

Spot News

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LaFollette's Susan Sharp wins Golden Press Card Award

A series about child abuse victim, Haley Spicer, drew praise from judges and won the Golden Press Card award for Susan Sharp of the LaFollette Press.

Don Dare, Bill Dobilas and Jason Hensley of WATE-TV won the Horace V. Wells Jr. Community Service Award for their story, "Playing the ponies."

Outstanding work from area journalists was recognized in the awards ceremony, May 20, at the University Club. National president Irwin Gratz was the keynote speaker.

Commenting on Sharp's entry, judges from the Kansas City Pro Chapter of SPJ said, "Stellar journalism in several broadcast and print categories made choosing a 'Best of show' award very difficult, but the work by Susan Sharp in continuing coverage of a stunning child abuse case stood out. Written in a poignant, flowing style, her stories captured the pain and horror of a child burned and bruised so badly that her eyes were swollen shut and yet no one took her to a doctor. In more than a dozen stories spaced over several months, Susan Sharp captured the horrifying details as well as small nuances. Using strong verbs, vigorous English, tight sentences, descriptive scenes and vivid details, she enabled readers to truly know Haley Spicer and her story. Great job.

Winners in other categories were as follows. (Note: For some awards, the judges did not choose winners.)

Print categories

1A:

Award of Excellence: Matthew Cate, Duane Gang, Chris Joyner, Candice Combs, Jan Galletta, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Manhunt ends"

Award of Merit: Candice Combs, Duane Gang, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Collegedale crash"

2A:

Award of Excellence: Edward Lee Pitts, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Hillbilly armor"

3A:

Award of Merit: Ericka Mellon, News Sentinel, "Dying to live"

Third: Scott Barker, News Sentinel, "Farming for the future"

4A:

Award of Excellence: Ericka Mellon, News Sentinel, "Reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and race"

Award of Merit: Gary Lundy, News Sentinel, "Recruiting's dark stain"

Third: Roger Harris, Jeannine Hunter, Larisa Brass, Bill Brewer, Cynthia Yeldell, News Sentinel, "God's Business"

5A:

Honorable Mention: Chris Joyner, Andy Shey, Michael Weber, Ed Pitts, Gary Tanner, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Money and politics"

6A:

Award of Excellence: Randy Kenner, News Sentinel, "Rocky Top"

Award of Merit: Mike Strange, News Sentinel, "Mack's gold rush"

Third: Mark Wiedmer, Alan Taylor, David Uchiyama, David Paschall, Brad Shepard, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "NCAA Women's tournament"

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Winners

from page 1

Honorable Mention: Alan Taylor, David Paschall, Darren Epps, Wesley Rucker, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Southeastern Conference championship"

7A:

Award of Excellence: Lee Anderson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "TennCare failures"

Award of Merit: Hoyt Canady, Jan Maxwell Avent, Knoxville News Sentinel, "Grieving parents..."

8A:

Award of Excellence: Gary Lundy, Knoxville News Sentinel, "Masters"

Award of Merit: Sam Venable, Knoxville News Sentinel, "Sticking to my own story"

9A:

Award of Excellence: Ina Hughes, News Sentinel

15A:

Award of Excellence: Ruth H. Dickson, Chattanooga Times Free Press

Award of Merit: Sara Jackson, Chattanooga Times Free Press

Third: Donna A. Cruze, Knoxville News Sentinel

16A:

Award of Excellence: Jennifer Dedman, Knoxville News Sentinel

Award of Merit: Rick Moore, Chattanooga Times Free Press

17A:

Award of Excellence: Ray Keyt, Chattanooga Times Free Press

Award of Merit: Lin Parker, Chattanooga Times Free Press

Third: Paul Schulz, Chattanooga Times Free Press

18A:

Award of Excellence: Beck Towery, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Building a better running back"

Award of Merit: Rey Pineda, News Sentinel, "Oxygen's downside"

Third: Don Wood, News Sentinel, "Through the years..."

Honorable Mention: R. Daniel Proctor, News Sentinel, "Gay Street bridge"

19A:

Award of Excellence: Don Wood, News Sentinel, "Air we breathe"

Award of Merit: Beck Towery, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Selection Sunday"

20A:

Award of Excellence: Sara Jackson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "It's hip"

Award of Merit: Beck Towery, Kathleen Greeson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Financing success"

21A:

Award of Excellence: Joe Howell, News Sentinel, "Tumble"

Award of Merit: Leigh Shelle Hunt, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Shooting victim remembered"

22A:

Award of Excellence: Tim Barber, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Moonlight view"

Award of Merit: Joe Howell, News Sentinel, "Silos"

23A:

Award of Excellence: Bruce Plante, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Evolution Revisited"

Award of Merit: Wes Comer, Gregg MacDonald, Volunteer Times, "Kid Rock"

24A:

Award of Excellence: Wayne Bledsoe, Saul Young, Jiysha Desai, News Sentinel, "Bonnaroo 2004"

Award of Merit: Sara C. Shoemaker, Business Tennessee, "Intro the fray."

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Winners

from page 2

1B:

Award of Excellence: Anna C. Irwin, The Daily Times, "Seniors home inferno leaves two dead, three critical"

2B:

Award of Excellence: Anna C. Irwin, Erin Hudson, Iva Butler, Darren Dunlap, The Daily Times, "Nursing home fire."

3B:

Award of Excellence: Steve Wildsmith, The Daily Times, "The cheapest psychiatrist"

5B:

Award of Excellence: Thomas Fraser, The Daily Times, "Withered flower"

8B:

Award of Excellence: Steve Wildsmith, Daily Times, "Chronicler of Slices in time"

Award of Merit: Linda Albert, Daily Times, "Time to tickle your funny bone"

16B:

Award of Excellence: Karen Knotts, The Daily Times, "Officer gunned down"

24B:

Award of Excellence: Dipti Vaidya, Jeff Adkins, Bryan Mitchell, News Sentinel, "Leaving home"

Award of Merit: Randy Kenner, et al., News Sentinel, "Rocky Top"

1C:

Award of Merit: Jeremy Young, Volunteer Times, "Couple bound to grand jury"

2C:

Award of Excellence: Susan Sharp, LaFollette Press, "Haley's Law"

3C:

Award of Excellence: Gregg MacDonald, Volunteer Times, "Jellico troop train accident"

Award of Merit: Beverly Wooden, Volunteer Times, "Mountain heritage festival"

Third: Jim Dossett, LaFollette Press, "Following the light"

4C:

Award of Merit: Gregg MacDonald, Jeremy Young, Jason David, Volunteer Times, "Campbell raids net 70 arrests"

6C:

Award of Merit: Dwane Wilder, LaFollette Press

7C:

Award of Excellence: Gregg MacDonald, Volunteer Times, "Bush, Bin Laden connection"

Award of Merit: Gregg MacDonald, Volunteer Times, "Is the military draft really inevitable?"

8C:

Award of Excellence: Charles "Boomer" Winfrey, Volunteer Times, "When it comes to public records."

Award of Merit: Susan Sharp, LaFollette Press, "The hidden dangers of popcorn."

Third: Jason Davis, LaFollette Press, "New reality show"

Honorable Mention: Jim Dossett, LaFollette Press, "Perplexing pimple"

16C:

Award of Merit: Kelli Jo Wright, Gregg MacDonald, Tim Knight, Volunteer Times

17C:

Award of Excellence: Dwane Wilder, LaFollette Press

21C:

Award of Excellence: Gregg MacDonald, Volunteer Times, "Overshadowed by flames"

Award of Merit: Gregg MacDonald & Jason Davis, Volunteer Times, "Informing family members"

Third: Gregg MacDonald, Volunteer Times, "Rescue effort"

Honorable Mention: Dwane Wilder, LaFollette Press, "Amphibious assault"

22C:

Award of Excellence: Jason Davis, LaFollette Press, "Pure joy"

Award of Merit: Susan Sharp, LaFollette Press, "Graduation"

Third: Dwayne Wilder, LaFollette Press, "Halftime hoopster"

25 WWW:

Award of Excellence: Kate Granju, WBIR-TV, "Frontline/Homefront"

Award of Merit: Jack Lail, Jigsha Desai, Dipti Vaidya, Bini Teclé, Lauren Sputler, a large team from the News Sentinel for Knoxnews.com

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Winners

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Third: Jack Lail, Dave Modker, Phil Kaplan, Jigsha Desai, Dipti Vaidya, Bini Teclé, Lauren Sputler, Govolsxtra.com

Radio categories:

10A:

Award of Excellence: Matt Shafer Powell, WUOT-FM, "Five points"

Award of Merit: Ann Lloyd, WUOT-FM, "Austin Homes"

Third: Matt Shafer Powell, "Autism in schools"

11A:

Award of Excellence: Matt Shafer Powell, WUOT-FM, "Prom of the stars"

Award of Merit: Ann Lloyd, WUOT-FM, "Diversity prom"

Third: Mark Shafer Powell, WUOT-FM, "New market train wreck"

14A:

Award of Merit: Ed Hooper, Gunner. WIVK-FM. "Voices from the front."

Broadcast television categories:

10B:

Award of Excellence: Teresa Woodard, WBIR-TV, "Homeless in love and death"

Award of Merit: Lee Merrit, WVLT-TV, "No siren, no warning"

Third: Chloe Morroni, WVLT-TV, "Losing a lion"

11B:

Award of Excellence: Alan Williams, Daniel Beckner, WVLT-TV, "Life sentence"

Award of Merit: Chloe Morroni, WVLT-TV, "Just in time to say goodbye"

Third: Bill Williams, Jim Martin, Katie Allison Granju, WBIR-TV, "East Tennessee through the decades"

Honorable Mention: Dave Staley, WTVC-TV. "Dave's diamond darlings"

12B:

Award of Excellence: Don Dare, Bill Dobilas, Jason Hensley, WATE-TV, "Playing the ponies"

Award of Merit: Lee Merrit, WVLT-TV, "Class project"

13B:

Award of Excellence: Dave Staley, WTVC-TV, "Dave's Diamond Darlings"

Award of Merit: Rick Russo, Tony Budrick, Tyler Beckley, Shane Day, Alan Williams, Judith Kropff, Brandon Fisher, Hugh Williamson, Michael Draker, WVLT-TV, "Hunting some Gators 2004"

14B:

Award of Excellence: Tonja Burk, Mark Carlson, Tim Dale, Charlie Milburn, Kay Watson, John Pratt, Teresa Woodard, Jim Ragonese, Ben Williams, Jim Martin, Trey Counce, Bill Shory, Ted Hall, Robin Wilhoit, WBIR-TV, "Gameday"

10C:

Award of Excellence: Chuck Denney & Doug Edlund, UT Institute of Agriculture, "Predatory lending"

11C:

Award of Excellence: Chuck Denney & Doug Edlund, UT Institute of Agriculture, "Creek stomp"

22D:

Award of Excellence: Mark Carlson, WBIR-TV, "Inside a meth lab"

Award of Merit: Shane Day, WVLT-TV, "The making of a baseball"

Third: Mark Carlson, WBIR-TV, "Birmingham air"

*The East Tennessee Pro Chapter
of the Society of Professional Journalists
cordially invites you to the 27th Annual*

Front Page Follies

*Saturday, June 18, 2005
Knoxville Convention Center
\$100 per person
(Pre-seated table for ten \$1,000)*

*Cocktails 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Show 8:00 p.m.*