

# Spot News

Vol. 11, No. 6 GOLDEN PRESS CARD EXTRA EDITION 2006

A publication of the East Tennessee Chapter  
of the Society of Professional Journalists

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## The Knoxville News Sentinel's Mellon wins Golden Press Card

By Jean Ash

ETSPJ Communications Coordinator

**E**ricka Mellon's feature, "Nursing on the Edge," is this year's winner of the Golden Press Card Award and a check for \$100 from ETSPJ. The story also won the Award of Excellence in the large circulation newspaper feature category.

The judges called it "thorough, thought provoking and well-written....An important piece because it addresses a disturbing problem/trend in an evenhanded manner." Mellon's story was about registered nurses in Knox County schools, and how in all but nine of 76 schools a nurse visits just one day a week to care for anything from a sore throat to a broken bone. The extensive feature found that the situation is not likely to change because of financial considerations.

**Don Dare and Jason Hensley** of WATE-TV won the Horace V. Wells, Jr. Community Service Award with "Health Scare."

This investigation exposed how sales agents for one of the nation's largest health care providers, Humana Inc., broke Medicare and Medicaid standards in their presentations to potential customers. As a result, the company ordered a halt

to sales in Tennessee while it implemented new guidelines to its sales force.

**The judges** from the Connecticut Pro Chapter said, "[The piece] does an important service for a most vulnerable segment of society – senior citizens."

The winners, selected from a record-setting number of entries, received plaques and certificates at the Golden Press Card Award Banquet May 12 at the University Club.

**Featured speaker Dave Carlson**, national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, told the more than 100 attendees that each should accept personal responsibility for improving the credibility of his or her news organization.

With the bottom-line mentality of publicly traded, corporate owners these days, Carlson said that individual journalists may feel powerless to influence the kinds of news practices that cause audiences to distrust the media. But he urged journalists to work one story at a time toward the highest ethical standards of journalism.

Carlson also promoted the work of the national Society of Professional Journalists, pointing out that the organization has been at the forefront of providing legal help for journalists and for fighting the ongoing battle for public access to government records and meetings.

**INSIDE:  
A complete  
list of  
winners  
in all  
categories.**

## Front Page Follies

### Follies rehearsal schedule

Rehearsals are every Sunday afternoon at 3 and every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at The Knoxville News Sentinel. If you wish to bring dinner before the Thursday night rehearsal, the door will be open at 6. Rehearsal begins promptly at 6:30.

### Please help solicit auction items for Follies

Georgiana Vines and Robb Atkinson are seeking items for the Front Page Follies auction on June 17 and could use everyone's help. If you or someone you know can donate something that would add to the ETSPJ coffers, please contact Georgiana at <gvpolitics@hotmail.com>.

Among the popular silent auction items at previous Follies were art work, autographed sports memorabilia, spa packages, and concert or theater tickets.

Receiving high bids at the live auction were golf or dinner outings with local celebrities, resort vacations, and restaurant dinners.

# Annual East Tennessee SPJ contest winners for 2005 work

## Deadline/Spot News Reporting

### Over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** The Knoxville News Sentinel, Tom Chester, Scott Barker, Lola Alapo, John Huotari J. J. Stambaugh, Laura Ayo, Jim Balloch, John North, R. Daniel Proctor, Joe Howell, Clay Owen, Roane County Shooting “We will...bring them to justice”

**Award of Merit:** Laura Houston, Dick Cook, Herman Wang, and Ashley Rowland, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Guard Gunned Down”

### Under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** Bonny Millard and Anna Irwin, The Daily Times, “Deputies called to WBHS: Racial threats prompt school to call officers”

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** Susan Sharp, LaFollette Press, “Pop, pop...A series of shots was heard”

**Award of Merit:** Michael R. Moser, Crossville Chronicle, “Suspects indicted in boy’s rape”

## General Reporting

### over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** The Knoxville News Sentinel, Team coverage, Tom Chester, Scott Barker, Lola Alapo, John Huotari, J.J. Stambaugh, Laura Ayo, Jim Balloch, John North, R. Daniel Proctor, Joe Howell and Clay Owen, “Roane County Shooting”

**Award of Merit:** Scott Barker, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Coal’s Return”

**Third Place:** Kristi L. Nelson, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “TennCare Turmoil”

### under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** Darren Dunlap, The Daily Times, “Defendant doesn’t recall fatal shooting”

**Award of Merit:** Lesli Bales-Sherrod, The Daily Times, “Questions asked about Woodruff’s absence”

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** Jim Dossett, LaFollette Press, “Seale: ‘If we could’ve saved Ken’”

**Award of Merit:** Michael R. Mosser, Crossville Chronicle, “Looper’s legal fishing trip called ‘pathetic’”

## Feature Reporting

### over 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** Ericka Mellon, The Knoxville

News Sentinel, “Nursing on the Edge”

**Award of Merit:** Frank Munger, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “When Oak Ridge Changed the World”

**Third Place:** Randy Kenner, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Music Makers”

### under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** Steve Wildsmith, The Daily Times, “Straight Shooter”

**Award of Merit:** Thomas Fraser, The Daily Times, “Beloved pony passes on”

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** Lance Coleman, Blount Today, “Champion faces final challenge”

**Award of Merit:** Krista Richmond, Crossville Chronicle, “One step at a time...”

**Third Place:** Jim Dossett, LaFollette Press, “Family pet rescues man from bull attack”

## Series/Package/Project Writing

### over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** Kristi Nelson and Chandra Harris, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Living Positive: HIV/AIDS in East Tennessee”

**Award of Merit:** Chris Joyner and Michael Weber, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Caring for Vets”

**Third Place:** Chattanooga Times Free Press, Team coverage, Clint Cooper, Jan Galetta, Dave Flessnor, M. Trevor Higgins, Angie Herrington, Ashley Rowland, Dorie Turner, “Riverfront Renaissance”

### under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** Bonny C. Millard, The Daily Times, “A look ahead at the school year”

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** LaFollette Press, Team coverage, Susan Sharp, Dwane Wilder, Jim Dossett, Jason Davis, Jennifer Caldwell, “Tragedy at Campbell High”

## Investigative Reporting

### over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** Chattanooga Time Free Press, Team coverage, Ashley Rowland, Dave Flessner, Michael Weber, Brian Lazenby, Candice Combs, Beverly Carroll, Andy Sher, Ian Berry, and Chris Joyner, “Tennessee Waltz”

**Award of Merit:** J.J. Stambaugh, The Knoxville News

Sentinel, "Cocke County Confidential"

**Third Place:** Michael Weber and Chris Joyner, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Caring for Vets"

## Sports Reporting

### over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** Chattanooga Times Free Press, Team coverage (Darren Epps, Ron Bush, Brad Shepard, David Paschall, Stephen Hargis), "National Signing Day"

**Award of Merit:** Jesse Smithey, The Knoxville News Sentinel, "Winning signals"

**Third Place:** Chattanooga Times Free Press, Team coverage (Mark Wiedmer, David Uchiyama, Wesley Rucker, Brad Shepard), "Tourney Time/Madness 2005"

### under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** John Brice, The Daily Times, "Dishing up victory: MHS coaches eat their way to success"

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** Stefan Cooper, Blount Today, "One Last Look"

**Award of Merit:** Stefan Cooper, Blount Today, "Playing through the storm"

**Third Place:** Stefan Cooper, Blount Today, "Rim Music: Future Lady Vol Cait McMahan marches to her own beat"

## Editorial Writing

### over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** Wes Hasden, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "An Apology for Lynching"

**Award of Merit:** Hoyt Canady, The Knoxville News Sentinel, "Ethics Reform"

**Third Place:** Lee Anderson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Dear Gen. Washington"

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** Jim Dossett, LaFollette Press, "Job slashing causes deep wounds," "Rock woman symbolizes a burdened county," "Seale, others brought new tone to CCHS"

**Award of Merit:** Jason Davis, LaFollette Press, "Church sign goes too far for some," "LHA Board travel raises thoughts, questions"

## Personal Columns

### over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** Sam Venable, The Knoxville

News Sentinel, "His days had almost played out," "An issue whose time had come," "Not your everyday beauty shop"

**Award of Merit:** David Magee, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Olds 442"

**Third Place:** Mark Kennedy, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Confessions of a soccer dad"

### Under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** Steve Wildsmith, The Daily Times, "Paying respects in New York," "Returning home," "Letters to Ezra: Together we can"

**Award of Merit:** Kara Covington, The Daily Times, "Study our past; discover potential of women's futures"

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** Jason Davis, LaFollette Press, "Good thing my old friends don't see me now," "Four-legged friend gets foul fumigation," "Remembering a man of integrity"

**Award of Merit:** Dwane Wilder, LaFollette Press, "Loss of family cat is loss of a friend," "Vacations make a good source for laughs," "Forty the new 20? Not with teenage daughters at home"

**Third Place:** Jim Dossett, LaFollette Press, "Scoping out the colonoscopy assembly line," "Sheep herders affair provokes controversy," "It's 10 p.m. - Do you know where your chicken is?"

## Reviews/Criticism, Newspapers

### Over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** M. Trevor Higgins, Chattanooga Times Free Press, "Variety spices life at festival," "Drive-By Truckers' rock is all about the message," "Musicians find comfort from an ill wind on the road"

### Under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** Steve Wildsmith, The Daily Times, "King of the World," "Back in Black," and "Spielberg Creates 'World'ly drama"

## Radio News Reporting

**Award of Excellence:** WNOX Radio News Department, Dave Foulk, Catherine Howell, Christine Jessel, Channing Smith, "WNOX-FM News Team Reports"

**Award of Merit:** Ann Lloyd, WUOT-FM, "Mold in Morristown Schools"

**Third Place:** Matt Shafer Powell, WUOT-FM, "Tennessee Theatre Re-opens"

## Television News Reporting

**Award of Excellence:** WBIR-TV 10 News Team, “Campbell County Principal Shooting”

**Award of Merit:** Stacy McCloud & Daniel Beckner, WVLT-TV, “TennCare Death”

**Third Place:** Kim Bedford & Daniel Beckner, WVLT-TV, “Fighting for Life”

## Organizational Communications News Rpt.

**Award of Excellence:** Chuck Denney and Doug Edlund, UT Institute of Agriculture, “Operation Military Kids”

## Radio Feature Reporting

**Award of Excellence:** Matt Shafer Powell, WUOT-FM, “Lost to War”

**Award of Merit:** Matt Shafer Powell, WUOT-FM, “The Body Farm”

**Third Place:** Christine Jessel, WNOX-FM, “TAPS”

**Honorable Mention:** Ann Lloyd, WUOT-FM, “Bat Boy the Musical”

## TV Feature Reporting

**Award of Excellence:** Bill Williams, Brian New and Brian Holt, WBIR-TV, “Pride of the Southland Band”

**Award of Merit:** Don Dare, Jason Hensley and Jim Farquhar, WATE-TV, “A Daughter Remembers”

**Third Place:** Stacy McCloud and Daniel Beckner, WVLT-TV, “Called to Serve”

## Organizational Communications Feature Rpt.

**Award of Excellence:** Chuck Denney and Doug Edlund, UT Institute of Agriculture, “Pearl Farm”

## Radio Investigative Reporting

**Award of Excellence:** Ann Lloyd, WUOT-FM, “Mold in Morristown Schools”

## TV Investigative Reporting

**Award of Excellence:** WATE-TV Team Investigation, Don Dare, Mark Mowbray, Nicole Rogers, Dave Wignall, Rebecca Williams, “Busted for Betting”

**Award of Merit:** Stacy McCloud & Daniel Beckner, WVLT-TV, “Meth and Skin”

## Broadcast Sports Reporting

**Award of Excellence:** Mark Packer, WVLT-TV, “Steve Caldwell ‘away from the game’”

**Award of Merit:** Mark Packer, WVLT-TV, “Johnny Long ‘summer workouts’”

**Third Place:** Josh Roe, WBIR-TV, “Bruce Pearl: A Day in the Life”

## Radio Documentary/Public Affairs Rpt.

**Award of Excellence: (TIE)** WNOX-FM Radio News Department, Dave Foulk, Catherine Howell, Christine Jessel, Channing Smith, John Crooks, “Tennessee Burning” and Matt Shafer Powell; WUOT-FM, “Oak Ridge: In the Shadow of the Atom”

**Award of Merit:** Matt Shafer Powell, WUOT-FM, “Lost to War”

## Television Documentary/Public Affairs Rpt.

**Award of Excellence:** WBIR-TV, Ted Hall, Jim Martin, Jacob Nagel, Tonja Burk, “The Bentons: Terror and Forgiveness”

**Award of Merit:** WBIR-TV 10 News Team, “Rebuilding the Bay: Continuing Coverage”

## Headline Writing

**Award of Excellence:** Donna A. Cruze, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Cockadoodle fly?,” “Power steering,” and “Scientist draws new battle vines in kudzu conflict”

**Award of Merit:** Ruth H. Dickson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Just Wing It,” “Curbside Enthusiasm,” “Do the Mashed Potato”

## Page One Design

### Over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** Lin Parker and Rick Moore, “Path of Devastation,” “A Changed World,” and “Blurring Dividing Lines”

**Award of Merit:** Jennifer Dedman, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “His Journey Ends,” “Stung,” “Rape, ticket-fixing...”

### Under 25,000 circulation

**Award of Excellence:** David Goddard and Richard Dodson, The Daily Times

### Non-Daily

**Award of Excellence:** Linn Hudson, LaFollette Press

## Inside Page Design

### Over 25,000 circulation:

**Award of Excellence:** Christina Southern, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Bread of our lives,” “Apples,” and “Preview ‘05”

**Award of Merit:** Ruth H. Dickson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Kitchen Confidential,” “Meals in Monroe,” “O is for Olive”

**Third Place:** Lin C. Parker, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Year in Review,” “Hometown Vacation

Primer,” “Riverbend XXV”

### **Under 25,000 circulation**

**Award of Excellence:** Kara Covington, The Daily Times

### **Non-Daily**

**Award of Excellence:** Krista Richmond, Crossville Chronicle, “Ghosts and Goblins,” “Amy Grant,” “Red Hatters”

### **Informational Graphic**

#### **Over 25,000 circulation:**

**Award of Excellence:** Beck Towery, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Lobbyist Circle”

**Award of Merit:** R. Daniel Proctor, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “A look inside a restored gem”

**Third Place:** Beck Towery, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Ocean Journey”

### **Art Illustration**

#### **Over 25,000 circulation:**

**Award of Excellence:** Laura E. Walker, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Geisha Gala”

**Award of Merit:** Don Wood, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Bellsouth lobbying for an edge”

**Third Place:** Beck Towery, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Bankruptcy”

### **Photo Illustration**

**Award of Excellence:** Angela Lewis, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Cell phone dead spots”

**Award of Merit:** The Knoxville News Sentinel, Joe Howell, Amanda Martin, Rey Pineda, and Michael Apuan, “Curtain Up”

**Third Place:** Rey Pineda, “I, Robin”

### **Deadline Photography**

#### **Over 25,000 circulation:**

**Award of Excellence:** Lido Vizzutti, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “278<sup>th</sup> Comes Home”

**Award of Merit:** Kathleen Greeson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Goodbye Chalmette”

**Third Place:** Joe Howell, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Marines Return”

#### **Under 25,000 circulation**

**Award of Excellence:** Joy Kimbrough, The Daily Times, “Welcome Home”

### **Non-Daily**

**Award of Excellence:** Dwane Wilder, LaFollette Press, “Pinched Hitter”

**Award of Merit:** Susan Sharp, LaFollette Press, “We are picking up the pieces”

### **Television**

**Award of Excellence:** Steve Coy, WVLT-TV, “Protecting Kids”

**Award of Merit:** Stacy McCloud & Daniel Beckner, WVLT-TV, “Surprise Haircut”

**Third Place:** WBIR-TV 10 News Photography Staff, “Campbell County Principal Shooting: Latest”

### **Feature Photography**

#### **Over 25,000 circulation:**

**Award of Excellence:** Joe Howell, The Knoxville News Sentinel, “Picture This”

**Award of Merit:** Marcella Colburn, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Press on, J.T.”

**Third Place:** Kathleen Greeson, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Evening Glow”

## **ETSPJ Officers and Board of Directors**

**Ed Hooper**, president

**Jean Ash**, secretary, Front Page Follies chair, communications coordinator

**Adina Chumley**, Golden Press Card co-chair

**Lisa Hood Skinner**, Golden Press Card co-chair

**Dan Foley**, treasurer

**Dorothy Bowles**, immediate past president, Spot News editor

**Christine Jessel**, membership co-chair

**Mia Rhodarmer**, membership co-chair

**Robb Atkinson**

**Steve Row**

**Randy Tedford**

**Georgiana Vines**

**Letters to the Editor Policy:** The board encourages letters to the editor of Spot News. Like letters policies at most newspapers, we ask that letters be limited to 200 words or less. Letters will be subject to editing for space and content. Send e-mail to [etspj.communications@gmail.com](mailto:etspj.communications@gmail.com)

### **Under 25,000 circulation**

**Award of Excellence:** Daryl Sullivan, The Daily Times, “Chair caning class”

### **Non-Daily**

**Award of Excellence:** Dwane Wilder, LaFollette Press, “Student praying at makeshift memorial”

**Award of Merit:** Jason Davis, LaFollette Press, “Homecoming for the heroes”

**Third Place:** Susan Sharp, LaFollette Press, “Staying ready to respond”

### **Television**

**Award of Excellence:** Brian New, Brian Holt, WBIR-TV, “Pride of the Southland Band”

**Award of Merit:** Daniel Beckner, WVLT-TV, “Called to Serve”

**Third Place:** Steve Coy, WVLT-TV, “Memorial Day”

### **Editorial Cartoon**

#### **Over 25,000 circulation:**

**Award of Excellence:** Bruce Plante, Chattanooga Times Free Press, “Tennessee Waltz”

### **Writing for Other Media,**

**Award of Excellence:** Susan G. Barnes, Tennessee Alumnus Magazine, “The Devil We Know”

**Award of Merit:** Ann Hinch, freelance writer, Marketplace Magazine, “Kentucky farmer adds biodiesel production to his operation”

**Third Place:** Steve Row, freelance writer, CityView Magazine, “Literary Luminary”

### **Visuals for Other Media**

**Award of Excellence:** The Knoxville News Sentinel Team (Jigsha Desai, Lauren Spuhler, Randy Kenner, and J. Miles Cary), “Making the Band – Inside UT Band Camp”

### **World Wide Web**

**Award of Excellence:** WBIR-TV 10 News Team, WBIR.com

**Award of Merit:** Mark Kennedy, Chattanooga Times Free Press, tfponline.com

**Third Place:** The Knoxville News Sentinel, Jack Lail, Jigsha Desai, Lauren Spuhler, Erin Chapin, knoxnews.com



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