



Heart of America Awards

2010

Print, above 50,000 daily

Deadline Reporting

Gold: Joe Rodriguez, Tim Potter, Stan Finger, Dion Leffer, Deb Grover, Conor Shine, Kevin McGrath and Stephanie Barnard, The Wichita Eagle, "Tiller Suspect." *Very well written stories telling many sides of this sad tale. Provided analysis and was creatively put together.*

Silver: Ann Marie Bush, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Scranton Asks Why." *Well written and sensitive piece about a tragedy. It is accurate and informative, even though details were sketchy at the time.*

Bronze: Adrielle Harvey, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Hostages." *Good overview of a hostage situation that had a happy ending. Told with style and creativity.*

General Reporting

Gold: Tony Rizzo, The Kansas City Star, "Murder Factory." *Idea shows much ingenuity with careful follow-through that shines new light on topic.*

Silver: Anne Marie Bush, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Library Board." *Story demonstrates once again that beneath every unturned stone is a colony of insects – even beneath the unturned stone of a library board.*

Bronze: Donald Bradley, The Kansas City Star. *The amount of behind the scenes effort that went into securing these interviews cannot be underestimated.*

HM: Nadia Pflaum, The Pitch, "Nuclear Fallout."

HM: Nadia Pflaum, The Pitch, "Dead Man."

Business Reporting

Gold: Carolyn Szczepanski, The Pitch, "The Ripple Effect." *An enlightening, well-written piece.*

Silver: Mike Sherry, The Kansas City Business Journal, "Flu Fears." *Interesting lead draws the reader into the story.*

Bronze: Jan Biles, The Topeka Capital-Journal. "Road Through Recession." *A nice package that puts a face on the recession.*

Investigative Reporting

Gold: Laura Bauer, Mike McGraw, Mark Morris, The Kansas City Star, "A New Slavery." *Important, in-depth consideration of human trafficking and slavery. A blockbuster series.*

Silver: Tim Carpenter, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Women's Prison." *Carpenter's series on sexual assault in prison is disturbing, enlightening and powerful.*

Bronze: James Carlson, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Juveniles." *Carlson's expose of a juvenile center shows a facility's chaotic conditions. A strong example of investigative journalism.*

Feature

Gold: Karen Shideler, The Wichita Eagle, "A Life to Remember." *A fully told story of a tragic event. It brought tears to my eyes. It was well written, touching and sad without being sentimental.*

Silver: Ann Marie Bush, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Father Opens Up." *A well-written story about dangers of depression. A good investigative piece as well.*

Bronze: Peter Rugg, The Pitch, "True, True Blood."

HM: Adreille Harvey, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Sticks and stones."

Profile

Gold: Roy Wentzel, The Wichita Eagle. "The miracle of Father Kapaun." *Powerful, interesting story. The stories capture the reader in unique ways and force the reader to engage and show emotion.*

Silver: Carolyn Szczepanski, The Pitch, "There Will Be Blood." *Great build. Story keeps readers engaged. Keeps the reader wanting more.*

Bronze: Alan Scherstuhl, The Pitch, "The Big Tease." *Makes the reader like Darla. Great detail and comedy in the story.*

HM: Casey Lyons, The Pitch, "The Oldest Professional."

Sports Writing

Gold: Randy Covitz, The Kansas City Star, "Gay Players." *Seizing on a gay-bashing comment by Larry Johnson, Covitz produced a timely, well-written story about homophobia in the NFL. Tuaolo's comments help reveal the difficulties of being gay in the NFL.*

Photojournalism Breaking News

Gold: Chris Oberholtz, The Kansas City Star, "Flames engulf." *Great shot with amazing clarity showing a single firefighter dwarfed by the enormity and brilliance of the fire in the background. Reminiscent of the Atlanta burning scene from "Gone With the Wind," only this shot is real.*

Photojournalism Feature

Gold: Keith A. Myers, Human Trafficking, The Kansas City Star.

Silver: Chris Oberholtz, Armful of Love, The Kansas City Star.

Editorial

Gold: Matt Schofield, The Kansas City Star. *Schofield practically reinvents the craft of editorial writing, given his effective combination of persuasive, investigative and literary skill. His counsel on the U.S. pulling out of Iraq is measured and reasoned.*

Silver: Fredrick Johnson, The Topeka Capital-Journal. *"Public trust" tackled gray area related to conflict of interest concerns in state government. The piece growls loud, and no doubt lawmakers paid attention to*

this editorial's objections to certain hires and appointments.

Bronze: Brian Kaberline, The Kansas City Business Journal. *The editorial dings a respected company for seeking property tax relief. The style is terse. The logic is easy to comprehend.*

News Column

Gold: Barbara Shelly, The Kansas City Star. *Shelly's writing style is breezy and easy to comprehend for KC Star readers. Content is strong. Her leads are grabbers. Her pieces are models of tight writing.*

Silver: E. Thomas McClanahan, The Kansas City Star. *McClanahan writes with a sharpened pen point. His prose is aggressive. He carries his strong opinions with well-researched facts.*

Bronze: Fred Logan, The Kansas City Business Journal. *Logan brings a fresh and personal approach to column writing. He brings a clear voice, in particular, to issues that concern education and children.*

Non-news Column

Gold: David Chartrand, freelance, The Kansas City Star. *Quirky sense of humor with great comedic lineup and perceptive commentary.*

Silver: Cindy Hoedel, The Kansas City Star. *Folksy, whimsical column with an engaging personality – Hoedel's own. She has had an interesting life and pulls entertaining memories out of her past to trot them past readers.*

Bronze: Charles Ferruzza, The Pitch. *Finds a way to use clever observations to create witty restaurant column.*

Entertainment

Gold: Peter Rugg, The Pitch, "The Story of My Life."

Silver: Justin Kendall, The Pitch, "Air Guitar Hero."

Bronze: Peter Rugg, The Pitch, "Spit Happens."

Beat Reporting

Gold: Judy L. Thomas, The Kansas City Star, "The Complex Life of George Tiller." *This writer's depth of knowledge about abortion in Kansas benefited her readers and led to great coverage of the Tiller killing.*

Silver: James Dornbrook, The Kansas City Business Journal, financial series. *Found great stories on a great beat for 2009.*

Bronze: Steve Fry, The Topeka Capital-Journal, "Case Dismissed."

HM: Mike Sherry, The Kansas City Business Journal, "Health Care."

HM: Suzanna Stagemeyer, The Kansas City Business Journal, "Transportation."

Public Service Project

Gold: Dion Lefler, The Wichita Eagle, "Town Over Mines." *An amazing body of work. This is what newspaper journalism at its best has the power to do. And lovely, fluid writing to boot.*

Silver: Staff, Kansas City Business Journal, "Health Care Reform."

Bronze: Staff, Kansas City Business Journal, "Tapping the Stimulus."

Magazine Story

Gold: Nadia Pflaum, The Pitch, "Denim and Death." *A country-western bar owner. A beautiful younger woman. A divorce file packed with juicy tidbits. Now this is a magazine story.*

Silver: Brian Burnes, The Kansas City Star Magazine, "Soldiers Once Again." *Touching and thoughtful, but not overwrought.*

Bronze: Edward M. Eveld, The Kansas City Star Magazine, "Distant Rivers." *A great city magazine idea. The rivers are right there in front of readers, yet undisclosed.*

Print, below 50,000 daily

Deadline Reporting

Gold: Sue Sterling, Amanda Lubinski, Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, "Chase, Bullets Follow Robbery." *Comprehensive reporting that gives readers complete picture of a fast-moving and multi-layered event.*

Silver: Sarah Nail, The Sedalia Democrat, "Operation Erin drug bust." *Enterprising and risky reporting assignment results in well-documented account of arrests in major drug sweep.*

Bronze: Amanda Lubinski, Daily Star-Journal, "Murder-suicide in Odessa." *Beautifully written story of a tragedy that captures the warm, caring personality of the unfortunate victim.*

HM: Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, Daily Star-Journal, "Boyfriend names self."

General Reporting

Gold: Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, Daily Star-Journal, "Hiding in Plain Sight." *Remarkable and engrossing series of stories that shine light into lives and conditions that many communities keep under wraps.*

Silver: Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, Daily Star-Journal, "Take Back the Night." *A difficult but vital subject expertly written and reported, providing important and in-depth information.*

Bronze: Jeff Haldiman, Jefferson City Tribune, "Girl still missing." *Readers are in on every development in this painful, heartbreaking series told professionally and comprehensively.*

HM: Sarah Nail, Sedalia Democrat, "Death of mayor."

Business Reporting

Gold: Matthew Steingraber, The Sedalia Democrat, "Economic impact series." *Penetrating examination of how major business segments of the community are dealing with the economic downturn.*

Silver: Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, "Pellet Power." *Fascinating behind-the-scene accounts of a project that could help lead the country to clean energy.*

Investigative Reporting

Gold: Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, "Freshman Freebies." *Research reveals Democrats and Republicans feeding from the lobbyists' trough in Jefferson City.*

Feature

Gold: Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, "Homeless." *A powerful three-part series with sidebars about Johnson County HELP. Brings HELP to life.*

Silver: Michelle Brooks, The Jefferson City News-Tribune, "No bars to learning." *One form of help for the blind is a win-win situation. Braille texts, from children's books to calculus books, are produced by inmates who want to learn skills that will help them land jobs when they are released. Informative and sometimes humorous, this article humanizes people who are despised and often forgotten.*

Bronze: Tonya Fennell, Sedalia Democrat, "Marrow transplant." *Telling quotations narrate this story of sacrifice and reconciliation.*

HM: Bob Watson, Jefferson City News-Tribune, "Remembering Dylan."

Profile

Gold: Adrienne DeWeese, The Independence Examiner, "Starting over." *This account of an unexpected near tragedy – from the accident, to the therapy, with the support of family, friends and one important stranger – uses multiple sources to tell a compelling and inspirational story.*

Silver: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Still makin’ music.” *Bullets, vodka and the company of Ike and Tina Turner make for an exciting profile of Lorenzo “The Hat” Manley, who learned how to play piano from his father, whose music was respite from long days picking cotton as a sharecropper.*

Bronze: Matthew Steingraber, The Sedalia Democrat, “Tying his own flies.” *The skill and enterprise of 13-year-old Daniel Aken are highlighted in this fun profile.*

Sports writing

Gold: Seth Streinger, The Sedalia Democrat, “John Maupin.” *A well-written profile that shows sports’ impact on life.*

Silver: Tom Rackers, David Owen, The Jefferson City News Tribune, “The dream dies hard.” *Nice package of game stories.*

Bronze: Tony Hawley, Jefferson City News Tribune, “Basking in victory.” *Good wrap-up of a quirky, season-ending play.*

Photojournalism, breaking news

Gold: Amanda Lubinski, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Emergency Personnel.” *This photo told the whole story of this incredible wreck. Aesthetically pleasing.*

Silver: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Head-on Wreck.” *Well-framed. Captured the story very well.*

Bronze: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “T-bone wreck.” *This photo captured great emotion. Good action. Nice facial expression.*

HM: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “House Fire.”

HM: Amanda Lubinski, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Murder-Suicide.”

Photojournalism, feature

Gold: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Little Flowers.” *Beyond a great feature photo, this is just a great photo. The judges said they would like to hang this on the wall in their homes. This photo captures a very tender moment.*

Silver: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Too Tight.” *This picture makes you laugh! Very good anticipation to capture a funny moment. Nice contrast in facial expressions.*

Bronze: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Slide into Summer.” *This photo just jumps out at you. Crisp and clear, it captures all the excitement of the moment.*

HM: Stephen Brooks, Jefferson City News Tribune, “Test of Fire.”

HM: Amanda Lubinski, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Slurp.”

HM: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Snowboarder.”

Photojournalism, sports

Gold: Stephen Brooks, The Jefferson City News Tribune, “Battling Hard.” *Outstanding sports photo. Captured the drama of the moment as the runner is forced out. Great facial expression. Well-framed. Good eye for action.*

Silver: Stephen Brooks, The Jefferson City News Tribune, “Piece of the Action.” *Very good anticipation to capture an infrequent moment on the field.*

Bronze: Corey Edwards, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Mules Gallop.” *What intensity on the faces of the players as well as those on the bench observing and in the stands.*

HM: Stephen Brooks, The Jefferson City News Tribune, “Winning in Style.”

Editorial

Gold: Bob Satnan, The Sedalia Democrat, “Shirt Flap Hits Sour Note.” *Thank goodness the newspaper could bring some common sense to the inflamed reasoning by the school board to make band members turn in T-shirts that some found offensive. Well-reasoned editorial that spoke common sense and castigated those who took the “Brass Evolutions” T-shirt too far.*

Silver: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Follow law.” *The fact that a government body could get away with such lax agendas for public meetings is a disgrace and kudos to The Daily-Star Journal for standing up for the public’s right to know.*

Bronze: Richard McGonegal, Jefferson City News Tribune, “Drug testing.” *Nice to see an editorial giving credit where credit is due. Editorials can enforce positive behavior in addition to punishing bad behavior. Good job.*

News Column

Gold: Brian Jarvis, The Columbia Missourian. *Nice mix of columns with good variety of topics.*

Silver: Bob Satnan, The Sedalia Democrat. *Good use of column to highlight small or perhaps overlooked issues. Or, as the headline states for one piece: “Stories we must keep telling.”*

Bronze: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal. *Tackles hot-button social issues with ease.*

Non-News Column

Gold: Tony Hawley, Jefferson City News Tribune. *The “Tweets” piece was absolutely fabulous. Laugh-out-loud great.*

Silver: Bob Satnan, The Sedalia Democrat. *Nice slice-of-life pieces.*

Bronze: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal. *Personal looks into topics ranging from domestic violence to the local farmer’s market.*

Entertainment

Gold: Gary Tritz, Jefferson City News Tribune, “Magical laughter.” *Goes beyond the basics to add some color to stories.*

Silver: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, Daily Star-Journal. “New Harmonies.” *Nice feature on the music man.*

Beat Reporting

Gold: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal. “State Government.” *Great story on state rep owing taxes. Other stories also solid coverage of government.*

Silver: Michelle Brooks, The Jefferson City News Tribune, “Faith.” *Easy-to-read writing style and nice mix of topics. Loved the violin story the best.*

Bronze: Michelle Brooks, The Jefferson City News Tribune, “Capital City’s History.” *Liked that these stories are different, not run of the mill. Nice glimpses into how history is relevant today.*

Public Service

Gold: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “HELP.” *This is what community-based journalism is all about. This series of articles focused attention on people who are powerless to control their destiny. The series illustrated – through intimate, personal stories of those who had never been homeless – what a wonder mission this center provides. Good job!*

Silver: The Sedalia Democrat staff, “Send \$25 on the 25th.” *What a good idea to promote local business.*

Magazine Story

Gold: Jack “Miles” Ventimiglia, The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, “Domestic Violence.” *A look at spousal violence that covers the*

bases – history, causes of violence, and interviews, including with an abused woman and people who work with victims.

Print, non-daily

Deadline Reporting

Gold: Chuck Kurtz, The Johnson County Sun: “Moore is Out.” *Good reporting of a breaking story. Analysis of the Republican competition for the congressional seat seems thorough, although I wondered why so much focus was on the Republican contenders and so little attention was given to the Democrats.*

Silver: Emily Jarrett, Lee’s Summit Journal: “Man Flies.” *Good account of a straight news story. Went a step deeper than a typical story of this nature to tell witnesses’ account of what happened at the scene.*

General Reporting

Gold: Chuck Kurtz, The Johnson County Sun: “Homeless in Johnson County.” *A look at how the problem of homelessness has affected an affluent community during the recession and the steps being taken to rectify it. Great idea including descriptions of the substandard living quarters now available to homeless families.*

Silver: Debra DeCoster, KC Hispanic News: “Sorrow is Her Constant Companion.” *A look at a mother’s pain and frustration with a cumbersome legal process. An empathetic presentation of the toll of senseless violence on those it leaves behind.*

Bronze: Beth Lipoff, Kansas City Jewish Chronicle: “Arab Educators Visit.” *An interesting take on a complicated problem. Story gives us all hope that direct interaction is the key to better understanding.*

HM: Joe Arce, Debra DeCoster, KC Hispanic News, “Alma Second Chance.”

HM: Debra DeCoster, KC Hispanic News, “A Mother’s Pain.”

Business Reporting

Gold: Bruce Rodgers, Discovery Publications, “Lamp Lighters.” *There is no doubt the owners and readers enjoyed the attention paid to a family business.*

Investigative Reporting

Gold: Chuck Kurtz, The Johnson County Sun: “Lyme Disease.” *A revealing look at how Lyme disease can affect not only individuals, but those around them, and how the disease can go undiagnosed. A small bug that can cause huge problems.*

Feature

Gold: Miranda Wycoff, Lee’s Summit Journal: “Chasing Dreams.” *Interesting story about how one individual played an important role in one of mankind’s greatest ventures. We had heard about Werner Von Braun; now we know how Harold Finch helped man walk on the moon.*

Silver: John Beaudoin, Lee’s Summit Journal, “A Christmas Wish.” *A special Christmas for a sick girl through the kindness of strangers. Heartwarming account of what really is important at Christmas.*

Bronze: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal: “Local Thanksgiving.” *Fun take on the importance of food produced locally. Interesting article that I’m sure educated many readers.*

HM: Beth Lipoff, Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, “Exchange Students.”

HM: Emily Jarrett, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Bon Appetite.”

Profile

Gold: Miranda Wycoff, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Special Delivery.” *Good story about 38 Special. Nice tone – respectful, but doesn’t take the band too seriously.*

Silver: Emily Jarrett, Lee’s Summit Journal, “What Language Barrier?” *Nice feature about a kid who is able to keep things normal under extraordinary circumstances.*

Bronze: Miranda Wycoff, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Learning to Say ‘No.’” *Compelling story, but would have liked more details. What happened to her children, what kind of jobs she was able to get?*

Sports Writing

Gold: Stephen Bubalo, Lee’s Summit Journal, “In a League of Her Own.” *Story portrays emotion and accomplishment as well as a clear picture of how the tournament was played.*

Silver: Mark Dewar, The Johnson County Sun, “One Hit Wonder.” *An original profile. Thoroughly reported and full of detail.*

Bronze: Stephen Bubalo, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Major League Arm.” *Good account of a dramatic game.*

HM: Stephen Bubalo, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Third time’s a charm.”

HM: Mark Dewar, The Johnson County Sun, “Affairs of the Heart.”

Photojournalism, feature

Gold: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Pumpkin Picking.” *The expression captured on the boy’s face makes the picture stand out. It tells the viewer everything he needs to know. Great moment.*

Silver: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Skate Park Opens.” *A perfect balance between art and action. The intensity of the in-line skater is highlighted by the relaxed posture of those in the background.*

Bronze: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Dress Rehearsal.” *Nicely depicts a quiet moment of preparation. The musician close the camera seems oblivious to the camera.*

HM: Miranda Wycoff, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Ford Tri-Motor.”

Photojournalism, sports

Gold: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Buckin’ Broncos Baseball.” *You’ve got to be playing close attention to capture a moment like this. Sports photography is mainly about action and this photo has it all. Very crisp and clean. Great job!*

Silver: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Batter up.” *The judges loved the intense look in the pitcher’s eyes and the contorted figure as she is about to deliver the ball. The eyes tell the story.*

Bronze: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Broncos.” *Photo captured good action on the field as players are caught in a variety of poses as the game reaches a dramatic moment.*

HM: Julie Scheidegger, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Light it Up.”

Editorial

Gold: Bob Sigman, The Johnson County Sun, “County Short on Recycling.” *Who would have guessed affluent people would be slackers in the area of recycling? The editorial should have served as a community wake up call not only that recycling is needed, but lays out the real prospect of needlessly filling the county’s closest landfill.*

News Column

Gold: Bob Sigman, The Johnson County Sun, “Young Drivers At Risk.” *These columns are well-researched and well-reasoned. From taking to task the GOP majority in Topeka for their budget deficits, to concern about teen drivers, to advocating a statewide smoking ban. This is the type of writing that shapes community opinions.*

Non-news Column

Gold: Miranda Wycoff, Lee’s Summit Journal, “Miranda’s Adventures.” *Wonderful. More than observations about life, these columns*

are told by someone who relates first-hand experiences as they happen. This is community journalism at its finest.

Entertainment

Gold: Beth Lipoff, Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, "Caveman." Good look at acting as told by a professional. Turkey bowling is worth a smile, but the description of his circumcision... Hilarious! Because it happened to him and not me. Good storytelling.

Beat Reporting

Gold: Chuck Kurtz, The Johnson County Sun, "County Beat." Kurtz does a good job of covering the county from a variety of perspectives: stimulus funds for roads, flood plans and taxes. These stories are what the public looks for in a community newspapers.

Public Service

Gold: Chuck Kurtz, The Johnson County Sun, "Shame On Us." Raising awareness about the lack of recycling in an otherwise progressive area is an important community service.

Trade and speciality publications

Business-to-business publication

Gold: Staff, Land Line. This magazine clearly knows its readers and uses large staff to cover its industry. Good covers, clear organization and solid reporting puts this magazine atop the category.

Silver: Staff, Courier Magazine. Better writing thanks to freelancers sets this magazine apart from its sister publication below. Nice covers.

Bronze: Staff, Applicator Magazine. Like its stablemate, CM, this magazine serves its readers well with straight industry-specific content/issues. Graphics are surprisingly different, since art director is the same, but not quite as strong graphically.

General reporting

Gold: Kate Leibsle, Kelly Scanlon and Dave Day, Thinking Bigger Business Media Inc., "Animal Magnetism."

Silver: Jami Jones, Land Line, "Survey Says."

Bronze: David Tanner, Land Line, "Bridge to Somewhere."

Business Reporting

Gold: Clarissa Kell-Holland, Land Line, "Snow Job."

Silver: Charlie Morasch, Land Line, "Anatomy of a Killer Tow Bill."

Bronze: Kate Leibsle, Kelly Scanlon and Dave Day, Thinking Bigger Business Media Inc., "Help Wanted."

Investigative reporting

Gold: Clarissa Kell-Holland, Land Line, "Clunker with Cash." The researcher does a good job of bringing attention to an issue of importance to readers – federal bailout money for business loans going unused due to lack of interested lenders.

Feature

Gold: Kate Leibsle and Kelly Scanlon, Kansas City Small Business, "Chemical Reaction." An engaging and well-organized story.

Silver: Charlie Morasch, Land Line, "Hill County Blues." Nice use of quotes.

Bronze: Jody Becker, CM, "Buying Software." Thorough coverage of the topic."

Column

Gold: Dave Sweetman, Land Line, "Dashboard Confidential."

Online

News Web Site

Gold: The Wichita Eagle, kansas.com staff. *The Wichita Eagle's website is clearly the best. Its layout is busy but not messy. There is a good mix of editorial and advertising content, which is clearly demarcated by placement and style. It is the most-often updated sites and does a nice job rotating the day's major stories from the paper. The Eagle's site also makes the best use of online enhancements to print with links to searchable databases and galleries. There is a strong mix of photos, video and other features. While it takes a while to load, the site stands above its peers.*

Silver: The Kansas City Business Journal staff. *This site looks like business and the KCBJ fills it with strong niche content. The site is fast, clean and serves its readers well. Good use of the home page to tout blogs/updates while making reference back to the print weekly. The site could use more updates, especially from staff, but overall the site is attractive and current.*

Bronze: The Topeka Capital-Journal, CJ Online staff. *A high ad-to-content ratio mixed with a busy home page make this the hardest site to navigate. The site also fails to cross-pollinate with the print version, though it does a very good job of updating content throughout the day.*

Multi-Media Package

Gold: kansas.com, The Wichita Eagle. *A first-rate retelling of the miraculous recovery of Chase Keare, a young man whose head injury should have killed him. Through an eight-part series, strong use of photography and a documentary, the Eagle makes the case for sainthood for Kansas' own Emil Kapuan. There aren't too many examples of newspapers telling stories so well through so many means. Good work and congratulations for showing how newspapers can remain relevant in the digital age.*

HM: Tammy Ljungblad and Joe Lambe, Kansas City Star. "Willie Aames." *This mixes a good print feature of an on-the-rocks child star's Olathe garage sale with a good gallery and a fair video. Choppy production and quotes without context mar the package.*

Blog

Gold: Carrie Rengers, The Wichita Eagle, "Have You Heard?" *This is what blogging is all about – timely, useful and interesting information.*

Radio

News Program

Gold: Susan Biwilson, Sylvia-Maria Gross, Alex Smith and Annie Walsh, KCUR, "KC Currents." *Nice variety of voices, topics.*

Silver: Kathy Quinn, Star 102, "KC Forum on Star 102."

Breaking News

Gold: Reed Black, Barry Spillman, James Fitzer, Land Line Now, "Arrow Trucking Closes." *Good job of both covering this story and providing opportunities for the public to help out the stranded truckers.*

Business Reporting

Gold: Frank Morris, KCUR, "Economy Crashes Small Plane Manufacturing."

Silver: Mark Reddig et al, Land Line Now, "Liquid Natural Gas: Fuel of the Future."

Bronze: Sylvia Maria Gross, KCUR, "Beyond Enchiladas: Mexican Restaurant Owners Meet in KC."

HM: Steve Bell, KCUR, "Out of Jail."

HM: Frank Morris, KCUR, "Recession Hits Freight Industry."

Talk Radio

Gold: Up-to-Date, KCUR.

Silver: Walt Bodine Show, KCUR.

Feature

Gold: Gina Kaufman, Alex Smith, Laura Spencer, KCUR, “Don’t Quit Your Day Job.”

Silver: Dan Verbeck, KCUR, “Best Shot: Lake Kansas Sociers’ Career Path....”

Bronze: Reed Black, Land Line Now, “The Sounds of Mid-America.”

HM: Steve Bell, KCUR, “Winfield: The Walnut Valley Mistique.”

HM: Alexander Smith, KCUR, “New Competition for Panhandlers on Downtown Street Corners.”

Investigative Reporting

Gold: Mark Reddig, Barry Spillman, Land Line Now, “Checklist Fatigue: Minnesota Targets Truckers.”

Television, above 100 market rank

Newscast

Gold: KAKE-TV, Wichita, News Team, Dave Grant, News Director, “KAKE News at 10: ‘Dr. Tiller Killed.’” *Very good, comprehensive coverage of a major local story of national importance. Great job mobilizing staff on Sunday.*

Silver: Dori Olmos, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “Springfield Flash Floods.” *Good comprehensive newscast. Strong flood video. Thorough weather coverage.*

Spot News

Gold: Will Carter, Dallas Houtz, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “Downtown Springfield Floods.” *Great job of taking viewers to the troubled waters—compelling story, well-shot and edited.*

Silver: Joanna Small, Ben Knaup, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “Kids Survive Fatal Train Wreck.”

Bronze: Nathan Christopher, Cayle Thompson, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “Anthony Fire.”

General Reporting

Gold: Larry Hatteberg, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “A Woman’s Journey.” *An impressive story, well told, beautifully shot.*

Silver: Joanna Small, Joel Girdner, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “Conservatives React to Inauguration”

Bronze: Michelle Sherwood, Ben Knaup, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “Maverick Busted.”

HM: Nathan Christner, Cayle Thompson, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “The Greening.”

Feature

Gold: Sarah Clark, WDAF-TV, Kansas City, “Twitter Trends.” *A lively, fast-paced account that tells people not familiar with Twitter what the social networking site is all about. The quick cuts and informal style reflect Twitter itself.*

Photojournalism

Gold: Joel Girdner, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “Josh Mitchell Photography.”

Silver: Phil Maslin, WDAF-TV, Kansas City, “Harvest Begins.”

Bronze: Greg Alexander, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “What’s Cool in Your School: Northwest High School.”

HM: Dallas Hartz, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “The State’s Poorest County Flourishes.”

HM: Greg Alexander, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “What’s Cool in Your School: Stuckey Middle School.”

Sports

Gold: Joel Girdner, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “Parkour.” *Well shot and edited story about a “sport” that is truly “new.”*

Silver: Nathan Christner, Cayle Thompson, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “Coach Boone.” *Nicely done, well shot, good use of movie video.*

Public Service Program

Gold: Philip Maslin, WDAF-TV, Kansas City, “A Hero Again.” *Well shot, well edited. Important story. Encouraging public to record stories of WWII vets is a public service.*

Documentary Program

Gold: Gabe Juhnke, Stacey Jenkins, Jesse Huxman, KPTS-TV, Wichita, “Black and Gold, Remembering the WSU Plane Crash.” *Outstanding over all.*

Silver: Travis Heying, KPTS-TV, Wichita, “The Miracle of Father Kapaun.”

HM: Philip Maslin, WDAF-TV, Kansas City, “America’s Best.”

HM: Leslie Carto and Philip Maslin, WDAF-TV, Kansas City, “The Little Match Girl.”

Regular Franchise Feature

Gold: Greg Alexander, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “What’s Cool in Your School.” *Nice idea. Well done, positive news about local schools is too rare on television.*

Silver: Kathy Quinn, Jana Calkins, WDAF-TV, Kansas City, “Pay it Forward.” *Professionally done stories, good concept, encouraging viewers to think of others deserving help.*

Television, below 100 market rank

Newscast

Gold: KTKA, Topeka, News Team, “Main Street Life: Wamego.” *Interesting, creative approach, taking the studio “on location” and focusing reports on stories drawn from the locale. Nice job!*

Silver: Meredith Miller, Randy Reeves, KOMU-TV, Columbia, “KOMU 8 News at 6.”

General Reporting

Gold: Syed Shabbir, Ben Bauman, Nate Riggs, KTKA-TV, Topeka, for “Holiday Snow Storm.” *Comprehensive team effort. Thorough, informative, good job of staying on top of the story!*

Feature

Gold: Sarah Hill, Scott Schaefer and Scott Schmidt, KOMU-TV, Columbia, “Honor Flight: Sarah’s Stories.” *Compelling stories, well told, interesting side features, lots of resources went into this piece honoring veterans.*

Silver: Nathan Christner, Greg Alexander and Janelle Holopirek, KAKE-TV, Wichita, “MD Treatment.” *Strong telling of a new treatment for muscular dystrophy, giving hope to a boy and his family. It was both featury and news.*

Bronze: Michelle Sherwood and Paul Reynolds, KSPR-TV, Springfield, “A 50-year Search.” *The mother of an adopted boy tracks him down after 50 years. Well-told and emotional.*

HM: Megan Murphy and Scott Schaefer, KOMU-TV, Columbia, “Shop with a Cop.” *A nice Christmas feature.*

Photojournalism

Gold: Scott Schaefer, KOMU-TV, Columbia, “Dance Boots.” *Good*

editing, variety of shooting techniques mixed with interviews, made a good package.

Sports

Gold: Eric Blumberg and Scott Schaefer, KOMU-TV, Columbia, "Tiger Toilets." *Who knew Tiger spirit was only a "flush" away? Very creative, fun to watch, nicely edited too!*

Silver: Eric Blumberg and Scott Schaefer, KOMU-TV, Columbia, "50-Mile Runner."

Public Service Project

Gold: Barb Brueggeman, Sarah Hill, Scott Schaefer, Scott Schmidt, Stacey Woefel, Marty Siddall, Matt Garrett, KOMU-TV, Columbia, "Show Me Honor." *This project defines the whole concept of public service. The challenges and obstacles were formidable, but determination and dedication appear to have won out. Thanks and congratulations on a job well done!*

Documentary Program

Gold: Sarah Hill, KOMU-TV, Columbia, "Call to Honor." *Great use of transitions, nice job with the video.*

Regular Franchise Feature

Gold: Sarah Hill, Scott Schaefer, Scott Schmidt, KOMU-TV, Columbia, "Sarah's Stories: Sarah Hill Compilation." *Compelling stories, well presented, no gimmicks, just raw emotion.*

Silver: Nic Hoch, Nate Riggs, Justin Schmidt, Matt Lucht, KTKA-TV, Topeka, "49 Sports Challenges." *Standard personal features that make the viewer want to watch.*

Bronze: Doug Magditch, KSPR-TV, Springfield, "My Ozarks."

2009 Special Awards:

Journalist of the Year: Karen Dillon, The Kansas City Star.

Kansas City Press Club Member of the Year: Dick Nelson.

Newspaper of the Year: The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal.

Television Station of the Year: KOMU.

Radio Station of the Year: KCUR.