

BEST OF THE BEST

Readers' Choice Awards



TODD TILGHMAN AND CLAY MCWHERTER

Who were the Best of the Best? All of you who made this special section possible.

To everyone from the favorite French fry makers to the most popular medical personnel, we congratulate you.

And to The Messenger readers and advertisers, we appreciate your enthusiasm and continued support.

"We couldn't have done any of this without you," said Messenger advertising director Todd Tilghman. "We have been overwhelmed by the support this Best of the Best project has received and we're proud to deliver the results of the voting today in this special section."

Tilghman and advertising account

manager Clay McWherter prepared a ballot, which included more than 80 categories.

The Best of the Best competition was designed to give Messenger readers the opportunity to vote for their favorites by casting ballots printed in the paper. People could vote as many times as they wanted, but the ballots could not be photocopied.

The goal was to do something so the readers could be more involved with the newspaper.

And the readers responded — with hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of votes.

"We're thrilled to have so many people

get involved," McWherter said.

"And we think it shows how much support is out there for local businesses and individuals serving our community every day.

"It's also our way of encouraging you to shop locally, with your friends and neighbors, with the people with whom you go to church, ballgames and other events. The money you spend when you shop locally comes directly back to your community, not to some huge corporation in another state."

Another exciting part of the Best of the Best is the cash prizes. Readers had a chance to win cash prizes just for voting, in a random drawing from all of the ballots submitted.

The cash winners this year were: first place, Holly Pate, \$100; second place, Misty Dunn, \$50; and third place, Betsy Long, \$25.

"Again, we are so pleased that our readers decided to participate," Tilghman said.

"A sincere 'thank you' to all who took the time to vote, and a big 'congratulations' to all of our winners," he added.



MISTY DUNN — \$50 WINNER



HOLLY PATE — \$100 WINNER



BETSY LONG — \$25 WINNER