

Presented on February 21, 2015

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS JOURNALISM



*Congratulations to the most outstanding journalists
and newspapers in our six-state region!*

This year's special award winners

General Excellence

Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
The Ellsworth (ME) American.
The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT
Providence (RI) Business News

Rookies of the Year

Joe Markman, *The Enterprise*, Brockton, MA
Jordan Mayblum, *Wellesley (MA) Townsman*

Reporters of the Year

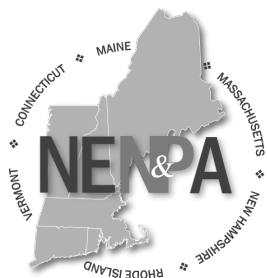
Susan Spencer,
Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
David DesRoches, *The Darien (CT) Times*

Photographers of the Year

Peter Pereira, *New Bedford (MA)
Standard-Times*

Steven King,
Worcester (MA) Magazine





CONGRATULATIONS NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

This year's competition drew 3,200 entries that were published during the contest year, August 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014. The entries were evaluated by the New England Newspaper & Press Association's distinguished panel of judges. The results of the competition recognize the excellent journalism that is taking place throughout New England – the finalists and winners are listed here, along with the judges' comments.

NENPA is very proud to celebrate this truly extraordinary work!

Entries were judged in 5 categories

Daily Newspapers with circulation up to 30,000

Daily Newspapers with circulation more than 30,000

Weekly Newspapers with circulation up to 6,000

Weekly Newspapers with circulation more than 6,000

Specialty Publications

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Transportation Reporting	Infographics	Bob Wallack Community Journalism Award
Community Involvement	Overall Design and Presentation (print)	Reporter of The Year
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NEWS REPORTING

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Lisa Kristoff, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

Credit goes to this writer for looking beyond the conventional to develop this warm and informative feature. A descriptive, inviting lead hooks the readers and guides them through a comprehensive examination of one man's gift for creating artistic expression that is fulfilling and functional.

Second Place: **Josh Farnsworth, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA**

Another well deserving feature with a simple but compelling lead. This report leaves the reader with a thorough introduction to this local artist, but also a great appreciation for her talents working in the unique media of cloth, leather, jewelry and fashion.

Third Place: **Mark Good, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Good appears to have developed instant rapport with his subjects, coaxing out an engaging narrative that is as much of a tribute to the filmmakers-as-artist as to the project they are poised to premier.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Meg Robbins, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Not only does Robbins craft a fascinating story, but she does it related to an extremely niche talent of professional whistling. She establishes an identity for both the subject/filmmaker as well as the project he is promoting in a relatively short, tightly-written report.

Second Place: **Frank Mand, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA**

Mand smartly chose to adjust his focus away from the performers/performances to instead highlight the disappearing venue in which the art is created. A highly engaging story about the impromptu community of musicians and audience that gathers for this unique annual pilgrimage.

Third Place: **Joshua Lyford, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Another astute reporter who worked to find arts reporting that promotes a subject on the fringe of the entertainment landscape – but that continues to attract new fans, as table gaming has done for centuries. Great mix of details on both the gamers and games and the culture they have cultivated in greater Worcester.

Honorable Mention: **The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Spectacularly comprehensive coverage and promotion for this local/regional film fest, and how organizers work to plan and stay loyal to the mission of paying tribute to great film script writers. Well-coordinated carry-over of subject matter between the paper and special section.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Elodie Reed, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT**

Reed tells the story of this talented local artist and philanthropist in words and images – establishing enough rapport to craft an engaging narrative from a seemingly less than approachable subject. Good balance between revealing the artist and his plans to open a public art space to the community and the world

Second Place: **Joanna McQuillan Weeks, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

A thorough and thoroughly marvelous preview of this fresh, if not slightly disturbing, take on a staple production of Community Theater. Weeks touches on every aspect of this version of 'Oliver' with crisp, tight and engaging writing.

Third Place: **Rick Koster, The Day, New London, CT**

The title sums it up, but Koster exhibits great talent in illustrating the patriotism and leadership qualities of his subject. I love a piece that leaves the reader feeling like they know all there is to know about a story subject – this reporter delivers with flying colors.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Ray Kelly, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Kelly holds up a mirror to himself and his predecessors in this humorous examination of his own publication's reviewers, and how they occasionally missed the boat concerning their subjects. Kudos for discovering these threads and weaving together a completely entertaining feature.

Second Place: **Jody Feinberg, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

Feinberg could have generated a ho-hum star focus, but instead drilled deeper to reveal how this popular, award-winning actor is supporting efforts to keep his medium of expression viable and accessible in his own community.

Third Place: **George Barnes, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Another example of a reporter venturing deeper into the weeds to deliver a well-scripted and informative feature about the rediscovery and disposition of a Rockwell painting.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Sara Feijo, Dedham Transcript, Dedham, MA**

This three-part series took an extensive look at the significant issues facing small businesses and the reasons why they face closure. The series gave readers - many of whom may not be familiar with the challenges faced by their region's businesses - an in-depth look at what it takes to manage a successful business in their community.

Second Place: **Erin Dale, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**

Aside from an eye catching headline and photo, this article provided an in-depth look at what appears to be a novel and fun approach to a serious business issue. The article was full of facts on an eco-friendly way to eliminate nuisance weeds and plants utilizing apparently non-unionized workers.

Third Place: **Rob Levin and Dick Broom, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Local business news is important to a community, especially when a federal agency tips its hat to an outside business concern. Reporter Robert Levin did an excellent job reporting on the National Park Service's decision to regarding an out-of-state concern verses a local company with 80 years of experience.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Natalie Hormilla, the Chronicle, Barton, VT**

Reporter Natalie Hormilla gave readers an in-depth report on why the prices of beef took a dramatic hike in response to the questions raised by the public in Barton, Vermont, and the region. In the article, which traced prices across the nation, as well as locally, the reporter did an excellent job in this explainer.

Second Place: **Frank Mand, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA**

All you need to know about this community oyster harvesting activities. For the uninformed, as well as the aficionados, this was a well-researched and reported article about an established New England business that encompasses not only the lives of saltwater farmers, but a community's economy as well.

Third Place: **Elise Linscott, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

The closing of a 135 year-old business is certainly a news story. This one, however, had more implications to Nantucket's island community. The island's only funeral home, which has been on the market for a year, was forced to close due to economic pressures. Reporter Elise Linscott tells readers what the closing means and how local authorities plan to address the challenge.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Doug Moser, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

The woes attributed to the feud between members of the family that operate supermarket chain Market Basket has spilled over to the operations of Indian River Country Club, which is also owned by Demoulas Supermarkets, Inc. Reporter Douglas Moser provided readers with a ton of facts on the extent of the feud and how it was impacting the business, its customers and the communities it serves.

Second Place: **Lee Howard, The Day, New London, CT**

Many New England communities face the frustrations of businesses being challenged by hard economic times, but dealing with both bad weather and municipal governments was particularly tough for business in New London. The story by Lee Howard explained to readers how business owners and the city administration dealt with the scenario.

Third Place: **Steve DeCosta, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

An interesting comparison between Bethlehem, PA, and New Bedford, MA, was the topic of an interesting Sunday/Monday feature which explained how the gaming industry was part of Bethlehem's economic resurgence and plans for this New England city.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Grant Welker, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

This series of articles concerning one of New England's corporate battles that at times may appear more like a TV soap opera is able to give the public an interesting and informative look at how this war between family members impacts the community and employees that are an integral part of the story. Starting with a look at the philanthropy of the family that owns Market Basket and following with stories of the corporate battles and maneuvering, the series gives readers an inside look at some of the machinations of the corporate world.

Second Place: **Patrick Ronan, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

In a story that might be retold with a different cast of characters in many New England urban communities, Reporter Patrick Ronan tells readers about the impact of the development plans on many of the small businesses being driven from the project area and then keeps them informed about the challenges that arise in a billion dollar plan when rising costs causes it to hit the skids. Great job providing supplemental information on the web.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Third Place: **Michael C. Juliano, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

A concise story of how cheaper foreign competition forced an American company out of business. The report by Michael Juliano tells readers - and taxpayers - how a specialty metal company, which for years was the only American company providing special copper-nickel tubing for the Navy, went under.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Aaron Marsh, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**

Excellent in-depth, dogged reporting.

Second Place: **Julie Cohen, West Roxbury Transcript, West Roxbury, MA**

The "Cold case" story goes beyond routine reporting.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Tena Starr, the Chronicle, Barton, VT**

Sensitive handling of a complicated topic – gets the "bad guy's" point of view in early. A welcome change from the "cops found a guilty guy" coverage in a lot of other entries.

Second Place: **Joshua Balling, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

This well-researched piece adds background to a conventional indictment story. It shows familiarity with all courtroom "players." Nicely written.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Greg Smith, Izaskun Larraneta, Judy Benson and Karen Florin, The Day, New London, CT**

2014 was the year that heroin became a deadly scourge of every New England town and state. The Day's coverage is complete in describing how the low cost of the deadly drug met with a region's youth who had been made vulnerable by lesser drugs. Very impressive data and storytelling.

Second Place: **Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Complete coverage of the horrific death of 5-year-old Jeremiah Oliver. From the outset, the newspaper was pressing on how the state supervision agency, Dept. of Children and Families, could have allowed a child to go unattended in such an awful/dangerous home environment. Looking for accountability is the key factor here.

Third Place: **Chad Cain, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

Story of an assault (rape)– the thorough reporting here shows how colleges, in this case Brown University, have been slow to crack down on such assaults on their campuses. The reporting stands in contrast to what Rolling Stone tried to do in its article on a similar assault at the University of Virginia. All details were fully reported here and the assailant was both named and asked for comment.

Honorable Mention: **Brian Fraga, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

First-rate look at how area police continued to arrest for illegal taping of on-duty police actions even though a federal appeal court decision allows for such taping. Good initiative that brings a light to the conflict between police and citizens.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Paul Singley, Mike Patrick, Alec Johnson and Jon Shugarts, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Death of Oxford mother exposes weaknesses of state's restraining order system and process - how the loopholes in the system allowed this husband to possess a gun even though state law prohibited him from such a possession.

Second Place: **Robert Mills, Christopher Scott, Lyle Moran, Grant Welker, Lisa Redmond, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

The Sun's persistent front page coverage led to police and city officials probing more deeply into why a 31-year-old woman died in police custody. Despite claims of innocence, blame is being found against police officers and citizens involved. Bravo!

Third Place: **Greg Saulmon, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Feature story on the perils of State Police Squad that deals with dismantling explosives. The writing was first rate!

EDUCATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Macklin Reid, The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT**

The STEM curriculum is alive and flourishing in Ridgefield. The reporter follows a group of serious science students and reports on some of their three-year research projects. Do you know what mesoderm is? They do!

Second Place: **Brad Cole, Norwood Transcript & Bulletin, Norwood, MA**

This series looks at school budgets and what they do and don't buy - all in doing so, the reporter shows readers how various groups of students suffer when there is not enough money.

EDUCATION REPORTING

Third Place: **Dick Broom, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

This is a very good look at some of the absurdities of NECAP standards, this time in Maine.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Jacqueline Weaver, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Excellent analysis and in-depth reporting on a controversial breakup of a school district. The reporter looks not only at the pros and cons but at the personal/emotional impact on families.

Second Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

Although this was, in part, a series of routine meeting and interview stories, the reporter doggedly followed this for a year alerting readers to systemic problems in the towns' special education program and how the officials attempted to solve this.

Third Place: **Olivia Hull, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

A good use of statistics and the interviews gave readers a look at the ELL program on the Vineyard. Very readable lecture.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Michelle Monroe, Courtney Lamdin, Polly Lynn, and Lee Kahrs, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT**

This story tells readers about the problems the area faces in trying to consolidate schools to make them more efficient. Well researched. Good use of interviews to tell the stories of citizens' attachment to their local schools.

Second Place: **Carol Kozma and Steve DeCota, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

An under-performing elementary school is trying some unusual teaching methods, including channeling Harry Potter, to improve its students' learning. Nice mix of vignettes and interviews.

Third Place: **Kaitlin Mulhere, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**
Students don't think they need to learn math, parents don't understand their children's math homework, and teachers struggle to make math interesting and relevant. Well done feature.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Dave Solomon, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

This series sets out, successfully, to explain Common Core standards and answer questions parents might have. It looks at the pros and cons, interviewing parents, teachers and administrators. Thorough look at a controversial and complex topic.

Second Place: **George Brennan, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

The newspaper tells its readers what measures schools have taken to ensure student safety. This resulted from the Newtown, Connecticut shootings, and these stories are a great example of a newspaper performing an important public service.

Third Place: **Jacqueline Reis, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

These stories follow a local charter on the brink of closing and what led to school leaders surrendering their charter. Good local reporting.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Daniel MacAlpine, William Dowd, Nancy White, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**

This series emerged as among the best focusing on New England's escalating coastline deterioration. Crisp, detailed writing, excellent use of sources - and input from across a broad geographic swath was well deserving of the top prize in this category.

Second Place: **Abby Ledoux, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT**

A beautifully descriptive lead provided the perfect introduction to this well-written item unveiling an environmental gift to the Georgia community and the region. Great job weaving interview content with informative details about this new passive recreational site.

Third Place: **Erin Tiernan, Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA**

An articulate news report incorporating some complex scientific analysis presented in an easy-to-understand narrative. Excellent attention to detail with numerous sources utilized. Logical flow from beginning to end.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Doreen Leggett, The Cape Codder, Orleans, MA**

Fantastic initiative by two reporters illustrating the tightrope walk between environmental and commercial interests both laying claim to this protected beach front. Writer exhibited great depth of knowledge and understanding of all facets of the issue and followed this story to its resolution with well and balanced but not an overwhelming level of reporting.

Second Place: **Matthew Witten, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Witten was the sole generator of the reporting content for this wonderful supplement. Each segment was thoughtfully crafted, informative and entertaining as he carefully detailed the unique features of numerous water bodies in this watershed.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Third Place: **Tim Kane, Quaboag Current, Ware, MA**

Kane's reporting was concise but information packed – tackling a controversial environmental practice with well-balanced perspective.

Third Place: **Barry Stringfellow, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

I loved and learned so much from Stringfellow, who exhibited an extremely engaging style in his piece about protecting a critical Vineyard species.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Michelle Monroe, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT**

Monroe was issued the unenviable task of owning this potentially dry and difficult to digest subject matter, and she delivered top quality, engaging reporting every step of the way. Her depth of knowledge and growing familiarity with all aspects of this subject translated into a series that provides a great public service to the readers and communities in the region.

Second Place: **Judy Benson, The Day, New London, CT**

Benson had no fear of getting her feet wet – literally – in order to capture the necessary details and color for this fantastic report on Thames River pollution. She did a fine job helping identify and explain the cause and effects of Triclosan to the river, and its potential harm to both the environment as well as the many residents facing exposure to it.

Third Place: **Auditi Guha, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

A lot has been written about the environmental disaster of honey bee population declines in recent years. This reporter did a fine job taking a fresh look at the phenomenon and how a dedicated group of residents are working to repopulate bee colonies around the Southcoast. Inviting, colorful story telling mixed with well-articulated scientific data.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Jessica Trufant, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

Trufant drilled into this complex aspect of environmental protection with great expertise, choosing to tell the story through the eyes of the residents and readers most affected by the re-mapped flood zones versus through the data and reasoning provided by FEMA, making this informative series extremely relevant and readable.

Second Place: **Elaine Thompson, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Thompson crafted this report about the consequences of beetle infestation and its devastating impact on one Worcester neighborhood. Engaging storytelling mixed with informative details about this unique environmental disaster and the tiny bugs that caused it.

Third Place: **Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Fantastically descriptive writing grabs and holds the reader's attention. An information-packed feature about coastal bird management and the preservation of a critical regional bird refuge.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Bob Sanders, New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH**

The Review distinguished itself with a balanced and thorough examination of a troubling issue affecting small businesses in New Hampshire and neighboring New England small businesses and consumers: companies that misclassify their employees as contractors to save money on the cost of labor, benefits and payroll taxes. The issue is a complicated one, pitting small business owners struggling to make a profit against workers and unions trying to win higher wages and better benefits for their constituents. The article illuminates the subject with thorough reporting, while avoiding the trap of taking sides in the controversy.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Rebecca Hyman, Bridgewater Independent, Bridgewater, MA**

The writer's restraint (and the winsome photographs) made all the difference in this genuinely touching story of a developmentally challenged 6-year-old and the older boys who rallied to his defense after learning he was being bullied at school for his difficulty in speaking because of a childhood brain disorder. In the hands of another reporter and writer, the story might have turned overly sentimental and contrived. The author got out of the way and allowed the boys and a handful of key adults to tell the story themselves in the most understated, straightforward and powerful way. It's no wonder the story was picked up by Ellen DeGeneres, Fox and Friends and Good Morning America – or that Patriots quarterback Tom Brady taped a message for the boys and invited them to a game.

Second Place: **Staff, Mansfield News, Mansfield, MA**

Enterprise reporting on a routine high school graduation speech led to the resignation of the superintendent of schools, after the paper disclosed that students were buzzing about similarities between the school chief's speech and one given a few weeks earlier by a U.S. Navy admiral in Texas. As is often the case these days, curious students first broke the story via social media, but the News followed up by identifying and publishing the similar passages – some of which were almost identical.

Third Place: **Bill Kirk, Andover Townsman, Andover, MA**

Third Place: **Lannan O'Brien, The Mashpee Enterprise, Mashpee, MA**

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Joshua Balling, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Written in exceptional depth and detail, this winner examines the fiscal troubles of a 7-year-old retirement community beset by new business models, unforeseen demographic shifts and the impact of the Great Recession of 2008. What makes it a winner is that although it's a story heard with alarming frequency in scores of communities across the country, it's one to which few newspapers – let alone weeklies – can dedicate adequate time and resources.

Second Place: **Lindsay Pykosz, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

The subject matter is routine; the coverage is anything but routine, as it focuses on a developer's proposal to alter a Nantucket historic area by demolishing one small shop and relocating two homes more than two centuries old to make way for three large new homes. The article represents a substantial investment of time and resources, increasingly challenging for a small weekly, yet it's done with precision, thoroughness and obvious care.

Third Place: **Jason Graziadei, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

It would be hard not to recognize this example of how the appetite of developers for 100 acres of undeveloped Nantucket real estate triggered the eruption of an internecine dogfight between local Boy Scout leaders and the umbrella regional Scout agency that believes it has control and ownership of the property. The article makes for compelling reading, marked as it is by charges and counter-charges, competing lawsuits and juicy details like the regional group changing the locks at the site and the local group abruptly transferring the deed to a local non-Scout organization.

Third Place: **Julia Wells and Remy Tumin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Some might see the selection of an obituary as an odd choice in a general news category, but the Gazette's coverage demands to be recognized for work that informs and comforts a community in a time of great loss. The shock of the bizarre and inexplicable death of a beloved community leader and the outpouring of support are thoroughly captured and sensitively told in this worthy entry.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Jim Haddadin, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

What an outstanding run of persistent reporting, peeling back a story over and over to get at the truth when the state rep's account just didn't add up. Again and again, the reporter steps up with fact-checking to pick out holes in officials' stories. And kudos for seeing the potential in this story from the first bit of news about a driver hitting a pack of ducks.

Second Place: **Sentinel Staff, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**
Well-executed breaking and follow-up coverage to the surprising news that the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant would be closed at the end of 2014. Smart reporting that examines issues of employees put out of work, the complex process of shuttering a nuke plant, and the impact on public services such as schools.

Third Place: **Emily O'Donnell, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Strong accountability reporting, including an analysis of potentially plagiarized passages, when a school superintendent appears to borrow too liberally from other speeches. Persistent reporting eventually leads to the superintendent's departure.

Honorable Mention: **Joe Wojtas, Colin Young, Ann Baldelli and David Collins, The Day, New London, CT**

Well-written and well-conceived coverage of the nation's oldest surviving commercial vessel making its first voyage in 93 years. Excellent angles in covering a story that gives a great sense of time and place for the community.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Susan Spencer and Gerard Russell, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Excellent watchdog reporting and use of public records to find the story behind a billboard pointing at tension between state police and local police departments. Thorough reporting uncovered the "why" that explains what the troopers' and police chief's public statements did not – the turf battle over lucrative detail assignments for construction projects. Terrific digging to get at truth.

Second Place: **K.C. Myers, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Strong reporting on the incredible story of three addiction specialists taking paying work in the medical marijuana business. Clear explanation of the ethical questions raised by their actions, including use of federal grant money for the treatment facility. Nice context to include past statements in which one of the three opposed the marijuana ballot initiative.

Third Place: **Thomas Caywood, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Great use of public records to draw a startling picture of the number of gas leaks reported in Worcester – and the revelation that many are repeated reports and some are never repaired. Excellent public service to include an interactive map online for reported leaks.

Honorable Mention: **Christine Legere, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Thorough reporting through a series of stories examining important aspects of a local nuke plant: lack of public preparedness for an accident, an alarming record of mishaps and glitches, and potential local tax impact if the plant were to shut down.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Macklin Reid, The Ridgefield Press, Ridgefield, CT**

Excellent exploration and explanation of an important but often neglected municipal finance issue: debt and pension costs. A clear, easy-to-digest report on a complicated subject, with a helpful chart.

Second Place: **Bill Kirk, Andover Townsman, Andover, MA**

A clear, thorough report of an important issue, reinforced with a strong call to action in an editorial that spotlights the town manager's questionable role.

Third Place: **Erin Tiernan, Hanover Mariner, Hanover, MA**

Well-played-out coverage of what otherwise could have been a more routine local government issue. Good use of photos to complement text.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Jennifer Osborn, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

An enterprising canvass on an important and interesting topic. A lot is said in a relatively compact piece that is well written and edited. A chart would have enhanced a nevertheless excellent presentation.

Second Place: **Allison Teague, The Commons, Windham County, VT**

Exhaustive coverage of the public proceedings on this soap-opera-style saga. No detail was spared in that regard. More summarization of all that detail and a separate analysis of what was at the political bottom of this controversy would have improved a fine series of reports. So too would have a clearer outline of who on the library board backed and opposed the library director, and a sharper focus on the reported "affair" and more comments from Whitehead apart from the public proceedings.

Third Place: **Zach Despart, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

A clear, informative explanation of this looming issue.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Lindsay Tice, Judith Meyer, Scott Thistle, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

This series fastened on to a whistleblower's complaint and doggedly pursued the gross violation of public-access laws that went beyond denial of public records to shredding and fabrication of government files to cover up obvious misconduct by top state officials. Well-explained. Clear. Helpful charts and quote breakouts. Spurred legislative, and possibly legal, redress. Spun off a revealing report on texting as a public-access dodge, and prompted official steps taken to end that. Could have used more photos of the miscreants. Easily the best in this class, and possibly of all entries in all circulation categories.

Second Place: **Joe Cote and Jim Haddadin, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Diligent pursuit of this controversy, though based mostly on public utterings and events. Good pursuit, too, of public records. Could have used an independent examination of whether the mayor or police were on the wrong/dishonest side of this mess.

Third Place: **Kathleen Edgecomb, The Day, New London, CT**

Solid report on an important topic. Excellent descriptions and details on building problems. Could have come down harder: Where was money spent rather than on vital repairs and renovations – was pay increased during this time? Buildings built? If safety and code violations were at issue, why wasn't a higher priority given to these problematic buildings?

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Penelope Overton, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Excellent pursuit of a fraudulent politician's hiring and eventual firing. Drip-drip-drip accounts led to his firing, when he obviously never should have been hired in the first place. Series indicates in strong terms that he was hired mainly because of political pull and connections. Series would have benefited from saying how or why city or state law allow an elected city official to hold a city job in what is clearly a conflict of interest.

Second Place: **Chris Burrell, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

Cumulative coverage explores deep-seated problems with the housing authority, beginning with a single report of elevator problems. The expanding web of problems with the authority's buildings begs the question of how this developed and who's to blame. Could have used more comments from maintenance staff and oversight officials.

Third Place: **Lyle Moran, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

Good compilation of a series of missteps and evasions of proper procedures, if not the law. Solid reporting on official reports and actions, but could have used more enterprise to get to the bottom of who was ultimately at fault and whether the one(s) at fault will be brought to account. Where was the oversight of those responsible?

HEALTH REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Emily Thurlow, The Journal Register, Palmer, MA**

Incredible work on this series. Lots of good information (maybe too much) but this opiate needs to be addressed.

Second Place: **Jeannette Ross, The Wilton Bulletin, Wilton, CT**

What a great story on cardiac arrest and where to have them (or not) in your area.

Third Place: **Kathryn Gallerani, Carver Reporter, Carver, MA**

Wonderful piece on what a family lives with when dealing with MELAS.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **John Flowers, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

John tackles the tough issues facing his community in the health world.

Second Place: **Barry Stringfellow, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

Solid work on the opiate problem.

Third Place: **Jim Morrison, Brookline Tab, Brookline, MA**

Good mix of health issues. The kidney story is a perfect, touching read.

Third Place: **Wei-Huan Chen, Needham Times, Needham, MA**

Honorable Mention: **Aimee Henderson, Belchertown Sentinel, Belchertown, MA**

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Michael Hartwell, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Thanks for taking on a topic that so many refuse to touch – or cover.

Second Place: **Ann Baldelli, The Day, New London, CT**

An uplifting personal cancer story that is well written. Nice job capturing the picture as if the reader was there.

Third Place: **Ella Nilsen, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

Born to Drugs is a story every New England newspaper needs to write. It's only going to get worse.

Honorable Mention: **Joe Markman and Maria Papadopoulos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Susan Spencer, Shaun Sutner, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

This is a huge problem and The Telegram dealt with it head-on. Great job.

Second Place: **Cynthia McCormick, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Wonderful writing about a couple that we knew could be us or our parents.

Third Place: **Carrie MacMillan, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

This little talked about illness is presented so others will know what some suffer - often in silence.

HISTORY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Jordan Mayblum, Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA**

This multi-part series does a nice job tracing Wellesley's demographic evolution from a nearly all-white country town to an upscale suburb of Boston. It's a story that could be told in many similar communities around New England. Perhaps the most telling entry focuses on the couple whose once-ubiquitous Cape-style home - in their family since World War II - became increasingly surrounded by McMansions favored by today's more affluent residents.

Second Place: **Chris Warren, Burlington Union, Burlington, MA**

Lily Hollander is a survivor of the Holocaust because her Jewish parents prepared a refuge for her in their native Belgium. Today she lives in Burlington, Mass., as Florence "Jacki" Hatch. Chris Warren's story on how she got here would make a great movie.

Third Place: **Patricia Gay, The Weston Forum, Weston, CT**
Lincoln Kerstein, who was part of an allied team saving art works from the Nazis, lived a low-profile life in Weston before dying in 1996. Patricia Gay tells a good tale about the polymath who knew a lot about everything and was a friend to some of the biggest figures in the art world.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Staff, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

This special section tells the story of the rebirth of the Charles W. Morgan, the last American whaling ship still afloat. It's also a virtual primer on the whaling industry. Well researched, written and illustrated by the Gazette's staff.

Second Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

George Walsh is a former aviator with a mission: Persuading the government to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to a late comrade, Wade McClusky. Walsh argues that McClusky's pivotal actions ensured a U.S. victory at the Battle of Midway and thereby changed the course of World War II in the Pacific.

Third Place: **Cliff McCarthy, Belchertown Sentinel, Belchertown, MA**

A smooth narrative tying together the recently found correspondences of area soldiers in the Civil War provides an intimate view of what life was like for Union Army enlistees from Massachusetts. The series plays out over four installments in July.

HISTORY REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **John Ruddy, The Day, New London, CT**

The unnamed monster storm of 1938 is a fixture of New England history, but John Ruddy employs an episodic narrative style to animate the human and property toll of this disaster. People disappeared, never to be seen again, and ocean-front communities were erased by the wind and storm surge. Good writing, good use of historical sources and aftermath photos to tell this tale.

Second Place: **Chris Bergeron, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

The assassination of JFK never seems far from the front page, especially in New England. Chris Bergeron writes fluidly about the ordinary folks whose lives were affected by Kennedy's death and revisits the evergreen theories that Oswald was merely a pawn in a larger homicidal conspiracy.

Third Place: **Auditi Guha, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Newcomers to Massachusetts' SouthCoast - say those who arrived after 1700 - might have little appreciation for the depth of history collected in Dartmouth and other communities it calved. This series that rolled over several months to mark Dartmouth's 350th anniversary corrected that. Good material to satisfy history buffs anywhere.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Shawne K. Wickham, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

The assassination of JFK may be one of the most examined events in U.S. history, but this piece by Shawne Wickham offers the view from three high school students who played hooky and headed to D.C. in a clunker of a car to witness Kennedy's funeral. It's a very novel, even touching, story about their youthful escapade and how much it still means to them to have been witnesses to the historic event.

Second Place: **Brynn Mandel, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Brynn Mandel tells how some history sleuths provided the dignity of a name and fragments of a life story to a slave who died in Waterbury a century before Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The bones of the slave named Fortune, once used in medical studies, have been removed from a museum vault and given a state funeral.

Third Place: **Thomas Caywood, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Another fascinating sidebar to history: the attempted kidnapping of two free black children from the Worcester area by slavers from Virginia. Thomas Caywood's narrative takes the reader through a very dark landscape to a happy ending - the return of the boys to their homes and the trial and imprisonment of the would-be kidnappers.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **MaryJo Kurtz, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

A beautifully written story that's heartbreaking, heartwarming and educational all at the same time. No doubt, lots of parents came to realize just how powerful food can be after reading this article, and perhaps a few went forth to find a life-changing solution, just as Kurtz had done.

Second Place: **Karen O. Bray, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

A touching account of how a heroic Catholic community has been caring for immigrant workers.

Third Place: **David Heuschkel, West Hartford Life, West Hartford, CT**

Three generations of men have coached the same high school team since its inception. A great local story.

Honorable Mention: **Margie Bucheit, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Rebecca Hyman, Bridgewater Independent, Bridgewater, MA**

What an uplifting positive story. Every school with hazing and bullying should have to read this article. Excellent writing and great photographs to illustrate the story.

Second Place: **Ami Olson Campbell, Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA**

We've all gone to our share of weddings, but this one had to be special. You had a sense you were there through the writing.

Third Place: **Patricia Roy, The Landmark, Holden, MA**

What a wonderful historic human interest feature. The police chief, teacher and intern should be saluted for tracking down the history of the four deaths in a car crash - including three religious sisters/nuns (who were also biological sisters) - that apparently the police failed to do when it happened the day John F. Kennedy was killed. Wish the picture of the three headstones was a little better displayed or was clearer.

Honorable Mention: **Kathie Ragsdale, Concord Journal, Concord, MA**

Honorable Mention: **Eli Sherman, Waltham News Tribune, Waltham, MA**

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Julia Wells, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Although the story was about the loss of a child in Newtown, it wasn't immediately obvious or a maudlin tale. Instead it showed how a family's tradition had allowed it to honor the child's memory while making subtle changes to their entrenched

traditions. It handles the Sandy Hook events delicately and shows how a family is honoring old traditions and making new ones.

Second Place: David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT

Tells a story of an amazing feat while using wonderful examples that allow the reader to get inside the head of the subject. Provides context for the subject's feat and takes the readers on the journey with her. It would have been helpful to include more details about the physical trials she endured – both in preparation and during the journey – to underscore how incredible this accomplishment truly was.

Third Place: Zach Despart, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Beginning anecdote grabs and holds the reader's interest. Lots of details and anecdotes that fully characterize Leahy and his success in 39 years in Congress.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Lindsay Tice, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

A poignant story of a mother's guilt, grief and efforts to honor her son.

Second Place: Ben Paulin, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

This two-part series put faces to the homeless in Brockton.

Third Place: Danielle Ameden, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

A nice mix, blending wounded veterans issues with prison rehabilitation and puppies.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Thomas Caywood, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Fascinating, well-written story that weaves the historical background of the gaslights with the technology of them, as well as the human stories of the man who keeps them running and the people who appreciate them.

Second Place: Kim Ring, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The story behind the abbey's decision to move from more labor-intensive products to brewing ale raised questions for readers and then answered them in easily understood (i.e., not jargon-based) language. The anecdotes, particularly the yeast testing story, were interesting and helped move the story along while educating the reader.

Third Place: Sean F. Driscoll, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This story takes us behind the scenes of a place many of us will never go – Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory – and shows us what we're missing. The community that is created, the people who return year after year, the ways it has changed,

the madness/flurry of work scientists can do – it's truly a summer camp for scientists and their families. Also the story flows – even with all of the people who contributed.

Honorable Mention: Carrie MacMillan, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

A touching story about love come full circle that avoids being too maudlin, this piece tells this couple's love story from both of their perspectives – using remembered emotions, anecdotes and other techniques to help the story flow.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Nicholas Iovino, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

An excellent example of reporting that asks an important question that leads to information that holds local government accountable.

Second Place: Staff, Milton Times, Milton, MA

In-depth coverage of a major issue impacting every community in Massachusetts.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT

Dogged pursuit of crucial information resulted in this powerful and impactful series of reports. Outstanding example of enterprise reporting.

Second Place: Steve Fuller, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

In-depth coverage of an industry that is inserting itself in communities across New England.

Third Place: Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

A solid piece of enterprise reporting on an interesting issue.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Johanna Somers, The Day, New London, CT

An in-depth examination of a crucial issue facing Connecticut and every state in the nation. Excellent work and public service.

Second Place: Ariel Wittenberg, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

A top-notch, deep-dive look at an issue that impacts South Coast residents and every individual living near a superfund site. Well done!

Third Place: Lindsay Tice, Judith Meyer, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

A strong example of dogged reporting - staying with a story until it's absolutely clear what happened.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Susan Spencer, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

An excellent piece of investigative reporting that exemplifies holding the powerful accountable.

Second Place: **K.C. Myers, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

A superb example of digging to find the story behind the story. A story of irony and following the money.

Third Place: **Patrick Cassidy, Christine Legere, Cynthia McCormick, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

An important story that exemplifies and exposes government's failure to protect the most vulnerable children in the state.

INVESTIGATIVE/ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Bob Sanders, New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH**

A valuable project that provided crucial information on a complicated issue.

Second Place: **Brandon Gee, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Boston, MA**

Superb example of deep-dive, shoe leather reporting uncovering important information deserving of public attention.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Staff, Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA**

In a very competitive category, the Minuteman coverage stood out in several ways: like most entries, it included capsule profiles of candidates but the decision to break out "question of the week" for various races kept readers engaged and informed throughout the campaign - as evidenced by the numerous and varied letters from readers; reporters followed through with coverage of spending by candidates; the election-day chart showed some interesting voting trends; and the endorsements were well-reasoned, informed and authoritative. As noted previously, if I were a resident of the area, I would feel confident when casting my ballot that I was making a sound choice thanks to Minuteman coverage.

Second Place: **Nancy Doniger, The Easton Courier, Easton, CT**

For a small staff, even a "routine" election presents logistical hurdles. Here, the election was anything but routine and Editor Nancy Doniger and Correspondent Tony Spinelli are to be commended for staying on top of all the legal wrangling that accompanied the campaign and continuing with court challenges after the fact. Coverage of those extraordinary issues was complemented by a very solid "nuts and bolts" package of the more mundane aspects of a municipal election. Although the staffing logistics might have made it quite difficult, the

paper might have taken a closer look at the state's changes that led to the filing glitch at the center of the controversy and/or done a "what could be learned from this mess?" story once the dust had settled.

Third Place: **Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**

The staff's ability to develop the "bullet voting" issue, aside from solid pre-election packaging, should be commended. And, coverage became even trickier when the paper itself became part of the story because of its editorial cartoon. Even-handed and informative stories were welcome.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

"Comprehensive" is the watch-word for both the pre- and the post-Town Meetings coverage. The Independent should also be noted for its marriage of web and print coverage of the election.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Like many entries, this one featured a host of candidate profiles and solid election-day coverage. However, several other factors set it apart: Reporters "followed the money" with stories on campaign finance reporting, holding candidates accountable for their actions; a reader-friendly package of where candidates stood on important issues; an insightful analysis and well-reasoned endorsements. Residents who followed this newspaper's coverage should have felt well informed when making their decisions on election day, which sets a standard for journalism's obligation to serve the public interest.

Second Place: **Keith Eddings, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

In a community with more than its share of controversy, Eddings kept readers informed and tried to explain the implications of the political maneuverings and brought systemic shortcomings to the attention of the voting public.

Third Place: **Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

The logistics required by the staff to pull off its election night coverage of the 30 towns in its circulation area is to be commended.

Third Place: **Claire Bessette, The Day, New London, CT**

Writer showed good initiative in looking at how the mayor's victory came about, the changing political scene in Norwich and what it meant to voters.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Katy Savage, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT**

Dedicated volunteer Jim Lawrence helps feed local elderly after a years-ago tragedy in his own family. Savage avoids sentimentality and lets the engaging facts speak. A really good story.

Second Place: **Courtney Lamdin, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT**

This is a smart look at a notable teacher who goes way beyond the usual in student use of media and technology.

Third Place: **James Kirsella, The Sandwich Enterprise, Sandwich, MA**

Carl Johansen, 79, hand-harvests shellfish despite his shellfish allergy. He can't eat the catch, but brings them to friends and widows of old friends.

Honorable Mention: **Chris Church, North-East Independent, North Kingstown, RI**

Larry Webster has been tracking down long-lost military-aircraft wrecks since 1959, when he was 12. Now the government won't let him.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Mollie Doyle, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Ms. Doyle's profile of Bridget Tobin, the woman responsible for clearing the chaos of loading and unloading Vineyard car ferries, is readable, interesting and professional. There's evidence of thorough on-scene reporting and skillful writing that shows Tobin the person, not another stereotype.

Second Place: **Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Bird profiled Peter Stefan, the Worcester funeral director who stepped up to prepare for burial the body of Boston-Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev when no one else would take on the task. He presents the man; who he is, his ethics and background and why he made the still-controversial decision. The piece is thoroughly professional and in a charged atmosphere, necessary.

Third Place: **Remy Tumin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Jennifer Clarke is the only female charter-boat captain on Martha's Vineyard, but her great love seems to be fishing, something she has done since age 4. Tumin pictures the Radcliff-educated captain in her island element and shows us why she is that way.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Crystal A. Weyers, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH**

An engrossing story that needed to be told. Brokaw's Greatest Generation is not something exclusive to just Americans. A well-crafted narrative is enhanced and strengthened by skillfully chosen and aptly placed quotes from the subject. This personality piece is written with the respect and admiration that one would expect from a grandchild but with the objectivity and clarity one expects from a good journalist. The writer's personal connection, while not irrelevant, is handled deftly and does not significantly impinge on the article's content and tone. Well done. The inclusion of photos of the artwork mentioned in the text is a great asset. Well-written.

Second Place: **Jack Spillane, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Article flows well and captures the essence of the subject's vocational commitment. The effective blend of narrative and quotes makes for easy reading. Photos work well with the text.

Third Place: **Steve Gilbert, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

Reads well, enlightening, and clear. The flowing narrative supports the lead. Demonstrates that people who are sometimes overlooked can be the source of interesting stories.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Christine Legere, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Nice way to do a personality piece about someone who is gone, but the essence of her character, her humanity and sense of life comes forth from the snippets of poetry adeptly mixed in with the narrative. It is a sort of eulogy, but keeps the subject alive in a good way.

Second Place: **Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Good reading piece, well written and moves at a nice pace generally. This is the type of feature that needs to be done more often, the memories of those Americans who fought in World War II. Would welcome more memories of this period.

Third Place: **Jim Kinney, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Serves up a taste of what makes a unique personality. Interesting story, reads well, insightful narrative. Could benefit from some comments from shop's customers.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Jack Sheedy, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

A real good read. Well written, carries the reader along and brings the subject's personality to the fore. Might benefit from using a few comments from people who know the subject.

Second Place: **Brandon Gee, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Boston, MA**

Does a good job of making what could be a bland subject interesting. Good mix of narrative and quotes.

Third Place: **Allie Rivera, Newington Life, Newington, CT**

Interesting story that covers a lot of ground. Subject's personality comes through readily. An informative article.

OBITUARIES

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Frank Mortimer, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA**

The death of Sam Berns was a national story and the paper was not afraid to play it up big on the front page. Frank Mortimer drew the reader in immediately with an anecdote that seemed so appropriate for the type of person Sam was - happy and full of spunk. A touching tribute without being maudlin. It also contained helpful information on the disease and how to help. Very nicely done!

Second Place: **Chris Reagle, The Sentinel, Marion, MA**

A very well-written tribute on the untimely death of a local man based mostly on the funeral service. Through the voices of the people who knew and loved Dana Dourdeville, the reader gets a complete picture of this remarkable person.

Third Place: **Patricia Gay, The Weston Forum, Weston, CT**

A comprehensive portrait of a man who met his untimely death in a most ironic way. Wonderful page one presence and a great selection of art adds to the poignancy. Accompanying news story helps provide additional information.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Bill Eville, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

A wonderfully written tribute to an ordinary man who touched so many lives with his extraordinary efforts. This story captures the essence of Don Patrick without being over-written. Every town has a local character who rises to notoriety for simple contributions and Martha's Vineyard was lucky to have Don Patrick. The writer is to be applauded for capturing Mr. Patrick's essence.

Second Place: **Remy Tumin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

The long and successful life of Ray Ellis was nicely captured in this comprehensive, well-written tribute. It was full of interesting details, including of course, the fact that he was Walter Cronkite's tennis partner.

Third Place: **Olivia Hull, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

This story aptly captures the fullness of Mr. Varkonda's relatively short life.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Alana Melanson, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Drew a warm portrait of a local giant.

Second Place: **Kendall Hatch, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Warm and respectful approach, making clear the role this man played in the community.

Third Place: **Greg Sullivan, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Solemn and respectful coverage of this horror story. Good quotes that captured how much love was felt toward her.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Brian Lee, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

I felt I really got to know this wonderful person. Great picture too.

Second Place: **Carrie MacMillan, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

What a story! To find true love when one is about to die. Really nice details. Very sensitively done.

Third Place: **Robert Rizzuto, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Good background on him, and tied to the field of political strategy globally.

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ISSUE COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Aimee Henderson, Belchertown Sentinel, Belchertown, MA**

Sensitively brings a story from the world stage to a small town. Good photo, too. Timely.

Second Place: **Nell Escobar Coakley, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA**

Timely, bringing one family's story into focus, which in turns sheds light on a vile chapter of US history.

Third Place: **Parker Richards, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Great feature, dealing sensitively with race and one man's journey. I enjoyed it.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Simon Rios, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

In a three-part series, the issue of unaccompanied minors is examined from every angle. Very thorough and clearly done with empathy.

Second Place: **Carol Kozma, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Really great graphics shed light on the issue of minority teachers. Also, packed with a lot of information that can be used to tackle the problem.

Third Place: **Ariel Wittenberg, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Clear understanding of a town and a neighborhood within that town. Full of details and well written.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Elizabeth Roman, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Very newsworthy story, one that is treated with respect and sheds light on a little-known group of soldiers.

Second Place: **Elizabeth Roman, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Sensitively treated and well written, bringing a national story home.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Kathryn O'Brien and Linda Greenstein, Tri-Town Transcript, Topsfield/Boxford, MA**

O'Brien takes ownership of this important religious milestone and explores multiple facts of the past, present, and future roles the Topsfield Congregational Church served and continues to serve in the community. Displays dedicated, immersive reporting – highly engaging for all readers.

Second Place: **Josh Farnsworth, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA**

I love how the reporter embedded himself within this local parish youth group as they worked and played their way through a week of service to the community, environment and their faith. Spectacular organization and flow given the sheer number of subjects included.

Third Place: **Jordan Mayblum, Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA**

Mayblum takes a courageous but necessary look at community relations and attitudes regarding a local Muslim congregation. This report was well-balanced and extremely educational – bringing a number of important voices together to explore this global faith in the context of one New England community.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Sarah Thomas, North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA**

A well scripted, thorough and entertaining look at the cause and effect of bombastic street preachers. Without serving as an apologist – Thomas illustrates the extremely personal and constitutional implications of this controversial practice – particularly regarding freedom of speech.

Second Place: **Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

A fair and balanced report on this Congregation as it tries to integrate successfully into a new neighborhood. Bird details the potential for racial bias without endorsing or condemning the behaviors of either neighbors or church officials. Tight, concise storytelling.

Third Place: **John Nolan, Rochester Times, Rochester, NH**

While this feature – on face – is about a quality of life crime against this local congregation, Nolan does excellent work weaving in the larger social, historical and constitutional implications of these thefts, while representing the initiative of church leaders to promote the congregation's inclusionary practices.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Jill Harmacinski, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Dedicated, dogged reporting is the hallmark of this series following a couple fighting to regain employment at a local faith-based school. The success of this series hung on the reporter's ability to gain the trust and participation of the subjects. She presented the story well despite limited access to the opposing subject.

Second Place: **Mark Larocque, Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA**

An engaging and comprehensive feature that not only describes the practical development of this new Buddhist temple, but also incorporates a number of sources orienting readers about the history and practice of Buddhism in contemporary society, and how these new neighbors plan to serve their community.

Third Place: **Brian Fraga, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

A thorough examination of the phenomenon of a shrinking Roman Catholic congregation told through the eyes of the leader of one local church caught up in the issue. Fraga taps his sources to extract and expertly craft an important and informative report.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Shawne K. Wickham, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH**

A fresh, well-crafted and highly readable glimpse into the World of a Prison Chaplain – Wickham appears to have gained both the level of access and trust to present a candid view inside the walls – along with detailing both the crises of faith and how its embrace can influence the rehabilitation of individuals under his lead subject's guidance.

Second Place: **Anne-Gerard Flynn, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Flynn took the occasion of a mass gathering of Jehovah's Witnesses in her community to develop a feature that explains and de-mystifies this faith through the eyes of several participating community leaders. This is a well-written and important piece of writing on a 'religious issue' few outside the faith likely understand.

Third Place: **Donna Boynton, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

After reading so much about declining interest and engagement, Boynton's initiative to locate and expand on this piece of 'Good news' was refreshing – while exhibiting a great knack for engaging story-telling.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Stephen Greenwell Jr., North-East Independent, North Kingstown, RI**

A well-written piece that vividly depicts what happens to a class of high school students when they are first in the role of "parent."

Second Place: **Alex Ruppenthal, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA**

The story ponders a human, personal look at how new medical technology is changing lives.

Third Place: **Lynda Clancy, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

Good example of solid, watch dog community journalism.

Honorable Mention: **Frank Mortimer, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA**

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Sara Brown and Ivy Ashe, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Fine writing and lively historical backstory make this a great read.

Second Place: **Ignacio Laguarda, Brookline Tab, Brookline, MA**

With a good sense of humor and history, this article recounts well the story of the Antique Vibration Museum.

Third Place: **Nathaniel Horwitz, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

Solid reporting and good eye for historical detail.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Deborah Allard, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Vivid writing and thoughtful analysis bring this story on testing mosquitoes for West Nile virus to life and helps the community better understand efforts to combat a serious problem.

Second Place: **Debra Scherban, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

The writer sensitively and thoroughly tells the story of UMass engineers whose work is transforming the life of a 5-year-old boy. Great job getting the story of the family and the coordination with the University.

Third Place: **Steve DeCosta, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

A good explanatory story to help the community better understand why new, more exotic fish are making their way to local waters and what that means for the Marine ecosystem.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

A wonderfully written and deeply researched piece that magnifies the vital role of ocean gliders.

Second Place: **Cynthia McCormick, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

An important story well told, rich with details about the critical work of a Woods Hole researcher for the safety of the Pacific Ocean waters.

Third Place: **Patrick Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

This piece uses lively, vivid language and solid reporting to make algae's role in transforming waste water into a readable, engaging story.

Honorable Mention: **Lisa Ecklebecker, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Staff, Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA**
An ambitious, large-scale project that sheds light on poverty in affluent suburbs. GateHouse turned percentages into people.

Second Place: **Matthew Reid, Saugus Advertiser, Saugus, MA**

This well-written and impeccably reported story takes the reader inside a sex trade that's still a scourge in New England.

Third Place: **Julie Cohen, Roslindale Transcript, Roslindale, MA**

Great writing illuminates the struggle and injustices that local undocumented workers endure daily.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Writing that sucks you in, then stops you dead in your tracks. I thought I was reading "Mother Jones" or "The New Yorker." Powerful stuff.

Second Place: **Erin Baldassari, Cambridge Chronicle, Cambridge, MA**

A remarkably descriptive series that exposes youth homelessness in the shadows of Harvard.

Third Place: **Nancy Crevier, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

An authoritative, head-on look at the hidden dangers of e-cigarettes. A wealth of information here!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Chris Shores, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
Nicely executed and compelling first-person approach really makes the point about food stamps' inadequacies.

Second Place: **Alana Melanson, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

A startling and well-reported story that breaks new ground.

Third Place: **Karen Florin, The Day, New London, CT**
Beautifully written portrait of an unlikely mental health advocate. Who says cops can't be compassionate?

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **K.C. Myers, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Arresting writing that takes us inside the hellish consequences of heroin abuse.

Second Place: **Bruno Matarazzo Jr, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

An illuminating account of a family's enduring enjoyment of guns despite being caught up in Newtown's carnage. Full of surprises.

Third Place: **Patrick Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Smart idea to compare and contrast marijuana dispensaries. This is a deep dive - not a token look.

SPORTS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Bill Koch, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

Strong, concise but descriptive lede - great job getting this reader's attention.

Second Place: **Alex Ruppenthal, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA**

Set the scene with a beautiful intro and then tackled a sport that many people are not familiar with. Well done.

Third Place: **Lindsey O'Donnell, Littleton Independent, Littleton, MA**

Going beyond the box-score, this sidebar on Littleton's championship told a great story.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Strong, thorough work that represents how a first-place story should read.

Second Place: **Barry Stringfellow, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

Of the Boston Marathon revisit stories I've read this was one of the best. Focused on one local runner and had a good lede and gave space to her voice/experience. Nice job.

Third Place: **Joshua Lyford, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Well-written and a newsworthy topic. Had key information high in the story but let it build throughout.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Kevin Mills, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

Great delivery of a unique and thoroughly interesting story. At once grounded and uplifting, not over-wrought.

Second Place: **Phil Stacey, The Salem News, Salem, MA**

Incredible timing and delivery of an incredible story - way more than a championship advance, it laid an emotional foundation.

Third Place: **David Willis, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Writer provides great depth and detail about how basketball is entwined in the life of a 16-year-old with Down syndrome.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Rich Garven, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Top-notch execution for a story that was all right there. Use of title phrase throughout was perfectly timed and built momentum for a heartfelt conclusion.

Second Place: **Jen Toland, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Loved this warm, inspiring story of how a community connected and helped a young autistic athlete - and did so free of clichéd tone with this type of subject.

Third Place: **David Pevear, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

An entertaining story on one of the quirks of Olympic competition. Abundant details and clean story overall. Great pre-Olympics, local piece.

SPOT NEWS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Staff, Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA**

Exhaustive (in a good way) coverage of this terrible plane crash that took the lives of seven people. The main story and multiple side bars touched all the bases – victims, investigation, and environmental impact. Excellent display with reefers and good art. This team was on the ball from the very beginning with updated online posts before the actual print publication. Extraordinary effort!

Second Place: **Jeff Pope, William Dowd, and Laura Krantz, Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA**

A well-executed, well-written package of stories on the death of a high school teacher. The timeline and sampling of posts from students, as well as the teacher herself, added depth to the coverage. The shock waves this incident sent through the community clearly came through in the stories.

Third Place: **Earl Brechlin, Mark Good, Nan Lincoln, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

What judge wouldn't be impressed with a last-minute remake of Page 1 to accommodate breaking news? Even the readers were impressed with the quick action of these reporters. An effort like this is what makes community newspapers so valued. In addition to the print paper, the staff should be applauded for its social media effort to get the story out.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Joshua Balling, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

While quite lengthy, the story about Hurricane Arthur hitting Nantucket was extremely well-written and flowed nicely. It was jam-packed with information and contained timely updates the day before publication. This comprehensive story touched all the bases – good information, a lot of voices and great display.

Second Place: **Zach Despart, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

This story presents all sides of the issue in an unbiased way, leaving the reader with the ability to draw his/her own conclusions.

Third Place: **Nelson Sigelman, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

A harrowing tale of two locals who survive a Tuckerman Ravine fall; with updated conditions based on interviews with the men.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Staff, The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**

The comprehensive coverage is an excellent public service, as a community's hospital closes its doors. The Eagle staff covers multiple angles with depth and sharp writing. Includes print and online work. The coverage is both factual and human.

Second Place: **Keith Eddings, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

The Eagle-Tribune provides meaningful context in color in covering a building fire. So often stories like this are recitations of police reports. The Eagle-Tribune goes beyond the routine, delving into historic, economic and community perspectives.

Third Place: **Izaskun Larraneta, The Day, New London, CT**

Third Place: **Amy DeMelia, Emily O'Donnell, Paige Allen and George Rhodes, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **John Collins, Hiroko Sato, Rick Sobey, Lyle Moran, Andy Mal, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

Good storytelling captures drama well. Staff went beyond the police reports with good interviewing, digging and records scouring.

Second Place: **Scott Croteau, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Captures the scene well.

Third Place: **Jack Flynn, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Reporter does a nice job of storytelling and keeping the community abreast of the developments in an important watchdog story as it unfolds.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Alex Ruppenthal, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA**

Great storytelling and attention to detail – this reporter appears to pack every possible fact related to this high profile bridge replacement project into an easy to read feature. Thorough and informative.

Second Place: Courtney Lamdin, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT

Lamdin showed great initiative reporting on this transportation issue literally from the passenger seat. Descriptive, engaging narrative clearly illustrated the initiative and skills of local plow drivers struggling with limited equipment.

Third Place: Danielle McLean, Winchester Star, Winchester, MA

McLean does a great job examining the issue of a dangerous local bridge from both a public safety and quality of life perspective of neighbors in proximity to the structure. Tight, engaging writing throughout.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Joshua Balling, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Balling delivers a well-written and informative piece that also served as a warning for comments regarding this key local transportation issue that has important collateral impact on a key local business – multiple source input digested into this cohesive report.

Second Place: Anthony Rentsch, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

The pros and cons of private roads are thoroughly explored through the eyes of several neighbors. Rentsch does a fine job of distilling residents' input – exploring the public health and safety benefits versus the onerous costs to residents for making their neighborhood part of the communities' public road network.

Third Place: Jennifer Osborn and Taylor Vortherms, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

This pair of reporters tackles another well scripted package of reports on the battle between county and state officials regarding lagging road repairs. Vortherms provides a comprehensive take on safety and economic implications, while Osborn details the inter-governmental and environmental challenges plaguing the projects.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Michael Holtzman, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

This was one of several entries submitted on the MBTA New Bedford-Fall River rail extension. It rose to the top thanks to an inviting and engaging style, combined with logical fact – a packed narrative that guides both those familiar and unfamiliar through key points of this protected initiative.

Second Place: Rick Foster, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Foster does excellent work both personalizing and localizing a global transportation issue tied to widespread auto industry manufacturing defects. His concentration on the eventual,

successful insurance claim resulting from a defect in Toyota pickups illustrates well the 'adding insult to injury' adage, which had significant implications close to home.

Third Place: Kimberly Drelich, The Day, New London, CT
Drelich could have let this stand as a soft, 'ride-along' feature, but showed great initiative in expanding her research and reporting well beyond to illustrate the education and workforce benefits to adding a public bus shuttle servicing the regional Community College.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: C. Ryan Barber, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Barber takes his readers on a literal journey documenting the tremendous success of a new regional, seasonal rail line as it launches its second year of service, and goes the extra step of reporting on future potential for expanded service on the line. Great reporting integrating multiple sources, and a raft of statistical data.

Second Place: Susan Spencer, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Credit to Spencer for identifying and thoroughly examining the implications, and sometimes tragic outcomes of dangerous roadway debris and poorly secured cargo. Very astute to include the prevention components, not only on the part of offenders, but for all other drivers as well.

Third Place: Patrick Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This reporter does fantastic work getting his arms around the issue, producing a thorough, informative report as the state and region explore this high profile transportation proposal for the landmark Sagamore Bridge. Direct, pointed and highly readable.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Milton Times, Milton, MA

The newspaper has created a feature that seems to draw great participation from local students and the price is used as a teaching tool in classrooms. Fantastic!

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Newport Daily News/Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

This contest spurs creativity and gives public recognition to participants. A perfect contest/feature for a newspaper that encourages and promotes community participation.

Second Place: The Newport Daily News/Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

Looks like it generated great participation.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Third Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Kudos to them for giving space and recognition to area students. I love that most schools participate and would love to know just how many students are involved.

Honorable Mention: **Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

I would have liked more information on community participation and reach but commend the paper for this series on such a sensitive topic.

HEADLINE WRITING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Lillian Gahagan, Journal Opinion, Bradford, VT**
Cute variation on a pun/cliché that really works to compliment the story.

Second Place: **Tony Marquis, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT**

The addition of one word transforms a dull phrase into a sparkler.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Stephanie Fay, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Cute story reference complements innovative lede. Nice story package.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Will Richmond, Rory Schuler, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Cute play on a man's name-- a rare opportunity to write a memorable head- and the writers did it!

Second Place: **Jon Root, Anthony Wild, Ashley Schuler, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

The news angle works well - another lucky break, but the writers know how to handle it.

Third Place: **Jennifer Driscoll, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Short, sweet and appropriate!

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Katy Savage, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT**

Excellent digging by Kathy Savage (and a great editorial by Tony Marquis) about what goes on in small towns in Vermont and elsewhere when nobody is looking. The Standard is a watchdog.

Second Place: **Robert Levin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Hard to chase down The Feds sometimes, but the MDI is not afraid to take them on.

Third Place: **Staff, Wayland Town Crier, Wayland, MA**
Strong pursuit of the public's right to know.

Honorable Mention: **Keith Ferguson and Brittney McNamara, Walpole Times, Walpole, MA**

Solid story on unreported rape on campus. Would have loved to have seen some follow up stories.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

School hanky panky, missing records or emails destroyed, questionable expenses, and the superintendent quitting. Who could ask for anything more when showing how not to run a school district?

Second Place: **Sara Brown, Olivia Hull, Julia Wells, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Incredible watchdog journalism on the Stop & Shop saga. What is Tisbury hiding? Aren't they accountable to taxpayers?

Third Place: **Staff, Newton Tab, Newton, MA**

Good solid reporting and editorial on school superintendent plagiarizing and the district fining him \$5,000 for the speech.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Staff, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Few papers in the country invest as much as The Telegraph did this year for Sunshine week. Others should follow suit. Hope this is a 52 week behavior - fighting for public records is the responsibility of all New England newspapers.

Second Place: **Lindsay Tice, Judith Meyer, Scott Thistle, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

Impressive case study by The Sun Journal. There were government documents destroyed, other documents made up, lies by the government. Who would have thought? Who else does this?

Third Place: **Paul Dietterle, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH**

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Staff, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

Solid reporting and digging on fire chief getting a secret \$25,000. Also nice work on Sunshine Week.

Second Place: **Bronislaus Kush, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Excellent digging on the death of Kathleen Desilets and the subsequent arrest of her husband. The courts and prosecution tried to hide records from the public by withholding them. Thanks for fighting for the public!

PAGES AND SECTIONS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

This eye catching front page would interest any reader to peruse the section. The Arts & Living Section has a diverse range of columns and topics. It also supports a packed calendar.

Second Place: **The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA**

The section contains a unique blend of columns featuring local happenings. Classroom Rambles is a fun collection of around the town news.

Third Place: **The Register, Yarmouth, MA**

This is a winner because it is packed with local happenings.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **The Cape Codder, Orleans, MA**

The front page, with an aerial picture of the Cape Cod Canal, draws the reader into the section. There are many interesting and informative articles. The Outdoors section is unique among Arts & Entertainment sections. The "Ask the Bird Folks" column was laugh out loud funny.

Second Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

The size of the paper fits perfectly with the pencil art on the front page. They do an especially good job of covering local artists in the Martha's Vineyard book festival.

Third Place: **The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

There are lots of local society photos and news.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

The entertainment section features a variety of categories making it easy to choose your favorite activities. It also includes a "BestBets" column on page two highlighting the best events of the week. There are thoughtful columns on the local arts scene.

Second Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

The section is a good size with plenty of reviews and a beefy events calendar. It also includes a robust food calendar.

Third Place: **The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

The Recorder has an impressive, lively layout. The calendar is chock full of activities.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **The Republican, Springfield, MA**

The issue is a gala of local tradition with several features covering many aspects of community history and heritage. Locals are highlighted for their contributions to the area's culture.

Second Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

The section features a "10 things to do" center spread that was both lively and informative. It includes a substantial calendar. There are several articles from local writers.

Third Place: **The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

This section has an interesting layout and also features outstanding graphics. The choice of material is also very clever.

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME**

Comprehensive look at county businesses. In the style of old "Progress" editions, but still plenty of good information nonetheless.

Second Place: **The Commons, Windham County, VT**

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Nice feature stories to anchor the front, then plenty of variety throughout.

Second Place: **The Day, New London, CT**

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Massive four-section package offered a wide variety of information for the reader.

Second Place: **The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

Third Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**
Nice mix of editorials, columns and letters.

Second Place: **Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

Third Place: **Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **The Commons, Windham County, VT**
Nice display on lead viewpoint, while the two counterpoint columns don't get lost. I liked the mix of topics.

Second Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Third Place: **The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME,**

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**
Nice display throughout and a good mix of topics.

Second Place: **Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Third Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**
Nice display. I liked the inclusion of "Best of the Blogs."

Second Place: **The Sun, Lowell, MA**

Third Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
Well written, excellent art and good design make this a terrific package for any reader to enjoy. You come away with a sense that you know craft beer in the area. Pullout quotes are good.

Second Place: **The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**
Plate & pitchfork is an excellent package - stories and recipes that highlight the work from the farm to the table.

Third Place: **Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
Farm to table emphasis with a great story - local entrepreneurs who collaborate to bring fresh foods to market and tables in the area. The conversational approach to the story is an easy read.

Honorable Mention: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
A good read.

Honorable Mention: **The Commons, Windham County, VT**
Well written, good information. Fresh approach on cheese and maple syrup.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Republican, Springfield, MA**
Lively combination of local written and syndicated material. Makes you want to get into the kitchen and start cooking and invite friends over. Design is attractive and interesting.

Second Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
Attractive layout and focus on area cookbook. Good selection of art to support content. Good variety of stories about food.

Third Place: **The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**
Excellent color reproduction that supports good content. The story and art are a great package. The story on beer also makes a good read.

Honorable Mention: **The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA**
Good combination of stories and art. Food Truck Rodeo - good story about an upcoming "unusual" event. Puts emphasis on a national trend. Good layout and art.

FRONT PAGE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA**
Effective use of display type, How-You-Can-Help boxes, reefers, color screens and lift-out quotes created an emotionally powerful tribute to a 17-year-old high school junior whose optimistic philosophy toward life inspired hundreds of people in his community and millions more around the world. Sam Berns' premature death from a rare genetic disease was handled as an opportunity to celebrate the life of a young man whose intelligence and easy-going style made him an instant celebrity through television appearances, a documentary film and the YouTube video appearance as a featured speaker at TedX in Washington DC.

Second Place: **Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA**
One good measure of a newspaper is how it handles the big story. That's doubly so for a small weekly responding to a really big story under the pressure of daily deadlines. The Herald's use of bold display type on the main headline was the right decision for capturing the community's reaction to news of the murder of a popular, young local high school teacher and the arrest and arraignment in the case of a 14-year-old student from the victim's algebra class. The front-page timeline packaged with three articles underlined the compressed schedule the staff faced in producing a package of stories and sidebars in a single day.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

For a newspaper whose design embodies the history and tradition of its home, this entry earned its honors with a bold layout that effectively combined the excitement of the crowd with the visual spectacle of the Charles W. Morgan's historic voyage under sail-power. The full-width panoramic horizontal image of the Morgan under full sail, accompanied by a regatta of escorts, paired nicely with the faces of excited shutterbugs at the waterfront to witness the last existing wooden whaler's arrival in Tisbury.

Second Place: **The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Strong photographs, chosen wisely and boldly displayed, carried this front page by focusing on what was obviously the local story of most compelling interest to readers – a Christmastime ice storm that paralyzed the area and left thousands of homes without power for several days over the holiday.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

Among many strong candidates in the category, The Sentinel nosed out its competitors with focused design, good variety in content choices and strong use of display type and photographs, while avoiding the feel of an over-planned, feature-heavy “magazine.” One especially enterprising decision was to embed the nameplate and accompanying forecast-related text block into what might have been an unremarkable spot news weather photo on a late spring day. The attention to detail and volume of resources display the newspaper's commitment to design and packaging of its most important page – especially on a weekday.

Second Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

The Standard-Times takes a non-traditional approach with a no-jump, all reefer approach to front-page packaging, effectively turning the page into an index to the day's important coverage. Multiple choices in size and style of display type help to compensate for a near-total absence of body type by effectively balancing a complicated school's story without creating an over-busy jumble of typefaces and levels of emphasis. Particularly effective was the unambiguous packaging of news content and editorial opinion.

Third Place: **The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

The only Sunday entry among the winners, The Herald News page demonstrated the evident attention and resources the newspaper devotes to its major weekend edition. Although lacking a strong news element, the page does more for readers than simply point them to inside content. Starting four articles on the page, the designers added visual appeal by combining photos and type treatments with informational graphics so rich with data they stood on their own as sidebars.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

The executive editor summarized the challenge facing his staff succinctly: “The first anniversary of the Newtown massacre was a day we all dreaded, journalists and readers alike.” Honoring the residents' aversion to the unwanted intrusion of yet more media scrutiny, the newspaper smartly avoided a predictable rehash of the grisly event and the months of exhaustive investigation that followed. Instead, it assigned a two-person team – one photographer, one reporter – to visit Newtown for a single day in the most low-key way possible, using only an iPhone camera and a concealed notebook to jot notes. The result was a stunning two-page essay focused on the town's aspirations to recapture some measure of what had been lost. To promote the package, a single photograph consumed nearly the entire front page. Lacking even a cutline, the image showed a peaceful village road, blanketed by snow beneath a brightening winter sky that seemed to promise a better tomorrow. “One year later, townspeople don't want memorials ... they don't want teddy bears, they don't want the world's attention ... they want their town back, stolen from them by an unspeakable act.”

Second Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Clear focus and strong content did an excellent job of “selling” the Sunday paper to readers with this entry. The use of colored screens and art type invited attention to an important story about how some state judges are abusing their discretion under the law to keep details of cases secret – some for as long as 40 years after the crimes were committed.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Sudbury Town Crier, Sudbury, MA**

Interesting story with good art that definitely lives up to the Adventure theme, good job!

Second Place: **Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA**

Good selection of stories from Party at Blue Ginger to fundraisers and events. Packed with information about what is happening and how you can join in!

Third Place: **The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Arts & Leisure Auto Art. Good section that covers people, health, arts, food and all events. Auto Art is a big extra income booster around the county. Good recognition of a trend.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

“Breaking the Sound Barrier” is well written and designed, using well cropped strong art. The section includes a selection of local and syndicated material. It is the drama of the front page art and story that grabs attention.

Second Place: The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

A well written local approach to the coming of spring gardening season by 15 year "From the ground up" gardening writer. Local community news rounds out the section.

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Local writers, good art highlights the section and lead article.

SPECIAL SECTION OR SUPPLEMENT (EDITORIAL)

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT

The Archdiocese of Hartford installs an archbishop and the community learns much about the man. The breadth of coverage required planning and resources but the readers must surely appreciate what their paper has done for this historic occasion.

Second Place: Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

Practical advice and useful information. Listening to the moms' voices and that of the state's teacher of the year make this a fun read, too.

Third Place: Valley Life, Simsbury, CT

A summer guide that works for the locals and the visitors. Where to hike, visit, eat and find maple bacon ice cream are all included.

Honorable Mention: West Hartford Life, West Hartford, CT

Nice coverage on the resurgence of the Park Road neighborhood and the people who are making it happen. Lessons here for other communities looking for answers on change.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

This supplement is heavy on people, places and history. A joy to read.

Second Place: The Lakeville Journal, Lakeville, CT

A complete guide to all the towns and villages covered by the Journal. Nice people stories make the supplement a keeper.

Third Place: The Journal Register, Palmer, MA

A different approach to special sections tells the stories of veterans past and present. Section could have used a short explainer of its purpose.

Honorable Mention: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Solid summer guide with so much to cover.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

The Gazette lives up to the heritage of the island when the whaler Charles W. Morgan visits. The paper covers the ship's stop on the island and does a fine job telling its rich history and its connection to the Vineyard. Good job.

Second Place: The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Nostalgia reigns in this Christmas supplement. This is a fun-to-read holiday supplement that goes beyond what most papers do. Thank you.

Third Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Nicely produced and written local section. Readers must appreciate the information and the fact that it is quarterly.

Honorable Mention: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Informative local section on breast cancer awareness.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

The good whaler Charles W. Morgan returns to New Bedford, where it was built. This community's rich legacy to the whaling industry is reintroduced to another generation with the production of this supplement. The Standard-Times has made a great contribution to history with this supplement. Bravo.

Second Place: Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

Anniversary editions of our communities are important contributions to history. Good job!

Second Place: The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

A good job proving the community value with an anniversary edition showing the important contribution to history.

Second Place: The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

The anniversary edition of our community is an important contribution to history. Applauding the paper for the effort that went into this special section.

Third Place: The Herald News, Fall River, MA

One hundred twenty years later and Lizzie Borden is still good for the local economy and a good story.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This is not your typical graduation supplement. This is how they should be. Thoughtful effort went into Rising Stars -- the words and the snappy photos enhanced with caring design. The impressive high school seniors are well served by the Cape Cod Times.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

There aren't as many of these sections around as there were a decade ago. The Republican spends a great deal of time and resources telling the story of the region's economy. Corporations, small businesses, good and bad, a commendable work.

Third Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Design, photography, and good stories about the Cape. This is one to keep.

Honorable Mention: **The Sun, Lowell, MA**
Faces and stories of women past and present. Solid work.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION (EDITORIAL)

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **The Daily News, Newburyport, MA**
Stunning design and chock-full of interesting local articles. Love the "Scene Stealers" society photos at the back, and the "Parting Shots." This is a terrific local magazine – no wonder it has great ad support.

Second Place: **The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
The Recorder has identified a good target audience (parents) and a lucrative ad category (parents/kids services) and they are leveraging it well with this 6x per year publication. The summer activities/camps supplement is just one of the many special focus sections they can publish in this category. Very well done.

Third Place: **Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**
Terrific local articles – nice effort.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**
This eclectic lifestyle magazine offers an attractive environment for advertisers targeting an upscale audience.

Second Place: **The Republican, Springfield, MA**
Nice effort at targeting the local Hispanic population, which is an important niche in the Springfield market.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI**
An intriguing approach to a weddings guide – featuring many of the weddings that have taken place in the market in the past year. Readers, no doubt, especially appreciated the vendor highlights that list comments about the suppliers each couple used for a variety of services. Great to hear that this publication has led to the paper putting on a wedding show as well.

Second Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
A fabulous tool for house hunters and house sellers on the Vineyard – so this is the perfect environment for realtors and service providers who want to reach them. Great idea.

Third Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**
Terrific content, and the glossy cover is a great addition.

SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Middleboro Gazette, Middleboro, MA**
Terrific photography and excellent page layout perfectly complement solid high school sports coverage. Best of all, no sport is left behind.

Second Place: **New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**
Dave Stewart's writing and excellent photography deserve some color! For local sports coverage, no one does it better.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Greenwich Post, Greenwich, CT**
The design is terrific. Backed by strong writing and coverage of multiple sports. And even though the Greenwich Post's Sports section would benefit from the addition of color to its page, the team producing the black and white photography does a heck of a job.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
A complete sports section that hits just the right mix of local high school US. Major/Pro sports. Wonderful two-minute drill page and local columnists. Nice design, too.

Second Place: **Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**
Fantastic local coverage throughout the section, and unique features, such as "Around the horn with...", "Gridiron Memories," and "Under the Lights."

Third Place: **Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA**
Beautifully designed section – clean and organized, yet exciting to look at.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Well-designed section - great coverage of a local event, and solid report on the rest of the happenings in the world of sports.

Second Place: **Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**
A lively sports section that includes an excellent best sports feature, local columnist, and a really nice high school honor roll feature.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**
Editor Dave Stewart knows how to produce Sports Previews. Whether it is fall or spring, Stewart is a prolific writer and a heck of a photographer. The layout and design is top notch and the printing reproduction at the head of the class.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Second Place: **The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT**

The special winter and spring sports preview section published by the weekly Cheshire Herald is a terrific example of a strong editorial product complemented by excellent photography by Allen Paul. We were impressed with the depth of the reporting and like the fact that each sport was given equal coverage.

Third Place: **The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA**

If a picture is worth a thousand words, our hats go off to the Foxboro Reporter's Football Preview. It's a terrific photo essay complemented by some new wrinkles on the editorial side, including Captain's Speak and thorough reviews of each position. Team photos, last year's stats - it is all here.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

First class Red Sox championship section. Nice recaps that makes this a keepsake for fans. Great ad support.

Second Place: **Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

25-year anniversary section celebrating the Andover team's trip to the little league World Series. The 'Where are they Now' profile of the players are fascinating. Readers probably loved this.

Third Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Really well-designed high school football preview section – stories for every team, rosters (full of local kids' names), and schedules. It was supported well by the local business community with ads.

Honorable Mention: **The Salem News, Salem, MA**

This was a unique concept! No doubt generated readership and talk in the community.

EDITORIAL

EDITORIALS

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Erin Tiernan, Hanover Mariner, Hanover, MA**

Her editorials take readers out of their comfort zone and challenge them to do more for the common good.

Second Place: **The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT**

Strongly worded opinions on topics of great interest to the paper's readers.

Third Place: **Kris Olson, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

The writer isn't afraid to take a swipe at town officials – something not all community newspapers are willing to do.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Donna Tunney, The Cape Codder, Orleans, MA**

Her editorials are clear and forceful. She is not afraid to go against popular opinion.

Second Place: **Tim Kane, Quaboag Current, Ware, MA**

Blunt when necessary, lyrical on occasion -- a good mix.

Third Place: **John Nolan, Rochester Times, Rochester, NH**

A champion of the underdog. Arguments are well reasoned and well expressed.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Rick Holmes, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Clearly written, opinionated pieces about important local issues - standardized tests and police misbehavior - demonstrate once again the value of the editorial voice.

Second Place: **Roger Carroll, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

These editorials prove that a gentle touch can make the point. The duck editorial is a perfect match of tone and topic.

Third Place: **James DeArruda, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

The return of the whaling ship Charles W. Morgan to New Bedford spawned deeply felt, elegantly written pieces that speak lovingly to the city's identity, the celebration of its past and its hope for the future.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Amy MacKinnon, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

Amy MacKinnon charts the deadly toll taken by drug addiction, describes the failures of the various strategies to combat it, calls for the public to get involved and hails the passage of new substance-abuse legislation in editorials that are beautifully written, deeply researched and detailed in a way that engages her newspaper readers. A great public service.

Second Place: **Jim Campanini, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

These are clear, opinionated, hard-hitting editorials that call for action. The subject matter is local and important. No mincing of words. The reader knows where the newspaper stands.

COMMENTARY

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Jeff Potter, The Commons, Windham County, VT**

A long but very readable report/commentary on the actions of a library trustee. Though the writer had cause to be angry over the situation, his commentary was restrained -- but effective.

Second Place: **Kathie Ragsdale, Concord Journal, Concord, MA**

This commentary cuts through the fog of rancor surrounding the Market Basket dispute and offers the writer's take on what caused it.

Third Place: **Barbara Dacey, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Reminiscing about a visit from Lou Reed, the writer gives us insight into the late singer's character.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Joe Marshall, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

This was unusual in that, contrary to the philosophy of cartooning, it used words more than pictures to make its point, but it was a well thought out, positive message.

Second Place: **Bruce Montgomery, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI**

Gives a hot local issue (the culling of deer) a humorous seasonal touch. Nice clean images. Well done.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Douglas C. Smith, The Darien Times, Darien, CT**

Hammers its message home literally and figuratively. Stark simplicity and lack of background figures enhance its effectiveness.

Second Place: **Donald Landgren, Telegram Towns, Worcester, MA**

A new twist on an age-old seasonal problem for New Englanders. Humor makes a serious point.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Joseph O'Mahoney, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**

This cartoon was blunt and forceful. Not a speck of humor, and in this case that made it even more effective.

COLUMNS

COLUMNIST

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **J.F. Pisani, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

Mr. Pisani's family life column tackles huge subjects - war and peace, the power of prayer - with straight forward, unblemished prose. His tale of finding a letter to his father in an old trunk is endearing in its simplicity; profound in its message.

Second Place: **M. Regina Cram, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

In her "Faith Enrichment" column, Ms. Cram is a storyteller. She keeps pulling the reader along effortlessly.

Third Place: **Malcolm Greenaway, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

In his column "Behind the Photo," Mr. Greenaway - with both photos and words - shows the reader how he creates his photographs. An instructive, pleasant behind-the-scenes how to.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Craig Salters, Hanover Mariner, Hanover, MA**

He has a satirist's chops and delivered a pitch-perfect rendition of Belichick.

Second Place: **Alice Coyle, Bridgewater Independent, Bridgewater, MA**

A nice touch with the vagaries of suburban life and living with a sports fanatic.

Third Place: **Frank Mulligan, Wareham Courier, Wareham, MA**

Captures the horrors of cat ownership with spot-on reportage.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **John Nolan, Rochester Times, Rochester, NH**

He has an engaging, literary style and wide range.

Second Place: **Jessie Raymond, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Nice use of homespun material.

Third Place: **Trent Campbell, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Has a gift for the nostalgic.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Philip Maddocks, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Maddocks' columns are labeled "Humor," I suppose just in case readers don't understand his tale about a negotiation featuring President Obama, President Putin and Ted Nugent is supposed to be funny. It is! And so is his meandering effort: The Supreme Court letting "hundreds of millions of dollars...march on Washington yesterday."

Second Place: **Rick Koster, The Day, New London, CT**

Koster writes tightly - maybe eight inches - about "things that must be seen to be believed." He makes you see them in a funny sort of way.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Dan Phelps, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

"Tag! You're no longer 'it' at recess." is both sad and funny. Phelps riffs on a school principal who banned tag. He comes up with a list, with some aplomb, of other children's games to ban.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **John Quattrucci, Easton Journal, Easton, MA**

Expresses human feelings very well, without being maudlin.

Second Place: **G. Timothy Cranston, North-East Independent, North Kingstown, RI**

He has a genius for recounting personal histories.

Third Place: **Daniel MacAlpine, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**

He nails the quality of largeness of heart.

Honorable Mention: **Martha Ball, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI**

A wonderful wordsmith.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Marvin Ott, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME**

His grasp of national and international economic and political issues is awesome.

Second Place: **Janice Harvey, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

The epitome of what a serious local columnist should be doing – scrappy against-the-grain reporting on behalf of those with little voice.

Third Place: **Eric Davis, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

A sage voice of wisdom who reflects the interests of Vermonsters.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Susan Pawlak-Seaman, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

In a crowded field where winners came within inches of each other, Susan Pawlak-Seaman of The Standard-Times of New Bedford, Mass., with her sassy and lucid voice, garners first place. "I haven't worn a skirt in years," she begins in a piece upbraiding a court for ruling that a man could get away with photographing up women's skirts. "Ick" to the "letter of the law," she declares in an intelligent column, unlike too many, that actually stays on the page and does not jump.

Second Place: **Steve Urbon, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Steve Urbon of The Standard-Times went after Warren Buffett because "he never looked back" and "left New Bedford a mess." Urbon can also keep the readers reading in an off-beat piece about a man in robes and a seven-foot staff who thinks he's Christ.

Third Place: **Marc M. Dion, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Marc Munroe Dion of the Fall River, Mass. Herald News succinctly and intelligently explains how he went from anti- to pro-casino because: "Right now, other than hospitals and city government, there is no work in Fall River."

Honorable Mention: **Mike Kirby, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Mike Kirby of the Sun Chronicle of Attleboro, Mass. for a high-road plea to a popular gay mayor to come out and condemn a local church's decision to disband two Scout troops after the Boy Scouts of America decided to accept gay boys.

Honorable Mention: **Rick Holmes, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Rick Holmes of The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, Mass. for a thoughtful, well written defense of two fathers: Peter Lanza, whose son Adam murdered 20 children and seven adults in Newtown, CT; and Jerry Remy, yes, that Jerry Remy, whose son Jared lived a life of crime and who stabbed to death his girlfriend.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Tracey O'Shaughnessy, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Tracey O'Shaughnessy is a New England treasure. Her writing is at once nuanced and vibrant: "I realize I have too long thought of age as a series of continual surrenders, a relinquishment of passion, a diminution of strength. But what I saw in Madame was a sharpening of focus, a reordering of priorities, a more unhesitant embrace of love," she writes of her visit to an octogenarian friend who has suffered a stroke. O'Shaughnessy imparts to her readers a depth of understanding - no matter what journey she takes them on - so that they come away from her columns better off than before sitting down with her.

Second Place: **Fred Contrada, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Fred Contrada knows how to grab the reader, keep the reader and leave an impression. In what starts out as a sensibly dubious tale of ghost hunting, he conjures up a slight doubt with a dash of suspense - just a few words - "It sounded like a ping-pong ball coming to rest on a tile floor." The reader is allowed to wonder, could there be? And Contrada will ask whether silence can ring in your ears and then convince you that it can.

Third Place: **Ron Chimelis, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Ron Chimelis with an easy readability, throws down the gauntlet: "Do it today" in a heartbreaking column about putting off visiting a dying friend. He waited too long. If you read the column you'll always remember to "Do it today."

SPORTS COLUMN

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **John Quattrucci, Easton Journal, Easton, MA**
"The Quiet Man" was my favorite of John's two columns. It set a timeframe and took a stance on this generation's coaches and their style, while introducing an example to tie the column together nicely.

Second Place: **Tim Murphy, The Wilton Bulletin, Wilton, CT**

"Murph's Turf" columns seem to touch on society/sports issues - and I think that's great. He delivers with a calming touch without casting a hot take. Well-written, informative stuff.

Third Place: **Heather Gillis Horris, Mansfield News, Mansfield, MA**

I can almost see Heather cheering for her son or helping him practice. A nice first-person. But the stance on sportsmanship in a football game is the piece that stands out. Strong!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Andy Kirkaldy, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Great opening graphs to set the mood and flow of the column. It was a moving piecing about parenthood, sports, and life. It's a column I hope other parents/coaches read and show as a great example to set.

Second Place: **Mike Whaley, Rochester Times, Rochester, NH**

Touching story on a tragic situation.

Third Place: **Karl Lindholm, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Found a cool, unique angle/story and capitalized for two great reads.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Matt Vautour, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

Vautour took on two hard topics - Derrick Gordon's coming out as gay and the MIAA's scheduling a tourney during the SAT exam - and detailed the moral & ethnical challenges the athletes faced. In clear writing he set out to lead a discussion with well-argued points that took various sides into account. Despite the breadth of views he reported, the reader was left persuaded by Vautour's own point of view.

Second Place: **George Scione, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Scione pulls no punches in a column critical of a short-time AD who fires a coach as a final act before resigning. Scione shows his versatility in another column praising a golfer whose honesty costs him a semi-final victory. In both cases he refrains from making stereotypes out of either subject. The AD isn't evil, just flawed. The honest golfer is neither a saint nor a goody two-shoes but the kind of athlete we could use more of.

Third Place: **Kalle Oakes, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**
Unsung heroes are everywhere in sports. They're a staple of sports reporting, too. But when Oakes tells their stories the light from these hidden stars shines on their faults as well as their strengths. Oakes explains the very real challenges a college football team faces in recruiting and the difficulties a prep basketball team is dealt - and he does so without resorting to easy pity on maudlin characterizations. By the end of the columns you know the players and coaches are ordinary people whose hard work finally paid off.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Ron Chimelis, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Rising to the top are columns that explore a troubling issue in sports and recount the misunderstood career of a baseball star. Chimelis addresses religious freedom and the double standards he sees in an international organization, appealing to our sense of fairness and respect for others. When he writes about the life of a former baseball player and Red Sox manager, he mixes the man's lows with his highs, showing that as extraordinary as he was, he was still a regular guy.

Second Place: **Bill Ballou, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Ballou uses history and insight in his column on the World Series to leave us with more than a recap of how Boston ended with a historic result. His piece on running the Boston Marathon takes a story familiar to everyone who's run a 26 miler while gently adding a framework of last year's tragedy.

DESIGN

ILLUSTRATION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Kimberly Day Proctor, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

Hands-down the best in this group. Proof again that an evocative black and white illustration has strong pull. Nicely done!

Second Place: **Jim Stevenson, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI**

The "scribbly" approach here creates the sense that you are really there with the people captured in these drawings. Informal yet compelling.

Third Place: **Ryan Maguire, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

Good artwork and collage. Bright and appealing!

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Susan Broadbent/ Amber Waterman, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

Excellent! Shows the transition from one kind of person to another very well. Use of the zipper to separate the two is effective as an elegant touch of subtlety.

Second Place: **Ryan Maguire, The Newport Daily News/ Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI**

Fun, colorful, and exciting to look at. Good "eye candy" to accompany this package.

Third Place: **Donald Landgren, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Good illustration. Nice job handling a complex graphic.

ILLUSTRATION/INFOGRAPHICS (SPECIALTY)

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Nell Durfee, Chris Izzo, Lisa Stiepick, Block Island Summer Times, The, Block Island, RI**

A terrific guide to walking trails on Block Island and all the treasures you're likely to find along the way.

INFOGRAPHICS

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Nicole Jackson, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

The type is a bit small, but this package is clean and creative. Good sense of humor in both the illustrations and the writing.

Second Place: **Brad Cole and Phil Salisbury, Norwood**

Transcript & Bulletin, Norwood, MA

Might have been better to save this until an open page was available - BUT this is nicely done! The photos make the package. Larger space would have allowed larger pictures.

Third Place: **Ami Olson Campbell, Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA**

Lots of interesting information packaged in an interesting manner. Typography is different in a good way!

INFOGRAPHICS

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Jill Blanchette, Tim Cotter, The Day, New London, CT**

Nicely designed. Informative. Good job packaging 11 years of data into a reader-grabbing package.

Second Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Lots of good information here. Well-organized. Would like to have seen you make changes to the Monopoly board to better go with the package.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION (PRINT)

Niche Product

First Place: **The Newport Daily News/Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI**

Excellent typography, good photos and attention to negative space for an easy-on-the-eyes product. Good work!

Second Place: **South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

Very attractive packages throughout, though the cover is somewhat busy. Good use of color and photos.

Third Place: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

A well-organized but breezy feel makes this a pleasure to look at. Nameplate/Logo could use some updating.

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **West Hartford Life, West Hartford, CT**

Fun, breezy, good typography and interesting treatment and display of photos. Actually better inside than the front page. Front is a little dated and could be improved to better reflect the overall look.

Second Place: **Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Clean well-organized, with some packages that are reader-grabbers. Good attention to typographic details.

Third Place: **The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

A breezy, open feel with packages that are easy to read.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **The Advocate, Fairhaven, MA**

Nice work on the High School package! Good page one.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

A very traditional feel that makes this a standout in this class. Good typography, fine photography and good attention to negative space, well done!

Second Place: **Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Good attention to typography and detail, with appealing pages and packages throughout.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Careful attention to typography, color and photo use make for a winning publication.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Excellent page 1! Contemporary and compelling look throughout.

Second Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Well-organized. Consistent and clean. A pleasure to read.

Third Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Careful and planned look, yet easy on the eyes. Good photos and typography.

DIGITAL PUBLISHING

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **AAA Horizons, Providence, RI**

The September issue of AAA Horizons is a visual delight with a multitude of photos of New England fall foliage. The online content with its many interactive maps of driving routes to see the best of foliage throughout the New England and Eastern states is jam packed with both needed and user-friendly information for drivers venturing forth on a sight-seeing tour.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Holly Edwards, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

A combination of week-by-week photos, video and articles takes website viewers through the lead up to and conclusion of the U.S. National Toboggan Championships. It was handy to have the stories all in one file; if the viewer missed a week, he or she could simply catch up and then move forward. In addition to a thorough calendar of events, the reporter also treated readers to profiles of two local people involved in the races: the artist

behind the championship's poster and the chute master for the race. They included photos and were tightly written but still brought the characters to life. Overall it is a nicely done package.

Second Place: **Lynda Clancy, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

It's an interesting report of a weeklong training session aboard square-rigger the Eagle, a classic sailing ship under the purview of the U.S. Coast Guard. It contains more than 60 photos, and in the online version, the photos can be viewed as a gallery so readers don't have to scroll through the article to see the images. The article is thorough and informative, and there are some spectacular photos of the ship at sea.

Third Place: **Lisa Kashinsky, Mark Gardner, and Chris Bernstein, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA**

The article, video and photos do a nice show of telling readers about the police department's acquisition of Taser guns and how they work and will be or could be used in law enforcement. The best part of this package is the video that recorded the gut-wrenching yell from the two police officers as they are shot with a Taser gun. It's an impressive bit of video that could be used as a part of a prevention program in schools.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

In the submission letter for this entry, the publisher thoughtfully included a quote from a reader's response. Since it brilliantly sums up this project, here it is: "You hit a home run with your special report on coastal erosion. The articles were informative, timely and right on target. Congratulations." It's a really wonderful piece of journalism.

Second Place: **John Hilliard, Brookline Tab, Brookline, MA**

The entry describes this package as an unusual way to report a story, and that is certainly true. It's not only unusual, but it's interesting and, in this case, well done. I suspect that with a bit of packaging, this could be repurposed for sales to police stations and gun licensing sites throughout the state.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Staff, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

This should be called "the story that went viral and made strong men cry." This remarkable story has all the ingredients for a dynamic online presence, but as any baker knows, if you don't put the ingredients together right, the cake falls. The Sun Chronicle put this together absolutely right, leading online readers onto Twitter and Facebook and Reddit and Storify and Instagram and day-to-day updates via stories, photos and videos to let readers know about this soon-to-be 6-year-old boy's simple wish: I just want some birthday cards. Well, he got his wish and then some. He received thousands and thousands plus gifts and shopping sprees and video shout-outs from celebrities. The staff is to be commended for its touching and respectful coverage of this boy and his family's struggle with his brain tumor.

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Second Place: **Johanna Somers and Carlos Virgen, The Day, New London, CT**

This massive project that looks at the inequities and complexities of pensions and employee benefits exemplifies investigative data searching at its best. Of special note are the two live chats with legal and financial experts to answer questions from reporters AND the public. Other news sites would do well to follow this example.

Third Place: **Staff, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

The depth of this project is stunning – both in print and online. I can only imagine this will be used throughout the community for the next 100 years as a primer on the city's history. It's well worth reading. After all, there's a story about Babe Ruth among hundreds of others about the city's history. And an equal number of photographs for a then and now comparison. And, the collection of essays from folks in the community about why they love Attleboro – well, we can all hope to live someplace with such an outpouring of appreciation both for and from the community.

Honorable Mention: **Staff, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Outstanding work!

Honorable Mention: **Staff, The Day, New London, CT**

Outstanding work on The 38th Voyage.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Staff, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

When the president of the United States comes to town to confer degrees to students graduating from the technical high school and to launch a campaign for education reform to meet the future needs, well, the staff of Telegram & Gazette tuned in and turned it on. Two days of total saturation coverage of the president's activities and excitement expressed by the residents captures the importance of the event. The staff is to be commended for its thoroughness while also capturing the community's enthusiasm.

Second Place: **Staff, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

When your local canal turns 100 years old, it's time for a big party, and that's what the town of Hyannis did. The Times was there to set the stage, first with the history files and film footage and then during the event itself, even the disappointment for some folks unable to view the fireworks as promised if they could see the bridge. It's a well-orchestrated package that pays due homage to a cultural landmark.

Third Place: **Staff, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

It's pretty obvious that someone at the Cape Cod Times loves the Beatles, and so when the 50th anniversary of the mop tops first visit to the United States came around, the staff went all out to recall that transformative era in the world of music and even culture. It's a fun and quirky package offering lots of

features. The Cape Cod Top 10 gallery, in which readers talked about their favorite Beatles song and the memories associated with it, well, is a great connection to the community – at least those readers who are also Beatles fans.

WEBSITE DESIGN

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

This website provided an overall good experience. The design and even the ads contributed to the felling of the Vineyard. There was good use of photographs. The placement of the Editor's choice was also good. The site was usable on a smartphone, a nice feature for people visiting the island.

Second Place: **The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

An interesting and branded website, with lots of color, but balanced with white space. The site has a simple and easy to use menu and the fact that the menu "sticks" to the top of the screen makes the site easy to use. Not surprisingly, the ads were local and appropriate to the readers.

Third Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

This is a solid business site. There is a lot of content, but it is easy to navigate. The ads are appropriate to the audience and not distracting.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Day, New London, CT**

The website has a very long homepage which is normally not desirable, but this is broken up by the horizontal "diversions" menus. There are a few ads and the "sponsored by" promos are a good way to integrate ads in a relatively unobtrusive way. There seems to be a lot of reasons to stay on the homepage and make it the launch pad for the rest of the site.

Second Place: **Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Relatively standard design, but numerous ways to find articles of interest. The site also has a "recent blog posts feature" that helps the reader keep tabs on specific writers. The news marquee is a nice feature. The ads are relevant, and the right rail is not overloaded with display ads.

Third Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

The site has a standard design, but there are ample ways to engage with the news and events covered. The topic areas on the home page provide good access to articles of interest. The Tweet box is a nice feature.

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME**

Just a great local news website! The site features good local content, ample visuals, easy navigation and adds value to the readers' experience in the community it serves. The advertising revenue seems to be nicely tucked into lists of local restaurants and retailers that appear more like a service than a solicitation.

Second Place: **North-East Independent, North Kingstown, RI**

This weekly seems to be published continually, which greatly increases its value to readers. The design is solid, although some of the menu options take the reader off-site without an easy return path.

Third Place: **The Milton Independent, Milton, VT**

Local news. Local ads. Simple format. This is a simple, easy-to-use website that tells you what is happening in and around Milton, VT. The design is appropriate. There could be more extensive use of photos to supplant stock images and it might be good to have local events more prominent on the homepage.

Honorable Mention: **Joshua Fisher, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**

The content quality is good, and the ads seem to complement the local flavor of the website. Readers on a local website expect to see ads that offer products or services they might need.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

An excellent example of a local news and information website. They have developed a high-quality, valuable website.

Second Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

Provides a satisfying reader experience for anyone interested in what is happening in Providence and Rhode Island business and the things that affect it. It's a large site and they have done a good job of making it as easy to use as possible, given the breadth of information available.

Third Place: **The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

Offers local news and information for visitors to the island, with a high-quality, valuable website.

Honorable Mention: **Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

This is one of the cleanest websites in the competition. There is a fair amount of white space and the visitor is not overwhelmed with ads. The news is local and there are many resources for resident and visitor alike.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

The site has solid design and some nice user features like traffic and weather that are easy to find. There is good, clean navigation and also good integration of content from different sources. The ads are appropriate for the audience.

Second Place: **The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

There is clearly a plan to provide value to the local audience. The graphics and layout support this, although the integration of ads into the content boxes might be off putting to some readers. The ads did seem to match the section pages, and it improved the feel of the pages.

Third Place: **The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

You know immediately from everything on the homepage that you are seeing the news website for Nashua, NH, even though there is a nice mix of local and other news. There is also an interesting mix of popular culture content from other sources. The navigation is good and usability is very good.

BEST OVERALL MOBILE PRODUCT

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Staff, The Day, New London, CT**

Beautifully designed and easy to use with access to all the news, a terrific calendar, professionally-produced high school sports broadcasts, and even a "lunch break: concert. Excellent integration of advertising, as well. Extremely impressive.

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BREAKING NEWS

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA**

The tweets printed in the paper really showed the personality of the teacher who was killed and the profound sense of grief and loss that the community was experiencing. Nice presentation of a very sad story.

Second Place: **Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA**

This is a perfect example of how social media should be used to update the public on a breaking news story as it unfolds in real time.

Third Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Thanks to your coverage of this event, more people got to see beautiful photos of the ship and learn about its history. Your Facebook posts reached a lot of people.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

Nice to see how this local news spread so widely over Facebook.

Second Place: **Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Smart use of Storify to relay information about this local news story.

NEWS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **James Jesson, Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA**

Excellent video with interviews of the students involved in crew. It was well-made and had solid content. A clear winner.

Second Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Interesting content. Does this happen often enough that you know when to film it? The video production was pretty good given the environment. It would have benefitted from better sound quality and narration.

Third Place: **Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper, Wiscasset, ME**

Good content, but the production quality hurt the ability of the piece to convey the story.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Eric Williams and Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

While not earth-shaking news, the video quality was still very good. The video told the story, and it was an interesting local color piece.

Second Place: **Peter Huoppi, Carlos Diaz, Sean D. Elliot, The Day, New London, CT**

There was quite a bit of good footage, although perhaps too long to make the point. This clip would have benefitted from an introduction or slide summarizing the news aspect of the video.

Third Place: **Eric Williams and Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

This was a winner because the clip told the story and introduced the people and issues.

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Combined Class

First Place: **Carlos Diaz, The Day, New London, CT**

Beautifully shot, great lighting and visuals- a pleasure to watch!

Combined Class

Second Place: **Eric Williams and Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

This video does a good job of capturing the parade, and all of the colorful personalities that participated in it. With bubbles, body paint, Elvis, drag queens... What more can you ask for? A very entertaining clip to watch. Kudos.

FEATURE VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **James Jesson and John Walker, Lincoln Journal, Lincoln, MA**

Boy meets farm; eventually becomes head farmer. Clearly the most polished and best-produced entry in the category, the video explores how – and why – a young man came to be the top farmer on a publicly owned farm, and what the day-to-day responsibilities and chores are like.

Second Place: **David Sokol, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

Doggy daycares are fairly common, but who knew there were some with bus service? A fun little story with can't-miss-shots of the pooches – and a fine job by the bus driver, who narrates the story and explains in colorful detail how the logistics play out.

Third Place: **Tom Dunlop and John Wilson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

A creative use of historic video archives to show the short-lived operation of a river ferry between Martha's Vineyard and the mainland after WWII. The video package would have been even stronger with some voice-over or lower-third text context about what you were seeing, and to set up the piece. That would let it stand alone from the print story.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**

Weather stories are a dime a dozen but what sets this one apart is shot choice, technical skill, patience, visual creativity and prescience, and a deft edit that leaves us with hours of an overnight snowfall and the sunny day that followed reduced to a blazing, delightful two minutes of time lapse. "Nifty" is a perfect description in this case.

Second Place: **Megan Ruffe, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

This was a creative and effective way to try and add new dimension and impact to the traditional "best and brightest under 40" print initiative. And it worked, as we, through video and hearing their own words, establish a much closer connection to the sharp local business up-and-comers who were being honored. The right questions, good interview skills, a varied selection of shots and solid editing make what is a very challenging visual assignment work.

Third Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**

Well-executed, richly visual profile and yarn about a very interesting topic – a new generation of shipwrights learning and practicing their vanishing craft.

Third Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**

A well-executed, richly visual profile about a very interesting topic - a musician-turned craftsman who builds instruments by hand, but still performs, with a group of musicians who are the same age as his kids. His first was a guitar made from his bedroom door; he tells us that it sounded like.... a door.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

A thoughtfully shot and nicely edited look at the man who is responsible for providing TLC to the 27 old-fashioned gas street lights that are still glowing in scattered areas of Worcester, and how he goes about replacing mantles, restoring leaning lamps back to plumb and making other fixes from atop his step ladder.

Second Place: **Eric Williams and Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

A fun tale, told with a good dose of visual camp and faux horror, of a woman called “Crazy Mary,” who held such a grudge against her neighbors that she had a curse against them chiseled onto her gravestone. It could have been played straight; it was much better because it wasn’t. (Complete with a quick ironic cutaway to a “Dead End” sign spotted in the cursed neighborhood).

Third Place: **Christine Hochkeppel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Surprisingly, “grief” and “fun” can apparently go hand-in-hand, one young camper notes in this interesting and uplifting look at the “Comfort Zone Camp” for kids who have lost a loved one.

SPORTS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **James Jesson and John Walker, Littleton Independent, Littleton, MA**

A tale of determination, passion and love for the game of football told not from the clichéd focus of action on the field during the championship game (the scoreboard is never even shown), but from the hearts of the “45 brothers” and coaches. Clearly best of class.

Second Place: **Ben Bulkeley, Wiscasset Newspaper, Wiscasset, ME**

The point-of-view segments from the videographer, who strapped on a GoPro, skis and gun and hit the trails to bring the viewers into the action helped make this tight, nicely paced 1:30 story about a local biathlon stand out.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**
A classic Cinderella story. In this case, Cinderella’s name is Garrett, a 14-year-old freshman who, in the span of a few Months, went from never having kicked a football to nailing game-winning field goals in not one, but two of his high school team’s games. Huoppi and his camera capture and convey the pride and the wonder and the promise in a feel-good three minutes (including footage of the two winning FGs).

Second Place: **Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT**

A coin-flip for 1st and 2nd between the first-place novice football kicker and this other feel-good story about a young football player. This one shows that tough guys can dance, and sing, in a tight, bright profile of high-impact offensive lineman Tory Knaff who also shows a softer side as a singer in the high school’s chamber choir. He tells us he also acts, plays guitar and dances. In the end, you’ll know why linemen can make the best dancers.

Third Place: **Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

For those who couldn’t tell a skim board from an ironing board, this piece and its collection of tight action shots of the visiting world champion of skimboarding shows and explains what it’s all about (and that you can even make enough money to live off of it, as the champion notes). It’s also a pretty video postcard for the beauty of the outer Cape’s beaches and dunes.

SPOT NEWS VIDEO

Combined Class

First Place: **Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Good local story that really needed the video to share with the audience. The production quality was good and the story compelling.

Second Place: **Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper, Wiscasset, ME**

Good local story with video enhancement.

Third Place: **Eric Williams and Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

The production quality was spotty and could have been cleaned up in post, but the local coverage was a breath of fresh air and really captured the moment.

SLIDE SHOW

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Dave Stewart, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**

Spectacular photos of a high school football game played in the snow. Wonderful visuals, and great attention to detail.

Second Place: **Joshua Fisher, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**

As a history buff, I love looking at old newspaper clippings. What a great way to illustrate the story. Great use of archived material.

Third Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Beautiful images show a side of the vineyard that many folks rarely get to see. Well done.

SLIDE SHOW

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Don Himsel, The Telegraph, Nashua, NH**

Very moving, touching slideshow about a problem that affects so many families. Excellent audio and choice of photos. A memorable piece of work. Bravo.

Second Place: **John Love & Brett Crawford, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Superb photography captures the emotional turmoil of this family all too well.

Third Place: **Jessica Garcia, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**
Nice use of archive material to show the destruction caused by this infamous storm. A good history lesson for all.

Honorable Mention: **Ashley Green, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

PHOTOGRAPHY

FEATURE PHOTO

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Kate Ryan, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

Really cute image.

Second Place: **Jill Warburton, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

Cute image.

Third Place: **Bob Mullen, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

Strong image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Kat Szmit, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA**

A whale of a tale to tell you boys! Strong image.

Second Place: **Sam Goresh, Westwood Press, Westwood, MA**

Good feature.

Third Place: **David Sokol, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA**

Cute Moment!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Kate Flock, Brookline Tab, Brookline, MA**
Strong emotional image! Well done! Captures a nice moment. Conveys emotion.

Second Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Excellent image. Very powerful.

Third Place: **Jacqueline Weaver, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Cute image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Mike Valeri, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Let's Eat! Excellent image!!

Second Place: **Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Great moment - conveys a good story. Very nice news feature. Well done!

Third Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Great composition. Nice image.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Christine Hochkeppel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Exciting image of excited youngsters. Nice image. Captures fun in a visual way. Contagious moment.

Second Place: **Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Great Santa image with a very upset youngster. Good funny moment.

Third Place: **Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Intriguing image.

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Mike Derr, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

Strong image for a generally routine assignment. Good eye!

Second Place: **Aaron Marsh, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT**

This is a really cute image of an event that is predictable. Well done.

Third Place: **Anna Travers, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Lets go race! Nice image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Assembly manners! Funny moment - well done at what could otherwise have been a boring assignment!

Second Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Well composed image of the repair work. Nice photo!

Third Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Just a beautiful image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Excellent, emotional image. Who, what, where — what else needs to be said! Very well done!

Second Place: **Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise Brockton, MA**

This is truly a piece of art! Filled with emotion and surrounded by cold. I wish I had captured this image!

Third Place: **Paul Franz, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
Fly free with love and wonder. Nice image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Paul Kapteyn, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Funny reaction to a science/robot experiment not going as expected. Well done.

Second Place: **Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Where is Alfred Hitchcock when you need him? This looks like an outtake from the birds! Excellent image.

Third Place: **Donald Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Fan! That about covers it. Strong image.

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Lisa Stiepoek, The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI**

This is a nice image!

Second Place: **Diane Holman, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Nice portrait.

Third Place: **Stephanie Piscitelli, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Nice portrait.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Nicole Goodhue Boyd, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**

This is a very funny image of a potentially dull assignment! Very well done, Nicole!

Second Place: **Ann Ringwood, Winchester Star, Winchester, MA**

Ouch! You have captured the agony of the sit-up. Very strong image.

Third Place: **Rick Russell, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT**

A truly harmonious image. Well done.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Mark Lovewell, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Very fine portrait of a man and the lighthouse he loves! Well done.

Second Place: **Timothy Johnson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Well composed image! Very strong photo.

Third Place: **Kate Flock, Needham Times, Needham, MA**
Very strong image of a man in crisis. Well done.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **John Sladewski, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Strong emotional image. Very powerful photo.

First Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Strong emotional image. Very powerful photo.

Second Place: **Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Excellent image of joy and celebration! Nice job!!

Third Place: **Amber Waterman, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

This is a very strong personality image. Well done!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Mark Murray, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

An excellent image to capture the Selfie craze! Well done!

Second Place: **Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA**
Two old gentlemen sharing their thoughts. Nice image!

Third Place: **Michael Gordon, The Republican, Springfield, MA**
Jump for joy! Nice image.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)
First Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**
Well done.

Second Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
Strong image.

Daily Newspapers
First Place: **Donald Landgren, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**
Well-done illustration playing on the video game theme. Fine job.

Second Place: **Micky Bedell, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**
Very strong sequence images. Nicely executed.

Third Place: **John Love, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**
Merry Christmas, Virginia!

PHOTO SERIES

Specialty Newspapers
First Place: **Stephanie Piscitelli, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**
Nice fashion photography.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)
First Place: **Robin Chan, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA**
Very strong photo essay. Nice set of images. Good storytelling. Many good moments and good eye.

Second Place: **Nicole Goodhue Boyd, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**
Nicole - Well done story!

Third Place: **Marc Breault, West Springfield Record, West Springfield, MA**
Nice images.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)
First Place: **Ray Ewing, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
Strong set of images - nicely done!

Second Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**
A nice set of carnival images!

Third Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
Strong, emotional images of a tough assignment. Good emotional content. Conveys energy in the room.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)
First Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
These are excellent images of a difficult topic. Very strong, creative coverage showing planning on Peter's part. Excellent!! Great coverage of emotional situation. Variety of shots. Engaging.

Second Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
Excellent images and coverage!

Third Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
Great coverage.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)
First Place: **Christine Hochkeppel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Nice set of images.

Second Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Strong coverage.

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)
First Place: **Robin Chan, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**
The end of the rainbow. Nice image. Good use of light and composition.

Second Place: **Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)
First Place: **Alison Shaw, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
Alison, you have captured a very COLD image here! Well done.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

Second Place: **Timothy Johnson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

Excellent image. Great tension between the power of water and the vulnerability of the birds.

Third Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Great creative idea to make an image from very little.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Peter, you have created a piece of art in this image. I know you "saw" the image in your mind ahead of the rain storm. How long did you wait before going back to capture this? Excellent!

Second Place: **Grace White, The Westerly Sun, Westerly, RI**

Very COLD image! Grand photo!

Third Place: **John Huff, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, NH**

Excellent mill pond image!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **John Suchocki, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Very nice image! Strong composition. Great use of hard and soft lines to create a beautiful composition.

Second Place: **Michael Gordon, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Strong image. Good use of slow shutter speed to create an image invisible to the "naked eye."

Third Place: **John Suchocki, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Nice nice image!

SPORTS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Jon Haglof, Middleboro Gazette, Middleboro, MA**

Jon captures peak action of defender, receiver and the ball in flight. Excellent action!

Second Place: **Mark Gardner, Kingston Mariner, Kingston, MA**

Excellent celebration and defeat image. Joy and dejection in one photo.

Third Place: **Barry Gutrad, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

Third Place: **Kirk R. Williamson, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA**

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Brett Crawford, Newton Tab, Newton, MA**
An emotion-filled image. Well done.

Second Place: **Kate Flock, Cambridge Chronicle, Cambridge, MA**

Nice perspective of a race that usually ignores the environment. Well done!

Third Place: **Trent Campbell, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Aw give me the ball! Nice action.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Mike Valeri, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Mike captures peak action in this image. The catcher, ump, runner and the ball! Who, what, where, all in one image. Excellent!

Second Place: **Mike Valeri, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

The joy of victory in the faces of the teammates. Excellent. The "action" doesn't stop with the goal!

Third Place: **Sean D. Elliot, The Day, New London, CT**
Sean captures an awkward moment in basketball. The expressions carry the image.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Track is track and hurdles are hurdles. This is the funniest peak action hurdle picture I have ever seen. Well done!

Second Place: **Ron Schloerb, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Solid second base action!

Third Place: **Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

A yell! You can almost hear it in the image, very nice!

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Rick Russell, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT**

Very strong spot news. Nicely done. Engaging, precarious moment.

Second Place: **Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Journal Opinion, Bradford, VT**

Good rescue image.

Third Place: **Kirk R. Williamson, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA**

Bad day but good landing!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

This is a strong image of a deep subject.

Second Place: **Larry Peterson, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

Strong fire image.

Third Place: **Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Good fire art.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **David Rainville, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA**

Excellent emotion-filled spot news! Nicely done! Great emotional content. Makes you care!

Second Place: **Paul Bilodeau, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA**

Fine fire image. Strong composition. Great moment.

Third Place: **Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Very nice image! Very cinematic.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

Touching image of a spot news event. Intimate moment. Emotional but private.

Second Place: **Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA**

Very strong fire image! Good moment, engaging.

Third Place: **Christine Peterson, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Strong news photo - cropping of image greatly reduces the impact. Image tells the story.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

INNOVATOR AWARD

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **AAA Horizons, Providence, RI**

This is a great way to tap user-generated content for a travel/activities publication. Who is better qualified to describe the best destinations in a town than the residents themselves?

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

This is a paper that truly knows its community and its audience. Keeping readers engaged year-round is an important strategy in a market like this, and the Notebook does a spectacular job of that.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Michael Dooling, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

This is an ambitious attempt to freshen and draw readership to the automobile section (home to one of our most important ad categories). It's a good idea that's very well executed.

BOB WALLACK COMMUNITY JOURNALISM AWARD

Steve Damish, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

An 8-year effort to marshal the resources of the newsroom to reveal the breadth and depth of the drug addiction problem in the community and gain support for intervention, treatment and understanding. Damish has lived and breathed this issue; heroically going far beyond what would typically be expected of a journalist. The reporting has catalyzed state and local officials, as well as the medical community to act. Beyond that, Damish continued to pursue stories that ultimately led to new solutions. He has played an intimately personal, demonstrably constructive role in contributing to the quality of life in the communities that the Enterprise serves.

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

David DesRoches, The Darien Times, Darien, CT

Daily Newspapers

Susan Spencer, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Steven is an excellent photojournalist as is demonstrated in these 6 entries. He is comfortable with hard news, breaking news and feature images. Steven has a sensitive approach to topics and a creative eye for on location illustration work. This honor was a strongly contested competition directly against 5 other finalists who are highly qualified photojournalists.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Peter is one of the most consistent photojournalists I have ever observed. His imagery is sensitive, incisive and well executed. Peter is above all, an observer. His work shows he is always looking for an excellent image as he covers assignments. What he "sees" at any particular time may only be a location that will in the future generate an image. Peter watches the changing light, weather and even the phases of the Moon as he covers other assignments. His coverage of developing events shows his ability to anticipate the "action" and he places himself in a shooting location to capture the image when it develops. Cliff Edom, professor of journalism at the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri coined the word Photojournalist. Having studied with Cliff, I know he would proudly view Peter's imagery and say, "Peter is the definition of a Photojournalist!"

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Jordan Mayblum, Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA

Being thrown into the mix and everyday life of a community can be a bit overwhelming for someone just out of college. Jordan Mayblum faced a range of issues and stories in his first year: silent bureaucrats, neighborhoods in change and lives in transition, and reported on them well. He keeps his eyes and ears open and goes a bit beyond what's required of his assignments. Nice work.

Daily Newspapers

Joe Markman, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

An impressive variety of stories from Joe Markman, who goes beyond the who-what-when to learn the whys. From bureaucracy to drugs to tragedy, he is not afraid to talk to those affected by it all. It is the quality of reporting and writing that earns Markman this Rookie of the Year award.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Providence Business News, Providence, RI
Clean layout with strong, unbiased reporting. Great op-ed section. Loved the manufacturing award supplement. Providence Business News is a business publication for CEOs and the common man.

Second Place: The Block Island Summer Times, Block Island, RI
A fun, informative mirror-image reflection of not only thriving tourist trends, but also an amazing native culture. Would love to see an op-ed section and more third-person reporting.

Third Place: New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH
A must-read for all business professionals. Loved seeing the paper delve into social issues like child poverty and unemployment.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT
The broadsheet was 48 solid pages of news, sports features, and editorial pages (including op-ed on the open meeting law.) Paper digs behind the scenes and into local government - code violation in Pomfret and penalties for school spending.

Second Place: The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA
These papers are filled with the news you need in your community. Town Halls, Schools, Crime, and Editorial page (op-ed by Authalet was solid writing), also 4-5 pages of local sports.

Third Place: Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA
Nice mix of hard news and features. The Memorial Day "to my Best Friend" was extraordinary. Could use more space for sports.

Honorable Mention: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Paper not afraid to cover controversy in community. Good presentation. Limited sports section.

Honorable Mention: The Milton Independent, Milton, VT
Watchdog Journalism being done in Milton. "Transparent talks" on page one and op-ed on new open meeting law send a clear message.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
Excellent mix of hard news and features with good color presentation. Wish you would anchor the sports section on the front of section 2. Great stories and pictures with sports.

Second Place: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT
Strong story by John Flowers on local hospital filling in for state mental hospital (and the stress it causes). Local issues covered like a glove. Great action pictures in sports.

Third Place: Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
Readers set the news they need from the OCM. Paper not afraid to cover firing of a police officer and demotion of another (those are tough in small towns). Drug court on Law Day was an excellent angle.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: The Telegraph, Nashua, NH
In-depth features. Lively sections, including an "Education" component. Strong design. Investigative reporting was solid.

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT
Great page one, with wonderful art on the boat rebuild.

Second Place: The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
Solid paper. Terrific A-2. Great sports. Textbook Marathon coverage.

Third Place: The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
Really localized. Appreciated the JFK and mom art on enterprise pages. Lots of names and faces.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Beautifully structured and designed. Great reporting – a ton of value for its audience.

Second Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
A very solid newspaper that focuses on local content and exciting presentation.

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
This paper provides a huge amount of content and value in its Sunday package.

NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION

DISTINGUISHED JUDGES PANEL



Wayne Agner – Editor and Publisher, *The Trinity Journal*, Redding, CA

Alex Abrami – Sports Writer, *Burlington Free Press*

Scott Anderson – Northwestern University; former head of editorial at *Chicago Tribune Interactive*, former reporter and editor at the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, former reporter at *The Patriot Ledger*

Joseph Bergantino – Executive Director, Managing editor and Co-Founder of New England Center of Investigative Reporting

Dr. Catherine Cassara – Bowling Green State University; former reporter for the *Lewiston Daily Sun*, *The Journal Tribune of Biddeford*, Maine, *The Pictorial of Old Saybrook*, Connecticut, and assistant editor, *The Times of Springfield*, Virginia

Sherry Chisenhall – Editor, *Wichita (KS) Eagle*

Kim Dalglish – Former VP Marketing and Specialty Publications, *The Columbia (SC) State*, *Bradenton (FL) Herald*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

Austin Danforth – Sports Writer, *Burlington Free Press*

Darell Davis – VP Creative Services, *Metro Creative Graphics*

Bill Densmore – Consulting Fellow/ Reynolds Journalism Institute, University of Missouri

Mike Donoghue – *Burlington Free Press*, *St. Michael's College*

Robert Earley – Former General Manager, *The Elkhart (IN) Truth*

Rob Forrest – Art Director, *Metro Creative Graphics*

Chuck Fountain – Professor, Northeastern University

George Geers – Publisher, *Plaidswede Publishing Co.* Director, *New Hampshire Writers' Project*, Journalist

Dr. Nancy L. Green – Former VP Circulation, *Lee Enterprises* former publisher, *Courier Communications*

Alin Gregorian – Editor, *Armenian Mirror Spectator*

Larry Grimes – President, *W.B. Grimes & Co.* and *The Sports Advisory Group*

Patrick Hafford – Web General Manager, *CSMonitor.com*

Jim Hart – Partner, *Integrated Advertising Solutions*, DM for Newspapers

Ed Henninger – Design Consultant, *Henninger Consulting*

Robert Holt III – Former AME Director of Photography and Director of Operations and Technology, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; former Director of Publishing Industry Marketing, *Scitex*

Tim Kane – Executive Editor, *Turley Publications*

Bill Kirtz – Northeastern University; former editor for the *Patriot Ledger* and publisher/editor for the *Marblehead (MA) Messenger*.

Susan Knight – University of Arizona; former editor at *Tucson Weekly*, reporter at the *Arizona Daily Star*

Bill Kole – New England Bureau Chief, *Associated Press*

Dina Kraft – Associate Program Coordinator, Media Innovation at Northeastern University

Steve Kurkjian – Former *Boston Globe* reporter and editor, founding member of the *Globe's Spotlight Investigative team*, shared in three Pulitzer Prizes awarded to the team.

Robert Laska – Former President & Publisher, *Connecticut Post*

Leah Lamson – Former editor, *Telegram & Gazette*

Dr. Kim Lauffer – Bowling State University; former web editor Alma College

Larry Laughlin – Former Northern New England AP Bureau Chief; Editor of *NEFAC Report*

Len Levin – Former Copy Desk Chief, *Providence Journal*

Linda Lotridge Levin – Dept. of Journalism, University of Rhode Island

Jeff Lyon – Columbia College Chicago; Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter with the *Chicago Tribune*, former deputy editor, *Chicago Tribune Magazine*

Jean McDonald – University of Illinois; former sports writer, sports editor, and director of electronic publishing at the *Champaign (IL) News-Gazette*

Lincoln McKie, Jr. – Northeastern University; former publisher, *Journal Transcript Newspapers*, former executive editor, *Lowell Sun*, former managing editor, *Telegram & Gazette*

Steve Milone – Director of Circulation, North of Boston Media Group, VP, Director of Circulation, *The Eagle-Tribune*

Christopher Ritchie – Penn State University; former features editor at the *Delaware State News*, rewrite desk chief at the *Middlesex News*, and editor positions at the *Wilkes-Barre (PA) Times-Leader*

Bob Ryan – Former VP Knight-Ridder Digital and *San Jose Mercury News*

Bill Sarno – Associate Editor, *Hartford Guardian*, former editor of the *Bristol Press* and *Lakeville Journal*

Robert Schrepf – Retired vice president, editorial page editor, *The Hartford Courant*

Del Schwinke – Co-coordinator of Communications and Journalism Program at Washington University; former Advertising Manager, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Dan Sheriden – Former editor at *Bergen Record*, *Chicago AP*, and *Gary (IN) Post-Tribune*

James Smith – Former editor at the *Record-Journal*, *Connecticut Post*, *New Britain Herald*, *The Day*, *The News-Times*; sports editor and city editor at the *Hartford Courant*

Trevor Snorek-Yates – Sales Development Manager, *The Boston Globe*

Alfredo Sosa – Photography and Multimedia Director, *The Christian Science Monitor*

Emily Sweeney – Reporter, *The Boston Globe*, president NE Society of Professional Journalists

Rebecca Tallent – University of Idaho; former ombudsman for the *Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review*

John Voket – Associate Editor, *The Newtown Bee*, Director of Public Affairs, *Cox Media Group*, CT

Susan Walker – Vice President/General Manager, *Herald Newspapers Inc.*, Chicago, IL

Maggie Walter – University of Missouri; former features editor at the *Portland Press Herald*, editor at *The Telegraph of Nashua*, and reporter at the *Anderson (IN) Bulletin* and *Kokomo (IN) Tribune*

Stephen Wolgast – Kansas State University; former news design editor at *The New York Times*, executive news editor at *The Akron Beacon Journal*, page one designer at the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, wire editor at the *Casper (Wyo.) Star-Tribune*, reporter at the *Baltic Independent (Estonia)*, and photographer at the *Topeka Capital-Journal*