	Eat, Drink, Gather! Magazine	
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	H	4th Place	The Galena Gazette	Beth Lutgen, Bob Woodward	The Galenian Magazine	
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	I Do Magazine 2023	Cover photo tells a story visually. Table of contents well organized. Classy template used throughout the magazine. Informative tips for wedding planning and organized well throughout the magazine.
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	I	2nd Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin - Women in Law Special Section	
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	I	3rd Place	Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake	Julie Barichello, Kelley White	Neighborhood Tourist	
BEST NICHE PUBLICATION	I	4th Place	The Herald-News, Joliet	Julie Barichello	Heritage Corridor I&M Canal Travel Guide	
BEST GROUP PROMOTION	Daily	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Women Mean Business	A unique twist to group promotion. Giving each group a picture, but overall using the similar listings helped to make it so each group had equal footing in the promotion.
BEST GROUP PROMOTION	Daily	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Michael Heldebrandt	Visit Tuscola	
BEST GROUP PROMOTION	NonDaily	1st Place	The Breese Journal	Angelica Detmer	Breese Hometown Holiday Magic	Nice use of the color center spread. Lots of information, fun and games and good local ads.
BEST GROUP PROMOTION	NonDaily	2nd Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Chandlerville Burgoo 2023 ad page	Nice clean layout and use of the festival logo and pictures to highlight some of the fun activities one can expect at the Burgoo festival.
BEST GROUP PROMOTION	NonDaily	3rd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	Country Springtime Shop Hop	Nice use of color. Separate call outs explain nicely what to expect and the participating business locations are succinctly organized.
BEST GROUP PROMOTION	NonDaily	4th Place	Mason County Democrat, Havana	Staff	Manito Popcorn Festival	Nice two page spread packed with detailed information and good local advertising support.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	G	1st Place	Cass County Star-Gazette, Beardstown	Kaitlyn Copley	Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Ad	Vibrant colors and a simple inviting message.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	G	2nd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Amanda Rull	Not home for the holidays?	Nice use of the headline and the image of the dog with the Santa hat as well as the festive lights around the border. Certain to attract the attention of pet owners.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	G	3rd Place	The Sidell Reporter	Rinda Maddox	Robison Chapel	A nice heartfelt New Year's wish and reminder to us all to be a loving.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	G	4th Place	The Sidell Reporter	Rinda Maddox	Harvest Bone Jangle	Let the Halloween fun began!
BEST HOLIDAY AD	H	1st Place	The Prairie Press, Paris	Jennifer Macke	Jones and Griffin	Nice very clean ad with great eye-catching use of fonts and layout. Great job.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	H	2nd Place	Mason County Democrat, Havana	Staff	Manhattan Fields	These are super fun ads. I loved the use of different fonts to catch your eye. Nice job incorporating the photos as well.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	H	3rd Place	Mason County Democrat, Havana	Staff	Market Street Boutique	Nice use of fonts with eye-catching qualities and placement. Everything is easy to read and the photo is well used.

BEST HOLIDAY AD	H	4th Place	The Fulton Democrat, Lewistown	Staff	Crow Hollow	Nice ad! This was a hard to judge category! Great competition for the top 4.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	I	1st Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Staff	Shop Local This Holiday Season	Nice layout. Attractive ads. Well done!
BEST HOLIDAY AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Angela Brown	Illini Mattress - on the Shop Local Page	Nice ad.
BEST HOLIDAY AD	I	3rd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Michael Heldebrandt	Fire Doll Studio - on the shop local page	
BEST HOLIDAY AD	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Skateland	
BEST ONLINE AD	H	1st Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Kramer Foods	Really pops with the veggie border! Nice ad.
BEST ONLINE AD	H	2nd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mike Plunkett	Litchfield Family Practice Center	Nice layout!
BEST ONLINE AD	H	3rd Place	The Journal-News, Hillsboro	Mike Plunkett	Animal Medical Center	
BEST ONLINE AD	H	4th Place	The Hinsdalean	Becky Campbell	Zaza	
BEST ONLINE AD	I	1st Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa	Mightier than Ever	Very sleek and clean design.
BEST ONLINE AD	I	2nd Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Shields Auto Group	
BEST ONLINE AD	I	3rd Place	Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Adam Hrejsa	Jams Mediation - online	
BEST ONLINE AD	I	4th Place	The News-Gazette, Champaign	Lisa Lotz	Illini Courtsiders	