



CONGRATULATIONS NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

This year's competition drew 3,100 entries that were published during the contest year, August 1, 2014 - July 31, 2015. 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

Weekly Newspapers with circulation up to 6,000

Daily Newspapers with circulation more than 30,000

Weekly Newspapers with circulation more than 6,000

Specialty Publications

CONTENTS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| NEWS REPORTING 4 | PAGES AND SECTIONS 23 | DIGITAL PUBLISHING 34 |
| Arts and Entertainment Reporting | Arts and Entertainment Section | Multimedia Coverage |
| Business/Economic Reporting | Business Page or Section | Website Design |
| Crime and Courts Reporting | Editorial/Commentary Page | Website Interactivity and Engagement |
| Education Reporting | Food Page or Section | Best Overall Website |
| Environmental Reporting | Front Page | Mobile Application Design |
| General News Story | Living Page or Section | Best Use of Social Media in Breaking News |
| Government Reporting | Special Section or Supplement | News Video |
| Health Reporting | Best Niche Publication | Entertainment Video |
| History Reporting | Sports Section | Feature Video |
| Human Interest Feature Story | Special Sports Section | Sports Video |
| Investigative Reporting | | Spot News Video |
| Investigative/Enterprise Reporting | | Slideshow |
| Local Election Coverage | | |
| Local Personality Profile | EDITORIAL 29 | PHOTOGRAPHY 38 |
| Obituaries | Editorial Writing | Feature Photo |
| Personality Profile | Editorial/Opinion Writing | General News Photo |
| Racial or Ethnic Issue Coverage | Commentary | Personality Photo |
| Reporting on Religious Issues | Editorial Cartoon | Photo Illustration |
| Science/Technology Reporting | | Photo Series |
| Social Issues Feature Story | COLUMNS 30 | Pictorial Photo |
| Sports Feature Story | Columnist | Sports Photo |
| Sports Story | Humor Columnist | Spot News Photo |
| Spot News Story | Serious Columnist | |
| Transportation Reporting | Sports Column | |
| Community Involvement | | SPECIAL RECOGNITION 43 |
| Audience Involvement | DESIGN 33 | Innovator Award |
| Headline Writing | Illustration | Reporter of The Year |
| Right-to-Know | Infographics | Photographer of the Year |
| | Overall Design and Presentation / Niche | Rookie of The Year |
| | Overall Design and Presentation (print) | GENERAL EXCELLENCE 44 |

NEWS REPORTING

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Marsden Epworth, The Lakeville Journal, Lakeville, CT

Marsden Epworth combines spare style, masterful pacing and telling detail to create this appreciation of the photography of Avery Danziger. The profile provides valuable perspective on Danziger's work, which was to be exhibited at a local gallery. The measured tone gives the writer and the subject instant credibility.

Second Place: Tom Kearney, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Tom Kearney conveys an informed appreciation of the career of guitarist and music producer Will Ackerman. This profile captures the ethos that has driven Ackerman's work as founder of the legendary Windham Hill Records, and as a musician and mentor in his own right. Kearney's story delivers excellent background in advance of a local concert.

Third Place: Lee J. Kahrs, The Reporter, Waterboro, ME

Lee J. Kahrs writes with sensitivity and intelligence in this preview of a local stage performance by Steve Cadwell, a gay man born in Vermont in the latter half of the 20th century. The interview gives sight into Cadwell's life and puts the local performance into its important national context.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+) First Place: Olivia Hull, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

The staff of the Vineyard Gazette produced a comprehensive series of reports on the local initiative to revive historic movie theaters on the island. Stories about the impact and progress of the revivals appeared in February, April, May and June. The coverage received dramatic display, evidence of the high news value the newspaper assigned to this story.

Second Place: David Weinstock, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Congratulations to Mr. Weinstock for a lively and readable account that at once, under a single headline, gives us ancient Rome, early Dylan and fresh baklava. Well done.

Third Place: Dan Bolles, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Dan Bolles has written a spirited and sweeping perspective on a venue called 242 Main, which has endured for some 30 years as the heart of the punk-rock scene in Burlington, Vermont. The power of this piece derives from Bolles' patience for the past and his passion for the present.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Rick Koster, The Day, New London, CT

Beautifully written preview – coaxing, touching personal observations from the subject, while serving as an entry point to view the loss of a loved one through the creative eyes of an artist.

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

A delightful and engaging profile showcasing a most unique skill with an even more unique medium of expression.

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

The reporter did a great job from the opening lead to the final sentence, examining the challenge of mounting such a production from both the audience and the young performers' perspective.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Dana Barbuto, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Engaging localized profile piece. The reporter's obvious experience and willingness to engage the subject delivers insightful observations and smooth transitions between interview and collateral promotion and biographical elements. There is a good flow and background to this piece.

Second Place: Kathi Scrizzi Driscoll, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Nice homecoming feature – good introduction to the subject for many who are likely unfamiliar with his online celebrity. Just enough detail provided about the show to be provocative and draw patrons, serving well as a preview.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Joyce Pellino Crane, Westford Eagle, Westford, MA

The tale of the Market Basket grocery chain has saga-like proportions involving work stoppages, demonstrations, CEO ouster and reinstatement, one store closing and then reopening. The coverage by this Concord, MA weekly could be the script for a made for TV mini-series. As a business/economic package, it had all the elements to keep readers informed.

Second Place: Dedham Transcript, Dedham, MA

Real estate price changes were the basis of this five-part package that looked at numerous economic and business aspects of what has been going on in the Greater Boston marketplace. Reporters Brad Cole and Danielle McLean looked at different communities in an effort to give a comprehensive look at the region.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Excellent, in-depth local reporting, comprehensive entertainment coverage, and good ad support. The ebola story and photos are really something special!

Second Place: Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

A superb job of covering a subject that so many can relate to: parenting. Nicely structured and designed, and with good ad support.

Third Place: New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH

Business people will find lots to read here in a well-constructed package. Good use of graphics as well!

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Excellent writing and/or editing on every page for news and features. Opinion and op-ed pages are filled with editorials on important local topics with good share of letters from readers. Sufficient ads (take some off the early pages for more news). Eye-grabbing photos. This is a solid newspaper covering a major resort town and the immediate area with real news (and is not a chamber mouthpiece).

Second Place: The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

Great investigation by the Standard into Barnard Selectmen earning nearly \$500,000 off the town's taxpayers – it was the best single story in all the newspapers reviewed. Solid editorial pages (wonderful edit on Bernie Sanders hair) but buried in fourth section. Lots of soft news. Good sports coverage

Third Place: The Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA

"The Stolen Kiss" was an catchy story that had to be the talk of the town for weeks – just one of several top feature and news stories. The Townsman has solid editing. Editorials are not over-written like in some papers that try to fill a whole column.

Third Place: Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

Good collection of local news and lots going on in town. Loved the Top 10 Things to Do in Marblehead and Swampscott. Some papers only do five. Terrific Rombach recovery story.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Strong news and feature writing (Flowers and Kirkaldy) with excellent government coverage. Also strong writing on editorial page (Lynn and McCright). Good share of advertising. Enjoyed photos (especially Campbell) and they help with layouts.

Second Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Good features and local news, including the look at outside money pouring in for candidates and gas prices (both by Steve Fuller). Editorial page is filled with local letters and well-written editorials on key topics.

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

Good sense of community in this newspaper with news and features. Solid advertising, including on Page 1.

Third Place: The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Readers are well served by a combination of government news (Turner on sewers and shutdown of July 4th) and features (John Stanton on Metcalfe leaving). Loved the facial expressions on the "Play ball" photo on the cover of 5/7/15.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Second Place: Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Third Place: Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Honorable Mention: The Day, New London, CT

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Second Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Honorable Mention: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Third Place: Molly Loughman, The Beacon, Acton, MA

Molly Loughman's story "A special meal" looks at an issue which touches on both business and medical reporting, and an issue that more and more families are facing. With the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that 1 in 68 children born in 2014 are diagnosed with autism, it is a story that impacts a great portion of any newspaper's readership. The story of Not Your Average Joe's restaurant in Acton, MA that is attempting to accommodate dining experiences for autistic people is one that is more than welcomed.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Charles Eichacker, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

The series "Mill Town Blues" by staffer Charles Eichacker was a compelling package of stories of how the closing of a paper mill impacted a New England community, the mill's employees, and the paper mill industry itself. Over a number of weeks, all aspects of the mill closure were explored in depth and ended with a look to the future.

Second Place: Joyce Marcel, The Commons, Windham County, VT

Writer Joyce Marcel, in her story "Multiplier Effect," gave a very interesting look at how creativity in Brattleboro and Windham county impacted living in southern Vermont. Telling readers how "creative economy" has helped with jobs and growth made an interesting read.

Third Place: Lindsay Pykosz, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Who would think that sandwich boards would cause an uproar on Nantucket, but writer Lindsay Pykosz lets readers know in an article entitled "Crackdown on sandwich boards by the HDC." The article explains how the Historic District Commission of Nantucket caused havoc for a number of businesses when enforcement began of a previously unenforced regulation.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Writer Mike Lawrence did a yeoman's job in a series of in-depth stories covering the vote for a casino in the Massachusetts southcoast community of New Bedford. The extensive series which ran for nearly the entire month of June covered issues from the social issues surrounding the casino to development issues and finally the vote. Standard-Times readers certainly had a wealth of information on this hot button/economic issue.

Second Place: Michelle Monroe, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

Economic news in New England can be depressing at times, but staff writer Michelle Monroe dug into figures from the Vermont Commerce Department to show readers that the state's

economy has a "bright" side in an article entitled "Vermont & the global economy."

Third Place: Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

While many would probably like to forget, especially after a fairly warm and dry summer, the Eagle-Tribune's staff did an excellent job at the end of February, telling readers the economic impact of last winter's snow storms in the article the headline of which was pretty blunt, "Winter's cost is piling up."

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Chris Burrell, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Titled "Ledger Special Report: DRAINED - How soaring rents are ravaging household budgets for millions of working people," the well written article by Chris Burrell told readers what many have been experiencing in the paper's readership area. Graphic, photos and info blocks helped tell the story.

Second Place: Michael Cousineau, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Reporter Michael Cousineau gave readers an eye opening look at a booming real estate market in a story about New Hampshire's homes selling for \$1 million or more. It was an interesting read and a nice change from the state's never-ending political happenings.

Third Place: Lorelei Stevens, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Who knew? Headlined "There's no cod from Cape Cod," the article by Lorelei Stevens told readers that "Depleted local stocks mean some popular kinds of fish come from afar." On Cape Cod, such news is significant and the graphics which ran with the story were timely and informative.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Dan Atkinson and Danielle McLean, Somerville Journal, Somerville, MA

Terrific reporting from police reports and public documents to show how lapse in group home management led to horrific attack on a non-resident.

Second Place: Chris Keegan, North ° East Independent, North Kingstown, RI

Thorough and fair coverage of construction on a local school causing damage to several nearby residences.

Third Place: Noah Hoffenberg, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

Bust at local massage parlor prompts paper to take good look at human trafficking enforcement.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Spike in juvenile cases causes alarm among court and law enforcement.

Second Place: **Sara Feijo, Cambridge Chronicle, Cambridge, MA**

Unsolved murders nags at effectiveness of Cambridge city police.

Third Place: **Olga Peters, The Commons, Windham County, VT**

Surge in crime blamed on uptick in drug use.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Great initiative shown in focusing how a change in state law can impact police focus on a lingering problem: domestic abuse in the region.

Second Place: **Ben Paulin, Maria Papadopoulos, and Joe Markman, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

Discovery of human remains in woods causes paper's crime reporters to focus on the sadness surrounding the loss of a young female victim.

Third Place: **Lindsay Tice, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME**

How is it that Maine commits so little to the defense of indigent defendants and the impact of that lapse.

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

Hernandez trial coverage - classic example of how a local paper should cover a sensational trial - the legal issues as well as the local impact!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: **Mark Hayward,**

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Death of an elderly couple prompts focus on missing son. Trial covered fully shows tragic life of the family.

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

Release of convicted rapist sends shock waves among victims.

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

EDUCATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

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

Reporter/Editor followed a case involving sexual assault by high school football players on their teammates that led to the resignation of a principal, the suicide of a victim, and a community discussion of the problems of hazing and athletes. Excellent on-going reporting of this tragic story.

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

This series took an in-depth look at the problems schools face with special education students. Good, wide ranging reporting on a timely and interesting topic.

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

Reporters appeared to have dug into public records and found a slew of problems with school personnel and their lack of licenses to work. Good reporting, interesting story.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

This unusual assignment not only gave students a different way to learn, but it inspired other students and teachers to try it. Good feature and important sidebar. Good job.

Second Place: **Caroline Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Who understands their kids' math homework today? This story explains how old and new math are coming together in the schools. Hopefully it helped parents understand. Nice reporting.

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

Nice little feature about a child with allergies and the problems he could encounter in his classroom.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Brittney McNamara, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA**

Is 7:20 am too early to start your school day? The reporter interviewed medical officials, students, school officials to find out. Nice sidebar about individual students and their sleep time. Eye opening and well done.

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

Remember the substitute teachers at your school? They're still around, and according to this well researched article, they're vital to the operation of schools today. A good read.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

INNOVATOR AWARD

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Tom Dunlop,**

Vineyard Gazette,

Martha's Vineyard, MA

Fabulous idea and extremely well executed. This hits so many high notes for the paper – a new way to help it's audience connect with their own community, a great way to solidify the Gazette's brand as the dominant news media that is part of the fabric of community, and a source of extremely high quality video content for the Gazette's digital products. In fact, this is the type of video content – with obvious value to the audience and no limit of how long it can stay on vineyardgazette.com in a video library – that could be a nice source of digital revenue if you offer pre-roll advertising. Outstanding innovation – this is the type of thing many newspapers could and should do!

Daily Newspapers

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

The paper recognizes an unsung local resource – an aspect of the community that would benefit many, if brought out into the spotlight and they devise a comprehensive strategy to go after it. One test included nominations and awards, an event, a special publication, performances, and even a charitable donation by the paper to further the cause. This is a great example of how papers today can do much more than write stories about issues, cases or events, and how they can leverage their considerable assets to be a force for good in their communities.

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

This was a very unique concept that gave the public exposure to art and with no doubt featured appreciation for it. The project also involved local students' great community service.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Steven is the consummate professional photojournalist. He anticipates the development of the "action" in the stories he covers, places himself in advantageous locations and capture images that report who, what, when, where and sometimes how and why. His composition is always strong, as is his editing. Steven is the kind of photojournalist that makes page layout easy in advance. Tell him horizontal or vertical, deep or shallow, and he will return with a top notch image that fits the layout every time. Cliff Eaton, professor of journalism at the Missouri School of Journalism, coined the word "photojournalist"; having studied with Cliff, I know he would proudly view Steven's imagery and say "Steven is the true definition of a photojournalist!"

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. Peter's images report who, what, when, where and sometimes how and why. A masterful approach to photojournalism! 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, the weather and even the phases of the moon as he anticipates his images. His coverage of developing events shows his ability to anticipate the "action" and 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 true definition of a photojournalist!"

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Wendy M. Levy, The Commons, Windham County, VT**

This is a competitive category and it is refreshing to see so much talent working at community newspapers. Wendy Levy stands out as rookie of the year. When you're working for a small paper, you're asked to do a variety of assignments – feature hard news, fun stories and routine stories – Levy has done a fine job at The Commons. She has a comfortable writing style that informs her readers about their community.

Daily Newspapers

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

Tough and difficult stories are told in the clear of reporting of Elodie Reed. She's asked to do a lot at this small daily – as with all staffers at small papers – and bravo for her work! She writes of community life in an easy-to-read style. The paper's readers are better informed because of her photography and reporting.

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Walter Bird Jr. Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Daily Newspapers

Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

***Weekly Newspapers* (circ. < 6k)**

First Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA
Strong storm image. Too bad the Layout Mavens didn't play it bigger so it would be more prominent.

Second Place: David Sokol, Swampscott Reporter, Swampscott, MA
Nice feature at a fire. Well done.

Third Place: Kirk R Williamson, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA

Truck meets house. Score: Truck 0 - House 1. Nice angle showing the crash and the response.

***Weekly Newspapers* (circ. 6k+)**

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Steven, very strong spot news! I applaud your shooting the story in one strong image! Well done.

Second Place: Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA
A truly stormy scene.

Third Place: Mark Good, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME
Bad day for Tiger Shark...

***Daily Newspapers* (circ. < 30k)**

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

Peter, very well composed spot news image. You manage to show Who, What, Where and How the cyclist was injured!

Second Place: Ashley Green, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA
Very strong spot news image.

Third Place: Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA
A very emotional spot news image.

***Daily Newspapers* (circ. 30k+)**

First Place: Christine Peterson, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Nice image of joy and rescue! Well done.

Second Place: Mark Garfinkel, Boston Herald, Boston, MA
Strong news image. Very well cropped.

Third Place: Gregg Derr, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Strong powerful image!

Third Place: Michael Gagne, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

School suspensions are a major problem at a Fall River school that was a middle school and now is pre-K through 6. This thorough story (and a follow up) details what the school's administrators are doing about the problem.

***Daily Newspapers* (circ. 30k+)**

First Place: Amelia Pak-Harvey, The Sun, Lowell, MA

The lede draws in the readers and makes them want to find out more. The rest of the story continues to keep the reader wanting to know more about Zubaidah and others like her who have come to Lowell. Well reported and well written.

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

Good use of statistics and graphs and interviews to report a story about the growth of diversity in Nantucket's schools.

Third Place: Brad Petrishen, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The reporter tells readers about the pros and cons of a superintendent's last half decade leading the city's schools. Broad and in-depth reporting does a good job informing the reader.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

***Weekly Newspapers* (circ. < 6k)**

First Place: Patricia Gay, The Weston Forum, Weston, CT
Gay's lively writing injects humor and amusement in this tale about Weston's love of ospreys. The lead anecdote captures the perfect tone, as a half-eaten trout falls to the ground in front of Sgt. Patrick Daubert, and he knows it's not one of the Prophetic Plagues of Egypt.

Second Place: Molly Loughman, Chelmsford Independent, Chelmsford, MA

Loughman's detail-rich account of a black bear's ravaging of a backyard chicken farm is a delight to read. To be sure, it's one harrowing ride.

Third Place: Virginia Dean, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

Dean provides the life history of the black bear family that has captured the imagination of people who've seen them foraging on Mount Tom.

Honorable Mention: Renee Meyer, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

Meyer's body of work illuminates the painstaking efforts of a committee examining public access to Block Island's beaches. Her detailed reporting is rich with scenes.

***Weekly Newspapers* (circ. 6k+)**

First Place: Frank Mand, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

Mand's painstaking coverage of the fate of trees overstaying their welcome at Burial Hill is a testament to strong beat reporting.

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

McCann takes on the environmental disaster caused by party balloons littering the sea in a solution-based story. Strong scenes and characters add depth and interest to her report.

Third Place: Carrie Gentile, The Falmouth Enterprise, Falmouth, MA

Gentile examines a question that puzzles people everywhere: Are recyclables really retrieved from the trash picked up at curbside? She follows the path of a trash can with some illuminating answers. Gentile's own photographs help tell the story.

Honorable Mention: Sara Brown, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Brown produces on deadline a strong account of a key development in Chappaquiddick's tumultuous relationship with the ocean.

***Daily Newspapers* (circ. < 30k)**

First Place: Judy Benson, The Day, New London, CT

Benson's five-part examination of the Pawcatuck River overflows with scenes and history and powerfully depicts the challenges and triumphs of life along this critical artery. You won't find a more compelling body of work that takes us back to the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.

Second Place: Paige Allen, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Allen's expertise on beekeeping is second only to her storytelling techniques. The combination make for a new take on the plight of the honeybee population.

Third Place: Paige Allen, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Allen's tale of salamander street rescues shows the best environmental stories start as small crusades in neighborhoods - and on Facebook.

Honorable Mention: Linda Murphy, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Murphy's lively account of a weather forecaster's life delivers an element too often missing from the daily news - humor.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Doug Fraser and Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Fraser's and Heaslip's wonderful body of work captures the struggles and promise of the sea turtle. Fraser's writing brings to life the human characters dedicated to the survival of these sea creatures. Heaslip's powerful photographs show us instantly what's at stake.

Second Place: Steve Barlow, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Barlow expertly catalogued 34 restoration projects along the polluted Housatonic River.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Bob Sanders,

New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH

Carefully researched and well-reported, this thorough examination of the pros and cons of the country's most successful ride-sharing service transcended parochial interests and anecdotes to present a comprehensive and balanced account of the benefits and risks posed by its arrival in the New Hampshire market.

Second Place: Mark Jahne, Wethersfield Life, Wethersfield, CT

Thorough reporting on the challenges and conflicts of community life – big or small – sets a standard for every publication's value to its readers. That's true whether the subject encompasses matters of life and death or, as in this entry, focuses on the small annoyance of dog poop. Wethersfield Life's handling of an unpleasant problem, with provocative quotes and balanced reporting was careful and complete, and it undoubtedly stimulated hours of community conversation.

Third Place: Brian Sousa, South County Life, S. Kingstown, RI

Even in the absence of conflict and strife, a diligent writer and photographer can bring a single community so vividly to life the reader almost believes himself at the scene, witnessing firsthand the sights, sounds and even the smells of a warm summer evening at a whimsical holiday celebration. So it was with South County Life Magazine's feature on the origins of the Snug Harbour Fourth of July Parade, an evocative close-up of one neighborhood's annual rite of summer and the good feelings that have flowed from it – more or less by accident – for three decades.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Lee J. Kahrs, The Reporter, Waterboro, ME

Written in long form, this two-part entry profiles a longtime heroin addict from a small town in Vermont, putting a poignant and human face on the scourge that is ravaging major cities and rural communities across the U.S. and notably in small-town New England. The first part profiles the young addict, Kyle Pinkham, his history growing up in central Vermont, his success in high school as a student athlete and his eventual descent into years of failed relationships, financial struggles and years of drug addiction. The second article, published nearly six months after the first, is a hopeful update on Pinkham, at the time eight months sober and in recovery, working at a Burlington-based drug testing company. Unsparring and unsentimental, the two articles stood out from other entries for the depth of their reporting and the dispassionate approach toward their subjects.

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

Timely and topical, this entry thoroughly documents the suspension and pending of a veteran local police detective who made a traffic stop while out of uniform, initially failed to identify himself as a policeman, and then threatened to "blow a hole through" the terrified driver's head – all while being recorded by the driver's dashboard video camera. The entry stands out for clear writing and exhaustive attention to detail, as well as for the reporter's initiative and enterprise that was evident from the interviews and the documentary research conducted.

Third Place: Ruth Thompson, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA

Offbeat and whimsical, the writer has fun with the story of how Georgia Tech, one of the southeast's major universities, threatened a small-town elementary school in New England with legal action for borrowing without permission its trademarked mascot, the famed "Yellow Jackets". By not taking the story too seriously, the newspaper transformed what might have been a brief, into an amusing and well-displayed feature that brightened every reader's day.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: John H. Kennedy, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Excellent watchdog reporting, keeping the community posted about fast-moving developments involving a clearly contentious issue. The reporter uses human sources and public documents to stay on top of the dispute over a casino proposed by a Native American tribe. The coverage is fair and even-handed, and it digs deep, providing important context from all sides. The writing is engaging, authoritative and precise.

Second Place: Alan Belanich, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

Alan, great eye on seeing this image. Nice work.

Third Place: Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

One of Earth's greatest light shows! Well done.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Mark, this is truly a piece of photographic ART! Nicely done.

Second Place: David Sokol, Cape Ann Beacon, Gloucester, MA

Great composition! Nice image.

Third Place: Michael Cummo, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Strong composition. Nice image.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Great low angle to a mundane topic. Nicely done!

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

Well done peaceful image.

Third Place: Sean D. Elliot, The Day, New London, CT

Great Earth light on the Moon. Strong composition in this image - Well done!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This shows you have a great eye for detail. You found the frog in a cranberry stack... Nicely done!

Second Place: Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA

Truly light ART! Nice image.

Third Place: Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

A very strong and cold feature! Nice image! Nice nice image!

SPORTS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Bud Morton, Middleboro Gazette, Middleboro, MA

Strong home plate action. The focus, ball and even joy at right. Nicely done.

Second Place: Brett Crawford, Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA

Peak soccer action. Chaos in goal. Very strong image.

Third Place: Dave Stewart, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT

Bow wave! This is an exceptional swim image! Nicely done.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Very strong action. Ball, faces and peak action.

Second Place: Kate Flock, Newton Tab, Newton, MA

Nice image of the race.

Third Place: Timothy Johnson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Excellent kiteboarding image.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Tim Martin, The Day, New London, CT

Excellent peak soccer action!

Second Place: Matt Burkhart, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

This is a funny yet painful peak action image. He actually held onto the ball! Well done.

Third Place: Dan Little, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Celebration. That is what it is and your image says "Celebration!" Well done.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Greg Derr, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Great bulldogging action! Tack-sharp peak action! Well done.

Second Place: Gary Higgins, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Excellent celebration image flanked by the agony of defeat. Well done.

Third Place: Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA

Tack-sharp soccer action. Great expression!

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Combined Class

First Place: Jack Foley, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Very strong image! This image says neglect and ruin. Very strong.

Second Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
Let's play! Good gamer image.

Third Place: Jack Foley, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Well done illustration!

PHOTO SERIES

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Steven, each year when I judge the NENPA contest, there is usually one entry that stands apart due to content and quality of the photojournalism. This year it is your story on Ebola. This is a masterful job - Very well done!

Second Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Steven, this would have placed first if not for your Ebola story. Again, my compliments on your photojournalism!

Third Place: Adam Perri, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA
Adam, this is a strong set of images.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: David Sokol, Medford Transcript, Medford, MA

David, strong set of images. But being a former Airborne Ranger, they do not inspire me to sign up...

Second Place: Kirk R. Williamson, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA

Strong lobsterman story.

Third Place: Rick Russell, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

Nice set of maple candy images.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Mark, well photographed story of a lighthouse and the saga of its relocation. Very well done!

Second Place: Aimee M. Henderson,

Belchertown Sentinel, Belchertown, MA

Aimee, having taught life science before my photojournalism career, these images tell the story very well. Good job.

Third Place: Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Strong set of storm images.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Carol Lollis, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Carol, you are so fortunate to have been given such access to this story. Moreover, once you gained access, you performed a professional bit of journalism. Great job!

Second Place: Marc Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Marc, this is a strong set of images to tell the story of the poorest among us. Well done!

Third Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Peter, strong set of images - again! I love the low angle images with the feet in the foreground.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Merrily, this is a strong set of images that tells the story very well.

Second Place: Mark Garfinkel, Boston Herald, Boston, MA

Strong set of rescue images.

Third Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Steve, strong photo story on saving the turtles. Well done.

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Wow! This image speaks volumes! Nicely done!

Second Place: Mike Derr, South County Life, S. Kingstown, RI

Nice image of camping far away from home.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Kirk R. Williamson, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

Kirk, this is truly a piece of image ART! Extremely strong image!

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Second Place: Jonathan Dame, Needham Times, Needham, MA

This article gives voice to the voiceless - the residents of a public housing complex that suffered significant winter storm damage. With insightful interviews and keen observational skills, the reporter describes not only the damage but also the Housing Authority's response, which many residents criticized. And yet this was not a hit job on the Housing Authority: the story conveyed its side as well, offering a balanced examination of the issue.

Third Place: Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Comprehensive coverage of the relocation of a local landmark. The stories put readers on the scene, with rich descriptions, compelling anecdotes and a thorough explanation of a complicated public works project. The series offers solid examples of spot news (such as the celebration of the move's completion) and features (a profile of two lighthouse guides). The stories were complemented by well composed photos.

Honorable Mention: Allison Teague, The Commons, Windham County, VT

The story adroitly describes how a community mobilized to preserve its oldest church building. The reporter weaves a sense of history with present-day developments and makes effective use of details, quotes, anecdotes and pacing. The article also tells readers how they can donate to the project— a helpful touch.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Laurie Loisel, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

This series is a sensitive, careful examination of profound questions about death and our right to determine its course – and also about life, and the quality we expect from it, and what happens when daily pain and suffering might outweigh the desire to continue walking through each day. Whether readers do or don't believe in the right of people to determine the end of their days, they couldn't possibly have read these stories without discussing their beliefs with friends or family. These are intense questions of our time, dealt with carefully and respectfully, and with transparency for the writer's friendship with Lee Hawkins.

Second Place: The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Great work relentlessly pursuing this unfolding story that started as a terrible breaking news story and quickly led to the dismissal of the daycare director for not reporting allegations of child abuse. Reporters took this beyond the fundamental crime story to explore the fears of other parents with children at the daycare. Stories also explained systemic security changes and other issues with the way the university operates the center and the student program. Kudos for pursuit of emails among university officials, even in the face of an outrageous price tag clearly meant to rebuff the records request.

Third Place: Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Thorough dive into reports from a year-long review within the state's university system, looking particularly at allegations of inappropriate behavior and sexual harassment at Keene State College. Through the reports and other interviews, the story builds a disturbing case that students didn't know how or where to report concerns about inappropriate behavior by college employees.

Honorable Mention: Staff, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Well-conceived enterprise idea reporting on the collective impact of a brutal winter on the community – who benefitted and who did not. Nice organization for a package of stories that were creatively thought out and put context to the winter's never-ending snow.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

Ongoing reporting raises serious and important questions about an aging power plant with a large number of spent fuel rods – situated where residents would have no hope for escape in the event of a disaster. Thorough reporting and clear explanatory writing about a series of problems that led to a plant shutdown during a storm, and recounting of elected officials' attempts to get the attention of the NRC.

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

This is an outstanding collection of pieces that collectively educates readers on what is now a fact of life on the Cape – humans sharing the waters with sharks. Excellent exploration, engagingly written, of how science and technology have learned much about the life and habits of sharks, as well as fun stories to help readers better understand the species, how it has come to populate the waters and why that's unlikely to change.

Third Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Exhaustive coverage of a debilitating blizzard – every angle accounted for and exceptional public service for a historic storm that essentially crippled a region briefly. Well-organized coverage and sharp writing that covered the storm, the immediate aftermath and the recovery.

Honorable Mention: Alana Melanson, The Sun, Lowell, MA

Strong coverage of painful budgeting and accounting mistakes that deeply harmed a school system, ultimately costing the jobs of the business manager and school superintendent as the extent of errors unfolded.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Bill Kirk, Andover Townsman, Andover, MA

A comprehensive, serial look at the ins and outs of formation of the town's budget, from its preparatory stages through town meeting approval. A balanced presentation. Satisfactory, if wordy and sometimes murky, explanations of complicated numbers. Reports were helped by good sidebars on a tax opposition group, the budget hearing schedule, and a couple of clear, cogent editorials.

Second Place: Dick Broom and Robert Levin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Well-written and edited reports on an important issue in the Islander's market – easily the best written and edited accounts among the entries in this awards category.

Third Place: Bram Berkowitz, Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA

A thorough set of stories on an upcoming election and, especially, a proposed property tax override. A helpful chart, although too small to be readily readable. Valuable boxes on the candidates.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Paul Heintz, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Dogged pursuit of apparent campaign finance irregularities, conflicts of interest and other questionable practices of Vermont's attorney general, Bill Sorrell. Resulted in independent investigation being set in motion by Vermont's governor, despite his initial reluctance to get involved. Series would have been strengthened by being based throughout on objective reports rather than in an opinion column. And although Seven Days has no role in this, it's problematic that its lawyer was appointed as the independent investigator.

Second Place: Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

An even-handed, thorough, if routine, series of reports on an interesting and important conflict between two government boards. Well-backgrounded and easy to follow.

Third Place: Mary MacDonald, Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Exhaustive look at the new government's economic development budget. Heavy on numbers and rich details in graphic, with a balanced examination of the topic at hand.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Ann Baldelli and Colin A. Young, The Day, New London, CT

An easy read –perhaps the smoothest and best editing in the government reporting awards category overall. Well-reported and well-illustrated. Represents the kind of takeout that political and emotional issues like this deserve.

Second Place: George W. Rhodes, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Well-deserved exposure of a deflated, outmoded government entity being kept alive primarily to keep incumbents in paying positions. Objective, fair treatment of a subject that needs to be shown for what it is. In some cases, the defenders of this archaic and needless entity make a good case against themselves continuing in a useless office.

Third Place: The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

First in a series of promising reports on Sunshine Week themes. The report on weaknesses in New Hampshire's lobbying law is a good start on this series, and leads to a question of why all of the segments of this series weren't submitted for consideration.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Todd Feathers, The Sun, Lowell, MA

Solid enterprise in digging out what was apparently an improper taking and granting of "farmland" tax relief. Well-researched and generally well-written. An excellent chart. Good aerial shots, which would have been nice to see even larger.

Second Place: Pat Grossmith, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Dogged reporting forced police to acknowledge improper procedures in leaving off a police log a state cop who was ultimately arrested on a drunken-driving charge. The reporting also intimates that more improprieties attended this incident, and perhaps even the cop's acquittal.

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

Clear, illuminating examination of an important topic and trend. Excellent informational charts and map. Points to questionable advantages enjoyed by property owned by nonprofits. A superb ending quote.

HEALTH REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Joyce Pellino Crane, Westford Eagle, Westford, MA

Choosing the winner in this category was a challenge. Several entries chronicled efforts to combat hard drug addiction in the northeast, clearly a far-reaching health issue. Crane's work rose to the top based on strong writing, her focus on the programs that are working, and the need for more options for addicts.

Second Place: Melissa Russell, Winchester Star, Winchester, MA

Well documented and well written. Russell's stories not only give the real people dealing with this growing problem a voice, her style and good selection of quotes pulls the reader deeper into the challenges this health crisis has created.

Second Place: Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT

Good moment during a generally boring event. Good eye!

Third Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Peter, I get cold just looking at this image. Again - well done!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This is a really strong image. Frankly, so is your second prize image in this category. They were a tossup for first place!

Second Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Just an outstanding image! Period!

Third Place: Rick Cinclair, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Well done!

NEWS PHOTO

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

This is a very very strong image! Nice point of focus. Congratulations!

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Steven, this is a very well executed image. Nice lighting. Very good.

Second Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Steven, the only reason this is in second place is your first place image. They are both prize winners!

Third Place: Shawna Shenette, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

A very strong image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Kirk R. Williamson, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

Very nice image to carry his personality.

Second Place: Kirk R Williamson, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA

Lovely face and great reaction from the fellow behind. Nice!

Third Place: David Gordon, Concord Journal, Concord, MA

Creative angle. Very nice image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Mark, this is a very strong portrait. Nice lighting and well composed.

Second Place: Mark Lovewell, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Mark, strong use of a wide angle lens to tie the two subjects together!

Third Place: Michael Cummo, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

This is a very nice portrait!

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

These are both excellent images. In the portrait - excellent lighting to convey the emotions. The second image, open and free to show the scary nature of this man's profession. Once or twice again, great work.

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

Third Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Extremely nice image!

Fourth Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Very well done at an excellent, unusual angle!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Very strong and funny image.

Second Place: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Touching image!

Third Place: John Suchocki, The Republican, Springfield, MA

Very nice Honor Flight image!

PHOTOGRAPHY

FEATURE PHOTO

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Strong image! Nice work.

Second Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Another strong image!

Third Place: Vermont Sports, Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT

Nice image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Glenn Callahan, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Glenn, strong image!

Second Place: Ann Ringwood, Westford Eagle, Westford, MA

Touching image.

Third Place: Alyssa Stone, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Great sandbox image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Jeanna, this is a very strong feature image. It is one of those unique images that is strong both in color and black and white. Good eye!

Second Place: Sam Goresh, Cambridge Chronicle, Cambridge, MA

Strong mood/weather feature. Great eye!

Third Place: Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Very nice image.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Peter, once again - Great eye! You are a master at "seeing" the image before it is an image! Excellent.

Second Place: Sean D. Elliot, The Day, New London, CT

This is a very strong feature. Nice work.

Third Place: Desi Smith, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA

Very nice moment!

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA

Don, truly a unique and innovative viewpoint on Dog-Frisbee stories. Nice eye!

Second Place: John Suchocki, The Republican, Springfield, MA

I am melting! Very strong feature image.

Third Place: Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA

Yuck! This is a really strong, funny image that all will react to!

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Mike Derr, South County Independent, Wakefield, RI

Strong image for a generally routine assignment. Good eye!

First Place: Ann Ringwood, Concord Journal, Concord, MA

First reenactment image I have ever seen that doesn't actually look like a reenactment! Well done.

Second Place: David Gordon, Winchester Star, Winchester, MA

Great reaction image. Well done.

Third Place: Robin Chan, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA

Touching image. Filled with emotion.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Trent Campbell, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Well done and composed image!

Second Place: Jim Powers, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Truly an artful General News image. Very nice.

Third Place: Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Strong news image.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Sean D. Elliot, The Day, New London, CT

Both these images bring emotion to the viewer's throat! The purpose of strong photojournalism! Well done the both of you.

First Place: Tim Martin, The Day, New London, CT

Both these images bring emotion to the viewer's throat! The purpose of strong photo journalism! Well done the both of you.

Third Place: Tommy Gardner, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Compelling lead pulls the reader along as Gardner explains the growing problem created by a shortage of first-responder volunteers. He also provided a national perspective to the local crisis, something too often lacking in such reporting.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Steve Myrick and Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Urgent reporting, good writing and well done efforts to move the issue forward for readers earned both Myrick and Elvin's reporting on the measles-crisis-that-wasn't first place in this category.

Second Place: John Flowers, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Flowers' powerful writing made this a close second to the first place winner in this category. The doctor's fight against Ebola in Africa was beautifully told. Well done.

Third Place: Nelson Sigelman and Barry Stringfellow, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Good context and high utility information surely helped readers understand and respond to this health threat.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Judy Benson, The Day, New London, CT

Benson's provocative feature grabs the reader and holds on until the end. While so many stories focus on the sick, and challenges inherent in healthcare delivery, this feature delves deeper to explore the burden and effects of relentless exposure to health-related tragedies on the front line service providers. This is an eye-opening expose.

Second Place: Tracey Dee Rauh, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

The Eagle-Tribune took a measured approach and delivered a comprehensive series that attempts to identify the cause and effect of the opioid/heroin epidemic gripping the region.

Second Place: Joe Markman, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Markman did spectacular work digging into data and details revealing why Massachusetts is lagging so far behind Rhode Island in responding to this widespread public health emergency.

Third Place: Sandy Quadros Bowles, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Bowles waded right in, apparently developing fast and deep rapport with her subjects who candidly discuss the issue of preventative or prophylactic surgeries for those facing a high risk for breast cancer. A lot of great information and detail packing into an engaging, relatively concise report.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Shawne K. Wickham,

New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Among the many reports on the opioid epidemic, Wickham takes the prize for recognizing and expertly delivering a series that personalizes the plight of those involved, as well as those working to combat the addiction/overdose fallout. Each segment is skillfully crafted, researched and presented.

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

As the incidence of ASD diagnoses expands, Spencer engages and draws emotional affective accounts from parents while trying to project to all readers the implications of ignoring or downplaying the critical need for support and services for this growing population of children in her readership.

Third Place: Fred Hanson, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Patriot Ledger readers were fortunate to be able to dig into this first-hand account from Hanson, who retells his story while weaving in important details in the hope of preventing this from happening to another reader.

HISTORY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Michael J. Rausch, The Bourne Enterprise, Bourne, MA

Summer travelers to Cape Cod probably have spent more time than they'd prefer contemplating the graceful spans of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges. The traffic can back up for miles coming and going from the vacation destination. It used to be worse. Until 1935, when the existing bridges were completed, cars got off and on the Cape via a wooden drawbridge and traffic backed up for miles. Rauche's story is illustrated with photos of the iconic bridges under construction.

Second Place: John Rook, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT

In July and August, to stave off July and August news doldrums, old events in Cheshire get another look: a limbless corpse found in a box in a swamp; a stabbing death sparked by an insult over a landlady's cooking; a loveless marriage that may have ended in murder. Rook brings an entertaining, leisurely touch to these old stories that's just right for the summer's slow news climate.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

The 1915 sinking of the Lusitania claimed the lives of about 1,200 people. Not among the victims of the German U-boat was a couple with ties to Bar Harbor who cancelled because of a bad premonition. Less fortunate was Alfred Vanderbilt, whose family summered in Bar Harbor.

HISTORY REPORTING

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

After forty years, the fictional Amity of the summer blockbuster “Jaws” remains a part of Martha’s Vineyard. The movie meant a moment of mini-fame for some locals who had bit parts and a career for at least one local in movie and television production.

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

The woman and two young boys believed to have been her sons were each shot in the head and dumped into a ditch in 1935. Their identities, still unknown, have the distinction of being Vermont’s longest running cold case. A police detective newly assigned to oversee the case has little hope for a solution but hopes she can make a connection with someone who can help ID the victims.

HISTORY REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Sean Horgan, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA**

Sean Horgan’s profiles of the 12 men from Cape Ann communities killed in Vietnam ran over four days to coincide with the visit to Gloucester of the Wall That Heals. The bios tell how each of the men entered the service, how they died and the lasting sense of loss among surviving family members. This succeeds because the tight profiles turn the subjects from numbers in a sad roll call into real people.

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

John Ruddy traced the 20-year, contorted struggle to establish Seaside, a treatment center for children with tuberculosis, in this three-part package. It involved a pioneering doctor’s single-minded vision, Connecticut’s leading officials, courts and a public fearful of the disease, even though the variety to be treated there is not contagious.

Third Place: **Michael Carolan, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

Michael Carolan turns to his own family history for this piece about his Civil War veteran great-great grandfather’s efforts to clear his record of an unjust desertion charge. It took 75 years to settle the case in the complicated political geography off the time. With all that’s been written about the politics, strategies and carnage of the Civil War, Carolan has found a novel, personal approach to America’s great tragedy.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

With this entry, The Republican capped off an epic, 49-month treatment of Civil War’s impact on western Massachusetts. The

fighting is over but not the trauma as the country deals with the assassination of President Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth. Wayne Phaneuf’s detailed story gives today’s readers a sense of how traumatic this event must have been to a nation emerging from a long nightmare.

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

Civil rights marchers like Carol J. Thompson were committing more than time when they went south to march in support of black voters’ rights in the turbulent 1960s. Reporter Elaine Thompson says those gathering to take part in the 54-mile march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery faced the very real threat of violence from foes of desegregation. Marcher Carol Thompson recalls being warned to “get out and run like hell” if the car she was riding in with black rights leaders was stopped by police.

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

Shawne K. Wickham writes about efforts to clean up and maintain a memorial atop Wolf Hill in Deering, N.H., dedicated to four clergymen who gave their life preservers to soldiers when their troop ship was torpedoed by a German submarine en route to Europe. The “Immortal Clergymen” went down with the troop ship off Greenland in 1943. They included Clark Poling, whose family summered in New Hampshire.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Melissa Shaw, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

From the start, the reader is shown, rather than told, what makes the subject do what she is doing. Clearly written, informative and full of heart. Well done!

Second Place: **Kurt Wolfe and Lindsey Townsend, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

A difficult story beautifully told. The reader can see this modern tragedy unfold through the eyes of a child as well as an adult. Not maudlin and yet very powerful.

Third Place: **Lisa Lynn, Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT**

I liked how the 'town' and 'country' aspects of the story were presented. Two very different men and their very different approaches portrayed charmingly.

Honorable Mention: **Jim Perry, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Jim treated the two subjects sensitively and made me interested to hear their music. They became three-dimensional.

Cape, and the quirky personalities of the folks who live and work there.

Second Place: **Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

This video is beautifully shot and tells an important story about well-known property on the Cape.

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

This video made it interesting to learn about this local mill's connection to Major League Baseball. Paul Kapetyn did a nice job of taking viewers behind the scenes to see how yarn is made for MLB baseballs.

SPORTS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Eva Sollberger, Seven Days, Burlington, VT**

I'm cold from watching and I wasn't anywhere near Lake Memphremagog! The two kids were great, even while the credits were rolling.

Second Place: **Taylor Vortherms and Tim Suellentrop, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**

The enthusiasm of these two boys for soccer and this high school team is captured perfectly.

Third Place: **Kirk R Williamson, Hamilton/Wenham Chronicle, Hamilton/Wenham, MA**

Interesting mix of still photos and video in the tournament recap. Some nice angles and perspectives.

Daily Newspapers

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

Does a nice job demonstrating the hard work that good photography demands. Meanwhile, he manages to tell the story of the half-marathon in an atypical manner.

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

With annual events, stories can get a bit stale, but by using the freshman pitcher who had bone cancer, this was avoided. It also tells the story that cancer was the only loser in that game.

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

Good variety of shots and interviews. A story worth telling.

SPOT NEWS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA**

Even without any story to support the video, you could still see a progression of activity from the blazing fire to the fire being put out. The other thing that distinguished this entry was the inclusion of text overlay, so the viewer knew the address of the fire. Captioning a video is important to produce a news piece that can stand without explanation when shared with others.

Second Place: **Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**

There were some very beautiful moments captured in such a short video.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

This submission is extremely polished as well as very informative.

Second Place: **Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Nice job telling a story in just two minutes!

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

Dramatic video including enough narration for the viewer to feel informed on what they are watching.

SLIDE SHOW

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Connor Gleason, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Connor Gleason did a wonderful job of capturing emotional moments with his camera to tell this touching story about a father and daughter facing difficult life decisions. This slideshow was nicely done; the images really tell a story.

Second Place: **Andrew Roiter and Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Correspondent Andrew Roiter covered every aspect of the restaurant business, and photographer Peter Pereira captured the action every step of the way.

Third Place: **Ashley Green, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Ashley Green photographed this vigil that was held in memory of a 7th grader who committed suicide. The pictures convey feelings of sadness and loss.

NEWS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Connor Petros, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

This was good local reporting supported by video. The video was also of good quality. This was the winner because in addition to the actual ship, they brought in brief interviews to expand the story as well as being interactive, making this piece more than just a moving picture.

Second Place: James Jesson, Watertown Tab & Press, Watertown, MA

This was good news footage that told the story with minimal narration. It included articles to share and help give more information toward the piece.

Third Place: Evan Johnson, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

This was a good and thorough report using narration to tell the story.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Shelly Yang, The Day, New London, CT

Another high-quality video production from The Day being a well-crafted news story that effectively used video.

First Place: Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT

The Day has high quality video production. This piece especially was moving while effectively using video to share the news.

Second Place: Jason Kolnos and Mary Ann Bragg, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Good local news coverage and good use of video interviews to engage the viewer.

Third Place: Christine Hochkeppel, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Very good quality video and interesting retrospective.

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Eva Sollberger, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Episode 403 of Eva Sollberger's "stuck in Vermont" video series is another winner. Beautifully shot with clean audio and overall a high quality production!

Second Place: Mickey Bedell, Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

Here's something you don't see often: prison inmates singing their hearts out with senior citizens. I really enjoyed this video – nice work by Mickey Bedell!

Third Place: Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Nicole Harnishfeger of The Inquirer and Mirror compiled this funny highlight reel of a junior high talent show. The tight editing makes this video stand out from the rest.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Eric Williams rode the 22-mile Cape Rail Trail and produced this handy guided tour of this well-known bike path. Two thumbs up!

Second Place: Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Kudos to Eric Williams for introducing viewers to the Grab Brothers! The clip shows the duo's colorful personalities and tremendous music skills.

Third Place: Jason Kolnos and Eric Williams, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This CapeCast episode focuses on how fresh herbs are used in cocktails at the Sage Inn & Lounge in Provincetown. Interesting topic. Nice camera work.

FEATURE VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Eva Sollberger, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

I can't praise Eva Sollberger enough – her video web series "Stuck in Vermont" is fresh, upbeat and entertaining. In this episode she gave viewers a behind-the-scenes look at a local pewter business, which was creatively shot, had nice visuals and was overall a pleasure to watch.

Second Place: John Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

The opening scene of this video is beautifully done. John Stanton got high quality footage in a variety of settings, from the waterfront to the theatre and other places around the island. The high production quality makes this video a winner.

Third Place: John Walker and James Jesson, Billerica Minuteman, Billerica, MA

John Walker and James Jesson found a perfect subject to put in front of the camera: baby raccoons. I loved the close up shots and enjoyed their interview with the wildlife rehabilitator.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Cecily Weisburgh, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Cecily Weisburgh made this video about a 10-year-old boy with physical disabilities first time riding his customized bike, making a touching story about an important milestone in his life.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Eric Williams and Jason Kolnos, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

CapeCast gets two thumbs up for a wonderful web series that is fun to watch. The videos truly capture the essence of life on the

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

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

This is a riveting, raw "human" story well-written by Katy Savage. The story is upbeat, despite the many obstacles the subject faces, and is hard to put down from the first graph on - which is how every story, especially a feature story, should be.

Second Place: Phil Devitt, The Dartmouth Chronicle, Dartmouth, MA

This is a great, well-written portrayal of a fascinating teenager, who we don't find out until the jump suffered from Asperger's syndrome. His acceptance by his classmates and the gratitude of his mother come through in Phil Devitt's rendering of this story about a young man as quirky and delightful as a bowtie.

Third Place: Nicole Lyons, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME

This story works in so many ways, mixing as it does mountain hiking, mysticism, striving through pain, finding your "real" name and the good old coincidence of discovering and returning something cherished that was lost. Nicole Lyons makes it all hang together by not interrupting the flow of the story from trail head to trail's end.

Honorable Mention: William J. Dowd, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

Honorable Mention: Josh Farnsworth, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA

Honorable Mention: Robert Levin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Phil Devitt, Fall River Spirit, Fall River, MA

Fascinating story on the history of a man who created some of the most famous music and songs of Sesame Street and the Muppets. The story is replete with great details of the life of the late Joe Raposa. The reporter did a fine job interviewing and gathering the information and presenting it all in a most readable manner.

Second Place: Mark Davis, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

What a hoot. Small, small town USA. Families go at each other for decades, even killing each other's animals and pets. No one involved remembers how or why it all started. Mark Davis, who should be counted among some of the best reporters/writers in Vermont and New England, doesn't disappoint in this story as he details the "dark side of small-town life" in Victory, Vermont.

Third Place: Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

After 40 years of Jaws stories and movies, Reporter Alex Elvin still manages to tell a truly interesting story of the filming of the movie on the Vineyard. His story is a must read for both those who still have memories of the shock of the film and all those who continue to study the history of "the world's first summer blockbuster movie."

Honorable Mention: Joyce Marcel and Randolph T. Holhut The Commons, Windham County, VT

The subhead for this well documented story says it all: "A comeback for the ages – How determination and resourcefulness brought back a cherished downtown landmark after a disastrous fire." This special focus story is outstanding for its detail and historic record.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

This well-written story does an excellent job showing one woman's struggle with drug addiction. The honesty about inter-family tensions makes it feel very real. Poignant.

Second Place: Natalie Handy, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

There aren't many topics that remain as sensitive today as gender identity. This story does a fantastic job of exploring one person's journey without it feeling sensational.

Third Place: Connor Gleason, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

There is such warmth and love contained within this story. The writer clearly spent time with this family and wonderfully framed their challenge.

Honorable Mention: Terry Date, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

I suppose someone could have swung and missed in capturing an around-the-world adventure. This writer didn't, offering up a compelling piece detailing the highs and lows of a four-and-a-half year journey, particularly focusing on the final leg that would start in Chatham. Photography, maps, illustrations and breakouts nicely added to the package.

Second Place: Steve Foskett, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Solid piece on the impacts of a sudden paralyzing injury on the individual and his family. Story supported by multiple quotes from all of those involved. Too bad you couldn't have turned a staff photographer loose on this assignment.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

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

Compelling story on a nationwide epidemic brought home to the local level. Good mix of quotes from addicts, friends and officials.

Honorable Mention: **Maryjo Wheatley, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

An interesting piece on a topic I'm sure few have thought about. Well-written, supplemented nicely by solid photography, a resource breakout and good design.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers

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

A superb example of in-depth, original investigative reporting based on digging and records. Kudos.

Second Place: **Eli Sherman, Waltham News Tribune, Waltham, MA**

Excellent work. An important issue worthy of an in-depth investigation.

Third Place: **Aimee M. Henderson, Belchertown Sentinel, Belchertown, MA**

Solid digging unearthed important records that fueled this story. Terrific work that took courage.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Dan Crowley, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**

A records-driven investigation of vital importance.

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

An excellent in-depth examination of a serious community problem.

Second Place: **Izaskun E. Larraneta, The Day, New London, CT**

An example of solid, dogged research that exposes a serious problem.

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

A top-notch piece of work that holds the powerful accountable.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

Excellent piece of watchdog reporting that holds the powerful accountable.

Second Place: **Jonathan Shugarts, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT**

Relentless, intrepid reporting resulted in exposé of a serious police problem.

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

Great work on relentless digging on uncovering an important story.

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

A strong example of the importance of raising questions that uncover systemic flaws.

INVESTIGATIVE/ENTERPRISE REPORTING

Specialty Newspapers

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

Thorough and in-depth coverage of a major business story. A solid piece of enterprise reporting.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

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

Strong in-depth editorials and analysis. Pre-election section with opinionated analyses; letters to the editor, editorials; Ballot Box issues. Color presentations. Graphic Ballot Boxes for individual candidates; clear presentation of issues to compare viewpoints. Good community feedback.

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

Campaign notebook connected to readers. Over 54 Letters to the Editor. Specific campaign questions to candidates on building budgets, rising school enrollment, mansionization, cost of elections, candidate spending. Good post-election coverage.

Second Place: **Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA**

Substantial community engagement through guest commentaries, letters to the editor, and opposing citizen views. Question Of the Week feature to individual candidates. Good Override Analysis. Good photo coverage. Post-election follow-up with winners and analysis.

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

MVTime.com offered a clean, easy-to-navigate and informative website. It also looked good on handheld devices thanks to a responsive design. This is a solid site for a weekly paper.

Second Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**
PBN.com is a well-designed website and is easy to use!

Third Place: **Courtney Lamdin and Staff, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT**

They achieved the result that they were looking for: a minimalist, clean, modern design.

WEBSITE INTERACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Daily Newspapers

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

It looks like they are exploring every possible way to engage the audience with their website. In addition the efforts to engage local citizens, either through reporting, or through initiatives like the editorial board, community bloggers or the "neediest family fund", all demonstrate a commitment to community that is essential to successful and ongoing support for the website.

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

The website has selected one of the strongest local draws and focused attention on expanding coverage in every way possible. Local sports are a critical franchise for any local paper/website and based on the performance gains provided, building out team and individual pages is making a difference in visits to the website.

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

Weekly Newspapers

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

The quality of timely content combined with an easy-to-use and visually attractive website made the Addison Independent this year's winner!

Second Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

This is an excellent and very professional website.

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

The Vineyard Gazette contains everything needed for a good local website.

Daily Newspapers

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

This site offered a lot of well-written and easy to find content. Even with a larger number of ads, telegram.com is still the best overall website.

Second Place: **Andy Tomolonis and Staff, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Nice template!

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

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

The Day provides good local content on it's website and a great ratio of ads to content.

MOBILE APPLICATION DESIGN

Combined

First Place: **Providence Business News, Providence, RI**

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BREAKING NEWS

Weekly Newspapers

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

Readers of The Inquirer & Mirror were treated to an amazing compilation of beautiful images of snow covered Nantucket. Josh Balling did a great job of finding and sharing photos from this storm.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Robert Mills, The Sun, Lowell, MA**

The Sun's Police Line Blog is always an interesting read, because it provides pictures and insider details that you do not often see in the newspaper. Robert Mills is a great crime reporter and he had developed a loyal following of fans who watch his blog, Twitter account, and facebook page for the latest news from the street.

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BREAKING NEWS

Second Place: **Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**

The Keene Sentinel's coverage of the Pumpkin Festival riots spread quickly on social media channels and reached a wide audience.

Third Place: **Ashley Green and Anna Burgess, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**

Ashley Green and Anna Burgess covered this meeting very well from start to finish. Their videos and photos showed the intense emotions that filled the room.

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

Samantha Allen and the Telegram & Gazette staff turned to Twitter, Facebook and Storify to report on college students protesting in the street. It was a smart use of social media.

Third Place: Kimberly Whalen, **The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**
Nice work. A clean, open feel. Comfortable to read. Inviting.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **The Daily News, Newburyport, MA**
Very classy! Excellent use of photos, color and typography. Inviting. Nicely done!

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

Excellent photography. Nice use and design of standing elements. Good organization of content. Appealing.

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

Vibrant. Refreshing. Good use of negative space, color and typography. Well done!

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION (PRINT)

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI**
Elegant. Fine photography, good design and use of standing elements. Excellent typography. Inviting.

Second Place: **Angelo Lynn and Lisa Lynn,**

Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT

Excellent use of negative space. Good typography. Nicely organized. Comfortable to read. Good standing elements. Good photos.

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Seven Days, Burlington, VT**

Wow! This is exciting! A fresh look that's inviting, appealing and hard to put down. A clear standout. Good color, design elements, typography and negative space. Best of all entries!

Second Place: **Kristofer Rabasca, The Martha's Vineyard**

Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Good job giving life to a new look. Nice color, type and photography.

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

A very traditional look that keeps its strong appeal, year after year. Very "old school," but appealing because of that.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Excellent front page. Good typography and careful attention to design throughout. An appealing newspaper that's easy to read.

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

Well organized. Inviting. Easy to follow. Typography is well thought-out.

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

Front page and photo are very good. Nice photos throughout. Good organization. Good work!

DIGITAL PUBLISHING

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Rob Adams and Susan Schultz, The Darien Times/HAN Network, Darien, CT**

The newspaper created a fun, creative way for readers to experience a big event – in this case, a football game – while still attending and enjoying the event. Readers even got to be a part of the coverage by submitting photos on Instagram. This is a great template that can be used for other events in the future.

Second Place: **Kirk R Williamson and Chris Hurley, Hamilton/Wenham Chronicle, Hamilton/Wenham, MA**

This entry used Adobe's Slate tool to create a very visually appealing recap of the basketball team's undefeated season. For a small publication without sophisticated design tools, this is a great way for them to dive into the world of great visual presentation. I love that they took advantage of tools that exist elsewhere and this serves as a great test to see if readers like this sort of content.

Daily Newspapers

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

I was impressed by the use of data and visualization tools to present both photos and information about soldiers from World War I. I also love that readers can submit biographical information if they know one of the soldiers. Some great planning went into putting this together and displaying the information.

Second Place: **Lorelei Stevens, Cindy McCormick and Christine Legere, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**

This was a great example of using photos, text, videos and graphics to tell a story. Graphics were interactive so I could manipulate the data in order to see exactly what I wanted to see, and overall all of the information helped to further the story.

WEBSITE DESIGN

Weekly Newspapers

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

Clean, locally focused website. If you want to follow activities on the Vineyard, look no further! The design is open, clean and easy to navigate – even the ads are inoffensive! This site won even despite having some broken links.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Third Place: **Stephen Greenwell, Liz Boardman and Stephanie Turaj, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI**

Meet the Candidate features. Multiple community feedback with Letters to the Editor. Page one color post-election coverage. Fundraising analysis.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Two comprehensive sections on election issues; heavy content on candidates and issues analysis. Both sections offered readers insight on issues and candidates to prepare community to intelligently vote.

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

Good solid analytical writing. Graphics for readers to see election results by town. Critical analysis of Top Funders of Campaigns and MONEY and Election news articles (different approach). Color photos.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Excellent extensive in-depth investigative and critical reporting on Recall of Fall River Mayor. Multiple interviews, varying perspectives, page one color presentations, unrelenting coverage of every aspect from court hearings to candidate antics to post-election coverage. Fantastic.

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

Three Prong Election coverage gave readers an informed choice. First, 4 issue-oriented columns ran on a rotating basis each Sunday; second, examination of the role money played in the campaign; third, reports on forums and debates.

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

Good solid Governor's race coverage. Comparing Baker and Coakley, offering readers a real choice in their voting analyses.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

Comprehensive in-depth campaign analysis of critical campaign issues such as statewide error costing taxpayers thousands of dollars, education reform, the economy. Solid well-written detailed reporting resulting in multiple letters to the editor. Unusual front page coverage every Sunday and Monday during October. Bold front page design. Excellent day after Election Day features.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Curt Peterson, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT**

Peterson's story "Wheels on Meals: locals help out state by harvesting roadkill," is an offbeat and fascinating read. It has good reporting, great characters, a smart headline, and spare, respectful writing. It was topped by a haunting photo (by reporter Peterson) on page one of 70-year-old Raymond Thompson, one of the rural residents receiving roadkill deer. Peterson compliments Thompson with a good look at a resourceful Windsor, VT woman also on the deer list.

Second Place: **Joshua Boyd, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA**

Boyd interviewed the oldest member of the Ipswich Bay Yacht Club in "Remembering an epic journey" and interesting sailing stories flowed. Stories included 96-year-old Jake Burrigge's 1988 trans-Atlantic sail. He's still sharp, bearded and appropriately crusty.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Stringfellow nicely profiled Vineyard resident Jack Blake in "Oyster farmer tills Katama Bay." It would have been easy for a lesser writer to focus on the hardworking Blake's disability, but Stringfellow doesn't mention polio until midway through the piece. His finely-done look at Blake's life on the changing Vineyard and on the water is captivating.

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

Flowers took a staple of local-newspaper coverage, the retiring school teacher, and in "Student favorite Nienow retires" elevated it to a well-done story about a real person who is much more interesting than the stereotype.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Julia Bergman, The Day, New London, CT**

Good photos elevate this well-written profile. An easy and quick read despite its length. Good opening segment helps bring an interesting person to life. Quotes are spot-on and enhance the narrative and give it pop. A bit too biographical at times, but anecdotes do add to the picture of this unique person.

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

A good presentation, highlighting subjects name in subhead is a plus. A timely and engaging profile that captures the dedication and contribution by this nurse's nurse. Family comments expand the perspective.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Third Place: **Kevin P. O'Connor, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Nicely written story that is a good read. Would like to know more about the subject, how she lives in Haiti and how she grew up, but there is enough here to get a solid sense of who she is and what she does.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

A well-written story that brings out the spirit, personality and humanity of the subject. Holds the readers attention and is informative, A nice, clear and concise profile.

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

A well-written, good read. Captures subject's style and some of the personality of a well-known member of the community. Video a plus.

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

Story is enhanced by the reporter getting the subject to open up about her difficult life. Great photos on page one.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Melissa Shaw, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

Melissa Shaw separates her personality profile story from the rest of the entries not only with her topic, but particularly with her outstanding writing style and it's attendant details. Her story of, "How one mother turned grief into a 20-year mission to help the families of homicide victims" is, as it should be, a compelling read from beginning to end. Melissa makes it easy to ride along with her interview of Clementina Chery as the woman moved from grieving over the shooting death of her son to founding an organization to assist other families suffering from the pain and emotions of losing a loved one to homicide.

Second Place: **Lisa Lynn, Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT**

Lisa Lynn continues the winning theme of this category with a very well-written and detailed story. Lisa brings to readers the captivating saga of Kasie Enman, a young woman from Vermont making an international name for herself not only as a marathon runner, but in "one of the toughest sports in the world: ultra skyrunning." This sport, seemingly little known to the general populace, is essentially racing up mountains. From beginning to end a reader finds a nice flow and an enjoyable story about how this young woman lives her life in this unusual sport and manages a normal family life as a mother and a wife.

Third Place: **Jonathan Clancy, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI**

Great story on how a man blind for nearly all of his life carried on as a Rhode Island boatbuilder. With his story, Jonathan captures in detail the theme one hears of so much: how a person afflicted in some way by some debilitation dedicates themselves to overcoming that affliction and, indeed, strives on to success. As with other winners in this category, the story carries the reader to it's conclusion with ease.

OBITUARIES

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Woody Hochswender, The Lakeville Journal, Lakeville, CT**

This remembrance of Oscar de la Renta is deserving of first place not because the subject was so well-known, but because it is so well-written. It is sort of a "warts-and-all" tribute told in a most engaging way, full of vivid scene-setting anecdotes and clever turns of phrases. It rightly skips all of the designer's well-documented accomplishments and focuses instead on the writer's keen observations.

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

A well-told touching tale of a man stricken with ALS. The writer adds many voices to this story to weave in the rich and interesting aspects of Aaron Loder's life.

Third Place: **Michael Torelli, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT**

A complete and well-told tribute of a man every small town would be blessed to have. The writer impressively includes both early years and later ones to round out and capture the life of a cherished citizen.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Emily Clark, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA**

While not an obituary in the traditional sense, this tribute to an ordinary resident, yet extraordinary person, poignantly captures the essence of Grace Rudolph. The extremely well-written piece obviously comes from the heart and makes the reader wishing she had known this lovely human being.

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

It would be easy to give this obituary an award because of the notoriety of Mike Nichols. But that is not the case. The reporter was able to speak personally with other well-known A-Listers instead of relying on quotes published in other newspapers. This shows a great effort. To cap it off, the information about Nichols' tangling with the newspaper itself is priceless.

Second Place: **Doug Hasting, Burlington Union, Burlington, MA**

The column on Mary McGinn made me think how unlucky some of us have been without knowing her. The Father's Day column had a great hook, and eventually revealed that he was writing about his own father.

Third Place: **Joe McConnell, Saugus Advertiser, Saugus, MA**

Joe makes a nice stab at showing how inept the New England Patriots were in the early years. He just scratches the surface with some of the many early misfortunes, but raises an interesting question: whether the hatred for the Patriots matches the hatred shown to the Boston Celtics years ago.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Heart tugging column about Pete Frates and his battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) makes a stand about naming him Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year for 2014. Stacey also drives home the point that there is more to life than sports.

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

Burt has the ability to make you feel like you are sitting next to him for the story of his that you are reading.

Third Place: **Peter Gobis, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**

Gobis gives us a rare look inside the head of a college hockey official with his strong writing.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

Glad to see the editors are not afraid to start a sports column on page one! His historic look at racism by the Red Sox ownership is a must read for all fans.

Second Place: **Bill Higgins, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
"Forever the Coach" is a nice read about a faithful coach and Jamie Benoit Samuelson looks like a class act.

Third Place: **Mike Loftus, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA**
Loftus knows his pro hockey.

DESIGN

ILLUSTRATION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Robert Mulholland, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT**

Wonderful! A very traditional feel. Like the accent on the flag.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Marilyn Brackett, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH**
Fun illustration. Love the expression on the girl's face!

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

A bit complex, but well-executed and helpful to readers. Good job!

ILLUSTRATION/INFOGRAPHICS (SPECIALTY)

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Anne Ewing, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI**

Excellent! Good illustration technique and a good sense of humor in the writing. Nice typography. A clear winner!

Second Place: **Melissa Stocker, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**

Good work with this style of illustration. Fun to look at, like a page out of "Where's Waldo?" It's entertaining!

INFOGRAPHICS

Daily Newspapers

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

Good work. Lots of info, well presented. The cigarette butt adds a good touch. Glad to see the "want to quit" item.

Second Place: **Emely DeSanto, The Herald News, Fall River, MA**

Good use of color and photo. Clear, simple, easy to follow.

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

Lots of good info here. Another good job putting graphics and photo together.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A NICHE PRODUCT

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Patrick Phillips, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA**

Wow! This is excellent! Great use of color, negative space and typography. An elegant product.

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

Nice work. A clean, open feel. Comfortable to read. Inviting.

Third Place: **Kimberly Whalen, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT**
Good typography and generous use of photos. Nice attention to color.

Third Place: Donna Whitehead, Mansfield News, Mansfield, MA

Her common sensical touch strikes just the right note.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Eric Davis, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Proponent of some sound, well-argued, down-home advice on important issues.

Second Place: Bill Eville, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Deep reflections on the universal act of parenting, through one very sentimental man's eyes.

Third Place: Michael West, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Admirable job of promoting scientific literacy of an astronomical sort in the unlikely venue of a weekly newspaper.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Melissa Babcock, The Day, New London, CT

Melissa Babcock shoots straight about battling breast cancer at age 31. Her tone is confiding, hopeful, vulnerable as she reveals every scary step she takes. Her conversation with the reader has a spontaneous aspect, though it is clear her writing is concisely crafted. Purposeful writing that moves a reader to action. Hundreds will make an appointment for mammograms immediately. I did.

Second Place: Steve Damish, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

In 'Texting Your Stairways to Heaven,' Steve Damish rails against distracted drivers on the South Shore as if he's talking to "you." His angry tone feels personal, as he waves stats in the reader's face that are both startling and persuasive about the increase of traffic accidents due to non-stop texters. Damish's column 'When Cancer Cure Becomes a Child Killer' brings attention to a rarely discussed topic. Under-funding for research, outdated treatments, and life long conditions from harsh treatments for children. Spotlight column writing at its best.

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

"Talking Trash While the Ruins Form" zeros in on growing urban blight while city councilors talk ad nauseam about trash disposal. Dion creates snarky visuals of political avoidance and impotence. His exasperation is entertaining and to-the-point. Even non-residents of Fall River will want to read more. In "Spray Painting The First Amendment," Dion blasts the sexism leveled against Liz Sousa, Fall River Corporation Counsel, who posted a photo of herself in a short skirt on FaceBook. He calls out double standard criticism, and jeers at posted obscenities posing as social commentary. Dion turns the tables when he rightly asks what this teaches our daughters. Edgy writing that razors through b.s.

Honorable Mention: Steve Urbon, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Steve Urbon featured a unique choice of subjects. In this column 'A Real Basket Case' he pointed out the probable end to the Nantucket Lightship Basket industry if a complete ban of ivory, including discarded piano keys, is passed. In 'Douglass Recognition Still Falls Short in New Bedford,' Steve Urbon feels proper acknowledgment for abolitionist Frederick Douglass has been wanting since 1996 when a tiny industrial street was named for the leader's one time home. He breathes life and new consideration into subjects easily overlooked.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

Tracey O'Shaughnessy's column 'Pay a little, cough a lot, pay a lot and cough a little' uses her own asthma to indict the medical and insurance industry's high costs to consumers, and the near impossible labyrinth of access and cost comparison. O'Shaughnessy's other column 'What do you do when you are someone's only friend?' shares her dilemma of a long-time, socially inept best friend of her husband's who is now ailing, alone and lives far away; a peripheral responsibility many face. She nudges us toward action. O'Shaughnessy's self-revelations deeply resonate with readers, and often with exemplary compassion and good reporting.

Second Place: Tim Miller, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Tim Miller's columns 'Remember the Fender Line' and 'Living The Dream' are engaging, personal experiences. Through him, the reader discovers tools for coping and insights into every day appreciation. It's wisdom in a 500-word, flavorful swallow.

Third Place: Clive McFarlane, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Clive McFarlane's 'Grieving Family Looks Ahead for Comfort' zeroes in on how a family loses an exemplary son to gun violence, yet family members are rooted in determination and hope for the future. McFarlane's use of dialogue gives them flesh and spirit. McFarlane's column 'Mirror on Media Doesn't Reflect All' observes the negative assumptions against the media as a collective, and correspondingly, to him as an individual. Common grudges against the media serve as an effective, new lens to re-examine prejudice.

SPORTS COLUMN

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Karl Lindholm, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Strong writing by Lindholm. Loved the column about his father playing football and the player included in his thesis. He takes a look at presidents who try to play golf, which adds a fun aspect to the writing.

Third Place: David Dore, Leominster Champion, Leominster, MA

A very well-written piece on a man who meant so much to his community. The obituary highlights what he is most known for – Christmas decorations – but in addition gives the reader a glimpse into his earlier years.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Cliff Clark and Nick Mallard, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

An outstanding package of print stories and online presentations to celebrate the positive impact one man can have by "Looking back on the life of a community icon." Well done.

Second Place: Michelle Monroe, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

A very well written story that flows for an easy read with a compilation of details and information about a unique individual. As with all good story-telling, it is an obituary that keeps the reader's attention from beginning to end.

Third Place: Lee Howard, The Day, New London, CT

Reporter Lee Howard continues the tradition of quality writing and reporting at The Day with his obituary about Charlie Frink, "A 'simple' man of music." As with others honored, the details and knowledge expressed in the story make this a memorable record of history.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

Fraser, in his article "A flat-out enthusiastic fisherman," gave readers an in-depth story about one of the readership area's premier fishermen. Not only did the obituary give details about the subject's life, but gave a warm look at his personality.

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

McCormick's description of an amazing 26-year-old truly explained the story's headline, "She had so much love to give." It was an amazing glimpse into the life of a young woman who beat cancer three times before finally losing her fourth battle.

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ISSUE COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Amanda Drane, Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

A strong look at area policing and racial bias. Amanda Drane shines the spotlight on police ignorance and indifference to an age-old police practice and shows how any person of color can be treated differently or indifferently simply by crossing municipal lines. An eye-opening look at police inconsistency.

Second Place: Joshua Lyford, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

An interesting and sometimes sad journey into the semantics of race and how little we have come when it comes to discussing it. Joshua Lyford tries to clarify the term and in so doing shows how misinformed some people can be when it comes to race issues.

Third Place: Jay Turner, Canton Citizen, Canton, MA

Jay Turner reveals the reactionary nature of racial issues in investigating the good intentions behind one man's attempt to make a positive statement.

Honorable Mention: Abby Ledoux, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT

An interesting sketch by Abby Ledoux of two Somalians' battle to escape colonial forces and forge new identities for themselves in America.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Dave Eisenstadter, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Dave Eisenstadter does a great job in profiling the stories of Bryan Torres and Angelica Monge as they navigate the Massachusetts higher education system in search of an equal opportunity, a quality education and better lives through the hope provided by the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Eisenstadter expertly sources their journeys while providing a detailed account of how "it takes a (dedicated) village" to educate these youngsters.

Second Place: Amelia Pak-Harvey, The Sun, Lowell, MA

Thanks to Amelia Pak-Harvey for providing a revealing glimpse of life for many immigrant students who, through no fault of their own, are at risk for falling between the cracks of a faulty U.S. immigration system and a public school bureaucracy that more often than not acts as a brake instead of a facilitator. Pak-Harvey shows how students from two families cope and remain determined against the odds pushed astronomically high by our do-nothing Congress.

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

Auditi Guha excellently documents the complicated business of diversity in higher education, revealing how well-meaning-but-ignorant campus police set the stereotypically inept police machinery in motion and set racial relations back a decade in the process.

Honorable Mention: Samantha Allen and Steve Foskett, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Kudos to the paper's Samantha Allen and Steve Foskett for doing a great civic service in revealing the genesis and subsequent fruition of attempts by civic leaders to foster a race dialogue.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Ruth Thompson, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA

Persistent and compelling ongoing coverage of the Boston Archdiocese’s decade-long attempt to close the St. Francis X. Cabrini Church through legal means and over the resistance of its fervently loyal parishioners.

Second Place: James Bessette, North-East Independent, North Kingstown, RI

An in-depth look at the story of how the repeated sexual indiscretions of one Rhode Island priest forever negatively altered the lives of many families.

Third Place: Taylor Vortherms, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

A joyful piece about how one father and son have ministered in their community to the benefit of many. The writer’s breezy use of direct quotes allowed the story to breathe and the personalities of the main characters emerge.

Daily Newspapers

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

A simple enough story, deftly written to evoke nice memories and emotion, while reporting on a real issue facing congregations – whether to find dollars to keep real church bells ringing or invest in electronic, recorded sounds.

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

A clear-eyed primer that uses one mosque to explain to readers the basics of Islam: peace and harmony – not death and destruction.

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

An interesting, informative look at how dwindling, cash-strapped congregations are struggling to pay for repairs and upgrades to their deteriorating church facilities.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Chris Shott, Wareham Courier, Wareham, MA
Informs readership in a clear and readable way – sans cheap puns – about a municipal purchase by the local sewer department of visual technology that will save taxpayers money.

Second Place: Max Bowen, Dedham Transcript, Dedham, MA

An updated look at the precision of DNA testing in the courtroom. His explanation of the new technology is dead-on and lucid.

Third Place: Ethan Hartley, Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA
Solid reporting on a lifesaving new device gaining FDA approval.

Honorable Mention: Liz Graves, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Tom Walsh, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Incredible expenditure of energy to explain the all-important energy source that powers our lives. Very comprehensive and informative.

Second Place: Ken Picard, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Exhilarating exploration of a smartphone app that could rewrite public health in remote places.

Third Place: Mara Dresner, Wethersfield Life, Wethersfield, CT

A well-done cautionary tale about overdependence on digital technology.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Dave Eisenstadter, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Excellent account of a treatment breakthrough that could not only help tame the worldwide scourge of malaria but be harnessed to treat other deadly diseases more effectively.

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

A clear discussion, without any bias, of work being done to combat the dire depopulation of codfish in the northeast.

Third Place: April M. Crehan, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Though more of a crime story than a science story, this article documents the misapplication of telecommunications technology in perpetrating dangerous and costly pranks.

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Specialty Newspapers

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

Informative, well-written story. Scary topic. Sensitive treatment of the subject and an inquisitive approach. Excellent. Great lede.

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

Another solid effort by Walter about a complex subject. Shed a bright light on this devastating epidemic, covered from so many different angles.

Third Place: Janice Harvey, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Columnist and teacher Janice Harvey wrote 'Sam Castro is Dead' and shares how an open heart and open arms can make a difference to grieving students when a classmate is shot and killed, even when the comforter has no answers. Poignant and authentic writing.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Alice Coyle, Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA

Alice Coyle observes the comeback of vinyl records in 'Putting a new spin on it.' In her column 'Watt a Shame,' Coyle blasts “energy shaming,” where the utility company rates and compares electricity usage among neighbors. Her columns are laugh-out-loud cultural time capsules.

Second Place: Peter Chianca, Georgetown Record, Georgetown, MA

Peter Chianca’s humor is detail driven whether it’s about surrounding distractions at a concert or when his cat goes M.I.A. and returns. Humor well captured in the moment.

Third Place: Stephen R. Pastore, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

Stephen Pastore has a rare comedic talent and that is keeping humor local, local, local. His columns 'Cape Cod TV' and 'What it means to be a Patriot in Barnstable' capture the funny nuances of towns on Cape Cod.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Stephen Fry, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Wine columnist Stephen Fry’s column 'Red Eye' is set in a cowboy saloon with a stranger slinging a Shannon Ridge Wrangler Red. In Fry’s 'Do you know your wine IQ,' his multiple choices are entertaining even as they educate. Stephen Fry is a witty oenophile.

Second Place: Nicole Galland and Kate Feiffer, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Nicole Galland keeps modern etiquette on a small island fresh and funny in her weekly advice column. It’s not easy to offer up manners and discretion to the drama-inclined in an engaging way, but Galland does it with flair.

Third Place: Jessie Raymond, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Jessie Raymond is a strong comedic storyteller when she shares her experiences in 'Help! My daughter got her permit' and in 'Fix a Treadmill, Strengthen a Union.' Vivid, relatable humor.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Marc Munroe Dion’s two columns 'Careful what you wish for on PAYT' and 'We could (but won’t) cash in on Lizzie-mania' use humor to best political advantage: to expose the absurdity of the Powers That Be (shortsighted). It’s writing with a rhythm and comical cadence that ends with laughable politics as the punchline.

Second Place: Philip Maddocks, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Satire is Philip Maddocks' strong suit in his two columns 'Christie Counting on Straight Talk Bus to Salvage Campaign' and in 'GOP unsure how to respond to El Chapo’s entry into race.' Inventive and clever political writing.

Third Place: Anika Clark, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Anika Clark in 'Getting Down and Busy Salamander-style' performs a feat of writing magic: making the mating season for salamanders a laugh-out-loud topic. Well done. 'Of curly fries and common sense' takes on marathon training, and learns gusto doesn’t always make the gal, but humor definitely does.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Saralee Perel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Saralee Perel’s two columns 'Age is just a number? What bunk!' and 'Coupons, BOGOs and Caskets' are at turns, comical and touching. Easy, breezy hilarity.

Second Place: Tim Miller, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Tim Miller’s two columns 'Conversations with a Squirrel' and 'Welcome to My Nightmare' are examples of what he serves up regularly to readers: a welcome respite from daily reality into his comical mind.

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

Ron Chimelis writes about his role as a parent whose opinion is asked, but whose thoughts don’t count in 'What’s in a name? It depends...' and 'Fashion battle not one dad can win.' Winsome, funny writing.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: John Quattrucci, Easton Journal, Easton, MA
Compresses a great deal of humanity in a few sentences.

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

Articulately expresses the value of fighting for social change.

EDITORIAL WRITING

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

The writer elevates his subject matter with the richness of his language.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

The author pens persuasive, elegant editorials on large issues of significance to her readership whether it be condemning police indifference to a missing person, questioning the make-up of the governor's panel on opioid addiction or making the case that justice is better served by putting a notorious killer in prison for life rather than executing him. First class thinking and writing.

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

The writer ably points the way forward with thoughtful, informative, opinionated editorials on such diverse issues of intense local interest as race relations and where the dog park should be.

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

Pithy, edgy editorials pushing and prodding local officials to do better. A good reason for Sun readers to open to the editorial page.

EDITORIAL/OPINION WRITING

Specialty Newspapers

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

School superintendent is "graded" and fails. A unique presentation, and highly effective.

COMMENTARY

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: **Joyce Pellino Crane, Westford Eagle, Westford, MA**

This column is a soft-spoken but powerful argument on behalf of homeless veterans.

Second Place: **Lee J. Kahrs, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**

Deeply personal and heartfelt. It must have taken courage to write this piece.

Daily Newspapers

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

With startling honesty, the writer says he knows the much-maligned child protection system in his state can work - because

it worked for him. He takes readers along on a visit to his past as an abuse victim with a riveting, detailed narrative that makes this serious problem come alive and offers cause for hope.

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

In "Preparing for Disaster" and three other pieces, an environmental policy expert tries his hand at explaining to the newspaper's readers a difficult, controversial, existential issue: climate change. It's a good read. Clarity, organizing skills and knowledge are his allies.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

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

Joe Marshall gets the point across sharply by comparing it to a seasonal tradition.

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

Snappy and witty.

Third Place: **Jules Feiffer and Paul Karasik, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

The non-traditional format might surprise the reader, but it's effective.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: **Donald Landgren, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**

Just the right touch of humor to spotlight a serious topic.

COLUMNS

COLUMNIST

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: **Dr. Donald DeMarco, The Catholic Transcript, Hartford, CT**

Dr. Donald DeMarco's columns 'How Many Eyes Does it Take to See' and 'The End to Motherhood' use quotes, metaphors and poetic insight to create universal resonance in spiritual matters.

Second Place: **Loretta Brady and Eric Ratinoff, New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH**

In their columns 'Listening for opportunities: Harvard Pilgrim's Eastern Initiative' and in 'Marketing Multiculturally: Are you inclusive in your selling?,' Loretta Brady and Eric Ratinoff show how corporate success is created by listening to the voices of diversity, and how businesses can take a stand to change patterns of discrimination. A business blueprint in column form that is practical, grounded and full of hope.

Third Place: **Karen Carlo Ruhren, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI**

Karen took me on a journey with her subjects. Timely and important topic. Very well done. The dilemma and the pain of the subjects are captured well.

Honorable Mention: **Melissa Shaw, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**

The subject was one I had not thought of and the story covered the topic well. It's a niche story but really well done.

Honorable Mention: **Bob Sanders, New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH**

Very informative. Well-written analysis of a complex story with good graphics.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Kate Czaplinski, The Trumbull Times, Trumbull, CT**

Exceptionally well written - an important look inside the myths and misunderstandings of depression.

Second Place: **Ethan Hartley, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA**

One of the most in-depth and detailed accounts of sex trafficking we've ever seen.

Third Place: **Susan Parkou Weinstein, Easton Journal, Easton, MA**

Takes us behind the scenes to the heartbreak that continues many years after the initial headlines.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: **Olivia Hull and Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**

An illuminating look at dreadful 'housing' in tents for locals in high season on affluent Martha's Vineyard. Solid reporting.

Second Place: **Amanda Drane, Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA**

A highly engaging look at an issue that shouldn't still be with us in 2015/16.

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

If a dude craps in the woods, is he a jerk? (YES!). This entertaining take on a disturbing phenomenon will make great reading on the commode.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: **Ben Paulin, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA**

A startling account. The writing is arresting and the photography really captures this worst kind of homelessness.

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

Lovely storytelling on a unique and truly heartwarming tale. Readers can't help but smile.

Third Place: **Curt Brown, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**

Impeccably reported and written with nuance and authority.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

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

This compelling story opens up a window on a world few of us are aware even exists.

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

An intriguing look at an unconventional approach to treating addiction in "Vacationland."

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

Brad Petrishen's colorful portrait puts a face on the opioid addiction scourge. Great detail here!

SPORTS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: **Amanda C. Thompson, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**

Strong coverage leading up to the junior triathlon as well as the adult race. You look at the races from the participants', the volunteers' and the organizers' points of view, giving a complete overview of the events and including the race's focus on diabetes research.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

A nice feature about a unique group of older hockey players. You do a good job of letting your sources tell their stories.

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

Nice opening. Good choice for a profile. Good use of historical information - I especially liked the Benoit anecdote.

Third Place: **Scott Souza, Waltham News Tribune, Waltham, MA**

Good job finding appropriate sources to provide telling anecdotes in this tribute to this former coach.

SPORTS STORY

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Great job mixing the past with the present. Good details that come from paying attention.

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

Looking for stories off the court, field or in this case, the ring often gives an emotional aspect to a story that may be lacking from the event coverage. This story does just that.

Third Place: Michael Muldoon, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

While not the first story on Tom Palleschi's comeback season, this piece provides a nice of background and current events, held together with splashes of humor.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Bill Doyle, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The clear winner in this category, this story takes a look at a trend on the local, regional and national levels. Well-sourced and well-researched.

Second Place: Matt Langone, The Sun, Lowell, MA

A good topic to focus on.

Third Place: Matt Goisman, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

What could have been just a simple preview of two Special Olympians advancing to the world championships goes beyond in the second half of the story. There is focus on the LIFE program and how it incorporates sports and fitness into the lifestyle.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Adam K. Ellis, The Sentinel, Marion, MA

This story is a cut above and doesn't shy away from showing the coach's relationship with players, colleagues and parents.

Second Place: Michael Catarevas, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT

You can feel the first-time marathoner Barbara Clayton's energy and desire to succeed.

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

A sweet little tale of a stolen kiss in the Boston Marathon.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Taylor Vortherms, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

A superb piece of writing about a pioneering woman. Her competitive spirit is palpable.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Paul Miller, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

In a crowded field, Miller tells the story of a young woman boxer with grace and polish. No trauma, no crisis. A well told tale that brings characters into focus. Fine reading.

Second Place: Jay Butynski, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

No hype. A study in concentration. An ode to a young girl in a boys' sport with terrific photos.

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

Massive, detailed, fascinating.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Steve Barlow, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Great package. Clear, fluid writing; in places as smooth as The Shot itself. Incredible graphics. Pin-point memories from many who were there when UConn basketball grew up.

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

This piece is written on a higher plane. It could have been sappy, but Toland's writing captures Picard's determination.

SPOT NEWS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Frank Mortimer and Bill Stedman, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA

Very impressive entry about a problematic intersection. The reporter was not deterred in pursuing this story after the accident luckily turned out not to be a fatal crash. He happened upon the scene while riding his bicycle to work and gathered the facts while making sure there were photos as well. Great page one presentation with those photos by his partner as well as graphics and an accompanying editorial. The fact that this story was developed beyond the original incident makes this worthy of first place.

Second Place: Dan MacAlpine, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

The writer pulled out all the stops – including going to the scene in his pajamas – to get this story. This is the kind of initiative and dedication that all newspapers want in a reporter. The story itself was complete and well told. The presentation and accompanying information on how to help the burned out family is excellent.

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Dean provides the life history of the black bear family that has captured the imagination of people who've seen them foraging on Mount Tom.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Dave Stewart, New Canaan Advertiser, New Canaan, CT

Outstanding design and reproduction, terrific photography that pops off the page, strong writing and analysis make of compelling sports preview section. The New Canaan Advertiser put it all together in their Fall Sports Preview. Once again, Dave Stewart did a masterful job covering each of the Fall sports.

First Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Special kudos go out the The Stowe Reporter and their RIDE special section produced in cooperation with the Stowe Mountain Bike Club. This is a perfect example of a newspaper thinking "out of the box", creating an in-depth special tabloid focused on a popular recreational sport that spans all ages. The editorial direction isn't about sports performance, but rather providing helpful information for enjoying the sport. Photography and reproduction is solid. Advertising support was particularly strong with nine pages of support in a twenty page tab.

Second Place: David Carty, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA

The Foxboro Reporter's Football Preview, under the masterful direction of David Carty, provided as complete of an analysis of the upcoming season as one could find in a special section. From an Xs and Os standpoint, and positional analysis, this section is tops. Excellent photography.

Third Place: Greg Lederer, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT

Our hats go off to sports editor Greg Lederer for his outstanding review of the high school sports season through the Cheshire Herald. It is a daunting task to produce a high school sports preview section. Greg is a master!

Third Place: Christopher McDaniel, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA

Our hats go off to Sports editor Chris McDaniel for this comprehensive coverage of Hingham ice hockey. It is a daunting task producing a special high school sports section. Chris is a master!

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Salem News, Salem, MA

Major project by the Salem News to find the best athletes in high school football in its area. What a great way to start a local debate and feedback. Lots of hard work and research to complete the twelve day project.

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Solid effort by the Telegram and Gazette staff for the Super Bowl run by the Patriots. Lots done by various papers, but this was the one that caught the most attention of judges. Rich Garvan and Jennifer Toland covered all the bases.

Third Place: Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Ten pages, with no ads, of a special section is a keepsake about the Ali-Liston heavyweight fight fifty years ago. Great work by Kalle Oakes, especially reporting on the "Scoop" of breaking the story of the fight being held in Maine.

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL WRITING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Shaw Israel Izikson, The Winsted Journal, Winsted, CT

These editorials are pithy and punchy. The writer is not afraid to criticize anyone - elected officials and readers included.

Second Place: David Johnson, Milton Times, Milton, MA

Highly readable. The writer cites history and pop culture. He keeps sentences and paragraphs reasonably short, and makes his points with emphasis.

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

Well written. The writer informs as much as advocates.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Hugh Bowden, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

These editorials are far from strident. They make their point in a cool, calm manner.

Second Place: Marianne Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

The voice of reason prevails in these well-written pieces.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Emerson Lynn, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

The writer lauds a beloved local character, demands that a misbehaving elected official leave office and leads a campaign to clean up the region's polluted watersheds in well-written, thoroughly researched editorials on subjects of local importance. Meat and potatoes work nicely done.

Second Place: Larry Parnass, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Clear and persuasive editorials on a diverse and interesting array of significant issues. A great service to readers.

Second Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

With a wide variety of topics, well written stories and attractive photography coupled with an engaging presentation, the content of this quarterly health magazine does the job for it's readers. Indeed, the content is seemingly so relevant to the health issues of the local communities that it's readers are most likely always looking forward to the next issue.

Third Place: South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI

If you live or visit the south county of Rhode Island, this magazine is a must for knowing what's going on and where and when. It is a bright, entertaining publication filled with advertising and stories that should satisfy any readers idea of where to go and what to do in any season.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

A first rate magazine that tops all others, although by a slim margin over the second place winners, in meeting the category criteria. The story content is consistently interesting, well-written and accompanied by wonderful photographs. It does not miss a beat in finding and focusing on interesting topics. The advertising is impressive, as are the stories, and coupled with an attractive layout this magazine does an exceptional job of capturing the readers interest not only with stories from the Worcester region, but from around New England.

Second Place: The Salem News, Salem, MA

Published by the same company, Marblehead Home and Style and the Newburyport Magazine are independent in their focus on local features and photos of people and places in the regions they cover. The stories are consistently well written and edited and equally enhanced by the attending photographs. Each magazine holds the attention of the reader regarding the story selection, event calendars and community topics along with the interesting and helpful advertising presentation. Both magazines deserve considerable applause coming from small dailies doing a great job with their niche publications.

Second Place: Ann Reily, The Daily News, Newburyport, MA

Published by the same company, the Newburyport Magazine and Marblehead Home and Style are independent in their focus on local features and photos of people and places in the regions they cover. The stories are consistently well written and edited and equally enhanced by the attending photographs. Each magazine holds the attention of the reader regarding the story selection, event calendars and community topics along with the interesting and helpful advertising presentation. Both magazines deserve considerable applause coming from small dailies doing a great job with their niche publications.

Third Place: Kenzie Travers, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

It is a tough job for a small daily to compete in this category

using newsprint for its niche publication versus the glossy paper publications of so many others. The ELF (Enjoy Life to the Fullest in the Monadnock Region on New Hampshire) holds up to the competition just fine. It has a wide variety of interesting content, colorful, action photography and an impressive package of advertising that seemingly leaves out no event, activity or social topic in the Monadnock region. Readers of the ELF can be assured they are getting the best effort from the newspaper to serve the region's entertainment needs.

SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: William Geoghegan, South County Independent, S. Kingstown, RI

The Independent ties it all together into a clean, highly attractive, and comprehensive weekly sports report. The in-depth coverage with a strong mix and variety of high school and college sports is excellent. The design is clean. The action photography is terrific. It's a shame all newspapers don't have access to this type of print reproduction.

Second Place: Christopher Hurley, Hamilton/Wenham Chronicle, Hamilton/Wenham, MA

The Chronicle does a heck of a job covering major high school sports events. The editorial approach here is to focus on the top events of the week rather than broad brush coverage of a variety. The writing is superb. The photography and reproduction is excellent. We also like the inclusion of some youth sports.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Solid sports section with two major pieces on the cover (and jumping inside). Nice mix of winter wrap-up along with a spring start.

Second Place: Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Wonderful sports section filled with a wide range of sports stories!

Third Place: The Telegraph, Nashua, NH

Great writing on the cover by local writers.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Incredible team effort by Ledger staff to provide coverage for over fifteen football games on Thanksgiving Day!

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

8-page section packed with heart-warming feature on the cover with numerous sports covered inside. Excellent writing!

SPOT NEWS STORY

Third Place: Joyce Pellino Crane, Westford Eagle, Westford, MA

A very complete story on a very tragic accident. The reporter weaves in information on the young man's life as well as information about the ski area itself. A handsome page one presentation also included information on the funeral and a memorial fund.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

This writer proves that not all weather stories are equal. It is extremely well-written, full of active verbs, and jam-packed with information. The reader gets cold merely reading it. The reporter touches all the bases – power outages, survival stories and even the birth of babies. The full page of photos makes this a complete package.

Second Place: Olga Peters and Staff, The Commons, Windham County, VT

A well-pieced together accounting of brush fires and the damage they cause. This comprehensive story includes all of the necessary facts as well as some information gathered live at the scene. A staff photo of firefighters and a small sidebar round out this well-done story.

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

A well-done story from two perspectives – the family who lost their home and the firefighters who battled the blaze in frigid temperatures. Photos, both by the reporter and the fire department, show the horrible destruction the fire created. The incorporation of information on a fund is always helpful for the reader.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

Nice, detailed wrap-up on a tight deadline, with two related stories.

Second Place: Cody Shepard, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Cleanly written news story and feature.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Brad Petrishen, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Excellent feature lede on a breaking story with good quotes from witnesses.

Second Place: Donna Boynton and Brad Petrishen, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Tommy Gardner, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Another highly readable and educational take on something we all depend upon and take for granted. Gardner covers everything you ever wanted or needed to know about road salt and keeps it engaging from top to bottom.

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

A perfectly constructed piece of storytelling capturing the spirit and attitudes of veteran rail commuters between Connecticut's towny suburbs and the Big Apple, while weaving in details that reveal the challenges and pitfalls inherent in an aging transit system.

Third Place: Douglas Farmer, The Journal Register, Palmer, MA

This story was so well-constructed, I can't help but to think it inspired at least several readers to "take the road less traveled" while stopping to notice and smell the roses along the way. A delightful feature as much about travel as transportation – but it's all about how you got there.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Mary MacDonald, Providence Business News, Providence, RI

From a business reporting and economic sustainability perspective, Ms. MacDonald tackles a decidedly 'unsexy' topic and infuses her feature with great story-telling skill while incorporating critical data and input from informative sources and subjects.

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

Among several contenders who submissions focused on the 'Uber' phenomenon, this report delivered the most relevant details of importance to her community of readers. Also taking the critical final step of taking an Uber ride herself, in order to share that first person perspective.

Third Place: Jenna Fisher, Brookline Tab, Brookline, MA

Exporting the concept of keying into something or someone we see everyday, Fisher creates a delightful read and exploration of a profession through the eyes of individuals who do it everyday – obviously developing a great rapport with her subjects.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
On the subject of being careful what you ask for, the Gazette staff tackled the subject of residents safety along a new rail line with exhaustive attention to details that served readers and their community before delving into the process of developing new transportation services for commuters and tourists.

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

Kudos to Lawrence for digging deeper into a cop/courts beat story to develop a fantastic expose on how critical transportation options were denied to hundreds of those readers and community members who needed it most.

Third Place: Greg Smith, The Day, New London, CT

As nation-wide reports of crumbling transportation infrastructures become more frequent, Smith detailed the impact and implications related to the maintenance of one of the Northeast's most important highway choke points. This story was well-written and extremely timely.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Patrick Cassidy, Mary Ann Bragg, Ethan Genter, C.Ryan Barber and Geoff Spillane, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

While many reporters or papers might come at this subject from an environmental perspective, the Cape Cod Times applied great expertise and talent on this provocative series. The level of detail and variety of subjects combined with the writers' storytelling and willingness to ask and receive responses to hard questions was not to be outdone this year.

Second Place: Neal Simpson, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Simpson didn't walk away from this story without answers from sources who blamed the weather when a potentially deadly culprit was responsible. Kudos for dogged reporting and the ability to translate hard to obtain data into an important and engaging report.

Third Place: Mary Ann Bragg, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

An important focus as more cyclists take to the road and communities open up more venues for riders, bringing great depth of historical perspective.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Wellesley Townsman, Wellesley, MA

What a wonderful way to showcase artist talent! I'd love to know how many submissions this program has generated but really like the spotlight on "Hometown Talent".

Second Place: Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA

This is an inspirational program that can really spotlight hometown heroes. Questions: How many years have you been doing this and how many nominations have you received?? Very nice piece!

Third Place: Alice Coyle, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Kudos to the newspaper for spotlighting local veterans! I was surprised that this only garnered a dozen submissions though and hope the paper will continue to build this salute program.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

What a great project that involves area students AND is an interesting read for Cape Cod Times readers. Kudos to the paper for continuing this section, regardless of ad revenue!

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

I'd like to know how many participants this feature has but...it seems to seek great community input on topics of interest to the community. A very interactive endeavor.

Third Place: Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

I really like this program and hope the paper continues to build upon it. This program encourages people to take a leap into something they may otherwise not have done; keeps participants motivated; and probably motivates folks who don't formally participate.

AUDIENCE INVOLVEMENT

Specialty Newspapers

First Place: Christy Lynn and Anna Harrington, Vermont Sports, Middlebury, VT

What an entertaining style to get readers involved, dog person or not. I love the personal touch of the short but heartfelt stories included.

Second Place: Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI
Colorful spread - truly remarkable.

Third Place: Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

The annual writing contest is an inspiration for the author in all of us. Great selection of winners, each offers a beautiful story.

HEADLINE WRITING

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Noah Hoffenberg, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

Great pun!

Second Place: Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Craig Borges, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Makes a cliché an evocative theme.

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Solid living section that covers all the traditional topics. Nicely done. This particular entry also includes a ton of pages of articles battling breast cancer. A great community service that also attracts significant ad support.

SPECIAL SECTION OR SUPPLEMENT (EDITORIAL)

Specialty Newspapers

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

Bravo to a paper sending a reporter and photographer to connect Worcester's ties to Liberia and their fights against Ebola. Excellent story and superb photographs of the tragedy and the people's fight for survival.

Second Place: Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

David Rockefeller turns 100, and the Mount Desert Islander does an admirable job of telling of the family and David's generosity and their legacy on the local community. Not just a birthday, a celebration for the island.

Third Place: James Coogan and Jack Sheedy, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

Always a fun read. This section covers history and people from the early days to the present. This year's edition is another enriching addition to the archives.

Fourth Place: Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA

Solid coverage of a 50-year tradition. Stories, photos, calendars – all useful to locals and those returning home.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

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

Ah, the Martha's Vineyard Book Festival, a celebration of authors, writing and reading, and a local newspaper that delights in the event. Author profiles written locally and an incredible lineup listed in the calendar. Every paper should be this lucky and caring.

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

The paper offered a new supplement, The Local, in 2015, and this quarterly goes to five times a year publication. Locals and visitors get to meet their neighbors through this section. Want to know where the 40 island farms are or the fashion and food on the island or even about the science of peeing in the outdoors? It's all explained delightfully in the Local.

Third Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Nifty little publication, fit for tourists and locals.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Nicely done keepsake! Lots of everyday life photos and interesting stories. History, life today and a look to the future of Attleboro. Three sections of history and celebration. Nice!

Second Place: Chris Harris, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

The focus here is on eight special women offering advice to the next generation. Nice profiles.

Third Place: Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

This section is now in it's third year and providing an interesting look at 26 of the region's outstanding women. Nice interviews on all!

Fourth Place: Andy Tomolonis, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Good overview of summer fun in the SouthCoast. Features, recommendations, tips and calendars make this valuable for tourists and residents.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

A harpist on the cover tells the readers what a special section this is. The Cape Cod times writes of the region's talented high school seniors – each with a local profile. The breadth of who they are and their plans for the future make this a wonderful celebration. Special praise for the photographer's portraits.

Second Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

One of the best summer guides in New England! Beaches, water and the outdoors; where to take the kids (even on rainy days); the arts from film to concerts to the theater; sports – road races and the famed Cape Cod Baseball League, to nightlife, festivals and farmers markets – it's all here for residents and tourists! Who can resist the readers' top 10 picks on chowder, clams, ice cream and more. Valuable all season long and even for winter when planning summer 2016.

Third Place: The Sun, Lowell, MA

Billed as "heros who get the work done," this supplement salutes educators, public servants, clergy, farmers and more. Nice profiles on the women who make their communities work.

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION (EDITORIAL)

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Jamie Stringfellow, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

One does not have to be steeped in the arts to be both entertained and educated regarding the distinctive and varied arts community on the Island as presented by the Arts & Ideas Magazine. The magazine promotes itself as "unique" in helping to promote creative work and lives and their place on Martha's Vineyard. This magazine not only meets, but exceeds it's own promotion effort by consistently and thoroughly bringing art and entertainment features, news and events to residents and visitors to the Island.

FRONT PAGE

parochial high school. Skillfully blending colorful photographs, intelligent copy blocks and understated use of background color, the page designers focused the reader's eye on content and information without introducing unnecessary distractions or losing focus.

Second Place: The Herald News, Fall River, MA

How does one stand out in a field crowded with entries that focused on the obvious – the New England's biggest story of the year: the Winter of 2015? Focus is the answer, and the Herald News and the Standard Times both came through with attractively and intelligently packaged front pages. Rather than presenting encyclopedic "woe is me" litanies of all the winter had done to disrupt their readers' lives, both papers focused on particular aspects of the horrendous weather and its impact on what matters most – the condition of the roads in the Fall River area and the impact on emergency services in Bedford and the surrounding South Coast. Both packages used photos skillfully and intelligently to highlight and illustrate the importance of the content.

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

How does one stand out in a field crowded with entries that focused on the obvious – New England's biggest story of the year: the Winter of 2015? Focus is the answer, and the Standard-Times and the Herald News both came through with attractively and intelligently packaged front pages. Rather than presenting encyclopedic "woe is me" litanies of all the winter had done to disrupt their readers' lives, both papers focused on particular aspects of the horrendous weather and its impact on what matters most – the condition of the roads in the Fall River area and the impact on emergency services in Bedford and the surrounding South Coast. Both packages used photos skillfully and intelligently to highlight and illustrate the importance of the content.

Third Place: Shawn Cyr, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

This entry highlighted an often-overlooked, critically important responsibility of local journalists – reminding readers exactly how their lives were about to be altered by a new law banning the holding of cell phones while driving. Far too often the tendency is to cover the story of such new laws through the Legislature and then abandon them once the Legislature's work is done. However, laws like this one have their greatest impact when they go into effect, affecting nearly every driver in New Hampshire. The Sentinel's good timing pushed this entry into contention, along with the skillfully done and clever innovation of packaging an otherwise routine Q&A into the format of a text message "conversation."

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

With few visual elements to work with, this entry packaged a detail-rich graphic with otherwise routine press conference photos and "head shots" to elevate the narrative of a complicated, cross-country crime spree that began near Worcester and spanned almost the entire country before ending chillingly close to home.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

A lively and colorful photograph combined mug shots of the participating justices to aptly illustrate a divided Supreme Court's landmark ruling on the Constitutional right to same-sex marriage.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Jamie Stringfellow, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Martha's Vineyard Times puts together a really neat community lifestyle section with an excellent calendar of events and terrific feature stories. The great choice of photos used to capture events and a nicely done town columns section by resident correspondence. The tab format makes this something readers can keep around the house all week.

Second Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

This section covers all the typical topics of a good Arts & Leisure section, but what stands out is that the presentation is stunning. A beautiful job (and not just on the section front, but all throughout).

Third Place: The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Solid feature section and the "readers gallery" is a terrific idea that would go over well in any paper. I like that each week the paper reserves space to run items from readers - photos,

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Kenzie Travers, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

A nice mix of interesting content, fun and utility. This is a great concept task making use of freelancers, user-generated content and local business experts. Its chalk full of items readers would enjoy, and it has plenty of ad support. It features a fun and eclectic layout that works for this type of section. Readers will also love the tab format.

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

This Sunday living section is beautifully executed. Sure to be a reader favorite that they look forward to each week. It covers a ton of ground in terms of the wide breadth of topics it includes. The "Out & About" pictures add local people to the mix each week, which is sure to attract readership.

Second Place: Craig Borges, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Another common phrase used to sum up an important story.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Cute, backed up by a great lede.

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Bill Kirk, Andover Townsman, Andover, MA

Kirk's coverages of the town's use of open meeting and public record laws is an excellent example of how a local paper can reinforce for it's readers the importance of transparency. By continuing to push for documents that he believed were public and to report on the effort, Kirk forced public officials to reexamine their policies and to take steps toward a more open government. It's one thing to just report on a lack of transparency, it's another thing to fight against it and defend the public's right to know – Kirk and the Townsman succeeded in doing both.

Second Place: Paul Heintz, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Through public records requests and the review of various public filings, Heintz turned the potentially dull topic of campaign financing, into a compelling explanation of the conflicts of interests within the state's attorney general's office. Heintz connected the financial dots for readers, reporting 13 stories in less than two months and asking important questions related to the AG and his fundraising. Heintz did more than report the developments in this story though, he also reminded the readers with each article the importance of transparency and the public's right to know.

Third Place: Katy Savage, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

By describing how a community wrestled with concepts of transparency and accountability, Savage showed how the public's right to know can affect even the most basic of small town affairs. Her reporting described how perceived conflicts of interest can lead to mistrust within small boards of selectmen and why the best antidote is an engaged, informed citizenry.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Sun, Lowell, MA

The Sun's work is a reminder that watchdog journalism is a daily endeavor. The newspaper used the state's freedom of information laws consistently throughout the year to hold government officials accountable and report stories of public interest. By regularly reminding readers that transparency is needed to expose decisions made behind closed doors, the Sun proved itself a model advocate for the public's right to know.

Second Place: Haven Orecchio Egresitz, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

The Time's pursuit of documents related to the killing of a Bourne woman shows how FOI battles are often won in the courtroom. The newspaper committed significant time and resources into a successful legal fight that resulted in a compelling story of how that shooting occurred. It would have been easy to accept the court's impoundment as a barrier to information. Instead, the Times fought back and did a tremendous service to it's readers.

Third Place: Anna Burgess, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

By aggressively pursuing the details of a settlement agreement between town selectmen and a former town administrator, the Sentinel's Burgess reinforced the importance of open government. Her persistence – through interviewing and public record requests – ultimately unveiled secretive discussions among elected leaders that the public had a right to know. More so, her reporting sent the message that the Sentinel staff will be relentless in its pursuit of transparency.

PAGES AND SECTIONS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Stephen R. Pastore, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

"Edward Hopper's Cape Cod" was one of the most impressive pieces I've read in this contest. It was a thorough narrative of Hopper, his wife and life on Cape Cod. The chronicle of his life and politics made this reader sorry it wasn't a longer story.

Second Place: Mary Reines, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

The front page of the Arts and Entertainment section is captivating and imaginative. The variety and content inside pulls you through the section. I especially liked the 10 Things to do in Marblehead & Swampscott.

Third Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

The Swans Island historic photos article was captivating. The "Glances" was a nice blend of events going on in the area. The other very enjoyable read was "Art Meets Science."

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

"Getting Hooked" was an enthralling history lesson. The story "Books 'N' Blooms" and the "Coffee Connection" prove that this section is as diverse as it is absorbing. This is a well-rounded section sprinkled with appealing photographs.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

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

The Calendar section has wonderful articles on film and radio. A favorite has to be the Islanders Read portion with a review and background on books. There is a very comprehensive events calendar with ongoing events.

Third Place: The Commons, Windham County, VT

This section covers quite a bit of ground in a few pages. The Arts and Community Calendar is a lively, easy to read section identifying the town in bold type.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Marisa Nadolny and Maria Reagan, The Day, New London, CT

This article on depression-era art was illuminating. The information about the Federal Art Project for out-of-work artists and their creations keeps a reader enthralled in this story. Marisa Nadolny and Maria Reagan reached behind the paintings and easels divulging why the subject was used, as in "On the Rail" and small boat building.

Second Place: Ken Ross and Matt Maxwell, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

Pictures of Slater Mill and Union Cemetery capture the attention immediately. Kathie Raleigh presented a comprehensive and intriguing piece on New England ghosts.

Third Place: Ken Ross and Matt Maxwell, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA

The front page immediately catches the eye. Military awards and their association with the jewelry industry and Attleboro was a surprise.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

The Cape Week Summer is a lively treat with a whimsical variety of topics. The layout is easy to follow and the pictures make one long for summer. This would be the perfect section to have if a vacation in Cape Cod is on the horizon.

Second Place: Julia Ann Weekes, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

The startling, colorful front page grabs interest immediately. The entire section, "Grand Finales of Fright" is packed with information on haunted houses, art and music. The section includes a substantial calendar.

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

There is tons of information about business and the local economy in this annual special section that is presented in a way

that invites readership - well organized with lots of lists, pictures, callouts, etc. Plus, the town profiles are comprehensive and quite useful for readers, with contact information for local services. This section is designed to be saved and referred to again and again.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

A great mix of local business news and information with national/general interest business (wire). Really like the 'professional peer advice' Q&A with a local business leader. A very substantial business briefing.

Second Place: Shawn Cyr, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Lots of local business - stories, round up, appointments, and even a column by a local business advisor and executive coach. Would love to see a little more general interest business news however.

Third Place: The Day, New London, CT

Solid business briefing, but not as much local content as other contenders in this category.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

This is a complete local business section that does a good job of balancing general interest business with local business articles (with plenty of both). Love the one-on-one Q&A feature with a local business leader, and also the "Good Deeds" feature that reports on positive contributions local businesses are making in the community. Excellent presentation too; the tab format works well in setting this apart as the special business section of the week (publishes on Sunday).

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

This annual 'outlook' section would be a must read for anyone interested in business in the region - or just interested in the health and progress of the region (it touches on all kinds of topics related to happenings in the area and the region's economy). Looks like a commercial success too, with great ad support.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Weekly Newspapers

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

Nice mix of items; two local editorials, interesting columns, plus photographic and illustrative support. Particularly enjoyed the "End of Apple Era" piece.

Second Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Solid local editorial to lead with secondary national politics editorial. A good variety of issues in the letters to the editor.

Third Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Overall a nice mix of items. Interesting columns. Good mix of letters to the editor.

Daily Newspapers

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

Strong editorial. A comprehensive look at the upcoming casino vote, both pro and con on a variety of gaming issues and their impact on the local community. A great roundup prior to the vote.

Second Place: Amy MacKinnon, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Solid editorial supported by five different viewpoints from a variety of perspectives. This is how you stir action. Nice job.

Third Place: Michael Kilduff, The Sun, Lowell, MA

Nice variety of editorial, columns and a local guest writer. Design exceeded all others in this category.

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

"The Tastes of Autumn" is chock full of information for the Fall lover in Vermont and surrounding areas. I especially liked the article on the Trapp Family lodge. It was extremely interesting that the hotel grows its own food and makes its own drink. The whole section is layered with wonderful information on things to do and places to go.

Second Place: Marianne R. Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

This article has wonderfully vibrant pictures. The content was so descriptive I felt as if I was sitting down to eat! Marianne Stanton did a terrific narrative on buying, cooking and eating corn.

Third Place: Marianne R. Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Again, Marianne Stanton wrote a fun and informative article on a mundane subject - turkey. She has creatively found recipes for leftovers that will appeal to everyone.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

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

A wonderful picture of an old recipe immediately captures attention. The "Culinary Time Capsule" article was extremely interesting, as it told of a past we only see in the movies. The description in regard to air raid drills and making food with sugar substitutes was very colorful.

Second Place: Shawn Cyr, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

"Navigating the farmers market like a professional chef" is a very timely article, well written with tips on becoming a savvy shopper and how to pick produce from the market. Nutritional value was also discussed.

Third Place: Marissa Nadolny and Maria Reagan, The Day, New London, CT

"A Toast to Turkey Day" was a great read for anyone who is not a wine expert. The article is a thoughtful, concise synopsis of wine with poultry.

Daily Newspapers (circ. 30k+)

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

"Nothing says summer quite like sweet, juicy watermelon" is a fun article with an informative quiz to catch interest immediately. Who doesn't like a quiz? The recipes were interesting and varied.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

As a lover of corn, I found this article well researched with information on the nutritional value as well as fun recipes.

FRONT PAGE

Weekly Newspapers (circ. < 6k)

First Place: Georgetown Record, Georgetown, MA

Rarely appropriate, the bold use of art type lent this page a clean and polished look while drawing the reader's eye to coverage of a student art show at the local middle/high school.

Second Place: Bill Stedman, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA

The one-word hammerhead and the skillful blending of type and photograph served to elevate yet another weather story, by focusing on a pair of particular risks for homeowners during the winter of 2015.

Weekly Newspapers (circ. 6k+)

First Place: Jennifer Levesque, Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

A cleverly conceived and skillfully executed photo illustration effectively sold an issue highlighting the efforts of local artists trying new approaches to their work during a time of upheaval and changing tastes in the art world.

Daily Newspapers (circ. < 30k)

First Place: Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA

Against a competitive field of 28 entries, the Sunday Gazette's examination of local access to affordable higher education, took what might have been little more than a routine package on a new program at the local community college, and turned it into a highly appealing and very human presentation of the educational opportunities available on the site of a former