



# Heart of America Awards

## 2008

### Print, above 50,000 daily

#### Deadline Reporting

**Gold:** Christine Vendel, John Shultz, et. al, *The Kansas City Star*, "Mall shootings leave three dead." *Interesting decision to go with feature-style lede on 4/30 first-day story. Unclear, however, why gunman is unnamed in that piece.*

**HM:** Eric Barton, *The Pitch*, "Cauthen's Travels."

#### General Reporting

**Gold:** Nadia Pflaum, *The Pitch*, "Buried Truth." *Good writing and solid reporting come together with masterful storytelling. A major reason for the success of this piece is that writer Nadia Pflaum does not get in the way of her subjects. She lets them carry the story and its inherent emotion without the heavy-handed editorial voice disrupting their voices. The story moves the reader along by creating a sense of anticipation for how or if the situation will resolve. Even though the mystery of the slave cemeteries remains unresolved in the end, the reader learns much about an important part of the community and its history in the bargain.*

**Silver:** Christine Vendel, Mark Morris, *The Kansas City Star*, "Gang Squad." *A gritty exposition of the gang world that pulses with authenticity. Articles do a fine job of delivering an up-close look at the street-level cops dealing with the problem day in and day out. Tight writing with good descriptive passages help the stories move.*

**Bronze:** Jan Biles, James Carlson, Dave Ranney, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "A Crisis in Care." *Exhaustively reported, this series details the many challenges the Medicaid system faces in health care delivery – cost containment, fraud control, prescription medicines and an uncertain future. The series is a fine example of journalism in the public interest.*

**HM:** Justin Kendall, *The Pitch*, "Dead Man's Camp." *A strange, offputting man meets a horrific death at the hands of homeless people he purported to advocate for. A bleak story told with compassion for even the worst players in this chilling drama.*

**HM:** Tim Carpenter, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "The Brink of Death." *Relentless but careful reporting recreates the life of a troubled teenager who slipped away from home and "the system" – and into the hands of a killer. Powerfully emotional but not maudlin.*

#### Business Reporting

**Gold:** Jeffrey Spivak, Lynn Horsley, *The Kansas City Star*, "Reaching the TIF-ing Point." *Very thorough, well-researched report on the pros and cons of TIF. Well done "watch dog report."*

**Silver:** Dan Voorhis, Carrie Rengers, Bill Wilson, *Wichita Eagle*, "Wild West World." *The journalists did a good job of uncovering what went wrong with a two-month-old theme park that closed and went bankrupt.*

**Bronze:** Tim Carpenter, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "Power Surge, et al." *This series was well done, but seemed to fit better in an environmental/energy category. It was well written and its quality should not go unnoticed.*

#### Investigative Reporting

**Gold:** Mike Casey, Rick Montgomery, *The Kansas City Star*, "Fatal Failures." *Outstanding transparency in fact-finding. Impressive visual presentation as well.*

**Silver:** Tim Carpenter, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "Sex scandal rocks A.G.," etc.

**Bronze:** Judy L. Thomas, *The Kansas City Star*, "Lax financial oversight riles some followers." *Exhaustive reporting and well-executed follow-up.*

**HM:** Alan Scher Zagier, Associated Press, "Teacher Abuse Project."

**HM:** Rob Roberts, *Kansas City Business Journal*, "Blair and the KBA."

#### Feature

**Gold:** Carolyn Szczepanski, *The Pitch*, "The Power of Half a Brain." *Beautifully detailed and written, balanced emotion and science. Photo size or placement could have been better.*

**Silver:** Cindy Hoedel, Stacy Downs, *The Kansas City Star*, "How to buy furniture." *Crammed with useful information but very readable. Design/components and story complemented each other. More "real people" in addition to experts would have been nice.*

**Bronze:** Barbara Hollingsorth, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "A Scot's year." *Extensive reporting was evident, but occasionally overwhelmed the story as a whole. Nicely detailed, but would have benefited from rewrite.*

**HM:** Edward M. Eveld, *The Kansas City Star*, "Love guides a lifetime of care."

**HM:** Steve Paul, *The Kansas City Star*, "Killing's ripples are still growing."

#### Profile

**Gold:** Carolyn Szczepanski, *The Pitch*, "Back to School with Kris Kobach." *The writer picked a controversial, complex person and crafted a nuanced, factual article. Interviews with opposing parties create energy, texture and understanding.*

**Silver:** Rob Roberts, *Kansas City Business Journal*, "O'Donnell doesn't kid about children's care." *Reporter infuses ordinary assign-*

ment with sparkle, personality, facts and significance. Writer documents connection between the person's personality and life's work, and its significance.

**Bronze:** Eric Barton, *The Pitch*, "In Herm's Head." Reporter uses detailed documentation, scene reconstruction and keen observation to create an in-depth mental, emotional and professional profile.

### Sports Writing

**Gold:** Bill Reiter, *The Kansas City Star*, "Lenny: The early years."

**Silver:** Peter Rugg, *The Pitch*, "Underdogs of Southeast."

**Bronze:** Justin Kendall, *The Pitch*, "End Zone."

**HM:** Randy Covitz, *The Kansas City Star*, "Scars of the Game."

### Photojournalism Breaking News

**Gold:** Anthony Bush, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "Water World."

### Photojournalism Feature

**Gold:** Ann Williamson, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "A Scot's Year." The hard work it took to produce this package is visible in the solid photos.

**Silver:** Jason Hunter, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "At her side."

**Bronze:** Mike Burley, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "Copy Cat."

### Sports Photography

**Gold:** Jason Hunter, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "Blue Monday" Great storytelling.

**Silver:** Anthony S. Bush, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "Determination." Nice expression.

### Editorial

**Gold:** Brian Kaberline, *Kansas City Business Journal*, "Stem Cell Research."

### News Column

**Gold:** Barbara Shelly, *The Kansas City Star*.

**Silver:** C.J. Janovy, *The Pitch*.

**Bronze:** Mark McCormick, *Wichita Eagle*.

**HM:** Rick Anderson, *Topeka Capital-Journal*.

**HM:** Brian Kaberline, *Kansas City Business Journal*.

### Non-news Column

**Gold:** Jeneé Osterheldt, *The Kansas City Star*. Personal, provocative, evocative – Jeneé Osterheldt puts herself out there in a voice that vibrates with honesty.

**Silver:** Cindy Hoedel, *The Kansas City Star*. There seems to be no way to predict what the topic will be in "Cindy's House," which is a good thing (a la Martha Stewart, one of Hoedel's subjects in this entry). But you can count on the conversation to be personal, with insights that resonate beyond the writer's own perspective.

**Bronze:** Crystal K. Wiebe, *The Pitch*. Wiebe writes a music column that's really about music people, backing her commentary with good reporting and storytelling.

**HM:** Debra Skodak, *The Kansas City Star*. Skodak finds the community's heartbeat and helps the reader feel it.

### Entertainment

**Gold:** Aaron Barnhart, *The Kansas City Star*, columns.

**HM:** Justin Kendall, *The Pitch*, "Girl on Film."

### Beat Reporting

**Gold:** Jim Davis, *Kansas City Business Journal*, Real Estate Development.

**Silver:** Steve Vockrodt, *Kansas City Business Journal*, Legal.

**Bronze:** Steve Fry, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, Courts/Legal.

### Public Service Project

**Gold:** Jeffrey Spivak and Michael Mansur, *The Kansas City Star*, "Light rail plan for KC."

**Silver:** Mark E. McCormick, *Wichita Eagle*, "We deserve details about our bus drivers."

**Bronze:** KCBJ Staff, *Kansas City Business Journal*, "Going green."

**HM:** Mark E. McCormick, *Wichita Eagle*, "WSU helps raise funds for Parks."

## Print, below 50,000 daily

### Deadline Reporting

**Gold:** News Staff, *Independence Daily Reporter*, 2007 Flood Coverage. Three days of daring deadline reporting make this coverage a sure-fire winner. This is first-class coverage done speedily with comprehensive competence. Bravura reporting and an asset to the community.

**Silver:** Jeff Haldiman, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Floating threat averted." When deadline news can make life or death decisions more informed, the paper is literally the community's life save. This work is just that

**Bronze:** Sarah Nail, *Sedalia Democrat*, "3 dead in murder-suicide." Gripping photos and blazing copy make this reporting rip. It captures a world of senseless violence in this bang-up job.

**HM:** Dennis Rich, Oliver Wiest, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Man shot, killed by police."

### General Reporting

**Gold:** Sarah Nail, *Sedalia Democrat*, "County asphalt overspend." County officials' questionable overspending of nearly \$600,000 on asphalt is fully exposed by this excellent reporting. Paves over the competition by digging deeper and driving farther to expose this outrage.

**Silver:** Ra'Vae Edwards, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Questions of competency," etc. Spot-on coverage that tries, and succeeds, in putting a face on a particularly tragic case of infanticide. Sad but super reporting on a tough subject.

**Bronze:** Hugh Welsh, *The Examiner*, "Attacked." Uniquely inspirational story of man strangling to death mastiff that had attacked his lovely wife. A story of love, bravery and the end to a terrible dog that didn't leave us choked up.

**HM:** Jeff Haldiman, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Tough on tardies."

**HM:** Sarah Nail, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Ukrainian family speaks out."

### Business Reporting

**Gold:** Jeff Haldiman, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Central Dairy... sold to Illinois company." The effects of the historic dairy transition are nicely covered by Haldiman. The article is the cream of business reporting and that's why it's the top prizewinner.

**Silver:** Michelle Brooks, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Lighting up means stepping out." When the smoke clears, it's no surprise to read yet another of Michelle Brooks' fine pieces. No ultra-light journalism here – this is full strength stuff.

**Bronze:** Michelle Brooks, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Manic Mondays." Fun article on what we all fear – Mondays. Nice succinct take on this most dreadful of days almost making it bearable.

**HM:** Jeff Haldiman, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Local officials 'disappointed' with decision."

## Feature

**Gold:** Jeff Fox, *The Examiner*, "Are we there yet?" *Fox's follies of riding the rails around the great State of Missouri shows the sad state Amtrak is in the Show Me (but just not on time) State. Terrific writing that made tracks through our imagination.*

**Silver:** Heath Hooper, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Mother's search continues." *Touching and compassionate story of a mother's continued search for her daughter. Sensitive and powerful prose.*

**Bronze:** Sarah Nail, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Ghost Hunters." *Sarah Nail finds the freaky and fun tales that are consistently eye-poppers. This ghostly tale of phantasm-finders rises yet again to the occasion. Nailed it.*

**HM:** Sarah Nail, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Sight for Savannah."

**HM:** Rhiannon Ross, *The Examiner*, "The rains came down."

## Profile

**Gold:** Dennis Rich, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Sedalia's storyteller." *A wonderful story of a retiring newsman who loved, explored and ultimately benefited his community for 35 years. This tale is a gem.*

**Silver:** Michelle Brooks, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Lives changed." *The Peace Corps piece is a fitting look at helping others and forward-looking inspirational work seemingly aimed at today's youth yearning to be involved. This work reminds us that there still is Hope.*

**Bronze:** Latisha Koetting, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Leading by example." *We snapped to attention reading this brisk account of a Marine Drill Sergeant's volleys of barked orders and quieter insights. Our shouted response is "Well done!"*

**HM:** Latisha Koetting, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Surviving the Hump."

**HM:** Hugh Welsh, *The Examiner*, "A killer down the street."

## Sports writing

**Gold:** Tom Rackers, Tony Hawley, David Owen, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Separate and Unequal?" *Snappy sports writing done with consistent attention to detail, nuance and the numbers. These craftsmen keep kicking with the goods and the readers are the winners.*

**Silver:** Tim Davis, *Sedalia Democrat*, "Satisfying Finish." *Tim Davis' smart golf coverage displays a knowledge of the links that is enviable. His reportage lands a whole in one by wholly being one with the game, so much so that even non-players will enjoy the work.*

## Photojournalism feature

**Gold:** Amy Elrod, *The Examiner*, "A corny idea." *Evocative and classic photo collection showing the joys of children in the pumpkin patches and cornfields of America's Heartland. A Midwestern masterpiece.*

**Silver:** Julie Scheidegger, *The Examiner*, "A mother mourns." *Gut-wrenching photographs of a family burying their fallen soldier son. The shot of the family is at once immediate and haunting, bringing home the tragedy of the young man's death.*

**Bronze:** Amy Elrod, *The Examiner*, "Grateful Nation." *Loving and timeless set of images of America's venerated veterans. Timeless tableaux play taps in our hearts.*

**HM:** Amy Elrod, *The Examiner*, "Diamond Bowl."

**HM:** Julie Scheidegger, *The Examiner*, "Searching for crawdads."

## Sports photography

**Gold:** Julie Scheidegger, *The Examiner*, "Jubilant victory." *The joy captured in these photos is infectious and perfectly framed. Eye candy! Inspiring!*

**Silver:** Amy Elrod, *The Examiner*, "Jump Right In." *Lovely shot of submerged lass caught in perfect repose. Creates yearning for chlorine-soaked fun.*

**Bronze:** Julie Scheidegger, *The Examiner*, "Leaping catch." *Scheidegger scores with this awesome leaping catch of a football. Wonderful composition.*

## Editorial

**Gold:** Richard McGonegal, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Stories that deserve to be told." *McGonegal's powerful piece extolling the unsung heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The din of anti-war sentiments shouldn't silence heroic tales of our troops and we heartily agree with this perfectly pitched treatise.*

**Silver:** Richard McGonegal, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Transparency in lawmaking..." *A refreshing take on a mischievous lawmaker whose actions should be easier to monitor and evaluate.*

**Bronze:** Richard McGonegal, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Alcohol sales to minors must be curbed." *Underage drinking is a scourge that kills more people than our endless war. The op-ed strongly condemns it so we strongly commend this piece for its solid logic and brave stance.*

## Entertainment

**Gold:** Hugh S. Welsh, *The Examiner*, "Bird Lady." *Yvonne Patterson is the Bible-thumping Bird Lady of Independence who flocks throughout the world to learn about winged creatures and then shares her enthusiasm, and birds, with others. A delightful article that soars.*

## Beat Reporting

**Gold:** Ra'Vae Edwards, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Tribune Travels." *"Tribune Travels" treated readers to 52 fascinating places in the Show Me State in 2007. This has got to be the dream beat of a lifetime and we readers are glad to be along for the ride.*

**Silver:** Michelle Brooks, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Historic," "Downtown," "Preservationist." *The history, preservation and renovation of priceless buildings was never covered better than by Brooks. From the foundation up, she has built a winning beat.*

**Bronze:** Bob Watson, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, Courts. *Navigating the judicial system is hard enough for the average citizen trying to beat that third drunk driving charge but Bob Watson takes the mystery out of it. A much needed and valuable beat for the average citizen and the career criminal, especially the kind we elect.*

**HM:** Sarah Nail, *Sedalia Democrat*, Sedalia Public Works.

**HM:** Michelle Brooks, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, "Wireless," "History," "Lost at Sea."

## Print, non-daily

### Deadline Reporting

**Gold:** Brian McCauley, et. al., *Miami County Newspapers*, "Flood special." *Nice sourcing, though I'm unsettled by the decision to print exact addresses for some flood victims.*

**Silver:** Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *The Sun*, "Murders at the mall." *Play-by-play style of piece omits key news details (victims' names, scope of event, etc.) until well into jump.*

### General Reporting

**Gold:** Brian McCauley, et. al., *Miami County Newspapers*, "Flood Coverage." *Poignant, thorough news reporting on the devastation and disaster caused by recent flooding. Excellent work.*

**Silver:** Corey Preston, et. al, *Miami County Newspapers*, "Jeffery Mersman." *This group of articles went beyond the typical obituation of a fallen hero. They presented a heartwarming, touching account of what one man did for his country. Bravo!*

**Bronze:** Charlie Morasch, Land Line, "CARB." Well laid out, thorough piece.

**HM:** Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *The Sun*, "Air Care."

### Business Reporting

**Gold:** Brye Butler Steeves, Ten Magazine, "The Health of Personal Saving." *Good, thorough story on the challenges of saving, no matter what your tax bracket. The story was well-written, interesting and gave an industry-wide view as well as savers' views.*

**Silver:** Suzanna Stagemeyer, *The Sun*, "Chained to Debt." *Well-written, balanced report on the struggles consumers face when they need to access short-term funds and how payday lenders take advantage of them. The piece included various sides of the issue, allowing readers to decide for themselves how serious the problem is – something every piece of journalism should do!*

**Bronze:** Kristen Waggener, *Miami County Newspapers*, "Alco Opening." *Interesting piece on how one store is changing its look and feel to appeal to customers.*

### Investigative Reporting

**Gold:** Clarissa Kell-Holland, Land Line, "Produce Safety."

### Feature

**Gold:** Gold: Jennifer Bhargava, Star Neighborhood News, "When cool was cool."

**Silver:** David Tanner, Land Line/OOIDA, "Pass go, collect billions."

**Bronze:** Doug Carder, *Miami County Newspapers*, "Living on the wings of prayer."

### Sports writing

**Gold:** Mark Dewar, *The Sun*, "Letter Man." *Heartwarming story of a coach and his team supporting their very own underdog. Interesting, heartfelt and nicely written.*

### Photojournalism Breaking News

**Gold:** Kristen Waggener, Gene Morris, Brian McCauley, Jeff Gulley, Doug Carder, Nathan Gill and Liz Beggs, *Miami County Newspapers*, "Osawatomie Flood." *Great example of hustle by the staff to produce a solid, quality photo report. Well done.*

**Silver:** Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *The Sun*, "Greensburg."

**Bronze:** Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *The Sun*, "Waldo Fire."

### Photojournalism Feature

**Gold:** Kristen Waggener and Jeff Gulley, *Miami County Newspapers*, "Jeffery Mersman."

**Silver:** Mark Coffey, Sun Newspapers, "Shrinking Treat."

**Bronze:** Mark Coffey, Sun Newspapers, "Independence."

### Editorial

**Gold:** Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *The Sun*, "Missouri's Health Care Less Than Before Blunt." *Gives all the info needed and well-supported with facts to hold a politician's feet to the fire.*

**Silver:** Bob Sigman, *The Sun*, "House Blocks Campaign Reform." *Explains the issue and provides a vehicle for information not released because of hearing's cancellation without telling readers what to think.*

**Bronze:** Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *The Sun*, "Kline Uses Office Like Own Pro-life law Firm." *Makes views known with sarcastic sit, while not attacking personally.*

### News Column

**Gold:** Loren Stanton, *Star Neighborhood News*, "Sprawl," "Coal Fired Plants," "Wind Power."

**Silver:** Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia, *The Sun*, "Suicide," "Morrison,"

"Kline."

**Bronze:** Bob Sigman, *The Sun*, "Tax cuts," "Courts," "Ideology."

### Non-News Column

**Gold:** Emily Hoffman, *The Kearney Courier*. *While the only entry in the category, Hoffman's columns were witty and entertaining, full of amusing – and spot-on – observations. A fun read!*

### Beat Reporting

**Gold:** Brye Butler Steves, *Ten Magazine*.

## Print, class sizes combined

### Magazine Story

**Gold:** Peter Rugg, *The Pitch*, "My Secret Life in the Klan." *The author pulls the rug from under Klan racists without physically paying the price, thank goodness. This is a brave, insightful tale into the world of hate and an increasingly rare willingness to risk all for reportage. Just bloody brilliant!*

**Silver:** Kate Beem, *The Kansas City Star*, "A Higher Education." *Beem's tale of the old days of segregation sizes up well with contemporary stories of the interviewees. This writer is a real find.*

**Bronze:** Justin Kendall, *The Pitch*, "Miracle on the Mountain." *A harrowing adventure turned life threatening is a finely crafted and sumptuous read. It is a literary trek of the highest order.*

**HM:** Carolyn Szczepanski, *The Pitch*, "The Real Mrs. Semler."

**HM:** Toni Lapp, *Kansas City Magazine*, "Dining with the Pros."

## Business-to-Business

### Publication

**Gold:** Staff, Sandi Soendker, managing editor, *Land Line Magazine*. *Land Line trucks away a winner for its multi-faceted, topic rich and exquisitely produced trucker's magazine. The radio segments are first class in content and production as well. Marvelous magazine!*

**Silver:** Staff, *Expansion Management*. *Potent and powerful source of business news much needed especially now. Chief Editor Bill King's "Retrograde" column is a must-read for anyone who wants to know how to make money and avoid risk.*

### General reporting

**Gold:** Mark Reddig, Reed Black, Patsy Terrell, Barry Spillman, James Fetzer, *Land Line Now*, "Greensburg: A trucking town faces disaster." *This moving and intense series captures the human experience of a terrible tornado that demolished Greensburg. This is the bar for in-depth radio reporting that matters. Bravo!*

**Silver:** Reed Black, James Fetzer, *Land Line Now*, "Alaska's Road to Nowhere." *This is the kind of reporting business needs and Bill King rules the roost with one of his always-excellent pieces on economic hot spots. Gotta have it information.*

**Bronze:** Bill King, *Expansion Management*, "Economic Development Hot Spots."

### Business Reporting

**Gold:** Bill King, *Expansion Management*, "These Are the Cities Where Business Opportunity is Greatest for Growing Companies." *Pitch-perfect piece that cuts right to the chase with authoritative data and analysis. King's POV is solidly behind the readers resulting in a reasoned POV and trusted voice.*

**Silver:** Terry Scruton, Barry Spillman, *Land Line Now*, "The Underground World of Subtropolis." *Deep these undaunted journos go in this delightful yarn about businesses operating literally in caves. A*

great story told very nicely.

### Investigative reporting

**Gold:** Mark Reddig, Barry Spillman, *Land Line Now*, “Paying for highways in Pennsylvania.” *Incredibly researched and brilliantly executed diatribe on why using transportation tax funds to rehabilitate historic transportation monuments is wrong. Fascinating opinion piece perfectly disguised as investigative journalism. A winning piece of wrong-minded hand wringing.*

**Silver:** Bill King, *Expansion Management*, “America’s Most Logistics-Friendly Cities.” *For growing companies, knowing where the infrastructure exists to enable it to grow is crucial. Good piece on picking the proper place for increased prosperity.*

### Feature

**Gold:** Bill King, *Expansion Management*, “Building Tomorrow’s Work Force.” *Smart look at which cities have the best public schools. King ties the importance of public schools with enhanced business success.*

### Editorial

**Gold:** Bill King, *Expansion Management*, “Incentives Are Often Just Putting Lipstick on a Pig.” *Never has the quandary of business incentives, ala economic development zones, been made so clear. Arguing the merits of incentives just got easier because of this excellent op-ed.*

**Silver:** Bill King, *Expansion Management*, “Is China Still a Good Source to Outsource Your Manufacturing?” *Can’t trust that “Made in China” label on your products because of potential contamination problems? King suggests it’s time to switch to other third-world countries but forgets including his own. Good perspective for the money-minded who forget that “Made in America” moves product, makes money and helps your own nation. A King-sized minus for an otherwise good piece.*

### Column (non-news)

**Gold:** Bill King, *Expansion Management*, “Retrograde.” *Figuring employees’ health care costs in helping determine where to locate a business is terrific advice considering the state of our health care system. Smart, useful column.*

## Online

### News Web Site

**Gold:** *The Pitch*, Pitch.com. *A hardball right over the middle of the plate is what you would expect from The Pitch and it doesn’t disappoint. The website is loaded with news, views, arts and entertainment and a hip sense the gets and captures the KC scene. High content quality complements the snappy look.*

**Silver:** Jen Reeves, Stacey Woelfel, KOMU, Komu.com. *KOMV’s fantastic and easy-to-navigate site also saves lives with its comprehensive weather coverage. Talking heads and tails above other TV news sites around the state.*

**Bronze:** Staff, *Kansas City Business Journal*, Kansascity.bizjournals.com. *Business minus the fluff, with a keen eye on high value content makes the KC Business Journal’s web site so essential. Nothing is missed here.*

**HM:** University of Kansas Journalism School, Tv.ku.edu.

### Multi-Media Package

**Gold:** Robert Cronkleton, Monty Davies, John Sleezer, *The Kansas City Star*. *A beautiful story told beautifully in this adroit and unique package. An eye opener for its grace and humanity. Timeless.*

**Silver:** Amy Elrod, Hugh Welsh, *The Examiner*, “First and Ten.” *When it comes to kids’ football, what better use of multi-media than to*

*catch all of its fun, fighting and triumphs. Well-executed package.*

**Bronze:** Rachel Anne Seymour, David Linhardt, University of Kansas Journalism School, “Meet my Grandmother.” *Statistics don’t fully tell the reality of grandparents raising their grandkids. This finely crafted package manages to fill in the blanks with video in a careful manner.*

### Blog

**Gold:** Staff, *The Pitch*, Plog. *The KC Pitch Plog gives you even more of what you pick up the paper for: witty, cutting edge conversation on the some of the most interesting and oft-times weird topics. Guaranteed yucks with a few WTF’s thrown in for good measure.*

## Radio

### News Program

**Gold:** Cathy Dawes, Manhattan Broadcasting, KMAN-AM, “6:50 A.M. News.” *Very informative and fast-paced news program with lots of valuable information.*

**Silver:** Sylvia Maria Gross, Alex Smith, KCUR-FM, “KC Currents.” *Nice program with lots of interesting interviews.*

### Breaking News

**Gold:** Frank Morris, KCUR-FM, “Greensburg Tornado.” *Very good coverage of a natural disaster. Lots of good natural sound and interviews.*

### Talk Radio

**Gold:** Steve Kraske, Stephen Steigman, Danette Alexander, Elana Gordon, KCUR-FM, “Up to Date.” *Great guests, music, interviews and even a remote! Good show.*

**Silver:** Walt Bodine, Kelley Weiss, Suzanne Hogan, Hayley Salvo, KCUR-FM, “The Walt Bodine Show.” *A good program with a variety of topics. Good interviews.*

### Feature

**Gold:** Kelley Weiss, KCUR-FM, “Corruption and Neglect: KCUR Investigates Missouri’s Mental Health System.” *Great features! Hardcore reporting and investigative work.*

**Silver:** Frank Morris, KCUR-FM, “Dying Mining Town.” *Very good reporting and writing. Very heartfelt as well. Good job.*

**Bronze:** Frank Morris, KCUR-FM, “Explosives Camp.” *Great sound, well put together. Very well done and fun to listen to!*

## Television, above 100 market rank

### Newscast

**Gold:** Marnie Ingle, KMBC-TV, “Newscast #1/Kelsey Smith.” *Big story coverage. Nice idea for a special open. Father’s interview was good, but could have been edited just to include the most emotional sound. Reporting was top notch, with demonstrative, but not sensational, live shots. Multiple elements within the newscast showed how you owned this story.*

### Spot News

**Gold:** Chris Nagus/John Woods, KMBC-TV/Kansas City, “Downtown Car Chase.” *Great story. They had amazing video of the car chase, especially because it was all shot on the ground in multiple locations. Usually, you see chopper video of chases, but the ground video really transported you to the heart of the action. The video spoke for itself, but the reporter did a good job of writing to the copy. The producer also deserves credit for getting right to the story and not wasting time*

with a set up.

### General Reporting

**Gold:** Bev Chapman, Las Abalos, KMBC, "Toby Young." *Very well-researched and told in a compelling manner.*

**Silver:** Chris Nagus, John Woods, KMBC, "Deadbeat Dads" *Good pacing and use of sound.*

### Investigative Reporting

**Gold:** Dana Wright, Ken Ullery, Rob Rhodes, Chris Koeberl, Tracy Brogden Miller, KCTV, "Road Reflector Risk." *A lot of repetition of reflector – a "dramatization" script or super would be appropriate. Good research, compelling story.*

**Silver:** Ash Har Quraishi, Ken Ullery, Chris Koeberl, Rob Rhodes, Cherie Congour, Tracy Brogden Miller, KCTV, "Criminal Deployment." *Well-produced, good investigation.*

**Bronze:** Ash Har Quraishi, Ken Ullery, Chris Koeberl, Carla Ingeborg, Tracy Brogden Miller, KCTV, "No Act of Negligence." *Too much repetition of confrontation – but nice job pursuing the story to other states.*

### Feature

**Gold:** Maria Antonia and Tim Twyman, KMBC, "Cemetery Mystery." *Interesting story with good use of sound.*

**Silver:** Donna Pitman, Tim Twyman, KMBC, "Something to Give Back." *Good use of nats; moving topic.*

### Photojournalism

**Gold:** Bob Hess, WDAF, "Everything Goes." *Good pacing and shot variety.*

**Silver:** Phil Maslin, WDAF, "Harvest Begins." *Nats needed to be blended better – could have used stronger character development.*

**Bronze:** Phil Maslin, WDAF, "Faith's Expression." *Slow pacing – wanted more tight shots.*

### Public Service Program

**Gold:** Phil Maslin, WDAF, "Day of Remembrance." *Good use of documentary footage. Well shot and edited.*

## Television, below 100 market rank

### Newscast

**Gold:** KOMU-TV, "KOMU News at 5, 12/6/07." *Overall, a well produced show. Good idea to do a 1st weather in the a-block on the bad weather. You had a lot of video of icy and snowy weather from different areas. Watch to avoid clichés in copy like, "The White Stuff."*

**Silver:** KOMU-TV, "KOMU News at 6, 12/11/07." *This newscast had a lot of elements showcasing the bad weather in the market. Good overall content in copy and in reporter PKGS. Stories need more interviews with real people, instead of officials.*

**Bronze:** KOMU-TV, "KOMU News at 5, 12/11/07." *Good video of icy conditions. We saw multiple elements on the bad weather within the show. The meteorologist should have been somewhere in the 1st block to give the latest conditions in the area.*

### General Reporting

**Gold:** Jason Lamb, KOMU, "Disaster on Ice." *Good use of real people, sound and nats.*

**Silver:** Ashley Reynolds, KOMU, "Combating Autism From Within." *Moving and emotional. We really got to know these families.*

### Investigative Reporting

**Gold:** August Skamenca, Scott Schaefer, Ryan Luby, KOMU, "\$46 Billion Gamble." *Good concept. Reporter asked hard questions. Graph-*

*ics and good editing helped tell the story.*

### Feature

**Gold:** Megan Murphy, Scott Schaefer, KOMU, "Callaway Creek Club." *Excellent storytelling and use of natural sound. Superb photography.*

### Photojournalism

**Gold:** Scott Schaefer, KOMU, "Missouri Contemporary Ballet." *Outstanding, best of show, good storytelling.*

**Silver:** Scott Schaefer, KOMU, "Creek Club." *Good shot variety, several nice moments. Good job getting kids to ignore the camera.*

**Bronze:** Scott Schaefer, KOMU, "Whitewater Adventure."

### Sports

**Gold:** Eric Blumberg, KOMU, "Race Walker."

### Documentary Program

**Gold:** Sarah Hill, Scott Schaefer at KOMU-TV, "Mercy in Motion." *Emotional story, good writing, great shot sequences. Could have been stronger with more natural sound.*

**Silver:** Dave Kendall, Scott Williams, Eugene Williams, Charles Atkins, Philip Grecian, KTWU, "Beyond Theology." *Nicely produced, but moves slowly – would be stronger with personal stories. Anecdotes would make more people care.*

### Regular Franchise Feature

**Gold:** Sarah Hill, Scott Schaefer, Brad Noblitt, Ryan Luby, KOMU, "Sarah's Stories." *Good storytelling, interesting material. The other entries weren't in the same league.*

**Silver:** Megan Murphy, Scott Schaefer, Brad Noblitt, KOMU, "Coverage from Callaway." *Good stories, lots of passion.*

**Bronze:** Jim Riek, Scott Schaefer, KOMU, "Follow Up Files."

**HM:** Angie Bailey, Scott Schaefer, Ryan Luby, Brad Noblitt, KOMU, "Your Health with Angie Bailey."

## 2008 Special Awards:

**Journalist of the Year:** Tim Carpenter, *The Topeka Capital-Journal.*

**Joe McGuff Lifetime Achievement Award:** Dan Verbeck, for his work at KMBZ.

**Press Club Member of the Year:** Mary Ruppert, for her work compiling the club's history.

**Newspaper of the Year:** *The Kansas City Star.*

**Television Station of the Year:** KOMU.

**Radio Station of the Year:** KCUR.