

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Specialty/Niche Publications

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

The writer provides a sweeping survey of the local arts scene. An essential reading for the community.

Second Place: Jasmine Bigelow, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT

A well-paced piece that illuminates the artist's life and work. The writer's sensitivity to the art is noteworthy.

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

The writer goes "behind the scenes" for a compelling report on the performance extravaganza.

Honorable Mention: Nancy Wolfe Stead, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT

As the sculpture piles up at the artist's retreat, the writer's charming story illuminates the decision to create a public park.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

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

A stirring piece of art appreciation. The writer painstakingly draws the reader into the artist's realm and reveals the story and passion that drive the work.

Second Place: Josh Farnsworth, The Landmark, Holden, MA

The annual ballet production is a big story for this readership and this journalist meets the challenge. The writer explores the backstage world with energy and grace.

Third Place: Hannah Marshall, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

An unlikely blend of farm and dance receives savvy treatment at the hands of this writer who conveys an affinity for both worlds.

Honorable Mention: Suzi Thayer, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME

A simple work, told with fine pacing and good will.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Hunter Styles, Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

The reporter takes readers into the frenetic and creative world of a unique "traveling dinner service." The crisp writing and telling detail combine for an engaging journey.

Second Place: Joshua Balling, Lindsay Pykosz and Dean Geddes, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

The Nantucket Film Festival demands nothing less than excellent and comprehensive coverage from its local newspaper. The Inquirer & Mirror team met the challenge with style and grace.

Third Place: Kelsey Perrett, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

The writer wastes no time in establishing the tensions awaiting theatergoers in a play about the legacies of the Vietnam Years.

The compelling piece served as an excellent advance of the production.

Honorable Mention: Louisa Hufstader, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

While profile opportunities abound on the island, this writer makes the most of the opportunity to survey James Lapine's life in theater and film. The piece is smart and swift.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Steve Pfarrer, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Steve takes the reader on the subjects' journey and shows us what he is seeing. Clearly he had done his homework, proving it with lots of interesting details.

Second Place: Cicely Eastman, Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT

Charming feature on a funny subject! Good lead, too.

Third Place: Kristina Dorsey, The Day, New London, CT

Interesting story about an interesting chapter of Connecticut history.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Victor Infante, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Fun idea executed well. Charming, entertaining and useful.

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

Well written coverage of exhibit and insight into Judas.

Third Place: Julia Ann Weekes, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Well written and successful in combining a human story of fire and loss with the city's historic artists.

BUSINESS/ECONOMIC REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Bram Berkowitz, Winchester Star, Winchester, MA

Bram Berkowitz's series on "Preservation vs. Development" looks at both sides of an issue constantly debated in many New England communities.

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

Almost every reader must have been interested in reading about Stowe selling more alcohol per capita than anywhere else in Vermont. Well done.

Third Place: Carol Britton Meyer, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA

A roof collapse in a downtown business district is a major concern for any New England town. The rebound tells of what has been accomplished in the past year.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Reporter Joshua Balling gave readers an in-depth look at Nantucket's real estate market that points to another very busy year for realtors.

Second Place: Gaen Murphree, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Dairy farming plays an important role in Addison county's economy and reporter Gaen Murphree does an excellent job explaining why farmers are unhappy with "dairy insurance."

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

Lobster lovers on Martha's Vineyard have a great opportunity to learn about the lobster industry in Barry Stringfellow's piece on the lobster business.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Richie Davis, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

Richie Davis' look at the growth of a Brattleboro plant gives readers an excellent opportunity to understand an important local business and its economic impact.

Second Place: Tony Dobrowolski, The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

The economy's impact on businesses is a very local and important issue for readers to understand. Tony Dobrowolski does that when looking at foreclosures on housing.

Third Place: Brittney McNamara, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

This well written analysis of the lack of women in executive positions raises concerns for readers to consider.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

Grant Welker takes a look at a hot button item for most taxpayers: tax breaks for business. The headline draws attention to the limited returns for the "breaks".

Second Place: Neal Simpson, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Good graphics and photos help a compelling story about the fate of the ill-fated Pilgrim nuclear power plant.

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

Tourism in Massachusetts is an extremely relevant issue for businesses, and is covered well here.

AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Abi Sessions, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

This is in some way a fairly traditional idea, but it is executed wonderfully. The feature takes full advantage of the intellectual power of a very smart community. These citizen-written columns are often more moving and insightful than work done by full-time professionals at major newspapers.

Second Place: Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

Plymouth is a beautiful town, with dozens of great photographers. This series took full advantage of that, both online and in print. The effort was distinguished by the large number of citizens who contributed images, by the quality of those images, and by the newspaper's powerful presentation of collections of those photos.

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

A great merger of talent (lots of folks take good pictures) and technology, leveraging the paper's brand to recognize the best in the community, and to build a stronger sense of community. The staff showed real ingenuity in piggybacking on Instagram's reach and capabilities.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Tony Simollardes, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

These are unusually smart and informative pages. The two anchor columnists offer strong perspectives and coherent arguments. Community input, drawn from the paper's Facebook page, is spiritually and visually at the center of the effort. A productive fusion of traditional and digital platforms, and well presented.

Second Place: The Herald News, Fall River, MA

These pieces have great local flavor and great local utility. They are engaging and presented well, in a minimalistic way. They are an interesting form of community engagement too, asking readers to focus on the positives in their area. The Community Advisory Board all by itself is a solid outreach effort; the award serves to highlight and promote public service in the community.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers

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

Great journalism takes risks -- and that often means steering away from the conventional black-and-white storytelling that seeks to label good guys and bad guys. This well-written, thoughtful story profiles a local sheriff and a notorious sex offender the sheriff dared to hire. It's an act that would cost many public officials their jobs. Both the sheriff and the offender -- now working successfully as a carpenter for the sheriff's office -- reveal candid and moving ideas about the moral challenges they face. The reporting, interviews, and documentation reveal a tale of conscience, struggle and complexity -- and also forces the reader to reconsider the meaning of justice and redemption.

Second Place: Leslie H. Dixon, Advertiser-Democrat, Norway, ME

This story demonstrates extraordinary enterprise through its use of interviews and in-depth document research. The reporter traces the history of a local scam artist who has moved on with her life, living in a waterfront apartment in Florida having left the state of Maine with millions in unpaid damages. This smart story questions why court records remain sealed, and why this crook has not been held accountable for

ripping off taxpayers. The use of detail is impressive, matched only by this journalists's pursuit of revelation and accountability.

Third Place: Sara Bown and Julia Wells, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

The reporters identified the use of a legal loophole and sloppy work by a former judge that now allows old drunken-driving cases to be overturned. The reporting is deep, the writing clear, and the story reinforced by details and evidence in its mission to reveal and to hold people in power accountable. Not easy to do in a small community -- but all the more essential in our mission as journalists.

CRIME AND COURTS REPORTING, *continued*

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

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

Court stories can sometimes strand journalists in a thicket of legal documents with no clear narrative path to a story. But this journalist demonstrates the very best of investigative reporting by making outstanding use of the court documents to explain how a local fishing boss allegedly raked in millions by scamming federal authorities. The story adeptly walks the reader through the complex fishing quota rules to show how the illegal scheme worked. The story then raises serious questions about the rules themselves -- how they have created problems for honest fishermen and the opportunity for fraud. Excellent work.

Second Place: Scott Thistle, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

This journalist uses documents and strong law-enforcement sourcing to show how welfare money in Maine is financing drug deals. The story details the twisted path that puts state electronic benefit transfer cards into the hands of dealers. The story raises significant questions about the vigor of state investigators responsible for stopping welfare fraud. What makes this story especially strong is its use of detail -- reporting, for example, that some cards have been churned dozens of times without raising suspicion. It's a great example of watchdog journalism in action.

Third Place: Alyssa Dandrea, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

New Hampshire's Cheshire County has done a good job of finding alternatives to jail for many local criminals, which has allowed the local sheriff to turn the jail itself into a cash cow. This journalist's investigation into the finances of the jail revealed that it has been turning a sizable profit, thanks to the sheriff's renting out of jail beds to house federal prisoners. The story also shows how the county bends the rules when it comes to limits on the number of federal prisoners -- allowing the sheriff's office to pocket even more money. The journalist seamlessly moves between hard data, official responses to tough questions, and a clear-eyed view of what the arrangement means for the prisoners themselves.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Stephanie Barry, The Republican, Springfield, MA

This revealing series shows how a past Mafia case still resonated in the newspaper's community. It's a story that

might have been dismissed as old news, but not in this journalist's hands. This story blends explanatory and investigative techniques with a skillful use of newly surfaced documents. The story casts a fresh light on the Al Bruno case, the present-day mob players, and the struggle for power in an otherwise shadowy world. This journalist succeeds by keeping her eye on the story's characters, showing us how they operate. What's more, this story demonstrates the importance for journalism to look beyond the moment and dig deep to explain to readers how the world really works.

Second Place: Haven Orecchio-Egresitz, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

This story connects the dots between local crimes - including a murder - and the steady rise of a street gang most citizens had not yet heard about. This journalist relies on strong sourcing and excellent work with documents to describe a growing web of gang members, their crimes, and their impact on the community. The story blends clear writing, good use of detail, and telling examples to reinforce this account of a crime problem that seemed to come from nowhere, but now has the attention of local and federal law enforcement agencies.

Third Place: Patrick Johnson, The Republican, Springfield, MA

This series offers a twist on the classic cold-case story. Here, everyday citizens take up the hunt for the killers of the victims whose cases would otherwise be forgotten. Using effective interviewing and research, this journalist takes us through the procedurals of an amateur sleuth and reveals how and why she has become obsessed with the murder of someone she never knew. At its heart, this well-written series speaks to what fascinates all of us when it comes to crime and punishment, making it all very human.

EDUCATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Patricia Roy, The Landmark, Holden, MA

And you thought the school nurse just put band-aids on skinned knees! Today's school nurse deals with so much more. This was a great idea for a feature!

Second Place: Caitlyn Kelleher, Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA

Young immigrants connect to their new culture through music. Good reporting and interviews.

Third Place: Heather Beasley Doyle, Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA

Bomb threats at a local school left a trail of anxiety among students, teachers, and parents. This story looks at a wide number of sources and gives the reader a complete view of the chaos.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Tom Matthews, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

This is a topic we hear about but usually only superficially. This writer takes a close look at both sides of this campus issue. Good job!

Second Place: Patricia Daddona, Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Good interviews and an excellent graphic kept the reader's interest in a timely topic.

Third Place: Emilie Munson, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Changes in pre-school funding led this reporter to talk to mothers who need to work and want good childcare, as well as taking the time to carefully explain all the changes in pre-school affordability in Vermont. Thorough job.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Tom Relihan, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

Thorough coverage of a controversial issue. Reporter Relihan looked at a variety of issues important to readers: funding potential segregation and effects on rural schools.

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

This series focused on an online petition that led to changes at the Voc-Tech school. Policies were reviewed, and a new head was named. The reporter followed this story and detailed it carefully and thoroughly.

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

While much of this was routine coverage, the reporter's continual and committed reporting of this issue that affected almost every school-age person in the circulation area must be commended.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

This was not only well written, but both stories educated readers about the problems students from China face when they are sent to the U.S. for an American cultural and educational experience. Excellent read.

Second Place: Kathryn Boughton, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

This was a good series, especially because the reporter explained the financial side of special education, as well as writing side bars that gave faces to the numbers.

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

Racial texts among students of the local high school led to apologies, and eventually a public dialogue on diversity. The stories made the students think and the community talk. Good coverage.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Jeannette Hinkle, Ipswich Chronicle, Ipswich, MA

Well-written and well-reported stories about an invasive species that is a tangible threat in this community. Love how the reporter explains challenges and benefits to potential solutions, including turning a pest into a new local fishery. One

question: has green crab stock become a staple on local menus yet?

Second Place: Renee Meyer, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

Great example of how a story does not have to be long to be good. A fresh and timely idea is always welcome, even at this ultra-trim length. Kudos for the multimedia approach to this piece, which is largely image driven, as well as for soliciting readers photos to expand the scope of the paper's report.

Third Place: Hannah Marshall, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Nice dig into a topic of great local importance, without a doubt. Readers got good information on the debate over whether plants must grow in soil to yield certified organic produce, which is likely not to run out of steam anytime soon.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Beautiful work. Engaging writing, clear focus and helpful illustrations/photos on emerging problems with precious natural resources. This reader appreciates both the tone of informed urgency and the absence of sensationalism. It's a great service to put these water bodies in such wide context regarding their cultural, economic and ecological importance. Nice to see deep reporting on the promise and limits to known solutions too. Just excellent.

Second Place: Ann Wood, Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

A gem of a small, well-written tale with big implications. Love the detailed reporting about no-doubt-well-intentioned volunteers to treat a health problem spreading in a local population of wild animals. Every inch is relevant not just to foxes and mange but to the risks that come when people with limited expertise decide to interact with wildlife.

Third Place: Doreen Leggett, Cape Codder, Orleans, MA

Detailed, accessible stories on the lengths volunteers go to help stranded sea turtles on the Cape at a time when warming waters is altering their plight. Nice mix of information on a changing habitat and what it takes for people to organize to try to help animals under threat due to human activity.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Jess Aloe, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

This story does exactly what it promises: shows lack of resources available to test for and contend with emerging contaminants in drinking water. There are not many topics on the environment beat more important than drinking water. Contamination has the potential to harm everyone on a water system, with the young, the aged, and the sick being most vulnerable.

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

Nice work on a locally relevant topic explored in a similar NY Times piece six months later, showing that there's no reason

why small newsrooms can't beat big ones. Love the specificity of the storytelling and the boots on the ground reporting.

Third Place: Nate Lynch, The Day, New London, CT

Infrastructure stories too often are boring. Not this one, with its "rag ball" the size of a Volkswagen Bug imagery, clear focus, and important themes. The story informs readers about uninformed community behavior that has created a big problem for the safe disposal of human waste, a task of great and growing environmental importance.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Staff, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Big commitment of time and staff to dig into the local impacts of emerging climate change. Very needed since the Cape is especially vulnerable to climate change impacts and because the Cape's culture and economy depend heavily on natural assets. Strong stories that were well written and well organized reports about concrete local matters including public policy discussions about responses. Best of the series were Bragg & Meyers' Life on the Edge and Brennan's Wear Away.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING, *continued*

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

Seeing what officials cannot see informs the public of spotty protections from shark attacks. Nice work checking out what's really happening rather than reporting merely what officials say is happening. Also makes clear some complexity of the ecology in play, thanks to seals bringing sharks closer to beaches.

Third Place: Cyrus Moulton, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

This is one of those stories that could have been a flat recounting of a research study's results; instead, it takes readers into the details of a difficult but successful task of repelling an invasive insect that threatens a city's vital tree canopy. Nice storytelling and welcome details and facts. Readers will not only understand this topic after this story, they'll be better informed about the wider challenges of addressing the next invasive insect that shows up.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Doug Page, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

The writer took great pains to provide an extremely comprehensive, well-balanced, and highly readable report on a subject that draws a broad and passionate range of opponents. Great flow with effective use of subheads to help spur the reader through to the end.

Second Place: Liisa Rajala, New Hampshire Business Review, Manchester, NH

Lots of legwork and writing talent went into this report that does a fantastic job of localizing a growing global debacle

involving Volkswagen. She did well in pursuing and delivering relevant comments from subjects who are not typically regarded as "media polished," and weaving in both historical and up-to-the-minute details from the corporate office as well. A service to any reader who is a current or prospective VW owner.

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

Way to dig up a compelling report on a subject that impacts relatively few, but reflects on all of Worcester and its residents. The report also ties into important elements from a public health and business perspective.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Staff, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

With ever tighter newsroom budgets, in-depth team reporting has grown rarer, particularly at small to mid-sized papers. Five Mariner reporters distinguished themselves and their newspaper with a multi-story look at the consequences -- good and bad -- of an extensive update to the state's domestic violence laws. Articles by writers Erin Tiernan, Hannah Sparks, Amanda C. Thompson, Mary Ford and Kristin Funderburk, plus an unsigned editorial, created a powerful, comprehensive look at the changes one year after taking effect. Victim advocates hailed changes intended to protect victims and encourage them to report and press charges, while editors and police expressed reservations about provisions that kept arrestees' names from being publicly released until after the formal arraignment. Although acknowledging a need for caution, the editorial advised readers that "... the more we allow government to block, redact, and withhold public information through legislation, the more we slip into the Dark Ages."

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

As the pace of home demolitions accelerated in this affluent bedroom community and elite university town, officials began moving cautiously to put the brakes on what some saw as an irreplaceable loss of precious, older homes. Jordan Mayblum's in-depth article on the subject revealed that in 1991 Wellesley was issuing permits for the demolition and replacement of fewer than five homes a year. By 2015, that rate had soared to an average of 73 demolitions a year, most slated to be replaced by much larger homes. The Townsman's article made clear how moderate a step was being considered: modifying the demolition law to permit a delay of six months to a year -- an ordinance already in effect in all of Wellesley's surrounding neighbors.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Julia Wells and Alex Elvin, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

A local film festival touched a nerve when it disclosed plans to buy a historic 12.5-acre parcel in rural West Tisbury and erect a 6,000 square foot barn for film events open to the public. A firestorm of protest from local residents followed, and within a month the Martha's Vineyard Film Festival had backtracked and announced plans to resell the property to a group of local

buyers. Julia Wells and Alex Elvin's articles aptly captured the intensity and pace of the controversy and its speedy resolution.

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

For 121 years, the tiny Nantucket village of Sconset employed its own volunteer firefighters, local men and women who sometimes got to the scene before the professionals who had to come from six miles away. But with the arrival of a new chief, the town decided it was time to begin enforcing a long-ignored mandatory state retirement age of 65 for firefighters. That decision, reported Joshua Balling, meant the time had come to step aside for 78-year-old Nelson "Snooky" Eldridge, a 56-year veteran of the department, his 76-year-old brother, Gerry, and three others ranging in age from 65 to 72.

Third Place: Aimee Henderson, The Sentinel, Marion, MA
Reporter Aimee M. Henderson told a tale about Coco, a 15-year-old, blind, deaf miniature poodle with bad teeth, who was "dognapped" in North Carolina and then abandoned in the woods in Belchertown, which is in central Massachusetts. An enterprising animal control officer found the dog, and thanks to the generosity and persistence of a far-flung network of animal rescue volunteers, Coco was ultimately flown to North Carolina and reunited with her 24-year-old owner.

Third Place: Janet Hefler, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Reporter Janet Hefler reported on the mystery surrounding Boxer, a black cat from Vermont, who disappeared through his owner's pet door in Shaftsbury, Vermont, shortly before Christmas and turned up weeks later in the town of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard. Thanks to an identifying microchip, Boxer was at first incorrectly identified as a dog from Alabama, before being reunited with his owner. How Boxer made his way to Martha's Vineyard remains unknown. His owner speculated that a skier had picked him up in Vermont and taken him to the island.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Staff, Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA
Comprehensive, careful coverage of a senseless and unimaginable crime spree, bolstered by stories examining possible flaws in the mental health care provided -- or not provided -- to the perpetrator. Coverage provided readers a balance of the human stories, the chaotic timeline of the crimes, and important questions about a possible failure of the system that is supposed to provide emergency mental health care.

Second Place: Paul Leighton, The Salem News, Salem, MA
Stories were clear and thorough in laying out allegations against a former superintendent, detailing a wide range of actions that siphoned unauthorized payments from a new school. Coverage also clearly explained how the structure of the superintendent's oversight allowed malfeasance, and included reporting about how he would still manage to draw a comfortable pension.

Third Place: Karen Florin, The Day, New London, CT

Much has been reported about the impacts of growing abuse of heroin and opioids, but here we see the crisis through a fresh lens. This piece uses an excellent story-telling framework to recount three hours in which first responders tried to save three lives from overdoses in one night, succeeding twice.

Honorable Mention: Joe Atmonavage, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

A sobering account of the toll of drug addiction on newborn babies, backed by startling numbers on the frequency with which infants must struggle through withdrawal.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Josh Kovner, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
A moving portrait of the suffering and hopelessness caused by long waiting lists for services for people with intellectual disabilities. The story unflinchingly lays out the futility of the waiting lists and the painful anxiety of aging parents afraid for the future for their adult developmentally disabled children. An important story that effectively combines strong story-telling with harsh facts.

Second Place: Mark Sullivan, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Excellent enterprise work that picks out an alarming connection between the cities two most troubled properties and one of its highest-end schools. This story is a terrific example of finding the storyline that isn't obvious in the data.

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

Good news-enterprise reporting that identifies a weakness in protecting children from predators -- a startling realization for the reader when the victims explain how these crimes can happen to young girls who are alone with trusted riding instructors.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Dick Broom, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Outstanding reporting can be measured by initiative and impact. By those yardsticks, this series excels. Through records requests and aggressive reporting, the Islander pushed for answers about the National Park Service's legally questionable efforts to expand the boundaries of Acadia National Park. Dick Broom's enterprise stories helped drive the debate that prompted Maine's congressional delegation to introduce legislation to resolve the controversy.

Second Place: Bill Kirk and Staff, Andover Townsman, Andover, MA

A key role of community newspapers is to serve as a watchdog over government spending at the local level. The Townsman fulfilled that role in fine fashion in its coverage of how Andover would pay for the rising cost of employee pensions and retiree

health insurance. Numerous letters to the editor attest to community interest in this continuing story.

Third Place: Abby Ledoux, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT

At first glance, this dispute sounded like inside baseball: Some firefighters objected to a Georgia Fire Department policy intended to limit social media postings about department activity. But Abby Ledoux comprehensively chronicled the fallout after six firefighters were fired for refusing to sign the department's confidentiality agreement. Ledoux adroitly tracked the firefighters' appeal before the Vermont Labor Relations Board and in federal court. In a fair and evenhanded way, Ledoux explained the impact on both the town and the firefighters.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

This series began with an article deep inside the paper, about the failure of a major sewer line in Plymouth. Over the next six months, Frank Mand followed up with 20 front-page stories, as the line failed again and again, and the town grappled with the mounting costs to fix the problem. He dug deep, providing important context from all sides, and his writing was engaging, authoritative, and precise. What started as a public works story became an object lesson in politics, as Mand showed how the issue resonated in town elections.

Second Place: Craig Douglas, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

It's the news media's job to blow the whistle when public officials line their own pockets, and Craig Douglas did just that in this expose involving a former president of Bridgewater State University, Dana Mohler-Faria. Through public information requests and interviews, Douglas documented how Mohler-Faria accrued more than \$1 million in unused sick days and vacation time - and thus collected a \$270,000 windfall upon retirement. In his initial report and follow-up stories, Douglas also highlighted the lack of payroll controls at other state agencies in Massachusetts and got the ball rolling on reforms.

GOVERNMENT REPORTING, continued

Third Place: Aimee Henderson, The Sentinel, Marion, MA

Residents rely on local newspapers to be their eyes and ears in the halls of government. Aimee M. Henderson demonstrated why this function is so important. From the day that the police chief of Belchertown was placed on administrative leave after being accused of drunk driving, to the selection and swearing-in of a new chief, Henderson provides the transparency that citizens deserve. The eight stories that made up this entry kept the community informed at every step, culminating with an insightful interview with the town's new police chief.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Douglas Moser, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

Massachusetts politics at its worst; Moser serves a heaping helping of Paul Iannuccillo doing what he does best: nothing -- and at tax payers' expense. The Northern Essex register of deeds is a willing accomplice in this story about how not to work; "I'm here a lot, I am. I move around as well." If there's anything worse than this man's work ethic, it's the rhetorical back-pedaling that Moser exposes when trying to get his fellow officials to condemn Iannuccillo or criticize his subsequent hiring of an assistant who makes almost as much money as he does. Sparkling journalism, old-fashioned shoe leather reporting!

Second Place: Dan Crowley, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

This series was probably one of the least predictable or most surprising narratives of the contest: Housing authority "Simon Legrees" its employees out of a job while flaunting the open meetings law. The authority tries to "never mind" its way out of a jam by reporting itself to authorities, mayor throws a fit over his appointees' audacity, while the authority's tenants hope the spotlight shines on an incompetent maintenance staff. Elsewhere, the rookie executive director continues to make mistakes, running afoul of the bidding rules, creating an ongoing soap (pun-intended) opera. Nice use of open records law by Crowley and the paper.

Third Place: Paul Leighton, The Salem News, Salem, MA

When does a gym go from "strongly recommended" to "an impediment to securing good and fair value" for a school district? When politicians go behind the scenes to try to get their cronies and supporters exempt from the regular laws of the states. Kudos to Leighton for exposing a boondoggle and getting ham-fisted school administrators caught with meaningless "projections," saving taxpayers millions of dollars in the process. A particularly political situation gets clearly dissected and presented.

Honorable Mention: Kimberly Drelich and Ann Baldelli, The Day, New London, CT

Reporters rarely get to do something that could change the landscape of a community, and Drelich & Baldelli rightly put the focus on a public service whose days are numbered.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

Spencer provides a balanced, detailed and nuanced view of how governmental entities often approach issues at cross-purposes, with the result of being a misinformed, highly frustrated public citizenry. The story shows how much ballyhooed alcohol compliance checks serve a relatively minor, educational purpose in the fight against underage drinking. No one wins but the bureaucrats. Good accompanying numbers, graphics, and sidebar.

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

Feathers puts the spotlight on how fairly innocuous, innocent activities get caught in government's civil forfeiture property seizure game, run by cops and DAs with their eyes on fattening budget coffers and padding stats. Hello, Massachusetts: you've got a problem in the process where the only winners are the

lawyers, and as usual the losers are the ignorant and poor. The whole notion of property seizures is a complex one, but deftly explained by Feathers.

HEALTH REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

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

In a category rife with examinations of the opiate crisis, this one stood out. It gives readers an excellent look at an unexpected angle: the young athletes who succumbed after receiving painkillers for injuries. Strong lead, good quotes throughout and perhaps most important, multiple sources who provided context not just on the young users, but on the crisis overall.

Second Place: Sue Mello, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME

Another angle on the opioid crisis, this one provides a look at how one small-town police department is choosing to address the issue. Good anecdotes and quotes help readers see the challenge through the eyes of the addicts and those who are invested in trying to help them.

Third Place: Abby Ledoux, The Milton Independent, Milton, VT
The writer found a good subject and shared her fight with breast cancer in an engaging, emotional tale. Kudos for rising above the often-clichéd efforts that accompany this annual report.

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

The writer did a good job telling the story of one addict's path to addiction, and the child who has kept her clean since August 2013. Her downward spiral provides an important glimpse into how an occasional user becomes an addict.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Jennifer Osborn and Mark Good, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

The question-lead of this article drives the reader further into the story for more. As you go deeper, you get good details that back up the growing problem, good quotes, and surprising findings. It also had concrete tips on what constitutes "suspicious" activity for those who want to report suspected drug deals.

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

Evocative writing on a new approach to the opiate crisis made this a compelling read. The history of the island is woven into the location's new role as respite and rehab facility for addicts. Important details, such as cost, funding, and staffing plans are presented in a way that keeps the reader moving through the story.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Mackenzie Rigg, The News-Times, Danbury, CT
This was extremely well reported and beautifully written.

Second Place: Sandy Quadros Bowles, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
This was an important story, well told.

Third Place: Brittney McNamara, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA
The writer did an excellent job of taking a very personal story, putting it into a national context, and then including efforts to combat the problem.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Todd Feathers, The Sun, Lowell, MA
An extremely ambitious effort that was also very well written and presented.

Second Place: Shira Schoenberg, The Republican, Springfield, MA
A well written piece that conveys empathy for the officers and the challenges they face.

Third Place: Shawne K. Wickham, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH
This reporter showed a consistent commitment to covering the issue of mental illness and policing, and was ambitious in his scope.

HISTORY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Robert Barboza, the Chronicle, Barton, VT
Herman Melville was immortalized for penning "Moby Dick," but his youngest brother, Tom, was no slouch and led a more varied career as a mariner, whaler and a ship's master.

Second Place: Jeff Pope, Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA
The broken, weather-worn gravestone provides a lesson on 19th century burial practices in New England, which Jeff Pope develops into an interesting yarn and a brief glimpse into the past.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: John Stanton, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Passengers aboard the Andrea Doria 60 years after the luxury liner sank recount their memories of the disastrous collision with the Swedish liner Stockholm. The ship lies 120 miles off Long Island and 45 miles off Nantucket in 250 feet of water and has become a magnet for daring recreational divers. Writer John Stanton puts together dramatic tales of survival from passengers on the ship's last night en route to its destination, New York City.

Second Place: Rich Harbert, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
The weekly Old Colony Memorial devoted a huge amount of space and energy into a belated welcome home to the men and women from its Plymouth Mass. readership who served in

many roles in the Vietnam War. Kudos to Rich Harbert who did so much work putting together this impressive package.

Third Place: Geoff Currier, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

'Stand by your man' could have a totally different meaning for the wife of a whaling ship's captain in 19th century Edgartown, Mass. Parnell Pease Fisher accompanied her husband on a voyage that lasted for five years. Her experiences were detailed in a diary that recorded the first two years of the trip.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Larry Parnass, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

This three-day package recounts a family's frustrating, still incomplete, three-generation struggle to learn how a 17-year-old son, soldier and brother died in the frozen chaos of the Chosin Reservoir retreat early in the Korean War.

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

Guha's story examines the case of four black men - one a free man, two former slaves and one still in bondage - who joined colonial forces in the Revolutionary War. They received grants of land and built homes in Plymouth, Mass. Now activists are struggling for recognition of the men's roles and protection of their long neglected home sites.

Third Place: Arianna MacNeill, The Salem News, Salem, MA

Part of a dark chapter in Salem's history - the rocky ledge where "witches" were put to death three hundred years ago - has been identified by researchers using modern tools. MacNeill's research and fluid writing brings the story to life.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

A rich, multi-day package recounting the havoc wreaked 60 years ago by the hurricane-fed Naugatuck River. It featured a wealth of on-line supplements and detailed accounts of the disaster and the major changes made to defend against a repeat.

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

The Coast Guard's daring 1952 rescue of seamen from tankers foundering off Cape Cod has been the stuff of legend and now, with rich pictures and graphics, has made it to the Big Screen.

Third Place: Mark Sullivan, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Mark Sullivan adds to the conviction there's no end to the fascinating stories to be mined from the American Civil War. His piece on the restoration of the 142-year-old stone monument should be reassuring to history buffs everywhere.

HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE STORY

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Tracie Seed, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

This piece conveyed a lot of good detail about pipers while being very entertaining. A well-written and structured feature with added points for the great presentation and font use -- particularly in the pull-out items on the pipes themselves as well as the pipers uniform.

Second Place: Kelsey Perrett, The Local, Vineyard Haven, MA

From the clever headline and easy-to-follow layout, to the subject-sensitive photos and robust content, this writer did fantastic work reporting her story from a tough environment while coaxing some compelling details from the incarcerated individuals in this yoga program.

Third Place: Melissa Shaw, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

A heart-warming piece that demands attention from top to bottom, related with extreme tact and sensitivity to both subjects and the children they lost. An important focus on a segment of parents who are sadly overlooked and underserved in comparison to those parents who tragically lose their children at any point after delivery.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: A.M. Sheehan, Advertiser-Democrat, Norway, ME

One heck of an effort to reconstruct the timeline of a major fire for both victims and responders while still weaving in the thoughts, actions and emotions of all involved. Provides great insight into the myriad people and agencies involved when something like this happens. Great that the writer was able to focus much more on the people and less on the bureaucracy.

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

This story has the type of detail and scene-setting so often missing from today's reporting. A great read.

Third Place: Bram Berkowitz, Winchester Star, Winchester, MA

Well-written, concise with a lot of factual material woven in between the quotes. Proof that a nice feature doesn't always have to be long.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Always important is not just the telling of a good story, but putting together the details and descriptions in such a way that the reader is easily brought along with the flow of the words. Mark Davis in his telling of the ways of the very independent minded mayor of Rutland does all that.

Second Place: Ann Wood, Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

Ann Wood fulfills the enjoyment of reading news stories with her tale of Pat de Groot, known as "Bohemian Royalty."

Third Place: Brittany Feldott, The Falmouth Enterprise, Falmouth, MA

As with all the best stories, this one is filled with great details and excellent interviewing to create a comprehensive description that tells a compelling story of how a grandfather and grandson are bonding while hiking around the world - mostly significantly including a 500-mile trek of an ancient Spanish pilgrimage route. Nice job.

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

There are many emotional stories - or stories of heroics - about people who are battling serious illnesses or handicaps. But some stories, between their excellent interviews, well-written details, and the ability to capture the essence of a person - and their family - makes all the difference. Barry Stringfellow does this with his piece on a man named Ken Beebe, who talks about how he "battles Parkinson's with wit and grit."

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Lisa Spear, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

"Final lullaby" is a fascinating story about bringing comfort to the dying through singing - a story that, in the end, defines what a newspaper human interest story should be.

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

This is a heart-felt, well-written, and educational story about commemorating tragic losses in a surprisingly sympathetic and cherished manner.

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

This reporter gets inside and up-close to the travails of a working firefighter and writes a compelling first-person account that brings the reader right into the middle of the experience.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Stephanie Barry, The Republican, Springfield, MA

The opportunity to tackle a story like this rarely presents once in any reporter's career, and in too many cases when it does, the writer comes up short in terms of both the story and the subjects. Quite the opposite here: well told, often gripping narrative, and exhibiting excellent skill getting key details out of her subjects.

Second Place: Rick Sobey, The Sun, Lowell, MA

The reporter evidenced great storytelling talent, while being extremely sensitive about the dignity of the victim and her family. I dare say this piece convinced more than a few readers to become organ donors, and educated The Sun's entire readership about the often controversial and misunderstood practice of harvesting from those selfless donors and their surviving family members.

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

This report was as educational as it was enjoyable reading. The kind of lighter human interest feature that is becoming more rare across today's journalistic landscape. A small story, but nonetheless well told, unique, and perfectly timed feature for Thanksgiving week.

Honorable Mention: Patrick Johnson, Stephanie Barry and Peter Goonan, The Republican, Springfield, MA

While each of these items was entered separately, the reporting taken collectively is well worthy of recognition. Five years post-tragedy, many victims are still raw and unwilling or unable to recall or convey memories of an incident or loved one who was lost. All three Republican reporters did spectacular work weaving historical details and interview content into a well thought out, photographed and designed series on Springfield's devastating tornado.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Craig Douglas, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

A strong piece of in-depth investigative reporting that exposes a serious systemic problem.

Second Place: Eli Sherman, Providence Business News, Providence, RI

An in-depth examination of one of the most serious fiscal problems in cities and states across the nation.

Third Place: Doug Page, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

A strong piece of "follow-the-money" investigative reporting that focuses on the funding behind a controversial education initiative.

Weekly Newspapers

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

Investigative reporting that unearths the story behind the story. An in-depth look at abuse of power and the system in place that is protecting the abuser.

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

A quick-hit investigation turns up key information about a finalist for a high-profile public job. Good work.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Douglas Moser, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA

A strong, well-documented piece of dogged investigative reporting that holds the powerful accountable.

Second Place: Ken Dixon, Connecticut Post, Bridgeport, CT

Excellent piece of in-depth investigative reporting that digs deep and uncovers information that the powerful would rather keep secret.

Third Place: Lindsay Boyle, The Day, New London, CT

This piece uncovers information that can impact the safety of thousands of people. Terrific work.

Honorable Mention: Melanie Plenda, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

An interesting examination of a major New England industry and a state inspection system with serious flaws.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Matthew Kauffman and Jenna Carlesso, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

A superb example of in-depth investigative reporting that uncovers crucial information that needs to be brought to the public's attention.

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

An excellent piece of journalism that explores the abuse of power in one small town.

Third Place: Patrick Ronan, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

A deep-dive investigation that uncovers ongoing abuse of a practice that should have been outlawed decades ago.

Honorable Mention: Jessica Trufant and Patrick Ronan, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

A superb example of "follow-the-money" reporting that exposes an attempt to buy influence in city hall.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Walter Bird Jr. and Tom Quinn, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

This publication's 'Worcester Votes 2015' series provided what amounts to a comprehensive community handbook on local election reporting, personalities, candidates, and issues. Featuring reader-focused and consistent design and layout, helpful editorial introductions to each edition, and integrated letters, this series could serve as a worthy example for any weekly publication with limited staff looking to enhance or improve both the content and presentation of election reporting.

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

The Townsman did a fantastic job of reporting and presenting local election news. Integrating news, features, editorials, and letters leading up to the community's elections. Profiles and breakout reports on key issues were informative and balanced. Attractive use of imaging/graphics helped tell a comprehensive story. Also providing interactive participating for readers via online Q&A opportunities.

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

The Mariner's reporter did yeoman's work single-handedly covering this community's local election, which offered a curious crossover to a state senate race as a long-time incumbent senator sought the local mayor's seat. This decision tipped off a domino effect, consequently opening the senate race to a new crop of challengers competing in both primaries and the eventual special election. The outcome from local election results quickly became secondary to the subsequent

statehouse news -- and its coverage was logical and flawlessly executed in the Mariner's reporting incorporating reader questions, letters, and other editorial content.

LOCAL ELECTION COVERAGE, continued

Daily Newspapers

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

The pre-election coverage was presented in an easy-to-find and digest format, broken out by district, with informative art and graphics, along with an online companion blog. For readers looking for more, the Republican-American also offered important and detailed candidate profiles as well as pre/post-election news for Waterbury and a number of surrounding towns in its service area, including referendum outcomes on spending/capital authorizations.

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

With coverage of inside teasers leading from the front page, the Standard-Times team served its readership and communities well spotlighting issues, candidates, trends and controversies leading up to the 2015 elections. Nice integration of imaging/graphics; crisp and intelligent reporting; even and 'ask the candidates' opportunity for readers to submit debate questions, and an online reader poll promoted via the print product.

Third Place: Patrick Ronan, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Quincy was facing the first four-way mayoral election in nearly three decades and the Patriot-Ledger devoted appropriate resources to ensuring its readership was up to speed on all election related issues beginning in mid-September in Quincy as well as in three other neighboring communities. While the paper appropriately keyed in on opportunities to contrast the incumbent and a former mayor seeking re-election, the writer also provided valuable insights about other candidates on the ballot, as well as campaign spending, and featured excellent front page coverage of results including a full-length graphic detailed ballot results. Well packaged with informed reporting throughout.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Robert Kiener, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT

The "spaceman" is a tantalizing subject, and this piece really explores the zany core of his being! Fabulous choice and use of quotes!

Second Place: Lisa Lynn, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT

Captivating writing peppered with wonderful detail and color. This profile is rhythmic, illuminating and thoroughly entertaining.

Third Place: Melissa Shaw, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

An engaging and highly readable portrait of a family whose viral moment in the spotlight touched us all. Shaw really does justice to her subjects.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Nick Greenhalgh, Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA

Wonderful subject, wonderful premise, wonderful portrait! A thoroughly entertaining read from start to finish.

Second Place: Amanda Collins Bernier, The Landmark, Holden, MA

Barbers and taxi drivers can be predictable subject, but Collins deftly styles a memorable profile here.

Third Place: Matthew Stilphen, Boothbay Register, Boothbay Harbor, ME

Playful insights into a celebrity "summerfolk". Stilphen skillfully weaves a portrait with unique elements that will especially appeal to Maine readers.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

If you thought you'd read everything there is to know about Carly Simon, you'd be wrong. This insightful profile is full of surprises mined through thoughtful reporting.

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

Skillful and highly competent, multi-sourced work here. Savior or scoundrel? Heintz keeps us guessing.

Third Place: Ann Wood, Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

This portrait is the kind of writing you just can't put down. Compelling quotes, as well as detail that places us right in this character's studio.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Ann Baldelli, The Day, New London, CT

A subject worth profiling. Enjoyable to read, flows well, and holds interest. Good lead that previews the dichotomy of a story. A well-written piece which clearly presents the subject's personality, who he is and what motivates him. Nice presentation.

Second Place: Emilie Stigliani, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Well-written piece, which benefits from that it truly focuses more on the senator, but still does convey their relationship giving it a nice, light touch. The included observations of others broadens the story and adds welcome insights. The story does convey a strong sense of their partnership.

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

Good presentation with nice and ample photos. Enough information on page one so that the reader gets a sense of the story before having to turn to the jump. Actually, enough information that if you only read page one and not the rest,

that it would still work to convey the message. It is a good, readable story. Well done.

Honorable Mention: Ann Baldelli, The Day, New London, CT

Good subject, full of personality. This story is excellent and one of the best this year. Nice photos, and a solid lead that is taken full circle to an effective conclusion.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

A unique writing style that is more familiar in columns than in page one features - but in this case, this approach gives the article a friendly personality and is effective in conveying a sense, to borrow from the story, of being "simpatico". The writer does an excellent job of capturing the subject's personality and overall, the story flows well. A good presentation.

LOCAL PERSONALITY PROFILE, *continued*

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

Interesting choice of subject and an easily read article. The photos are excellent and even though the sailboat is unfinished, it captures the magnitude of the project while giving the subject some stature.

Third Place: Rick Sobey, The Sun, Lowell, MA

It is an excellent glimpse into an individual who is now in the background, but was a key player in a unique political drama. She is much more than a "campaign kid". After a year when politics outplayed professional football for several months as the national mania, this piece still holds appeal. Good photos included as well.

OBITUARIES

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Amanda Collins Bernier, Millbury/Sutton Chronicle, Millbury/Sutton, MA

This remembrance of a life which ended far too soon evokes humanity and the human spirit without being sappy or maudlin. The additional tragedy of this young man's brother woven into the story makes the telling even more poignant.

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

The "joir de vivre" of 97-year old Mary Fenn is well told in this tribute and the accompanying photograph and placement on page 1 reflect that spirit. This is a well-written remembrance of a woman who struggled with alcoholism and lived to have a full and productive life.

Third Place: Amanda C. Thompson, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA

A thorough and detailed look at a life cut all too short. Remembrance from people who knew him and scene-setting detail from his memorial service give a full picture of Willem Golden.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Cyndi Wood, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

From the very first sentence, this tribute to a remarkable three-year-old boy engages the reader. Instead of putting a tear in your eye, this well-written obituary puts a smile on your face. The writer captures the essence of Alex Robbins without being maudlin. Rather, Ms. Wood captures the very essence and spirit of her subject.

Second Place: Martha Shanahan, The Waterford Times, Waterford, CT

An extraordinary retrospective of an ordinary man. A well-written tribute that captures the essence of Capt. John Wadsworth. The obituary keeps the reader engaged in his life story all the way to the end.

Third Place: Rich Harbert, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

A look at the life of a true American hero that provides a history lesson all should read. This is a well done tribute to a man who may have been short of height, but was long on courage.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Joel M. Lehman, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

Remaining attentive to the sadness of the accidental death of the adventurous young family man, the presentation and content make this what it should be - and interesting, informative, and overall compelling news story.

Second Place: Greg Sullivan, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

The story does a terrific job detailing just why Ken 'Jersey Red' Ford was truly an original, as to how he lived his life...creating himself as quite a character in the world of local, college and professional sports. With this story, Sullivan brings the reader into that life in such a way that while reading, there is not only just a clear sense that Red's world has lost someone special, but as a stranger reading this, there is smiling and the building of appreciation for who he was and what he accomplished.

Third Place: Martha Shanahan, The Day, New London, CT

Shanahan put together an informative, easy to read, historical representation of a man who made such a difference to so many people. Perhaps most important is that the story appropriately emphasizes the impact Weisel also had on his home community of New London.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: John Altavilla and Paul Doyle, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

It can be overwhelming to try to tell the story in an obituary of those who have won honor, fame and national acclaim. But reporter John Attavilla, with the contribution of Doyle, takes the reader on a wonderful journey of the life of the unrivaled Tennessee Lady Vols basketball coach, Pat Summit. He does this by reporting a compelling story of how Summitt developed into a famous coach, how important she was to the growth of women's basketball and to the lives of those whom she

coached and advised, even as dementia and Alzheimer's started to take hold.

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

This obituary is an enjoyable story about E. Vernon Laux, an "exuberant" man whose friends, associates and fellow international bird watchers called a "larger than life" character in all that he did. Fraser creates a report that is a fun and compelling read, fittingly appropriate for all to learn about and remember a unique individual.

Third Place: Grant Welker, The Sun, Lowell, MA

Reporter Grant Welker takes on the task of telling the story of one of the most famous politicians in Lowell's history and he does it with great readability while tracing the history of Richard Howe and his 40 year service as a city councilor. It is the quality of this story beyond just recording and quoting memories that brings this obituary a well deserved award.

RACIAL OR ETHNIC ISSUE COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Staff, Easton Journal, Easton, MA

The Easton Journal was all over this public controversy, providing detailed, well-reported accounts that show just why we need a vibrant local press.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Kymelya Sari, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

The readers of Seven Days were treated with a well-written, deeply reported feature that introduces them to a victim who refused to be victimized.

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

Nuance is what the best newspaper strives to capture - and that is what this look at a jailed Brazilian man pulled off very well.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

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

This was a tragic tale, well told, and difficult to put down.

Second Place: Paul Leighton and Dustin Luca, The Salem News, Salem, MA

The reporters were dogged in pressing this important public issue.

Third Place: Silvia Foster-Frau, The Hour and the Sunday Hour, Norwalk, CT

A beautifully written feature that humanizes an undocumented immigrant girl, who is all too often labeled but not understood.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Patrick Ronan and Hongyi Gong, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

This was an in depth, insightful look at Quincy's Asian population. Kudos.

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

The Sun stayed on this fascinating controversy within the Cambodian community from beginning to end. Good work.

REPORTING ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

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

An intriguing initiative is well-treated in this piece. It explores both the human and religious motivations pursued by this priest and his project. Interesting topic, and analogy to the Holocaust.

Second Place: Ruth Thompson and Kristi Funderburk, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA

A good example of how to explore exhaustively a lengthy, ongoing important local controversy. Thorough, detailed account that covers all the angles as this major issue comes to a close. Recounts well both the history of the vigils and the devotion of the parishioners.

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

A bright, offbeat anniversary story that captures the zeitgeist of this church and its parishioners through their history. The inviting lead sets the tone for this interesting read.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Well-written and deep look at the troubles of one Roman Catholic parish, but perhaps emblematic of others. Spiced with statistics to help frame the problem, and refreshingly candid quotes from the pastor.

Second Place: Tom Quinn, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

A worthy runner-up to its fellow Worcester Magazine story in this category. The reporting is rich and reaches across a spectrum of these types of startup churches. Offers an illuminating view of what sparks these startups.

Third Place: David Fuchs, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Unusual take on an interesting topic, with a student and Independent intern reporting – and well – on an unusual “religion” from a dateline in Havana. Presents a balanced, objective look at an oft-maligned practice.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Bill Shaner, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

An excellent mix of news reporting and feature writing. Story reports on the concentration of startup storefront churches downtown, and exemplifies them with a solid word profile of one of their services. Well reported and well written.

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

This piece puts a human face on a spiritual issue – a man who plays Santa rescued from alcoholism by his good works and God's intervention. A compelling – and convincing – tale told with a deft use of the man's own words and account.

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

The crisis for the Roman Catholic Church of having too few men pursuing the priesthood is writ small in this solid examination of the problem in one diocese. Despite this narrow local focus, the magnitude of the problem comes across clearly, with statistics to back up a spotlight on the only priest ordained in the diocese in 2015.

Honorable Mention: Karen Florin, The Day, New London, CT

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Mark Sullivan, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

A thorough examination of the changes affecting the city's churches, which also serves as a look at changes in the city's population and neighborhoods. A well-reported and written piece on both religion and history.

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

A well-researched profile of a celebrated missionary, his mission, and his journey toward possible sainthood. A good combination of sources and quotes to flesh out this historical biography and tribute to an exemplary figure.

Third Place: Jessica Trufant, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

A well-written recounting of a classic struggle between an institution and disaffected followers – a microcosm of the same struggles elsewhere between the Roman Catholic Church and its dissident faithful. Touches on the larger issues dividing the church, including the role of the clergy.

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Terry Hallenbeck and Paul Heintz, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Seven Days invested significant financial and editorial resources to challenge subpoenas issued for three of its reporters. This type of investment reflects an admirable commitment to freedom of the press. When the paper could have easily accepted the subpoenas, it instead fought them and educated its readers about the First Amendment every step of the way.

Second Place: Earl Brechlin and Hugh Bowden, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

The Islander showed a pattern of right-to-know advocacy in its news coverage and editorials. By regularly addressing a range of FOI concerns and actively filing public records requests, the newspaper showed its readers the value of open government, and the never-ending need to pursue information.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Staff, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

The Sun Journal may have never known about the dealing of dismissed criminal cases if not for the dogged reporting and follow-up of its newsroom. Once the issue had been identified, the Sun Journal staff recognized the public interest implications and immediately responded. It conferred with an attorney, negotiated with the courts and mobilized an alliance of media organizations and FOI advocates. Its efforts resulted in a timely and crucial reverse of policy that will continue to keep Maine residents informed and the judicial system accountable.

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

Through several stories, Petrishen investigated a SWAT operation gone wrong, using public records and many FOI requests to provide readers much needed context on "no-knock" raids. Through affidavits, police records, and the newspaper's own archives, Petrishen's reporting revealed to readers how an unfortunate event unfolded and compelled law enforcement to reconsider its policies.

Third Place: Jim Haddadin, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Haddadin's stories reflect a consistent use of FOI law and a regular focus on open government. The quantity of stories and the various topics they address reinforce the public's interest in transparency.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers

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

A smart and thorough look at a multi-pronged series of cancer studies, along with a surprising revelation about cancer rates in Maine.

Second Place: Jennie Oemig, North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA

An absorbing article about the unification of science and art. Fascinating!

Third Place: Alexander Silva, Littleton Independent, Littleton, MA

This article is surprising, thorough and deeply informative. Well done.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Andy Tomolonis and Gatehouse Staff, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

An admirable commitment to on-the-ground reporting about climate change. Rather than focus on endless debate, these newspapers observe that climate change is here, now, and affecting people in tangible ways.

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

This article starts with an intriguing episode or proposition, and unwinds it in a way that displays sophistication and complexity. Yet through all the complications, the story is engaging and highly readable.

Third Place: Mary Ann Bragg, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

A fascinating story about using new technologies to help conserve whales. Ms. Bragg effectively interweaves stories of software developments and wildlife conservation and never loses the reader's attention.

SOCIAL ISSUES FEATURE STORY

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Eli Sherman, Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Terrific, multi-faceted investigation with myriad sources.

Second Place: Tom Quinn, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Good reporting on the deft treatment of a familiar problem, with many points of view.

Third Place: Melissa Shaw, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

Very well-written and designed; hits all aspects of the subject!

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: James Sanna, Arlington Advocate, Arlington, MA

Interesting, in-depth look at gun ownership from several points of view.

First Place: Caitlyn Kelleher and Henry Schwan, Lexington Minuteman, Lexington, MA

Interesting, in-depth look at gun ownership from several points of view.

Second Place: Aaron Leibowitz, Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA

Wide-ranging look at how immigrants shape their new home. Good historical research, too.

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

Well reported profiles of families torn apart by drug addiction, including good quotes.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Excellent. Well-written and reported survey of Springfield's Police Review Board. Nice tie-in to national issues.

Second Place: Hunter Styles, Valley Advocate, Northampton, MA

Interesting profiles. Puts human face on economic problems.

Third Place: Jenna Fisher, Brookline Tab, Brookline, MA

Nice combination of official statistics and personal stories.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

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

This bold, in-depth series puts faces to the grim toll heroin addiction is enacting the newspaper's community. Highlighting so many deaths and calling people to action shows the insidiousness of the problem and doesn't let anyone off the hook of finding solutions.

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

This impressive examination looks at a persistent societal dilemma with important emphasis on issues of child care and domestic violence. Very well done.

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

This in-depth look at the controversy over transgender students' use of public restrooms offers tons of useful information for readers who might not understand this relatively new civil rights debate. The guideline of terms, app info, and sign graphics add to the community's understanding.

Honorable Mention: Staff, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

This series of stories brings critical attention to the epidemic of domestic violence by giving voice to victims and highlighting the challenges in escaping abusive relationships.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

This story very effectively uses one man's journey to provide guideposts while detailing the complexities of the local drug addiction treatment maze. Also, nice use of graphics, photos and other break outs.

Second Place: Lynn Arditi, The Providence Journal, Providence, RI

Eric's sad story unveils the irony of convicting people for drug offenses and then allowing probation to act as a potential barrier to treatment for drug addiction, which in turn can cause recidivism.

Third Place: Chris Burrell and Neal Simpson, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

These writers provide a huge service to domestic violence victims by raising the curtain on abuse that is typically enacted in private and widely misunderstood.

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

This writer took what could have been a routine daily story covering the homeless count, and instead used it to provide an important, enterprising look at homelessness. Way to go beyond the expected.

SPORTS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Christopher Hurley, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

Solid writing and to the point, not overwritten.

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

Good writing, reader can see the game through the words.

Third Place: Amanat Khullar, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Unified sports is growing. Wonderful treatment of the topic, includes the rules so readers can appreciate it more.

Honorable Mention: John Quattrucci, Easton Journal, Easton, MA

Nice profile on a winning coach.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Taylor Vortherms, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

Lots of stories about concussions have been written but few have the personal report about somebody impacted. Excellent treatment of an important topic.

Second Place: Andy Kirkaldy, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Excellent writing on an athlete outside the usual sports! Nice progression in life about after high school.

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

Nice story, reader has a sense of coach, says "my guy" and the subsequent interception.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Steven Sanchez, Taunton Daily Gazette, Taunton, MA

Nice effort from a woman trying to make the Olympic Boxing Team; nice writing, color picture on the cover, tells you to be ready for a punch.

Second Place: Lauren Read, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Wonderful to see Vermont and Free Press treating unified sports like the real title games in high school sports. Solid writing, Ms. Read captured the essence of positive sports.

Third Place: Kevin Mills, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Mills tells a wonderful story about the legacy coach Mike McGraw, of Lewiston.

Honorable Mention: Geoff Smith, The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Matthew Kauffman and Tom Yantz, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Gotcha! Rumors are widespread about recruiting and living arrangements. The Courant used public records to help expose the issue with Berlin football. More sports writers need to use (and learn) F.O.I. Well done!

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

Everybody loves to read about the local neighbor when he was a standout 30-40-50 years ago. Lots of history in sport!

Third Place: Matt Goisman, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Best game story in this division, felt like the reader was at the game.

Honorable Mention: Alex Hall, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Girl playing high school baseball is always a good read. This is what sports are about - facing the challenge.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Martin Renzhofer, The Beacon-Villager, Maynard, MA

In a crowded field, this piece rose to the top! A well-written story, multi-sourced with excellent design and photos. The story flowed well.

Second Place: Will Burchfield, The Lakeville Journal, Lakeville, CT

This well-written story flows easily featuring three players spiced liberally with their thoughts.

Third Place: John Quattrucci, Easton Journal, Easton, MA

A well told tale about a kid who made it to Double-A professional ball, but not the major leagues. A good character sketch.

Honorable Mention: Christopher Hurley, Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA

Touching story on a six-year-old cancer patient playing baseball with a prosthetic right leg.

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: William Geoghegan, The Independent, Wakefield, RI

Great lede paragraph in this story of a comeback to the gridiron by a kid with determination and grit. You can feel the kid's resolve to get back in the game.

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

Chronicling the career of a man who went up and down the world of hockey from college player to team executive. An "I did it my way" story and you were rooting for him to win.

Third Place: David Fuchs, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

An intelligent piece of writing, capturing the setting well, about a kid who wouldn't give up.

Honorable Mention: Colin Flanders, The Essex Reporter, Essex Junction, VT

This piece has descriptive power.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Joel M. Lehman, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

A unique athlete whose ties to his hometown are presented with fine details and anecdotes from those who knew him.

Second Place: Matt Vautour, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

A poignant profile of a family and its dedication to lacrosse and each other. The emotional late goal in front of the player's ailing father makes the story even better.

Third Place: Brendan Kurie, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

Well-sourced story with good use of anecdotes makes this a good read.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Mike Anthony, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
A unique guy in a different sport. Nice choice of anecdotes that illustrate why this guy is worth knowing.

Second Place: Matt Langone, The Sun, Lowell, MA

Interesting story about an innovative product.

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

Good topic.

SPOT NEWS STORY

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

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

This is a very well done story pulling together the many elements of a February snow storm and the havoc it created in a community. The tragic deaths of two residents underscore the severity of the storm and the interwoven background on their lives as well as their photos adding humanity to the damage Mother Nature can cause.

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

This is a comprehensive account of a house fire that could have had a much more tragic ending. Interviews with officials as well as neighbors and the man who pulled the woman from her home add needed detail to give the reader a clear picture of the unfortunate event.

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

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in this story! Good is to be commended for his curiosity, and then turning that into a story that is important to the community. His thorough research and reporting does a real service to the newspaper's readers.

SPOT NEWS STORY, *continued*

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Allen Fennewald, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

Covering breaking news can be tricky for weekly newspapers because it is all too easy to wait and rely on official reports and then seek additional comment -- but that was not the case with this story. While luckily the outcome for this family was not

dire, the details gathered at the scene gives the readers the real sense of how the unfortunate events unfolded. Bravo!

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

This is a comprehensive story that captures both the life and the events that led to the death of Luke Gurrey. Mr. Sigelman explains for the reader exactly how the death occurred in a very understandable way. The accompanying photos help complete the entire picture of this tragic story.

Third Place: Tim McCarthy, North Shore Sunday, Peabody/Salem, MA

The loss of a father and daughter in a plane crash reverberates through this community and Mr. McCarthy captures the tragedy. Details of their lives are prominent rather than the particulars of the crash -- an important aspect for this paper.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Zoe Mathews, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA
Eagle coverage of shooting of woman in a deadly domestic violence incident was strong, well-reported and well-played, beginning with the first day story and sidebars continuing for two more days. Detailed reporting conveyed the drama at the scene, police actions, fears and reaction of neighbors, concerns of the community. More coverage was offered online. Second and third day stories revealed the history of domestic violence between the couple, as well as the computer glitch that meant a costly delay in serving a restraining order. Story led A1 for three days, with new developments and details each day.

Second Place: Adam Silverman and Elizabeth Murray, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Free Press coverage of a distraught man shot and killed by police after threatening others was rich in details, but free of excessive, gratuitous descriptions. A confusing scene described in a straightforward way on a tight deadline with information clearly attributed. Story included background of the old man's recent history of disturbing behavior. Reporter took photos and video, which were posted online. The main story and a related piece took pains to explain the sequence of events and the police decision to open fire on the man. The newspaper immediately requested access to police body-camera video from the shooting, and noted the most recent police shooting incident.

Third Place: Alyssa Dandrea and Meghan Foley, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Keene Sentinel's follow-up story further detailed the fire-fight, as well as the dramatic news that a volunteer firefighter was the suspected arson.

Third Place: Anika Clark and Meghan Foley, Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

Keene Sentinel gave a massive brush fire that was intentionally set the dramatic play it deserved. Strong photos packaged with a first-day story rich in details of the firefighting effort, impact of the work on firefighters, families forced to evacuate, road closings, and why police suspected arson.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

Union-leader reporter Dave Solomon delivers very complete, hard-hitting coverage of a fire that took the lives of a family of four, including two young boys. The story is rich in detail and written with the tempo and pace dictated by a tight deadline. It captures the neighbors' and tenants' reaction, describes the work by firefighters to rescue people and recover victims, the community response, a background on the older apartment building, and the unfolding investigation. A sidebar by Solomon describes the scene at a neighborhood after-school center, which the boys frequented, capturing the emotions for those who knew the family.

Second Place: Brad Petrishen and Samantha Allen, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Telegram and Gazette reporters Brad Petrishen and Samantha Allen were on the scene with Worcester fire crews the night of February 14, as they battled three separate house fires in short order, on what was the city's coldest night in 59 years. Observations are solid and reporters do a good job getting fire officials to explain what crews were up against in those conditions, as well as talking to some of those displaced. The last interview with a deputy chief was at 2:20 a.m., and the story - along with video and slides - were posted at 6:26 a.m.

Third Place: Madeleine List, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

When the body of 28-year-old Christine Ferreira was found shot and stabbed along a Cape Cod highway, police had only a few details to offer. Reporter Madeline List took what they had, and then tracked down family and friends to create a portrait of the woman, her struggles, ambitions, and her relationship to a large, loving family. Months later, members of a gang Ferreira once hung around with were arrested for the murder. With her initial reporting, List made sure that Ferreira would not be just a crime statistic or the name on a roster of gang killings.

TRANSPORTATION REPORTING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

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

Excellent piece casting scrutiny on a 180 by the state transportation agency on a crucial safety measure along a deadly highway. Strong anecdotes, interviews and data show the case for and against the rumble strips.

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

Deeply reported story documents the need for legislative action to protect bicyclists from cars and trucks. Plenty of relevant stats about accidents and increasing popularity of cycling for recreation and commuting.

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

A complete treatment of the various issues facing the future ferry service in the Cranberry isles. Deep interviews with residents and officials show the financial and political

considerations brought on by the retirement plans for the longtime ferry owner.

Honorable Mention: Bram Berkowitz, Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA

An excellent lead by Bram Berkowitz starts off the story about the latest effort to quiet planes at Logan Airport: "A good night of sleep for Adriana Poole depends on where the wind is blowing."

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Lively encounter with the duo who run the island's only drawbridge. Full of insights, details and annoyances they cause in the everyday life of drivers and boaters.

Second Place: Taylor Bigler, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

A rash of store closings on Main Street prompts this deeply researched look into a counter-intuitive solution for the financial problems ailing downtown.

Third Place: Matt Turner, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

A complete examination of the life and death of a commuter airline, and what it means for employees and passengers.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Izaskun Larraneta, Lisa McGinley and Tess Townsend, The Day, New London, CT

An outstanding examination of nearly every imaginable issue encountered by people travelling along Interstate 95. A classic case of data reporting at its best. Strong writing, particularly on the features spotlighting accident victims. Interactive element allowing readings to check the safety of their commute nails it.

Second Place: Lindsay Boyle and Brian Hallenbeck, The Day, New London, CT

Top-notch investigative work, combing through records and shoe-leather reporting, to expose safety problems plaguing many of the bus companies ferrying mostly immigrant passengers to casinos. Diligent digging prompted by a February crash that seriously injured six people.

Third Place: Charlie Peters, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Strong reporting on the people affected and the issues raised by an unusual spate of deadly accidents along a Raynham road.

Honorable Mention: Michelle Monroe, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

A masterful job covering a public hearing on transportation needs in Vermont. Strong data and interviews.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Brigitte Ruthman, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Top-notch reporting on a problem that should not be so common: wrong-way drivers causing fatal accidents on Connecticut highways. Packed with relevant data, survivor

interviews and solutions. A very strong enterprise produced in a week after an August fatality on Route 8.

Second Place: Sam Mintz, Jason Kolnos, George Brennan and Haven Orecchio-Egresitz, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Two teams of reporters take different routes to Cape Cod to see who gets there first. In this case, Team Bourne won. But why not make it a best-of-five holiday weekend series?

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

Crossing the street is a dangerous proposition for pedestrians in Quincy. An expertly told two-part series rich with anecdotes from victims and full of data, with a few solutions tossed in.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Mary Reines, Marblehead Reporter, Marblehead, MA

Cover story about the National Portrait Gallery was exceptional. The reporter covered why the main photo on the cover was chosen, but he also dug into the background and uncovered a very heartwarming story of two brothers-in-law. I loved this story - it was very well written. The rest of the section is terrific as well.

Second Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

The use of color in this section is very appealing. The calendar, using bold type, is very easy to use. It seems activities are endless in the area!

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

The cover story about a bird turned out to be extremely interesting! The photo on the front page was wonderful of the willet taking off. The column, "Outdoors, ask the bird folks", is one of my favorites! It is very witty while educating you on birds. This section houses a lively calendar, very good theater review and interesting information on flowers. I enjoy it so much that I'm ready to get a subscription!

Second Place: Elsie Lynn, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

This section is very easily read. There is lots of air, you almost feel as though you are reading a glossy magazine. The type of stories and with the exhibits, three things you should know, plus book, theater, and movie reviews -- this could be in a magazine in a higher end hotel!

Third Place: Provincetown Banner, Provincetown, MA

The cover story pulled me into the section. Natale has an interesting past, and how he is dealing with it is told very well in this article. While the articles were on the "dark" side, this section was an interesting read.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Maria Reagan, Marisa Nadolny and Judy Benson, The Day, New London, CT

The hike Judy Benson did with her dog and husband was solidly written. The beautiful photos above the fold capture the reader's attention immediately. Judy's description of a powerboat is on target.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SECTION, *continued*

Second Place: Nancy Olesin and Staff, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

The new exhibit at the Boot Cotton Mills Museum seems to be the place to visit. April Crehan's report pulled you through time and the museum. The story was very well written.

Third Place: Maria Reagan, Marisa Nadolny and Rick Koster, The Day, New London, CT

Rich Roinson of the Black Crowes is the feature of this story, but it's the back story that is so interesting. Rick Koster captures what living the life of a musician is like, through all the ups and downs.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Kathi Scrizzi-Driscoll, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

The wonderful picture of a child running on the beach immediately captures attention. This is one of the most comprehensive "on the go" guides I have seen. With movie reviews and best beaches, lifeguard contests and the Lego with Beer information, it's hard to beat this section for information with a lively presentation.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

The composition on the front page is a thoughtful wrap-up of what is inside this interesting guide. Festivals and fairs are featured as well as concerts. The "clubbing" section is something very inventive, not seen in other papers.

Third Place: Chris Moore, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

The flip flops on the front are colorful and fun. Great design!

BUSINESS PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Letitia Baldwin, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Residents of Hancock County, Maine are well served by the 2016 Overview. While the section provides myriad features about various business sectors, it's the Town Profiles -- all 36 of them -- that moved this publication into first place. It's a tremendous resource for residents, of course, but also a fast reference point for potential developers and businesses and residents. And there's that terrific feature about the health of the lobster industry. Yum, yum.

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

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

The strength of the Business Page section is that it offers up a strong variety of topics that's bound to draw in readers of

equally various interests. For example, "The United Nations of Staffing" centerpiece feature invited readers to explore the diversity of summer employees, and the "Ask a Geek" column put forth information on solving tech problems. The page is well edited and well designed too, adding to its appeal.

Third Place: MaryLee Camp, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

Vermont and cheese, of course, but not all reach the status of being an Oprah Winfrey's favorite thing as the Plymouth Artisan Cheese's gift box did in 2015. The Standard takes readers beyond the mention in O magazine into a well-written feature article about the owners and business. The page offers a strong mix of topics to pique readers' interest.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Outlook 2016 stands as a testament to the stupendous critical thinking, organizing, and attention to details that mark outstanding work. The five sections published over two days dig deep to take readers through the economics of the Pioneer Valley -- the causes, the cures, and the results. It could be a textbook for a master's level degree in community growth and job creation. Also of note is the inclusion of people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Congratulations to the staff for a job well done.

Second Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Business Matters is jammed packed with local news, features, columns, news briefs, profiles, Q&As, market reports, calendar of events, commentary and job ads. And most of all it is locally produced content, well written and well edited, offering readers an opportunity to get to know the real people and the economic issues of their region. The Telegram & Gazette is to be applauded for staying true to the values of local journalism and maintaining high standards along the way.

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

"IN" works hard to present healthy chunks of local news to its readers. A feature about a popular coffee spot with a unique iced drink and a profile of the manufacturer for the new Cure putter takes readers into the heart of the business for a look behind the scenes. Both are thorough and well-written. Inside is a strong blend of local events, advice columns, and news of the business community. It's sure to be valued by its readers.

FOOD PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA

This series touched on several different types of cuisine. Most of the articles have interesting back-stories in regard to the history of the establishment or the owners. The photos are very well done; the question and answer format makes this series very easy to read. Each week, featuring everything from a deli to fine dining, had a different staff writer as the author. Terrific!

Second Place: Hannah Marshall, The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

The first line in the section is: "There's a lot more to Vermont than foliage." The author proves there is a lot more to their section than the graphic on the front page. After getting past that, I was amazed at all the events and fun things stuffed into this section! Not only was there information about eating and drinking, but follow up articles as well on how different things are made, such as cider, and where and how to pick the perfect apple for your cider.

Third Place: Becky Ballard, Ruth Perfigo and Kristin Love, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

This is not a typical review of food - you are introduced to the history of the restaurant, the owners, and information about all of the food on the menu. Great presentation by the writers.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Great use of small editorial hole in this section. Chris Fischer wrote a light-hearted yet fascinating story in "Home Grown." The reader starts with a story about geese, and ends up with a recipe for lobster! Also, the "From Farm to Market Every Summer" piece described what is probably happening around the country with farmer's markets. The insertion of the health departments, regulating sale times and fees are hitting those markets hard.

Second Place: Chris Silva, Marnely Murray and Kelsey Perrett, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Gas station eateries seem to be the wave of the future. This article talked about the Brazilian buffet in such detail, a reader can almost smell the spices. A chocolate truffle recipe and sorghum recipe were also included in this food section. The staff is extremely clever picking foodstuffs that are not mainstream.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Emely DeSanto, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

What an ingenious article! The author interviewed newspaper staff for their take on all things pumpkin. This should be an every year feature.

Second Place: Elaine Ezerins, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

Erionah Williams and her maple syrup was a very enjoyable story. The "Disaster of the Month" and "Success of the Month" are absolutely hilarious! Each item on the page - especially the recipes - is presented perfectly.

Third Place: Maria Reagan, Judy Benson and Marisa Nadolny, The Day, New London, CT

The article High HOPES for hopyards in Connecticut was very informative. This would be terrific for brewers who are starting out or brewing for their own consumption. High Hopes reflects a reporter who does extensive research.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Gwenn Friss, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

The "grabber" in this article is the picture! Gwenn Friss' story about the Nantucket distillery and process was interesting with the opening graph about Randy Hudson being thrown into Lake

Michigan in Chicago in February or March. Her description of the process was extremely in depth.

Second Place: Tom Lynch, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

This section reports on an evolution happening in most "healthier" food stores -- seaweed and other sea vegetables are now readily available for purchase. The choice of this material proves the Union Leader is keeping up on current trends.

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

A wonderfully basic article on how to cook your St. Patrick dinner, with tips and recipes included.

LIVING PAGE OR SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Geoff Currier and Jamie Stringfellow, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

The Community section strikes a perfect balance between the "hyper-local" content (via the Town columns) and several wider-range features each week, all reflecting the special feel of the Vineyard. The center-spread of each edition provided a unique feel to the publication; the "summer camp" feature likely involved a fair amount of work to provide such a comprehensive listing that residents and guests would likely find valuable.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Eileen Fischer and Lee Steele, The News-Times, Danbury, CT

Consistently, the sections were marked by visually engaging stories, complemented by some lively writing, especially with "teasers" and headlines. The sections offered a diverse range of subjects which offered a real sense of "place" to an outsider judge.

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

In a category marked largely by "positive" or upbeat stories, the New Bedford journalists took a hard look at a serious issue plaguing the community. The main story was well sourced and well written, with a solid sidebar on other types of synthetic drugs.

Third Place: The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

The April 10 edition embodied the concept of a "section" devoted to Berkshire living, with a range of features that reflected the community. The Hancock Shaker Village baby animals centerpiece offered some fresh writing on a topic that's likely been done before. The "fun facts" break-out on the jump offered another dimension to the story - kudos to the editing decision behind that move. The "then & now" photo essay and the "good bye winter" package offer some visual meat to the middle of the section, coupled with some locally produced copy on the back page.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

While this category contained several "prettier" entries (characterized by fancy design), the July 24 T&G section reflected a true sense of place and contained a wealth of information I'd envision having a connection with its readers. The editors achieved that goal with a mix of locally generated stories and smart wire selections. The main feature focused on the topic of blueberry picking, but also introduced readers to some community characters. The recipes at the end were a plus, along with the listing of other "u pick" farms.

SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: William Geoghegan, The Independent, Wakefield, RI

Five solid pages of full local sports. Field hockey, cross country, soccer, football - it is all there. Good photos!

Second Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Nice sports section, good writing and photos.

Third Place: Christopher Hurley, Melrose Free Press, Melrose, MA

Nice photos and game story.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

Great team effort and putting resources into a Thanksgiving Football Feast. It is all there for the readers. Good mix of writers.

Second Place: Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME

Excellent mix of sports in this section. Baseball, softball, Lax, MMA, National sports and more - all for the Sunday reader.

Third Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Beautiful cover picture and sets the tone for the rest of the sports section - 8 solid pages.

Honorable Mention: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Also solid performance with Thanksgiving Football.

SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: David Carty, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA
They take their football serious in Foxboro - solid effort.

Second Place: Greg Lederer, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT
Great spread on local teams.

Third Place: Tim Sullentrop and Taylor Vortherms, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

This is a keeper. Might have added some words and season scores so when it is read 20, 30, or 50 years later people will know more about the team.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Chris Moore, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Nice overview of the 11 titles by UConn's women's basketball team, and in particular, its coach. What makes the section

work is the variety of photographs chosen to show the team's progress, especially the behind-the-scenes shots, as well as comments from previous players about Coach Auriemma.

Second Place: Chris Moore, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Good spectator guide for the tournament. Clean layout and nice graphics showing the course layout and alterations.

Third Place: The Salem News, Salem, MA

Instead of taking the easy route of focusing on recent athletes, this summer series went back further, looking at area female athletes from up to fifty years ago from a variety of sports.

SPECIAL SECTION OR SUPPLEMENT

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Solid, annual effort topped with anniversary celebration.

Second Place: Melissa Shaw, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

Three supplements that delve into a host of education issues for students and family. Well done.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

This section devoted to mountain biking covered all angles.

Second Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Interesting celebration of the park's 100. Good reading.

Third Place: The Lakeville Journal, Lakeville, CT

From start to finish this was an informative section on local food.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA

Well-written review.

Second Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Informative and helpful.

Third Place: John McCright, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Nice use of Q&A to create a popular annual supplement.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

Includes a thorough history of the town. Easy read of a heavy subject.

Second Place: Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

A good section on where our education is headed. Voc-tech schools are leaders in education. Nicely told.

Third Place: St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

In-depth look at farming in the community. Nice work.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Andy Tomolonis and Gatehouse Staff, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

This collaborative effort by eight papers addresses climate change in Southern New England with class in writing, reporting, editing, and designs. Superior work on a controversial subject.

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

One newspaper, 36 schools, 1,200 students vying to present their work for publication. Great organization, great result.

Third Place: Gwenn Friss, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Third Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

BEST NICHE PUBLICATION (EDITORIAL)

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

Simply gorgeous publication! With jaw-dropping photography and sophisticated layout, it is beautifully edited; full of interesting things to read whether you're a resident or visitor to Stowe. Plus tons of ad support.

Second Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Terrific newcomers guide to Burlington. Lots of entertaining and useful content, written with just the right attitude to appeal to college students and others with a sense of humor and adventure. Excellent coupon guide fills out the back of the book.

Third Place: Lisa Lynn, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Solid concept with a good strategy. This magazine appears to be getting better with each edition -- both in terms of content quality/presentation and profitability. Adding a weekly newsletter is a great idea to extend the brand and open up additional ad sales opportunity.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Beautifully structured, designed, and written lifestyle magazine that is completely local. Great ad support as well -- which is no surprise, given the environment.

Second Place: Robin Ohrt and Chris Moore, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

Third Place: The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

This is an idea that many papers could pursue -- finding a category of local attractions (in this case a ski area) and creating a publication to promote them using ads coupled with stories about them. Really nice effort for a first edition.

Third Place: Chris Harris, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

Lots of ad support for this solid effort to pursue the parent demographic.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Weekly Newspapers

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

A flash of wit. The readers will get this immediately.

Second Place: John Grabar, The Cheshire Herald, Cheshire, CT
Captures official cynicism and pins it to the wall!

Third Place: Royal Bruce Montgomery, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

A funny take on an island's historic problem.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Joseph Mahoney, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

At first glance this makes light of a serious problem, but on a moment's reflection, it strikes home.

Second Place: Don Landgren, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

This not so subtle jab points to a retiring official's big flaw in a sympathetic but pointed way.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY PAGE

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Strong local editorial on school funding with cogent second editorial on the presidential race. Pleasant design with a surprising color nature photo and poem about the coming of spring. A second page with more well written commentary and a slew of local letters.

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

A well-argued editorial on shore erosion and how to fight it. A second full page of commentary by local writers who don't pull punches. Dominant and secondary art enhancing the layout.

Third Place: Janet Manko and Staff, The Lakeville Journal, Lakeville, CT

Another strong local editorial on guns in the schools. Second page with four pieces of well written state and local commentary enhanced by a local cartoonist.

Honorable Mention: Angelo Lynn and Staff, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Strong local editorial; "Reason to unite and rebel" says it all about local sovereignty over state mandates. Good letters package, funny humor columnist, and a professor's 14th and final piece about Plato -- wow!

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Paul Choiniere and Scott Ritter, The Day, New London, CT

A good comparison of two local primary election candidates for the state legislator, showing why one is better than the other. The page design is clean and crisp.

Second Place: Tony Simollardes, Telegram & Gazette,

Worcester, MA

The editorial on opening the search beyond Worcester for a new school superintendent is persuasive and convincing.

Third Place: Michael Kilduff, The Sun, Lowell, MA

A provocative takedown of UMass on how it spends state funds.

Honorable Mention: Larry Parnass, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

A bold, 3-page package giving two inmates almost a diary on their thoughts and desires on liberty and confinement.

EDITORIAL WRITING

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

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

Mr. Rook takes us down the often disappointing and demanding road of modern politics and imagines what Thomas Paine, the forceful and elegant writer of the early republic, would say if he were writing today. To his credit, Mr. Rook does not engage in overt preaching nor hasty ridicule. Rather, the message of his editorial shines through all the more brightly because of its understated qualities. Mr. Rook evokes those early days in which the population was better informed and willing to engage in rigorous debate. "Our leaders may prefer to speak in sound bites and mindless slogans," Mr. Rook says, "but they are encouraged to do so by a populace that increasingly seems bored with nuanced discussions about complex issues." The people of Paine's day in the 18th century "read, listened, studied, and learned throughout their lives." Mr. Rook yearns for a populace that will perform as though they are in Paine's time, because modern politicians are not solely to blame for what has happened. The people of America have tolerated rudeness and simplicity; the people get what they deserve.

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

Mr. Kearney takes on the police department strongly for its handling of the investigation of a rape that took place in the courthouse. Most especially, he criticizes the police for keeping case details in secret for a week and for failing to enlist the public's support in finding the rapist, who was still at large. And he lays bare the department's capricious attitude that the suspect at large did not represent a threat to the public. In fact, he notes that several women reported they were sexually harassed in the courthouse by a man believed to be the rapist. Further, the writer does not fail to give credit to the Burlington Free Press, which broke this story. This editorial contains all the essential facts combined with crisp, clear writing.

Second Place: Lisa Loomis, The Valley Reporter, Waitsfield, VT

Ms. Loomis write crisply and clearly about a misguided attempt by the Vermont legislature to search cellphones without a

warrant. The idea was to make it easier for police officers to catch drivers while texting or talking on the phone inside vehicles -- actions not observed by the police. Ms. Loomis recognizes that police thus would have a license to gain unfettered access to any electronic devices within vehicles at any time. She makes a forceful case that such a law would be excessive and would violate a person's privacy rights. To her credit, she acknowledges that drivers' misuse of electronic devices while driving is extremely rampant, but says the privacy implications are the more damaging. "It is hard to imagine that we can legislate away the idiocy of texting and driving," she concludes. "It is likely something that will require social change, peer pressure, and maybe technological advances from the auto industry and cellphone industry." Ms. Loomis shows a gift for writing with clarity and economy.

Third Place: Donna Whitehead, Easton Journal, Easton, MA

Ms. Whitehead denounces a Conservation Commission member for posting anti-Islamic posts with photos on his personal Facebook. She reacts with disgust to the commission member's careless and mean-spirited conduct, and questions the commissioner in detail. Ms. Whitehead asks how could any Muslim then come before the board on which the commissioner serves and expect fair, impartial treatment? A second editorial follows in which she holds three selectmen accountable for reappointing the offending conservation official. Ms. Whitehead's vigorous and unyielding pursuit of this important public issue is the best tradition of editorial writers. She has the injustice firmly in her teeth and she isn't letting go without framing the issue for everybody in town to hear and see.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Hugh Bowen, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Mr. Boden writes a tough, no-nonsense editorial that takes on Maine Gov. Paul LePage for his cowardly circumlocution of the appointment process for naming a new education commissioner. Fearful that nominee William Beardsley might face tough questioning democrats, the governor says the nominee will run the education department as acting commissioner until his term runs out and then will continue as deputy commissioner. This is about as devious as a politician can get, and Mr. Bowden does not let the governor get away with his skullduggery. This is not the leadership Maine deserves, Bowden notes, with sly understatement.

Second Place: Jane Seagrave and Julia Wells, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

The writer pens an editorial that will bring from the shadows and into the open the problem of drug addiction on bucolic Martha's Vineyard. Drug abuse and the attendant problems it brings are not the image that local officials want to portray for one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in the country. But Ms. Seagrave forces the point by challenging

public officials to admit the problem and then get on with programs to treat the problem. This is forceful writing.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: John Breunig, The Advocate, Stamford, CT
Well written with powerful statements on important issues.

Second Place: Ken Johnson, Eagle-Tribune, North Andover, MA
Strong, forthright statements. A pleasure to read.

Third Place: Jacky Smith, The News-Times, Danbury, CT
The voice of reason -- sometimes powerful ideas can come in soft packaging.

Honorable Mention: Lisa McGinley, The Day, New London, CT

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Staff, The Providence Journal, Providence, RI
The most powerful editorial of all the entries.

Second Place: William Mills, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
No subtle suggestions. These editorials pull no punches and are effective for it.

Third Place: Matthew Stevens, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT
Powerful ideas written with a silver pen. A joy to read.

Honorable Mention: Stephen Busemeyer, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT

COMMENTARY

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Lee Kahrs, The Reporter, Brandon, VT
Ms. Kahrs confronts the continuing struggle she has fought to come to grips with the terrorist attack on 9/11 in New York City. It is one thing for her to acknowledge her feelings as a New York City resident at the time; it is quite another decision to disclose to her reading audience that she still has trouble thinking about that day. "My memories are my dysfunctional souvenir," she says in a particularly disarming description. Many details she gives are familiar and still frightening to anyone in the city at the time or their friends and relatives worrying about them. But her absolute candor wins the day as it gives the column a purpose.

Second Place: Joanna Tzouvelis, Belmont Citizen-Herald, Belmont, MA
This commentary confronts the death of a loved one -- in this case her father -- with disarming candor. From the personality and nature of her father, to his fight to live, the commentary gives the reader a sense of the man's personality and his love of life.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Angelo Lynn, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Mr. Lynn makes a compelling and thoughtful case that the state of Vermont is acting arbitrarily and without regard for the people of Middlebury. The issue concerns replacement of two railroad bridges on two streets in the town. He carefully lays out the case that the bridge reconstruction could harm business in the town and even lead to the closing of businesses whose margins are tight. Making matters worse is the extension of construction to include rail replacements and waiting three years for that work to be done. Mr. Lynn's commentary is not knee-jerk in nature, but rather a forceful and reasoned piece rich in detail.

Second Place: Aimee Henderson, The Sentinel, Marion, MA
Ms. Henderson's piece describing the drug-overdose deaths of two young women would be a compelling commentary under any circumstances. But it is all the more powerful because the victims are her cousins. For many writers, the subject of young relatives' deaths might trap them into a piece long on emotion and short on restraint. However, Ms. Henderson avoids that trap and makes a forceful statement about the value of saving human lives from the terrible effects of drug addiction. The telling of this painful story without sounding maudlin was an accomplishment of no small measure.

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

Mr. Sigelman tells the story of his father's service in World War II simply and directly by visiting his father's letters, personal notes, and other material. He had the good sense to stay true to his father's words rather than trying to improve on them. Some might argue that the story is largely the father's words, and not much more -- but in that, Mr. Sigelman recognized a great story, selected the right material and let the story speak for itself.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Ron Chimelis, The Republican, Springfield, MA
The writer most effectively presents the "other side" of a local contretemps.

Second Place: Brian Koonz, The News-Times, Danbury, CT
After reading this, I felt I really knew the man being eulogized, even though he was deceased.

COLUMNIST

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Biddle Duke, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT
Biddle Duke's portraits of ski champions and their roller coasters of victories, failures, tragedies, and brushes with spirits kept me engaged and wanting to read more.

Second Place: Mike Mulhern, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT

Mike Mulhern paints seasonal pictures of Vermont through humorous takes on "what he hates." Funny enough, it all highlights the glory of Vermont.

HUMOR COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers

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

Her work exemplifies the very essence of humor: an everyday story told with a twinkling eye, written with unexpected comic diversions.

Second Place: Frank Mulligan, Wareham Courier, Wareham, MA

His columns are very creative. He takes us inside strange creatures - for example, a lab rat and a house cat - and takes the tales humorously to the very edge, then over it.

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

This columnist takes a light and playful look at human relationships and captures the humor inherent in them.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

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

Andy Tomolonis gets fit and funny with his masculine musings on taking on a fitness challenge through Zumba and yoga. Both self-effacing and inspiring, he makes you want to step it up with exercising.

HUMOR COLUMNIST, *continued*

Second Place: Ken Dixon, Connecticut Post, Bridgeport, CT

Ken Dixon tackles driving in terms of road rage, technology, and laws. His sense of humor is dry, his phrasing witty, and points are well made through irony.

Third Place: John Vincent, The Gardner News, Gardner, MA

Whether it's about introducing rattlesnakes onto an island at the Quabbin Reservoir, or sneaking mathwork into student summer reading, John Vincent takes a humorous approach to educate and his lighthearted but factual style is effective.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Saralee Perel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Saralee Perel observes her husband's fevered efforts to win in a baking contest, as well as his new year efforts to change health-related behaviors. Perel is a master of comic timing in dialogue. She possesses the rare gift of laughter created from ironic observation and genuine love.

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

Tim Miller finds the funny in self musings, whether he is attempting a "James Coburn" mindset, or sharing the comical inner workings of his mother dubbed "Squirrel." Tim Miller's warm humor offers both respite and connection.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Martha Ball, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI

Martha Ball's writing gift is rooted in a poetic sense of place, which brings together local history and full of presence in the here and now. Whether she is writing about the island's winter beauty or the passing of a local musician, her words carry a passionate knowledge of Block Island as home, an intimacy that outsiders will never know.

Second Place: Carol-Anne Woodard, The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA

Carol-Anne Woodard is unsparing in the struggles of her family and brother, now a transgender sister, toward peace and completion. In another column, she sparks a reasonable dialogue about gun control, sharing her own memories of gun-related threats and deaths. Woodard exudes an authenticity firmly planted in clarity and approachable to readers through vulnerability.

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

Kathie Ragsdale observes how a yoga classmate creates community by her uplifting attitude during chemo treatments. In another column, on the anniversary of its fatal launch, the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle is remembered by Ragsdale. Kathie Ragsdale's writing creates a bond among her readers with sensitive observations and vivid recall.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Marvin Ott addresses the challenges facing Iran, and in another piece he details successful results in Columbia due to the sustained military and economic efforts of the U.S. Marvin Ott brings an easy-to-understand style to foreign policy issues that offers the comfort of clarity through facts and plain language. Readers are engaged and educated. Win-win!

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

John McCright is damning of North Carolina's law against transsexuals, and resurrects quotes and actions of its former U.S. senator, Jesse Helms, as the historical template. In his second column, he instills in his daughters a work ethic that finds satisfaction in a job well done, but his daughters are better satisfied with paid overtime. I enjoyed John McCright's writing ability to range from outraged firebrand to self-effacing bemusement.

Third Place: Gaen Murphree, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

Gaen Murphree's sister, who would have been 60, died of heroin addiction at 43. By chronicling her sister's difficult but colorful life, Murphree illustrates how the opioid epidemic can touch anyone. A column about intense devotion to her copy of Shakespeare's First Folio reawakens interest in the Bard's genius through the centuries. Gaen Murphree's convictions ring sweet and resolute.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

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

Susan Pawlak-Seaman likens her husband's recovery from a 2004 stroke to the endurance of runners in the New Bedford half marathon. She educates the reader about credit card fraud by sharing frustrations and the steps taken through her own experiences. Her writing personality is clear-eyed and warm, a friend you can lean on, offering practical advice and reassurance.

Second Place: Bob Horton, Greenwich Time, Greenwich, CT

Horton writes about a police captain who oversteps public protection with overzealous monitoring. Another column spotlights the duplicity of a school superintendant engineering large pay raises for key administrators before leaving office. Bob Horton's watchful eye and skillful writing exemplify vital community journalism.

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

Mock deaths from drug overdoses - like car crash deaths in driver's ed - should be re-enacted for teenagers to stem the addiction epidemic. In another column, Damish conveys the essence of Lorraine Pereira through her lifelong acts of kindness and loveable eccentricities. Damish masters the use of telling details to create universal experiences and lessons for readers.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

Through the eyes of children who were present, Clive McFarlane addresses the terror of police shootings of unarmed people. In another column, he reveals the often quoted, "I took the road less traveled" to be about self-deception, not self determination, when constructing our own stories and he applies it to the presidential election. McFarlane's insights should be bottled and labeled "Anti-Jading Remedy" for heavily reported subjects.

SERIOUS COLUMNIST, continued

Second Place: Mark Hayward, New Hampshire Union Leader, Manchester, NH

Hayward's column tackles secret decisions made to bury radioactive material in 1986 on a site now planned to be a shopping center. A historical summary of nuclear cleanup well researched that calls to action close public monitoring of soil and water contamination. In another column, a fascinating piece about Grace Metalious, author of Peyton Place, arises from her husband George's obituary. Hayward combines astute reporting with memorable storytelling.

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

A priest's exonerations by the Catholic Archdiocese deserves greater legitimacy from the transparent investigations of public agencies. In another column, O'Shaughnessy goes to the heart of the "yeah, but" mindset that pulls our society apart. Tracey

O'Shaughnessy's column sparkles with intellect, insight and emotion.

Honorable Mention: Saralee Perel, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Saralee Perel finally reads a letter from her mother written 30 years earlier. In another column, she helps Bob, her husband, recover from cognitive memory impairment. Perel breathes into her work a personal authenticity rare even among the most accomplished columnists.

POLITICAL COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Jill Goldthwait, The Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, ME

Takes a tough, and well-reinforced, slam against legislators' ignoring of the state's right-to-know law, and especially at a legislative leader who is blithely ignorant about the law itself. Other column backs up her advocacy for citizens to exercise their right to vote with telling statistics about low voter turnouts. Some nice writing flourishes in both columns.

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

Atypical columns that veer toward being first-person feature pieces, but that still make a point and pack some political punch. Both columns explore interesting and worthy topics.

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

A satisfying run at satire – no easy feat -- in one column and a heartfelt tug at an emotional appeal for a resolve of the heart by all toward being more tolerant. Both approaches are effective in their different ways.

Daily Newspapers

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

Hard-hitting columns that pull no punches, and a staccato sentence structure that hits his targets forcefully. Takes effective aim at the wayward spending ways of government and its "leaders" at the expense of the taxpayers they squeeze to pay for their exorbitant spending and questionable conduct.

Second Place: Ken Dixon, Connecticut Post, Bridgeport, CT

Makes a well-crafted case for the positions he espouses, which might not be popular with some of those in government – and maybe not even with their constituents and with Post readers. Skillful and entertaining writing makes his case interesting and easy to follow.

Third Place: Paul Choiniere, The Day, New London, CT

Both columns focus on an important issue in a deficit-plagued state. The first points out, effectively, the mistake of letting a financially flawed union contract be approved. The second explains why politicians self-servedly reject the contract. Good examples of opinion backed by reasoned arguments and solid context.

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Joe McConnell, Saugus Advertiser, Saugus, MA
The brisk pace of the writer's recounting of local teams' successes engages the readers, and his column on a Pats' game illuminates key moments by describing the twists and turns of emotions instead of the action.

Second Place: Sara Cline, Mansfield News, Mansfield, MA
Her vivid depictions of being competitive while growing up explain the drive of athletes everywhere. Well done.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Kalle Oakes, Sun Journal, Lewiston, ME
The winner is a writer's writer. He picks up details and develops themes that become a tale the words alone don't tell. He observes and explains, keeping himself out of his subjects' stories.

Second Place: Jeff Jacobs, The Hartford Courant, Hartford, CT
Vivid example and clear narratives highlight this writer's columns. His piece on his memories of Gordie Howe stands out for its restraint: we see Howe as human, not a myth.

Third Place: Bill Ballou, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
The most entertaining writing of the category. He comes at sports from the perspective of someone who enjoys the oddities of competition—the kind of guy you hope is the one who sit down next to you in the bleachers.

FEATURE PHOTO

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
Well composed with the child mostly hidden and protected by his mother. Nice image.

Second Place: Glenn Callahan, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT
Nicely composed image.

Third Place: Oliver Parini, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT
Very nice composition.

FEATURE PHOTO, continued

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA
Great angle and very strong composition.

Second Place: Alyssa Stone, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA
Strong rodeo image. Well done.

Third Place: Alan Belanich, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA
Cute holiday image!

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Nicole Harnishfeger, The Inquirer and Mirror, Nantucket, MA
Very nice image.

Second Place: Mark Lovewell, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Cute image. Well composed with the hands.

Third Place: Sam Moore, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Very nice portrait of the two.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Excellent image for the opening of a museum story. Again, well done!

Second Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Beautiful art shot with an artistic image of the artist. Again, nice work and perspective.

Third Place: Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Great perspective of the whole world.

Honorable Mention: Carol Lollis, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Honorable Mention: Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Really cute photo. Nice work!

Second Place: Christine Hochkeppel, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Great anticipation! Putting yourself in the right location to capture the bird and the expression.

Third Place: Greg Derr, The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA
Nice angle and clearly the right lens.

NEWS FEATURE PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA
Creative image! Well done.

Second Place: Kari Curtis, The Block Island Times, Block Island, RI
Cute news feature.

Third Place: Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME
Nice fall feature.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
Excellent news feature. Well done!

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

Very strong news feature! Well done.

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

Nice news feature.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Glenn Russell, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

This is a very strong portrait of two people, and holds the news as well as their joy. Nice job.

Second Place: Tim Cook, The Day, New London, CT
Celebration! Well done.

Third Place: Marc R. Vasconcellos, The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

A very sad image telling the story at once. Nice job!

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

You have shot a really great news feature. Very well done!

Second Place: Dave Roback, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Strong Memorial Day image.

Third Place: Don Treeger, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Well done image.

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
This image "whispers" to me. Well done!

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

A big bunch of sad! Well done.

GENERAL NEWS PHOTO, *continued*

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Robin Chan, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA
Very strong image - well done!

Second Place: Robin Chan, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA

Another strong image. Well done!

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

Nice contrast image!

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Very creative image of what is normally a dull subject. Well done!

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

Strong erosion image.

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

A really cute photo of amazed faces!

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Glenn Russell, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Wow! Just wow! This is truly a great and funny news photo! Well done! Nice work.

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

You told a great story with this image. Nicely done. Great composition period.

Third Place: Jack Foley, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Excellent image. Well done!

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Steve Lanava, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA
Top quality new photo, in the instant, great composition. Just a fine image. Well done.

Second Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Very nice image filled with emotion. Good job!

Third Place: Greg Saulmon, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Excellent image filled with frustration and anger!

PERSONALITY PHOTO

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Glenn Callahan, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT

Very strong portrait of a baseball player retired.

Second Place: Glenn Callahan, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT

Excellent portrait of a man in his office!

Third Place: Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
Powerful image!

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Alyssa Stone, Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA

Nice eye! Strong image.

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

Very fun image of pure clean fun!

Third Place: David Sokol, Danvers Herald, Danvers, MA

Wonder woman lives! Great job!

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Excellent portrait of an artisan. Well done!

Second Place: Aimee Henderson, The Sentinel, Marion, MA

Strong image for the maple season.

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

Strong image!

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

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

Excellent image with a good contrast. Well done, again.

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

Excellent, again.

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

Excellent, still.

Honorable Mention: Jack Foley, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Excellent portrait!

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

Very nice political image - nice angle showing you anticipated this image. Great job.

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

Great image out of an event that tends to be the same year after year!

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

Truly a fantastic portrait. Congratulations on a great job!

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Combined Class

First Place: Kris Rabasca, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

This is truly a masterful photo illustration. Very well done!

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

Nice illustration!

Third Place: Jim Vaiknoias, The Daily News, Newburyport, MA

Good illustration!

PICTORIAL PHOTO

Specialty/Niche Publications

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

Cute image and good eye. Nicely done!

Second Place: Brian Molir, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT

Well done cover image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Alyssa Stone, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA

Excellent image! Nice work.

Second Place: Robin Chan, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA

Great eye in seeing this image. Nice work!

Third Place: David Sokol, Somerville Journal, Somerville, MA

Nice image!

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Excellent image! Very well done.

Second Place: Alyssa Stone, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA

A beautiful image of a news event. Nicely done!

Third Place: Albert O. Fischer, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Nice black and white image!

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Truly a spectacular image that I would be honored to have hanging in my home. Excellent job!

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

Great image. Great anticipation and patience!

Third Place: Jerrey Roberts, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Very strong photograph.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Very nice galactic image! Well done!

Second Place: **Mark Murray, The Republican, Springfield, MA**
Very nice pattern image. Well done!

Third Place: **Steve Lanava, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA**
Luck and timing is everything! Very nice image!

PORTRAIT PHOTO

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: **Glenn Callahan, Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT**
Strong portrait.

Second Place: **Gabe Hevrey, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT**
Strong image.

Third Place: **Lynn Quinlivan, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA**
Nice image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: **Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME**
Excellent portrait!

Second Place: **Robin Chan, Cohasset Mariner, Cohasset, MA**
Well done.

Third Place: **Alyssa Stone, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA**
Very nice portrait.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: **Mark Lovewell, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
Excellent portrait work! Very well done!

Second Place: **Jeanna Shepard, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
Creative portrait - excellent image.

Third Place: **Ray Ewing, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
Strong image!

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: **Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT**
Very strong image for a tragic topic! Well done!

Second Place: **Carol Lollis, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA**
Excellent image! Well done!

Third Place: **Peter Pereira, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA**
A great image. Well done! Keep up the excellent work!
Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: **David DelPoio, The Providence Journal, Providence, RI**
Very, very strong image of a fellow down on his luck! Well done.

Second Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Excellent portrait!

Third Place: **Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA**
Great portrait!

SPORTS PHOTO

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: **Steven King, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA**
Very interesting image.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: **Robin Chan, Marshfield Mariner, Marshfield, MA**
Very nice action. Peak action showing face, ball and all in the air. Well done!

Second Place: **Anne Berleant, The Weekly Packet, Blue Hill, ME**
Strong celebration image. Well done!

Third Place: **David Sokol, Beverly Citizen, Beverly, MA**
Strong soccer action. Well done!

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: **Trent Campbell, Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT**
This is a great arm wrestling image! The hair makes it a piece of art! Well done.

Second Place: **Taylor Vortherms, The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME**
Great facial expressions. Well done.

Third Place: **Mark Lovewell, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA**
This is a strong sailing image. Well done!

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: **John Love, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA**
This is top quality, peak action! Great faces and tense action. Well done!

Second Place: **Mark Stockwell, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**
Outstanding peak action, ball, raquets and faces. Nice job!

Third Place: **Mark Stockwell, The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro, MA**
Well done!

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Glenn Osmundson, The Providence Journal, Providence, RI

This is a great sports image. All the requisite elements: peak action, ball, focus, and a collision come together for a top notch sports image!

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

Very strong long jump action with facial expressions carrying the action.

Third Place: Jim Shannon, Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

Well done!

SPOT NEWS PHOTO

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Tony Marquis, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT

Ouch! Well done!

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

Strong spot news photo.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Touching spot news photo. Very well done.

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

Good spot news image of a fire.

Third Place: Sam Moore, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

Excellent lightning image.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Jack Foley, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

This image answers what, where and how - great spot news image! Well done.

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

This image is truly an outstanding spot news image. Emotion coupled with great composition. Well done.

Third Place: Dana Jensen, The Day, New London, CT

Excellent spot news image!

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

Excellent spot news! Great composition and good angle!

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

Strong fire spot news photo - well composed!

Third Place: Bob Breidenbach, The Providence Journal, Providence, RI

Very well done under challenging lighting conditions.

PHOTO STORY

Specialty/Niche Publications

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

Strong set of respectful images.

Second Place: Sam Moore, Martha's Vineyard Arts & Idea, Vineyard Haven, MA

Interesting set of images.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Robin Chan, Norwell Mariner, Norwell, MA

Excellent job on the farm story! Well covered.

Second Place: Robin Chan, Scituate Mariner, Scituate, MA

Good job on this story.

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

Nice set of images.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

Strong set of pictures.

Second Place: Ray Ewing, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Very nice image.

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

Good idea with the external shot to set the scene of this moon image. Well done.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

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

Once again you perform excellent images of a difficult subject to cover. Very nice job.

Second Place: Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Interesting story and well covered!

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

Well done!

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

Well done story of the rescue swimmers!

Second Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Nice job!

PHOTO SERIES

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Steven King, Tom Matthews and Erika Sidor, Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA
Truly an excellent job covering this tough assignment is photojournalism. Very well done!

Second Place: Brooks Curran, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT
Very, very well done.

Third Place: David Le, Marblehead Home and Style, Beverly, MA
Very well done series.

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Robin Chan, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA
Good set of photos. Well covered.

Second Place: Herb Swanson, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT
Nice set of photos on the kayak race.

Third Place: Rick Russell, The Vermont Standard, Woodstock, VT
Good coverage. The lead photo covers the story in one image. Well done!

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Emily Clark, Old Colony Memorial, Plymouth, MA
Great idea for a photo series. Well done!

Second Place: Lanny McDowell and Ken Magnuson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Strong photo series. Well done.

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

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Tyler Sizemore, The News-Times, Danbury, CT
Tyler, you did an excellent photojournalist job covering this story. You captured strong images to tell the doctor's story. Well done.

Second Place: Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Very strong hot air balloon story, capturing photos from all angles, all day. Nice job!

Third Place: Ken McGagh, The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

Although it is tough to cover funeral stories, you did an excellent job in telling this story.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Strong images of the artisans.

Second Place: Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Good coverage of a news story.

ILLUSTRATION/INFOGRAPHICS

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Joshua Knowlton, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA
Excellent job of combining graphics, photos, infoboxes, headlines, and story into a package that makes sense to readers right away. Well done!

Second Place: Anne Ewing and Tracie Seed, Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI
Bright, colorful, cheerful. A light and upbeat approach. Fun to skim through!

Third Place: Kate Feiffer, Martha's Vineyard Arts & Idea, Vineyard Haven, MA
A different idea, but a fun one! And these illustrations add up to a package that's a joy to read. Lighthearted and breezy.

ILLUSTRATION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Kimberly Day Proctor, The Newtown Bee, Newtown, CT
So traditional, so quiet, so peaceful. Look at this illustration and you can almost hear Christmas carols in the distance...and feel the cold and the snow. Excellent.

Second Place: Kate Feiffer, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA
Fun to look at. Good work with the writing and drawings that complement each other. Well executed.

Third Place: Paul Karasik, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
Very nicely done. Good job of combining text and illustration to tell an interesting story in an appealing way.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Phoebe Helander, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

These illustrations are powerful and compelling, to go along with a comprehensive report. They are given good size and designed well into the package. A very interesting and eye-catching approach.

Second Place: Emely DelSanto, The Herald News, Fall River, MA

A really fun approach to an interesting story. Shows a good sense of humor—a quality too many newspapers lack. Nicely done!

Third Place: Don Landgren, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

A good illustration with a design that offers a lot of information in a light approach. Appealing and easy to read.

INFOGRAPHICS

Combined Class

First Place: Emely DelSanto, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Compelling visuals combined with brief notes help to make this package a must-read. Good attention to detail and consistent approach throughout. It looks and feels well-thought-out. Excellent work.

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

Just the right approach to this kind of event! The map is nicely done and the short elements help readers (and runners!) make sense of the run. A fine job.

Third Place: Shawn Braley, Valley News, Lebanon, NH

A good group of illustrations to help readers understand the unique qualities of each type of covered bridge. A quiet, consistent look in a package that is sure to draw reader interest.

HEADLINE WRITING

Weekly Newspapers

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

Very funny! Goes well with the picture.

Second Place: Susanna Sheehan, Duxbury Clipper, Duxbury, MA

Cute play on words.

Third Place: Kathryn Basile, The Barnstable Patriot, Hyannis, MA

Cute play on words!

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Lynn Schnier, The News-Times, Danbury, CT
Two cute uses of imagery on routine stories.

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

Cute use of imagery on routine story!

Third Place: Staff, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
Very funny treatment of routine story.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Staff, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Nice word play.

FRONT PAGE

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Joshua Knowlton and Doug Banks, Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

The photo illustration makes this cover work: An arresting, provocative image of a model with black magic marker scrawled across her naked back declaring, “I’m not for sale.” Even in 2016, readers might consider it unorthodox for a business newspaper to consider challenges facing policy makers and non-governmental groups as they work to clean up the local sex trade. That alone is cause enough to honor this inviting and arresting cover.

FRONT PAGE, continued

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

At it's best, a slow news day brings out the essence of good news editing: a newspaper that faithfully reveals and reflects the community it serves. In this winning submission the editors achieved that goal, blending coverage of local high school basketball teams in their respective state championship games; news of local import on trash and traffic; positive financial developments for the local regional medical center; and a local eighth grade girl's county spelling bee championship.

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

It's impossible to mistake the Gazette's front page, with its uniquely wide format, typography, absence of color and masthead, and the editors don't often surprise their readers with departures from a somewhat predictable formula. Even so, this year's submission deserves recognition for thoroughly capturing the spirit of the idyllic coastal island of Martha's Vineyard and the moneyed establishment it has served for generations. For the island and those residents committed to opposing development, the content is iconic: A bold seascape of environmentally sensitive Tisbury Great Pond; the report of the death of the Gazette's owner, legendary Wall Street private equity pioneer and billionaire Jerome Kohlberg Jr.; a quirky feature on a local resident, rock and roll photographer and island resident Peter Simon; and an update on the pending arrival of the Vineyard's most famous summer resident, then-President Barack Obama.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Emely DelSanto, The Herald News, Fall River, MA
The Herald News understands the importance of data and does a skillful job of presenting a complicated story in a revealing and informative way. Two days before New England's Super Tuesday presidential primary, the Sunday Herald News

illustrated the overwhelming popularity of Donald Trump in a bright red corner of blue-state Massachusetts.

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

Readers got a grab-bag of choices in this graphic-intensive, index-style front for the Sunday paper: The page focuses on official efforts to evaluate nearby water supplies for high levels of lead. The editors took care not to be alarmist, as they drew the reader's attention with a blend of informational graphic and a photo illustration on a story that was tough to tell visually. The remainder of the page maintains the level of quality with well-illustrated teasers to high school sports, World War II history, politics and other local news and features.

Third Place: Robert Cohn, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

The image is a grainy, 1960s-era photograph of two high-school girls carrying a Confederate battle flag. What invites the reader's attention is that the promoted article is about a school not somewhere in the Deep South, but in the heart of New England. The editors knew that and created a compelling front page with a story on the "Rebel" mascot of Vermont's South Burlington High School.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

This submission won for a tightly focused package of Sunday articles insisting the reader look inside: The leafless silhouette of a tornado-ravaged tree drew attention to a retrospective look at a powerful storm that devastated Springfield five years earlier. The story was humanized by a small overlaid image of the local campground owner who was particularly hard hit. The color photographs are packaged with the leads of two articles, plus referrals to four other stories inside.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Focus was again the key, as editors elevated what might have been a routine anniversary article on the Japanese surprise attack that brought the U.S. into World War II. The package featured a portrait of one of two local survivors, both 93, but drew its impact from the iconic image of the battleship USS Arizona, billowing smoke and careened over in the shallow waters of Pearl Harbor.

Third Place: Michael Kilduff, The Sun, Lowell, MA

Revelations of the details of a 3-year-old hazing incident involving a local high-school football team demanded special treatment. Sun editors provided it for this difficult-to-illustrate exposé by cobbling together small images of a team helmet and the New Hampshire summer camp where the incidents occurred. The package was enhanced by a 7-point summary of the chief allegations in the 41-page document on which the article was based. The final deft touch was an image of one page in the heavily redacted document, inset into the typography.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A NICHE PRODUCT

First Place: Jamie Stringfellow and Tara Kenny, Martha's Vineyard Arts & Idea, Vineyard Haven, MA

In a category of well-designed publications, this is clearly the standout. In fact, it may be the best publication in all design categories of the NENPA contest this year. Excellent use of photography, negative space, and typography combine to make this the clear-cut winner. Elegant!

Second Place: Marblehead Home and Style, Beverly, MA

Easy on the eyes, comfortable, and inviting. Excellent use of photography and color. Typography is good. This publication offers a sense of lightness and the occasional bright surprise that will keep readers going through it.

Third Place: Lisa Lynn, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT

Excellent photography. Strong organization throughout. Good typography and color use.

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF A SPECIALTY PUBLICATION

First Place: Martha's Vineyard Real Estate Yearbook, Edgartown, MA

An excellent job of organization, color-coding, use of photos and graphics. The typographic approach is exemplary and the publication approaches its content in a quiet, planned manner. Even the choice of paper seems right in tune with the overall look and feel. Nicely done!

Second Place: Newport Life Magazine, Newport, RI

Good photography and fine typography help this publication feel comfortable and easy to read. It's easy on the eyes. Nice work with the corner labeling approach and fine use of negative space.

Third Place: Paula Ethier and Stephanie Mallard, Bay State Parent, Millbury, MA

It's tough sailing in a sea of glossies, but this publication does the job well. A good sense of organization, nice use of color and typography and a sense of design freedom help this publication stay up there with the "shiny guys."

OVERALL DESIGN AND PRESENTATION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Takes design risks...and succeeds! It's a weekly that's light on the eyes, yet not afraid to tackle issues. The design approach may differ from section to section, but it all comes together in an exciting, appealing package. Excellent.

Second Place: Kris Rabasca and Chris Silva, The Martha's Vineyard Times, Vineyard Haven, MA

A consistent design throughout, but highlighted by departures that stand out from the rest of the publication. Strong attention to structure, typography and detail.

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

A design that defines tradition, and yet it never feels stuffy or outdated. It's a classic that uses its conservative design to appeal to a devoted readership.

Daily Newspapers

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

Good attention to detail, typography and structure. This design offers a sense of planning and consistency worth emulation. An occasional standout package adds value to readers and advertisers.

Second Place: The Republican, Springfield, MA

Clear, consistent design. Structure and spacing are well-ordered. The design clearly has reader comfort and accessibility in mind.

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

Comfortable and easy to read. Strong attention to detail and consistency of design elements throughout.

SLIDE SHOW

Combined Class

First Place: Ashley Green, Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA

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

Third Place: Steve Lanava, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

NEWS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

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

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

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

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Provided well-produced, informative content that told a story.

First Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Hit the mark for interesting journalism.

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

Third Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

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

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

FEATURE VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Robin Chan, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA

Second Place: Tom Dunlop and John Wilson, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

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

Honorable Mention: Eva Sollberger, Diane Sullivan and Bryan Parmelee, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Daily Newspapers

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

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

Third Place: Nick Gentile, Dave Link, Josh Coffee, Kevin Hurley and Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Third Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

SPORTS VIDEO

Combined Class

First Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Second Place: Tim Cook and Peter Huoppi, The Day, New London, CT

Third Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

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

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

Second Place: Steve Myrick, Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT Powerful!

Second Place: Peter Huoppi and Rick Koster, The Day,

New London, CT
Well-done interview, enhanced by video.

SPOT NEWS VIDEO

Weekly Newspapers

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

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

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

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: Adam Silverman and Philip Tortora, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Second Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Third Place: Ryan Mercer, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Greg Saulmon, The Republican, Springfield, MA
This spot news video enlivened the story very nicely.

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

Third Place: Jason Kolonos, Sam Mintz and Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

BEST INFOGRAPHIC ON WEBSITE

Combined Class

First Place: Gregory Bryant, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Great use of tableau to create interactive graphics that work well on the web.

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT
Graphics played a key role in telling this story and were presented very well online.

BEST BLOG ON A NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Marisa Nadolny and Kathleen Edgecomb, The Day, New London, CT
Love that this blog combines text and audio -- and both are done in an entertaining way!

Second Place: Andy Tomolonis, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA
Great use of images to show things, not just to tell. Easy to read and understand.

BEST WEBCAST

Daily Newspapers

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

A fun and entertaining look at life in your coverage area. I couldn't stop watching!

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT
Very impressive coverage of high school basketball - including the pregame and half-time shows too.

WEBSITE DESIGN

Combined Class

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
Excellent, beautiful destination/vacationer site! Very easy to navigate. Photography is terrific. The beach reviews are a nice addition as well.

Second Place: Vineyard Gazette, Martha's Vineyard, MA
A very nice and quite comprehensive news site, with a strong mix of features.

Second Place: Lisa Lynn, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT
Very attractive layout. Articles are easy to read, and the dining reviews are good and helpful. This is a very strong site for vacationers.

WEBSITE INTERACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Combined Class

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA
It is hard to beat a website that offers great information on activities in the area without a subscription. Kudos to the Cape Cod Times for taking the risk on a competing website in their own market. It was fresh and simple to use. The stats show it is attracting more readers and these readers are staying on the site longer, indicating an enhanced user experience.
Second Place: Andy Tomolonis and Staff, The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

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

BEST OVERALL WEBSITE

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Rick Mello, Tara Kenny and Kelsey Perrett, Vineyardvisitor.com, Vineyard Haven, MA
The vineyardvisitor.com is the prototypical destination site and then some! The presentation is excellent, backed by strong photography, and the site is very easy to navigate. The nice variety of videos spices up the site. Solid content on all pages creates a very strong site overall, and does provide the type of well-rounded content a vacationer or local would want!

Second Place: Lisa Lynn, VT Ski & Ride Magazine, Middlebury, VT
Vtskiandride.com is the prototypical destination site and then some! The presentation is excellent, backed by strong photography, and the site is very easy to navigate. The nice variety of videos spices up the site. Solid content on all pages creates a very strong site overall, and does provide the type of well-rounded content a vacationer or local would want!

Third Place: Providence Business News, Providence, RI

Kudos go to the news and editorial team for the sheer volume of content on the site, keeping the readers engaged and wanting to come back!

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

An excellent website and perfectly suited to its alt-weekly style, including a nice use of photography. There is a solid mix of news, featured, and commentary. Music and movie reviews are all very strong; the events section is also very strong. Solid user interactivity across the website.

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

Excellent website that is perfectly suited to its alt-weekly style. Includes a nice use of photography, a solid mix of news, featured, and commentary sections, as well as strong music and movie reviews, and a nice events section. The user interactivity is solid across the site.

Third Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

A really nice looking site with terrific photographic layout. We like the use of news updating!! Nice approach.

Honorable Mention: Addison County Independent, Middlebury, VT

News coverage shows great effort. Nicely done.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Mike Elfland and Staff, Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

Very strong responsive design. Breaking news on the site is a great idea and it keeps the reader checking back during the day. We love the use of "Best of Lists" - very strong idea! Also a fan of the auto articles in the auto section.

Second Place: The Day, New London, CT

A very strong design, backed by web-first content. Strong local news coverage. The photography used is very good

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

Strong, responsive and attractive design. Nice use of comments in certain articles.

MOBILE APPLICATION DESIGN

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Clean, sophisticated look, easy to navigate. Ads are there, but not intrusive. Great use of photos to present stories on the home page and section fronts to create interest - as well as within the stories. This site is a pleasure to look at.

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Clean, sophisticated look, easy to navigate. Ads are there, but not intrusive. Great use of photos to present stories on the home page and section fronts to create interest - as well as within the stories. This site is a pleasure to look at.

OVERALL MOBILE APPLICATION

Weekly Newspapers

First Place: The Ellsworth American., Ellsworth, ME

Beautiful site. Very informative, attractive, and easy to navigate.

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

Beautiful site. Very informative, attractive, and easy to navigate.

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE

Weekly Newspapers

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

Wonderful story and superbly produced video about a small farm prospect to grow wheat and rye on the vineyard. This is the level of creativity and production quality that is required if newspapers truly want to tell multimedia stories. Excellent!

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

Great story and presentation. The video helps to bring it to life.

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Comprehensive, high quality reporting on this critical subject using several multimedia journalism tactics -- including deeply researched stories, beautifully produced videos, photo galleries, and interactive graphics. This is truly superb work.

Second Place: Carlos Virgen and Joe Ruggeri, The Day, New London, CT

Data-driven reporting at its best; with compelling stories and photos, insightful interactive graphics, and a moving video featuring a survivor of a deadly crash on this severely overcrowded highway.

MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE, continued

Third Place: Keene Sentinel, Keene, NH

The inspirational stories of local women who are making a difference in the community are presented across a variety of media, including a glossy magazine, video, and a live event. A very worthwhile project.

INNOVATOR AWARD

Combined Class

First Place: Peter Huoppi, Casey O'Neill, Keith O'Brien and Mike DiMauro, The Day, New London, CT

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Kymelya Sari, Seven Days, Burlington, VT

First, I applaud the paper for creating a new beat on the immigrant and refugee communities. Most importantly, thank you to Kymelya Sari for the depth and quality of writing that makes the beat crucial to the readers.

Daily Newspapers

Elaine Ezerins, St. Albans Messenger, St. Albans, VT

Strong grasp of the issues and their impacts on the community, to go along with a crisp writing style. Equally talented at feature writing as well.

PHOTOJOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Robin Chan, The Hingham Journal, Hingham, MA

Chan is a master photojournalist and has performed excellent quality work of the years I have judged the the contest. Any publication would be improved by having Robin on staff.

Daily Newspapers

Merrily Cassidy, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Merrily Cassidy has the most First Place wins and has placed in 9 categories overall. She is a rounded photojournalist in this years competition. I have watched Merrily produce excellent quality photojournalism over the years.

DIGITAL STRATEGY EXCELLENCE

Daily Newspapers

First Place: Staff, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

Excellent concept that is well executed. This site is hugely informative and easy to use, with nice integration of ad content. The audience figures are impressive, driven by giant marketing concepts.

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Weekly Newspapers

Walter Bird Jr., Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

Daily Newspapers

Doug Fraser, Cape Cod Times, Hyannis, MA

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Specialty/Niche Publications

First Place: Boston Business Journal, Boston, MA

Offers an exceptional range of business and economic content presented in a vibrant and accessible format. Good use of graphics, well-designed and robust advertising, and a dynamic, easy to navigate website make this weekly publication outstanding in its class.

Second Place: Stowe Guide & Magazine, Stowe, VT

While it only comes out twice a year, Stowe Guide and Magazine is an engrossing, comprehensive publication of 224 pages in each edition. It's slick, professional, and full of interesting stories, lots of ads, and great pictures -- including pages of part pictures from events in the area. Design overall was excellent and the subjects ran from dairy farms to flowers to rugby, art and dining out. It is well worth the 12 bucks a year.

Third Place: Worcester Magazine, Worcester, MA

A city weekly on steroids -- it gets into the serious issues with insights, strong photography and well-written researched content. But it doesn't ignore the lighter side of urban living, offering options for entertainment and relaxation in a well-designed format. Great online content mix as well.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Weekly Newspapers (circ <6k)

First Place: Mount Desert Islander, Bar Harbor, ME

There isn't one thing that goes on in this community that isn't noticed by the Mount Desert Islander. Excellent modules, design, and use of color. Vigorous commentary pages. Interesting and relevant maritime section from lighthouses to mussel farms. Awesome Acadia perk celebration section.

Second Place: The Foxboro Reporter, Foxboro, MA

Truly a gem of Norfolk County. Clever, intriguing headlines. Good news judgement.

Third Place: The Stowe Reporter, Stowe, VT

News reporting is as relevant to year-round residents as it is to the seasonal visitors. Good job with Blotter and police briefs. Handsome and thorough sports sections.

Weekly Newspapers (circ >6k)

First Place: Seven Days, Burlington, VT

Depth and breadth of coverage applauded. Great use of color. Well-written and researched stories. Superb weekly paper -- terrific balance between lifestyle content and explanatory news.

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

Impressive weekly paper, rich with local news. Lifestyle and entertainment content are great. Clean editorial and op-ed, with robust letters section. Town columns are a great addition. "This was then" feature is appreciated for respect for the island's history.

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

In-depth coverage of local issues is commendable. Good use of photos.

Daily Newspapers (circ <30k)

First Place: The MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA

The Daily News' editions were clear leaders in their circulation category. They featured a plethora of local news, including heavily local Page Ones and a strong local slant to the sports sections. There is a good mix of briefs and display stories to maximize use of precious space. Sectioning is well-defined, and the blends of typography enhance the generally attractive layouts. The May 19 edition featured an inviting layout on the Weekend front. In the April 10 edition, the story and layout on the first female runner in the Boston Marathon; the photos and layout about a Museum of Fine Arts exhibit; and the takeout on movie music are distinctive. The opinion section is solid and extensive for a newspaper this size. The Travel and Health pages are a bonus.

Second Place: The Enterprise, Brockton, MA

Brockton's Enterprise impressed judges with a broad and interesting scope of local news from Brockton and surrounding towns. Story length, use of impactful photography, strong and interesting headlines and a superb local sports section impressed the judges. The paper has a very nice, meaningful obits section and a number of interesting special sections such as Living Room, with a creative and interesting mix of lifestyle stories and photos. The Enterprise has a substantial Editorial page with interesting opportunities for readers to contribute and participate in polls. The paper, overall, is very engaging with an eye-catching, orderly layout. Key reader features are easy to locate and the use of various font weights and sizes

contributes to readership and flow. Design is important but it is the depth of local coverage and editorial leadership that most impressed the judges.

Third Place: The Day, New London, CT

A worthy entry, based on its solid local news presence, beginning on Page One and buttressed by a predominantly local sports front. The Daybreak photo and layout in the May 17 edition is striking, and the section itself is one of the Day's exemplars. The layout of the Nipmuck Trail piece is topnotch. The weather package is helpful and colorful.

Daily Newspapers (circ >30k)

First Place: Republican-American, Waterbury, CT

This newspaper comes across as an overachiever in its circulation category. It is chock full of local news, maintaining zoned editions at a time when some dailies have abandoned theirs. And each zoned edition caters to its market with a wealth of local news, on Page One, in the local news sections, and, with emphasis, on the sports pages. The paper is well-organized, the layouts crisp and clean, and the sectioning and news hierarchies well-established throughout the paper. Ads seem to be plentiful in a difficult time to field such a boast. Color too is plentiful and well-used. The Accent section adds just that to the rest of the paper, and The Talk piece in the May 22 edition shows that the Republican-American is more than just a diligent paper of record. The Republican-American seems to be wringing the most from its market in ads and news, and punching above its weight class. The paper's plentiful reference to online video is excellent and effectively drives traffic to the new, and greatly improved website.

Second Place: The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA

The Ledger is a great pleasure to read. The depth of local news impressed the judges as did story length, terrific and engaging use of images and overall flow of the paper. The paper has a clear, editorial vision and the strength is local coverage. Editors know how they need to be different as a suburban paper to a large city and this local vision is consistently executed throughout every section. The vision makes this a must read paper for residents south of Boston. Design of the editorial page is excellent and engages readers to participate. The strength of the local sports leads is superb and an important distinctive element. Obits are well done and meaningful. The papers show a healthy number of ads that flow well and look pleasing. There is a pride and purpose in the production of the Ledger and it comes through loud and clear. This is a paper with a sharp and focused eye on the community it serves.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Third Place: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, MA

The weighty Telegram & Gazette thoroughly impressed the judges with a strong and well organized local news offering - a clear strength of the newsroom. This is a paper that understands its community and has a firm grasp of local news in all sections. The editorial focus is excellent and impactful to the region. The layout is engaging and use of imagery and

color, fonts and weights makes the paper a pleasure to read front to back. Popular reader features are easy to find. Local photography is excellent and the feature sections are lively, relevant and interesting. This newsroom has a vision of its purpose and role in the community and the paper delivers on that vision offering meaningful editorials and a depth of local news and faces of community members. Ads are plentiful and the paper benefits from a nicely designed, albeit, centrally managed online platform. The daily work and effort of newsroom staff is readily on display given the volume of news and reach of coverage.